



Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, October 13, 2000

OVERVIEW

◆ Employment continues climbing

In September, employment climbed and unemployment dropped, so the unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 6.8%. The growth in employment occurred mostly in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Youth employment posted a strong gain.

◆ Value of residential building permits reaches highest level in a decade

In August, construction intentions in the residential sector hit their highest monthly level since March 1990, largely because of strong demand for multi-family dwellings. This, combined with a slight increase in non-residential intentions, pushed up the total value of building permits by 6.3%.

◆ Large retailers' sales rise in all but two categories

In July, the large retailers' sales were up from July 1999 by 1.5%. Their sales rose in all the major product categories except two: food and beverages, and clothing, footwear and accessories.

◆ Tourism spending robust

In the second quarter, spending on tourism in Canada climbed 7.4%, getting another strong boost from foreign travellers and from the escalating fuel prices. The second quarter's rise, which marked the third consecutive, was stronger than the annual average increases in both 1998 and 1999.

◆ Population growth rate virtually the same for two years

Between July 1, 1999 and July 1, 2000, the population of Canada grew 0.8% to just over 30,750,000 persons. The growth occurred mainly because of a significant increase in the number of immigrants. The nation's growth rate was virtually the same in 1998/99.

Employment continues climbing

Employment climbed in September by an estimated 36,000. That job growth, along with a drop of 37,000 in unemployment, lowered the unemployment rate by 0.3 percentage points to 6.8%. The monthly job growth occurred mostly in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia, though employment was also up in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. The increase was almost evenly split between full-time (+29,000) and part-time (+27,000) jobs.

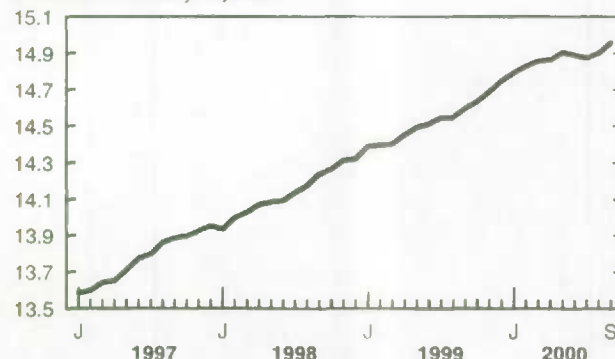
Youth employment posted a strong gain (+35,000), mainly in part-time work (+27,000). Year-over-year, the job growth among youths reached 4.1% (+92,000). However, labour force participation also climbed strongly in September, so the youth unemployment rate declined only slightly to 12.7%.

For adults, men and women, employment was little changed in September. However, since September 1999, employment has risen 2.3% (+132,000) among adult women and 2.0% (+138,000) among adult men. For the women, all the gain consisted of full-time jobs, while almost all of it was full-time for men. Notably, the number of unemployed adult men fell from August to September by 23,000, pushing their unemployment rate down to 5.5%.

The number of employees rose in September (+61,000), mainly in the public sector. Since September 1999, the number of public-

Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



(continued on page 2)



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... Employment continues climbing

sector employees has grown 4.6% (+124,000), whereas the job growth in the private sector has been 3.0% (+288,000). Self-employment was little changed in September, but was down 51,000 from September 1999.

In the service sector, employment grew in September by 44,000. That followed a similar increase in August. There were more jobs in September in accommodation and food services (+21,000), educational services (+17,000) and public administration. Among the goods-producing industries, only construction recorded a notable gain (+14,000), which reversed most of the loss in August. The steady decline in agricultural employment that began two years ago continued in September.

In Ontario, the number of jobs has grown since September 1999 by 180,000 (+3.1%). The gains have come in a number of service industries, as well as in construction and manufacturing. In September, the province's unemployment rate edged down 0.2 points.

