



Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, August 3, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ Economy makes strongest showing in seven months

Gross domestic product advanced 0.3% in May, the strongest showing in seven months. This increase was powered notably by the public sector, manufacturing and financial services.

◆ Composite Index up slightly

The leading indicator edged up 0.1% in June on continued strength in housing and an upturn in the U.S. leading index.

◆ Industrial product prices increase as raw material prices decline

While industrial product prices rose in June compared with June 2000, raw material prices declined.

◆ Foreign investors continue to buy Canadian bonds

Foreign investors added \$4.7 billion to their Canadian bond portfolios in May. Canadian investors continued to diversify into international markets.

◆ Average weekly earnings have risen slightly

Average weekly earnings for all employees rose 0.4% to \$662.05 in May. Compared with May 2000, average weekly earnings were up 1.4%.

◆ National crime rate falls for a ninth consecutive year

The national crime rate, based on data reported by police, fell for a ninth consecutive year in 2000. The 1% decline was primarily the result of a 5% drop in property crime.

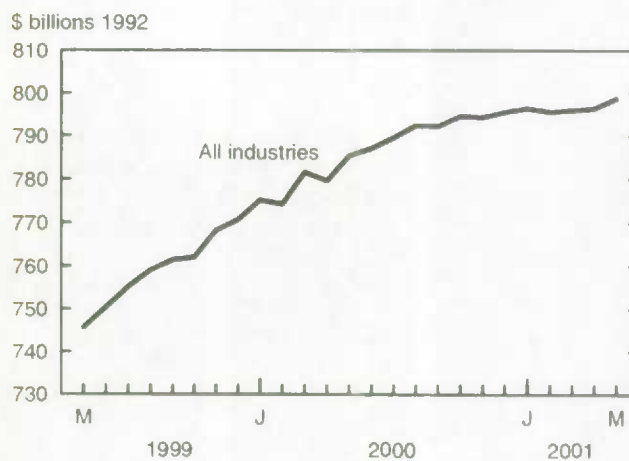
Economy makes strongest showing in seven months

Gross domestic product advanced 0.3% in May, the strongest showing in seven months. This increase was powered notably by the public sector, manufacturing and financial services. Education and provincial government services rebounded in May, following a return to work by 12,700 teaching support staff in Toronto and 18,500 public servants in Newfoundland. Also, the hiring of 37,000 canvassers to conduct the 2001 Census led to a significant burst of activity in the federal public sector.

However, the economy also owed its growth in May to the manufacturing sector, which made its best showing in 12 months (+0.9%) on the strength of increased production of autos and electronic equipment, and to the financial services industry, which saw a 1.3% increase due to a resurgent stock market. These gains were offset by a slowing of drilling and rigging in the mining sector and the effects of a strike in the construction sector. Also, with slumping demand for automobiles and computers, retail and wholesale sales declined.

Overall, 14 of 22 major industry groups, which accounted for 81.8% of manufacturing output, increased production in May. The

Gross domestic product at factor cost



(continued on page 2)



... Economy makes strongest showing in seven months

largest declines were reported by makers of furniture and beverages. Production of electrical and electronic products rose 0.8% in May, only the second increase in seven months. The steep slide in the output of telecommunications equipment ended in May, with manufacturers increasing production for the first time since August 2000. However, makers of fibre optic equipment, which have been on a similar downward trajectory, posted another decline. Production of computers and peripherals edged back down after two solid months.

Food processing plants raised output 1.6% in May, led by a rebound in the activity of fish processing plants and increased production of tea, coffee and confections.

A 1.8% increase in the wood products industry was buttressed by a second consecutive increase at sawmills. Two months after the expiry of the Canada-U.S. softwood lumber agreement, a still-buoyant U.S. home-building market was feeding demand for lumber. But May saw shipments to the United States fall, with exporters fearing the possibility of countervailing duties that may be applied retroactively.

After the outsized gain in April as a result of favourable weather conditions, drilling and rigging activity dropped 16.5%, causing mining sector output to fall 1.9% in May. The rest of the mining sector fared better, with the end of a strike in the iron mining industry and a banner month for diamond miners.

