Friday, February 2, 2001

OVERVIEW

Canadian investors sell off a record amount of foreign bonds

For the first time since October 1999, Canadians reduced their holdings of foreign securities in November, selling a record amount of foreign bonds. Foreigners reduced their holdings of Canadian securities, mainly divesting Canadian equities.

◆ First drop of the Composite Index since 1995

The leading indicator fell by 0.4% in December, its first dip since 1995. Half of the drop originated in the stock market.

♦ Households spend more on automobiles and home heating

Canadian households spent an average of \$53,470 in 1999 for all their purchases; they spent more on automobile purchases and home heating bills. On average, households spent about 4% more than in 1998 and 7% more than in 1997.

Service sector grows faster than goods sector

In the third quarter of 2000, service sector output grew twice as quickly as goods sector output. This was the first quarter in two years in which the services sector grew more rapidly than the goods sector.

Higher fuel costs affect tourism spending

Tourism spending in Canada increased 6.0% in the third quarter of 2000, with higher fuel costs more than offsetting a decline in foreign travel. The increase in spending was less than the average increase for the previous four quarters.

♦ Year-end labour market review

Employment grew at a strong pace for a fourth straight year in 2000. Job creation was mostly concentrated in the service sector, whereas in 1999, it was the goods sector—especially manufacturing—that led the hiring.

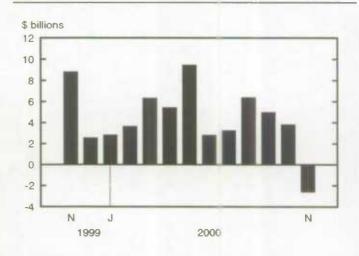
Canadian investors sett off a record amount of foreign bonds

or the first time since October 1999, Canadian investors sold off a record amount of foreign bonds, totalling \$2.8 billion. The selling was concentrated in U.S. treasuries. November's divestment followed cumulative purchases totalling \$7 billion from January to October.

On the other hand, Canadians continued to buy foreign stocks in November, but at the slowest pace since October 1999. Even with November's lower level of investment, Canadian investors have accumulated \$50 billion worth of foreign equities in the past 13 months. The massive buildup has favoured U.S. over overseas equities by a 2-1 margin.

Foreigners reduced their holdings of Canadian equities by \$1.4 billion. This was only their second divestment of such holdings since April 1999. The reduction reflected the selling of existing shares in the secondary market for a second month in a row and was concentrated in technology shares. The drop in foreign demand for Canadian equities again affected Canadian stock prices, which declined for a third consecutive month.

Canadians' investment in foreign securities¹



1 Includes bonds and stocks only.

(continued on page 2)



... Canadian investors sell off a record amount of foreign bonds

In November, foreigners increased their holdings of Canadian bonds for only the second time in 2000, adding \$0.8 billion. Foreign holdings of Canadian bonds declined a total \$13.8 billion in the first 11 months of 2000, mainly as a result of retirements of foreign-held Canadian bonds. In the secondary market, foreign investors purchased just \$1.9 billion worth of existing bonds in the first 11 months of 2000, in sharp contrast with the \$11.2 billion purchased during the same period in 1999.

Foreign holdings of Canadian money market paper declined by \$0.1 billion in November, following a \$1.1 billion increase in October. The seesaw pattern of foreign investment in Canadian money market paper over the first 11 months of 2000 has resulted in a small \$0.4 billion reduction for the year to date. This is a marked difference from the same period in 1999, when foreigners slashed more than \$13 billion from their holdings of Canadian money market paper.

The November 2000 issue of Canada's international transactions in securities (Internet: 67-002-XIB, \$14/\$132; paper: 67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176) will be available soon. For more information, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.

Related market information

In November, both the short-term and long-term interest rate differentials between Canadian and U.S. government paper were virtually unchanged from October. At the end of November, the differential on short-term instruments stood at 56 basis points, and the spread on long-term instruments amounted to 15 basis points. Both differentials continue to favour investment in the United States.

The TSE 300 Composite Index fell for a third consecutive month in November, declining 8.5%. Nevertheless, Canadian stock prices have advanced 4.8% overall since year-end 1999. The Standard and Poor's 500 Index fell 8.0% in November, bringing the decline since the start of the year to 10.5%.

