Friday, February 11, 2000

## OVERVIEW

## - Economic growth regains momentum

In November, after three months of gradual slowing, gross domestic product shot up $0.6 \%$. Over $40 \%$ of the surge was due 10 a rebound in manufacturing.

## - Strong job growth continues

The strong employment growth of the past three years continued in January. Unemployment remained at December's downward-revised rate of $6.8 \%$-the lowest since April 1976

- Production prospects still quite optimistic
According to January's Business Conditions Survey, ncarly 9 in 10 manufacturers plan to either maintain or raise production this quarter. Manufacturers also remain satisfied with their level of new orders and with the amount of finished-product inventories on hand.


## - Building permits record best annual

 result of the decadeFour straight quarterly increases pushed building permits to their best annual result of the decade last year. The housing sector had a record year. while the non-residential sector tumed in its best performance of the 1990 s.

## - Large retailers' sales climbing

In November, large retailers sales reached $\$ 6.6$ billion. an inerease from a year earlier of $4.4 \%$. The only product line with lower sales was clothing. footwear and accessories

## - More Canadian films and videos being sold abroad

Canadian film and video productions made major inroads into foreign markets in 1997/98. However, foreign films and foreign videos continued to dominate the market within Canada.

## Economic growthregains momentum

In November, gross domestic product shot up $0.6 \%$ on strong export demand and robust full-time employment growth. This marked the 16 th consecutive increase, continuing the longest uninterrupted series of gains in over a decade. The cconomy's strong showing in November followed three months when economic growth gradually lost momentum.

Over $40 \%$ of November's increase was due to a rebound in manufacturing ( $+1.5 \%$ ), led by large gains in the electrical and electronic products industry. Overall, 19 of 22 major industries intensified their activities in November. These industries accounted for more than $95 \%$ of total manufacturing production. Manufacturing of electrical and electronic products surged $3.9 \%$, as demand for telecommunications equipment showed no signs of abating. Production of communications and other related electronic equipment climbed $7.8 \%$, responding to a spike in expor demand. Significant production increases were also observed for communications wire and cable and in other electrical equipment industries.

Other manufacturing industries also made considerable production increases. At chemical plants, increased activity was wide spread, lifting production by $2.5 \%$. Output of industrial organic

Gross domestic product at factor cost
\$ billions (1992 dollars)

(continued on page 2)

## ... Economic growth regains momentum

chemicals rebounded, while production of agricultural chemicals, soaps and miscellaneous chemical products rose significantly. Output of food products increased $1.6 \%$, as production of canned and frozen fruits and vegetables rebounded. Makers of miscellaneous food products and flour/cercal products also raised output. The only significant decline was in the fish products industry.

In the auto industry, vehicle assembly rose in November by $2.6 \%$. This recovered some of the ground lost during the previous two months. Auto parts plants trimmed production by $0.1 \%$. It appears that 1999 will go down as a banner year for the auto industry because of strong sales in the United States. In the first 11 months of last year, output of autos and parts was up $19.3 \%$ compared with the same period in 1998.

Wholesaling activity in November surged $1.7 \%$. It was the second consecutive increase after a spike in October that was induced by computer sales. Computer sales, the driving foree in the wholesale expansion in recent years, were flat in November. Retailing activity rose $0.7 \%$, staging a partial comeback from a sharp drop in October. The bulk of the increase was attributed to higher auto sales. The rest of the retail sector was essentially flat in November.

Activity in the mining sector also surged in November ( $+1.6 \%$ ), due to a hefty increase in oil production. November's increase pushed oil output to annual highs in both Atlantic Canada and Western Canada. However, one of the mildest Novembers on record in key gas-heating markets resulted in sharply reduced demand for natural gas. Elsewhere in the sector, output of metal

## Note to readers

Monthly gross domestic product (GDP) is valued at $190 ?$ prices. The data here are seasonally adjusted at annual ratis.
mines rose slightly. Ongoing weakness at gold mines partly offset higher output at iron and other metal mines. Non-metal mine output fell $3.7 \%$, as potash producers' continuing efforts to eurb supply on the market led to further shutdowns. Diamond miners also curtailed production.

