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Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, July 13, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ **Labour market conditions little changed**

Labour market conditions changed little in June. The unemployment rate held at 7.0% for the fourth consecutive month, and employment remained virtually unchanged.

◆ **Value of building permits down slightly**

Despite a sharp rebound in proposed construction projects for housing, the value of building permits issued by municipalities declined 0.6% in May to $3.2 billion.

◆ **Growth of spending on tourism in Canada eases slightly**

In the first quarter of 2001, the growth of spending on tourism in Canada eased slightly, with the increase in spending by foreign visitors exceeding the increase in spending by Canadians for the first time in six quarters.

◆ **Children from across income spectrum attend private schools**

In 1998/99, one out of every 18 children attended a private school for elementary or secondary education. Among children attending private schools, 29% were from families with incomes below $50,000.

◆ **Children exposed to family violence tend to display more emotional problems**

Children who have witnessed physical fights between adults or teenagers in their home are twice as likely to be physically aggressive as those who have not.

◆ **International trade deficit in services increases**

Canada's international trade deficit in services increased in 2000 for the first time in six years, largely the result of a higher travel deficit.

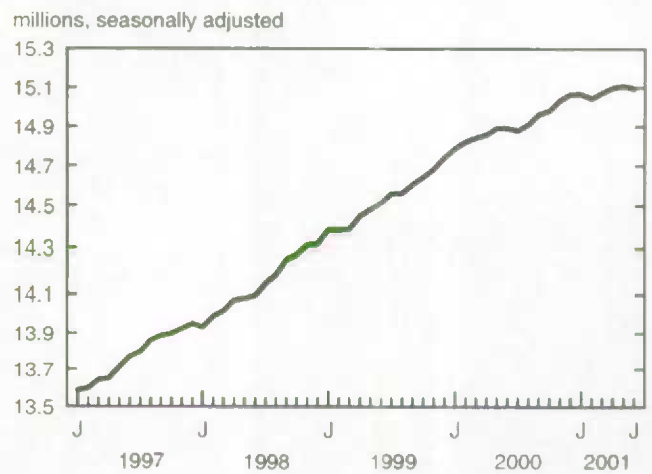
Labour market conditions little changed

Labour market conditions changed little in June. The unemployment rate held at 7.0% for the fourth consecutive month, and employment remained virtually unchanged (-13,000). Employment among men (25 and over) rose by 19,000 in June, whereas for adult women it was little changed. Among youths aged 15 to 24, employment fell by 26,000, mostly in part-time.

The proportion of summer students with a job in June was 48.4%, up 0.5 percentage points from June 2000. Most of the strength in the summer job market was among older students aged 20 to 24. Their employment rate jumped from 64.1% in June 2000 to 68.6% in June 2001. In contrast, the proportion of students 15 to 19 who were employed in June was down from June 2000 at 41.2%.

Despite a slight decline in June, the number of employees is up from the start of the year. The increase over this six-month period has all been in the private sector; public sector employment has fallen. While the number of self-employed was little changed in June, it has been on a downward trend since early 2000.

Employment



(continued on page 2)

... Labour market conditions little changed

Employment in construction edged up 8,000, bringing gains since October 2000, when the recent strength began, to 52,000. The upward employment trend in construction is in line with this year's strength in the value of building permits. Employment also edged up in professional, scientific and technical services (+10,000). In contrast, employment in manufacturing edged down 11,000, continuing a downward trend that began at the start of 2001. Employment fell by 6,000 in natural resources.

In Alberta, employment rose by 8,000 and the unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage point to 4.6%. In British Columbia, the estimated level of employment fell by 16,000. Job losses in June were all in part-time. In Quebec, higher part-time employment (+18,000) offset the decline in full-time. Despite no change in employment in June, the unemployment rate edged down 0.2 percentage points to 8.8%, the result of a slight decline in the labour force participation rate.

In Ontario, employment was little changed in June (-8,000). The unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage point to 6.0%. Although employment in June was little changed in Newfoundland, gains so far in 2001 total 12,000, pushing the unemployment rate down to 15.2%. In Saskatchewan, a decline in labour force participation pushed the unemployment rate down 0.7 percentage points to 5.6%, while employment was little changed. There was little change in the other provinces in June.

