



# Infommat

## A Weekly Review

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Friday, November 16, 2001

### OVERVIEW

#### ◆ Second monthly decline in building permits

The value of building permits issued by municipalities in September was \$3.2 billion, down 1.2% from August, but 4.4% above the monthly average in 2000.

#### ◆ Family income reaches new high

Canadians continue to rebound from the recession of the early 1990s. Average after-tax family income reached an estimated \$51,473 in 1999, up 1.9% from 1998.

#### ◆ One-half of job vacancies in retail trade and consumer services

Half the job vacancies in profit-oriented firms in 1999 were found in retail trade and consumer services, two sectors which pay low wages and have high rates of labour turnover.

#### ◆ University enrolment highest for women

Among the age group 18 to 24, women accounted for 54.2% of all full-time undergraduate university students in 1992/93. Seven years later, in 1999/2000, they accounted for 57.1%.

#### ◆ Television viewing remains stable

Viewers watched 21.5 hours of television a week in the fall of 2000, virtually unchanged from 1999. Canadian programming was more popular among francophones than anglophones.

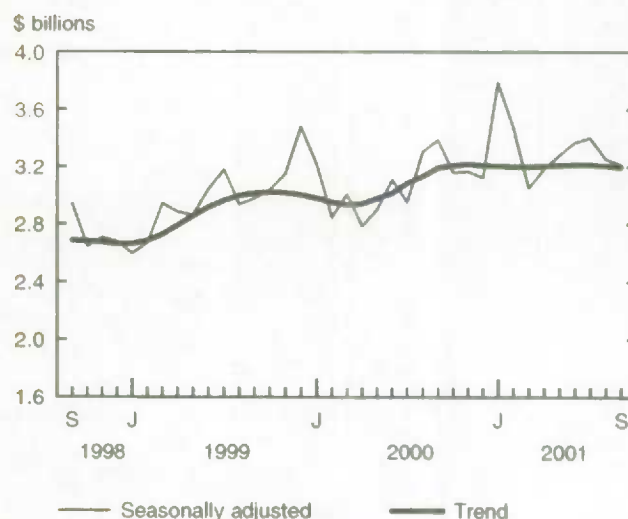
### Second monthly decline in building permits

The value of building permits issued by municipalities in September was \$3.2 billion, down 1.2% from August, but 4.4% above the monthly average recorded in 2000.

The value of non-residential permits fell 3.0% to \$1.4 billion. The reduction came solely from declines in projects valued at less than \$1 million. Permits worth more than \$1 million, which generally result from decisions made several months before, remained stable. Thus, any possible impact of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States on non-residential building permits may not yet be fully seen.

Declines in the value of projects in the trade and service category, and in the office buildings group reduced the value of commercial building permits to \$581 million, down 17.6% from August and the lowest value since January 1998. Permits in the industrial component rose 12.7% to \$332 million in the wake of a strong gain in the transportation building category. The institutional component rebounded with a 10.4% gain to \$468 million due to projects in the medical and hospital category.

Total value of building permits



(continued on page 2)



### ... Second monthly decline in building permits

The largest decline in non-residential permits (in dollars) occurred in Ontario (-11.3% to \$514 million), driven mainly by retreats in institutional and commercial permits in the Toronto area. In contrast, the largest increase was in British Columbia (+43.3% to \$215 million), largely because of projects in the medical and hospital category.

The value of housing permits rose a marginal 0.2% to \$1.8 billion. Permits for multi-family dwellings rose 4.6% to \$493 million. However, single-family dwelling construction intentions declined 1.4% to \$1.3 billion. Western Canada accounted for September's rise in housing permits, while all provinces east of Saskatchewan posted declines.

In the first nine months of 2001, municipalities issued a total of \$30.0 billion in permits, up 9.2% from the same period in 2000. Both the residential and non-residential sectors contributed to this strong showing. The cumulative value of building permits has not surpassed the \$30-billion mark as early as September since 1989. The largest growth (in dollars) was in the Montréal area, where office building projects provided most of the advance. The value of permits in the Vancouver area also rose substantially, powered by strong construction intentions for multi-family dwellings.

The total value of non-residential building permits to the end of September was \$13.6 billion, up 11.3% from the same period of 2000 and the best performance for any first-nine-month period since 1989. The value of residential building permits totalled \$16.4 billion, up 7.4% from the same period of 2000.

