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A Weekly Review

Friday, December 14, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ Unemployment rate highest since mid-1999

The unemployment rate edged up from 7.3% in October to 7.5% in November, the highest level since mid-1999. A rise in part-time work offset losses in full-time positions, resulting in a slight overall employment increase of 14,000 jobs.

◆ Residential sector buoys value of building permits

The value of building permits expanded 1.0% to \$3.3 billion in October. Construction intentions for single-family dwellings reached their second-highest level in the last 10 years.

◆ Industrial production capacity still declining

Industries cut their use of production capacity for the fifth consecutive quarter to 79.4% in the third quarter. Capacity use fell 2.5 percentage points from the second quarter, the largest decline since the fourth quarter of 1990.

◆ Increased membership in employer-sponsored Registered Pension Plans

Thanks to a strong economy led by job creation, membership in employer-sponsored Registered Pension Plans rose 3.5% from 1997 to 1999.

◆ Reduced harvest for grain farmers

Poor weather, a decline in yields, rising input costs and low export commodity values have combined to make 2001 a difficult year for producers of grain crops.

◆ Canadian students among the best in the world

Canadian 15-year-olds rank among the best in the world when it comes to reading, mathematics and science, according to a recent international report.

Unemployment rate highest since mid-1999

Canada's unemployment rate edged up to its highest level in more than two years in November, even though employment increased by nearly 14,000 jobs. Despite this slight increase in employment, a growing number of job seekers pushed up the unemployment rate from 7.3% in October to 7.5% last month, the highest since August 1999 when the rate was 7.6%.

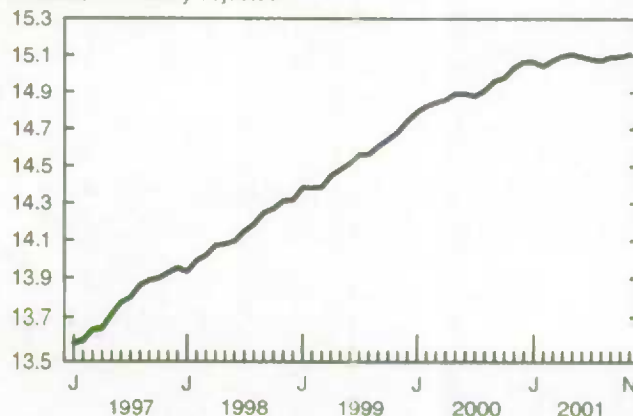
The growth in jobs in November was in part-time employment, which went up by 57,000. Full-time employment fell by 43,000. It was the second straight month in which part-time jobs increased while full-time declined.

Manufacturing employment fell 30,100, largely because fewer people were building computers and electronics products. After strong gains last year, manufacturing employment has fallen 105,000 or 4.5%, in the first 11 months of this year.

The strong upward trend in retail and wholesale trade employment continued in November, jumping 38,000, or 1.6%. In the first 11 months of 2001, trade has been the largest source of employment growth with 92,000 added jobs, an increase of 3.9%.

Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



(continued on page 2)



... Unemployment rate highest since mid-1999

Professional, scientific and technical services also gained strongly (+16,000 or 1.7%). Within this industry, computer system design services and legal services were the source of growth. After large losses in the summer months, employment in professional, scientific and technical services began an upward trend in September.

Offsetting these increases were the large drops in manufacturing as well as transportation. Likely related to lower factory activity, truck transportation employment fell in November. As well, air transportation employment dropped slightly. Together, losses in these and other areas of transportation led to a decline of 18,000 (-2.3%) in transportation and warehousing.

In Ontario, a large gain in part-time work (+42,000) more than offset a drop in full-time (-28,000), leaving overall employment in the province up 14,000, the first increase since May. However, labour force participation also rose, pushing the unemployment rate up 0.2 percentage points to 6.8%. In the first 11 months of 2001, employment growth in Ontario has been relatively flat, increasing 0.2%.

In Quebec, part-time employment rose (+16,000) while full-time fell (-20,000). The slight decline in November, combined

with rising labour force participation, pushed the unemployment rate up 0.4 percentage points to 8.9%. In the first 11 months of the year, employment growth (+1.3%) in Quebec has been stronger than the national average (+0.3%).

While employment in British Columbia was little changed in November, rising participation pushed the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 8.5%. Lower employment in manufacturing, natural resources and finance, insurance and real estate has caused the number of employed people in the province to fall an estimated 48,000 or 2.4% since the start of 2001. In New Brunswick, a higher number of people looking for work caused the unemployment rate to jump to 11.4%. In Nova Scotia, the opposite occurred. Falling participation drove the unemployment rate down 0.5 percentage points to 9.2%. Labour market conditions in the other provinces were little changed.

