Friday, June 1, 2001

OVERVIEW

 Pace of growth rebounds for prices of industrial products and raw materials

Annual rates of growth for both industrial product prices and the cost of raw materials accelerated in April, ending the slowdown in price growth seen during the past few months.

 Composite Index shows no growth for fifth straight month

The leading indicator was unchanged in April after a drop of 0.2% in March and no change in February. This was the fifth month in a row without growth.

Canadian bonds in favour with foreign investors

Foreign investors bought \$6.2 billion worth of Canadian bonds in March. This was their largest such investment in almost seven years.

◆ Deposit-accepting intermediaries improve their performance

In 1999, the value of the services produced in Canada by deposit-accepting intermediaries was 5.0% higher than in 1998. This growth was partly the result of improved market conditions and a rebound in world economic activity.

Off-farm share of income increases for farm families

Income from non-farming activities accounted for about 71 cents of every dollar in farm family income in 1998, two cents higher than in 1997.

◆ The health divide: How the sexes differ

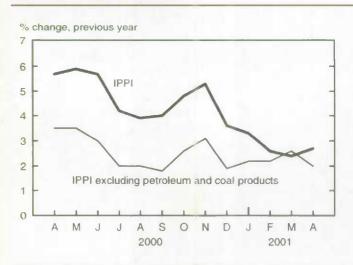
Compared with men, women take better care of themselves and live longer. However, a higher percentage of women have chronic illnesses, and women use health care services more often.

Pace of growth rebounds for prices of industrial products and raw materials

nnual rates of growth for both industrial product prices and the cost of raw materials accelerated in April, ending the slowdown in price growth seen during the past few months. Manufacturer's prices, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), grew 2.7% from April 2000 to April 2001, compared with a year-over-year gain of 2.4% in March. At the same time, manufacturers paid 7.9% more for their raw materials in April from a year earlier, a significant increase from the year-over-year gain of 1.2% in March.

Rising petroleum and coal product prices accounted for about one-quarter of the annual increase in the IPPI in April. Price increases for motor vehicles and chemicals and chemical products also contributed to the annual rise in manufacturers' prices. However, falling prices for lumber and primary metal products had a dampening effect. Mineral fuels greatly contributed to the upward pressure in the RMPI in April, but animal product prices also played a role, rising modestly.

Industrial Product Price Index



(continued on page 2)



... Pace of growth rebounds for prices of industrial products and raw materials

From March to April, industrial prices increased a slight 0.2%. Higher prices for petroleum and coal products and meat products were partly offset by lower prices for paper and paper products. Raw material prices edged up only 0.1%. Increases for mineral fuels were more than offset by declines in prices for animal products and non-ferrous metals.

Crude oil prices were 1.4% higher in April than in March because of low inventories. This increase spilled over into the IPPI, as petroleum and coal product prices increased 3.4%. On an annual basis, crude oil prices rose 14.3% in April, while petroleum and coal product prices were 12.1% higher.

Prices for finished goods climbed 4.1% compared with April 2000, primarily because of higher prices for motor vehicles and petroleum products. Prices for tobacco products and paper and paper products also contributed to the increase. On a month-tomonth basis, petroleum prices were the major factor contributing to the 0.5% increase from March to April in prices for finished products.

Prices for input goods were virtually unchanged in April, edging up only 0.1%. However, producers of intermediate goods received 1.7% more for their products in April 2001 than they did in April 2000. Prices for petroleum, chemicals and chemical products and paper and paper products were the main factors in the increase.

The April 2001 issue of Industry price indexes (paper: 62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available in June. For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375; danielle.gouin@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its U.S. counterpart affects the IPPI.

