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# Infomat

## A Weekly Review



Friday, March 15, 2002

## INSIDE

◆ **Unemployment rate remains stable**

Employment rose marginally in February, but not enough to affect the unemployment rate, which remained unchanged at 7.9%, according to the Labour Force Survey. The nation recorded a net employment gain of 6,000, less than one-tenth the increase of 75,900 in January. Employment in manufacturing surged by an estimated 62,000, the largest one-month gain in 15 years.

◆ **Capacity utilization at six-year low**

Industries operated at 80.3% capacity in the fourth quarter, the lowest rate since the fourth quarter of 1995. The 1.2-percentage-point drop from the third quarter marked the sixth consecutive quarterly decline. Manufacturers cut their rate of capacity use for a fifth straight quarter, to the lowest level since the fourth quarter of 1992.

◆ **Twelve-year high in housing intentions**

The momentum from last year's record level of building permits for housing has spilled into 2002. Builders took out permits for $2.4 billion worth of housing construction in January, 24.9% more than in December, for the best monthly performance since January 1990.

◆ **Earnings growth higher in service-producing industries**

Average weekly earnings rose 1.7% in 2001 compared with a 2.3% rise in 2000. The earnings gain in 2001 was lower than the corresponding 2.6% increase for the Consumer Price Index. Service-producing industries generated more employee and earnings growth in 2001 than did goods-producing industries.

## Canada's population in 2001: One of the lowest census-to-census increases

Canada has experienced one of the smallest census-to-census growth rates in its population, according to the first data from the 2001 Census. Between 1996 and 2001, the nation's population increased by 1,160,333 people, a gain of 4.0%.

There have been only two other periods in which the population grew this slowly. These were during the Depression of the 1930s, and the period between 1981 and 1986 when the population increased by only 966,150 as a result of exceptionally low levels of immigration. Fewer than half a million immigrants settled in Canada during that five-year period.

The census counted 30,007,094 people in Canada on May 15, 2001, compared with 28,846,761 in 1996.

Immigration accounted for more than one-half of Canada's population growth between 1996 and 2001. This period was marked by a decline of about one-third in natural increase compared with the previous five-year period. The number of deaths rose primarily because Canada's population is ageing. Also, the number of births

**Population of Canada, provinces and territories, 1996 and 2001 censuses**

| | Population | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1996 | 2001 | % change |
| **Canada** | **28,846,761** | **30,007,094** | **4.0** |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 551,792 | 512,930 | -7.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 134,557 | 135,294 | 0.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 909,282 | 908,007 | -0.1 |
| New Brunswick | 738,133 | 729,498 | -1.2 |
| Quebec | 7,138,795 | 7,237,479 | 1.4 |
| Ontario | 10,753,573 | 11,410,046 | 6.1 |
| Manitoba | 1,113,898 | 1,119,583 | 0.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 990,237 | 978,933 | -1.1 |
| Alberta | 2,696,826 | 2,974,807 | 10.3 |
| British Columbia | 3,724,500 | 3,907,738 | 4.9 |
| Yukon | 30,766 | 28,674 | -6.8 |
| Northwest Territories | 39,672 | 37,360 | -5.8 |
| Nunavut | 24,730 | 26,745 | 8.1 |

*(continued on page 2)*

### ... Canada's population in 2001: One of the lowest census-to-census increases

declined, for two reasons. First, the already low fertility rates dropped even further in the late 1990s. Second, the generation of parents who were born in the second half of the 1960s and early 1970s belonged to the smaller "baby bust" generations that followed the baby boom.

#### Provinces and territories with above-average growth rates

Between 1996 and 2001, provincial growth rates decelerated in every province except Alberta. Shifts in migration from one province to another were responsible for the most significant census-to-census changes in provincial and territorial growth rates. Natural increase declined in all provinces and territories, while immigration remained relatively stable.

Three provinces and one territory recorded growth rates above the national average of 4.0% between 1996 and 2001. By far, Alberta had the highest rate of growth, 10.3%, more than 2.5 times the national average. Ontario gained 6.1%, while British Columbia rose 4.9%. The population of Nunavut increased 8.1%.