A more detailed summary, *Labour force information for the week ending November 10* (Internet: 71-001-PIB, \$8/\$78; paper: 71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103), is now available. For general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325), Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 10.)

Labour Force Survey, November 2001
Seasonally adjusted¹

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	16,341.4	0.4	15,109.3	0.1	1,232.1	7.5
Newfoundland	251.7	-0.5	210.9	-0.9	40.9	16.2
Prince Edward Island	75.9	0.8	66.7	1.1	9.3	12.3
Nova Scotia	473.8	-0.4	430.4	0.2	43.4	9.2
New Brunswick	379.3	0.8	335.9	-0.2	43.3	11.4
Quebec	3,838.1	0.3	3,497.3	-0.1	340.8	8.9
Ontario	6,406.7	0.5	5,969.5	0.2	437.2	6.8
Manitoba	593.7	0.3	564.4	0.3	29.3	4.9
Saskatchewan	497.0	-0.1	467.4	-0.1	29.6	6.0
Alberta	1,721.8	0.2	1,642.8	0.1	79.0	4.6
British Columbia	2,103.2	0.5	1,924.0	0.2	179.2	8.5

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

Residential sector buoys value of building permits

The value of building permits issued by municipalities expanded 1.0% to \$3.3 billion in October. Residential permits rose 1.7% to \$1.9 billion, while non-residential permits were virtually unchanged from September at \$1.4 billion.

In the residential sector, the value of permits for single-family dwellings advanced 2.0% to \$1.4 billion in October. Surpassed only by the results of January 2001, this was the second-highest

value for single-family dwelling construction intentions since March 1990. Moreover, multi-family permits, which rose 1.2% in October to \$503 million, also helped bolster the entire residential sector, which recorded a third consecutive monthly increase. Most of the advance came from British Columbia (+28.4%), where residential permits reached their highest level since September 1997. Quebec also posted a sizeable gain (+5.6%). The largest decline occurred in Alberta (-10.9%), following three months of increases.

(continued on page 3)

... Residential sector buoys value of building permits

In the non-residential sector, a 4.9% gain in commercial permits was offset by declines in the industrial and institutional components. Thanks to stronger demand for office buildings, the value of commercial permits climbed to \$616 million in October. However, this value was 17.1% lower than the average monthly value in 2000. In the industrial sector, a strong gain in the value of permits for manufacturing buildings was more than offset by a steep decline in the transportation building category. As a result, municipalities issued \$333 million in industrial permits in October, down 1.7%. Following robust results in September, the institutional sector dropped 4.7% to \$450 million, led by a slowdown in permits for buildings in the education category.

Among the provinces, a large gain in the institutional component led Ontario to the largest advance (in dollars) in the non-residential sector (+17.2%). British Columbia posted the largest retreat (-30.5%). A substantial decline in the institutional category led non-residential intentions in British Columbia to their lowest level in 11 months.

In terms of year-to-date values, municipalities issued \$33.3 billion in building permits between January and October, up 8.7% from the same period of 2000. This was the highest level for the first 10 months of any year since 1989, thanks to advances in both the residential and non-residential sectors. Among the metropolitan areas, Montréal, with more than one-half of the national gains in the non-residential sector, led in the growth (in dollars) in the cumulative value of building permits. Buoyant construction intentions for multi-family dwellings led the Vancouver area to the second-largest increase.

Non-residential permits totalled \$15.0 billion at the end of October, up 10.2% from 2000. It was the strongest performance for any January-to-October period since 1989. Most of the advance was the result of a strong 35.3% surge in institutional intentions. The largest advance in non-residential permits (in dollars) among the provinces occurred in Quebec (+33.4%). Ontario placed a distant second (+5.6%). The largest retreats were in Nova Scotia (-33.8%) and Manitoba (-25.0%).

The cumulative value of residential permits reached \$18.3 billion at the end of October, up 7.4% from the same period of 2000. Among the provinces, the largest advances (in dollars)

Value of building permits by census metropolitan area
Seasonally adjusted

	October 2001	September to October 2001	January to October 2001	January- October 2000 to January- October 2001
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	13.5	37.0	151.0	4.4
Halifax	13.0	-42.4	269.2	-38.4
Saint John	7.9	59.0	69.0	-17.0
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	4.5	-83.7	152.9	38.0
Québec	58.4	3.7	571.6	24.5
Sherbrooke	8.7	-48.8	117.9	5.0
Trois-Rivières	7.3	-8.4	93.6	-3.7
Montréal	383.7	38.7	3,571.1	36.5
Hull	14.5	-48.9	307.0	44.2
Ottawa	127.8	37.3	1,212.8	-0.1
Oshawa	71.4	108.1	481.9	-15.3
Toronto	678.7	7.5	7,056.0	1.7
Hamilton	61.0	5.7	710.5	14.0
St. Catharines-Niagara	31.9	-47.1	347.9	-12.7
Kitchener	85.1	-15.1	812.7	28.4
London	51.3	12.1	577.2	52.1
Windsor	43.9	-8.7	464.1	0.6
Sudbury	13.3	110.6	69.3	0.4
Thunder Bay	9.3	86.8	89.1	7.5
Winnipeg	35.1	79.1	354.7	-20.3
Regina	10.9	-53.8	183.3	47.0
Saskatoon	25.5	16.7	222.9	0.9
Calgary	171.1	18.2	1,810.7	-7.1
Edmonton	119.1	-35.3	1,158.9	13.7
Vancouver	256.4	20.5	2,599.0	14.4
Victoria	37.0	-27.3	312.9	30.8

