

Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, September 21, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ Energy accelerates growth in inflation

Consumers paid 2.8% more for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in August than they did a year earlier. After decelerating in June and July, growth in the CPI picked up slightly, as a result of the renewed impact of energy prices.

◆ Industrial capacity utilization declines again

For the fourth consecutive quarter, the rate of industrial capacity utilization has declined. The rate was 83.2% in the second quarter of 2001, down from 83.6% in the first quarter.

◆ Upward movement of new motor vehicle sales continues

The upward movement of new motor vehicle sales observed since the start of 2001 continues, despite a 0.5% drop in July.

◆ International travel to Canada is boosted

First quarter 2001 travel to Canada was boosted by increases in the number of visitors from the United States and overseas.

◆ Employers most common sponsors of adult training

In Canada, 51% of participants in adult education and training received financial support from their employer, compared with 67% in the United States, according to The International Adult Literacy Survey.

◆ University tuition fees rise at slower pace

Undergraduate arts students will pay an average of 2.1% more in tuition fees for the 2001/02 academic year, the smallest increase since 1978/79.

Energy accelerates growth in inflation

Consumers paid 2.8% more for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in August than they did a year earlier. While this was lower than the 3.9% increase posted in May, it was higher than July's rate of 2.6%.

The increase in the CPI partly reflects the renewed impact of energy prices, which accounted for about 16% of the All-items increase. While energy prices figured more prominently than in July, they still had a smaller impact than they did earlier in 2001. Led by a 33.9% jump in natural gas prices, the energy index rose 4.8% in August compared with a year earlier. Electricity and fuel oil prices also boosted the index, but lower gasoline prices moderated the increase. The CPI excluding energy rose 2.6% in August compared with a year earlier, lower than July's rate of 2.7%.

The impact of food prices lessened slightly in August, but still remained an important contributor, accounting for more than one-quarter of the All-items increase. Food prices were up 4.1% over August 2000, a slower rise than the 4.6% increases seen in June and July.

The continued influence of higher cigarette prices and rent, as well as the increased cost of housing replacement and mortgage

Consumer Price Index, August 2001

% change, previous year, not seasonally adjusted

	All items	Food	Shelter	Transportation	Energy
Canada	2.8	4.1	4.3	0.7	4.8
Newfoundland	1.1	1.9	2.6	-1.8	-1.4
Prince Edward Island	2.4	2.5	2.9	0.5	2.3
Nova Scotia	2.2	0.9	3.4	0.7	1.1
New Brunswick	1.6	1.1	1.8	-0.4	-1.7
Quebec	2.5	4.8	2.5	-0.1	-1.3
Ontario	3.4	3.8	6.1	0.9	10.7
Manitoba	2.9	4.1	2.8	2.6	7.0
Saskatchewan	3.4	3.1	8.9	1.2	13.0
Alberta	2.7	4.8	3.6	1.6	1.4
British Columbia	1.8	4.6	2.2	0.5	1.3
Whitehorse	1.7	4.4	2.2	-0.5	2.0
Yellowknife	1.7	3.9	0.3	4.9	2.0

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... Energy accelerates growth in inflation

interest, also pushed up the All-items index. This was partly offset by continuing declines in the price of computer equipment and supplies.

The month-to-month CPI remained unchanged from July to August, after dropping from June to July. Declines in the fresh vegetables and natural gas categories were mostly offset by higher gasoline and cigarette prices. Availability of local produce helped bring about a 12.5% drop in fresh vegetable prices. As for natural gas, prices fell a further 2.2% from July to August, after dropping 8.4% in July. Nonetheless, prices remained 33.9% higher than in August 2000 and 68.6% higher than in August 1999. According to the Raw Materials Price Index, wholesalers and distributors paid 120.1% more for natural gas in July 2001 than they did in July 1999.

Gasoline prices rose 1.4% in August from July, boosted by decreased production by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and declining gasoline inventories. This partly offset

Note to readers

Statistics Canada is now calculating, on behalf of the Bank of Canada, a seasonally adjusted index series for All-items excluding the eight most volatile components. This series is available on CANSIM, Statistics Canada's official database.

some of the declines that took place in June and July, but prices still remained 3.9% lower than in August 2000. Gasoline prices had been generally rising since early 1999. In August 2001, gasoline prices were 35.1% above their most recent low of February 1999. Finally, cigarette prices rose 1.5% as increased costs at the manufacturing level translated into higher consumer prices.