The 2001 Census counted 2,974,807 people in Alberta, which comprised 9.9% of the total population enumerated by the census, compared with 9.3% in 1996. Alberta's booming economy attracted an estimated net inflow of 140,000 migrants from the rest of the country during the period between 1996 and 2001. This was in direct contrast to the period between 1986 and 1991, when more people left Alberta than moved into it. The positive net growth in Alberta's population was the strongest since the early 1980s at the height of the "oil boom".

The census enumerated 11,410,046 people in Ontario, an increase of more than 656,000 since 1996, the largest growth in absolute numbers among the provinces. This gain represented 57% of the total growth in Canada's population between 1996 and 2001. Ontario accounted for 38% of the nation's population in 2001.

The 6.1% growth in Ontario was due to a high level of immigration, as more than one-half of the immigrants who came to Canada during the past five years settled in Ontario. Unlike Alberta, Ontario's net interprovincial migration, while positive, did not contribute significantly to its population growth.

British Columbia is the only province in which the population has grown at a rate faster than the national average in every census since the province joined Confederation in 1871. The census counted 3,907,738 people in British Columbia, up 4.9% from 1996. While B.C.'s growth rate was higher than the national average, it was less than half the 13.5% increase experienced between 1991 and 1996. In fact, during the late 1980s and early 1990s, British Columbia had the highest growth rate of all provinces.

This slowdown in growth was due mainly to a significant change in the direction of the patterns of interprovincial migration. Between 1996 and 2001, British Columbia incurred a net outflow of migrants to other provinces of about 40,000 people. This compares with a net inflow of 170,000 between 1991 and 1996. However, this outflow of Canadians was more than offset by the high number of international immigrants who settled in British Columbia.

Among the three territories, the 2001 Census showed an increase in population only in Nunavut, the newest territory that came into existence in April 1999. Nunavut had an estimated 26,745 residents, up 8.1% from the number living within its boundaries at the time of the 1996 Census. Nunavut's growth rate was due mainly to the high birth rate among the Inuit population, and to development in its capital, Iqaluit, the population of which increased by 24.1%. One-half of Nunavut's growth occurred in Iqaluit.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *This is the first in a series of reports on the 2001 Census. Detailed analysis of the new census data which cover population and dwelling counts is available by accessing a full-colour report titled "A profile of the Canadian population: where we live". It is available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). On the home page, choose "Census".*
>
> *In this report, analysis of immigration and interprovincial migration is based on administrative data sources. Subsequent reports from the 2001 Census will paint a complete picture of the impact of these factors on provincial and regional populations.*

#### Provinces with small population changes

Six provinces experienced small changes in their populations from 1996 to 2001: Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Among these provinces, Quebec's population increased 1.4%. Manitoba and Prince Edward Island both showed identical increases of 0.5%. There was virtually no change in Nova Scotia (-0.1%), while the population of New Brunswick declined by 1.2%, and Saskatchewan by 1.1%.

Most of these provinces tend to have net outflows of migration to other provinces. This is particularly the case with respect to Manitoba and Saskatchewan because of their proximity to Alberta.

Natural increase declined in each of these six provinces between 1996 and 2001. Furthermore, relative to their population, they tend to receive small numbers of immigrants.

Quebec's growth rate decelerated from 3.5% between 1991 and 1996 to 1.4% between 1996 and 2001 because of declines in both its natural increase and the number of immigrants that it received.

#### Provinces and territories with population declines of 5% or more

One province and two territories incurred population declines of 5% or more between 1996 and 2001. They were Newfoundland and Labrador, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Newfoundland and Labrador's population experienced its second consecutive census-to-census decline. The census counted 512,930 people in the province, down 7% from the previous census. This was more than twice the 2.9% rate of decline between 1991 and 1996. Newfoundland and Labrador had the strongest net outflow of interprovincial migrants of any province. It also had the nation's lowest fertility rate.

The census counted 28,674 people in the Yukon, down 6.8%, and 37,360 in the Northwest Territories, down 5.8%. Demographic change in the territories is quite volatile because of the small size of their population. Between 1991 and 1996, growth rates in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories were much higher than the

*(continued on page 3)*

### ... Canada's population in 2001: One of the lowest census-to-census increases

Canadian average. However, leading up to the 2001 Census, high net outflows of migration to the rest of Canada contributed to the declines in population.