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes, April 2001

(1	Index 992=100)	% change, previous month	0
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) IPPI excluding petroleum and coal	130.3	0.2	2.7
products	128.0	0.0	2.0
Intermediate goods	130.6	0.1	1.7
Finished goods	129.9	0.5	4.1
Raw materials Price Index (RMPI)	144.4	0.1	7.9
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	127.0	-0.6	2.6
Mineral fuels (crude oil)	182.3	1.2	17.3
Vegetable products	119.1	-0.4	5.6
Animals and animal products	130.0	-1.0	6.0
Wood	143.5	0.1	1.0
Ferrous materials	112.7	0.4	-8.2
Non-ferrous metals	113.5	-1.6	-0.9
Non-metallic minerals	122.5	0.2	0.7

Composite Index shows no growth for fifth straight month

he leading indicator was unchanged in April after a downward-revised drop of 0.2% in March and no change in February. This was the fifth straight month without growth. The slack in April originated in weakness in the stock market and manufacturing; household demand remained a source of strength. Overall, five of the components fell, and five increased.

While the stock market was the major source of weakness, manufacturing chipped in with additional losses. The ratio of shipments to stocks fell for the sixth time in seven months. This occurred as manufacturers continued their struggle to cut stocks

at the same pace as the decline in U.S. exports, notably for autos and electronics. The downward trend of the U.S. leading indicator over the past eight months suggests a turnaround in exports is unlikely soon.

Household spending remained firm, in contrast with the slack in exports. Furniture and appliance sales rose steadily, after house sales hit a four-year high. Gains in personal services also supported the 0.2% growth in services employment.

For more information on the economy, consult the May 2001 issue of Canadian economic observer, Vol. 14, no. 5 (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227). For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)

Canadian bonds in favour with foreign investors

oreign investors bought \$6.2 billion worth of Canadian bonds in March. This was their largest such investment since July 1994. With these purchases, their investment in Canadian bonds for the first three months of 2001 amounted to \$8,9 billion.

In March, foreign investors, almost all of them American, were active in both the primary and secondary markets. In the primary market, Canadian corporations raised nearly three-fourths of the \$6.7 billion in new bond issues in foreign markets. This amount was partly offset by \$3.5 billion in retirements, three-quarters of which were issues of the Canadian governments and their enterprises. In the secondary market, foreign investors purchased \$3.0 billion of mainly federal issues.

Foreign investors also continued to increase their holdings of Canadian equities for the third consecutive month, adding \$1.5 billion in March. Unlike February's investment, which went to newly issued treasury shares. March's foreign investment, like January's, went to existing shares in the secondary market. Although the investment in the first quarter came mainly from Americans, in March Europeans acquired one-third of the shares.

However, foreign investors once again reduced their holdings of Canadian money market paper in March. The withdrawal of \$1.1 billion brought the total reduction for the first quarter to \$4.9 billion. The divestment in March was mainly in corporate paper, whereas over the first quarter it was split between corporate and government paper. Americans reduced their holdings by \$3.6 billion, the largest level in the first quarter.

Meanwhile, Canadians continued to diversify their investments abroad by adding a further \$3.4 billion to their holdings of foreign securities in March. In particular, they purchased \$2.1 billion worth of foreign stocks. The accumulation of \$12.4 billion in these securities in the first quarter of 2001 was a continuation of the massive build-up in 2000. In the first quarter, the equity investment was split between U.S. and overseas shares, once again continuing the pattern seen in 2000.

Canadian investors also added \$1.3 billion to their holdings of foreign bonds in March. These purchases were again concentrated in U.S. treasury bonds.

The March 2001 issue of Canada's international transactions in securities (Internet: 67-002-XIB, \$14/\$132; paper: 67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176) will be available in June. For more information, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.

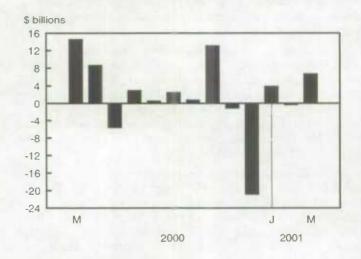
Related market information

U.S. short-term interest rates fell more sharply than did Canadian rates in March, pushing the differential to 36 basis points in favour of investment in Canada, a level not seen since October 1998. A similar small rise in both U.S. and Canadian long-term rates in March resulted in a 32-basis-point differential favouring investment in Canada.