were posted in British Columbia (+19.7%) and Quebec (+13.3%). Nova Scotia saw the largest decline (-15.0% to \$370 million).

The October 2001 issue of *Building permits* (Internet: 64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) is now available. To obtain data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556; clarver@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca). Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Industrial production capacity still declining

Industries cut their use of production capacity for the fifth consecutive quarter to 79.4% in the third quarter. Capacity use fell 2.5 percentage points from a revised 81.9% in the second quarter, the largest decline since the fourth quarter of 1990.

The rate fell because of slumping demand in the high-tech sector and, to a lesser extent, lower demand for automotive products. But capacity use dropped in all the groups making up the industrial aggregate. Manufacturers operated at 77.4% of their capacity in the third quarter, down 2.6 percentage points from the second. Of the 21 major groups in the manufacturing

Note to readers

This article on the rates of capacity use is the first using the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. In addition, the measures of capital stock and gross domestic product (GDP) used in the calculation of the rates have both been rebased from 1992 to 1997 prices, and the GDP is now valued at basic prices rather than at factor cost.

sector, 16 had lower rates. The drop in manufacturing was largely driven by declines in computer and electronic products, automotive products, chemicals, wood products and paper products.

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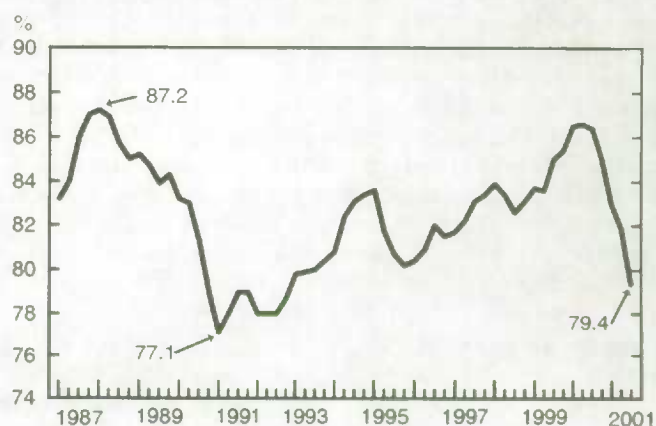
... Industrial production capacity still declining

The computer and electronic products manufacturing industry saw its rate of capacity use fall to 60.1% in the third quarter. This was a drop of 9.3 percentage points from the second quarter and 39.4 percentage points from the third quarter of 2000. Slumping domestic and foreign demand has continued to affect this industry. Production was down 37.6% from the third quarter of 2000.

Transportation equipment manufacturing posted a rate of 85.3% in the third quarter, down 1.6 percentage points from the second. This decline was due to lower production of motor vehicles and parts. These industries saw lower demand in both Canada and the United States, and were hurt by delays in the flow of trade at the Canada-U.S. border following September 11.

The chemical manufacturing industry saw its rate decline 3.8 percentage points to 77.4%. This industry was affected in part by weakness in the agricultural sector, where the summer drought reduced harvests and lowered agricultural demand for pesticides and fertilizers. Maintenance shutdowns at several petrochemical

Industrial capacity utilization rate



Industrial capacity utilization rates, Third quarter 2001

	%	% point change, previous quarter	% point change, previous year
Total Industrial	79.4	-2.5	-7.0
Forestry and logging	76.6	-5.9	-13.5
Oil and gas extraction	69.4	-1.3	-4.0
Mining	91.2	-5.9	2.7
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	83.8	-4.2	-4.9
Construction	87.4	-0.9	-2.5
Manufacturing	77.4	-2.6	-9.4
Food	82.9	-0.1	1.8
Beverage and tobacco products	81.6	0.2	-1.9
Textile mills	73.2	-3.0	-12.1
Textile product mills	64.0	1.1	-13.8
Clothing	80.5	-4.6	-6.4
Leather and allied products	83.8	8.7	8.9
Wood products	73.5	-2.2	-10.3
Paper	85.0	-2.1	-9.4
Printing and related support activities	72.4	-1.4	-9.5
Petroleum and coal products	94.5	1.5	0.4
Chemical	77.4	-3.8	-4.2
Plastics and rubber products	81.4	-1.4	-5.1
Non-metallic mineral products	71.5	-3.8	-11.4
Primary metal	84.9	-1.8	-5.4
Fabricated metal products	74.1	-1.7	-9.2
Machinery	75.5	-1.7	-5.7
Computer and electronic products	60.1	-9.3	-39.4
Electrical equipment, appliances and components	65.6	-6.6	-26.4
Transportation equipment	85.3	-1.6	-4.9
Furniture and related products	70.3	-4.6	-16.9

plants also hampered production and reduced capacity use in the chemical industry.