Elsewhere, business service providers continued to forge ahead $(+0.8 \%)$, led by strong demand. The gains were especially robust for computer consulting firms and for temporary help and other personnel agencies. Construction activity rose $0.5 \%$, extending the steady growth observed in the previous 12 months. As for utilities, unseasonably warm temperatures in the East and on the Prairics led to a $2.6 \%$ drop in electric power generation in November. The mild weather also reduced gas distribution ( $-6.3 \%$ ) for a second conseculive month.

## Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.

The November 1999 issue of Gross domestic product by industry (15-001-XPB, \$15/\$145) presents the full report. To purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 877-4623, imad@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145, evanric@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. See also "Current trends" on page 8.

## Employment



January's job growth was concentrated among adult women aged 25 and over $(+22,000)$. Nevertheless, their unemployment rate stayed at $5.5 \%$ due to an increase in labour force participation. Among youths ( 15 to 24), employment edged up, pushing their unemployment rate down 0.6 percentage points to $12.5 \%$-the lowest since August 1990.

In Ontario, employment surged by 21,000 , building on the positive performance of the last three years. However, more Ontarians joined the workforee $(+30,000)$, so the unemployment

## ... Strong job growth continues

rate in the province rose 0.2 percentage points to $5.7 \%$. In Quebec, employment was little changed following steady growth in the last four months of $1999(+80,000)$. There was an increase of 4,000 johs in cach of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nova Scolia. Nova Scotia's job growth built upon increases in November and December. A rise in labour lorec participation left Manioba's unemployment rate unchanged, whereas it caused Nova Scotia's unemployment rate to edge up.

After steady growth in 1998 and little change in 1999, employment in New Brunswick has picked up in the past three months. The province showed a gain of 3,000 jobs in January, pushing the unemployment rate in the province down. In Prince Edward Island. employment increased by 700, continuing the strong upward trend that began last October. So the unemployment rate there fell in January. In Newloundland, employment fell by 7,000. Despite this loss of jobs, employment was still up from January 1999 by $3 \%$.

In both Alberta and British Columbia, a slight increase in employment was accompanied by a small decrease in labour force participation. The unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage points to $5.2 \%$ in Alberta. while it fell by 0.5 percentage points to $7.3 \%$ in British Columbia-the lowest rate for that province since August 1981.
Available on CANSIM: matrices 3450-3471, 3483-3492, 3503 and table 00799999.

## Related information: Employment insurance

In November, the latest month of available data, 501,159 Canadians received the regular type of employment insurance (EI) benefit. That was down from Octoher by $2.8 \%$ and a 7.9\% drop from a year earlier. After remaining relatively stable during the first half of 1999, the number of regular beneficiaries declined for three consecurive months. The only increases in EI beneficiaries occurred in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Manitoba. The amount paid out as regular benefits dropped $9.9 \%$ in November to $\$ 600.6$ million. The number of claims for EI made by the jobless decreased $6.9 \%$ to 205.410 claims. For further information, contact Rober Keay (613-951-4090: 613.951-4087; labour@starcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

For details about data revisions, refer to "Improvements in 2000 to the LFS", which is posted at www. statcan.ca. The month's full report, Labour force information, for the week ending January 15, 2000 (71-001-PPB, $\$ 11 / \$ 103$ ), is now available. For further information. contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division. See also "Current trends" on page 8.