After falling 13.3% in February, the TSE 300 Index declined 5.8% in March, returning to the level registered in November 1999, when it was on its ascent to the record closing in August 2000. Following a similar pattern, the Standard & Poor's 500 Index declined 6.4% in March after declining 9.2% in February, descending to a level not seen since October 1998.

The Canadian dollar lost 1.66 U.S. cents in March, matching February's loss. This left the Canadian dollar at 63.44 U.S. cents, surpassing the previous record low close established in August 1998.

Foreign investment In Canadian securities¹



¹ Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

Deposit-accepting intermediaries improve their performance

he value of services produced in Canada by depositaccepting intermediaries was \$44.5 billion in 1999, up 5.0% from a revised \$42.4 billion in 1998. This improved performance in 1999 was partly the result of improved market conditions and a rebound in world economic activity.

The non-interest income of these intermediaries grew more rapidly in 1999 than did their net interest income, continuing a trend seen over the previous several years. The growth of non-interest income was due to factors such as more favourable market conditions, a broader range of fees and commissions for products and services offered outside the traditional banking sphere, and increased securitization of assets.

Securitization involves the selling of assets to independent parties, who in return issue securities to interested investors. In the process, the lender diversifies risk, increases liquidity and ultimately removes targeted assets from the balance sheet. Consequently, this contributed to the continued decline of net interest income relative to non-interest income. The latter represented 44.8% of the total value of services produced, compared with 43.6% in 1998. Net interest income accounted for 55.2%, down from 56.4%.

Retail banking services remained the dominant activity of deposit-accepting intermediaries in 1999. However, these services lost some ground, since they represented 62.2% of the overall value of services produced, compared with 63.4% in 1998. The value of retail banking services has grown for the past several years. However, the rate of growth has remained slower compared with those of emerging segments such as electronic financial services and fiduciary services.

Electronic financial services kept growing in 1999; their value was 6.6% higher than in 1998, owing to consumer demand for highly flexible and convenient new channels of distribution. Fiduciary services continued to follow the trend of significant unbroken growth seen over the previous few years, with the value of services increasing 41.6%. Over the last few years, deposit-accepting intermediaries have expanded their efforts, particularly

Note to readers

The annual Survey of Deposit-accepting Intermediaries covers the portfolio of Canadian-based activities of the principal deposit-accepting intermediaries, namely chartered banks, trust companies, caisses populaires and credit unions. Some intermediaries were unable to estimate their activities in electronic financial services and fiduciary services. This may result in underestimating the value of these services as well as an overestimation of the value of the other services included in the portfolios of deposit-accepting intermediaries. This does not affect the quality of the conclusions or the general trends observed from this survey.

in estate management and financial planning. The sector has taken advantage of an evolving demographic trend that continues to boost demand for these services.

For corporate and institutional finance services, the value of services produced rebounded in 1999, climbing 23.3% after decreasing by 2.6% in 1998. Net interest income advanced a strong 18.9%, partly because of increased volumes in the corporate and institutional loan portfolio. Non-interest income advanced 30.9%, benefiting, as lending volumes rose, from fees or commissions associated with the approval of new corporate credit. The corporate and institutional finance business line generated most of its value from net interest income.

Although the volatile economic climate in late 1998 gave way to more stable market conditions in 1999, lingering effects of losses in security investments curbed 1999 revenues. Consequently, the value of services produced by treasury and investment banking remained relatively flat. Non-interest income increased only 2.1%, partly as a result of losses on security investments, which are netted against their revenue counterpart within this category. This slight increase was dampened by a reduction in net interest income (-18.1%), owing in part to a change in reporting for equity derivatives.