Related information on employment insurance

In April, the estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) who received regular Employment Insurance benefits decreased 1.2% from March to 495,720. Led by Alberta and Ontario, half the provinces and territories reported fewer regular beneficiaries than in March. Regular benefits (adjusted for seasonality) were $656.3 million, up 7.0% from March, while the number of claims received increased by 2.6% to 247,490.

The historical revision to the number of beneficiaries of Employment Insurance (both unadjusted and adjusted for seasonal variation) is now complete. This revision was necessary owing to an understating of beneficiaries' data from January 1997 to April 2000. For more information, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

A more detailed summary, ***Labour force information*** *(Internet: 71-001-PIB, $8/$78; paper: 71-001-PPB, $11/$103) for the week ending June 16 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 Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325) or Martin Tabi (613-951-5269), Labour Statistics Division.* *See also "Current trends" on page 7.*

Labour Force Survey, June 2001
Seasonally adjusted[1]

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	**16,227.8**	**-0.1**	**15,095.7**	**-0.1**	**1,132.1**	**-0.5**
Newfoundland	255.3	0.0	216.4	0.4	38.9	-2.3
Prince Edward Island	73.3	-1.9	65.9	0.3	7.3	-18.9
Nova Scotia	466.5	0.4	419.6	0.3	46.9	1.1
New Brunswick	372.9	-0.5	333.6	0.2	39.3	-6.0
Quebec	3,795.1	-0.2	3,461.1	0.0	334.0	-2.6
Ontario	6,355.8	-0.1	5,976.2	-0.1	379.6	0.9
Manitoba	585.8	0.3	554.3	-0.1	31.5	9.0
Saskatchewan	498.3	-0.6	470.3	0.1	28.0	-10.8
Alberta	1,719.7	0.6	1,640.9	0.5	78.8	2.3
British Columbia	2,105.1	-0.6	1,957.4	-0.8	147.7	2.7

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

Value of building permits down slightly

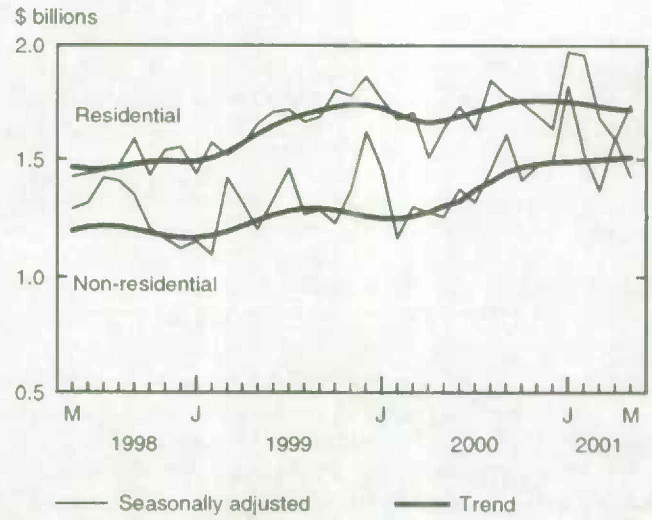
Despite a sharp rebound in proposed construction projects for housing, the value of building permits issued by municipalities declined 0.6% in May to $3.2 billion.

Building intentions in the residential sector rose 9.4% to $1.7 billion, after three consecutive monthly declines. A substantial 33.3% rise in the value of permits for multi-family dwellings was a major contributor to this jump. Factors that help to explain May's good result include the sustained growth in per-capita disposable income, the high level of employment, advantageous mortgage rates and high occupancy rates for multi-family dwellings.

Housing intentions advanced in May in all provinces except Prince Edward Island. The largest increase, in dollar terms, was seen in Ontario (+7.8% to $818 million), the result of a large advance in multi-family dwelling permits. Quebec (+10.3%) and Alberta (+9.4%) recorded the next largest gains.

The value of building intentions in the non-residential sector more than offset the gain in the residential sector, falling 10.6% to $1.4 billion. This decline, which followed a strong 16.3% advance in April, was led by an 18.2% decrease in the value of commercial permits. Industrial building intentions dropped for a fourth consecutive month (-1.8%), while institutional building intentions increased 0.4%.

