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

Infomat
A Weekly Review

Friday, June 15, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ Unemployment rate remains stable

The unemployment rate remained stable in May at 7.0% for the third consecutive month, and employment was little changed (+10,000).

◆ Industrial capacity use declines for third straight quarter

The rate of capacity use fell one percentage point to 84.1% in the first quarter, down for the third consecutive quarter. The drop was largely attributable to the telecommunications equipment industry.

◆ Corporate operating profits drop

In the first quarter, corporate operating profits declined 6.9% to their lowest level since the third quarter of 1999. This decline followed a 2.5% drop in the last three months of 2000.

◆ Non-residential construction projects rebound

The value of building permits issued by municipalities rose 4.8% in April, on the strength of substantial monthly gains in commercial and institutional construction projects.

◆ Net farm income increases for first time in three years

Net cash income for farmers—the difference between their cash receipts and operating expenses—increased in 2000 for the first time in three years, even though crop producers saw revenues fall for the third straight year.

◆ Caseload for youth courts continues to decline

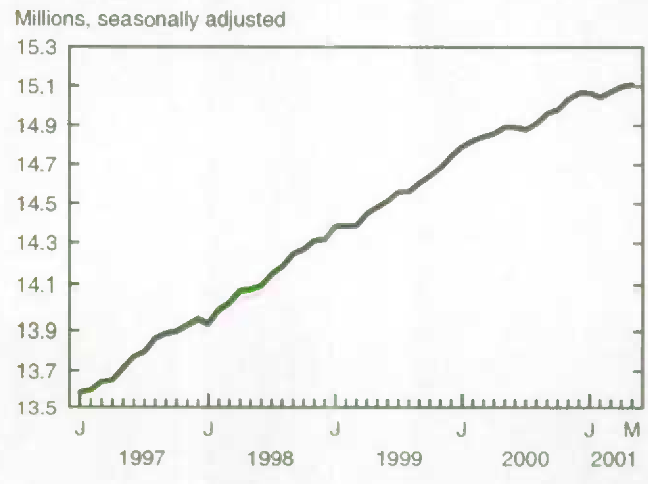
In 1999/2000, the number of cases heard by youth courts fell 4% from 1998/99 and 11% from 1992/93. This downward trend resulted from a marked decline in the number of cases involving property crimes.

Employment rate remains stable

The unemployment rate remained stable in May at 7.0% for the third consecutive month, and employment was little changed (+10,000). Part-time employment increased by 51,000, while full-time employment fell 41,000. Employment among adult men (25 and over) was unchanged, with a decline in full-time employment offsetting an increase in part-time. Among adult women, employment edged up slightly owing to an increase in part-time.

Among youths, part-time employment rose 26,000 from April, while full-time employment, which had been rising for four years, fell by 23,000. A decline in labour force participation pushed the youth unemployment rate down 0.6 percentage points to 12.1%. Among students aged 20 to 24, 61.5% had jobs in May, up 3.5 percentage points from May 2000. The unemployment rate for students in this age group was 13.3%, down 2.4 percentage points from May 2000. Their participation rate was up, rising from 68.9% in May 2000 to 70.9% in May 2001.

Employment



(continued on page 2)

... Employment rate remains stable

The number of private sector employees increased by 42,000 in May, continuing a long-term upward trend. Employment in the public sector was little changed. The number of self-employed fell by 28,000, continuing the downward trend that began early in 2000.

Employment in trade rose by 30,000, after declining in the preceding three months. By contrast, professional, scientific and technical services, in which employment has been on an upward trend since 1994, lost 23,000 jobs. Employment in agriculture fell by 13,000, continuing a downward trend that began more than two years ago. Employment in agriculture is now down an estimated 55,000 (-14.5%) from May 2000.

The manufacturing sector lost 12,000 jobs, bringing cumulative losses so far this year to 42,000. The weakness in manufacturing employment is consistent with recent declines in manufacturing shipments. In natural resources, employment rose 8,000, mostly in mining and oil and gas extraction in Alberta.

Provincially, employment edged up slightly in Ontario and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.9%. Employment in Quebec edged down slightly, as gains in part-time employment (+16,000) were more than offset by declines in full-time (-26,000). The unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points to 9.0%. In British Columbia, employment rose by 13,000, offsetting April's decline. The unemployment rate declined 0.1 percentage point to 6.8%.