### Sub-provincial dynamics: The continuing urbanization of Canada

Canada is one of the most urbanized nations, according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

In 2001, 79.4% of Canadians lived in an urban centre of 10,000 people or more, compared with 78.5% in 1996. During this five-year period, the population of these areas increased 5.2%. Rural and small town areas, that is, those areas outside these urban centres, recorded a 0.4% decline. The population of these areas declined in every province except Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. In 2001, 20.6% of Canadians lived in rural and small town areas, down from 21.5% in 1996.

Metropolitan areas near the Canada-U.S. border that attract immigrants, and whose economies are based on manufacturing or services, increased most. Populations of areas with resource-based economies declined, such as northern Quebec, northern Ontario and northern British Columbia and large segments of rural Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The only exception was Alberta, where the oil industry attracted newcomers.

### Growth varied widely across census metropolitan areas

In 2001, just over 64% of Canada's population, or about 19,297,000 people, lived in the nation's 27 census metropolitan areas, up slightly from 63% in 1996. Seven of the 27 had a growth rate double that of the national average of 4.0%.

The census metropolitan area with the strongest rate of growth by far was Calgary, the population of which soared 15.8% to 951,400. Between 1996 and 2001, Calgary accounted for 47% of the total growth of Alberta. The census metropolitan area of Edmonton increased 8.7%, about half the rate of Calgary.

The second strongest growth occurred in the census metropolitan area of Oshawa, where the population increased 10.2% to 296,300. In third place was the largest census metropolitan area, Toronto, the population of which surged 9.8% to almost 4,683,000.

The census counted just over 3,426,000 people in Montreal, the second largest census metropolitan area, a 3% increase. Vancouver, the third largest, had about 1,987,000 people, up 8.5% from 1996.

With three exceptions, the census metropolitan areas with the strongest growth were located in three regions: the extended Golden Horseshoe in southern Ontario, the Calgary-Edmonton corridor, and British Columbia's Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island.

The three exceptions were Ottawa-Hull, Windsor and Halifax. Immigration played a major role in Windsor's growth (+7.3%), followed by migration from other parts of Ontario. The growth in Ottawa-Hull was the result of a mix of internal and international migration, as well as natural increase. Ottawa-Hull had nearly 1,064,000 people, a 6.5% increase.

**Census metropolitan area populations and growth rates**

| | 1996 Population | 2001 Population | 1996 to 2001 % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Canada** | **28,846,760** | **30,007,094** | **4.0** |
| Abbotsford (B.C.) | 136,480 | 147,370 | 8.0 |
| Calgary (Alta.) | 821,628 | 951,395 | 15.8 |
| Chicoutimi - Jonquière (Que.) | 160,454 | 154,938 | -3.4 |
| Edmonton (Alta.) | 862,597 | 937,845 | 8.7 |
| Greater Sudbury (Ont.) | 165,618 | 155,601 | -6.0 |
| Halifax (N.S.) | 342,966 | 359,183 | 4.7 |
| Hamilton (Ont.) | 624,360 | 662,401 | 6.1 |
| Kingston (Ont.) | 144,528 | 146,838 | 1.6 |
| Kitchener (Ont.) | 382,940 | 414,284 | 8.2 |
| London (Ont.) | 416,546 | 432,451 | 3.8 |
| Montréal (Que.) | 3,326,447 | 3,426,350 | 3.0 |
| Oshawa (Ont.) | 268,773 | 296,298 | 10.2 |
| Ottawa - Hull (Ont.) | 998,718 | 1,063,664 | 6.5 |
| Québec (Que.) | 671,889 | 682,757 | 1.6 |
| Regina (Sask.) | 193,652 | 192,800 | -0.4 |
| Saint John (N.B.) | 125,705 | 122,678 | -2.4 |
| Saskatoon (Sask.) | 219,056 | 225,927 | 3.1 |
| Sherbrooke (Que.) | 149,569 | 153,811 | 2.8 |
| St. Catharines - Niagara (Ont.) | 372,406 | 377,009 | 1.2 |
| St. John's (Nfld.Lab.) | 174,051 | 172,918 | -0.7 |
| Thunder Bay (Ont.) | 126,643 | 121,986 | -3.7 |
| Toronto (Ont.) | 4,263,759 | 4,682,897 | 9.8 |
| Trois-Rivières (Que.) | 139,956 | 137,507 | -1.7 |
| Vancouver (B.C.) | 1,831,665 | 1,986,965 | 8.5 |
| Victoria (B.C.) | 304,287 | 311,902 | 2.5 |
| Windsor (Ont.) | 286,811 | 307,877 | 7.3 |
| Winnipeg (Man.) | 667,093 | 671,274 | 0.6 |