Value of building permits



At the provincial level, the most significant monthly decrease occurred in Ontario (-24.0% to $444 million), due to a large drop in the commercial component. The Toronto region contributed strongly to this decrease, with declines in all three components. In contrast, Alberta posted the largest increase (+16.2% to $222 million), led by a strong showing in educational building projects in the Calgary region.

For the period from January to May 2001, the value of building permits was up 13.0% over the same period in 2000 to $16.7 billion, the highest total in the last 12 years. Strong advances in both the residential (+7.8% to $8.9 billion) and non-residential (+19.6% to $7.7 billion) sectors were behind this result.

Provincially, Ontario showed the largest increase (+8.5% to $4.5 billion), followed by British Columbia (+27.9% to $1.2 billion). The largest decline was posted in Nova Scotia (-29.0% to $160 million).

In the non-residential sector, Quebec had the largest increase on a year-to-date basis (+57.6% to $1.9 billion) on the strength of planned commercial and industrial projects in the Montreal region. Nova Scotia was one of the few provinces to show a decrease, pulled down by all three components.

Among the regions, the largest year-to-date advance, in dollar terms, occurred in Montreal, where proposed construction projects in the non-residential sector almost doubled compared with the same period in 2000. The second-largest increase was in the Toronto region, where the gain was balanced between the residential and non-residential sectors.

*The May 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 Valérie Gaudreault (613-951-1165; gaudval@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

Value of building permits by census metropolitan area
Seasonally adjusted

	May 2001	April to May 2001	January to May 2001	January-May 2000 to January-May 2001
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
St. John's	25.0	87.4	72.9	2.5
Halifax	53.2	116.0	139.8	-48.9
Saint John	8.1	-2.3	32.2	2.2
Chicoutimi–Jonquière	11.6	-48.0	85.3	35.6
Québec	58.5	46.3	281.9	15.0
Sherbrooke	13.3	23.9	59.0	29.0
Trois-Rivières	19.4	120.7	47.8	24.1
Montréal	361.5	-3.8	1,945.5	51.8
Hull	28.0	3.6	177.0	71.1
Ottawa	121.8	4.6	625.9	16.5
Oshawa	48.4	89.5	195.3	-33.5
Toronto	523.2	-10.4	3,690.1	15.0
Hamilton	62.0	11.1	352.2	25.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	30.5	-10.9	156.5	7.8
Kitchener	84.5	-19.2	353.3	14.0
London	56.5	-31.3	286.2	44.4
Windsor	29.1	-32.7	200.6	1.9
Sudbury	0.7	-90.5	21.3	-7.4
Thunder Bay	9.6	118.5	39.5	25.9
Winnipeg	39.1	20.0	179.2	-20.9
Regina	14.6	-63.0	106.3	40.4
Saskatoon	32.7	56.5	127.8	-9.1
Calgary	208.9	15.1	917.3	-9.7
Edmonton	111.7	-6.7	546.6	7.9
Vancouver	286.6	-26.4	1,414.4	27.3
Victoria	20.4	-16.1	140.2	7.6

Growth of spending on tourism in Canada eases slightly

In the first quarter of 2001, spending on tourism in Canada rose 6.5% to $11.1 billion, a rate of increase that was slightly slower than in the first quarter of 2000, due mainly to slower growth in spending by Canadian tourists, and to a deceleration in vehicle fuel prices.

Foreign visitors spent $2.4 billion, up 8.4%, after two quarters of year-to-year increases below 5%. Canadians travelling in Canada spent $8.7 billion, up 5.9%, the lowest growth since the second quarter of 1999. It was the first time in six quarters that the spending by foreign visitors grew more rapidly than spending by Canadians.

After five periods of double-digit year-over-year growth, the transportation category posted an increase of only 7.4% in the first quarter of 2001, owing to much lower pressure from fuel prices. This slackening was partially offset by increased spending in the food and beverages and accommodation categories. Adjusted for inflation and seasonality, total tourism expenditures in Canada advanced 0.5%.