The August 2001 issue of the **Consumer Price Index** (Internet: 62-001-XIB, \$8/\$77; paper: 62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. For more information, call (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), or Joanne Moreau, at (613-951-7130), Prices Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)

Industrial capacity utilization declines again

For the fourth consecutive quarter, the rate of industrial capacity utilization has declined. The rate was 83.2% in the second quarter of 2001, down from 83.6% in the first quarter. As in the first quarter, the decline in the rate was largely due to falling demand for telecommunications equipment. But the

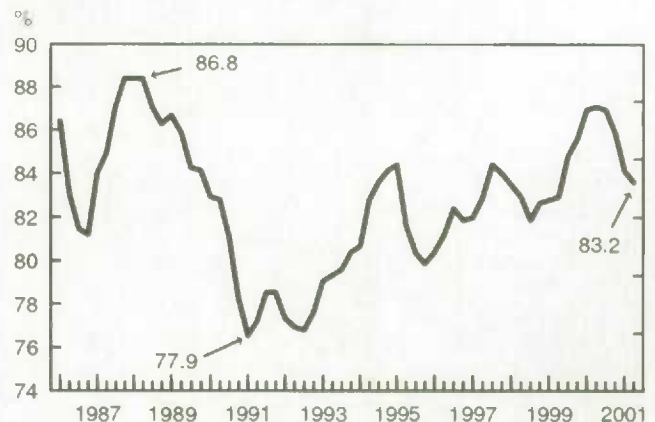
Note to readers

The industrial capacity utilization rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 1999 to reflect revisions in the source data.

Industrial capacity utilization rates, Second quarter 2001

	%	% point change, previous quarter	% point change, previous year
Total, non-farm goods-producing industries	83.2	-0.4	-2.6
Logging and forestry	83.2	2.3	-9.9
Mining (including milling) and quarrying	97.2	4.6	6.1
Crude oil and natural gas	67.9	-1.2	-2.4
Manufacturing	82.0	-0.7	-3.9
Wood	82.5	-0.1	-3.8
Furniture and fixtures	75.4	-5.7	-11.3
Primary metals	87.2	0.9	-3.9
Fabricated metal products	77.9	-2.5	-7.1
Machinery	74.5	-4.3	-9.7
Transportation equipment	89.7	5.2	0.1
Electrical and electronic products	70.9	-10.2	-25.7
Non-metallic mineral products	76.9	4.1	-3.8
Food	84.0	1.8	2.8
Beverages	83.1	-0.5	0.2
Rubber products	96.5	4.0	5.3
Plastic products	84.1	4.7	3.3
Primary textile	81.1	0.2	2.9
Textile products	69.1	-3.2	-10.6
Clothing	80.8	-1.4	-3.6
Paper and allied products	89.0	-1.4	-3.4
Printing and publishing	79.5	-0.5	-1.2
Refined petroleum and coal products	92.3	-3.8	-1.1
Chemical and chemical products	87.8	-0.3	11.2
Construction	90.3	-0.8	-0.6
Electric power	87.5	0.8	0.5
Gas distribution	70.6	-3.8	-8.3

Industrial capacity utilization rate



construction sector, which has been hit by strikes, also contributed to the decrease in the rates.

Mainly because of a 14.3% slump in the output of telecommunications equipment in June, the rate of capacity use for electrical and electronic products tumbled 10.2 percentage points to 70.9% in the second quarter of 2001. The rate has dropped 28.8 percentage points from its peak in the third quarter of 2000.

Significant decreases were also reported in fabricated metal products, machinery, and furniture and fixtures. Of the 22 industry groups in the manufacturing sector, 14 had lower rates. The rate of capacity use in the manufacturing sector was 82.0%, down 0.7 percentage points from the preceding quarter.