In Alberta, employment grew by 6,000 and the unemployment rate declined 0.3 percentage points to 4.5%. Employment rose by 4,000 in Newfoundland and the unemployment rate dropped by 1.7 percentage points to 15.6%. In Saskatchewan, employment fell by 5,000, with the losses concentrated in full-time jobs in agriculture and trade. The unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage points to 6.3%. There was little employment change in the other provinces in May.

The more detailed summary, ***Labour force information*** *(Internet: 71-001-PIB, $8/$78; paper: 71-001-PPB, $11/$103), for the week ending May 19, 2001, is now available. To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (1 866 873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Martin Tabi (613-951-5269), Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 9.)*

Related information on employment insurance

The estimated number of Canadians (unadjusted for seasonal trends) who received Employment Insurance benefits in March remained virtually unchanged from March 2000 at 643,530. The number declined in most provinces and territories, except Ontario, which saw a large rise, and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which saw smaller increases. In March, regular benefit payments (seasonally adjusted) increased 0.9% over February's level to reach $620.0 million, while the number of claims received decreased 2.1% to 229,760.

The number of beneficiaries of Employment Insurance from January 1997 to April 2000 was understated. Users are cautioned against making any comparisons between these data and any monthly or historical data previously released. The revised data are planned to be released on June 21. For more information, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Labour Force Survey, May 2001
Seasonally adjusted[1]

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	**16,246.1**	**0.1**	**15,108.7**	**0.1**	**1,137.4**	**7.0**
Newfoundland	255.4	-0.1	215.6	2.0	39.8	15.6
Prince Edward Island	74.7	-0.9	65.7	0.6	9.0	12.0
Nova Scotia	464.6	-0.4	418.2	-0.5	46.4	10.0
New Brunswick	374.7	-0.5	332.9	-0.6	41.8	11.2
Quebec	3,803.6	0.1	3,460.6	-0.3	343.0	9.0
Ontario	6,360.8	0.1	5,984.5	0.1	376.2	5.9
Manitoba	584.0	-0.1	555.1	-0.1	28.9	4.9
Saskatchewan	501.4	-0.9	470.0	-1.1	31.4	6.3
Alberta	1,709.5	0.0	1,632.5	0.4	77.0	4.5
British Columbia	2,117.5	0.5	1,973.8	0.6	143.8	6.8

[1] *Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.*

Industrial capacity use declines for third straight quarter

Industries lowered their use of production capacity for the third straight quarter to 84.1% in the first quarter of 2001. The rate was down one percentage point from the previous quarter, owing in large part to the marked slump in the telecommunications equipment industry.

For the second quarter in a row, manufacturers lowered their rate of capacity use, which slipped to 83.5% in the first quarter. The most notable decline in capacity use occurred in the electrical and electronic products group of industries. Production plunged 11.8%, the largest quarterly drop since 1961. In this industry group, the hardest hit were producers of telecommunications equipment, whose output fell 31.7 %. The other major contributor to the decline in manufacturing was the transportation equipment group. Producers of automotive products scaled back production for a second consecutive quarter to reduce inventories.

Capacity use also declined in several other manufacturing industries in the first quarter. In the wood industries, production fell 1.0%, as sawmills sharply reduced activity in March, the last month of the Canada-U.S. Softwood Lumber Agreement. In the furniture and fixture industry group, the rate dropped as production declined in February and March. Part of this decline can be attributed to a few manufacturers transferring some production outside the country. Capacity use also declined in the paper and allied products industries, as producers of pulp and newsprint cut production in the first quarter.

Among the manufacturing industries whose rate of capacity use rose was the chemicals and chemical products group, which saw an increase of 6.0 percentage points to 89.6%. Manufacturers of pharmaceutical products were the major contributors to the rise; recently they have stepped up output to meet rising domestic and export demand. Production of pharmaceuticals in the first quarter was 36% higher than in the first quarter of 2000. For the petroleum and coal products industries, increased output from refineries caused the rate to climb by 2.1 percentage points to 95.6%.

In the mining sector, drilling and rigging activities were the major force behind the increase in the rate of capacity use for mining and quarrying industries. In the crude petroleum and natural gas industries, the increase was due to an expansion of oil and gas extraction. This was the second consecutive quarterly increase in this industry.

