Catalogue 11-002E (Français 11-002F) ISSN 0380-0547

Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, September 22, 2000

OVERVIEW

◆ Annual inflation rate declines

In August, consumers paid 2.5% more for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index basket than they did in August 1999. This annual inflation rate is smaller than the 3.0% seen in July.

◆ Leading indicator's growth slows

In August, the growth of the leading indicator was 0.4%, a slowing from its upward-revised gains of 0.5% in June and July. Of the composite index's 10 components, 5 continued to advance.

◆ Manufacturers' shipments fall

The value of manufacturers' shipments fell 1.3% in July. The most marked declines were in the motor vehicle and machinery industries. Inventories increased and unfilled orders surged.

◆ New truck sales drop

New truck sales dropped from June to July, causing an overall decline in new motor vehicle sales (-1.5%). The number of new vehicles sold increased in each of the western provinces, whereas it declined in the eastern provinces

◆ Farm cash receipts hit a high

In the first half of this year, farm cash receipts hit a high of $16.2 billion. The growth came from higher livestock receipts and higher program payments. Crop receipts fell for a fourth consecutive year.

◆ Cattle herd slowly shrinking

Despite higher prices, the cattle industry continues to contract as herd inventories shrank for a fourth consecutive year as of July 1.

Annual inflation rate declines

In August, consumers paid 2.5% more for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket than they did in August 1999. This annual inflation rate is smaller than the 3.0% seen in July.

Energy prices were again the major contributor, though their impact on the CPI has lessened compared to what it has been since December 1999. This situation is temporary, however, because energy prices rose again in early September. In August, the annual rise in the CPI excluding energy was 1.7%. That was up from an annual increase of 1.5% in July. Compared with August 1999, the prices of energy commodities were up 11.9% on average. Although a 13.4% annual rise in gasoline prices in August 2000 was the smallest since July 1999 (+9.6%), it was responsible for most of the increase in the energy index.

As for the CPI excluding food and energy, that index has shown some stability: August's 1.5% increase was within the range of 1.3% to 1.6% observed since October 1999. For commodities other than energy, the upward pressure on the CPI came in part from higher mortgage interest costs, higher prices for food purchased from restaurants and price increases for fresh vegetables. On an annual basis, prices were lower for automotive vehicles, computer equipment and supplies, and women's clothing.

Consumer Price Index, August 2000
% change, previous year, not seasonally adjusted

	All items	Food	Shelter	Transportation	Energy
Canada	**2.5**	**2.4**	**3.8**	**2.8**	**11.9**
Newfoundland	2.9	1.4	5.4	5.6	14.4
Prince Edward Island	4.9	2.6	7.9	9.3	30.3
Nova Scotia	2.6	2.4	5.6	2.8	11.5
New Brunswick	3.0	2.7	4.5	3.6	10.7
Quebec	2.4	3.2	2.9	3.0	9.1
Ontario	2.5	2.7	3.6	2.0	10.0
Manitoba	2.4	3.1	4.2	0.3	5.9
Saskatchewan	2.8	2.2	4.0	2.7	8.5
Alberta	3.5	3.3	7.3	2.9	18.8
British Columbia	2.1	-0.3	2.5	4.6	20.4
Whitehorse	2.6	1.1	4.5	4.0	15.7
Yellowknife	1.6	1.1	3.5	0.2	13.6

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... Annual inflation rate declines

From July to August, the CPI decreased 0.2%. On average, prices for gasoline fell 3.5% from July to August, after dropping 0.3% from June to July. This was the first occurrence of consecutive monthly price decreases for gasoline since November and December 1998. The price decreases ranged from 1.1% in Saskatchewan to 5.5% in Manitoba. The only increases were seen in Prince Edward Island (+6.9%) and Whitehorse (+1.0%). Prince Edward Island's Regulatory and Appeals Commission approved a gasoline price increase owing to higher crude oil prices.

Price decreases for certain fresh fruits and vegetables have exerted downward pressure on the month-to-month CPI. The decreases have been due to the increasing availability of crops produced in Canada. However, a 7.9% decline in fresh vegetable prices was the smallest one seen in August since 1988; the last 11 years have seen double-digit declines. Poor weather this year has made for smaller domestic crops.