Year-over-year job growth in Alberta in September stood at 2.2% (+34,000), on gains in the natural resources industries totalling 11,000. The province's agricultural industry has lost 12,000 jobs since September 1999. The Alberta unemployment rate fell in September by 0.5 points. British Columbia's year-over-year job gains in September totalled 36,000 (+1.8%). The largest increases have occurred in manufacturing, accommodation and food services. The province's unemployment rate declined 0.2 points in September. Also notable compared with September

Related information: employment insurance

In July (latest data), an estimated 397,820 Canadians (unadjusted for seasonal trends) received the regular type of employment insurance (EI) benefit, down from July 1999 by 11.8%. All provinces and territories except Nunavut recorded year-over-year decreases. From June to July, the amount paid out as regular benefits (seasonally adjusted) fell 1.0% to \$592.3 million; this was 3.6% lower than in July 1999. The number of EI claims filed by the jobless increased from June to July by 5.5%, up to 223,650 claims. Data on the number of beneficiaries from January 1997 to April 2000 were underestimated and are being revised, so readers are cautioned against making any analytical comparisons until after the revisions. For more information, contact Justin Lacroix (613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

1999, employment in Prince Edward Island was up by 4,500 jobs (+7.4%).

Employment was little changed in the other provinces in September; however, falling levels of unemployment helped to lower their unemployment rates.

The full report, *Labour force information, for the week ending September 16, 2000* (print: 71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103; online at www.statcan.ca: 71-001-PIB, \$8/\$78), is now available. For further information, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Jacques Ouellet (613-951-4168), Labour Statistics Division. See also "Current trends" on page 8.

Labour Force Survey, September 2000
Seasonally adjusted¹

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	16,055.8	0.1	14,957.1	0.4	1,098.8	6.8
Newfoundland	246.1	2.0	206.2	1.3	40.0	16.3
Prince Edward Island	73.5	0.5	65.2	2.2	8.3	11.3
Nova Scotia	461.7	0.4	417.6	0.3	44.1	9.6
New Brunswick	373.4	-0.3	337.0	0.3	36.4	9.7
Quebec	3,754.8	-0.1	3,447.9	0.2	306.9	8.2
Ontario	6,263.7	0.1	5,899.0	0.3	364.7	5.8
Manitoba	584.9	-0.5	558.7	0.1	26.2	4.5
Saskatchewan	509.3	0.0	480.8	0.3	28.5	5.6
Alberta	1,669.9	0.2	1,589.6	0.8	80.3	4.8
British Columbia	2,118.4	0.4	1,954.9	0.6	163.5	7.7

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

Value of residential building permits reaches highest level in a decade

In August, the value of building permits climbed 6.3% to \$3.3 billion. Strong performances in the Calgary and Toronto metropolitan areas accounted for most of the climb. In both centres, the progress was mainly due to an active housing market.

In the residential sector, construction intentions hit \$1.9 billion, a 10.7% increase from July. It also marked the highest level since March 1990. Strong demand for multi-family dwellings explained this strong performance. After declining in July, construction intentions for multi-family dwellings rebounded 30.2% to \$657 million. At the same time, builders took out permits for single-family dwellings worth \$1.2 billion, 2.5% over July's level. Among the provinces, the largest gains (in dollar terms) occurred in British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta.

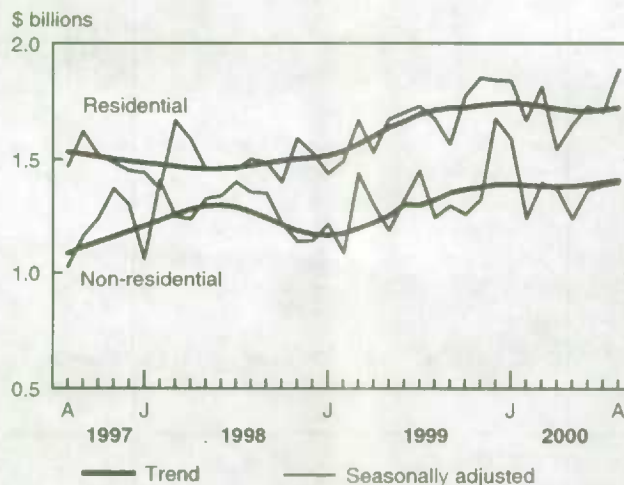
The non-residential sector posted its third consecutive monthly gain in construction intentions in August, up a slight 0.8% to \$1.4 billion. The latest increase was solely due to the industrial component, which followed a 10.3% decline in July with a 27.3% surge in August. However, that large increase in the industrial component was virtually offset by declines in the commercial (-7.0%) and institutional (-6.3%) components. Among the provinces, the most significant increases (in dollar terms) were in Alberta and British Columbia. The largest decreases occurred in Ontario and Manitoba.

