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Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, November 9, 2001

OVERVIEW

- **Economic performance improves slightly**

  Gross domestic product advanced 0.1% in August. The slight improvement, only the fifth increase in the past 12 months, occurred just before the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

- **Marginal increase in unemployment rate**

  The unemployment rate increased slightly in October, from 7.2% to 7.3%. Employment was unchanged.

- **Nearly half of manufacturers concerned about declining orders**

  About 46% of manufacturers reported concern about declining orders in the last three months of 2001, and only 8% remained positive about the prospects of increasing production.

- **Homicide rate stable**

  The national homicide rate in 2000 was 1.8 per 100,000 population, unchanged from 1999. There were 542 homicides last year, four more than the year before.

- **Business e-commerce: a growing source of revenue**

  Electronic commerce is becoming an established feature of the business landscape. From 1999 to 2000, the value of Internet orders received by the private sector grew 73%.

- **Household e-commerce: more buying than browsing**

  Household purchases of goods and services online from home more than doubled in 2000, to $1.1 billion.

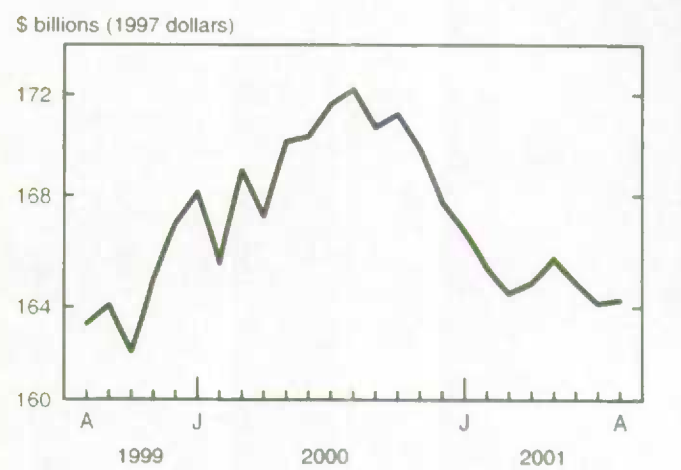
Economic performance improves slightly

Gross domestic product (GDP) remained largely flat for the fourth consecutive month in August. GDP increased a marginal 0.1%, but the slight improvement, which was only the fifth in the past 12 months, occurred just before the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

There were pockets of strength in new home-building, wholesale trade, oil production, and the information and cultural service industries. The manufacturing sector, in decline since October 2000, edged higher in August. Growth in chemicals and in paper helped to offset the continuing deterioration of the electronic products industries.

The output of manufacturing industries rose a marginal 0.1% in August, after eight monthly declines over the past 12 months. GDP in this sector has fallen 4.6% since August 2000. Producers of electronic equipment continued to struggle as output dropped for the twelfth consecutive month. This weakness was largely offset by higher output of chemical and paper products.

Manufacturing output



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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

... Economic performance improves slightly

Chemical products advanced 2.0%, a result of strong growth in pharmaceuticals and cleaning compounds. The output of petrochemicals abated sharply, however. Reduced prices shrank margins, and producers geared down for current and upcoming maintenance shutdowns.

Led by newsprint, output in the paper industry was up 1.2% in August. Output of wood products grew 0.9%, largely in response to the surge in new home-building. Exports of lumber to the United States fell sharply, as the U.S. Department of Commerce announced a countervailing duty on August 10 that applies to all softwood lumber exported since May 20.

The output of computers and electronic equipment fell 3.2% in August. Telephone equipment production was 59% lower than in August 2000. Producers of communications and energy wire and cable also lowered output, as sluggish international demand continued to plague the industry. Motor vehicle assembly dropped for the eighth time in 12 months, declining 1.5% in August.