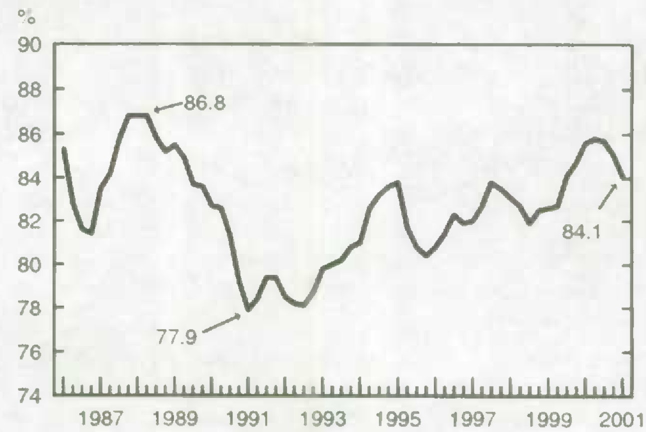
In utilities, the rate of capacity use fell for both electric power and natural gas distribution. Output in the heating-oriented gas distribution industry dropped as a result of warmer-than-usual weather in January. High prices for natural gas and plant shutdowns also figured in the reduction. Capacity use also fell in logging. In construction, the rate was 90.9%, a level maintained since the second quarter of 2000.

For more information, contact Susanna Wood (613-951-0655) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Note to readers

An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Estimates of an industry's potential output are derived from measures of its capital stock. A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques.

Industrial capacity utilization rates



Industrial capacity utilization rates, First quarter 2001

	%	% point change, previous quarter	% point change, previous year
Total, non-farm goods-producing industries	**84.1**	**-1.0**	**-1.5**
Logging and forestry	76.6	-1.8	-8.4
Mining (including milling) and quarrying	94.4	2.1	5.0
Crude oil and natural gas	69.7	0.5	0.1
Manufacturing	83.5	-1.7	-2.4
Wood	83.2	-1.4	-4.0
Furniture and fixtures	81.0	-2.9	-1.4
Primary metals	86.1	-1.4	-7.2
Fabricated metal products	82.6	1.0	-3.7
Machinery	79.5	0.9	-3.6
Transportation equipment	84.8	-2.2	-5.9
Electrical and electronic products	83.3	-13.0	-9.2
Non-metallic mineral products	74.5	-2.3	-10.2
Food	82.0	0.6	1.9
Beverages	84.6	2.5	1.0
Rubber products	92.4	1.7	-1.5
Plastic products	79.7	-3.1	-5.9
Primary textile	80.5	-0.9	1.2
Textile products	72.9	-4.7	-11.1
Clothing	84.0	0.1	0.6
Paper and allied products	91.1	-1.8	-1.6
Printing and publishing	80.3	-0.2	-0.2
Refined petroleum and coal products	95.6	2.1	4.6
Chemical and chemical products	89.6	6.0	13.9
Construction	90.9	0.0	-1.2
Electric power	87.2	-0.1	1.2
Gas distribution	75.4	-4.5	-1.7

Corporate operating profits drop

Corporate operating profits declined 6.9% to $44.9 billion in the first quarter, their lowest level since the third quarter of 1999. This decline followed a revised 2.5% drop in the last three months of 2000. Operating revenue (mainly sales) edged down 0.2%, following 11 straight increases.

The financial industries accounted for three quarters of the total profit decline in the first quarter, as profits tumbled 18.4% to a 10-quarter low of $11.0 billion. This drop was due to a 36.7% slump in the profits of funds and other financial vehicles, which in turn stemmed from substantially reduced earnings on the sale of securities and other assets.

Meanwhile, non-financial industries saw their operating profits dip by 2.5% to $33.9 billion, as a result of sluggishness in the manufacturing sector. Excluding manufacturing, which accounted for about one third of the non-financial sector's profits, operating profits in the non-financial group actually rose 0.7%.

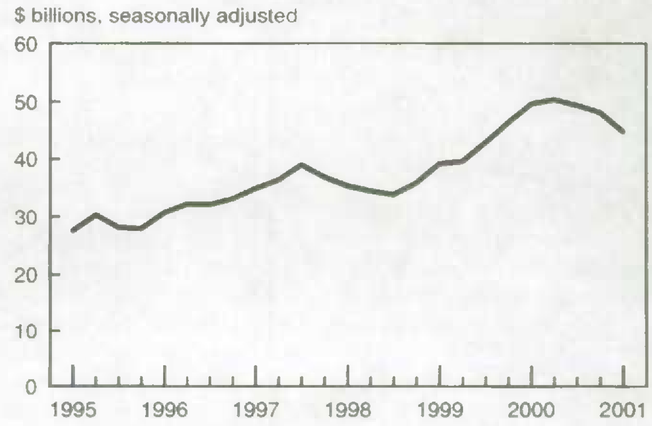
Hindered by the economic slowdown in the United States, manufacturers reported an 8.3% drop in operating profits to $11.5 billion. Profits have now slumped for four straight quarters, following sustained quarterly growth averaging 9.5% over the six preceding quarters.