In the wood products manufacturing group, capacity utilization was 73.5% in the third quarter, down 2.2 percentage points. In part, this drop was the result of uncertainty about exports. As for paper manufacturers, they lowered their capacity use for the fourth consecutive quarter. Their rate was 85.0%, down 9.4 percentage points from the third quarter of 2000.

However, textile factories increased their rate 1.1 percentage points in the third quarter to 64.0%. They boosted production 2.3% after three consecutive quarterly declines. The petroleum and coal industry also slowed the decline in capacity use in the manufacturing sector by posting a rate of 94.5%, up 1.5 percentage points from the second quarter.

Decline in capacity production was widespread outside manufacturing. In the forestry and logging industry, the rate fell 5.9 percentage points to 76.6% in the third quarter. This industry continues to suffer the effects of the trade dispute with the United States, which caused production to fall 6.9% in the third quarter. With a slump in both domestic and U.S. demand, electricity production was down 3.0% in the third quarter from the second. This lowered capacity use in the electric power generation, transmission and distribution group of industries, where the rate fell 4.2 percentage points to 83.8%.

In the mining and oil and gas extraction industries, the rate of capacity use declined 2.9 percentage points to 76.4%. This drop was due to a decline in mining output, as lower prices for oil and gas cut into demand for exploration.

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

Increased membership in employer-sponsored Registered Pension Plans

Membership in employer-sponsored Registered Pension Plans (RPPs) rose 3.5% from 1997 to 1999, the first upturn in the biennial trend since 1991. This growth was due mainly to a strong economy led by job creation during 1998 and 1999.

At the end of 1999, nearly 5.3 million workers belonged to 15,557 RPPs. Despite this recent growth in membership, the proportion of paid workers belonging to these plans was practically unchanged from 1997 at 41%. About \$995 billion had been accumulated in the three main retirement income programs: RPPs, Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) and the Canada/Quebec Pension Plans (C/QPP). Two-thirds of that amount was held in RPPs, 26% in RRSPs and 5% in the C/QPP.

In 1999, Canadians contributed \$68 billion to these three retirement income programs. RRSPs accounted for 41% of that amount, RPPs made up 28%, and the C/QPP, 31%. From 1989 to 1999, the assets accumulated in RRSPs have increased 172%, and RPPs have gained 126%. In fact, since 1994, RRSPs have consistently surpassed RPPs both in number of contributors and in total annual contributions. However, participation in RRSPs slowed considerably from 1997 to 1999. The amount contributed rose only about 1% during that period, compared with biennial increases of 20% to 28% since 1991.

Proportion of paid workers covered by a Registered Pension Plan, December 31, 1999

Area of employment	Number of RPP members	Percentage of paid workers
Newfoundland	94,381	50.4
Prince Edward Island	17,901	34.4
Nova Scotia	156,871	42.0
New Brunswick	111,399	36.9
Quebec	1,307,675	43.0
Ontario	2,036,766	40.0
Manitoba	233,646	49.4
Saskatchewan	182,903	47.5
Alberta	435,398	31.6
British Columbia	663,537	40.1
Other	27,417	--
Total	5,267,894	40.7

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Note to readers

RPPs are one important component of Canada's retirement saving system. There are two basic types of RPPs: defined contribution and defined benefit plans. A **defined contribution plan** is an RPP that specifies the employee's contributions, if the plan is contributory, and the employer's. In contrast, a **defined benefit plan** is an RPP that defines the benefits to be paid according to a formula stipulated in the plan text. The employer contributions are not predetermined, but are a function of the cost of providing the promised pension.

Five provinces had RPP coverage on December 31, 1999 above the national average of 41%. Leading the way was Newfoundland, where 50% of paid workers belonged to an employer-sponsored pension plan. Following were Manitoba (49%), Saskatchewan (48%), Quebec (43%), and Nova Scotia (42%). Coverage has been higher than the national average in these five provinces since 1991. Except in Manitoba, the majority of RPP members in these provinces worked in the public sector, where unionization and pension coverage are high. In Manitoba, where most participants work in the private sector, coverage is high because, if an RPP is available, membership is compulsory. Manitoba is the only province that has such a requirement.