The output of petroleum refineries rose strongly for a second consecutive month in August (+3.6%). This is attributed to stockpiling, as a major refinery announced a maintenance shutdown that was to begin near the end of September. Accordingly, oil and gas extraction expanded 0.6%. The drilling and rigging industry also expanded, although it was still significantly below its April peak, as prices for oil and gas products were reduced substantially from previous highs. Metal mine output fell greatly in August as almost all components reported declines. The output of non-metal mines grew sharply, as improvements to the diamond recovery process increased diamond output.

> *Note to readers*
>
> *The estimates of gross domestic product are seasonally adjusted at annual rates and are valued at 1997 prices.*

Wholesaling activity jumped 1.1% after a modest decline in July, with strength concentrated in automotive products. Retail trade, which has been sluggish since April, saw a lacklustre 0.2% gain in August. The output of information and cultural industries advanced 0.7% in August, bolstered by increased sales of telecommunications services, television and radio broadcasting, software publishing and motion pictures. Transportation services decelerated 0.7%, as trucks, trains and ships all carried less freight and cargo during the month.

For more details, consult the August 2001 issue of ***Gross domestic product by industry*** *(Internet: 15-001-XIE, $11/$110). A print version is available on demand. To purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-4623; imad@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Hans Messinger (613-951-3621; hans.messinger@statcan.ca) or Jo Ann MacMillan (613-951-7248; joann.macmillan@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)*

Marginal increase in unemployment rate

Employment was unchanged in October, while the unemployment rate increased from 7.2% in September to 7.3% in October. A decline in full-time employment (-26,000) was offset by a similar increase in part-time work (+28,000). The increase in part-time employment follows four consecutive declines. However, October's loss of full-time employment follows total gains of 93,000 in the previous two months.

Total hours worked, which had been on a downward trend since January, fell sharply in October (-3.3%). Factors contributing to this large drop include a shift from full- to part-time work, an unusually large number of workers taking time off during the week of Thanksgiving, and fewer people working overtime.

In October, employment increased by 23,000 in trade, the second consecutive increase. Employment gains in the industry totalled 70,000, or +3.0%, since March. This growth in employment is consistent with the upward trend in sales. Employment rose in accommodation and food services (+27,000), offsetting most of the decline in September. The problems encountered by the restaurant industry immediately after September 11 were likely associated with the terrorist attacks: events were cancelled, and fewer people dined in restaurants.

Employment expanded in education (+11,000) and construction (+7,000). Recent job gains in construction offset losses in the summer, raising employment in the industry 6.3% since October 2000.

Employment in manufacturing, meanwhile, fell 31,000, bringing losses since the beginning of 2001 to 75,000. October's decline was centred in Ontario (-25,000). At the national level, the largest decline was in computer and electronic products manufacturing. Air transportation employment fell slightly in October. While some of this decline may be related to the events of September 11, it continues a longer-term downward trend for the industry.

Employment was essentially unchanged for youths (aged 15 to 24), as a loss of 15,000 full-time jobs was offset by an increase in part-time work. Employment among adult men (aged 25 and over) increased 12,000. An increase in labour force participation drove their unemployment rate to 6.2% from 6.0%. Conversely, employment among adult women edged down 9,000 jobs.

October saw little change in the number of private and public sector employees. The number of self-employed was also little changed.

At the provincial level, employment fell 14,000 in British Columbia, bringing total losses since the start of 2001 to 52,000. October's declines were in manufacturing as well as in health care and social assistance. The unemployment rate rose

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... Marginal increase in unemployment rate

0.5 percentage points to 8.2%. In Ontario, employment continued to contract (-3,000) in October; losses since May totalled 29,000.

Employment in Quebec edged up 5,000, following an increase of 24,000 in September. So far in 2001, employment in the province expanded 1.5%. The unemployment rate in October was little changed at 8.5%. Employment rose in Nova Scotia (+4,000), New Brunswick (+3,000), and in Manitoba (+4,000). Employment was little changed in the other provinces.