Manufacturers of motor vehicles and automotive parts were particularly hard hit; their operating profits dropped 35.4% on a 6.8% slide in operating revenue. At $1.4 billion, first quarter profits were barely half of the peak reached in the second quarter of 2000.

Electronic and computer products manufacturers had a lacklustre quarter, as operating profits fell to $0.7 billion, down 2.0% from the fourth quarter of 2000 and down 50.0% from the first quarter of 2000. Producers of primary metals saw their operating profits fall 19.4% to $0.4 billion, the lowest level in seven years. Reduced demand from the automotive sector severely affected the producers' first quarter results.

Operating profits of mining companies (excluding oil and gas firms) slumped 24.8% to $0.5 billion in the first quarter, the third straight decline. The mining industry's results have been trimmed by higher energy costs and the general economic slowdown, which has depressed metal prices.

Corporate operating profits



The big winner in the first quarter was the oil and gas extraction industry, in which profits surged 10.5% to $7.0 billion. Profits have increased for five straight quarters, and have doubled since the first quarter of 2000.

The operating profit margin fell to 8.4% in the first quarter from 9.1% in the fourth quarter and 9.4% in the third quarter of 2000. Both the financial and non-financial sectors contributed to the decline. Return on equity edged down to 6.3% from 6.4% in the fourth quarter of 2000. This was the fourth straight decline in this profitability indicator, from the high of 9.7% recorded in the first quarter of 2000.

The first quarter 2001 issue of ***Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises*** *(Internet: 61-008-XIE, $26/$86) will be available soon. For data or general information, contact Jeannine D'Angelo (613-951-2604). For analytic information, contact Bill Potter (613-951-2662) or Jean-Pierre Simard (613-951-0741), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.*

Non-residential construction projects rebound

The value of building permits issued by municipalities rose 4.8% to $3.2 billion in April, on the strength of substantial monthly gains in commercial and institutional construction projects. A rebound in non-residential permits more than offset a decline in the residential sector.

After a two-month decline, non-residential intentions totalled $1.6 billion in April, up 16.6% from March. Declining vacancy rates for office and commercial buildings in several major centres are consistent with this increase. Institutional building intentions increased 29.2%, boosted primarily by educational projects. The value of commercial building permits jumped 23.3%, owing to recreation projects and office buildings. Only industrial intentions declined in April (-9.1%), pushed down by the utility and transportation category.

Among the provinces, Ontario recorded the largest increase in dollar terms in the non-residential sector, due to strong results in the Toronto region. All three components showed growth. In contrast, following a robust gain in March, Alberta recorded the most significant decrease.

The value of housing permits declined 4.8% to $1.6 billion, the lowest level in 12 months. Construction of multi-family dwellings declined 13.5%, while single-family dwellings fell 1.5%. This was the third consecutive monthly decline in the single-family component, which represents about three-fourths of the total residential sector.

Despite these results, the housing market remained active. In April, housing starts were up 3.1%, sales of existing homes increased and the stock of vacant dwelling units was low. As well, employment levels remained high and mortgage rates advantageous.

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... Non-residential construction projects rebound

Value of building permits by census metropolitan area
Seasonally adjusted

	April 2001	March to April 2001	January to April 2001	January-April 2000 to January-April 2001
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
St. John's	11.9	3.1	46.5	-20.8
Halifax	24.2	57.7	86.2	-63.1
Saint John	8.3	55.1	24.1	4.8
Chicoutimi–Jonquière	22.8	-40.5	74.0	43.7
Québec	39.7	-15.7	223.1	12.7
Sherbrooke	10.6	-42.5	45.6	28.8
Trois-Rivières	8.8	73.5	28.5	-1.2
Montréal	378.9	42.0	1,587.3	51.9
Hull	27.1	20.1	149.0	106.1
Ottawa	118.1	-18.9	505.6	20.3
Oshawa	25.9	-21.7	147.4	-32.8
Toronto	594.5	-1.5	3,177.4	25.2
Hamilton	57.2	-2.6	291.6	31.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	34.8	18.9	126.6	4.6
Kitchener	106.4	164.1	270.5	9.2
London	83.3	42.9	230.8	60.3
Windsor	44.1	6.9	172.4	7.1
Sudbury	7.9	85.2	20.7	43.4
Thunder Bay	4.5	-69.0	30.0	20.1
Winnipeg	32.8	-15.1	140.2	-25.6
Regina	35.0	222.4	87.1	34.0
Saskatoon	19.6	-39.4	93.7	-26.7
Calgary	179.4	-3.4	706.2	-15.0
Edmonton	118.4	8.4	433.5	9.5
Vancouver	384.3	55.7	1,122.7	22.4
Victoria	23.9	-28.2	119.3	24.7

Among the provinces, the largest decline in dollar terms in residential permits occurred in Ontario, where the slowing was attributable solely to the multi-family component. The largest increase was in Alberta.