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... Industrial capacity utilization declines again

Lower production in most components of the fabricated metal products sector pushed the rate of capacity use down 2.5 percentage points to 77.9%. This is the first time since the first quarter of 1998 that the rate for this sector has fallen below 80.0%. Plants producing agricultural, sawmill and other machinery suffered the effects of a labour dispute in the second quarter, while shrinking demand forced other establishments to shorten their work week. As a result, the rate for machinery manufacturing fell 4.3 percentage points from the previous quarter. In the furniture and fixture manufacturing industry, the rate dropped from 81.1% in the first three months of 2001 to 75.4% in the second quarter. Lower output was reported in office and other institutional furniture manufacturing.

The second-quarter decline was slowed by a sharp increase in mining production and an upturn in the automotive industries. Exceptionally dry weather in April combined with highly favourable market conditions motivated producers to expand their exploration activities and contributed to a record rate of capacity

use of 97.2% in the mining and quarrying industries. In the automotive industries, rising U.S. demand for automotive products led to higher Canadian production of motor vehicles, which pushed the rate of capacity use in transportation equipment manufacturing up to 89.7%, an increase of 5.2 percentage points.

In the second quarter of 2001, logging and forestry industries benefited from sustained residential construction activity in Canada and the United States, along with increased demand from sawmills. The rate of capacity use rose to 83.2%, 2.3 percentage points higher than in the first quarter.

In utilities, the rate rose slightly to 85.4% as a result of a drop in the rate for the gas distribution industry, which was more than offset by a gain for electric power. The construction industry lowered its capacity use to 90.3%, as a result of a strike by 15,000 construction workers in Quebec in May.

For more information, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Upward movement of new motor vehicle sales continues

New motor vehicle sales dropped 0.5% in July compared with June. This decline followed a 1.5% gain in June. Despite July's decline, the upward movement of new motor vehicle sales observed since the start of 2001 continues. In July, 133,036 new motor vehicles were sold, about as many as the average monthly sales in 2000, a record year.

Passenger cars account for much of the upward movement of new motor vehicle sales. Passenger car sales have been growing steadily since the start of 2001, while truck sales have hardly budged.

The number of new passenger cars sold in July edged up 0.1% to 73,577 vehicles, the fifth consecutive monthly gain. Although sales of overseas-built cars were up 1.2% in July, their effect was almost offset by the 0.3% decline in sales of North American-built cars. The latter account for nearly three-quarters of all new passenger cars sold.

The popularity of new passenger cars is also reflected in their market share. Passenger cars captured 55.0% of new motor vehicle sales in July, compared with 53.0% in July 2000 and 51.0% in July 1999. Within the category of new passenger cars, overseas-built cars have seen their market share grow substantially during the last year. In July, they accounted for 28.0% of all new passenger cars sold, compared with 24.0% in July 2000. The appeal of these cars for consumers might be partly due to the weakness of some Asian currencies against the U.S. and Canadian dollars.

New truck sales were down 1.2% in July from June, when sales rose 2.4%. In all, 59,459 trucks were sold in July, down 736 units from June.

Among the provinces, July new motor vehicle sales varied widely. The only regions to report higher sales than in June were

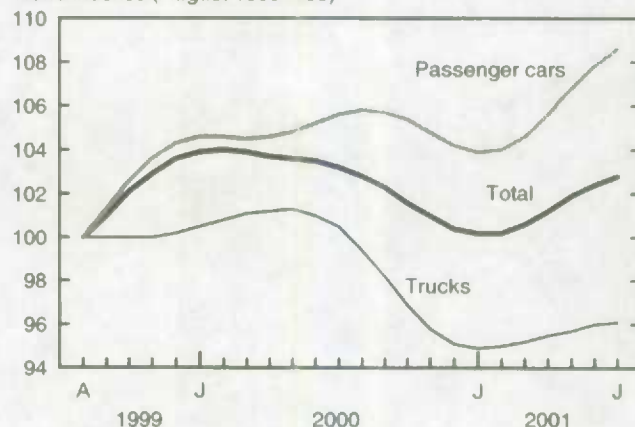
Note to readers

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.