*For more details, consult **Labour force information** (Internet: 71-001-PIB, $8/$78; paper: 71-001-PPB, $11/$103). For general information or to order data, contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 8.)*

Labour Force Survey, October 2001
Seasonally adjusted[1]

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	**16,282.0**	**0.2**	**15,095.4**	**0.0**	**1,186.6**	**7.3**
Newfoundland	252.9	0.9	212.9	0.4	40.1	15.9
Prince Edward Island	75.3	0.7	66.0	0.0	9.3	12.4
Nova Scotia	475.9	1.1	429.7	1.0	46.3	9.7
New Brunswick	376.4	0.0	336.6	0.8	39.8	10.6
Quebec	3,825.6	0.2	3,501.7	0.1	323.9	8.5
Ontario	6,374.6	0.0	5,955.7	0.0	418.9	6.6
Manitoba	592.1	0.4	562.9	0.8	29.2	4.9
Saskatchewan	497.7	0.0	468.0	-0.2	29.6	5.9
Alberta	1,718.8	0.7	1,641.3	0.1	77.5	4.5
British Columbia	2,092.7	-0.1	1,920.6	-0.7	172.1	8.2

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

Nearly half of manufacturers concerned about declining orders

Manufacturers were increasingly concerned about the volume of their production and the prospects for employment in the fourth quarter. About 34% of manufacturers said that they expected to reduce output during the next three months, more than double the proportion of 16% in October 2000. At the same time, nearly 58% of manufacturers reported their output would be about the same, compared with about 55% in July and 65% a year ago.

Some manufacturers said they were finding it extremely difficult to assess their economic prospects for the fourth quarter. Many specifically mentioned the uncertainty caused by the September 11 terrorist attacks, as well as the current economic slowdown. Only 8% of manufacturers remained positive about the prospects of increasing production.

Employment prospects in manufacturing remained uncertain for the fourth quarter. About 24% of manufacturers said their work force would drop in the next three months, a substantial increase from 17% in July and double the proportion of 12% in October 2000. Indications of decreasing employment levels were widespread across the major industry groupings. The indications were strongest in four industries: transportation equipment, wood products, fabricated metal products and textiles. About two-thirds (67%) of manufacturers said their employment levels would remain constant.

Almost one-half (48%) of manufacturers said their backlog of unfilled orders was lower than normal, compared with 40% in July and 21% in October 2000. As well, only 4% reported that the level was higher than normal, compared with 6% in July and 8% in October 2000. The greatest level of concern regarding the backlog of unfilled orders came from producers in four industries: transportation equipment, primary metals, paper and electrical and electronic products.

According to the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, unfilled orders in August eased back 0.5% to $49.3 billion. Unfilled orders have generally been edging down since peaking in November 2000 at $50.9 billion.

About 46% of manufacturers reported concern about declining orders received in the last three months, compared with 41% in July, and more than twice the level of 18% in October 2000. This was the largest proportion showing dissatisfaction with new orders since 48% so reported in March 1991. Manufacturers in the primary metals, transportation equipment, and paper industries expressed the greatest level of concern about orders received.

About 80% of manufacturers said they were satisfied with their current level of finished product inventory. A similar

(continued on page 4)

... Nearly half of manufacturers concerned about declining orders

proportion of manufacturers reported little in the way of production impediments in October, unchanged from July. A shortage of skilled labour continued to be a concern for 7% of manufacturers and 2% reported a shortage of unskilled labour.

For general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Claude Robillard (613-951-3507; robilcg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Manufacturers' expectations and business conditions
Seasonally adjusted

	October 2000	January 2001	April 2001	July 2001	October 2001
	% of manufacturers who said				
Volume of production in next three months will be:					
About the same as in previous three months	65	43	59	55	58
Higher	19	16	14	17	8
Lower	16	41	27	28	34
Orders received are:					
About the same	70	42	54	52	49
Rising	12	13	12	7	5
Declining	18	45	34	41	46
Backlog of unfilled orders is:					
About normal	71	55	55	54	48
Higher than normal	8	10	6	6	4
Lower than normal	21	35	39	40	48
Finished-product inventory is:					
About right	80	66	74	70	79
Too low	3	3	5	2	1
Too high	17	31	21	28	20
Employment in next three months will:					
Change little from previous three months	71	65	72	72	67
Increase	17	17	9	11	9
Decrease	12	18	19	17	24

Homicide rate stable

There were 542 victims of homicide in 2000, four more than in 1999. The national homicide rate, at 1.8 homicides per 100,000, remained unchanged from 1999. Generally declining since the mid-1970s, the rate was the lowest since 1967. Canada's rate was less than one-third that of the United States, and similar to those of France and Australia.