Note to readers

The gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other producers into outputs. The GDP is valued at 1992 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

The next annual revision of monthly GDP by industry estimates, scheduled for release on September 28, will include major classification and conceptual changes.

Total construction activity fell 0.8% in May, weakened by a strike of 15,000 construction workers in Quebec. Both wholesale and retail activity declined in May, the former because of continued slumping demand for computers and the latter because of a setback in auto sales.

*The May 2001 issue of **Gross domestic product by industry** (Internet: 15-001-XIE, \$11/\$110) is now available. For more information, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 887-4623; imad@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. (See also "Current Trends" on page 6.)*

Composite Index up slightly

Canada's leading economic indicator edged up 0.1% in June, after no change in April and a 0.1% decline in May. This marked the first increase since December 2000 (a gain in the preliminary estimate for February was quickly revised to a loss).

The increase originated in continued strength in housing, together with an upturn in the U.S. leading index, whereas the stock market slumped and manufacturing remained weak. Overall, three components fell, two fewer than in May.

Household demand for big-ticket items remained the most buoyant sector of the economy, as real incomes were boosted by tax cuts and lower gasoline prices. The housing index posted a third straight increase in June; housing starts rose after vacancy rates in May touched a low for the year, while existing home sales

set a new record high in June. Spending on furniture and appliances and other durable goods remained strong.

As in Canada, the U.S. leading indicator turned up—a 0.2% gain followed nearly a year of declines. The gain largely reflected the impact of a loosening of monetary policy on the money supply and the yield curve.

In Canada, manufacturing shipments firmed up, but not enough to offset another increase in inventories, and their ratio continued to slide. The trend of new orders remained negative. Demand for services was unchanged, after posting its first decline in two years in May.

*For more information, consult the July 2001 issue of **Canadian economic observer** (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227), or contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. (See also "Current Trends" on page 6.)*

Industrial product prices increase as raw material prices decline

While industrial product prices rose in June, raw materials prices declined. Manufacturers' prices, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), grew 1.7% from June 2000 to June 2001, which is a slower growth than the annual gain of 2.7% that occurred in May.

The annual increase in manufacturers' prices was primarily due to price rises for motor vehicles, lumber, and chemicals and chemical products. But the increase was slowed by falling prices for primary metal products and pulp. Petroleum and coal product prices rose only 0.9%. If these prices were excluded, the IPPI would have gained 1.8% instead of 1.7%.

In terms of monthly growth, the IPPI declined 0.9% from May. The main factors behind this decline were prices for motor vehicles, petroleum and coal products, pulp and newsprint.

For their raw materials, manufacturers paid 1.9% less in June than they did in June 2000. The decline in the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) in June was mainly due to lower prices for mineral fuels, wood products and non-ferrous metals. This decline was partially offset by higher prices for animals and animal products and vegetable products. Raw material prices in June were down 1.6% from May, mainly as a result of falling prices for mineral fuels, animals and animal products, and non-ferrous metals.

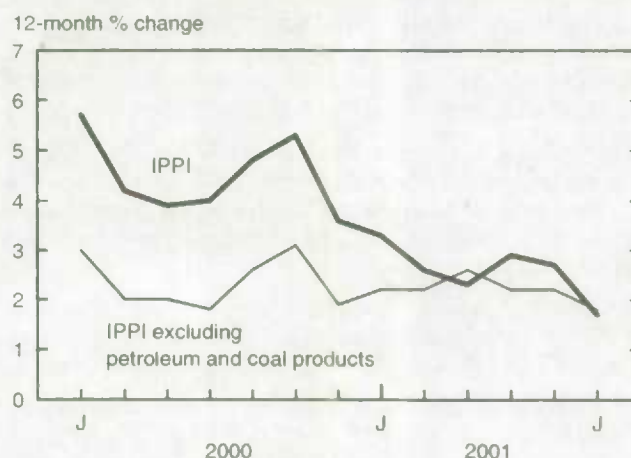
A rise in inventories led to a drop in the price of crude oil (-1.2%) and lumber (-1.7%), and this affected the IPPI. In the case of crude oil, anticipation of an agreement with Iraq to allow that country to resume oil exports also influenced the IPPI, with petroleum and coal product prices down 2.8% from May. Also, with the value of the U.S. dollar weakening against the Canadian

Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) represents the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI does not include indirect taxes and the costs that occur between the time a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession. Canadian producers exporting goods often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper and wood products. Therefore, the IPPI is affected by a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its U.S. counterpart.