For the period from January to April, municipalities issued $13.5 billion in building permits, up 14.0% from the same period of 2000. It was also the highest level for the first four months of any year since 1990.

The value of housing permits rose 8.4% to $7.2 billion, again the best result for any January-to-April period since 1990. This gain was powered to a large extent by advances in multi-family permits. The non-residential sector got off to a powerful start for the year, with the value of permits climbing to $6.3 billion, up 21.2% from the first four months of 2000. All three components contributed to this gain, led by commercial construction intentions.

The Toronto and Montreal census metropolitan areas accounted for most of the gain in the cumulative value of building permits from January to April. In Toronto, the increase was spread across all categories in the residential and non-residential sectors. In Montreal, the gain came largely from construction projects for office buildings and plants.

*The April 2001 issue of **Building permits** (Internet: 64-001-XIE, $14/$145) is now available. To obtain data, 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.*

Net farm income increases for first time in three years

Net cash income for farmers—the difference between their cash receipts and operating expenses—increased in 2000 for the first time in three years, even though crop producers saw revenues fall for the third straight year. Net cash income was $7.1 billion, up 15.3% from 1999, the largest increase since 1992.

Net cash income can vary widely from one farm to another because of factors such as the commodities produced, prices and weather. This is especially true for crop producers, who have been hit hard by adverse prices for the past three years and, in many cases, by either drought or by extremely wet weather.

Farmers incurred declines in net cash income in four provinces: Prince Edward Island (-53.6%), Newfoundland (-32.8%), New Brunswick (-27.4%) and Manitoba (-2.1%). For Manitoba farmers, it was the third straight decline. In Saskatchewan, net cash income was virtually unchanged following two years of decline; in Alberta, it rose 62.9% to its highest level since 1996. Lower potato prices and marketings led the declines in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Cash receipts set a new record, rising 7.8% to $32.8 billion. The increase was largely due to growth in revenue for hogs and cattle, as well as program payments to farmers. Receipts for crop producers fell for the third consecutive year, declining 1.2% to $13.1 billion, their lowest level in six years. Abundant world supplies led to depressed prices.

However, livestock receipts reached a record $16.8 billion, up 11.0% from 1999. The main factors behind this increase were higher revenues for hogs (+38.8%) and, to a lesser extent, cattle and calves (+7.7%).

> ***Definitions***
>
> ***Net cash income** measures farm business cash flow (farm cash receipts minus operating expenses) generated from the production of agricultural goods. Net cash income represents the amount of money available for debt repayment, investment or withdrawal by the owner.*
>
> ***Farm cash receipts** measures the gross revenue of farm businesses in current dollars. These 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.*
>
> ***Farm operating expenses** represent business costs incurred by farm businesses for goods and services used in the production of agricultural commodities. Expenses are recorded when the money is disbursed by the farmer.*

(continued on page 6)

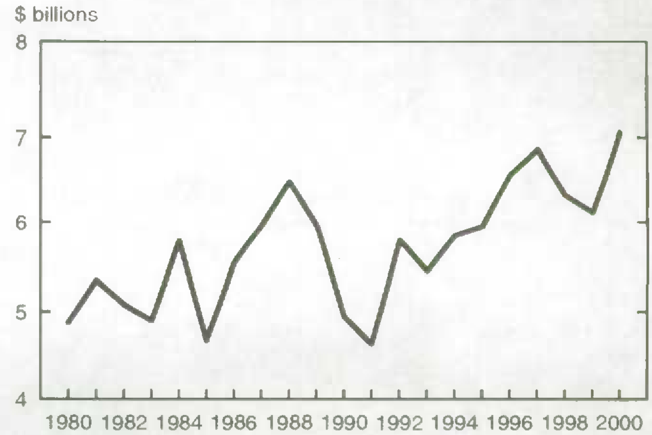
... Net farm income increases for first time in three years

Program payments soared 44.8% to $2.8 billion, their highest level in seven years. However, they remained below the peak of $3.8 billion reached in 1992.