For the first eight months of this year, the value of building permits reached \$24.8 billion, up 7.1% from the same period last year. If this pace continues, the year 2000 will be the best year for building permits since 1989. The residential and non-residential sectors contributed almost equally to this year-over-year gain.

In the residential sector, municipalities issued from January to August building permits worth \$13.8 billion, up 7.0%. The largest growth in dollar terms occurred in Ontario (+8.9% to \$6.9 billion), fuelled mainly by a strong rise in single-family permits in the Toronto metro area. This was the best result ever registered for a January-to-August period in Ontario. Also showing sizeable advances compared with the preceding year were Quebec and Alberta.

The non-residential sector is still on pace for an outstanding year. Year-to-date, the total value of non-residential building

Value of building permits



permits reached \$11.0 billion in August, 7.2% higher than in the prior year. The most significant increase in dollar terms occurred in Alberta (+29.7% to \$1.7 billion), owing to significant increases in the Calgary metropolitan area. Ontario and Quebec also saw increases, but to a lesser extent.

All three of the non-residential components contributed to the growth in the value of permits from January to August. Strong demand for retail and office space was reflected in commercial building permits, which climbed 8.7% over the same period last year. For industrial projects, the value of permits rose 8.6% on the strength of considerable growth in factory and plant projects, as the manufacturing sector responded to a high and sustained level of capacity utilization. Institutional project intentions year-to-date are up 2.3% compared with the same period in 1999, as more building projects in government and education have been partly offset by a decline in medical and hospital building intentions.

The August 2000 issue of *Building permits* (online at www.statcan.ca; 64-001-XIB, \$19/\$186) presents the full report. For general information, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; clarver@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Large retailers' sales rise in all but two categories

The large retailers' sales in July totalled \$6.2 billion, up from July 1999 by 1.5%. Their sales rose in all the major product categories except two: food and beverages, and clothing, footwear and accessories. Health and personal care products posted its smallest sales growth (+6.2%) since January 1998. Downward pressure came from personal care products, sales of which slowed to a 1.8% advance. Sales growth also slowed in July compared with earlier months in the home furnishings and electronics category (+6.4%), as sales of small electrical appliances fell 5.3%.

The drop in large retailers' food and beverage sales in July might have stemmed from the food industry's restructuring in

Large retailers' sales
Not seasonally adjusted

	July 1999	July 2000	July 1999 to July 2000
	\$ millions		% change
All commodities	6,086	6,179	1.5
Food and beverages	2,206	2,133	-3.3
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,111	1,087	-2.1
Home furnishings and electronics	823	876	6.4
Health and personal care products	452	481	6.2
Housewares	291	298	2.5
Sporting and leisure goods	291	309	6.1
Hardware, lawn and garden products	266	298	12.0
All other goods and services	646	697	7.9

Note to readers

The composition of the surveyed group of large retailers changed in 1999. This especially affects comparisons of sales in the food sector. All comparisons are with the year-earlier period, and all data are unadjusted for seasonal factors.

1999, as well as from fewer Saturday shopping days in July. The July 1 holiday fell on a Saturday. That might have caused some people to shop earlier in the week for the holiday weekend, shifting some purchases into June. Large retailers' food and beverage sales were up 5.4% in June.