On average, consumers paid 1.2% less for air transportation in August. This followed an increase of 6.4% in July and a decrease of 2.7% in June. From July to August, mortgage interest costs increased 0.5%—the 12th consecutive monthly hike. Costs for rented accommodation also increased (+0.2%). Clothing prices were up 1.1%, mainly certain types of women's clothing.

*The August 2000 issue of **The consumer price index** (62-001-XPB, $11/$103) is now available. For further information, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. See also "Current trends" on page 8.*

Leading indicator's growth slows

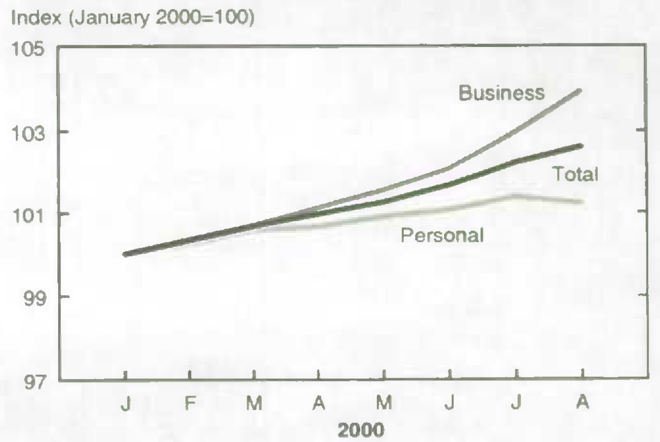
In August, the growth of the leading indicator was 0.4%, a slowing from its upward-revised gains of 0.5% in June and July. Of the composite index's 10 components, 5 continued to advance in August, as in the previous two months, while only 1 retreated.

Business spending remained the index's major source of growth. Demand for high technology goods continued to propel new orders for durable goods to their largest gain in 10 months. That demand also led to further gains in the stock market. These two components alone contributed half of the index's overall growth.

Household demand moderated, especially for housing. After the one-time boost from the end of strikes, housing starts in Ontario again joined the downward movement seen in the west. The trend for sales of durable goods levelled off. Weakness in accommodation and food services, reflecting cool weather and a sharp drop in foreign visitors, checked employment in services.

In the United States, the leading indicator remained unchanged after steady growth earlier in the year. As in Canada, the consumer sector was the main brake on growth. The drop in orders for consumer goods steepened, while building permits fell for a fifth time in six months.

Employment in personal and business services



*The September 2000 issue of **Canadian economic observer** (11-010-XPB, $23/$227) is now available. For further information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. See also "Current trends" on page 8.*

Manufacturers' shipments fall

Manufacturers' shipments fell 1.3% in July to $44.3 billion. Shipments decreased in 12 of the 22 major industry groups, representing 73% of the total value of shipments. Since the beginning of this year, shipments have grown 2.2%. Compared with July 1999, shipments were 9.1% higher this July. The strong upward trend observed since the last half of 1998 has slowed since the beginning of this year.

The major contributor to the decline in shipments was the motor vehicle industry (-2.8%). Excluding the automotive sector, shipments declined 1.0%. The motor vehicle industry was affected by an extended maintenance shutdown at one plant for a model changeover and by a fire at another plant. As well, higher diesel fuel costs and higher interest rates have both led to lower demand for heavy trucks this year. July's drop was in line with the slight downward trend in shipments that the motor vehicle industry has seen since peaking in August 1999.

The second largest contributor to the decline in shipments in July was the machinery industry (-10.4%). The drop was concentrated in "other machinery and equipment" and in turbine and power transmission equipment. The drop was almost entirely offset by a buildup of goods-in-process inventories.

The other major contributors to the July decrease were the wood (-5.3%) and motor vehicle parts and accessories (-2.9%) industries. In the wood industry, the decline resulted from a strike in British Columbia, decreased demand in the United States and a price decrease of 1.6%. The largest offsetting increase in ship-

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... Manufacturers' shipments fall

ments was seen in the paper and allied products industry (+3.7%), where prices increased 1.6%.