The Canadian dollar closed lower against the U.S. dollar for the third consecutive month. November's decline of 0.58 cents brought to almost 3 full cents the decline since August. The Canadian dollar closed out November at 65,10 U.S. cents, the lowest close since October 1998.

First drop of the Composite Index since 1995

he leading indicator fell by 0.4% in December, its first dip since 1995, when the economy was slowing from an annual rate of growth of nearly 5%. The preliminary nature of December's estimates is underscored by the revision to November's figures, which moved from a 0.3% gain to no change.

Five of the 10 components fell in December, two more than in the previous month, while five remained positive. Half of the drop originated in the stock market, which recovered slightly early in the new year, while export and housing demand also softened. The stock market and the housing market have the longest lead times in signalling turning points, but also give the most false signals of a coming turning point in the economy.

The housing index dropped 1.3%, as both existing home sales and housing starts fell in December. Housing starts were

particularly weak in Montreal and Toronto, which were hard hit by winter storms. Elsewhere, household spending remained positive, as labour market conditions stayed favourable through the end of the year.

Business spending in Canada also resisted slowing. Electronic products led the steady growth in new orders for durable goods. Business services remained the driving force behind the growth of services employment. The average work week fell sharply, as manufacturers met their manpower needs by stepping up hiring.

As in Canada, much of the recent slump in the U.S. leading indicator originated in the stock market, compounded by the retreat by the auto industry.

For more information on the economy, the January 2001 issue of Canadian economic observer (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is available. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. See also "Current trends" on page 8.

Households spend more on automobiles and home heating

anadian households spent an average of \$53,470 in 1999 on everything from furniture to entertainment; they spent more on automobile purchases and home heating bills. On average, households spent about 4% more than in 1998 and 7% more than in 1997.

While spending on shelter remained virtually the same as in 1998 overall, spending on transportation, food and personal taxes was up. However, the budget share for each of these spending categories was virtually unchanged.

Transportation spending rose 8% to \$6,880, four times the increase of just 2% in 1998. The jump was mainly the result of higher spending on car and truck purchases and on gasoline. In addition, households spent more on driving lessons, registration fees and licences.

Spending on heating fuels rose 7% to an average of \$480, owing primarily to higher natural gas prices. Households paid

Average household spending and budget share

	1998		1999	
	Average spending current)	Share of budget (%)	Average spending (\$ current)	Share of budget (%)
Total spending	51,200	100	53,470	100
Personal taxes	10,820	21	11,560	22
Shelter	10,080	20	10,240	19
Transportation	6,390	12	6.880	13
Food	5,910	12	6,100	11
Recreation	2,920	6	2,960	6
Personal insurance payments				
and pension contributions	2,760	5	2,840	5
Household operation	2,350	5	2,410	5
Clothing	2,200	4	2,330	4
Household furnishings and				
equipment	1,480	3	1,480	3
Gifts of money and contributio	ns 1,150	2	1,360	3
Health care	1,190	2	1,260	2
Tobacco products and alcohol	ic 1,210	2	1,180	2
Miscellaneous expenditures	810	2	860	2
Education	710	1	760	1
Personal care	690	1	710	1
Reading materials and other				
printed matter	280	1	270	1
Games of chance expense (ne	et) 250	0.5	270	0.5

Note to readers

The data presented here come from the 1999 Survey of Household Spending. They were collected from January to March 2000 from a sample of about 17,000 private households in all the provinces and territories. Comparisons of expenditures are not adjusted for inflation, and all figures have been rounded.

\$11,560 in personal taxes (excluding sales tax), \$740 more than in 1998, corresponding to the increase in average household income. They spent an estimated \$6,100 on food (including restaurant meals), up 3% from 1998. For the 37% of households that rented, average spending on rental accommodation rose 4% to \$6,420.

Households also spent more on clothing, personal care, entertainment and health care. In contrast, spending on insurance premiums declined and contributions to Registered Retirement Savings Plans remained flat.

Access to the Internet and cellphone technology had an impact on households' spending on telecommunications. Spending on standard telephone service (which includes long-distance service) declined 4% to an average of \$680. Even though the proportion of households with a cellular phone increased from 26% in 1998 to 32% in 1999, spending on cellular services fell about 7% to \$460. Spending on Internet services increased 9% to \$260. Finally, average spending on computer equipment and supplies was about \$920.