Coverage was below the national average in Alberta, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Ontario. Except for Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, these provinces have the highest percentages of RPP members in the private sector, where unionization is less prevalent. Coverage is low in Prince Edward Island because it is the only province with no legislation governing registered pension plans.

Employment growth was concentrated in the private sector in 1999, although it also affected the public sector. After declining for most of the 1990s, public-sector employment has been climbing steadily since the middle of 1998. From 1997 to 1999, RPP membership grew 5% in the private sector. In the public sector, the gain was much smaller (+1%). Over the same period, private sector membership rose for both women (+8%) and men (+4%). In the public sector, the entire increase was due to the growing number of women belonging to RPPs.

In recent years, several defined benefit plans have been converted into defined contribution plans, although defined benefit plans remain popular. On December 31, 1999, 85% of RPP members belonged to defined benefit plans, unchanged from 1998.

Pension plans in Canada, January 1, 2000 (Internet: 74-401-XIB, \$31; paper: 74-401-XPB, \$41) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355); income@statcan.ca) Income Statistics Division.

Reduced harvest for grain farmers

Growing conditions in 2001 were the worst since the 1988 drought, causing reduced production for all major crops except grain corn. Rising input costs and low export commodity values have also combined to create an operating environment in which farmers may have difficulty absorbing losses.

Barley production was estimated at 11.4 million tonnes in 2001, down from 13.5 million tonnes in 2000. The yield across western Canada was 47.4 bushels per acre, down from the five-year average of 56.4, and the lowest since 1989. For western spring wheat, production was estimated at 16.4 million tonnes. A 15% drop in acreage and a 33% drop in yield lowered durum production to 3.1 million tonnes, down 46% from 2000. In Saskatchewan, where more than 80% of Canada's durum is produced, dry weather pushed the yield down to 21.8 bushels per acre.

Pulse crops (lentils, peas and beans) are a rapidly growing segment of western Canadian agriculture. About 6.9 million acres were seeded with pulse crops in western Canada, more than the combined acreage of oats, flax and rye. From 2000, yields for lentils declined 36%, field peas decreased 33%, and chickpeas shrank 29%. Despite expanded seeded acreage, overall production

Note to readers

The November Crops Survey of 33,250 farm operators was conducted from October 26 to November 17. Farmers were asked to report their seeded areas, harvested areas, and yields of major grains, specialty crops, and oilseeds.

of pulse crops was down 22%. Chickpeas were the exception: a 70% increase in acreage boosted production by 20%.

Canola dropped 2.0 million tonnes from 2000 to 5.1 million tonnes. Grown mainly in the central and northern regions of the Prairies, canola escaped the brunt of the summer drought, with yields off only 5% from the 10-year average, mainly due to a 19% decline in seeded acreage.

Canada is the world's largest producer of mustard, which is traditionally grown in the southern Prairies. Mustard seed production was 88,900 tonnes in 2001, down sharply from both 2000 and the 10-year average of 225 530 tonnes.

Soybeans yielded 22.8 bushels per acre, the lowest since 1963 and well below the 10-year average. Soybean production was down 41% from 2000 to 1.6 million tonnes. Ontario, which accounts for nearly 80% of production, had one of its worst years. The average yield of 21.1 bushels per acre was attributed to dry growing conditions, a heavy aphid infestation, and a wet harvest. Corn production expanded despite poor growing conditions in southern Ontario. Production increased 20% from 2000 to 8.2 million tonnes. Quebec raised the national average with a yield of 110.6 bushels per acre, slightly better than the 10-year average.

More fields were planted with genetically modified soybeans and corn in 2001 than in 2000. Acreage of GMO soybeans was 63% greater in Quebec and 25% greater in Ontario. Yields in Ontario were 0.8 bushels per acre better than non-GMO crops; in Quebec, GMO soybeans yielded 3.6 bushels more. Seeded acreage of genetically modified corn crops expanded 17% in Ontario, and 30% in Quebec. GMO corn yielded 8.0 bushels per acre more than non-GMO corn in Ontario, but in Quebec yields were similar.

Field crop reporting series, Vol. 80, no. 8 (Internet: 22-002-XIB, \$11/\$66; paper: 22-002-XPB, \$15/\$88) is now available. For more information, contact David Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.ca) or Brent Wilson (613-951-0218; brent.wilson@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

Estimates of field crop production, November

	2000	2001	2000 to 2001
	Thousands of tonnes		% change
Total wheat	26 804	21 282	-21
Spring wheat	19 357	16 717	-14
Barley	13 468	11 355	-16
Corn	6 827	8 171	20
Canola	7 126	5 062	-29
Durum wheat	5 647	3 055	-46
Oats	3 389	2 769	-18
Field peas	2 864	2 196	-23
Soybeans	2 703	1 582	-41
Flaxseed	693	702	1

Canadian students among the best in the world

Canadian students rank among the best in the world when it comes to reading, mathematics and science, according to a new international report that assesses the skill level of students nearing the end of their compulsory education. The goal of the study was to identify whether students have the necessary skills to prepare them for economic and technological change.