After modest increases during the previous three years, operating expenses rose 5.9% to a record $25.7 billion. In particular, fuel costs for machinery rose 29.0%, the biggest increase since the rapidly rising prices of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Interest costs increased 15.7%, owing to both rising interest rates and a farm debt load that has been growing steadily since 1992.

*The **Agriculture economic statistics** supplement (paper: 21-603-UPE, $26/$52) will be released in July. The January-December 2000 issue of **Farm cash receipts** (Internet: 21-001-XIB, $15/$48) is now available. For more information on net farm income, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca) or Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; bernie.rosien@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. For more information on farm cash receipts, contact Kimberley Boyuk (613-951-2510; kimberley.boyuk@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.*

Net farm cash income



Caseload for youth courts continues to decline

The caseload for youth courts continued to decline at the end of the 1990s. Youth courts heard 102,061 cases in 1999/2000, down 4% from 1998/99 and 11% from 1992/93, the first year of coverage by the Youth Court Survey.

This downward trend was the result of a substantial decrease in cases involving property crime. The rate of cases involving property crimes per 10,000 youths declined 38% from 1992/93 to 1999/2000. By comparison, the rate of violent crime cases per 10,000 youths was unchanged over this period, although it dropped 3% from 1998/99.

Property crime accounted for 40% of all cases before youth courts in 1999/2000, while violent crimes accounted for 22%. About one-half of these violent crime cases were common assaults. Drug offences accounted for less than 5% of all cases. However, the number has more than doubled in eight years, rising from 2,331 in 1992/93 to 5,394 in 1999/2000.

Since 1992/93, youths aged 16 and 17 have appeared more often in youth court than other two age groups. Youths 16 and 17 accounted for 51% of cases in 1999/2000. Those aged 15 accounted for 21%, and those aged 12 to 14 accounted for 25%.

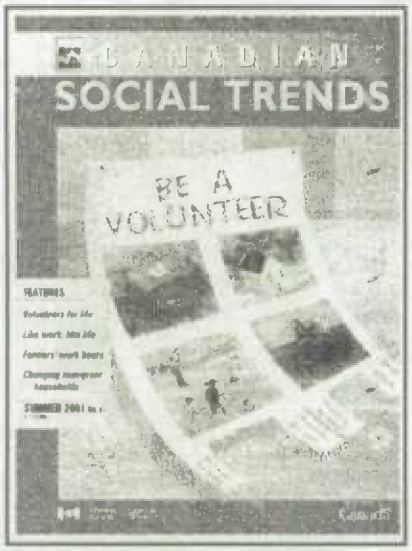
Young women account for a growing proportion of cases before youth courts. In 1999/2000, they comprised 21% of the total, up from 18% in 1992/93. Youth courts heard 21,507 cases involving young women, a 4% increase over the eight-year period.

Case rates for youth courts were highest in Western Canada. In 1999/2000, courts in Saskatchewan recorded a rate of 941 cases for every 10,000 youths, followed by Manitoba (700) and Alberta (614). All three were substantially higher than the national average of 417. The lowest case rates were in Quebec (196), Prince Edward Island (271) and British Columbia (364).

About two-thirds of youth court cases have resulted in guilty findings since 1992/93. In 1999/2000, probation was the most serious sentence ordered in 48% of cases. The most serious sentence of custody (open or secure) was ordered about one-third of the time. Repeat young offenders (defined as youths with at least one prior conviction) were involved in 35% of cases with convictions in 1999/2000.

***Juristat: Youth court statistics, 1999/2000**, Vol. 21, no. 3 (Internet: 85-002-XIE, $8/$70; paper: 85-002-XPE, $10/$93) and **Youth court data tables, 1999/2000** (Internet: 85F0030XIE, $26) are now available. For more information, contact Information and Client Services (1 800 387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

New from Statistics Canada



Canadian social trends
Summer 2001

The Summer 2001 issue of *Canadian social trends* includes these articles: "Enjoying work: An effective strategy in the struggle to juggle?"; "Patterns of volunteering over the life cycle"; "From sunup to sundown: Work patterns of farming couples"; and "Evolving family living arrangements of Canada's immigrants".

Each quarter, *Canadian social trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. It also features the latest social indicators, as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services.

The Summer 2001 issue of ***Canadian social trends*** *(Internet: 11-008-XIE, $8/$27; paper: 11-008-XPE, $11/$36) is now available. For more information, contact Susan Crompton at 951-2556 (cstsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.*

Problem behaviour and delinquency in children and youth
1996/97

The *Juristat: Problem behaviour and delinquency in children and youth* examines delinquency and offending behaviour as reported by a representative sample of children and youth aged 10 to 13. It uses data from the 1994/95 and 1996/97 National Longitudinal Survey on Children and Youth (NLSCY).