Gang-related slayings accounted for one out of every eight homicides in 2000. There were 71 victims of gang-related homicides, up from 45 in 1999, and more than triple the 21 in 1995; just over one-half occurred in the province of Quebec. Police charged 41 youths with committing homicide, four fewer than in 1999 and eleven fewer than the average since 1990. During this period, the rate of youths charged with homicide per 100,000 youths remained relatively stable, while the homicide rate for accused adults declined.

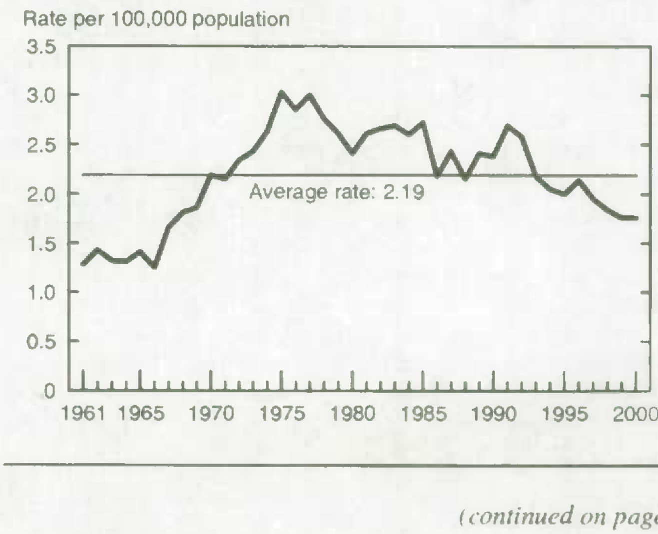
Firearms accounted for 34% of all homicides, stabbing deaths accounted for 28%, and beating deaths accounted for 23%. The remaining 15% of victims were killed by other means, such as strangulation, shaking (Shaken Baby Syndrome) or poisoning.

Almost three-quarters of homicide victims were male, slightly higher than the average of about two-thirds. Of the accused, nine in ten were male. Two-thirds of all persons accused of homicide,

Note to readers

The Criminal Code classifies homicide as first degree murder, second degree murder, manslaughter or infanticide. Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicide, accident or justifiable homicide are not included.

Homicide in Canada



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... Homicide rate stable

as well as half of all homicide victims, had a criminal record. Most victims of homicide knew their killer; only 17% were killed by a stranger, and one-half were killed by an acquaintance. More than half the 27 murder-suicide incidents in 2000 were family-related.

About one-third of all solved homicides were committed by a family member. Family-related homicides, however, continued to decline. A total of 129 homicides were family-related in 2000, 15 fewer than in 1999, and substantially fewer than the peak of 202 in 1991. Spousal homicides (married, common-law, separated or divorced) have been declining since the early 1990s. In 2000, three in four victims of spousal homicide were female. In addition to the 51 women killed by a current or ex-spouse, a further 16 females were killed by a current or ex-boyfriend. In comparison, 16 men were killed by a current or ex-spouse, and two by a current or ex-girlfriend. In all, 55% of all female homicide victims were killed by someone with whom they had an intimate relationship, compared with 6% of male victims.

