



# Infomat

## A Weekly Review

Friday, July 20, 2001

### OVERVIEW

#### ◆ Sales of alcoholic beverages increase

Per-capita sales of alcoholic beverages increased for the third straight year. Beer continues to be Canadians' favourite alcoholic beverage.

#### ◆ New motor vehicle sales maintain an upward movement

Despite a decline in May, the trend in new motor vehicle sales has generally been moving upward.

#### ◆ Residential construction investment increases

The total value of investment in the housing sector was up 4.7% in the first quarter of 2001 to \$8.5 billion. The growth resulted from increases in all three components of residential investment.

#### ◆ Principal field crop areas

Western farmers have planted a record acreage of field peas this spring, while the area devoted to canola has declined to a five-year low.

#### ◆ Non-smokers live longer and better than smokers

Smokers tend not only to die prematurely but also to have a lower quality of life than non-smokers.

#### ◆ Likelihood of saving increases with income

Income is the most important factor in saving for retirement. In 1999, of the 6.1 million taxfilers reporting a total income of less than \$20,000, only 15% contributed to an RRSP or participated in an RPP.

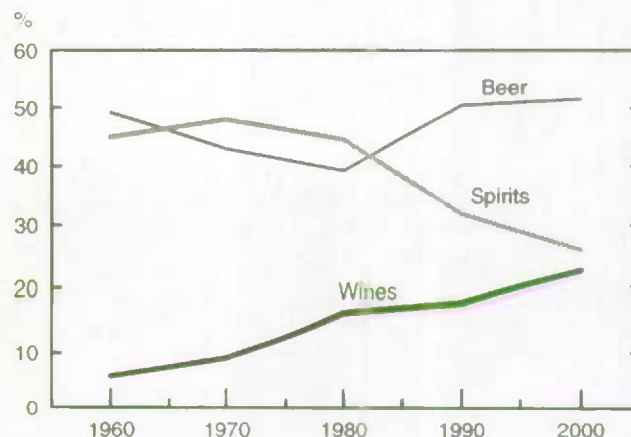
### Sales of alcoholic beverages increase

Per-capita sales of alcoholic beverages increased for the third straight year. Each person aged 15 and over bought an average of 103.6 litres of alcoholic beverages in 1999/2000, compared with 102.6 litres the year before. Beer is Canadians' favourite alcoholic beverage, accounting for 51.6% of alcohol sales, compared with 25.9% for spirits and 22.5% for wine. While imported beer is gaining ground, domestic beer continues to be Canadians' first choice.

Of the 2.5 billion litres of alcoholic beverages purchased in 1999/2000, 82.6% consisted of beer, 11.3% wine and 6.1% spirits. Imported beers increased their market share by 25% to capture 8.9% of the beer market in Canada. In contrast, the market share for beer products manufactured in Canada declined for a sixth straight year. By volume, sales of imported beer increased 21.0% to 150.2 million litres. This represented sales of \$597.5 million, up 29.2%. Total beer sales were \$6.7 billion, up 3.4% from 1998/99.

The quantity of wine purchased in 1999-2000 was up 5.5% from a year earlier, boosting sales to just over \$2.9 billion, up 11.1%. With red wine continuing to grow in popularity, red wine

#### Market share of sales



(continued on page 2)



### ... Sales of alcoholic beverages increase

sales by volume climbed 13.8% compared with 1998/99, marking a seventh consecutive year of double-digit growth.

Quebec led the way in the consumption of red wine. It alone accounted for 41.7% of Canada's red wine sales by volume, followed by Ontario (32.6%) and British Columbia (13.6%). Ontario led white wine sales with 41.1%, followed by Quebec (28.6%) and British Columbia (13.5%).

Despite prices rising by 21.1% since 1995/96, imported wines continued to dominate the Canadian market: just over 62% of the volume of white and red wines purchased in Canada is imported, but 70% of red wine comes from abroad. As a result of sustained demand and rising prices, sales of imported wine rose sharply (+14.0%) in 1999/2000 to \$2.0 billion. This was almost three times the growth rate for Canadian wine, whose sales rose 5.4% to \$0.9 billion.