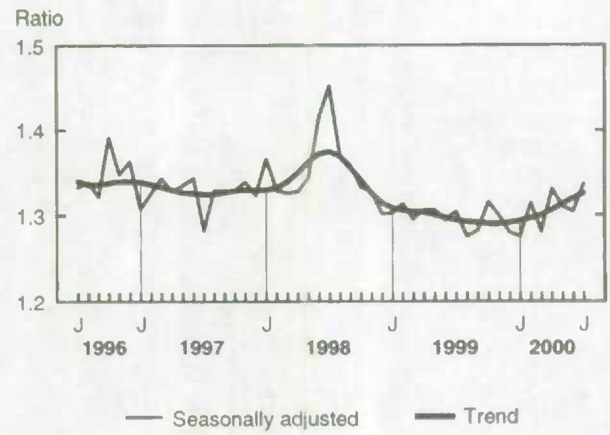
Manufacturers' inventories grew 1.2% in July to $59.2 billion. The growth resulted from an accumulation of finished product (+2.1%) and raw material (+1.4%) inventories. The major industry contributing to July's increase was electrical and electronic products (+5.4%), followed by machinery (+3.6%) and chemical products (+2.7%). The main offsetting decrease in inventories occurred in the railroad rolling stocks industry (-7.5%). Inventories, which have been increasing steadily since February 1999, have risen 6.7% since the beginning of 2000.

As a consequence of the opposing movements in inventories and shipments, the inventory-to-shipments ratio spiked from 1.30 in June to 1.34. Inventories have grown at a faster pace than shipments since the beginning of 2000. As a result, the trend of the inventory-to-shipments ratio has started to edge upward in recent months.

Manufacturers' shipments, July 2000
Seasonally adjusted

	$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	**44,329**	**-1.3**
Newfoundland	195	-14.1
Prince Edward Island	76	-4.4
Nova Scotia	681	-3.3
New Brunswick	912	1.8
Quebec	10,726	0.6
Ontario	23,712	-2.0
Manitoba	903	3.1
Saskatchewan	569	-3.3
Alberta	3,445	0.2
British Columbia	3,107	-4.4
Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut	5	-1.9

Inventory-to-shipments ratio



Manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders jumped 5.2% in July to $56.2 billion. The advance was propelled by a surge of orders in the aircraft and aircraft parts industry (+9.4%). Excluding that industry, unfilled orders rose 2.1%. After cresting in December 1999 and declining in the first five months of 2000, unfilled orders started rising again in June.

*The July 2000 issue of **Monthly survey of manufacturing** (31-001-XPB, $20/$196) presents the full report. Detailed data on shipments by province are available on request. For further information, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092; kuncrai@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. See also "Current trends" on page 8.*

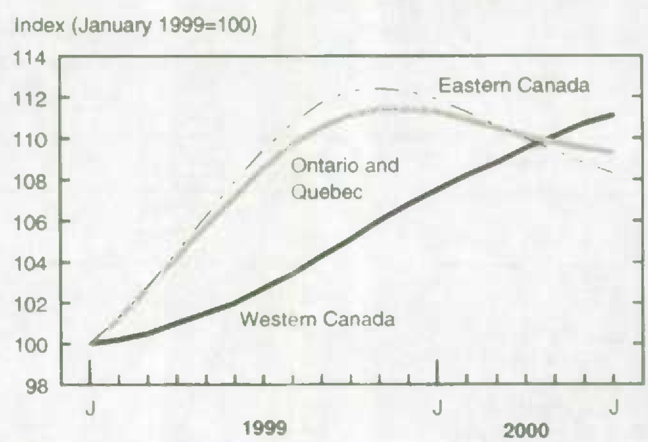
New truck sales drop

New truck sales dropped from June to July, causing an overall decline in new motor vehicle sales (-1.5%). In July, 131,852 vehicles were purchased, down 2,026 compared with June. This decrease followed a strong sales increase in June (+3.6%). (Unless otherwise indicated, all data are seasonally adjusted.) Sales have remained generally stable since the fall of 1999.

The number of new trucks sold in July fell 5.8% to 62,643 vehicles. That partially offset June's strong advance (+9.6%). The substantial drop in July was the fifth monthly decline since the start this year. The number of new trucks sold has remained almost unchanged since the summer of 1999.