The ***Juristat: Problem behaviour and delinquency in children and youth,*** *Vol. 21, no. 4 (Internet: 85-002-XIE, $8/$70; paper: 85-002-XPE, $10/$93) is now available. For more information, contact Information and Client Services (1 800 387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

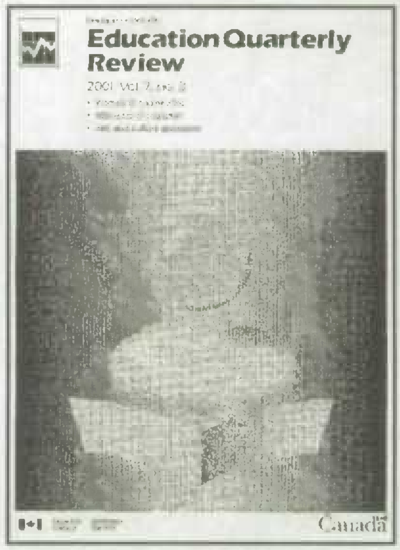
Canadian Vehicle Survey
Fourth quarter 2000

The Canadian Vehicle Survey measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada, except some vehicles such as motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment. Estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only.

The fourth quarter 2000 issue of ***The Canadian Vehicle Survey*** *(Internet: 53F0004XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site at www.statcan.ca. From the "Our products and services page," choose "Free publications," then "Transport and warehousing." For more information, contact Wendy Christoff (613-951-2498; chriwen@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.*

New from Statistics Canada

Education quarterly review
Vol. 7, no. 3

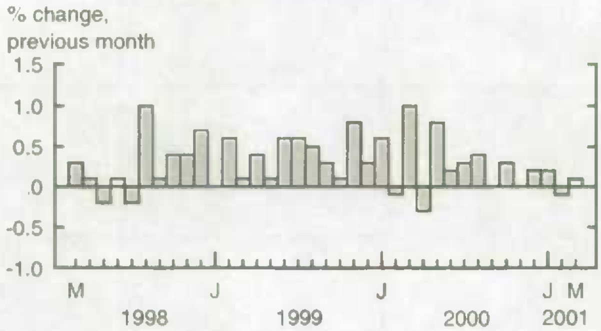


Education quarterly review analyses current issues and trends in education. The May 2001 issue, available today, contains three reports: "Women in engineering: The missing link in the Canadian knowledge economy," "100 years of education," and "School-to-work transition: A focus on arts and culture graduates."

The May 2001 issue of ***Education quarterly review****, Vol. 7, no. 3 (Internet: 81-003-XIE, $16/$51; paper: 81-003-XPB, $21/$68) is now available. The study on women in engineering is available free of charge on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the "Our products and services page," choose "In depth." For more information, contact Client Services (1 800 307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

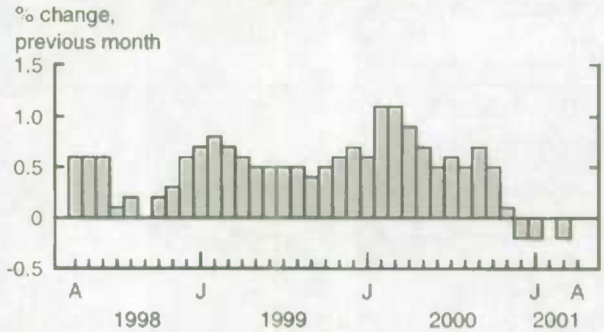
Current trends

Gross domestic product



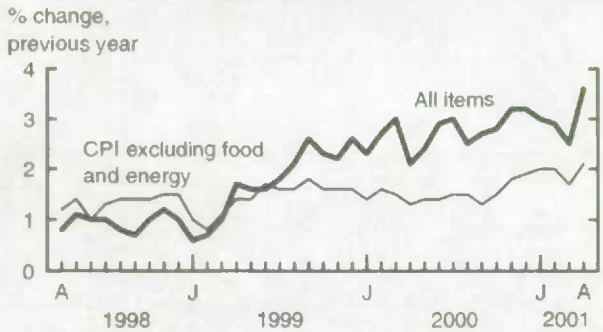
Gross domestic product edged up 0.1% in March, offsetting a similar-sized decline in February.

Composite Index



Following a decline in March, the leading indicator was unchanged in April. This was the fifth straight month without growth.