Sales of spirit- and wine-based coolers were up 8.1% in 1999/2000 from a year earlier. The volume of spirit sales rose 5.3% to \$155.4 million litres; sales were up 4.1% to \$3.4 billion.

#### Note to readers

*Sales by volume* include sales by liquor authorities and their agents as well as wineries and breweries and their outlets that operate under licence from the liquor authorities. On the other hand, the *consumption of alcoholic beverages* includes all these sales plus homemade wine and beer, wine and beer manufactured in brew-on-premises operations, all sales to Canadian residents in duty-free shops and any unrecorded transactions.

From 1994/95 to 1999/2000, governments collected more than \$21 billion dollars from the control and sale of alcoholic beverages, a rise of 16.5%. Quebec posted the largest increase, 29.6%, while Yukon recorded a decrease of 27.8%.

*The control and sale of alcoholic beverages in Canada* for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000 (Internet: 63-202-XIB, \$29; paper: 63-202-XPB, \$52) is now available. For more information, contact Jean-François Carbonneau (613-951-8561) or Jean-Marc de Beaumont (613-951-1829), Public Institutions Division.

## New motor vehicle sales maintain an upward movement

A decrease in new truck sales in May caused an overall decline of 2.1% in new motor vehicle sales compared with April. In May, 131,456 new motor vehicles were sold, down 2,824 from April. New motor vehicle sales have generally been moving upward, following a downward movement that began in the fall of 2000.

New truck sales declined 6.0% in May to 58,814 vehicles, wiping out the 5.7% gain posted in April. The strong advance in

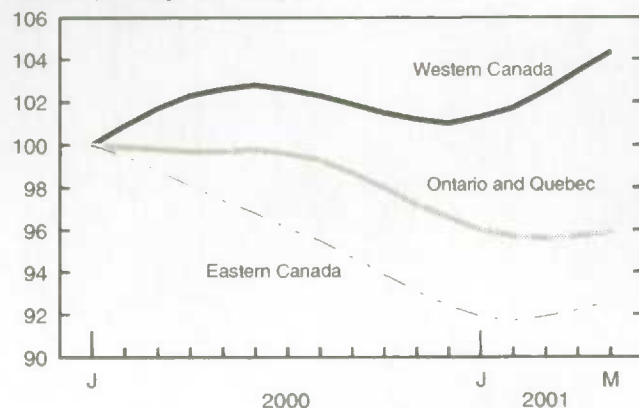
#### Note to readers

*Passenger cars* include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. *Trucks* include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses. *North American-built new motor vehicles* include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

All data are seasonally adjusted. For reasons of confidentiality, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included in British Columbia.

### Trends of new motor vehicle sales by region

Indexes (January 2000=100)



**Note:** Eastern Canada consists of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Western Canada consists of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia (including Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut).

April was largely the result of manufacturers' incentives. Outstanding sales of overseas-built passenger cars (+7.3%) in May pushed up overall sales of new passenger cars 1.3% compared with April. For overseas-built cars it was the second major increase in a row. Sales of North American-built passenger cars declined 1.0% in May after gaining 5.5% in April. The influx of consumers to overseas-built cars might be explained in part by the weakness of some Asian currencies against the U.S. and Canadian dollars.

The number of new motor vehicles sold in May was down from April in all provinces except the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (+3.4%), and Nova Scotia (+1.4%). Since the start of the year, new motor vehicle sales have advanced rapidly in the four Western provinces. They have grown at a slower pace in the east and have stabilized in Central Canada, which includes Ontario and Quebec.

The May 2001 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (Internet: 63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) is now available. For data or general information, contact Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; [gratpau@statcan.ca](mailto:gratpau@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division.



## Residential construction investment increases

The total value of investment in the housing sector was \$8.5 billion in the first quarter of 2001, up 4.7% from the first quarter of 2000. The growth resulted from increases in all three components of residential investment: new housing construction, renovations and acquisition costs. Compared with the fourth quarter of 2000, investment was down 16.2%.

A healthy labour market, a sizeable drop in the number of vacant multi-family dwelling units in 2000 and steadily rising prices for new housing, including attractive mortgage rates, had a

### Note to readers

*New housing construction includes single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing and apartments, cottages, mobile homes and additional housing units created from non-residential buildings or other types of residential structures (conversions). Renovations include alterations and improvements in existing dwellings. Acquisition costs refers to the value of services relating to the sale of new dwellings. These costs include such items as sales tax, land development and service charges, and record processing fees for mortgage insurance and the associated premiums.*

positive impact on residential construction investment in the first quarter of 2001.