Labour Force Survey, January 2000
Seasonally adjusted'

|  | Labour force |  | Employment |  | Unemployment |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | '000 | \% change, previous month | '000 | \% change. previous month | '000 | rate (\%) |
| Canada | 15,869.3 | 0.3 | 14,791.8 | 0.3 | 1,077.5 | 6.8 |
| Newfoundiand | 245.8 | 0.0 | 204.1 | -3.4 | 41.7 | 17.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 73.5 | 0.7 | 64.4 | 1.1 | 9.2 | 12.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 462.5 | 1.0 | 417.5 | 0.9 | 45.0 | 9.7 |
| New Brunswick | 367.0 | 0.1 | 332.4 | 0.9 | 34.6 | 9.4 |
| Quebec | 3.734 .4 | 0.2 | 3,428.7 | 0.1 | 305.7 | 8.2 |
| Ontano | 6,142.4 | 0.5 | 5,795.3 | 0.4 | 347.2 | 5.7 |
| Manitoba | 580.0 | 0.7 | 549.9 | 0.7 | 30.1 | 5.2 |
| Saskatchewan | 514.6 | 0.7 | 488.2 | 0.9 | 26.5 | 5.1 |
| Alberta | 1.661 .5 | 0.0 | 1.575 .4 | 0.2 | 86.1 | 5.2 |
| British Columbia | 2,087.6 | -0.2 | 1.935 .9 | 0.4 | 151.6 | 7.3 |

[^0]
## Production prospects still quite optimistic

Manufacturers are quite optimistic about this quarter's production prospects, according to January's Business Conditions Survey. Nearly 9 in 10 manufacturers plan (o) maintain or raise production this quarter. Specifically, two out of five manufacturers ( $39 \%$ ) plan to boost production. The proportion stating they plan to decrease production fell to $14 \%$, down from 20\% in October's survey. The most optimistic manufacturers vis-à-vis production prospects are those in the transportation equipment, primary metal and paper and allied products industrics.

Satisfaction with the level of orders received remains stable. Some $91 \%$ of manufacturers expect new orders will cither remain at the current level or increase this quarter. Increased satisfaction with the level of new orders is greatest in the transportation equipment and the primary metals industries.

Employment in manufacturing is expected to remain stable in the current quarter, since $72 \%$ of manufacturers say their workforce will be little changed. That percentage is up slightly from $68 \%$ in October. The proportion of manufacturers planning to reduce their workforce is $11 \%$, whereas the proportion expecting to hire more workers this quarter is $17 \%$.

The level of finished-product inventories is not a major concern for manufacturers. In fact, $84 \%$ indicate that their current level of finished-product inventory is about right. Meanwhile, inventorics are too high for $10 \%$ of manufacturers, but are too low for $6 \%$.


#### Abstract

Note to readers Most responses to the Business Conditions Survey, which is conducted in January, April, July and October, are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. The survey's results are based on replies from about 5,000 manufacturers and are weighted by a manufacturer's shipments or employment. Consequently, larger manufacturers have a larger impact on the results. Except for the data on production difficulties, the data are seasonally adjusted.


As for their current level of unfilled orders, $81 \%$ of manufacturers indicate it is about normal, up 6 points from the October survey. Their overall level of satisfaction toward unfilled orders remains quite high. (Manufacturers had a backlog of $\$ 53.9$ billion in unfilled orders in November.)

Fully $88 \%$ of manufacturers report an absence of production impediments, up 4 points compared with October. However, a shortage of skilled labour continues to be a concern for $6 \%$ of manufacturers. A lack of working capital is a production impediment for just $2 \%$ of manufacturers.
Available on CANSIM: matrices 2843-2845.
For further information, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092; kuncrai@statcan.ca),Manufacturing,Construction and Energy Division.

Manufacturers' expectations and business conditions
Seasonally adjusted


## Building permits record best annual result of the decade

Municipalities issued $\$ 36.0$ billion in building permits last ycar, an $8.4 \%$ increase above the 1998 level and the best annual result of the decade. The residential sector surpassed its 1998 level by a wide margin $(+11.2 \%$ to $\$ 20.0$ billion) and also set a new annual record for the decade. Single-family dwelling intentions contributed the most to this outstanding performance ( $+10.3 \%$ to $\$ 14.3$ billion), though multifamily dwellings also improved ( +13.4 \% to $\$ 5.7$ billion).