For more information, contact Mario Vella (613-951-1395; mario.vella@statcan.ca) or Martin Pachéco (613-951-0396; martin.pacheco@statcan.ca), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

Value of services produced by deposit-accepting intermediaries, 1999

	Net interest income		Non-interest income		Value of services produced in Canada		Share of the value of services produced	
	\$ millions	% change, previous year	\$ millions	% change, previous year	\$ millions	% change, previous year	%	% point change, previous year
Total	24,568	2.9	19,920	7.8	44,488	5.0	100.0	0.0
Retail banking services	21,294	2.0	6,372	6.6	27,666	3.0	62.2	-1.2
Corporate and institutions finance services		18.9	1,187	30.9	3,031	23.3	6.8	1.0
Electronic financial services	442	-9.4	2,982	9.5	3,424	6.6	7.7	0.1
Treasury and investment banking	709	-18.1	7,921	2.1	8,630	0.1	19.4	-0.9
Fiduciary services	279	156.0	1,458	30.4	1,737	41.6	3.9	1.0

Off-farm share of income increases for farm families

In 1998, farm families earned proportionally more income from non-farm sources than they did in 1997. Income from non-farming activities accounted for about 71 cents of every dollar in farm family income in 1998, two cents higher than in 1997.

On average, farm family income was \$61,108 in 1998, up 3.2% from 1997. However, this pace of growth was slower than in 1997 (+4.2%). The increase recorded in 1998 resulted from a 6.1% gain in off-farm income, which averaged \$43,677. This increase offset a 3.3% decline in net farm operating income (before depreciation), which totalled \$17,432.

The growth in average total income is partly due to a 7.0% increase in off-farm employment income, which is a source of income for almost four-fifths of farm families. The labour market remained robust in 1998, offering good employment opportunities. Pension income, which advanced 7.3%, also contributed to the growth in average total farm family income, as did other off-farm income, which rose 6.8% owing to increased payouts to growers under the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA).

On the other hand, investment income of farm families fell 1.2% in 1998, owing to a 5.4% drop in dividend income from taxable Canadian corporations. However, average investment income declined at a slower pace than in 1997 (-3.7%) because of higher interest rates. Three-quarters of farm families received investment income, unchanged from 1997.

Families specializing in poultry and egg production had the highest average total income (\$78,607), a slight 0.5% gain from 1997. Families operating tobacco farms were a close second, followed by those operating grain and oilseed farms.

Families operating potato farms posted the largest gain in average total income (+29.5%), owing to substantial growth in both the average net farm operating income and off-farm income. By contrast, families who ran hog farms posted the largest decline (-23.6%), owing to a substantial decrease in net farm operating income. They also had the lowest average total income, at \$42,165.

Among the provinces, farm families in Alberta reported the highest average total income (\$65,158), up 5.4% from 1997. Families in Prince Edward Island had the largest percentage gain in average income, up 15.1% to \$57,482. Contributing to this growth was a substantial gain in average net farm operating income. Farm families in Newfoundland recorded the only decline

Note to readers

These estimates are based on personal income tax returns. They refer to the income of families operating a single unincorporated farm with gross operating revenue of \$10,000 or more in 1998.

Off-farm income includes employment income (wages and salaries: and net off-farm self-employment income), investment income, pension income and other income (government social transfers—excluding pensions—such as social assistance payments and child tax benefits; Registered Retirement Savings Plan income; and other income such as alimony or maintenance income and Net Income Stabilization Account payouts).

Sources of farm families' income					
	1997	1998	1997 to 1998		
NELECTION OF THE REAL PROPERTY.	\$		% change		
Total farm families' income	59,195	61,108	3.2		
Total off-farm income¹	41,165	43,677	6.1		
Off-farm employment income	27,393	29,309	7.0		
Wages and salaries	24,830	26,748	7.7		
Net non-farm self-employment	2,563	2,562	44		
Investment income	4,542	4,486	-1.2		
Pension income	4,919	5,278	7.3		
Other off-farm income	4,310	4,603	6.8		
Net farm operating income ²	18,029	17,432	-3.3		

- -- Amount too small to be expressed.
- 1 Excluding taxable capital gains.
- Before capital cost allowance.

in average total income (-4.0%), which was also the lowest (\$48,694) among the provinces.

With respect to average off-farm income, farm families in British Columbia reported the highest figure (\$54,452), followed by Alberta (\$49,246). Quebec families recorded the lowest off-farm income (\$31,559).