In the clothing, footwear and accessories category, sales of women's clothing and accessories were down for a fourth consecutive month (-4.3%). Sales of infants' and children's clothing and accessories grew 4.7%, continuing an unbroken string of advances since May 1999.

July's biggest sales increase at the large retailers was in hardware, lawn and garden products. After a sluggish spring, lawn and garden products jumped a healthy 17.0%, while sales of hardware and home renovation products moved ahead 6.5%. The "all other goods and services" category posted July's second largest sales increase. Higher gasoline prices, which were well above July 1999 levels, were again the driving force. Sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives stood 36.6% above their July 1999 figures. Also in the other category, sales of stationery, office supplies, cards and giftwrap were strong (+23.9%).

To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549 or 1 877 421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Catherine Draper (613-951-0669; drapcat@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Tourism spending robust

In the second quarter, spending on tourism in Canada received another strong boost from foreign travellers, who continued to flow into the country, and from escalating fuel prices. In total, Canadian tourists and foreign visitors spent \$13.0 billion on tourism in Canada during the second quarter, 7.4% more than in the second quarter of 1999. The second quarter's rise, which marked the third consecutive, was stronger than the annual average increases in both 1998 (+7.0%) and 1999 (+6.5%).

Travellers from foreign countries spent \$4.3 billion, one-third of total tourism spending in the second quarter. That was more than in the second quarter of 1999 (+8.4%), and the spending growth was faster than in the first quarter of 2000 (+7.2%). Canadians, meanwhile, spent \$8.7 billion on tourism in their own country in the second quarter (+6.9%). This increase was slower than in the first quarter (+8.1%).

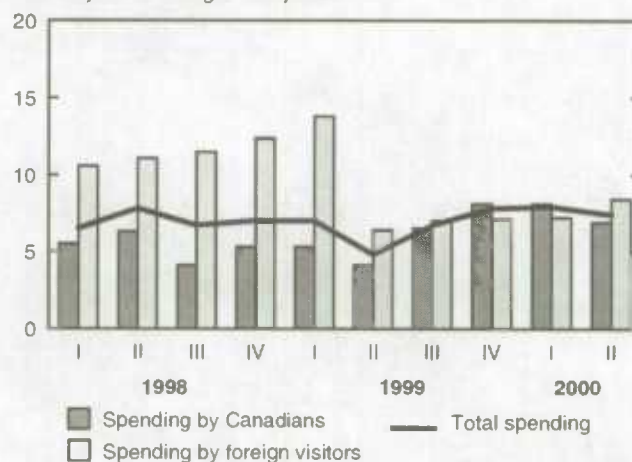
The second quarter's spending growth was led by transportation (+10.9%), driven by higher vehicle fuel costs, which climbed more than 20% from the second quarter of 1999. However, adjusted for seasonal trends and inflation, fuel consumption by tourists was flat in the second quarter of 2000 compared with the first quarter.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, data are unadjusted for seasonal trends, are expressed at current prices and are compared with the year-earlier quarter.

Tourism spending in Canada

Year-to-year % change, unadjusted data



(continued on page 5)

... Tourism spending robust

Growth in travel from overseas countries exceeded that from the United States in the second quarter (+10.5% vs. +1.4%). From the United States, that marked a slowdown from the 4.2% increase in the first quarter. Travellers from countries other than the United States tend to stay longer and to spend more money than do tourists from the United States. Higher flows of visitors were seen from the Americas excluding the United States (+20.1%), Africa (+19.2%), Hong Kong (+13.8%), Australia (+13.4%) and the United Kingdom (+13.3%).

Employment generated by tourism continued its strong growth, reaching 554,300 full- and part-time jobs in the second quarter (+4.4%). The job growth was widespread, with the highest in recreation and entertainment (+9.1%), followed by accommodation (+5.6%) and transportation (+4.1%). On a seasonally adjusted basis, employment growth declined 0.7% (at annual rates) from the first quarter of 2000, mostly as a result of transportation (-6.3%).