Car sales turned around in July, as the number of new cars sold rose 2.7% to 69,209 units. However, this increase in sales followed three consecutive monthly declines. It was mainly attributable to sales of North American-built cars (+3.2%); sales of overseas-built cars rose 1.3%. Despite the increase in July, the number of new cars sold has been following a downward movement since the end of 1999.

Trends of new motor vehicle sales by region



In July, the number of new vehicles sold increased in each of the western provinces, whereas it declined in the eastern provinces compared with June. The largest month-over-month increase occurred in the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (+8.1%), followed by Manitoba (+6.6%), Alberta (+1.1%) and Saskatchewan (+0.3%)

(continued on page 4)

... New truck sales drop

were the only two other provinces to report monthly increases in new vehicle sales. In Eastern Canada, Prince Edward Island (-21.0%) registered the steepest monthly decline. Meanwhile, in Central Canada, Quebec (-1.7%) and Ontario (-3.7%) also saw sales declines.

The regional picture in July generally reflected the pattern of new vehicle sales in Canada observed since the start of 2000. Vehicle sales in the East have been moving downward since the start of 2000, while those in the West have been moving upward.

Among the factors that might have boosted sales in the West are increased farm cash receipts for the first six months of 2000 compared with the same period in 1999, the growing development of oil resources, and the lower gasoline prices prevailing in Alberta.

The July 2000 issue of New motor vehicle sales (online at www.statcan.ca: 63-007-XIB, $13/$124) presents the full report. To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549, 1 877 421-3067, retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363, kimacle@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Farm cash receipts hit a high

In the first half of this year, farm cash receipts hit a high of $16.2 billion, climbing 9.8% higher than in the year-earlier period and 11.2% higher than the previous five-year average (1995 to 1999). The growth came from higher livestock receipts and higher program payments. However, crop receipts fell for a fourth consecutive year.

Ongoing strong demand for red meat has pushed up prices in both the hog and cattle sectors, driving livestock receipts to a record high in the January-to-June period of $8.3 billion. That total was 14.3% more than in the same period of 1999 and 20.0% above the five-year average.

Hog producers' cash receipts were $1.7 billion, up 52.6% from the first half of 1999. Revenue from slaughter hogs bounded 54.5% over the same period of 1999 and contributed almost 90% of the total gain in hog receipts, as prices of slaughter hogs recovered strongly from the 1999 lows (+46.8%). In the cattle and calf sector, marketings remained almost unchanged, but an 11.0% increase in prices pushed receipts in the first half to $3.2 billion.

Receipts from milk and cream increased 2.2%, bringing total revenue to $2.0 billion. A 2.9% increase in price more than compensated for a 0.7% decrease in marketings. The majority of the increase can be attributed to Quebec, where milk and cream receipts were 14.1% above the province's five-year average.

Farm cash receipts

	First half 1999	First half 2000	% change
Canada	**14,744**	**16,183**	**9.8**
Newfoundland	38	36	-5.3
Prince Edward Island	195	183	-6.2
Nova Scotia	167	180	7.8
New Brunswick	184	186	1.1
Quebec	2,446	2,766	13.1
Ontario	3,356	3,759	12.0
Manitoba	1,458	1,559	6.9
Saskatchewan	2,758	2,857	3.6
Alberta	3,184	3,630	14.0
British Columbia	958	1,029	7.4

Note: *Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.*

Note to readers

Farm cash receipts are a measure of the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. They include sales of crops and livestock products (except sales between farms in the same province) and program payments. Receipts are recorded when the money is paid to farmers before any expenses are paid. Deferments represent sales of grains and oilseeds delivered by western producers for which payments were deferred until the next year. Program payments include government payments tied to current agricultural production and paid directly to farmers.

Crop receipts in the first half totalled $6.6 billion, a decrease of 3.0% compared with the first six months of 1999 and a drop of 6.1% from the five-year average. Poor prices for the major grains and oilseeds due to abundant world supplies led producers to defer fewer receipts for crops sold in 1999 to be liquidated in 2000. Liquidations of grain and oilseed receipts tumbled 37.0% to $578 million—the lowest level since 1994. These liquidations were the main contributors to the decline in crop receipts in the first half.