For data, contact Client Services (1 800 465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868; agriculture@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Lina Di Piétro (613-951-3171; lina.dipietro@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

The health divide: How the sexes differ

ompared with men, women take better care of themselves.
They also live longer. However, a higher percentage of women have chronic illnesses, and women use health care services more often.

There are striking differences in the way men and women take care of themselves on a day-to-day basis. Women tend to assign more importance to nutrition: when choosing food, they are more likely than men to consider overall health, weight and specific diseases. They are also more likely to use vitamins regularly, and to be an appropriate weight for their height. On the other hand, men more readily engage in vigorous physical activity in their leisure time.

Men and women are exposed to different levels of risk with regard to factors linked to illness and disease. Men tend to drink and smoke more, and are more likely than women to be overweight. On the other hand, women report higher levels of stress at home and in the workplace, which is associated with the onset of chronic disease. The fact that women are more likely than men to experience stress may contribute to the higher prevalence of many health problems among them. But in the long run, women seem to be more resilient, which may have to do with their greater tendency to build social support networks.

Women use health care services more than men do. However, this is primarily because of female-specific needs, such as pregnancy, childbirth and uniquely female preventive and diagnostic needs, such as breast cancer screening. But when biological differences are taken into account, these gaps largely disappear.

However, even when they have relatively minor ailments, women are more likely than men to respond initially by treating themselves or by going to a doctor. Few people initially ignore

Note to readers

This article is based on a special report, "The health divide: How the sexes differ," published in **Health Reports**. The report identifies differences between men and women in attitudes and behaviours toward health, as well as in illnesses and mortality. The data come primarily from the 1998/99 cycle of the National Population Health Survey.

symptoms altogether, but this is more common among men than among women. Moreover, women use over-the-counter or prescription medication more than men do. This may be related to the higher prevalence of conditions such as arthritis and migraine among women.

Although women's life expectancy surpassed that of men throughout the 20th century, the gap began to narrow during the 1990s. This change stems largely from mortality due to smoking-related respiratory cancers. In 1997, women's life expectancy was 81.4 years, compared with 75.8 years for men, a gap of 5.6 years.

Mcn have a higher risk than women of death before age 75 for most major causes. These include conditions such as heart disease and some external events such as motor vehicle accidents. Overall, the top two causes are reversed for men and women. Thus, slightly more men died of cancer than of heart disease, and the opposite was true for women. For both sexes, the third leading cause was crebrovascular diseases.

Health reports, Vol. 12, no. 3 (Internet: 82-003-XIE, free) is now available. The paper version (82-003-XPE, \$20/\$58) will be available soon. For more information, contact Kathryn Wilkins (613-951-1769: wilkkat@statcan.ca), Statistics Canada, or Beverley Webster (613-241-7860), Canadian Institute for Health Information.

New from Statistics Canada



Canadian economic observer May 2001

The May issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in April and presents a feature article on the duration of low income.

A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The May 2001 issue of Canadian economic observer, Vol. 14, no. 5 (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

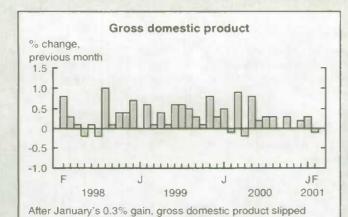
Survey of Household Spending public-use microdata file 1999

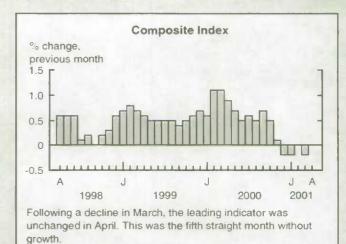
Understanding consumer spending is important for many users, including social policy analysts, advocacy and community groups, businesses and all levels of government.

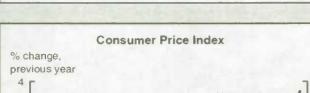
The public-use microdata file from the 1999 Survey of Household Spending offers information about spending on a wide variety of goods and services, as well as dwelling characteristics and information about household ownership of equipment. All records in the microdata file have been thoroughly screened to ensure respondents' anonymity.