Also, adjusted for seasonality and inflation, tourism spending in Canada increased in the second quarter at an annualized rate of 1.7% from the first quarter, as spending by Canadians in Canada rose 1.1% and spending by non-residents grew 3.2%.

The second quarter 2000 issue of *National tourism indicators* (online at www.statcan.ca: 13-009-XIB, no charge; print: 13-009-XPB, \$21/\$70) is now available. To order, or for general enquiries, contact Client Services (613-951-3810; fax: 613-951-3618; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Katharine Kemp (613-951-3814), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

Tourism spending in Canada Not seasonally adjusted

	Q2 1999	Q2 2000	Q2 1999 to Q2 2000
	\$ billions at current prices		% change
Total tourism spending	12.1	13.0	7.4
Foreigners	4.0	4.3	8.4
Canadians	8.1	8.7	6.9
Transportation	4.8	5.3	10.9
Foreigners	1.0	1.1	11.2
Canadians	3.8	4.2	10.8
Accommodation	1.8	1.9	6.7
Foreigners	0.9	1.0	9.0
Canadians	0.9	0.9	4.3
Food and beverage services	2.0	2.1	4.6
Foreigners	0.9	1.0	6.8
Canadians	1.1	1.2	2.8
Other tourism commodities	1.2	1.3	5.6
Foreigners	0.4	0.4	7.2
Canadians	0.8	0.9	4.8
Other commodities	2.2	2.3	4.0
Foreigners	0.7	0.8	6.3
Canadians	1.5	1.5	2.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Population growth rate virtually the same for two years

Between July 1, 1999 and July 1, 2000, the population of Canada grew 0.8% to just over 30,750,000. The growth rate was virtually the same in the previous 12-month period. The major factor in the 1999/2000 growth was an inflow of just over 205,000 immigrants, an increase of about 32,300 from the previous year.

Natural increase—the difference between the number of births and the number of deaths—has been declining steadily as a component of population growth. In 1999/2000, there were 5,000 fewer births, while the number of deaths increased by 6,600. Natural increase represented 41% of Canada's population growth, compared with an annual average of 71% between 1971 and the early 1980s.

The population grew in all provinces and territories except Newfoundland, Saskatchewan and the Yukon. For those three, the declines mainly were due to net outflows of migrants to other provinces. In particular, Ontario and Alberta each recorded population growth rates of 1.3%, the highest among the provinces.

The nation's fastest population growth rates in 1999/2000 occurred in the Northwest Territories and in Nunavut. The Northwest Territories' population jumped 2.3% to 42,100, while

Population estimates, as of July 1

	1999	2000	Population growth rate (%)	Net inter- provincial migration
Canada	30,493,433	30,750,087	0.8	...
Newfoundland	540,775	538,823	-0.4	-2,510
Prince Edward Island	137,639	138,928	0.9	979
Nova Scotia	939,222	940,996	0.2	665
New Brunswick	754,348	756,598	0.3	524
Quebec	7,349,103	7,372,448	0.3	-16,343
Ontario	11,517,304	11,669,344	1.3	19,818
Manitoba	1,142,562	1,147,880	0.5	-1,290
Saskatchewan	1,025,720	1,023,636	-0.2	-6,298
Alberta	2,959,429	2,997,236	1.3	11,793
British Columbia	4,028,132	4,063,760	0.9	-7,153
Yukon	31,084	30,663	-1.4	-642
Northwest Territories	41,113	42,083	2.3	351
Nunavut	27,002	27,692	2.5	106

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

Nunavut's swelled 2.5% to 27,700. Both growth rates were almost three times the national average. High fertility levels mainly drove this strong growth, though net inflows from other provinces were also a factor, especially in the Northwest Territories.

(continued on page 6)

... Population growth rate virtually the same for two years

In the Atlantic provinces, population growth accelerated in both Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick because of large increases in net inflows of migrants from other provinces. From 1998/99 to 1999/2000, Prince Edward Island's growth rate rose from 0.5% to 0.9%, while New Brunswick's went from 0.1% to 0.3%. Nova Scotia's growth slowed slightly from 0.3% to 0.2%. The population of Newfoundland declined 0.4%, compared with a drop of 0.8% in 1998/99, reflecting a substantial slowing of the net outflow to other provinces.