For more details, see the September 2001 issue of *Building permits* (Internet: 64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145). To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; [clarver@statcan.ca](mailto:clarver@statcan.ca)). For more information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; [saineti@statcan.ca](mailto:saineti@statcan.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

**Value of building permits by census metropolitan area**  
Seasonally adjusted

	September 2001	August to September 2001	January to September 2001	January- September 2000 to January- September 2001
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	11.2	-50.7	138.8	6.5
Halifax	22.9	-3.0	256.5	-35.3
Saint John	4.9	-56.7	61.1	-15.7
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	26.3	86.4	147.2	42.2
Québec	55.0	-12.1	511.9	21.5
Sherbrooke	16.4	123.5	108.7	10.8
Trois-Rivières	7.8	-26.3	86.2	-3.9
Montréal	272.4	-11.4	3,183.2	36.2
Hull	27.9	-6.2	292.1	49.0
Ottawa	92.5	-14.6	1,084.4	2.0
Oshawa	34.2	-31.7	410.3	-21.5
Toronto	627.6	-6.2	6,373.5	2.7
Hamilton	57.3	-40.3	649.1	20.3
St. Catharines-Niagara	61.4	80.7	317.0	-12.5
Kitchener	98.1	26.7	725.5	29.3
London	45.2	37.3	525.5	51.0
Windsor	47.7	-25.2	419.8	3.2
Sudbury	7.2	-22.3	56.9	2.3
Thunder Bay	4.9	-68.5	79.7	1.6
Winnipeg	19.8	-37.3	319.8	-21.9
Regina	24.5	172.0	173.3	54.3
Saskatoon	21.5	-0.6	197.0	-4.1
Calgary	145.1	-27.1	1,639.9	-3.2
Edmonton	185.2	42.5	1,040.9	13.6
Vancouver	208.5	6.0	2,338.3	10.9
Victoria	50.1	135.9	275.0	26.6

## Family income reaches new high

For the second consecutive year, average family income reached a new high in 1999, as Canadians continued to rebound from the recession of the early 1990s. Average after-tax family income reached an estimated \$51,473 in 1999, up 1.9% from 1998.

The source of this growth was an increase in market income resulting from improved labour market conditions. In 1999, Canada saw strong economic growth for the third consecutive year as well as accelerated employment growth. Employment rose 2.8% in 1999, its best performance of the decade, while the number of Canadians working full-time rose 3.3%. Market income—earnings from employment, private retirement pensions and investments—increased 1.4%, while government transfers to families declined 3.3%.

Unattached individuals (people who do not live in families) also made gains. Their average after-tax income was \$22,064 in 1999, up 2.7% from 1998. Couples with children under 18 earned an average after-tax income of \$57,665, also up 2.7%. On average, families paid 2.8% less income tax, resulting in about \$1,000 more income in 1999 in real terms than in 1998.

### Note to readers

Data presented in this article have been adjusted for inflation, and all income estimates are expressed in 1999 constant dollars.

Statistics Canada's **low-income cut-offs (LICOs)** convey the income level at which a family may be in "strained circumstances" because it has to spend significantly more of its income on the basics (food, shelter and clothing), than does the average family. Although LICOs are often referred to as poverty lines, they have no official status as such. For further information, consult Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the Statistical methods page, choose Discussion papers, then the Feature article on poverty and low income.

Average market income for families of two or more people was estimated at \$56,998 in 1999, up 1.4% from 1998. This marked the sixth year of sustained growth, albeit at a slower rate than in the two previous years. Average market income has increased 13.6% for families of two or more people from the low of \$50,192 in 1993.

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### ... Family income reaches new high

The overall transfer rate for families (the proportion of total income received as transfers from governments) has continued on a downward trend since 1993, when transfers reached a peak of 12.9% of average family income. In 1999, families of two or more people received an average \$6,821 in government transfers, down 3.3% from 1998. Transfers received by unattached individuals also declined (-2.9%).

#### Average income in dollars

	Economic families		Unattached individuals	
	Market income	After-tax income	Market income	After-tax income
1990	54,178	48,603	22,223	21,957
1991	52,155	47,415	20,558	20,978
1992	51,450	47,465	20,773	21,327
1993	50,192	46,528	20,175	20,930
1994	51,328	47,110	20,152	21,033
1995	51,527	46,967	20,449	20,965
1996	52,204	47,750	20,211	20,845
1997	53,689	48,744	20,209	20,966
1998	56,190	50,539	21,121	21,488
1999	56,998	51,473	22,038	22,064

Lone-parent mothers without earnings received \$13,351 from government sources, which represented 89.0% of their total income. This was 5.1% higher than what they received in 1998, and resulted largely from a 16.5% gain in the average amount of child tax benefits these families were given.