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

Effect of petroleum product prices on IPPI



Industrial product and raw materials price indexes, June 2001

| | Index (1992=100) | % change, previous month | % change, previous year |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) | 129.8 | -0.9 | 1.7 |
| IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products | 127.5 | -0.8 | 1.8 |
| Intermediate goods | 130.3 | -0.9 | 1.1 |
| Finished goods | 129.1 | -0.9 | 2.8 |
| Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) | 142.4 | -1.6 | -1.9 |
| RMPI excluding mineral fuels | 122.9 | -1.8 | 0.2 |
| Mineral fuels (crude oil) | 184.8 | -1.3 | -4.7 |
| Vegetable products | 119.8 | -0.9 | 6.4 |
| Animals and animal products | 127.8 | -1.8 | 6.9 |
| Wood | 130.4 | -1.7 | -7.6 |
| Ferrous materials | 114.0 | -0.3 | -3.9 |
| Non-ferrous metals | 110.5 | -3.2 | -4.7 |
| Non-metallic minerals | 122.5 | 0.0 | 0.9 |

dollar from May to June, the exchange rate between the two currencies pushed down prices of commodities quoted in U.S. dollars. This naturally affected the IPPI. If the exchange rate had remained unchanged, the IPPI would have declined 0.4% instead of 0.9%.

The prices of finished goods increased 2.8% on an annual basis, led by rising prices for motor vehicles but also for tobacco products and paper and paper products. The prices of input goods were up 1.1% in June from a year earlier. Prices for lumber and paper and paper products were behind this increase.

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

Foreign investors continue to buy Canadian bonds

Foreign investors added \$4.7 billion to their holdings of Canadian bonds in May. This investment resulted from increased holdings of corporate bonds, partially offset by reduced holdings of public sector bonds. Since the start of 2001, purchases of Canadian bonds by foreign investors have totalled \$18.9 billion, with purchases of corporate sector bonds accounting for \$18.3 billion of this accumulation. The entire amount accumulated over the first five months of the year was acquired by U.S. investors.

In contrast, foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian equities for a second consecutive month, by \$2.1 billion in May, following \$1.0 billion in April. May's disinvestment resulted from the acquisition of a major Canadian company: its foreign-held shares were bought by a foreign direct investor. Aside from this large transaction, foreign investors purchased a small amount of existing Canadian shares in the secondary market (\$0.3 billion).

Foreign investors have invested in the Canadian money market for two consecutive months, April and May, after withdrawing \$4.9 billion in the first three months of the year. May's investment, which totalled \$0.7 billion, was split between U.S. and European investors and was directed mainly to paper of federal enterprises.

Canadian investors continued to diversify into international markets in May, purchasing \$4.3 billion worth of foreign equities. This investment resulted in part from the receipt of foreign shares in exchange for those of a Canadian company involved in a foreign direct investment takeover.

After making a small reduction in their holdings of foreign bonds in April, Canadians purchased \$1.0 billion of foreign bonds in May, all of which were U.S. treasuries.

The May 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 August. For more information, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.

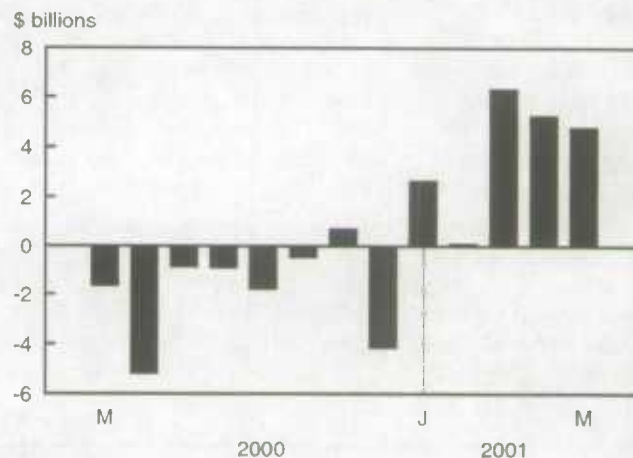
Related market information

In May, marginal declines in both Canadian and U.S. short-term interest rates caused the differential to edge up to 76 basis points from 71 points in April, further favouring investment in Canada. Both Canadian and U.S. long-term rates rose marginally. This caused the differential to slip from 19 to 17 basis points but still favoured investment in Canada.