Among the provinces and territories, the Northwest Territories had the highest average household expenditure in 1999 at \$79,680. Yukon and Alberta followed with an average of approximately \$60,000 each. Newfoundland continued to have the lowest average, \$42,510.

Among the 17 metropolitan areas for which data are presented in 1999, the highest average spending was reported by households in Yellowknife (\$93,830), followed by Toronto (\$65,810) and Calgary (\$65,010).

Three tables presenting summary-level household spending data for Canada, the provinces and territories and selected metropolitan areas, as well as dwelling characteristics and household equipment, are available free on Statistics Canada's Web site at www.statcan.ca, under "Canadian Statistics," then "The People," "Families, households and housing," and "Expenditures" or "Housing." The publication Spending patterns in Canada, 1999 will be released in June 2001. For more information, contact Client Services (1 888 297-7355; 613-951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.

Service sector grows faster than goods sector

n the third quarter of 2000, service sector output grew twice as rapidly as goods sector output. This was the first quarter in two years in which the services sector grew more rapidly than the goods sector.

Output in services climbed by 1.2% compared with the second quarter of 2000, primarily driven by private sector service providers. Among all the industries in the services sector, the most rapid growth was registered in the computer and related services industry (+4.3%).

Consumer spending also contributed to the growth of the services sector, with personal expenditures on services rising in nominal terms by 1.4% in the third quarter. Those expenditures rose fastest for communications services (+3.3%) and restaurants and accommodation services (+2.1%).

The services sector created 139,000 jobs from July to September, a 1.3% increase from the second quarter. Employment growth was strongest in those industries that benefit from summer weather and increased vacation travel. All the added services jobs were full-time positions.

After rising sharply in the second quarter, Canada's trade deficit in services fell \$131 million to \$1.6 billion in the third quarter. This decline was largely due to Canadians' lower spending on foreign travel. Services exports slipped by 0.4%, while imports showed a steeper decline of 1.2%. The decrease in exports and imports in this sector is highly unusual.

Services output rose 4.4% in real terms in the third quarter of 2000 compared with the third quarter of 1999, matching the growth rate posted in the goods sector. Year-over-year, the

Key services indicators, third quarter 2000				
	Growth since second quarter 2000	Growth since third quarter 1999		
	%			
Gross domestic product (real)	1.2	4.4		
Consumer spending	1.4	5.5		
Prices	1.0	2.4		
Exports	0.4	7.6		
Imports	1.2	7.1		
Employment	1.3	2.8		

computer and related services industry ranked first (+14.2%), followed by the telecommunication services industry (+11.9%).

Since the third quarter of 1999, the services sector has added 302,900 jobs—generating nearly 9 in every 10 new jobs in Canada. In addition, 91% of these jobs were full-time positions. In absolute terms, job gains were highest in health care and social assistance (+80,800) and retail trade (+68,900). In percentage terms, however, the most rapid rates of services job growth were in advertising and related services (+29.5%), information services and data processing services (+23.0) and gaming and lotteries (+15.8%).

The third quarter 2000 issue of Services indicators (Internet: 63-016-XIB, \$26/\$87; paper: 63-016-XPB, \$35/\$116) is now available. It includes an article entitled "Canada's funeral services industry in the 1990s," which examines the funeral services industry's performance, cost structure, trends and some characteristics of its work force. For more information, contact Don Little (613-951-6739; littdon@statcan.ca), Services Industries Division.

Higher fuel costs affect tourism spending

ourism spending in Canada increased 6.0% in the third quarter of 2000 compared with the third quarter of 1999, totalling \$19.5 billion. Declining foreign travel was more than offset by higher fuel costs during this period. The increase in tourism spending in the third quarter was slightly less than the average increase of 7.6% for the previous four quarters.

Canadians travelling in Canada spent \$12.6 billion in the third quarter, up 7.1%. Foreign tourists spent \$7.0 billion, up 4.1%, the lowest rate of increase in two years. In particular, Canadians' spending on fuel was up by 17.3% and on air transport by 13.2%, while foreign tourists' spending on fuel was up by 15.5%. Total spending on fuel increased for the sixth straight quarter.