Families paid 19.3% of their total income in taxes in 1999, down from 20.1% in 1998. Unattached individuals paid, on average, 18.5% of their total income in taxes, up slightly from 18.3% in 1998. In 1999, the 20% of families with the highest incomes paid an average \$31,966 in income taxes, which made up 51.8% of all income taxes paid by families. In contrast, the 20% of families with the lowest incomes paid an average \$1,148, or 1.9% of the total income tax bill of families.

For more details, consult the report *Income in Canada, 1999* (Internet: 75-202-XIE, \$45). The paper version (75-202-XPE, \$45) will be available in December. You can also consult Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the Canadian statistics page, see the subheading The people, then choose Families, households and housing, then Income. For more information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613 951-7355; [income@statcan.ca](mailto:income@statcan.ca)), Income Statistics Division.

## One-half of job vacancies in retail trade and consumer services

Virtually one-half of all the long-term job vacancies in profit-oriented firms during 1999 were in the retail trade and consumer services industries, according to data from the 1999 Workplace and Employee Survey (WES). These sectors, which pay relatively low wages and have high rates of labour turnover, accounted for 50% of the job vacancies that went unfilled for at least four months prior to the time the survey was taken.

This suggests that even in periods of strong growth in the high-technology sector, a substantial share of job vacancies is found

#### Note to readers

This article is based on data from the 1999 Workplace and Employee Survey (WES). This survey aims to shed light on the relationships between competitiveness, innovation, technology use and human resource management on the employer side, and technology use, training, job stability and earnings on the employee side. The WES covers all industries except farming, fishing, hunting, trapping and public administration.

The *job vacancy rate* equals the number of unfilled positions divided by the total number of positions, both filled and vacant.

#### Job vacancy rates and hourly wages by industry, 1999

	Job vacancy rate	Average hourly wage of full-time employees
	%	\$
<b>All industries</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>19.14</b>
Forestry, mining, oil and gas extraction	0.9	26.42
Labour-intensive tertiary manufacturing	2.5	15.18
Primary product manufacturing	1.2	20.68
Secondary product manufacturing	2.2	18.53
Capital-intensive tertiary manufacturing	2.3	21.92
Construction	2.3	21.22
Transportation, warehousing, wholesale trade	2.4	20.25
Communication and other utilities	2.0	24.28
Retail trade and consumer services	3.9	13.18
Finance and insurance	2.1	19.97
Real estate, rental and leasing operations	--	20.06
Business services	2.5	20.80
Education and health services	1.9	20.77
Information and cultural industries	2.1	23.91

-- Estimates not shown due to high sampling variability.

outside high-tech industries. Firms in retail trade and consumer services accounted for 30% of jobs in the private sector in 1999. They paid their full-time workers an average of \$13.18 per hour, compared with an average of \$19.14 for all firms.

Of the 735,900 establishments in Canada, about 13% reported a total of 286,415 job vacancies in 1999. This put the job vacancy rate at 2.6%. About 1.2% of positions remained vacant after four months or more. (Vacant jobs are those that employers find hard to fill.) These figures may overestimate the number of jobs available to unemployed workers because they include some positions available only to people inside the firm. Companies may choose to fill these positions with existing workers through promotions or lateral moves, rather than through external recruitment.

There were two types of establishments with high vacancy rates in 1999. The first consisted of firms that employed a highly skilled work force and that innovated and adopted new technologies requiring greater skills. The second type consisted of firms that were not unionized, were part of a single-establishment company, and operated in retail trade and consumer services industries.

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### ... One-half of job vacancies in retail trade and consumer services

For instance, establishments that implemented an innovation in the period from April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999 had a job vacancy rate of 3.0%, compared with 1.8% for other establishments. Furthermore, profit-oriented establishments that had a greater-than-average proportion of skilled employees (managers, professionals and technical or trades workers), and that innovated and also introduced a skill-increasing technology, reported an even higher vacancy rate (3.9%).