Canadian students ranked second in reading, sixth in mathematics and fifth in science among 32 countries that participated in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). Canada was among the few countries that scored near the top in all three areas. Only students in Finland performed significantly better in reading than those in Canada. Japanese and Korean students performed significantly better in mathematics, and only students in Korea, Japan and Finland performed significantly better in science.

Students from higher socio-economic backgrounds demonstrated a better academic performance. Even more notably, students in Canada from the 25% of families with the lowest socio-economic status scored above the average for all students in OECD member countries.

Countries performing better than or about the same as Canada

	Countries performing significantly better than Canada	Countries performing about the same as Canada ¹
Reading	Finland	New Zealand Australia Ireland Japan
Mathematics	Japan Korea	Finland New Zealand Australia Switzerland United Kingdom
Science	Japan Korea Finland	New Zealand Australia United Kingdom

¹ Differences in average scores are not statistically significant.

Note to readers

Data are from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a collaborative effort among member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This program is designed to regularly assess the achievement of 15-year-old boys and girls in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy using a common international test. In Canada, about 30,000 students from more than 1,000 schools took part during the spring of 2000.

In Canada, PISA is administered through a partnership of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada, Human Resources Development Canada and Statistics Canada. The OECD international report, **Knowledge and skills for life**, is available on the OECD's website (www.pisa.oecd.org).

Only in a few countries was there a smaller variation in average scores between students in the 25% of families with the lowest socio-economic status and the 25% of families with the highest. These results suggest that by improving reading skills among the economically or socially disadvantaged, the Canadian education system has helped overcome the educational disadvantage associated with low socio-economic status that persists in many countries.

In most countries, including Canada, a family's socio-economic status is not the only predominant factor influencing student achievement. The study confirmed that parents who provide a home environment that stimulates learning can positively influence their children's academic outcome; students who performed well tended to come from homes where parents discussed political or social issues, books or television shows with their children. The study also showed parents exert a positive influence on academic outcomes by taking their children to concerts, museums and other cultural events. Hence, students who participated in cultural activities outperformed other students.

Girls performed significantly better than boys on the reading test in all countries. Boys outperformed girls in mathematics in Canada, but the gender difference was much narrower. In many other countries, however, there was no significant gender difference for mathematics. There was also no significant difference in test scores for boys and girls in science achievement in Canada, which was similar to results in most other countries.

The Canadian results of the study are now available in **Measuring up: The performance of Canada's youth in reading, mathematics and science** (Internet: 81-590-X1E, free). For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

New from Statistics Canada

National Occupational Classification for Statistics 2001

The manual *National Occupational Classification for Statistics, 2001 (NOC-S)* provides a systematic classification structure to identify and categorize the entire range of occupational activity in Canada.

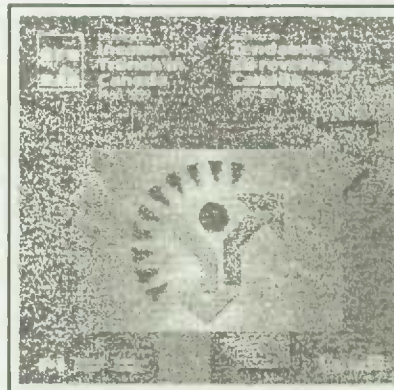
This NOC-S, produced in partnership with Human Resources Development Canada, is Statistics Canada's official classification for collecting and disseminating occupational data. It replaces the Standard Occupational Classification 1991 as the official classification for occupations from the 2001 Census and Statistics Canada surveys.

The National Occupational Classification for Statistics, 2001 manual (paper: 12-583-XPE, \$99.95) is available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca/english/concepts/occupation.htm). From the Statistical methods page, choose Standard classifications, then Occupation. For more information, contact Wayne Silver (613-951-3443; standards@statcan.ca), Standards Division.

Income trends in Canada

Income trends in Canada on CD-ROM provides two decades of statistics on: income from employment and other sources; taxes; the impact of government transfers on family income; differences in earnings between women and men; seniors' incomes; income inequality and the depth of low income, and more.