With a 5.5% increase from the first quarter of 2000, the new housing component contributed the most to the growth of residential construction. Investment in new housing amounted to \$4.4 billion for the first quarter of 2001. The growth in this component was largely the result of increased investment spending for single-family dwellings (up 4.4% to \$2.7 billion), but also for apartments (up 15.2% to \$797 million). The increase for single-family dwellings was largely due to an increase in the average value of projects; for apartments, the main factor behind the gain was the increased number of units.

Investments from the renovations component rose 3.6% to \$3.3 billion. Acquisition costs were also up, 4.2% to \$739 million.

Among the provinces, the largest increase in dollar terms occurred in Ontario (+5.7% to \$4.0 billion). Alberta also posted a sizeable advance (+7.3% to \$1.2 billion). Newfoundland (-28.2% to \$66 million) and Nova Scotia (-12.8% to \$176 million) posted the largest declines.

For more information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; [saineti@statcan.ca](mailto:saineti@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

### Residential construction investment

	First quarter 2000	First quarter 2001	First quarter 2000 to first quarter 2001
	\$ millions		% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>8,118.1</b>	<b>8,497.6</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Newfoundland	92.6	66.5	-28.2
Prince Edward Island	25.2	22.0	-12.8
Nova Scotia	202.0	176.2	-12.8
New Brunswick	124.7	116.5	-6.5
Quebec	1,331.4	1,409.8	5.9
Ontario	3,782.0	3,997.5	5.7
Manitoba	157.6	173.5	10.1
Saskatchewan	159.6	158.4	-0.8
Alberta	1,114.0	1,195.1	7.3
British Columbia	1,102.3	1,161.7	5.4
Yukon	10.4	11.5	10.4
Northwest Territories	4.9	5.1	3.9
Nunavut	11.3	3.9	-65.9

## Principal field crop areas

Western farmers have planted a record acreage of field peas this spring. The area devoted to spring wheat, the major crop on the Prairies, has increased above average levels. There were also significant increases in the seeded area for chick peas. On the other hand, the area devoted to canola has declined to a five-year low.

Farmers reported that they have planted most of the acreage they had not decided about when reporting for Statistics Canada's March intentions survey. As well, much of large increase in summerfallow area farmers reported in the March intentions survey appears to have been planted. However, both extremely wet and extremely dry soil conditions in different regions of the Prairie provinces were still being reported during the June survey period. These conditions have left some farmers ambivalent about whether there would be a crop to harvest in the affected areas.

### Seeding intentions of major grains and oilseeds

	2000	2001	2000 to 2001
	Millions of acres		% change
Wheat	27.6	28.5	3
Spring wheat	20.1	22.0	9
Durum wheat	6.5	5.5	-15
Winter wheat	1.0	1.0	0
Barley	12.6	12.4	-2
Summerfallow	11.6	11.7	1
Canola	12.1	9.9	-18
Oats	4.5	4.9	9
Field peas	3.1	3.6	16
Corn for grain	2.9	3.1	7
Soybeans	2.6	2.6	0
Lentils	1.7	1.8	6
Flaxseed	1.5	1.6	7
Chick peas	0.7	1.2	71

(continued on page 4)

### ... Principal field crop areas

Dry pea acreage reached a record 3.6 million acres this year, a 16% increase from last year's record of 3.1 million acres. Most of the increased area was in Saskatchewan where planted area soared by 23% over last year. Peas are being used increasingly in domestic animal rations and are exported to Western Europe and Asia as well.

Spring wheat acreage is set at 22.0 million acres, a 1.9 million-acre increase from last year. The five-year average is 21.2 million acres. Saskatchewan, the largest grower of spring wheat, planted 17% more spring wheat and Manitoba planted 7% more. In Alberta, seeded acreage declined by 1%. Lower fertilizer and other input costs for spring wheat, compared with other major crops, were an incentive for boosting acreage.