Quebec's pace of population growth eased to 0.3% in 1999/2000, down slightly from 0.4% in 1998/99. The province's population increased by 23,300 to 7,372,400. That compares with an increase of 25,600 in 1998/99. Quebec saw an increase in its net outflow of people to other provinces; however, it attracted more immigrants than the year before. The natural increase in Quebec remained virtually unchanged.

Ontario's population in 1999/2000 grew by 152,000 persons to 11,669,300—representing close to 38% of Canada's population at July 1, 2000. The province's 1999/2000 growth rate of 1.3% was up slightly from 1.2% the year before, mainly owing to strong increase in immigration. In fact, the number of immigrants who settled in Ontario in 1999/2000 totalled 116,700 (about 57% of all the immigrants who arrived in Canada), compared with 91,800 the previous year. Ontario also recorded a strong net gain in migration from other provinces (+19,818).

Alberta remained the fastest-growing western province in 1999/2000, although its population growth rate slowed sharply from 1.8% in the previous year to 1.3%. The province recorded a net inflow of 11,800 people from inter-provincial migration in 1999/2000, compared with 25,200 the previous year. As of July 1, 2000, Alberta's population was just 2,800 people short of 3 million.

British Columbia's population grew by 0.9% from 1998/99 to 1999/2000 to 4,063,800. That compares with 0.8% growth the previous year. This slight acceleration resulted from a sharp decline in the net outflow of migrants to other provinces: British Columbia recorded a net outflow of 7,153 people in 1999/2000, half that of the previous year (14,484).

Manitoba's growth rate also accelerated slightly, from 0.4% to 0.5%, owing to a smaller net outflow of migrants to other provinces. In Saskatchewan, the population growth rate has declined for three straight years. In 1999/2000, the population fell 0.2% due to a higher net outflow to other provinces, which surpassed 6,000 people.

For more information on these population estimates, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320). For further analytical information, contact Daniel Larrivée (613-951-0694) or François Nault (613-951-9582), Demography Division.

New from Statistics Canada

Perspectives on labour and income goes on-line

Perspectives on labour and income, Statistics Canada's quarterly magazine that analyzes a wide range of labour and income data, is going on-line with a new monthly electronic version. Starting this week, at least one *Perspectives* full-length article will be released each month in the electronic version on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). All on-line articles will be published in the subsequent quarterly paper version. The premier on-line article, available now, is "In for the long term: Pension plans offered by employers", which looks at the status and performance of trustee pension funds over the last two decades.

The new Web page provides two levels of access. Abstracts and highlights of articles are available free of charge, as are regular departments, such as "Key labour and income facts", "Survey information" and "More news". The full-length articles are available only for a fee. In addition, past issues of *Perspectives* will soon be accessible in an on-line archive; one year after their initial release, all articles will be available free. They will be indexed by theme, author and date of publication.

Annual subscriptions to on-line articles in *Perspectives on labour and income* (75-001-XIE) are \$48. Individual issues may be downloaded or viewed for \$5. To order, or for more information about ordering, consult the on-line catalogue. The separate subscription and ordering process for the quarterly print publication remains unchanged. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

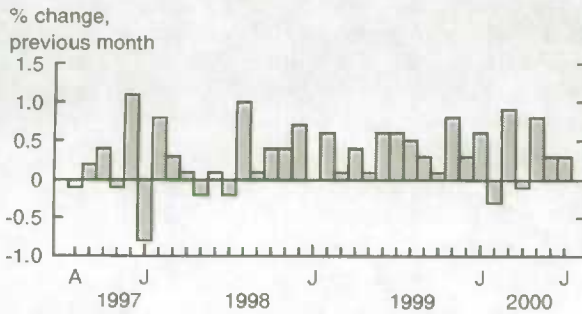
Health regions 2000

The *Health regions 2000* CD-ROM contains information on the following: health regions in Canada; correspondence files (linking health regions to 1996 census geographic codes); digital image files of boundaries (in both MapInfo and ArcInfo formats); map images; population estimates from 1995 to 1997; and geographic attributes, such as land area and percentage urban population.