Canola producers' receipts dropped 10.7% to $675 million—the lowest level since 1993. Given the large world supplies of oilseeds, increased deliveries owing to record Canadian production were more than offset by decreased prices. Durum wheat receipts dropped 14.0% to $337 million. Although prices remained relatively stable, marketings and Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) payments were lower.

Higher receipts for barley and soybeans were recorded. Barley receipts increased 19.5%, owing to larger CWB payments and higher marketings. However, barley receipts still remained well below (-27.5%) their previous five-year average. As for soybeans, record production pushed up deliveries by 34.6%, resulting in similar growth in soybean receipts. Although soybean prices remained almost stable during the period, they were at their lowest level since 1993.

Program payments surpassed a billion dollars in the first half, as farmers received $1.3 billion from government programs. That marked an 86.0% increase from the same period of 1999 and a climb of 108.5% from the previous five-year average of $622 million. Almost two-thirds of the increase can be attributed to three new one-time assistance programs implemented in the Prairie provinces.

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... Farm cash receipts hit a high

Farm cash receipts rose in the first half from the year-earlier period in all provinces except Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. The largest percentage increases were recorded by farmers in Alberta, Quebec and Ontario, principally because of higher livestock receipts.

The January-June 2000 issue of ***Farm cash receipts*** *(online at www.statcan.ca: 21-001-XIB, $15/$48) presents the details. For further information, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca), Winnipeg Office, or Kim Boyuk (613-951-2510; kimberley.boyuk@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.*

Cattle herd slowly shrinking

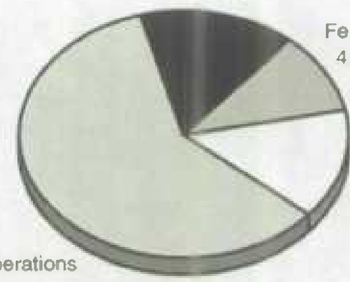
Despite higher prices, Canada's cattle herd has been in a gradual liquidation phase for the last four years. The current herd size is 5.2% short of the 1996 peak. Total cattle and calf inventories on July 1 were 14.3 million head, down 1.2% from July 1, 1999 and down 2.9% from 1998. Even so, cow-calf operators responded to the improved prices by expanding the breeding herd. However, it takes several years for such an adjustment to bring more beef to the marketplace.

Low feed grain costs and better prices for fed cattle have led to higher profit margins for feeding operations, supporting greater demand for feeder cattle. These cattle are fed to market weight and then shipped to processing plants. Total slaughter increased 2.3% over the year ending July 1, 2000, further reducing inventories. Cattle exports dropped 18% from 1999. As supplies were unable to keep up with demand, feeder cattle prices rose.

The number of cattle on feeding operations declined 1.3%, owing to a shortage of domestic supply. Many operations imported more feeder cattle from the United States. Canada's 4,000 feeding operations accounted for 1.5 million head of cattle. On these farms, there were 80,500 calves (an animal less than one year old) at July 1, 2000, much fewer than in previous years. The feeding of high-energy rations has contributed to higher average slaughter weights, but that has not been enough to compensate for the shortage of animals. Saskatchewan was the only province with larger cattle inventories.

The hog sector, meanwhile, expanded in the second quarter, but not enough to offset declines over the previous year. An estimated 12.2 million hogs were reported on farms on July 1. Inventories were down 1.3% from July 1, 1999. The breeding herd was 0.4% larger on July 1 than it was at the same point in 1999; likewise, farrowing (or sows giving birth) was up 2.5% in the second quarter.

Cattle and calf inventory by farm type



In recent years, hog producers have had to cope with rapid changes—new management practices, farm sales and expansions, environmental regulations, price swings, increased processing capacities, vertical integration and contractual arrangements in the industry. As well, many producers are just recovering from the financial losses of 1998. Production is expanding again to take advantage of rising domestic processing and marketing opportunities. Growth in the industry is most predominant in the Prairie provinces, where July inventories surged 3.2% over the previous quarter. Export markets continue to be crucial to Canada's hog industry. Second-quarter live hog exports rose 7.1% over the first quarter.