In 1999, the extent of labour shortages varied substantially by industry. In forestry, mining and oil and gas extraction, where hourly wage rates for full-time workers averaged \$26.42, job vacancy rates were 0.9%. In contrast, job vacancy rates were 3.9% in retail trade and consumer service industries. Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, three provinces with relatively low unemployment rates in 1999, displayed fairly high job vacancy rates. In Ontario, the job vacancy rate was 3.2%; in Manitoba and Alberta, it was 3.4%. This contrasted sharply with the Atlantic provinces, where the job vacancy rate was just 1.6%, likely reflecting the relatively high unemployment rates prevailing in these provinces.

Establishments with fewer than 100 employees had a job vacancy rate of roughly 3.0%, but those with more than 500 employees reported only 1.9% of their positions vacant. Similarly, workplaces belonging to a multi-establishment company reported a vacancy rate of 1.9%, much lower than the 3.1% reported by others. In unionized establishments, only 1.8% of jobs were vacant, compared with 3.0% in non-unionized establishments. These differences may reflect a number of factors. First, large establishments and those belonging to a multi-establishment firm have an internal labour market that allows workers to change jobs without changing employers. Second, these establishments, along with unionized establishments, tend to pay relatively high wages.

For further details, see the report *The quest for workers: A new portrait of job vacancies in Canada* (Internet: 71-584-MIE01002, free; paper: 71-584-MPE, \$15), or the research paper *Which firms have high job vacancy rates in Canada?* (Internet: 11F0019MIE01176, free; paper: 11F0019MPE, \$5/\$25). For more information, contact René Morissette (613-951-3608), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division, or Diane Galameau (613-951-4626), Labour Statistics Division.

## University enrolment highest for women

Women consolidated their hold as the majority of the undergraduate student population at universities in the 1999/2000 academic year. Among the age group 18 to 24, women accounted for 57.1% of all full-time undergraduate university students in 1999/2000, up from 54.2% in 1992/93, the peak year for enrolment. They were the only group of students whose enrolment increased during this seven-year period.

In 1999/2000, an estimated total of 245,200 full-time undergraduates were women aged 18 to 24, up 9.8% from 1992/93. During this same period, however, the number of their male counterparts declined 2.6% to 184,000. Universities enrolled a total of 719,900 undergraduate students, both full-time and part-time, in 1999/2000, up 1.7% from 1998/99 and the second consecutive annual increase. However, the 1999/2000 total was well short of the record 771,300 in 1992/93. Undergraduate enrolment declined for five consecutive years following this peak.

In 1999/2000, the participation rate of Canadian women aged 18 to 24 enrolled in full-time undergraduate studies (that is, the number enrolled as a percentage of the population of this age group) was 16.7%, up from 15.6% 1992/93. Over the same period, the participation rate for men 18 to 24 declined from 12.5% to 11.8%.

Among those 25 to 44, enrolments dropped over the seven-year period. In 1999/2000, an estimated 37,200 women in this group were enrolled in full-time undergraduate studies, down 5.6% from 1992/93. The rate of decline among Canadian men in the same age group was almost three times as strong in full-time undergraduate programs, down 17.6% to 33,400.

Declining part-time enrolment was most notable among students 25 to 44. While part-time undergraduate studies have traditionally attracted more women than men, both groups saw substantial declines during the seven-year period. Part-time undergraduate

### University enrolment

	1992-93	1998-99	1999-2000	1992-93 to 1999-2000 % change <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total undergraduate<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>771,300</b>	<b>707,600</b>	<b>719,900</b>	<b>-6.7</b>
<b>Full-time undergraduate</b>	<b>497,200</b>	<b>501,000</b>	<b>507,000</b>	<b>2.0</b>
18- to 24-year-olds	412,100	423,800	429,200	4.1
Men	188,900	183,100	184,000	-2.6
Women	223,200	240,700	245,200	9.8
25- to 44-year-olds	79,900	72,000	70,600	-11.7
Men	40,500	34,700	33,400	-17.6
Women	39,400	37,300	37,200	-5.6
<b>Part-time undergraduate<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>274,100</b>	<b>206,600</b>	<b>212,900</b>	<b>-22.3</b>
18- to 24-year-olds	73,400	66,400	68,200	-7.0
Men	32,100	28,800	29,400	-8.2
Women	41,300	37,600	38,800	-6.0
25- to 44-year-olds	165,800	113,300	116,200	-29.9
Men	59,700	41,700	42,300	-29.1
Women	106,100	71,600	73,900	-30.3

<sup>1</sup> Percentages are based on actual, non-rounded figures.