*For more information about **Income trends in Canada** on CD-ROM (13F0022XCB, \$195), see Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Research papers (free), then Personal finance and household finance, then Income research paper series. For more information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division.*

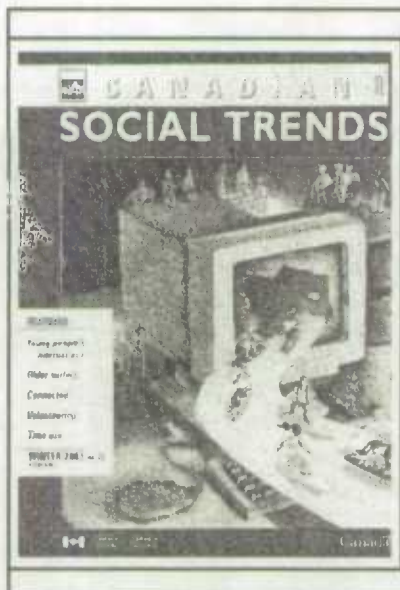


Juristat: Sentencing in adult criminal courts

Adult criminal courts in nine jurisdictions heard a total of 378,600 cases in the fiscal year 1999/2000. About 61% of those, or 228,200 cases, resulted in a conviction, according to a new Juristat from the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. About 7 of every 10 cases involved a conviction for a single offence; the remainder involved multiple convictions.

***Juristat: Sentencing in adult criminal courts, 1999/2000, Vol. 21, no. 10**, (Internet: 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70; paper: 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93) is now available. For more information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.*

New from Statistics Canada



Canadian social trends Winter 2001

The Winter 2001 issue of *Canadian social trends* contains five articles, three of which present results from the 2000 General Social Survey on access to and use of information communication technology.

"Wired young Canadians" examines how Canadians aged 15 to 24 use the Internet, and discovers a generation gap between teens and young adults; "Older surfers" asks how extensively Canadians aged 60 and over use the Internet and what they are looking for; "Connected to the Internet, still connected to life?" examines the effect that Internet use has on other day-to-day activities; "Volunteering and giving: a regional perspective" addresses the issue of varying rates of volunteerism in the different regions of the country; and "The time of our lives..." asks whether patterns of time use at the various stages of the life cycle have shifted over the last decade. This issue also features a cumulative index of articles published in the last five years.

The Winter 2001 issue of *Canadian social trends* (Internet: 11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27; paper: 11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36) is now available. For more information, contact Susan Crompton (613-951-2556; cstsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

Differences in interprovincial productivity

Alberta led Canadian business sector productivity during the late 1990s, according to a recent study entitled *Differences in interprovincial productivity levels*. The study, which examines differences in labour productivity among the provinces, is an expanded version of an article published in the August 2001 issue of *Canadian economic observer*.

Differences in interprovincial productivity levels (Internet: 11F0019MIE01180, free) is available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Research papers (free), then Social conditions. A paper version (11F0019MPE, no. 180, \$5/\$25) can be ordered from Louise Laurin (613-951-4676). For more information, contact David Sabourin (613-951-3735), Micro-economic Analysis Division.

Perspectives on labour and income Winter 2001

The Winter 2001 *Perspectives on labour and income* contains articles previously published in the September, October and November online versions, plus an updated "Fact sheet on work absences," along with an index of past issues. The articles included are: "Early retirement trends," "After the layoff," "Evolution of the Canadian workplace: Work from home," "Trends in part-time job search," "1999 income: An overview" and "The labour market in the week of September 11."

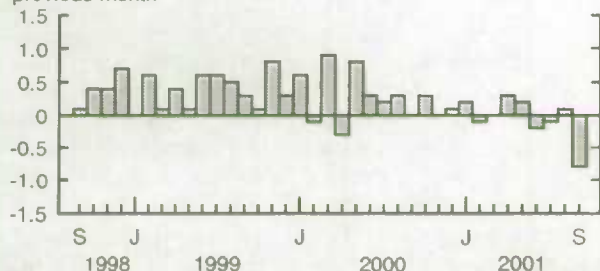
The Winter 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* (paper: 75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



Current trends

Gross domestic product

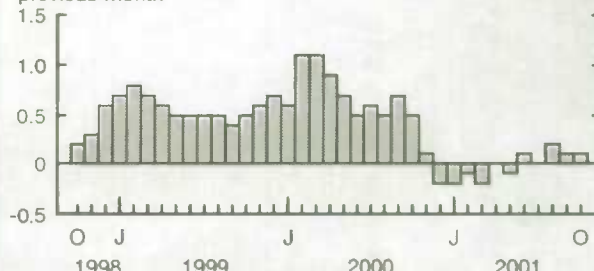
% change,
previous month



Total economic activity declined 0.8% in September, after a marginal 0.1% increase in August.

Composite Index

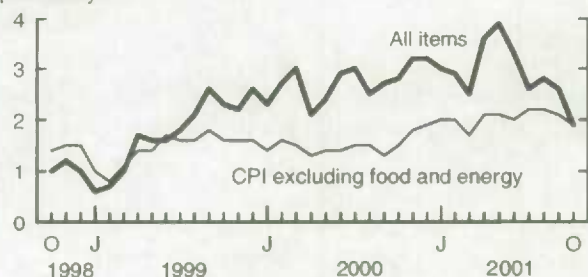
% change,
previous month



The leading indicator posted a slight 0.1% gain in October. The overall index was buttressed by the housing sector.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 1.9% higher in October than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices still rose 1.9%.