Livestock inventories, July 1

	Cattle and calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	'000 head					
Canada	**14,447**	**14,275**	**12,392**	**12,231**	**883**	**988**
Atlantic provinces	318	308	375	369	47	48
Quebec	1,343	1,311	3,846	3,740	162	180
Ontario	2,120	2,050	3,381	3,229	253	280
Manitoba	1,400	1,395	1,917	1,936	58	79
Saskatchewan	2,719	2,740	918	1,040	83	102
Alberta	5,760	5,709	1,808	1,779	214	230
British Columbia	787	762	148	139	65	70

Note: *Totals may not add due to rounding.*

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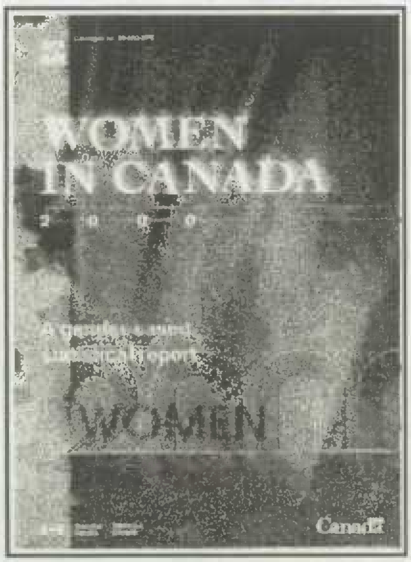
... Cattle herd slowly shrinking

A strong increase in sheep and lamb production signals a growing industry. Inventories climbed 12% from July 1999, as improved demand and prices resulted in expansion of the breeding herd. The number of farms reporting sheep increased 1.3% from a year earlier to 11,000, and the average number of sheep per farm was up. Sheep producers had an estimated 988,000 head of sheep and lambs on their farms as of July 1. Imports declined, as domestic producers were able to meet demand. Exports increased because of demand for high-quality Canadian sheep and lamb products.

*Data on livestock inventories appear in **Livestock statistics—update** (23-603-UPE, $45/$149), which will be available shortly. For the first time, data on cattle by farm type are now available in that report. For more information, contact Robert Plourde (613-951-8716, robert.plourde@statcan.ca), or call the Information Line (1 800 465-1991), Agriculture Division.*

New from Statistics Canada



Women in Canada
2000

The fourth edition of *Women in Canada* provides a comprehensive statistical profile of the evolving status of women in Canadian society. It presents details on their demographic characteristics, family arrangements, health, education, employment, unpaid work activity, income, housing, and criminal victimization. This 300-page report also includes separate sections describing the situations of immigrant women, women in the visible minority community, Aboriginal women and senior women.

Women in Canada 2000 *(89-503-XPE, $45) is now available. For more information on this report, contact Colin Lindsay (613-951-2603; fax: 613-951-0387; lindcol@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.*

Postal area profiles
1998

Postal area profiles, a databank profiling more than 5,000 communities across Canada, is derived from 1998 tax records filed in the spring of 1999. These data are ideal for supporting policy analysis because they provide a comprehensive picture of communities. High standards of confidentiality ensure that no individual or family can be identified from these profiles.

The profiles consist of five tables, which include information on taxfilers and dependants, selected sources of income of individuals, labour force participation, economic dependency on transfer payments and family characteristics. Data on each community can be compared with provincial and national figures to show how communities fit into the broader picture. These data can also be used to assess trends over the past four years.

*To order or learn more about **Postal area profiles**, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.*

New from Statistics Canada

E-STAT: The ultimate interactive learning tool
2000 edition

E-STAT 2000, free to the education community, combines 450,000 current social and economic time series—containing data on business, industry, labour, prices, health, crime and many others—as well as data from the 1996 Census and historical censuses. For the plugged-in teacher, *E-STAT 2000* offers a host of curriculum-relevant activities developed by educators specifically for Grade 6 and up.