<sup>2</sup> Contains estimates for part-time enrolments in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

enrolment among men 25 to 44 declined 29.1% to 42,300 in 1999/2000. Enrolment among women in this age group fell 30.3% to 73,900. The declines were smaller among those aged 18 to 24. Among men in this age group, part-time undergraduate enrolment fell 8.2% to 29,400, and among women it declined 6.0% to 38,800.

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### ... University enrolment highest for women

Among the provinces, the largest increase in enrolment occurred in British Columbia, where the number of full-time students climbed 18.8% to 54,200 during the seven-year period. Full-time registrations also advanced in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

Enrolment in part-time undergraduate and graduate courses increased only in Alberta (+45.1%) and British Columbia (+17.9%)

during the seven-year period. Universities in the other eight provinces saw double-digit declines in part-time enrolment, ranging from 11.0% in Nova Scotia to 42.2% in Manitoba.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Mongi Mouelhi (613-951-1537), Centre for Education Statistics. To obtain tables on enrolments, contact Shelley Crego (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-0737).

## Television viewing remains stable

Pay-TV and specialty services have continued to grow at the expense of conventional television. By the fall of 2000, the audience share for conventional Canadian and foreign stations had declined to only 65%, compared with more than 99% in 1982. This decline has been due mainly to the greater number of Canadian and foreign pay-TV and specialty services, the audience share for which grew from less than 1% in 1982 to almost 30% in 2000. Almost 84% of the population had access to cable or satellite services in 2000.

On average, viewers watched 21.5 hours of television a week in the fall of 2000, virtually unchanged from 1999. This figure reflects a slight downward trend since the peak of just over 23 hours recorded in the fall of 1995 and at the beginning of the 1990s.

Canadians spent almost 40% of their viewing time in the fall of 2000 watching Canadian programs. However, these were much more popular with francophones than anglophones. Francophones spent almost two-thirds of their viewing hours watching Canadian programs; anglophones spent just 30%.

The type of programming most popular with Canadians was the combined category of comedy and drama (accounting for nearly 40% of total viewing), followed by news and public affairs programs (24%) and variety and games programs (12%). These preferences were apparent for both language groups, but the draw of Canadian programs was much stronger for francophones. Canadian content was widely preferred in news and public affairs programs, particularly by francophones, who spent 96% of their viewing time in this category watching Canadian programs, compared with 73% among anglophones.

The most striking difference between the two language groups was the popularity of Canadian variety and games programs. Francophones spent about 80% of their viewing time in this category watching Canadian programs, compared with only 12% for anglophones. This difference in preferences may be partly because fewer foreign French-language programs than English-language programs were available.

Provincial levels of average weekly viewing varied considerably. In 2000, viewers in Newfoundland and Quebec spent 24.0 hours a week watching television, the highest level, while viewers in Alberta spent the least (19.7 hours). In Quebec, francophones watched for four hours more than did anglophones, as well as three hours more than the national average.

### Note to readers

The Culture Statistics Program's Television Project is a joint undertaking of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), Canadian Heritage and Statistics Canada. Basic survey data were collected by BBM Bureau of Measurement from a sample of Canadians aged two and over.

Television viewing habits are monitored by: content (for example, news, public affairs, drama or religious programming); language; country of origin; and percentage of Canadian content. The final databank, which is retained by Statistics Canada, also indicates the network affiliation and geographic location of each television station.

### Average weekly viewing time



Across Canada, men aged 18 to 24 comprised the group that spent the least amount of time viewing television (13.2 hours per week). Teens (14.1 hours) and children (15.5 hours) also recorded low viewing hours. Women watched television the most (25.5 hours), almost five hours more than did men. For both sexes, the number of viewing hours increased with age.

For more information, contact Lotfi Chahdi at (613-951-3136; fax: 613-951-1333, [lotfi.chahdi@statcan.ca](mailto:lotfi.chahdi@statcan.ca)). Culture Statistics Program, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

## New from Statistics Canada

### International travel

The 2000 issue of *International travel* summarizes the annual data on travel to and from Canada by way of tables, charts and an analytical review. The publication profiles international travellers by province, state or country of residence, destination, mode of transport, purpose of trip, length of stay, expenditures, age group and sex.