The number of Canadians travelling outside the country was 0.9% lower in the first quarter of 2001 than in the same quarter of 2000, with the number of same-day travellers to the United States showing the largest decline (-4.7%). The Canadian dollar declined from 67 U.S. cents to 65 U.S. cents during the same period. In contrast, the number of Canadian travellers to other countries rose 17.6% as the Canadian dollar gained strength in relation to most European currencies. This was the fourth successive double-digit quarterly increase.

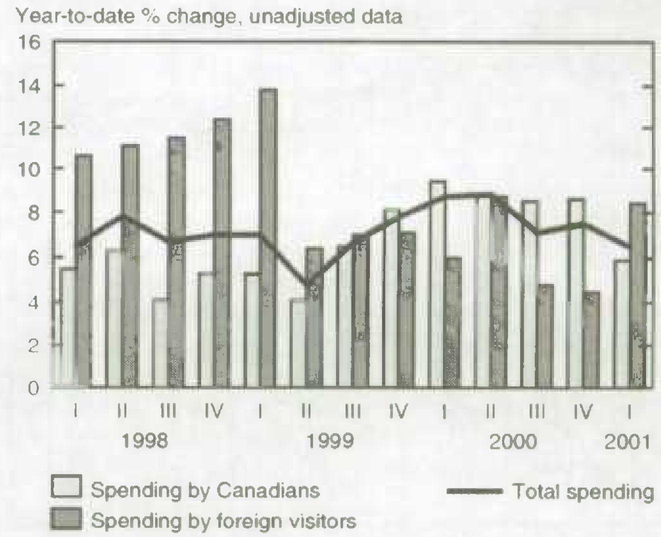
Inbound overnight travel from the United States was 6.0% higher in the first quarter of the year, reversing two quarters of decline. Overnight travel from other countries was 5.0% higher, a greater increase than in the previous two quarters.

Tourism generated 539,000 jobs in the first three months of the year. This was an increase of 4.1%, on par with the average increase of 4.2% during the four quarters of 2000. The accommodation sector benefited the most from tourism with 149,000 jobs, up 7.6%, representing 28% of the total.

Note to readers

Data are unadjusted for seasonality and expressed in current prices, unless noted otherwise. Comparisons are made with data from the same quarter of the preceding year.

Tourism spending in Canada



Seasonally adjusted, employment rose 2.7% from the fourth quarter of 2000, with accommodation and food and beverages increasing the most, while passenger transportation declined. The growth in employment generated by tourism was surpassed by the business sector as a whole (3.7%, annual rate).

The first quarter 2001 issue of ***National tourism indicators*** *(Internet: 13-009-XIB, free; paper: 13-009-XPB, free) is now available. To order, contact Client Services (613-951-3640; fax: 613-951-3816; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca). For more information, contact Katharine Kemp (613-951-3814) or Jacques Delisle (613-951-3796), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.*

Children from across income spectrum attend private schools

In 1988/99, one out of every 18 children in Canada, or 5.6%, attended a private school for elementary or secondary education, compared with 4.6% in 1987/88. In total, 298,000 children were enrolled in private schools; just under 5 million went to public schools.

Children from across the income spectrum attended private schools. Twenty-nine percent of children attending private schools in 1998/99 were from families with incomes below $50,000, while 26% were from families with at least twice as much income. In contrast, about 43% of children (15 years of age or younger) attending public schools had family incomes of less than $50,000, and only 12% had family incomes over $100,000. The proportion of children who came from households with an annual income of $50,000 to $100,000 was about the same in the case of both private and public schools, 45%.

Among the provinces, private school attendance was highest in Quebec, where more than 9.2% of children were enrolled in a private elementary or secondary school in 1998/99. In British Columbia, 8.8% of all students were in private school. Private school was less popular in the Atlantic provinces and Saskatchewan. Only 0.4% of all children in Newfoundland, 0.6% in New Brunswick, 1.0% in Prince Edward Island, 1.6% in Nova Scotia and 1.3% in Saskatchewan were enrolled in private schools.

(continued on page 5)

... Children from across income spectrum attend private schools

Most provinces saw steady growth in the proportion of students enrolled in private schools between 1987/88 and 1998/99. However, the proportion declined slightly in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan during this 12-year period.