The Public-use microdata file for the Survey of Household Spending in 1999 (CD-ROM: 62M0004XCB, \$3,000) is now available. For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, contact Client Services (1888 297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statean.ca), Income Statistics Division.

Current trends

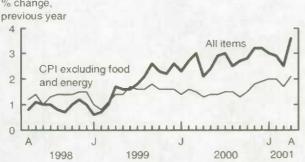




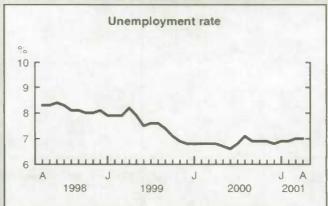


0.1% in February, led by a sharp drop in the production of

telecommunications equipment.



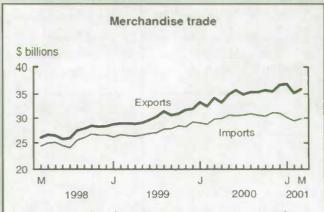
Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.6% higher in April than they were a year earlier, Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.1%.



At 7.0%, April's unemployment rate was unchanged from March.



Manufacturers' shipments rose 1.7% in March to \$43.7 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders resumed a downward shift for the third time in four months, decreasing 1.6% to \$49.0 billion.



In March, the value of merchandise exports increased 2.3% to just over \$36.0 billion. Imports rose 1.7% to \$29.9 billion.

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

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	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1992)	March*	797.5	0.1%	2.0%
Composite Index (1992=100)	April	166.4	0.0%	3.0%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q4 2000	54.0	2.2%	13.9%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q4 2000	85.4	-0.2†	0.7†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	March	23.7	0.3%	3.8%
Department store sales (\$ billions)	March	1.63	0.4%	9.4%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	March	126.1	0.5%	-6.7%
Wholesale trade (\$ billion)	March	32.2	1.7%	2.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	April	15.10	0.2%	1.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	April	7.0	0.0†	
Participation rate (%)				0.2†
	April	66.1	0.0†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	March*	662.75	0.3%	2.1%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	April	168	0.0%	-1.2%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	March	36.0	2.3%	5.5%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	March	29.9	1.7%	0.1%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	March	6.2	0.3	1.8
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	March	43.7	1.7%	-2.4%
New orders (\$ billions)	March	42.9	-3.5°c	-5.1%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions) ¹	March	49.0	-1.6%	3.1%
Inventory/shipments ratio	March	1.49	-0.03	0.15
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	April	116.4	0.7%	3.6%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	April*	130.3	0.2%	2.7%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	April*	144.4	0.1%	7.9%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	March	105.2	0.3%	2.6%

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

These estimates are now based on the North American Industry Classification (NAICS). They are not comparable to the previously published estimates based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of 1980.

SUBJECT AREA	Period	Catalogue	Price (\$)	
Fitle of product		number	(issue/subscriptio	
AGRICULTURE				
Farm Product Price Index	March 2001	21-007-XIB	no charge	
Stocks of frozen meat products	May 2001	23-009-XIE	no charge	
The dairy review	Q1 2001	23-001-XIB	27/89	
The dairy review	Q1 2001	23-001-XPB	36/119	
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS				
uristat: Youth court statistics, Vol. 21, no. 3	1999/2000	85-002-XIE	8/70	
uristat: Youth court statistics, Vol. 21, no. 3	1999/2000	85-002-XPE	10/93	
Youth court data tables	1999/2000	85F0030XIE	26	
CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS				
Canadian economic observer	May 2001	11-010-XPB	23/227	
INCOME STATISTICS				
Survey of Household Spending public-use microdata file	1999	62M0004XCB	3,000	
NTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Canadian international merchandise trade	March 2001	65-001-XIB	14/141	
Canadian international merchandise trade	March 2001	65-001-XPB	19/188	
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4	5	Building permits. April 2001	Financial statistics for enterprises, Q1 2001 Help-wanted Index, May 2001	B Labour Force Survey. May 2001
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