The 2000 edition contains two new features that make it even more user-friendly and versatile. Students can now search for data by theme. As well, *E-STAT* now features text to complement the data. Students can access selected articles from Statistics Canada products such as the *Canada year book 1999* and *Canadian social trends.*

To obtain free access to the Internet version of ***E-STAT*** *(10F0174XIB), schools should register now. Teachers can access E-STAT from home with a user ID and password. For more information, visit http://estat.statcan.ca, or contact the education representative in your region. The E-STAT team can be reached directly at 1 800 465-1222; e-stat@statcan.ca.*

Labour market and income data guide
2000

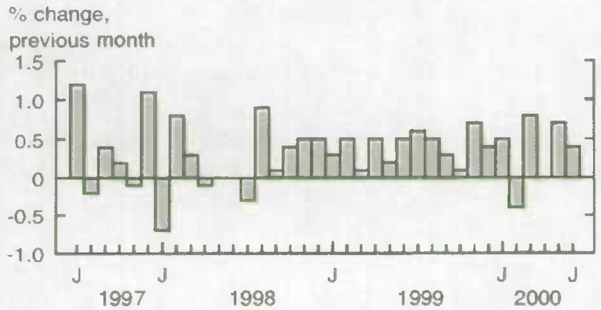
The 2000 edition of the *Labour market and income data guide* is now available in html format. More comprehensive than earlier versions, this fully browseable document covers all Statistics Canada surveys with a labour, income, expenditure or wealth component, including special household and business surveys.

The guide has adopted a thematic approach to contents for greater convenience in browsing, and for ease in locating surveys. Each survey description offers a summary of coverage, methodology, frequency, data collection, information collected, products and services, as well as survey contact persons, many of whom may be reached directly via an e-mail link. The guide also provides links to relevant Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centres, depository libraries and other product distributors.

The 2000 edition of ***Labour market and income data guide*** *(75F0010XIE, no charge) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). Look under "Products and services", choose "Downloadable publications (free)" followed by "Labour". For more information, contact Joanne Pilon (613-951-8659; joanne.pilon@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.*

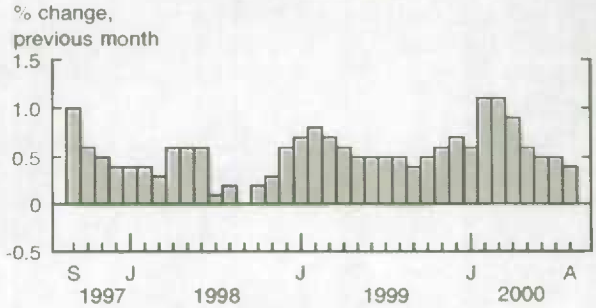
Current trends

Gross domestic product



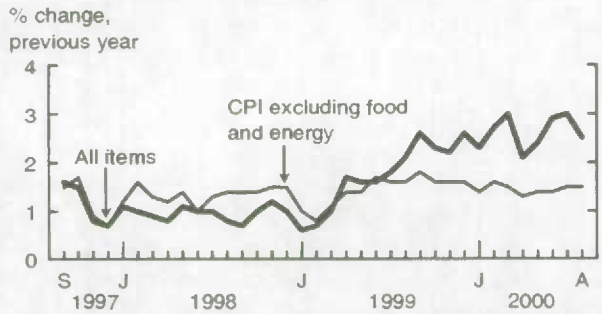
On the heels of a strong 0.7% gain in May, gross domestic product rose 0.4% in June.

Composite Index



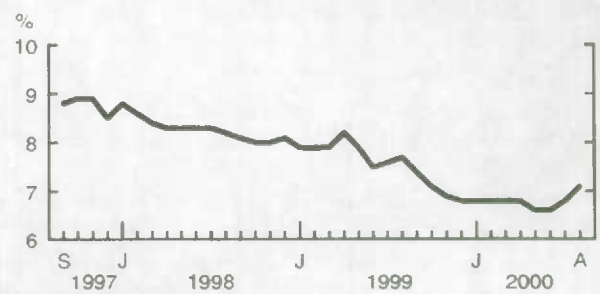
From its upward-revised gains of 0.5% in June and July, the leading indicator slowed in August to 0.4%.

Consumer Price Index



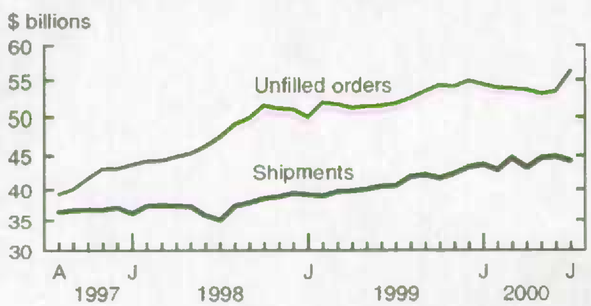
Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.5% higher in August 2000 than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.5%.