Private schools spent nearly $2 billion on education in the 1997/98 academic year, the most recent for which data are available. This represented 5.5% of total elementary and secondary spending on education, public and private combined.

For every $100 spent on each student by public school boards in 1987/88, private schools spent $88 per student for elementary and secondary education. By 1997/98, spending per student by private schools was about the same as in public schools. For every $100 spent on each student by public school boards, private schools spent $101.

For more information, contact Miles Corak (613-951-9047), Family and Labour Studies Division.

Children exposed to family violence tend to display more emotional problems

Children exposed to physical violence in the home tend to exhibit higher rates of depression and worry. Also, children who have witnessed physical fights between adults or teenagers in their home are more than twice as likely to be physically aggressive as those who have not. These children are also more likely to commit delinquent acts and to display emotional disorders and hyperactivity.

Children saw or heard assaults on a parent in an estimated 461,000 cases of spousal violence in the five-year period preceding the 1999 survey, representing slightly more than one-third of all spousal violence cases. Twenty-eight percent of children who witnessed physical fights in the home showed signs of physical aggressiveness, more than double the proportion for those who did not witness physical fights. Similarly, 13% of children who saw physical fights between adults or teenagers showed signs of emotional disorders, compared with 8% for those who did not.

Children under the age of 15 were harmed or threatened in about 10% of spousal assaults against women and in 4% of assaults against men. In absolute figures, this amounted to 90,000 cases of spousal violence, 70,000 involving women and 20,000 involving men.

Victims are more likely to call the police if the violence is committed in the presence of children: 45% in the case of spousal violence witnessed by children, more than double the proportion for cases where children did not witness the violence.

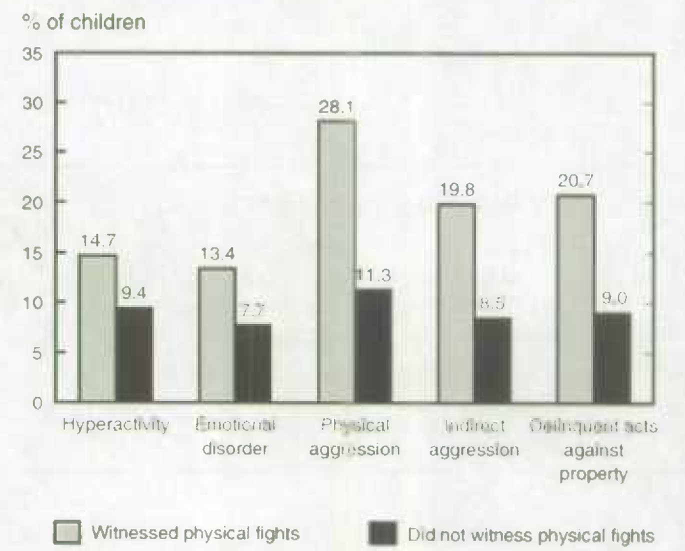
According to a "snapshot" taken on April 17, 2000 by the Transition Home Survey, nearly 1,900 children were living in shelters for reasons relating to abuse; they made up 91% of all children in shelters on that day. Children under the age of five constituted the largest proportion of children in shelters in 2000, followed by children aged five to nine.

From 1974 to 1999, the rate of children and youth killed has fluctuated considerably from year to year, ranging from a high of 14 per million in 1981 to a low of 8 per million in 1993. Family members were responsible for the death in 63% of the 1,990 solved homicides of youths up to the age of 17 during this 26-year period.

About 20% of Aboriginal people reported being assaulted by a spouse in the five-year period prior to the survey, compared with 7% of the non-Aboriginal population. Aboriginal women were twice as likely to be victims of spousal violence (25%) as Aboriginal men (13%). About half of the Aboriginal people who were assaulted by a spouse reported that a child had witnessed the incident.