The 2000 issue of ***International travel*** (Internet: 66-201-XIE, \$32) is now available. For more information, contact Jocelyn Lapierre (613-951-3720), Danielle Shaienks (613-951-5095) or Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; [cult.tourstat@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstat@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

### Public sector statistics

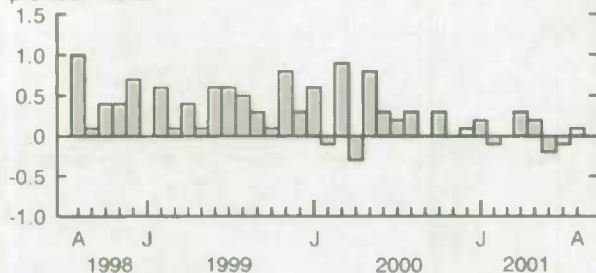
The electronic publication *Public sector statistics* provides detailed information on consolidated government revenue and expenditures up to 2000/01, the most recent fiscal year. Government posted a strong surplus of \$25.7 billion in 2000/01, in tandem with robust economic growth.

***Public sector statistics*** (Internet: 68-213-XIB, \$46) is now available. For more information, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767; [joanne.rice@statcan.ca](mailto:joanne.rice@statcan.ca)), Public Institutions Division.

## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

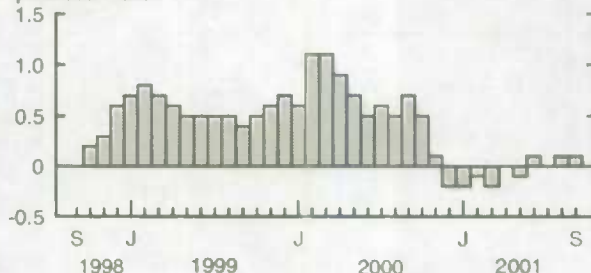
% change,  
previous month



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

### Composite Index

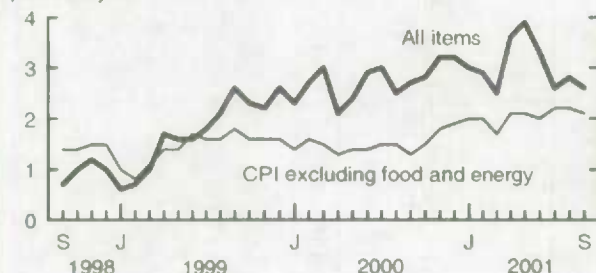
% change,  
previous month



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

### Consumer Price Index

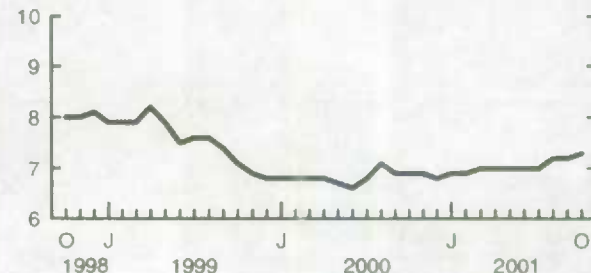
% change,  
previous year



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

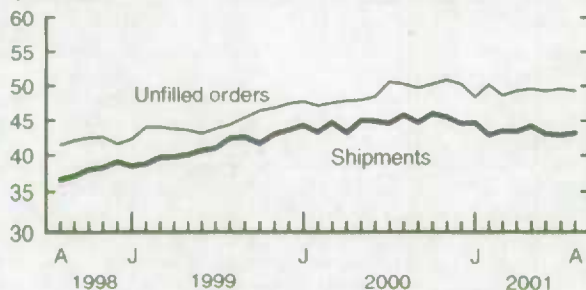
%



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

### Manufacturing

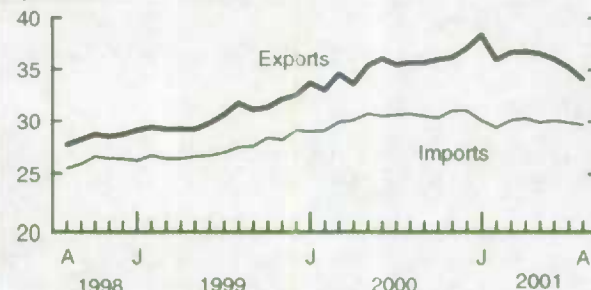
\$ billions



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

\$ billions



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
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) <sup>1</sup>	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‡
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	August	24.3	0.3%	3.6%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	September*	127.4	-5.3%	-8.6%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	August	33.2	0.8%	4.1%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
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%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
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
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
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
<b>PRICES</b>				
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)	September*	106.7	0.2%	2.9%

*Note:* All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

\* new this week

‡ percentage point

<sup>1</sup> 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

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