New motor vehicle sales

Trend indexes (August 1999=100)



(continued on page 4)

... Upward movement of new motor vehicle sales continues

Prince Edward Island (+4.3%), Nova Scotia (+4.3%), the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (+4.0%) and Manitoba (+3.4%). Two regions have reported particularly robust sales growth since the start of 2001: Alberta; and the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. In Ontario, sales began moving upward again last spring.

The July 2001 issue of New motor vehicle sales (Internet: 63-007-X1B, \$13/\$124) is now available. For general information, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

International travel to Canada is boosted

A resurgence in American trips to Canada and continued growth in travel by overseas residents helped boost overall tourism in the first quarter. About 2.8 million tourists arrived from foreign countries between January and March, up 5.5% from the first quarter of 2000. Canadians, meanwhile, reported 4.8 million trips of one or more nights outside Canada—the second-highest first quarter result after the record 5.0 million trips posted in 1992. A record number of Canadians travelling to overseas countries (+4.0%) contributed to the overall growth.

U.S. residents took 2.2 million overnight trips to Canada in the first quarter, up 6.0% from the first quarter of 2000. Nearly half were holiday-related overnight trips, the highest-ever first quarter holiday figure. Business trips were up 0.4%; trips for visiting friends or family were down 4.9%.

Nearly 600,000 tourists arrived from overseas countries in the first quarter, the ninth consecutive quarterly increase at 3.8%. Overnight travel from Asian countries increased 8.5%. Traffic from Japan, Canada's second-largest overseas market, rose 7.9%. European residents, meanwhile, made 1.6% fewer trips to Canada.

Canadians took 3.2 million overnight trips to the United States, down 2.0% compared with the first quarter of 2000, marking the second consecutive year-over-year quarterly decrease. Pleasure and holiday travel was the main reason for 1.7 million Canadian trips to the U.S., down 2.1% from the first quarter of 2000.

Business-related trips declined 2.1%; trips to visit friends or family declined 3.8%. Canadians made a record 1.7 million overnight trips to overseas countries in the first quarter, up 17.6%. Travel to Asian destinations jumped 64.6%, the largest regional gain in Canadian traffic. Locations in Oceania followed with a 47.7% increase. Trips to the Caribbean jumped 29.4%.

Canadians spent almost \$2.7 billion on overnight trips to the United States in the first quarter, up 6.2% from the first quarter of 2000. Average spending rose 8.3% to \$843 per trip. Overseas, Canadians spent almost \$2.0 billion, up 16.6%, with average spending fairly steady at \$1,200 per trip.

U.S. travellers spent an estimated \$1.1 billion on their overnight trips to Canada in the first quarter (+12.5%). Travellers spent \$482 on average per trip, up 6.1% from 2000. Overseas residents spent \$0.8 billion on their overnight trips to Canada, up 14.8%. Average spending expanded 11.7% to \$1,297 per trip.

Canadian downhill ski resorts are becoming increasingly popular among U.S. travellers. About 400,000 trips, or 18.0% of first quarter overnight travel by Americans, involved downhill skiing or snowboarding. One-quarter of trips by travellers from overseas involved downhill skiing or snowboarding. This figure rises to 42.0% when only vacation/holiday trips are counted.

For more information, contact Laurie McDougall (613-951-6766) or Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Employers most common sponsors of adult training

According to the International Adult Literacy Survey conducted between 1994 and 1998, employers were the most common sponsors of adult education and training. In Canada, 51% of participants received financial support from their employer, compared with 67% in the United States. The average was 63%.

The likelihood of receiving employer support varied according to how engaged workers were in literacy practices at work. Canadian workers using these skills the most had a much higher probability (seven times) of receiving financial support from an employer for education and training than those who used workplace literacy practices the least. The likelihood of receiving support from employers was much higher for workers with high literacy skills than those with poor skills.

In Canada, 35% of the population aged 25 to 65 participated in adult education programs, compared with 39% for the United States, and 34% for the 22 countries participating in the survey. Rates were highest in Finland (56%) and lowest in Portugal (13%). On average, 10% of participants received support in some respect from government. In Canada, an estimated 17% of participants received support from the government, compared with 7% of American participants.