Health regions 2000 (82F0082XCB, \$60) is now available. For more information, contact Brenda Wannell (613-951-8554, brenda.wannell@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

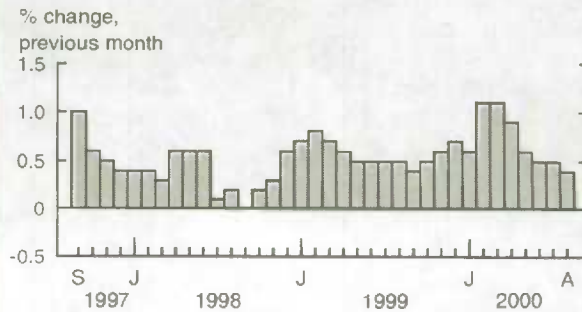
Current trends

Gross domestic product



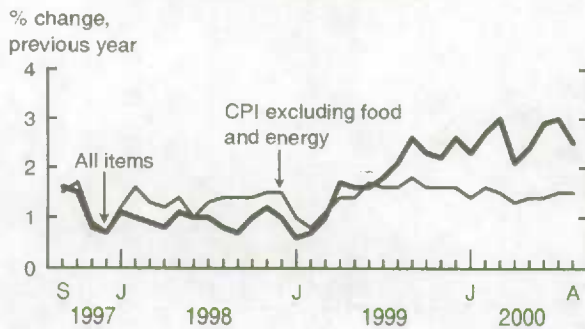
Gross domestic product rose 0.3% in July, about the same rate as in June.

Composite Index



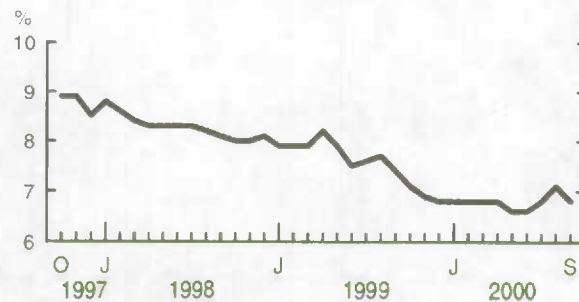
From its upward-revised gains of 0.5% in June and July, the leading indicator slowed in August to 0.4%.

Consumer Price Index



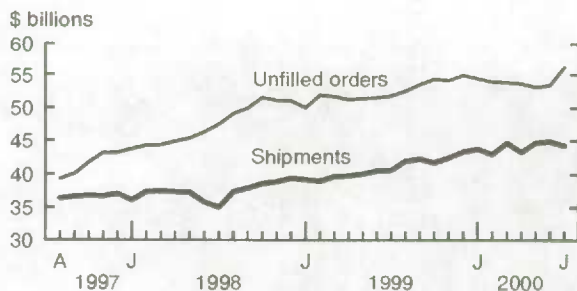
Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.5% higher in August 2000 than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.5%.

Unemployment rate



With September's gain in employment and drop in unemployment, the unemployment rate declined 0.3 percentage points to 6.8%.

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 July, the value of merchandise exports declined 2.9% from June to \$34.5 billion. Imports edged down 0.4% to \$30.3 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)	July	789.6	0.3%	4.6%
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)	August	1.51	-3.8%	-4.4%
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)	September*	14.96	0.4%	2.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	September*	6.8	-0.3†	-0.6†
Participation rate (%)	September*	65.9	0.0†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	July	627.49	0.4%	2.7%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	September	174	2.4%	7.4%
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)	August	127.8	0.2%	4.0%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	August	144.3	2.1%	18.9%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	August*	103.5	0.3%	2.4%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

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A weekly review

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