> *Note to readers*
>
> *The fourth edition of **Family violence in Canada** is an analysis of data from the third cycle of the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, conducted in 1998/99, and the 1999 General Social Survey. The data for this study are drawn from other sources as well, including the 1999 General Social Survey on Victimization, the Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, the Homicide Survey, the Transition Home Survey and the Hospital Morbidity Survey.*

Child behaviour



***Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile 2001** (Internet: 85-224-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Free publications, then Justice. Also available is the **Juristat: Children witnessing family violence**, Vol. 21, no. 6 (Internet: 85-002-XIE, $8/$70; paper: 85-002-XPE, $10/$93) and the **Juristat: Spousal violence after marital separation**, Vol. 21, no. 7 (Internet: 85-002-XIE, $8/$70; paper: 85-002-XPE, $10/$93). For more information, contact Information and Client Services (1 800 387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

International trade deficit in services increases

Canada's international trade deficit in services increased in 2000 for the first time in six years, largely the result of a higher travel deficit.

The trade deficit in services increased to $6.7 billion from $6.5 billion in 1999. The deficit in services had been declining since 1993, when it peaked at $13.6 billion. Overall exports in services increased 6.9% in 2000 to $55.3 billion, while imports increased 6.6% to $62.0 billion.

The travel deficit went from $1.8 billion in 1999 to $2.1 billion in 2000. Canadians divided their increased spending about evenly between the United States and other countries, primarily in travel for personal purposes. At the same time, spending by travellers to Canada lost momentum.

The deficit in commercial services rose marginally for a second year to $2.5 billion in 2000, mainly because of greater net payments for royalties and licences. Offsetting these flows in part were net exports of research and development and a smaller deficit for advertising services.

Note to readers

Trade in services *covers transactions in travel, transportation, commercial services and government services. The* ***trade deficit in services*** *is the difference between services that Canada exports and its payments to foreign suppliers.*

In contrast, the deficit for transportation services, which covers both passengers and goods, narrowed from $3.0 billion to $2.9 billion. The increase in net revenues is attributable to land and water transportation services and air passenger rates.

Government services were in surplus for the eighth consecutive year, a reflection of continued spending restraint by Canadian governments. Receipts for government services have increased in the last three years. The largest increases were in representational spending by foreign governments in Canada and for immigration services. On the payments side, all main components levelled out or declined in 2000.

Canada's international trade in services, 2000 *(Internet: 67-203-XIB, $30; paper: 67-203-XPB, $40) is now available.*

For more information, contact Hugh Henderson (613-951-9049; hendhug@statcan.ca) or Denis Caron (613-951-1861; caroden@statcan.ca), Balance of Payments Division.

New from Statistics Canada

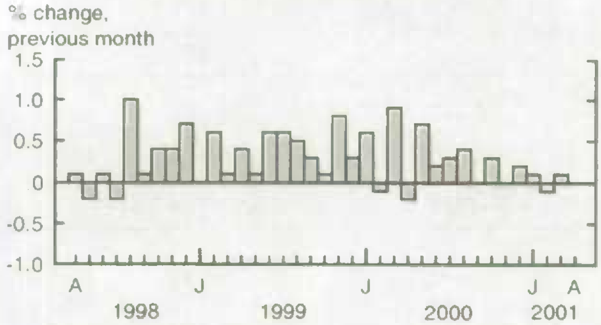
Geography working paper series

The Geography working paper series was begun to stimulate discussion on conceptual, methodological or technical issues involved in developing and disseminating geographic data, products and services. Readers of the series are encouraged to contact Statistics Canada with comments and suggestions.

The paper, ***Introducing the dissemination area for the 2001 Census: An update*** *(92F0138MIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the "Our products and services" page, choose "Research papers (free)", then "Geographic reference". For more information, contact Geography Division (613-951-3889; fax: 613-951-0569; geohelp@statcan.ca).*