The total number of overnight travellers declined 1.7% in the third quarter. This decline was entirely attributable to American tourists, who made fewer overnight and same-day trips. The total number of travellers from countries other than the United States was unchanged. The strong increase in the number of travellers coming from the United Kingdom nearly offset declines from

Tourism spending in Canada Not seasonally adjusted

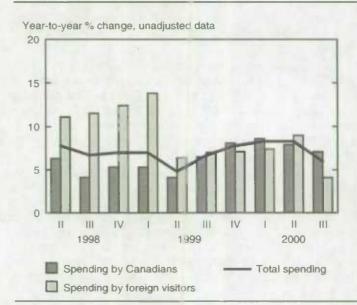
	Q3 1999	Q3 2000	Q3 1999 to Q3 2000
	\$ bill	% change	
Total tourism spending Foreigners Canadians	18.4	19.5	6.0
	6.7	7.0	4.1
	11.7	12.6	7.1
Transportation Foreigners Canadians	6.7	7.4	10.1
	1.8	1.9	5.9
	4.9	5.5	11.6
Accommodation	2.9	3.0	4.5
Foreigners	1.5	1.6	5.2
Canadians	1.4	1.4	3.8
Food and beverage services	3.1	3.2	2.9
Foreigners	1.5	1.5	2.1
Canadians	1.6	1.7	3.6
Other tourism commodities	1.8	1.9	4.4
Foreigners	0.6	0.7	4.2
Canadians	1.2	1.3	4.5
Other commodities Foreigners Canadians	3.9	4.1	3.3
	1.3	1.4	2.8
	2.6	2.7	3.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise indicated, data are not seasonally adjusted and are expressed at current prices; comparisons are with data for the same quarter of the previous year.

Tourism spending in Canada



other European countries, and increased numbers of travellers from South Korea and Australia outpaced declines from other Asia/Pacific countries.

The number of persons working full-time or part-time in the tourism industry totalled 571,500 in the third quarter, up a substantial 5.3% from the third quarter of 1999. Increases were widespread across all industries: recreation and entertainment led the way (+9.2%), followed by air transportation (+8.4%) and accommodation (+6.7%).

On a seasonally adjusted basis, employment rose 4.1% (at annual rates) from the second quarter, mostly as a result of growth in the transportation industry. In the third quarter, the tourism sector registered higher growth than the business sector as a whole (+0.4%), reversing the relationship of the second quarter.

The third quarter 2000 issue of National tourism indicators (Internet: 13-009-XIB. free; paper: 13-009-XPB, free) is now available. To order, contact Client Services (613-951-3810; fax: 613-951-3618; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Jacques Delisle (613-951-3796) or Katharine Kemp (613-951-3814), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

Year-end labour market review

mployment grew at a strong pace for a fourth straight year in 2000. The number of working Canadians increased by more than 319,000, up 2.2% from 1999. While this was strong growth, it was lower than the average increases of the previous three years.

The vast majority of the new jobs, 263,000, were full-time; the remaining 56,000 were part-time. Full-time employment was up by 2.2% and part-time by 2.1%. In 1999, part-time employment had declined.

Although growth in employment was lower in 2000, participation in the labour market climbed from 65.6% in December 1999 to 66.2% in December 2000. The unemployment rate fluctuated between 6.6% and 7.1%, ending the year where it began, at 6.8%. The employment rate—the percentage of workingage people who were employed—climbed to 61.7% last December, its highest level since the middle of 1990.

In 2000, growth in employment shifted from the goods sector to services. While manufacturing dominated employment growth in the labour market in 1999, more than 90% of new jobs in 2000 were in the service sector. There were nearly 293,000 new jobs in services (+2.7%), compared with only 27,000 in the goods sector (+0.7%). Retail trade and high tech service industries and occupations led the growth in employment in the service sector. Moreover, that growth led to an increase in part-time employment last year.

In the private sector, the increase in the number of employees was unusually strong in 2000, jumping 376,000 (+3.9%). However, self-employment, the other part of the private sector, declined for the first year since 1986. An estimated 146,000 fewer people worked for themselves in 2000, a 5.8% decline. About one-third of the drop can be attributed to reduced farm employment.

In the public sector, employment rose 89,000, following a similar increase in 1999. The source of the advance was health care and social assistance, especially in hospitals. On the other hand, the number of jobs declined in both public administration and education.