Homicide rates were generally higher in the western provinces. Manitoba recorded the highest rate (2.6 homicides per 100,000 population), followed by Saskatchewan (2.5) and British Columbia (2.1). The lowest rates were in Newfoundland (1.1), New Brunswick (1.3) and Ontario (1.3). Among Canada's nine largest metropolitan areas, Winnipeg reported the highest homicide rate, at 2.5 per 100,000 population, followed by Montréal (2.1) and Toronto (1.7). Ottawa reported the lowest rate (1.0). Among the remaining 17 metropolitan areas with populations of over 100,000, Regina (3.5) had the highest rate, and Hull (0.4), the lowest.

For more details, consult the report ***Juristat: Homicide in Canada, 2000*** *(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.*

Business e-commerce: a growing source of revenue

Electronic commerce is becoming an established feature of the business landscape. From 1999 to 2000, the value of orders received by the private sector over the Internet (with or without online payment) grew 73% to $7 billion. The proportion of revenue generated by e-commerce doubled, from 0.2% of total operating revenue, to 0.4%.

Over the same period, the proportion of businesses selling online declined, as selling on the Internet became more concentrated among fewer, but larger, businesses. By contrast, the proportion of businesses buying goods or services on the Internet grew; nearly one in five private enterprises bought goods or services online.

In addition to buying and selling goods and services on the Internet, 10% of private enterprises used Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) over proprietary networks. EDI used over proprietary networks was most prevalent in health care, finance and insurance, utilities, wholesale trade and manufacturing industries. The use of other information and communications technologies generally advanced from 1999 to 2000, and the percentage of employees with Internet access rose.

The public sector has been leading in the use of these technologies; nearly all public sector institutions used the Internet in 2000. Close to three-quarters of them had a website, and those sites were generally more sophisticated than those in the private sector. More public sector institutions used e-mail, and a higher percentage of public sector employees had direct access to e-mail.

The fifth issue of the Connectedness Series, ***Electronic commerce and technology use*** *(Internet: 56F0004MIE, free), is available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the* Our products and services *page, choose* Research papers *(free), then* Communications. *For more information, contact Greg Peterson (613-951-3592, greg.peterson@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information.*

Household e-commerce: more buying than browsing

Canadians more than doubled purchases of goods and services online from home in 2000. From January to December 2000, an estimated 1.5 million households placed 9.1 million orders, spending an estimated $1.1 billion. This compares with spending of about $417 million for 3.3 million orders placed by an estimated 806,000 households during the previous survey period (December 1998 to November 1999).

Despite the substantial increase in household e-commerce, the value of orders placed over the Internet constituted a fraction of the $591 billion in total personal expenditure in Canada in 2000. Of every $7 of e-commerce spending on goods and services, $4 was purchased directly from Canadian sites. In all, 2.6 million households used the Internet to support purchasing decisions, either by window-shopping, or by placing an order online.

Households shifted their use of the Internet from a research tool for honing purchasing decisions to a means for household members to make an online purchase. In 1999, "window-shopper households" comprised the majority of Internet shoppers. The situation was reversed in 2000, when "e-commerce households" were the majority. About 12.3% of the nation's estimated 11.8 million households placed an order over the Internet at home from January to December 2000, becoming e-commerce households. An additional 9.6% of households, or about 1.1 million, used the Internet to narrow their purchasing decisions, but did not commit to ordering or purchasing online. Concerns about the security of online financial transactions and privacy might have played a role in both the frequency and intensity of household e-commerce.

The popularity of products purchased online also changed between the two periods. In 2000, 31% of e-commerce households ordered clothing, jewellery, and accessories online, compared with 24% the year before. Computer software was purchased by 22% of members of e-commerce households in 2000, down from 36% in 1999. Similarly, music was purchased by 21% of households in 2000, compared with 30% in 1999. Households that bought products or services online in 2000 placed an average of 6.2 orders, up from 4.1 orders in 1999. The average value of each order remained at $121.

Households in the more populated provinces, with higher Internet usage rates, were the heaviest users of e-commerce from home. Ontario e-commerce households spent an estimated $529 million online in 2000, almost half the national total. Alberta followed with $160 million, British Columbia with $145 million. Quebec recorded the biggest percentage gain in the value of e-commerce, almost quadrupling to $144 million, possibly the result of growth in Internet household penetration rates.