Individuals with relatively little schooling and those with poor literacy skills were least likely to participate in adult education programs in Canada and the United States. Adults who already possessed higher levels of educational qualifications were much more likely than those with lower qualifications to participate. The individuals who more likely to participate in adult education programs were younger adults rather than older adults; employed people rather than the unemployed; those in white-collar, high-skill jobs rather than blue-collar, lower-skill jobs; and people working for large businesses.

The training intensity in hours varied significantly across nations. While Canada had an average rate of participation, it scored high on the numbers of hours of training per capita with about 74 hours, compared with 46 hours in the United States. Canada was well above the average of 48 hours.

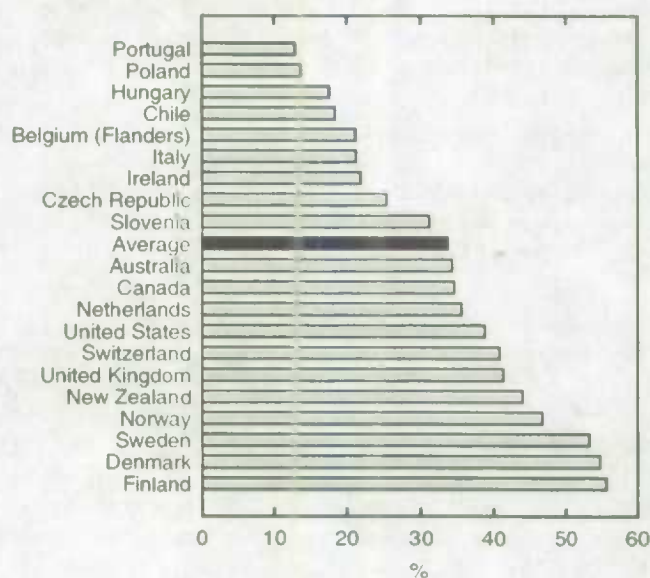
About 64% of the Canadian employed population and 58% of the U.S. employed population did not receive any job-related training during the 12 months preceding the survey interview. The major reasons for not taking adult education and training activities were a lack of time and too busy at work, and a lack of money. This pattern was stable across all countries.

Note to readers

The International Adult Literacy Survey was a 22-country initiative conducted between 1994 and 1998. In every country, nationally representative samples of adults aged 16 to 65 were interviewed and tested at home, using the same literacy test. The main purpose of the survey was to find out how well adults used printed information to function in their society. A secondary objective was to collect data on the incidence and volume of participation in adult education and training.

The definition of **adult education and training** applied in the International Adult Literacy Survey was based on this question: During the past 12 months (preceding the interview), did you receive any training or education including courses, private lessons, correspondence courses, workshops, on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, arts, crafts, recreation courses, or any other training or education?

Rate of participation in adult education and training, population aged 25-65, 1994-1998



For more information, see the monograph **Adult education participation in North America: International perspectives** (Internet: 89-574- XIE, free; paper: 89-574- XPE, \$10). For analytical information, contact Client Services, (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

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University tuition fees rise at slower pace

Undergraduate arts students will pay an average of \$3,452 in tuition fees in the 2001/02 academic year, up 2.1%, compared with 2000/01. This latest rise is the smallest since 1978/79. However, tuition in 2001/02 is double the average tuition in 1991/92: between 1990/91 and 2000/01, tuition fees rose 126.2%, or six times faster than the 20.6% increase in inflation.

For the second consecutive year, the largest average rise in tuition will be in Saskatchewan, with an increase of 12.4%. Tuition fees are rising in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Alberta, and Nova Scotia, which has the highest average undergraduate arts fees in Canada (\$4,732). The average undergraduate arts tuition at Ontario universities (\$4,062) remains the nation's second highest.

Tuition fees will drop 10.0% in Newfoundland and 2.2% in British Columbia. Manitoba will freeze its fees. For the fifth consecutive year, tuition fees will remain frozen for residents of Quebec who attend university in their home province. They will continue to pay less than half the tuition fees of university students in other provinces in virtually all fields of study. Students from other provinces attending Quebec universities face a 7.4% increase in tuition this fall.

Dentistry, medicine and law continue to be the most expensive programs of study. These programs also face the largest fee increases in 2001/02. Average dentistry fees will be highest in Saskatchewan and Ontario. Tuition fees for medicine and law will be highest in Ontario and Nova Scotia.