Unemployment rate



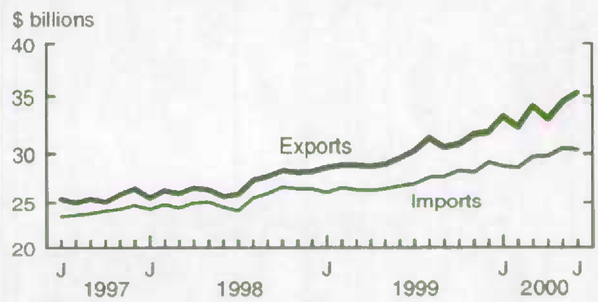
In August, a sharp increase in the number of people in the labour force pushed the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 7.1%.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments fell 1.3% in July to $44.3 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders bounded 5.2% to $56.2 billion.

Merchandise trade



In June, the value of merchandise exports advanced 2.3% from May to $35.3 billion. Imports edged down 0.4% to $30.4 billion.

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

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product ($ billion, 1992)	June	783.3	0.4%	4.7%
Composite Index (1992=100)	August*	164.8	0.4%	8.1%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q2 2000	51.9	1.7%	21.6%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q2 2000*	87.9	0.4†	4.1†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	July*	23.3	1.3%	6.7%
Department store sales ($ billions)	July	1.58	2.6%	1.9%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	July*	131.9	-1.5%	0.8%
Wholesale trade ($ billion)	July*	32.3	0.6%	8.1%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August	14.90	0.2%	2.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	August	7.1	0.3†	-0.6†
Participation rate (%)	August	65.9	0.3†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings ($)	June	626.29	0.1%	2.7%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	August	170	-0.6%	5.6%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	July*	34.5	-2.9%	13.9%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	July*	30.3	-0.4%	12.2%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	July*	4.2	-0.9	0.9
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	July*	44.3	-1.3%	9.1%
New orders ($ billion)	July*	47.1	4.2%	14.9%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	July*	56.2	5.2%	8.5%
Inventory/shipments ratio	July*	1.34	0.04	0.04
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	August*	113.9	-0.2%	2.5%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	July	127.7	0.2%	4.2%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	July	141.4	-2.4%	19.9%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	July	103.2	0.2%	2.4%

Note: *All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.*
* *new this week*
† *percentage point*

Infomat
A weekly review

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Published by the Official Release Unit, Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.

Price per issue: paper, $4; online at www.statcan.ca, $3. Annual subscription: paper, $145; online, $109. All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude applicable sales taxes. Shipping charges will be added for delivery outside Canada.

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Products released from September 14 to 20, 2000

Subject area/Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price ($) (issue/subscription)
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS			
Canada's international transactions in securities	June 2000	67-002-XIB	14/132
Canada's international transactions in securities	June 2000	67-002-XPB	18/176
CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS			
International travel: vol. 16, no. 7 advance information	July 2000	66-001-PIB	6/55
DISSEMINATION			
E-STAT: The ultimate interactive learning tool	2000	10F0174XIB	no charge
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES			
New motor vehicle sales	July 2000	63-007-XIB	13/124
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS			
Women in Canada: A gender-based statistical report	2000	89-503-XPE	45
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE			
Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM	Q3 2000	61-517-XCB	350/995
INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Exports by country	First half 2000	65-003-XMB	62/206
Exports by country	First half 2000	65-003-XPB	124/412
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Construction type plywood	July 2000	35-001-XIB	5/47
Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard	July 2000	36-003-XIB	5/47
Primary iron and steel	July 2000	41-001-XIB	5/47
Steel wire and specified wire products	July 2000	41-006-XIB	5/47
PRICES			
The consumer price index	August 2000	62-001-XPB	11/103
TRANSPORTATION			
Railway carloadings	June 2000	52-001-XIE	8/77
Surface and marine transport service bulletin, vol. 16, no. 3: Survey of the couriers and local messengers industry	1997-98	50-002-XIB	10

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