The records set in 1999 for hoth planned residential building projects and house resales reflected low variations in mortgage rates and steady employment growth. Sixteen months of uninterrupted economic growth did not hurt either. The housing market is expected to remain strong in 2000 despite slight increases in new housing prices in the past few months and the possibility of more interest rate hikes.

Eight provinces saw improvements in their residential construction intentions in 1999. The largest increases occurred in Ontario and Quebec, where more than half the gains were concentrated in the Toronto and Montreal metro areas. In 1999, the only residential sector declines were in Alberta (especially Calgary) and British Colombia (the Vancouver area).

The non-residential sector, following strong performances in 1997 and 1998, kept its momentum going in 1999 with a $5.2 \%$ rise to $\$ 16.0$ billion-the best showing since 1989. Municipalities issued $\$ 3.8$ billion in institutional permits $(+18.7 \%)$-next to

## Value of building permits



## December's building intentions

The value of building permits increased for a third straight month in December $(+9.4 \%$ to $\$ 3.5$ billion). Non-residential permits recorded their best monthly result of the 1990 s with a remarkable $15.6 \%$ surge to $\$ 1.6$ billion. Residential permits also contributed sirength by rising $4.0 \%$ to $\$ 1.9$ billion for a third consecutive advance.
In the non-residential sector, all three components showed increases. The commercial component led the way with its best monthly result of $1999(+21.6 \%)$. The building projects were mainly office buildings and warehouses. The industrial component rose $7.2 \%$ on plans to build factories and plants. The institutional component was up $8.8 \%$ due to medical and government building. Ontario, Saskatchewan and Quebec contributed the most (in dollars). Alberta was the only province where all three components declined.
On the residential side, the overall gain was due envirely to the multi-family dwelling componernt $(+16.4 \% 10 \$ 599$ million). Permits to build single-family dwellings were almost unchanged $(-0.1 \%$ to $\$ 1.3$ billion). Quehec showed the strongest monthly gain (in dollar terms). The largest losses were recorded in Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

1991, the second best showing ever. This rise was mostly evident in the education category. The commercial component reached its highest level since 1989 ( $+4.7 \%$ to $\$ 8.5$ billion). Warchouses and office building projects showed the largest increases. The industrial component changed direction last year, sliding down $4.9 \%$ to $\$ 3.8$ billion after two straight annual increases. Weakness was seen in intentions to build factories and plants, as well as for utilities and transportation projects.

Last year, the most significant rise in non-residential permits (in dollar terms) occurred in Ontario. The largest decline happened in Alberta. In Ontario, the Toronto area again contribuled strongly to the province's overall increase. Projects in municipalities located outside metropolitan areas contributed significantly, 100 . In Alberta, the Calgary region accounted for most of the province's decline.
A vailable on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7 and 33-48), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.
The December 1999 issue of Building permits (64-001-XIB. \$19/\$186) can be downloaded at wwn:statcan.ca. For general information, contact Joanne Bureau (613.951-9689; burejoa@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté (613-951-2025; sebastien Iarochellecote@statcan.ca).Investment and Capiral Stock Division.