For more information, contact Jonathan Ellison (951-5882, jonathan.ellison@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

Note to readers

Data for this article came from the 2000 Household Internet Use Survey (HIUS). This was the second year in which electronic commerce questions were asked in the four years of the survey. Residents of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, persons living on Indian reserves, full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces and inmates of institutions were excluded.

Household Internet use

	1999	2000	1999	2000
	'000		%[1]	
Total households	**11,632**	**11,842**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Internet, use any location	4,865	6,075	41.8	51.3
Internet, home use	3,340	4,753	28.7	40.1
Internet shopper	1,776	2,594	15.3	21.9
Window shopper	971	1,134	8.3	9.6
e-commerce	806	1,460	6.9	12.3
e-payment	613	1,154	5.3	9.7

[1] *Percentages do not add up to 100%.*

New from Statistics Canada

Market research handbook
2001

The latest edition of the *Market research handbook* helps businesses locate target markets, track their market share, and assess their competitive position by providing accurate and timely statistics on the changing demographics, standards of living and economic characteristics of Canadian society.

Featuring the latest data from the 1996 Census and a wide range of surveys, the 2001 edition incorporates several features, including a user's guide, annotated charts to reveal salient trends, help lines for each of the data sources, and references to CANSIM, Statistics Canada's Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System.

The 2001 edition of the ***Market research handbook*** *(Internet: 63-224-XIB, $94; paper: 63-224-XPB, $125) is now available. For more information, contact Serge Bourret (613-951-0821), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.*

Self-Sufficiency Project
1998 (preliminary)

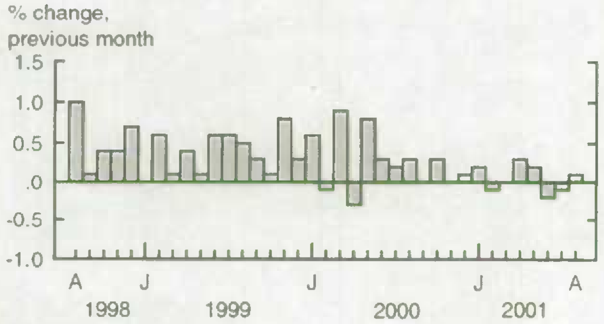
The latest report on the *Self-Sufficiency Project* contains data from the third follow-up survey of welfare applicants in British Columbia. Conducted in that province and in the province of New Brunswick, the project was designed to evaluate the effect of the earnings supplement on the employment rates, earnings, family income, income assistance receipt and other outcomes.

In conjunction with Statistics Canada, the *Self-Sufficiency Project* is a research demonstration project managed by the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation and funded by Human Resources Development Canada.

The report, ***When financial incentives pay for themselves: Interim findings from the Self-Sufficiency Project's applicant study****, is now available. To obtain a copy, contact Elizabeth Rodgers (613-230-1007 ext. 5000; info@srdc.org), Social Research and Demonstration Corporation. For more information, contact Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (613-237-4311), or Hélène Lavoie (613-951-2898), Special Surveys Division, Statistics Canada.*