Unemployment rate

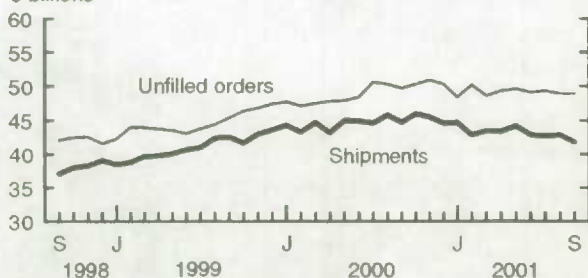
%



In November, the unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points to 7.5%.

Manufacturing

\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments declined 2.5% in September to \$41.8 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders remained unchanged at \$48.9 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In September, the value of merchandise exports fell 1.7% to \$33.1 billion. Imports declined 4.6% to \$28.4 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	September	929.7	-0.8%	-0.6%
Composite Index (1992=100)	October	166.8	0.1%	-0.2%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q3 2001	37.6	-14.4%	-23.9%
Capacity utilization rate (%) ²	Q3 2001*	79.4	-2.5†	-7.0†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	September	23.7	-1.7%	1.2%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	October*	131.3	2.9%	6.1%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	September	32.7	-0.9%	3.6%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	November*	15.1	0.1%	0.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	November*	7.5	0.2†	0.6†
Participation rate (%)	November*	66.0	0.1†	-0.1†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	September	669.16	0.18%	1.86%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	November	133	-5.0%	-24.4%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	September	531.2	-0.7%	12.5%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	September	33.1	-1.7%	-7.4%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	September	28.4	-4.6%	-7.1%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	September	4.7	0.8	-0.5
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	September	41.8	-2.5%	-6.5%
New orders (\$ billions)	September	41.8	-1.4%	-5.3%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	September	48.9	0.0%	-1.7%
Inventory/shipments ratio	September	1.53	0.03	0.10
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	October	116.8	-0.5%	1.9%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	October	106.7	-1.2%	-1.0%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	October	106.3	-5.3%	-12.1%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	October*	106.8	0.1%	2.8%

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.

² Calculation of the rates of capacity use is now based on the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

Infomat

A weekly review

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Cereals and oilseeds review	September 2001	22-007-XPB	15/149
Production of eggs	October 2001	23-003-XIB	free
Rural and small town Canada analysis bulletin	1987-2000	21-006-XIE	free
ANALYTICAL STUDIES			
Differences in interprovincial productivity levels	1996-1997	11F0019MIE01180	free
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Canadian crime statistics	2000	85-205-XIE	32
Juristat: Sentencing in adult criminal courts	1999-2000	85-002-XIE	8/70
Juristat: Sentencing in adult criminal courts	1999-2000	85-002-XPE	10/93
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS			
Canadian social trends	Winter 2001	11-008-XIE	8/27
Canadian social trends	Winter 2001	11-008-XPE	11/36
INCOME STATISTICS			
Detailed average household expenditure by household income quintile for Canada and provinces	2000	62F0032XDB	125
Detailed average household expenditure by housing tenure for Canada	2000	62F0033XDB	125
Detailed average household expenditure by household type for Canada	2000	62F0034XDB	125
Detailed average household expenditure by size of area of residence for Canada	2000	62F0035XDB	125
Detailed average household expenditure for Canada, provinces/territories and selected metropolitan areas	2000	62F0031XDB	125
Dwelling characteristics and household equipment by household type for Canada	2000	62F0044XDB	125
Dwelling characteristics and household equipment by housing tenure for Canada	2000	62F0043XDB	125
Dwelling characteristics and household equipment by income quintile for Canada	2000	62F0042XDB	125
Dwelling characteristics and household equipment by size of area of residence for Canada	2000	62F0045XDB	125
Dwelling characteristics and household equipment for Canada, provinces/territories and selected metropolitan areas	2000	62F0041XDB	125
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Income trends in Canada	1980-1999	13F0022XCB	195
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Labour Force information	November 2001	71-001-PIB	8/78
Labour Force information	November 2001	71-001-PPB	11/103
LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS			
Perspectives on labour and income	Winter 2001	75-001-XPE	18/58
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes	October 2001	43-009-XIB	5/47
Electric power generating stations	2000	57-206-XIB	23
Electric power statistics	September 2001	57-001-XIB	9/85
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	October 2001	46-002-XIB	5/47
Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard	September 2001	36-003-XIB	5/47
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