Consumer Price Index

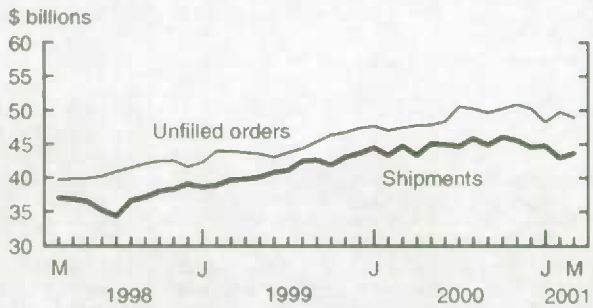


Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.6% higher in April than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.1%.

Unemployment rate

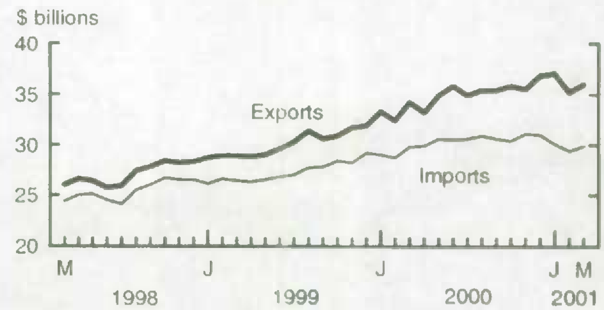
In May, the unemployment rate stood at 7.0% for the third consecutive month.

Manufacturing



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.

Merchandise trade



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.*

Latest statistics

	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)	Q1 2001	44.9	-6.9%	-9.7%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q1 2001*	84.1	-1.0†	1.5†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	March	23.7	0.3%	3.8%
Department store sales ($ billions)	April	1.64	0.6%	9.4%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	April*	134.4	5.9%	1.1%
Wholesale trade ($ billion)	March	32.2	1.7%	2.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	May*	15.11	0.1%	1.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	May*	7.0	0.0†	0.3†
Participation rate (%)	May*	66.1	0.0†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings ($)[1]	March	662.75	0.3%	2.1%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	May	164	-2.4%	-4.1%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ 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)[1]	March	43.7	1.7%	-2.4%
New orders ($ billions)[1]	March	42.9	-3.5%	-5.1%
Unfilled orders ($ billions)[1]	March	49.0	-1.6%	3.1%
Inventory/shipments ratio[1]	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.*
* *new this week*
† *percentage point*
[1] *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.*

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 June 7 to 13, 2001

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price ($) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Grain trade of Canada	1999/2000	22-201-XIB	33
Grain trade of Canada	1999/2000	22-201-XPB	44
Production of eggs	April 2001	23-003-XPB	110
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS			
Juristat: Problem behaviour and delinquency in children and youth, Vol. 21, no. 4	1996/97	85-002-XIE	8/70
Juristat: Problem behaviour and delinquency in children and youth, Vol. 21, no. 4	1996/97	85-002-XPE	10/93
CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS			
Education quarterly review, Vol. 7, no. 3	2001	81-003-XIE	16/51
Education quarterly review, Vol. 7, no. 3	2001	81-003-XPB	21/68
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS			
Canadian social trends	Summer 2001	11-008-XIE	8/27
Canadian social trends	Summer 2001	11-008-XPE	11/36
INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Exports by commodity	March 2001	65-004-XMB	37/361
Exports by commodity	March 2001	65-004-XPB	78/773
Exports, merchandise trade	2000	65-202-XMB	103
Exports, merchandise trade	2000	65-202-XPB	258
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK			
Building permits	April 2001	64-001-XIE	14/145
LABOUR STATISTICS			
Labour force information	May 2001	71-001-PIB	8/78
Labour force information	May 2001	71-001-PPB	11/103
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Energy statistics handbook	April 2001	57-601-XDE	284
Energy statistics handbook	April 2001	57-601-UPB	387
Natural gas transportation and distribution	January 2001	55-002-XIB	13/125
Oils and fats	April 2001	32-006-XIB	5/47
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	April 2001	41-011-XIB	5/47
Quarterly report on energy supply-demand in Canada	Q2 2000	57-003-XPB	43/141
SMALL BUSINESS AND SPECIAL SURVEYS			
Employment dynamics	1997/98	61F0020XCB	500
TRANSPORTATION			
Aviation service bulletin, Vol. 33, no. 5		51-004-XIB	8/82
The Canadian Vehicle Survey	Q4 2000	53F0004XIE	no charge

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions (B signifies bilingual, E signifies English); those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote the paper version. XDB means the electronic version on diskette, while -XCB denotes a compact disc.

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