Chick pea area set another record in its brief history in the western crop mosaic. Producers in Saskatchewan and Alberta

planted a total of 1.2 million acres, 71% more than last year's 700,000 acres. Seeded area nearly doubled in Alberta, from 50,000 to 90,000 acres; in Saskatchewan, seeded area jumped from 680,000 to 1.2 million acres.

Canola producers reduced their plantings this year to 9.9 million acres, a drop of 2.2 million acres from last year. Acreage has not been this low since 1996 when farmers seeded only 8.7 million acres. Unprofitable margins for canola crushers, near-record stocks of canola this spring, and high input costs for fertilizer and chemicals were the main deterrents.

**Field crop reporting series no. 4: Preliminary estimates of principal field crop areas, Canada, 2000** (Internet: 22-002-XIB, \$11/\$66; paper: 22-002-XPB, \$15/\$88) is now available. For more information, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.ca), or David Roeske (613-951-0572; david.roeske@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

## Non-smokers live longer and better than smokers

**S**moking leads not only to a reduction in the number of years that a person can expect to live, but also to a deterioration in his/her quality of life. Smoking has been associated with a variety of chronic conditions (such as bronchitis, asthma and high blood pressure), and smokers have more of a tendency to suffer from disabilities for much of their life.

Men who were aged 45 in 1995 could expect to live another 32.9 years, while women of that age could expect to live for another 37.7 years. However there are major differences in life expectancy between smokers and non-smokers. A male smoker aged 45 in 1995 could expect to live another 28.1 years, or seven years less than a male non-smoker, who could expect to live another 35.5 years. A female smoker aged 45 in 1995 could expect to live another 30.5 years, or more than 10 years less than a female non-smoker, who could expect to live another 40.8 years.

Of every 100 non-smoking men aged 45 in 1995, about 90 will live to the age of 65, and 55 will reach their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. On the other hand, 80% of male smokers will reach age 65 and fewer than 30% will reach age 80. Among women of the same cohort, about 70% of non-smokers will reach their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, compared with only about 40% of smokers.

Non-smokers tend to live a higher proportion of their life without any disability. Among both men and women, two-thirds of non-smokers will reach their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday without any disability, compared with less than half of smokers. In addition, 25% of male non-smokers and 30% of female non-smokers who reach their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday will have no disability, compared with less than 10% for both men and women who smoke.

Even at age 65, differences in life expectancy between smokers and non-smokers remain important. Almost six years of life expectancy separate men who smoke from those who do not, and the gap is 8.5 years among women. Thus, tobacco use does indeed

### Note to readers

The data on the impact of smoking came from the longitudinal National Population Health Survey, conducted by Statistics Canada since 1994. The sample for this study is representative of the Canadian population aged 45 and older living in private households and in health care institutions in 1994.

A **smoker** is a respondent who reports either that he or she smokes daily, smokes occasionally but is a former daily smoker, or formerly smoked daily but has stopped within the past five years. A **non-smoker** is a respondent who never smoked, who smokes only occasionally, or who smoked daily but stopped more than five years ago.

have a major impact on mortality. Smokers suffer more often than others from several diseases at the same time. Non-smokers have a greater tendency to have a healthier lifestyle, characterized by regular physical activity, moderate alcohol consumption and better eating habits.

An analysis of disability-free life expectancy shows that the negative impact of tobacco use is not limited to mortality but also extends to the quality of life. For example, a male smoker aged 45 in 1995 could expect to live another 18 years disability-free, while a male non-smoker could expect to live another 25 years, or seven years longer, without disability. Female non-smokers could expect to live eight more years than female smokers.

In short, 95% of the additional years that a male non-smoker can expect to live over a smoker will be spent without disability. Not only will a smoker, on average, die younger than a non-smoker, but the smoker will also be more likely to be limited or dependent in his or her activities of daily living at a much younger age than a non-smoker.

The 2000 edition of **Report on the demographic situation in Canada** (paper: 91-209-XPE, \$31) is now available. For more information, contact Alain Bélanger (613-951-2326; fax: 613-951-2952; belaal@statcan.ca), Demography Division.