Overall, the growth in employment during 2000 was twice as strong among core-age women (aged 25 to 54) as it was among their male counterparts. Among women, employment increased by 115,000 (+2.3%), compared with an increase of 58,000 (+1.0%) for men. Among youths aged 15 to 24, employment growth was particularly strong in the last five months of 2000, bringing gains over the year to 90,000 (+4.0%). Growth in the service sector would appear to have led to more work for core-age women and youths, both of whom are more likely than core-age men to work in service jobs.

Employment by industry, December 2000 Seasonally adjusted

	December 2000		December 1999 to december 2000	
	'000	'000 change	% change	
Total employment	15,066.7	319.2	2.2	
Goods sector	3,891.8	26.5	0.7	
Agriculture	347.5	-51.6	-12.9	
Forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas	277.7	2.4	0.9	
Utilities	117.7	2.3	2.0	
Construction	820.6	13.2	1.6	
Manufacturing	2,328.4	60.2	2.7	
Service sector	11,174.9	292.7	2.7	
Trade	2,354.4	82.7	3.6	
Transportation and warehousing Finance, insurance, real estate and	787.8	23.6	3.1	
leasing	881.9	16.6	1.9	
Professional, scientific and technical Management, administrative and	988.6	62.1	6.7	
other support	559.2	41.7	8.1	
Education	952.1	-49.6	-5.0	
Health care and social assistance	1,523.7	51.8	3.5	
Information, culture and recreation	700.6	64.4	10.1	
Accommodation and food	965.7	15.1	1.6	
Other	698.4	-10.5	-1.5	
Public administration	762.4	-5.4	-0.7	

Employment grew in every province in 2000, except Newfoundland (-3.1%) and Saskatchewan (-1.0%). Ontario steamed ahead, with 58% of total employment growth in the country. Employment in the province increased by 186,000 (+3.2%); 4 of every 10 of these jobs were in manufacturing.

In Quebec, employment growth slowed to 0.8%, after three years of gains averaging 3.0%. Nevertheless, unemployment remained at historically low levels for the province: by the end of the year, the jobless rate had fallen to 8.0%, the lowest since early 1976. British Columbia recorded job gains of 2.3%, and the unemployment rate fell to 7.1% from 7.8% over the year. Among the provinces, Alberta has posted the steadiest and most prolonged employment growth; employment increased by more than 2% for the eighth year in a row.

The analytical article "The labour market: Year-end review" is published in the January 2001 issue of Perspectives on labour and income, online edition, Vol. 2, no. 1 (Internet: 75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48), which is now available. For more information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325; bowlgeo@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

New from Statistics Canada



Travel-log Winter 2001

The Winter 2001 issue of *Travel-log*, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter, features the article "Canada's competitiveness in the U.S. travel market." To better understand the changes occurring in the U.S. market, this article examines the main characteristics of American travellers to Canada in 1990 and 1997; it also compares the characteristics of family travel and non-family travel in 1990 and 1997. Finally, 1999 data are used to paint a more up-to-date picture of U.S. family and non-family travel to Canada.

Each quarter, *Travel-log* examines the trends of the Travel Price Index. It also features the latest travel indicators, travellers' characteristics and the international travel account.

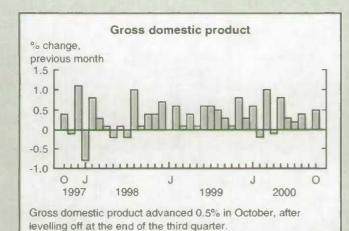
The Winter 2001 issue of **Travel-log**, Vol. 20, no.1 (Internet: 87-003-XIE, \$5/\$16; paper: 87-003-XPB, \$13/\$42) is now available. For more information, contact Monique Beyrouti (613-951-1673, fax: 613-951-2909, monique.beyrouti@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division.

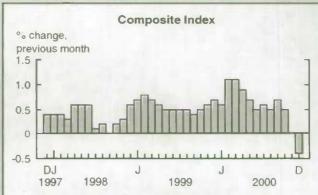
1997 geography catalogue 1996 Census

The 1997 Geography catalogue, 1996 Census (geography products: geographic reference products), formerly available in paper format, is now available in PDF format. This catalogue provides information about the geographic products and services produced by Statistics Canada. It contains short descriptions of the products and services, including information on price, medium and catalogue numbers.