For the fifth consecutive year, students in graduate programs will face higher average fee increases than their undergraduate counterparts. In 2001/02, they will pay an average of \$4,360 in tuition, up 9.8% from 2000/01. Since 1997/98, fees for graduate programs have risen about 11% per year, compared with a little over 6% a year for undergraduate programs.

For international students, tuition fees at public universities in most provinces will have increases ranging from 0.5% to 39.2%, depending on the institution and field of study. The exceptions

Average tuition fees

	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01 to 2001/02 % change
	\$		
Agriculture	3,208	3,322	3.6
Architecture	3,310	3,372	1.9
Arts	3,381	3,452	2.1
Commerce	3,259	3,484	6.9
Dentistry	7,877	8,491	7.8
Education	2,829	2,894	2.3
Engineering	3,591	3,741	4.2
Household sciences	3,159	3,220	1.9
Law	4,024	4,355	8.2
Medicine	6,057	6,654	9.9
Music	3,662	3,791	3.5
Science	3,362	3,483	3.6
Undergraduate	3,403	3,528	3.7
Graduate	3,970	4,360	9.8

are Newfoundland, Manitoba and British Columbia, where such fees are frozen.

Government funding to universities rose 15.1% in 1999/2000, with additional funding provided by the provincial governments for capital expenditures, and the federal government in support of research. Despite these increases, the share of total university revenue from government grants and contracts in 1999/2000 was unchanged from the previous two years at 55%, following nearly two decades of steady decline. In 1989/90, government contributions made up 69% of university revenue; in 1999/2000, tuition fees represented 16% of total university revenue, compared with 9% in 1989/90. To help partly offset rising tuition, universities increased their expenditures on scholarships and bursaries in 1999/2000 by 23.9%. Between 1989/90 and 1999/2000, expenditures on scholarships and bursaries more than doubled from 1.5% to 3.3%.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

New from Statistics Canada

Canadian Vehicle Survey 2000

The annual *Canadian Vehicle Survey* measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada, except for some vehicles such as motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment. Vehicles covered in the survey travelled an estimated 310.5 billion kilometres. Estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only.

The Canadian Vehicle Survey, Annual, 2000 (Internet: 53-223-XIE, free) is now available. For more information, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; larocque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

Trends in personal gifts and charitable donations 1969 to 1997

The study, *Generosity in Canada: Trends in personal gifts and charitable donations over three decades, 1969 to 1997*, shows that the generosity of Canadians has been rising slowly, both in constant dollars and as a proportion of household income, for the past several decades. The study also examines the manner in which Canadians give gifts and make charitable donations.

Generosity in Canada: Trends in personal gifts and charitable donations over three decades, 1969 to 1997 (Internet: 75F0033MIE, free) is now available. For more information, contact Paul Reed (613-951-8217; reedpau@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division.

Perspectives on labour and income September 2001 online edition

The September 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* features an article that examines men and women who have retired before the age of 60. This article, titled "Early retirement trends," profiles those who retire early by level of education, industry, province and other characteristics. Another article, titled "Evolution of the Canadian workplace: Work from home," profiles those who have worked from home during the past three decades.

The September 2001 online edition of Perspectives on Labour and Income, Vol. 2, no. 9 (Internet: 75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold, (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Inter-corporate ownership Third quarter 2001

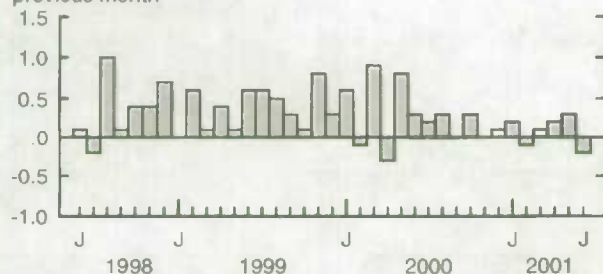
The inter-corporate ownership database tracks the ownership of the largest 85,000 corporations in Canada. Based on non-confidential returns filed by Canadian corporations under the *Corporations Returns Act*, this is a unique database of "who owns whom" in Canada. It contains legal corporate names, the country of control, the SIC code, the province of the head office, the enterprise parent name and the percentage of voting rights owned. Users can search, sort, evaluate and download data by company name, company types, industry, province, country of ownership, and more.