The TSE 300 continued a slow recovery in May, advancing 2.7% following a 4.5% rise in April. May's closing marked an 8.6% decline for the year to date. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 0.5% in May after climbing 7.7% in April. So far this year, U.S. stock prices are down 4.9%.

The Canadian dollar eased back marginally in May, to close the month at 65.00 U.S. cents.

Foreign investment in Canadian bonds



Average weekly earnings have risen slightly

Average weekly earnings for all employees rose 0.4% to \$662.05 in May. Compared with May 2000, average weekly earnings were up 1.4%.

Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees were \$16.71 in May, up five cents from April. Average weekly hours for hourly paid employees were down slightly (-0.1%) to 31.5 hours.

Average weekly earnings for hourly paid employees declined slightly, as the gain in hourly earnings was offset by a reduction in paid hours.

Average weekly earnings for salaried employees rose slightly in May (+0.3%) and were up 1.6% since May 2000. Average weekly earnings for commissioned salespersons and other employees were up slightly in May after three consecutive months of declines. Gains by commissioned and other employees were mostly in service-producing industries.

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... Average weekly earnings have risen slightly

The number of employees on payrolls rose 23,500 in May. However, this increase includes the return of 14,000 employees on strike in Ontario education. Excluding education, employment in the province of Ontario declined slightly. Alberta had the only substantial employment gain (+9,000).

The May 2001 issue of *Employment, earnings and hours* (Internet: 72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240) contains detailed data by sector as well as other labour market indicators. For more information, contact Jean Leduc or Robert Frindt (613-951-4090; toll free 1-866-873-8788; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Average weekly earnings, all industries, May 2001 Seasonally adjusted

| | \$ | % change, previous month | % change, previous year |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Canada | 662.05 | 0.4 | 1.4 |
| Newfoundland | 601.01 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Prince Edward Island | 518.31 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 566.92 | 0.0 | 1.6 |
| New Brunswick | 586.74 | 0.1 | 1.3 |
| Quebec | 619.07 | 0.2 | 1.5 |
| Ontario | 709.10 | 0.4 | 1.8 |
| Manitoba | 585.35 | 0.3 | -0.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 593.94 | 0.2 | 1.2 |
| Alberta | 681.35 | 0.4 | 2.6 |
| British Columbia | 660.89 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Yukon | 747.65 | 1.0 | 0.2 |
| Northwest Territories ¹ | 850.89 | -0.9 | .. |
| Nunavut ¹ | 771.65 | -0.1 | .. |

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

.. Figures not available.

National crime rate falls for a ninth consecutive year

According to data reported by police, the rate of total *Criminal Code* offences fell for a ninth consecutive year in 2000. The 1% decline in the national crime rate was primarily the result of a 5% drop in property crime. However, increases were reported in total violent crime (+3%), as well as several other offences, including drug offences (+9%).

The property crime rate has been generally decreasing since 1991. In 2000, approximately 1.3 million property crime incidents were reported by police, resulting in the lowest property crime rate since 1973. All property crime categories contributed to the national 5% decline, particularly the drop in the rate of break-ins. Residential break-ins fell 12%, and business break-ins fell 3%.

The slight increase in the national violent crime rate in 2000 followed seven consecutive years of decline. Five provinces reported rises of 4% or more in their violent crime rate: Quebec (+8%), Prince Edward Island (+5%), Saskatchewan (+4%), Manitoba (+4%) and Ontario (+4%). Three provinces reported decreases of around 1% to 2%; British Columbia posted the largest drop.

The homicide rate, generally declining since the mid-1970s, remained unchanged at 1.8 homicides per 100,000. There were 542 homicides in 2000, four more than in 1999. The rate of assaults as a whole increased 5%, and assaults with a weapon were up 7%. The reported sexual assault rate remained stable in 2000, following six years of decline. Of the 24,049 reported incidents of sexual assault, 98% were classified by police as level 1 (the least serious level of sexual assault). The two most serious categories, sexual assault with a weapon (-17%) and aggravated sexual assault (-15%), continued to decline.