The 1997 Geography catalogue, 1996 Census (geography products: geographic reference products), (Internet: 92-374-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the Products and services page, choose Free publications. For more information, contact Alex Nadeau (613-951-4309; geohelp@statcan.ca), Geography Division.

Current trends

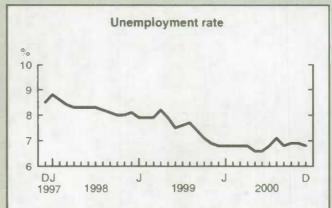




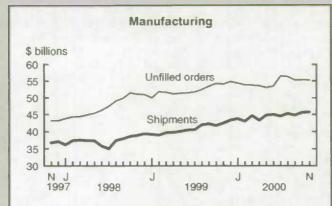
The leading indicator fell by 0.4% in December, its first dip since 1995. Half of the drop originated in the stock market.



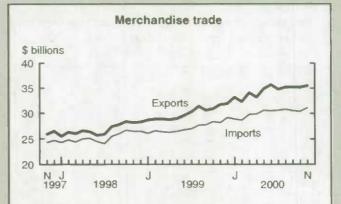
Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.2% higher in December 2000 than they were a year earlier, as they were in November. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.9%.



In December, the unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage points to 6.8%, ending the year where it began.



Manufacturers' shipments increased by 0.3% in November to \$45.7 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders edged down 0.1% to \$55.3 billion.



In November, the value of merchandise exports rose 0.8% to \$35.5 billion. Imports, which increased at almost three times the pace of exports, were up 2.2% to \$31.1 billion.

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

Latest statistics					
	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year	
GENERAL	CI DOME		The House of		
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1992)	November*	797.0	0.1%	3.7%	
Composite Index (1992=100)	December	166.6	-0.4%	7.0%	
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q3 2000	52.6	0.1%	15.7%	
Capacity utilization (%)	Q3 2000	86.9	-0.1†	1.5†	
DOMESTIC DEMAND					
Retail trade (\$ billion)	November	23.4	0.4%	6.1%	
Department store sales (\$ billions)	November	1.50	-3.1%	6.3%	
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	November	127.3	3,4%	-3.3%	
Wholesale trade (\$ billion)	November	31.7	-0.7%	2.1%	
LABOUR					
Employment (millions)	December	15.07	0.2%	2.2%	
Unemployment rate (%)	December	6.8	-0.1†	0.0†	
Participation rate (%)	December	66.2	0.1+	0.6†	
Average weekly earnings (\$)	November*	632.15	0.5%	2.9%	
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	December	181	0.000	7.7%	
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	November	35.5	0.8%	12.2%	
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	November	31.1	2,2%	10.1%	
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	November	4.5	-0.4	1.0	
MANUFACTURING					
Shipments (\$ billion)	November	45.7	0.3%	7.5%	
New orders (\$ billion)	November	45.6	-0.1%	7.9%	
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	November	55.3	-0.1%	2.3%	
Inventory/shipments ratio	November	1.35	0.01	0.05	
PRICES					
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	December	115.1	0.1%	3.2%	
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	December*	128.9	-0.9%	3.5%	
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	December*	142.8	-7.3%	6.3%	
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	November	104.3	0.4%	2.5%	

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

Infomat A weekly review

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^{*} new this week

[†] percentage point

Products released from January 25 to 31, 2001			
SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription
AGRICULTURE			
Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain, Vol. 80, no. 1	at December 31, 2000	22-002-XIB	11/66
Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain, Vol. 80, no. 1	at December 31, 2000	22-002-XPB	15/88
Stocks of frozen meat products	January 2001	23-009-XIE	no charge
ANALYTICAL STUDIES			
The persistent gap: New evidence on the Canadian gender wage gap		11F0019MIE00157	no charge
The persistent gap: New evidence on the Canadian gender wage gap		11F0019MPE00157	5
In search of intergenerational credit constraints among Canadian men:			
Quantile versus mean regression tests for binding credit constraints		11F0019MIE00158	no charge
In search of intergenerational credit constraints among Canadian men:			
Quantile versus mean regression tests for binding credit constraints		11F0019MPE00158	5
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS			
Canada's balance of international payments	Q3 2000	67-001-XIB	29/93
Canada's balance of international payments	Q3 2000	67-001-XPB	38/124
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