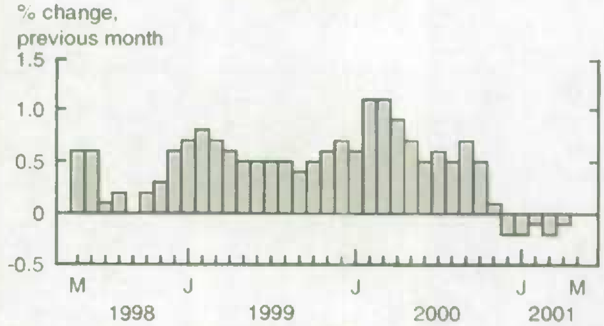
Current trends

Gross domestic product



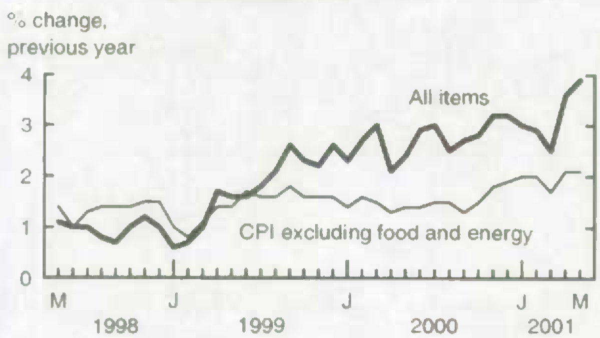
Total economic activity was unchanged in April, after edging up 0.1% in March.

Composite Index



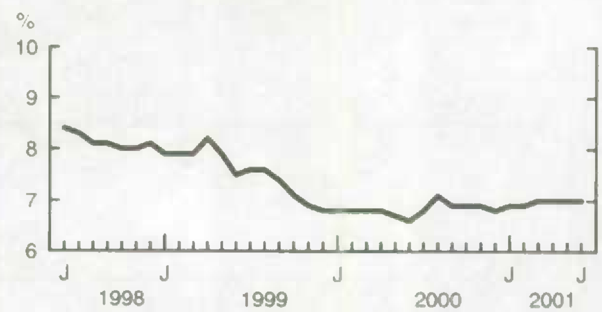
In May, the leading indicator showed its sixth straight month without an increase. The weakness in the stock market and manufacturing in recent months spread to services.

Consumer Price Index



Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.9% higher in May than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.1%.

Unemployment rate



In June, the unemployment rate held at 7.0% for the fourth consecutive month.

Manufacturing

Manufacturers' shipments fell back 0.6% in April to $43.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders posted a slight 0.2% increase to $48.9 billion.

Merchandise trade

In April, the value of merchandise exports increased 1.7% to just over $37.0 billion. Imports rose 1.9% to $30.7 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)	April	796.7	0.0%	2.2%
Composite Index (1992=100)	May	166.2	0.0%	2.2%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billions)	Q1 2001	44.9	-6.9%	-9.7%
Capacity utilization rate (%)	Q1 2001	84.1	-1.0†	1.5†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billions)	April	24.2	1.6%	6.8%
Department store sales ($ billions)	May	1.64	0.0%	8.6%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	April	134.4	5.9%	1.1%
Wholesale trade ($ billions)	April	31.9	-0.9%	1.4%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	June*	15.10	-0.1%	1.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	June*	7.0	0.0†	0.4†
Participation rate (%)	June*	66.0	0.1†	0.3†
Average weekly earnings ($)	April	661.05	-0.1%	1.8%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	June	161	-1.8%	-6.4%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billions)	April	37.0	1.7%	10.3%
Merchandise imports ($ billions)	April	30.7	1.9%	2.1%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billions)	April	6.3	0.1	2.8
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billions)	April	43.4	-0.6%	0.4%
New orders ($ billions)	April	43.5	1.7%	-0.1%
Unfilled orders ($ billions)	April	48.9	0.2%	2.4%
Inventory/shipments ratio	April	1.50	0.01	0.09
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	May	117.4	0.9%	3.9%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	May	131.0	0.3%	2.7%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	May	144.6	0.6%	2.0%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	May	105.7	0.2%	2.6%

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

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A weekly review

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Products released from July 5 to 11, 2001

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price ($) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Agriculture economic statistics	May 2001	21-603-UPE	26/52
Egg production	May 2001	23-003-XPB	110
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS			
Canada's international transactions in securities	March 2001	67-002-XIB	14/132
Canada's international transactions in securities	April 2001	67-002-XIB	14/132
Canada's international transactions in securities	April 2001	67-002-XPB	18/176
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES			
Retail trade	April 2001	63-005-XPB	21/206
INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Exports by commodity	April 2001	65-004-XMB	37/361
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