Cannabis offences accounted for three-quarters of all drug-related incidents. A 9% increase in these offences contributed to the 9% increase in the overall rate of drug offences. More than two-thirds of these were for possession. Increases were also seen

Note to readers

Data on incidents that come to the attention of the police are captured and forwarded to the CCJS via the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey according to a nationally-approved set of common scoring rules, categories and definitions. UCR data are available from 1962 at the national and provincial/territorial levels, and from 1991 onward at the Census Metropolitan Area level.

in the rate of cocaine offences (+6%) and other drug offences (+12%). Heroin offences dropped 8%.

The overall crime rate fell in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario, but it increased in Saskatchewan, Newfoundland, Quebec, Manitoba and in all three territories. Saskatchewan's crime rate of 12,730 criminal incidents for every 100,000 population was the highest among the provinces, followed by British Columbia (11,253) and Manitoba (10,723). Newfoundland continued to have the lowest crime rate (5,711), followed by Quebec (6,027). As in previous years, all three territories reported crime rates that were much higher than those of the provinces.

The youth crime rate rose slightly in 2000 (+1%) after having fallen in the previous eight years. The youth charged rate for violent offences increased 7%, while that for property offences declined 4%.

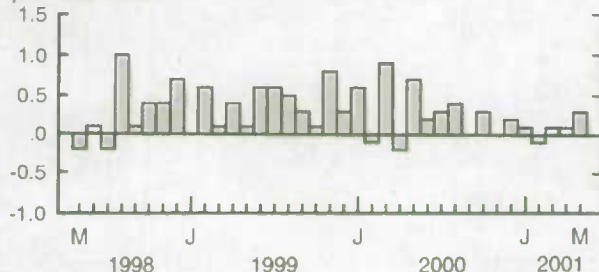
Most major categories of youth violent crime rose in 2000, including sexual assault (+18%), assault (+7%) and robbery (+2%). In 2000, 41 youths were charged with homicide, four fewer than in 1999. Though this figure fluctuates from year to year, this was well below the annual average of 51 homicides over the past 10 years.

Juristat: Canadian crime statistics, 2000, Vol. 21, no. 8 (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.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

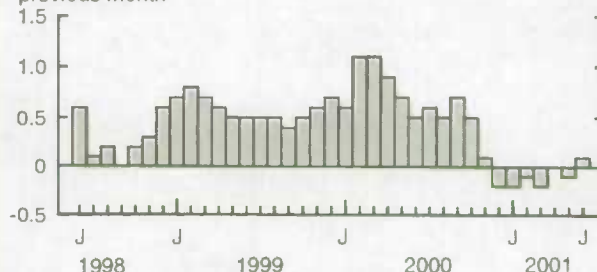
% change,
previous month



Total economic activity advanced 0.3% in May, the strongest showing in seven months.

Composite Index

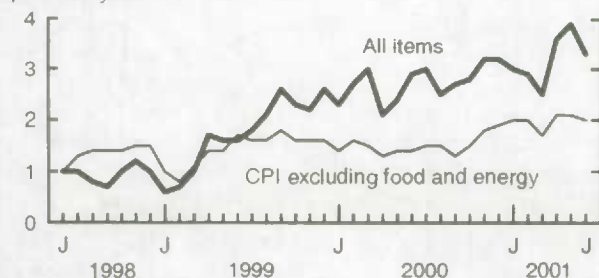
% change,
previous month



In June, the leading indicator edged up 0.1% following continued strength in housing and an upturn in the U.S. leading index.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.3% higher in June than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.0%.