## Likelihood of saving increases with income

Income remains the most important factor in saving for retirement. In 1999, of the 6.1 million taxfilers (40% of the total) reporting a total income of less than \$20,000, only 15% contributed to a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) or participated in an employer-sponsored registered pension plan (RPP). In contrast, about 63% of taxfilers with total incomes of \$20,000 to \$39,999 saved for retirement, and this proportion climbed to 92% for those with total incomes over \$60,000.

It is not surprising that RRSP contributions increase with income, since the contribution limit is defined as a percentage of total eligible income up to a pre-determined limit. The likelihood of belonging to an RPP also increases with income, but only up to a certain level. The highest proportion of RPP members was in the \$40,000-to-\$79,999 income range.

Almost 72% of taxfilers saved through RRSPs or RPPs from 1993 to 1999. During the same period, about 75% of those who saved through an RRSP or an RPP did so regularly, that is, they saved through at least one plan in four or more years from 1993 to 1999. The remaining 25% saved irregularly, that is, in three years or fewer.

However, about 28% of the taxfilers aged 25 to 64 did not use either program. Most of these taxfilers (83%) had incomes of less than \$20,000, and about 60% were women. They may therefore have to rely on public pension plans (such as the Old Age Security/ Guaranteed Income Supplement, or the Canada or Quebec Pension Plan) as their major source of income in retirement.

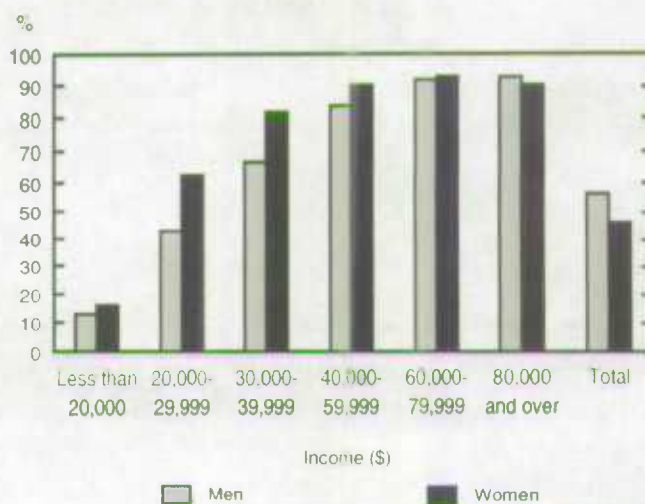
The Atlantic provinces had the fewest taxfilers (55% to 63%) who saved through RPPs or RRSPs at least once from 1993 to 1999. In contrast, the highest saving rates were in the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario, where about three-quarters of taxfilers saved for retirement.

In 1999, more taxfilers saved through RRSPs (38%) than through RPPs (31%). From 1993 to 1999, 61% of taxfilers aged 25 to 64 contributed to an RRSP at least once, whereas just 45% participated in an RPP. At the same time, 62% of those contributing to an RRSP did so regularly (in at least four of the seven years),

### Note to readers

The analysis of the retirement saving habits of Canadians is restricted to individuals aged 25 to 64. Annual total income before tax was used, and all dollar figures were converted to 1999 dollars. Income was averaged over the seven-year period from 1993 to 1999.

Proportion of savers by income, 1999



whereas 73% of RPP savers participated regularly. This gap is due to the nature of the RPP program.

In 1999, 56% of men and 46% of women taxfilers saved through an RRSP or an RPP. However, in most income groups, women were more likely to save. The higher overall participation rate for men is largely attributable to income differences between men and women.

**Retirement savings through RPPs and RRSPs, 1999** (Internet: 74F0002X1B, \$33; diskette: 74F0002XDB, \$43; paper: 74F0002XPB, \$43) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (1 888 297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; [income@statcan.ca](mailto:income@statcan.ca)), Income Statistics Division.

## New from Statistics Canada

### Perspectives on labour and income

July 2001 online edition

The July 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* features two articles. "Who contributes to RRSPs? A re-examination" assesses the effects of sex, pension coverage and age on participation in Registered Retirement Savings Plans, and "Liberal arts degrees and the labour market" compares the labour market experiences of graduates of bachelor's-level programs in humanities and social sciences with those of their counterparts from more vocation-oriented programs.