Building permits, 1999
Seasonally adjusted ${ }^{1}$

|  | Total |  | Residential |  | Non-residential |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \$ millions | \% change, previous year | \$ millions | \% change, previous year | \$ millions | \% change, previous year |
| Canada | 35,995.5 | 8.4 | 19,960.6 | 11.2 | 16,034.9 | 5.2 |
| Newioundland | 330.7 | 30.9 | 165.9 | 16.1 | 164.8 | 50.1 |
| Prince Edward Island | 143.3 | 23.4 | 71.8 | 26.0 | 71.5 | 21.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 910.4 | 42.9 | 478.9 | 25.6 | 431.5 | 68.7 |
| New Brunswick | 483.9 | 0.6 | 274.5 | 15.2 | 209.4 | -13.7 |
| Quebec | 6,112.2 | 9.4 | 3,185.8 | 16.6 | 2.926 .4 | 2.5 |
| Ontario | 16,738.6 | 19.5 | 9,733.2 | 21.3 | 7,005.4 | 17.1 |
| Manitoba | 895.7 | -13.2 | 382.2 | 4.2 | 513.5 | -22.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 715.6 | 6.3 | 267.9 | 0.8 | 447.7 | 10.0 |
| Alberta | 4,856.8 | -12.5 | 2,782.1 | -6.2 | 2,074.7 | -19.8 |
| British Columbia | 4,666.6 | -1.5 | 2,560.7 | -5.8 | 2,105.8 | 4.1 |
| Yukon | 48.6 | 21.8 | 17.9 | -15.2 | 30.7 | 63.3 |
| Northwest Territories | 43.9 | -45.3 | 14.2 | -65.5 | 29.6 | -24.3 |
| Nunavut | 49.3 | .. | 25.4 |  | 23.9 | . |

Figures not available.
Note: Dala may not add to totals due to rounding. Some percentage changes should be interpreted with caution because of the small numbers involved.

## Large retailers' sales climbing

In November, large retailers' sales reached $\$ 6.6$ billion, an increase from a year carlicr of $4,4 \%$. As the table shows, sales climbed in all the major product lines except clothing, footwear and accessories ( $-1.1 \%$ ). Within health and personal care products, which had the fastest sales growth rate at $13.3 \%$, most of the growth was due to increased sales of prescription drugs ( $+30.2 \%$ ) and over-the-counter drugs ( $+25.7 \%$ ).

Among hardware, lawn and garden products, the fastest growth occurred in sales of cut flowers and potted plants ( $+31.6 \%$ ), outdoor power equipment $(+27.7 \%)$, and other hardware and building products ( $+14.2 \%$ ). Sales of hardware supplies rose $9.0 \%$, while sales of hand and power tools were up $8.8 \%$. In home furnishings and electronics, artwork and other home decorating products (includes Christmas decorations) had the biggest percentage jump in sales ( $+21.0 \%$ ), followed by telephones and home office electronics $(+15.1 \%)$, major appliances $(+14.6 \%)$ and computer software ( $+14.4 \%$ ).

As for housewares, sales were led by cleaning supplies $(+13.5 \%)$. Sales of other non-electric household supplies such as brooms, flashlights and batteries were up 13.8\%. However, tablew are sales dropped $2.8 \%$.

The large retailers' lower sales in the clothing, footwear and accessories category were attributable to restructuring among department stores, as well as to unseasonably warm temperatures in November. Interestingly, sales of women's clothing increased, but sales of men's clothing fell.

## Note to readers

These results were affected by changes in the composition of the group of large retailers surveyed-some food stores left the group-and most of Eaton's stores were closed in November. All data are unadjusted for seasonal factors. The comparisons are year-over-year.

## Large retailers' sales

Not seasonally adjusted

|  | November 1998 | November 1999 | November 1998 to November 1999 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \$ millions |  | \% change |
| All commodities | 6,306 | 6,581 | 4.4 |
| Food and beverages | 1,975 | 1,999 | 1.2 |
| Clothing, footwear and accessories | 1,442 | 1,426 | -1.1 |
| Home furnishings and electronics | 1,005 | 1,092 | 8.6 |
| Health and personal care products | 426 | 483 | 13.3 |
| Housewares | 284 | 308 | 8.3 |
| Sporting and leisure goods | 384 | 404 | 5.4 |
| Hardware, lawn and garden products | ts 184 | 204 | 11.0 |
| All other goods and services | 607 | 666 | 9.7 |

To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549 or 1877 421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Catherine Draper (613-951-0669; drapcat@statcan.ca),Distributive Trades Division.