Unemployment rate

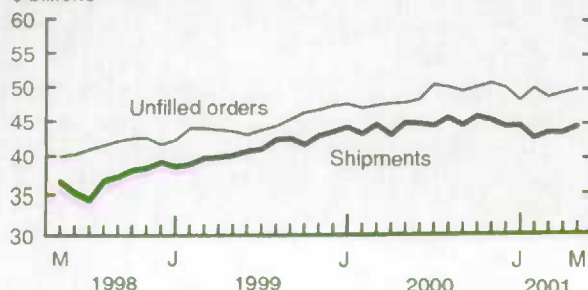
%



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

Manufacturing

\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments increased 2.1% in May to \$44.6 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders posted a 1.0% increase to \$50.0 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In May, the value of merchandise exports declined 0.9% to \$37.1 billion. Imports decreased 1.4% to \$30.1 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) | May* | 798.8 | 0.3% | 1.7% |
| Composite Index (1992=100) | June | 166.3 | 0.1% | 1.8% |
| 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) | May | 24.3 | 0.2% | 6.2% |
| Department store sales (\$ billions) | June* | 1.65 | 0.6% | 7.6% |
| New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units) | May | 131.5 | -2.1% | 0.3% |
| Wholesale trade (\$ billions) | May | 32.7 | 1.8% | 2.4% |
| 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 (\$) | May | 662.05 | 0.4% | 1.4% |
| Help-wanted Index (1996=100) | June | 161 | -1.8% | -6.4% |
| INTERNATIONAL TRADE | | | | |
| 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 |
| MANUFACTURING | | | | |
| 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 |
| PRICES | | | | |
| Consumer Price Index (1992=100) | June | 117.5 | 0.1% | 3.3% |
| Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100) | June* | 129.8 | -0.9% | 1.7% |
| Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100) | June* | 142.4 | -1.6% | -1.9% |
| 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

Editor: Lahouaria Yssaad; (613) 951-0627; lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.ca.
Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard; (613) 951-1088;
madeleine.simard@statcan.ca

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Products released from July 26 to August 1, 2001

| SUBJECT AREA Title of product | Period | Catalogue number | Price (\$) (issue/subscription) |
|---|-----------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| AGRICULTURE Stocks of frozen meat products | July 2001 | 23-009-XIE | no charge |
| GEOGRAPHY Postal code conversion file | June 2001 | 92F0027XDB | 9,000 |
| Postal codes by federal riding file | June 2001 | 92F0028XDB | 2,900 |
| INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK Private and public investment in Canada, Revised intentions | 2001 | 61-206-XIB | 33 |
| MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY Mineral wool and fibrous glass insulation, Vol. 53, no. 6 | June 2001 | 44-004-XIB | 5/47 |
| Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, Vol. 44, no. 5 | May 2001 | 25-001-XIB | 6/55 |
| Sawmills and planing mills, Vol. 55, no. 5 | May 2001 | 35-003-XIB | 9/86 |

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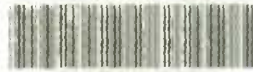
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Calendar of key releases: August 2001

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | 1 | 2 Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries. July 2001 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 Building permits. June 2001 | 8 Help-wanted Index. July 2001 | 9 | 10 Labour Force Survey. July 2001 New Housing Price Index. June 2001 |
| 13 | 14 New motor vehicle sales. June 2001 | 15 | 16 Monthly Survey of Manufacturing. June 2001 | 17 Canadian international merchandise trade. June 2001 Composite Index. July 2001 Travel between Canada and other countries. June 2001 National Survey of Giving. Volunteering and Participating* 2000 |
| 20 Wholesale trade. June 2001 | 21 Consumer Price Index. July 2001 Retail trade. June 2001 | 22 | 23 Canada's international transactions in securities. June 2001 Employment Insurance. June 2001 | 24 |
| 27 Farm cash receipts. January to June 2001 University tuition fees*. 2001/02 | 28 International travel account. Q2 2001 Employment, earnings and hours. June 2001 Estimates of production of principal field crops. July 31, 2001 | 29 Industrial Product Price and Raw Materials Price Indexes. July 2001 Characteristics of international travellers. Q1 2001 | 30 Financial statistics for enterprises. Q2 2001 | 31 National economic and financial accounts. Q2 2001 Balance of international payments. Q2 2001 Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry. June 2001 |

Note: Except for the releases marked with an asterisk, all the release dates in this calendar are fixed. A more detailed calendar of fixed release dates for the entire year is available from Statistics Canada's Web site at www.statcan.ca.

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