The third quarter 2001 issue of Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM (61-517-XCB) is now available. An annual subscription with quarterly updates is \$995; a single copy without updates is \$350. For more information, contact Jeannine D'Angelo (613-951-2604; jeannine.dangelo@statcan.ca), Client Services Unit, or Pierre Guèvremont (613-951-2617; pierre.guevremont@statcan.ca), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

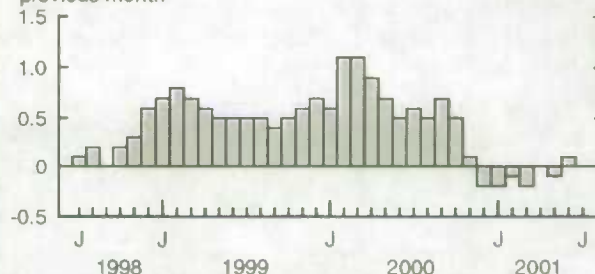
% change,
previous month



Total economic activity declined 0.2% in June, after a 0.3% advance in May.

Composite Index

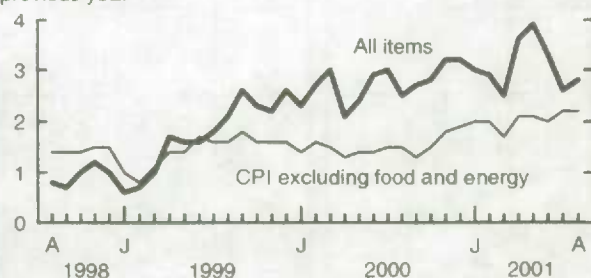
% change,
previous month



The leading indicator was unchanged (0.0%) in July, pulled down by a moderation in housing.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.8% higher in August than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.2%, unchanged from July.

Unemployment rate

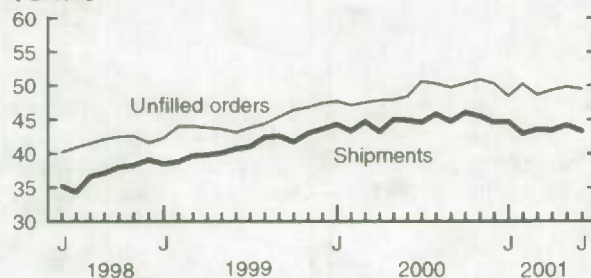
%



In August, the unemployment rate edged up to 7.2% as a result of a small drop in employment and an increase in labour force participation.

Manufacturing

\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments declined 1.9% in June to \$43.3 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders posted a 0.6% decrease to \$49.5 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In June, the value of merchandise exports declined 1.4% to \$36.1 billion. Imports increased 0.8% to \$30.3 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)	June	797.6	-0.2%	1.2%
Composite Index (1992=100)	July	166.2	0.0%	1.1%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q2 2001	44.7	0.6%	-11.3%
Capacity utilization rate (%)	Q2 2001	83.2	-0.4†	-2.6†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	June	24.2	-0.3%	5.2%
Department store sales (\$ billions)	July	1.72	3.3%	8.7%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	July*	133.0	-0.5%	0.1%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	July*	32.9	-0.4%	1.5%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August	15.1	-0.1%	1.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	August	7.2	0.2†	0.1†
Participation rate (%)	August	65.9	0.1†	-0.1†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	June	661.38	0.2%	1.3%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	August	153	-1.3%	-12.6%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	July*	35.5	-0.4%	0.2%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	July*	30.2	0.0%	-1.3%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	July*	5.4	-0.1	0.5
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	July*	43.0	-0.2%	-3.5%
New orders (\$ billions)	July*	43.6	1.7%	-6.8%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	July*	50.0	1.2%	-1.3%
Inventory/shipments ratio	July*	1.52	0.00	0.11
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	August*	117.1	0.0%	2.8%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	July	128.9	-0.6%	0.9%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	July	138.9	-1.7%	-2.0%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	July	106.3	0.3%	3.0%

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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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
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