## More Canadian films and videos being sold abroad

In 1997/98, Canadian film and video productions made major inroads into foreign markets-exports surpassed the $\$ 100$-million mark for the first time. However, foreign films and vidcos continued to dominate the domestic market. The industry as a whole carned record revenues of $\$ 1.8$ billion $(+13 \%$ from 1994/95), thanks to a continuing surge of Canadian productions abroad, as well as to strong salcs of forcign film and video productions in Canada.

Distributors' foreign sales of Canadian film and video productions reached a record $\$ 101.2$ million. (That excludes Canadian productions disuributed directly to forcign sources by film and video producers.) When the foreign sales of nonCanadian films are added in, total export sales in 1997/98 reached $\$ 132.1$ million, up $38 \%$ from 1994/95. These sales to foreign clients accounted for more than half (57\%) of the distribution revenues from Canadian-content productions in 1997/98, compared with only one-third at the beginning of the 1990 s .

In the domestic market for films and videos, forcign productions dominated in $1997 / 98$, accounting for $90 \%$ of the $\$ 818.8$ million in total salcs. That proportion has remained virtually constant throughout the 1990s. Foreign domination was even stronger in the theatrical market, where forcign movies accounted for $98 \%$ of distributors' revenues of $\$ 276.7$ million. The $2 \%$ share of revenue for Canadian movies was down from 3\% in 1994/95.

That same dominance was also evident in both the conventionalTV and pay TV markets. In the conventional-TV markct, foreign productions represented $84 \%$ of the $\$ 340.1$ million in distribution revenues. The $16 \%$ share for Canadian productions was up from $11 \%$ in 1994/95. In the pay-TV market, however, the trend for Canadian-content productions went in the opposite direction. In $1997 / 98$, their $16 \%$ share of the $\$ 59.8$ million in distribution revenucs was down from $24 \%$ in 1994/95.

With respect to the home-video market, foreign productions were the overwhelming favourites of consumcrs in 1997/98,

## Note to readers

Film distributors are companies primarily engaged in distributing film and video productions to theatres, television stations and commercial exhibitors. Videos include videocasselles, videodiscs and DVD.
Home-video market refers to the rental or sale of videas for showing films and videos on household playback machines. Pay-TV market refers to the showing of films and videos on pay and specialty channels for which the viewer must pay either a direct or an indirect fee. Conventional-TV market refers to the showing of film and videos on ordinary broadcast television. Theatrical market refers to the showing of films at commercial movie theatres and drive-ins.
accounting for $99 \%$ of domestic wholesale sales of $\$ 812.2$ million. The domination that foreign films have in cinemas and their hefty publicity budgets may be spilling over into the home-video market to the benefit of forcign-content videos.

In 1997/98, Canadian-content productions significantly increased their share in the non-theatrical market of educational institutions, governments and private companies. That year, they captured $36 \%$ of the $\$ 17.1$ million in sales in this market. up from $26 \%$ in 1994/95. The non-theatrical market has been a shrinking one. Its total revenues have declined by $12.8 \%$ over the same three years. However, in dollar terms, receipts from Canadian productions climbed $22 \%$ to $\$ 6.2$ million.
Selected data from the Film and Video Distribution and Wholesaling Survey are available in table format $(87 F(1) 10 \times P E$, \$50). A summany of these data will appear in Canada's culture, heritage and identity: A statistical perspective (print: 87-211-XPB, \$31; online at www.statcan.ca: 87-211-XIB, \$23), which will be available at a later date. To order tables, or for further information. contact Fidel Ifedi (613-951-1569; fax: 613-951-9040; ifedfid@statcan.ca), Culture. Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

# New from Statistics Canada 



## Income trends in Canada on CD-ROM 1980 to 1997

In order to make informed proposals and sound decisions during times of budget challenges, it is more crucial than ever to understand income trends. Income trends in Canada on CD-ROM presents nearly two decades of accurate and reliable income statistics in the simplicity and convenience of a CD-ROM. It includes information on income (from employment and other sources), taxes, the impact of government transfers on family income, differences in carnings between women and men, income of seniors, income inequality and low income. The overall picture is here for Canada, the provinces and 15 metropolitan areas. This single disc contains everything you need to know about income trends from 1980 to 1997, which covers two recessions and recovery periods.
The 1980 to 1997 edition of Income trends in Canada on CD-ROM (13F0022XCB, \$195). Information about this product is available in Income trends in Canada-User's guide (75F0002MIE), which is posted at www. statcan.ca. Look under "Products and services", "Downloadable research papers". "Income, expenditures, pensions, assets and debts", and then "Income". For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1888951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.