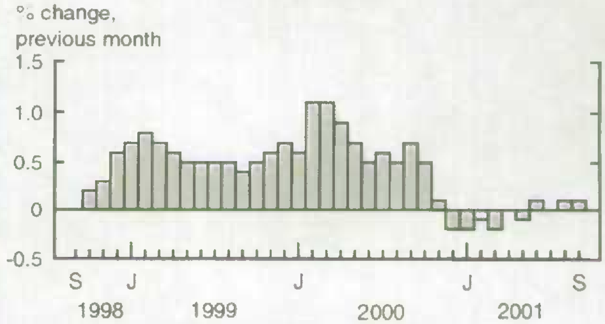
Current trends

Gross domestic product



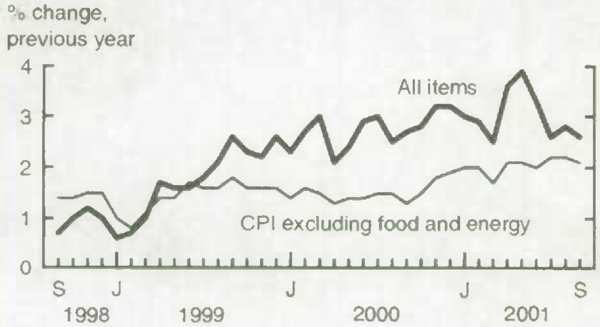
Total economic activity increased a marginal 0.1% in August, after a 0.1% reduction in July.

Composite Index



The leading indicator edged up 0.1% in September, as household demand continued to offset weak business spending.

Consumer Price Index

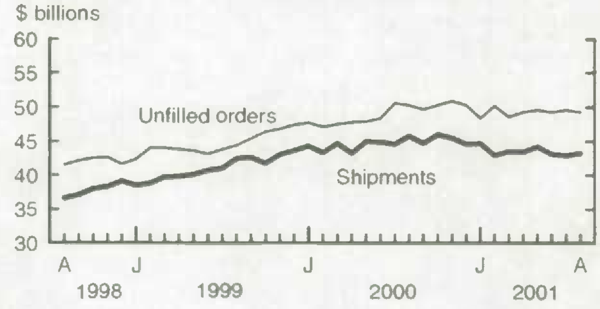


Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.6% higher in September than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.1%.

Unemployment rate

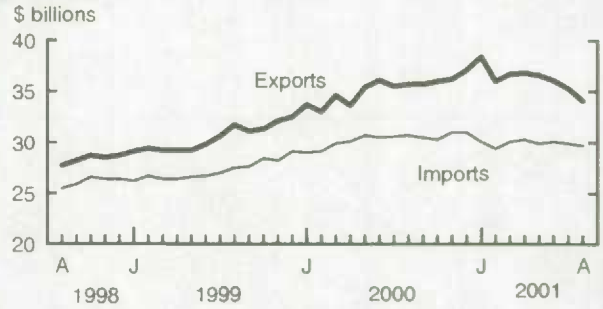
In October, the unemployment rate increased slightly to 7.3%.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments increased 0.7% in August to $43.2 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders posted a 0.5% decrease to $49.3 billion.

Merchandise trade



In August, the value of merchandise exports fell 3.4% to $34.1 billion. Imports declined 0.9% to $29.7 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, 1997)[1]	August	939.8	0.1%	0.4%
Composite Index (1992=100)	September	166.4	0.1%	0.0%
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)	August	24.3	0.3%	3.6%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	August	135.8	1.9%	-1.9%
Wholesale trade ($ billions)	August	33.2	0.8%	4.1%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	October*	15.1	0.0%	0.8%
Unemployment rate (%)	October*	7.3	0.1†	0.4†
Participation rate (%)	October*	65.9	0.1†	-0.1†
Average weekly earnings ($)	August	668.52	0.4%	1.8%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	October*	140	-5.4%	-20.9%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	August	535.0	-1.4%	7.8%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billions)	August	34.1	-3.4%	-4.4%
Merchandise imports ($ billions)	August	29.7	-0.8%	-3.4%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billions)	August	4.4	-1.0	-0.5
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billions)	August	43.2	0.7%	-5.6%
New orders ($ billions)	August	43.0	-0.6%	-5.5%
Unfilled orders ($ billions)	August	49.3	-0.5%	-1.9%
Inventory/shipments ratio	August	1.50	-0.01	0.11
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	September	117.4	0.3%	2.6%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	September	129.2	0.5%	0.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	September	135.4	-2.4%	-9.8%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	August	106.5	0.2%	2.9%

Note: *All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.*
* *new this week*
† *percentage point*
[1] *1997 replaces 1992 as the base year used in determining prices for gross domestic product by industry. Also, valuation has been changed from factor cost to basic prices.*

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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