The July 2001 online edition of ***Perspectives on labour and income***, Vol. 2, no. 7 (Internet: 75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; [henry.pold@statcan.ca](mailto:henry.pold@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

### Graphical overview of the criminal justice indicators

1999/2000

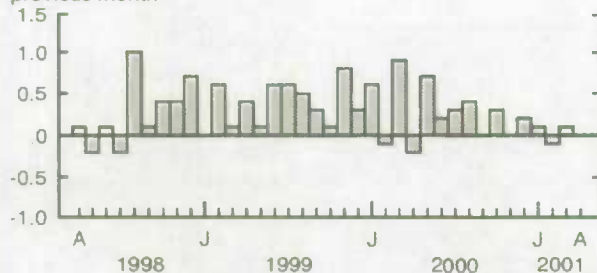
*Graphical overview of the criminal justice indicators* is a reference tool that contains 94 graphics illustrating current and historical data on crime, police administration, adult and youth court activity, the correctional population and transition homes, as well as various issues such as criminal victimization and family violence. Each graphic is accompanied by a short explanatory text. This report replaces two former publications: *A graphical overview of crime and the administration of criminal justice in Canada*, and *Juristat: Justice factfinder*.

***Graphical overview of the criminal justice indicators, 1999/2000*** (Internet: 85-227-XIE, \$26) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the Our products and services page, choose Publications for sale, then Justice. The product is also available through a print-on-demand service. For more information, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

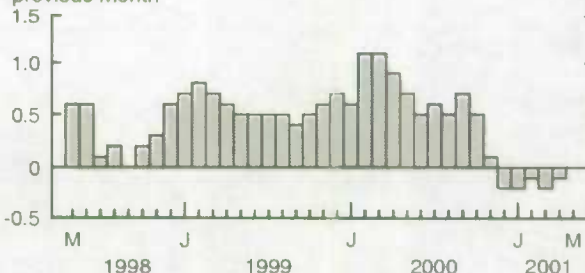
% change,  
previous month



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

### Composite Index

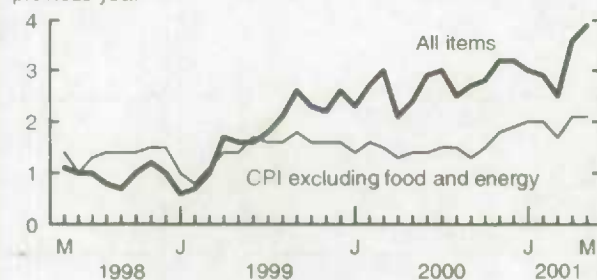
% change,  
previous month



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

% change,  
previous year



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

\$ billions



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

\$ billions



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
<b>GENERAL</b>				
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†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
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)	May*	131.5	-2.1%	0.3%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	April	31.9	-0.9%	1.4%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
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%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	May*	37.1	-0.9%	4.9%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	May*	30.1	-1.4%	-1.8%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	May*	7.0	0.1	2.3
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billions)	May*	44.6	2.1%	-0.9%
New orders (\$ billions)	May*	45.1	1.8%	0.1%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	May*	50.0	1.0%	4.6%
Inventory/shipments ratio	May*	1.47	-0.02	0.10
<b>PRICES</b>				
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

## Infomat

### A weekly review

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## Products released from July 12 to 18, 2001

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS</b> Canada's balance of international payments	Q1 2001	67-001-XIB	29/93
<b>CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS</b> Graphical overview of the criminal justice indicators	1999/2000	85-227-XIE	26
<b>DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES</b> New motor vehicle sales	May 2001	63-007-XIB	13/124
<b>INCOME STATISTICS</b> Recent developments in the low income cutoffs		75F0002MIE	no charge
Retirement savings through RRSPs and RPPs	1999	74F0002XDB	43
Retirement savings through RRSPs and RPPs	1999	74F0002XIB	33
Retirement savings through RRSPs and RPPs	1999	74F0002XPB	43
<b>INPUT-OUTPUT</b> The input-output structure of the Canadian economy	1996 and 1997	15-201-XPB	68
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b> A profile of Canadian exporters	1993 to 1999	65-506-XIE	25
<b>LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS</b> Perspectives on labour and income, Vol. 2, no. 7	July 2001	75-001-XIE	5/48
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