## Current trends




Consumer prices for goods and services were $2.6 \%$ higher in December 1999 than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose $1.6 \%$



In December, the leading indicator grew by $0.5 \%$, led by financial markets.



Note: All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.

Latest statistics

Period

Level
Change,
previous period
Changc.
previous year
GENERAL

| Gross domestic producl (\$ billion, 1992) | November | 760.9 | 0.6\% | 4.3\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Composite Index ( $1981=100)$ | December | 219.6 | 0.5\% | 5.2\% |
| Operating profits of encerprises (\$ billion) | Q3 1999 | 39.8 | 7.6\% | 30.5\% |
| Capacity utilization (\%) | Q3 1999 | 86.0 | $1.8+$ | $3.6+$ |
| DOMESTIC DEMAND |  |  |  |  |
| Retail trade (\$ billion) | November | 22.0 | 0.6\% | $6.1 \%$ |
| Department store sales (S billions) | November | 1.44 | -7.2\% | 2.6\% |
| New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units) | November | 132.7 | 3.1\% | 11.7\% |
| Wholesalc trade (\$ tillion) | November | 31.4 | 1.3\% | 11.3\% |
| LABOUR |  |  |  |  |
| Employment (millions) | January* | 14.79 | 0.3\% | 2.8\% |
| Unemployment rate (\%) | January* | 6.8 | $0.0 \dagger$ | 1.1+ |
| Participation rate (\%) | January* | 65.7 | $0.1+$ | $0.1+$ |
| Average weckly earnings (\$) | November | 616.04 | 0.4\% | 1.5\% |
| Help-wanted Index (1996=100) | January | 168 | 2.4\% | 13.5\% |
| INTERNATIONAL TRADE |  |  |  |  |
| Merchandise expors (\$ billion) | November | 31.4 | 1.4\% | 10.5\% |
| Merchandisc impors (\$ billion) | November | 28.2 | -0.2\% | 6.1\% |
| Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion) | November | 3.1 | 0.5 | 1.4 |
| MANUFACTURING |  |  |  |  |
| Shipments (\$ billion) | November | 42.6 | 1.8\% | 9.3\% |
| New orders (\$ billion) | November | 42.3 | -0.4\% | 9.8\% |
| Unfilled orders (\$ billion) | November | 53.9 | -0.4\% | 5.5\% |
| Inventory/shipments ratio | November | 1.30 | -0.01 | -0.03 |
| PRICES |  |  |  |  |
| Consumer Price Index (1992=100) | December | 111.5 | 0.1\% | 2.6\% |
| Industrial Product Price Index ( $1992=100$ ) | December | 124.1 | 0.6\% | 3.9\% |
| Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100) | December | 134.0 | 3.6\% | 33.9\% |
| New Housing Price index (1992=100) | December* | 102.0 | 0.2\% | 1.7\% |

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

* new this week
+ percentage poins


## Infomat

A weekly review

Published by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Otawa, Ontario. KIA OT6.

Edttor: Tim Prichard (613) 951-1197; prictim@statcan.ca
Hcad of Official Release: Chantal Prevost (613) 951-1088; prevcha@statcan.ca
Price per issuc: paper version. \$4: Intemet version, \$3. Annual subscription: paper version, \$145; Internet version, \$109. Prices outside Canada are the same, but are in U.S. dollars. All prices exclude sales lax.

To subscribe: Send a money order or cheque payable to the Receiver (iencral of Canada/Statistics Canada, Circulation Management. 120 Parkdalc Avinue, Otuwa, Ontario. K1A OT6. To order by telephone call (613) 951 -7277. or $1800700-1033$ both in Canada and outside of Canada.

The firsi (official) release of all statistical information produced by Statistics Canada occurs in The Daily (www.stalcan.ca), available at 8:30 a.m. The Daily presents highlights from new data releases, along with sources, links and contaces for further information. It also contains schedules of upcoming major news releases and announces the Agency's new products and services.
Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statstics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 1999. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic. mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from Licence Services. Marketing Division, Statisuics Canada, Otawa, Ontario, K1A OT6, Canada.

The paper used in this publication meens the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Infomation Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Prinied Library Matcrials, ANSI Z39.48-1984.

|  |  |  | Price: | e/Subscription |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Division/Title of publication | Period | Catalogue number | Canada (C\$) | Outside Canada (US\$) |
| AGRICULTURE |  |  |  |  |
| Cereals and oilsceds review | November 1999 | $22.007-\mathrm{XPB}$ | 15/149 | 15/149 |
| DEMOGRAPHY |  |  |  |  |
| Quanterly demographic statistics | Q3 1999 |  |  |  |
| Internet |  | 91-002-XIB | 8/25 |  |
| Paper |  | 91-002-XPB | 10/33 | 10/33 |
| INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS |  |  |  |  |
| Gross domestic product by industry | November 1999 | 15-001-XPB | $15 / 145$ | 15/145 |
| INTERNATIONAL TRADE |  |  |  |  |
| Exports by commodity | November 1999 | 65-004-XPB | 78/773 | 78/773 |
| INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK |  |  |  |  |
| Building permits | December 1999 | 64-001-XIB | $19 / 186$ |  |
| LABOUR STATISTICS |  |  |  |  |
| Employment, earnings and hours | November 1999 | 72-002-XPB | 32/320 | 32/320 |
| Labour force information, week ending January 15, 2000 | January 2000 | 71.001-PPB | 11/103 | 11/103 |
| MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY |  |  |  |  |
| Coal and coke statistics | November 1999 | 45-002-XPB | 12/114 | 12/114 |
| Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes | December 1999 | 43-009-XIB | 5/47 |  |
| Electric power statistics | November 1999 | 57-001-XIB | 9/85 |  |
| Energy statistics handbook January 2000 |  |  |  |  |
| Paper |  | 57-601-UPB | 387 | 387 |
| Diskette |  | 57-601-XDE | 284 | 28 |
| Natural gas transportation and distribution | October 1999 | 55-002-XIB | $13 / 125$ |  |
| Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas | October 1999 | 26-006-XPB | 19/186 | $19 / 186$ |
| TRANSPORTATION |  |  |  |  |
| Aviation scrvice bulletin, vol. 32, no. I |  | 51-004-XIB | 8/82 |  |
| Railway carloadings | December 1999 | 52-001-XIE | $8 / 77$ |  |

## How to order publications

To order Infomat or other publications:
Please refer to the *itle Catalogue number - Volume number - Issue number - Your VISA or MastenCard numher

| In Canada and outside Canada call: | (613) $951-7277$ or $1800267-6677$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Fax your order to us: | (613) $951-1584$ or $1877287-4369$ |
| Or e-mail your order: | order@statcan.ca |

To onder on the Internet: Visit the Statistics Canada web site at www.statcan.ca and click on "Products and services".
To order by mail, write to: Circulation Management, Statistics Canada, 120 Parkdalc Avenuc, Otrawa, Ontario, KIA 0T6
Include a cheque or money order payable to Receiver General of Canada/Publications.
Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centres provide a full range of the Agency's products and services.
For the reference centre nearest you. check the blue pages of your telephone direclory under Statistics Canada.
Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.
For address changes: Please refer to your customer account number.
Visit Statistics Canada anytime on the Internet: ww: statcan ca


[^0]:    1 Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