Halifax continued to strengthen its position as the major urban centre of Atlantic Canada, accounting for 39.6% of Nova Scotia's population in 2001, compared with 37.7% in 1996. With a population of 359,180, it grew 4.7%, almost equally because of international immigration and natural increase.

The population of seven census metropolitan areas declined between 1996 and 2001. The biggest decrease occurred in Greater Sudbury, where the population fell 6% to about 155,600.

### Growth concentrated in four large urban regions

From a demographic point of view, four major urban regions continue to emerge, and they account for a large and growing proportion of the nation's population. These regions are: Ontario's extended Golden Horseshoe; Montreal and adjacent region; British Columbia's Lower Mainland and southern Vancouver Island; and the Calgary-Edmonton corridor.

In 2001, about 15.3 million people lived in these four regions, a 7.6% increase from 1996 compared with a 0.5% gain in the rest of the country. These four regions accounted for 51% of the nation's population, compared with 49% in 1996 and about 41% in 1971.

# Unemployment rate remains stable

Employment rose marginally in February, but not enough to affect the unemployment rate, which remained unchanged at 7.9%, according to the Labour Force Survey. The nation recorded a net employment gain of 6,000, less than one-tenth the increase of 75,900 in January.

However, employment in manufacturing surged by an estimated 62,000 in February, the second consecutive monthly increase and the largest one-month gain in 15 years. This increase more than offset losses in other sectors, such as education services, and health care and social assistance.

February's substantial gain in factory employment followed an increase of 24,600 in January. But despite these gains, overall factory employment was down 26,000, or 1%, from its peak in December 2000. An estimated 2.3 million people were employed in manufacturing in February, 15% of total employment.

February's gain in manufacturing was concentrated in Ontario, where the largest increases were in machinery and transportation equipment.

Overall, full-time employment rose by 16,000, a gain that was partly offset by losses in part-time employment.

Employment among adult men, those 25 and over, rose 18,000 in February, all in full-time positions. As a result, their unemployment rate edged down 0.1 percentage points to 7.2%.

Among adult women, employment dipped 11,000, following a gain of 46,000 in January. Their unemployment rate remained at 6.1%. Although little changed in February, employment among adult women has risen 84,000, or 1.4%, since the end of 2000; for adult men, it was up only 22,000, or 0.3%.

Employment among young people aged 15 to 24 was unchanged in February, following a jump of 36,000 in January. The youth unemployment rate fell slightly from 13.8% to 13.7%. Youth employment was weak throughout 2001. Despite January's gain, it remained 11,000, or 0.5%, lower than at the end of 2000.

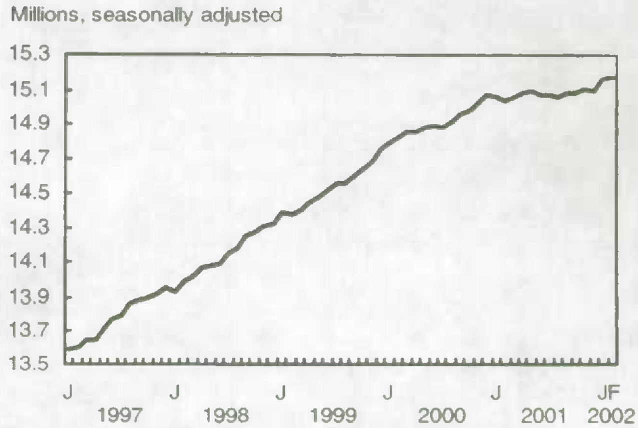
In February, a decline of 21,000 in the number of public sector employees, mostly in health care and social assistance as well as education, was offset by a gain of 20,000 in the number of private sector employees. Since the end of 2000, public sector employment has increased 10,000, or 0.4%, and the number of private sector employees has grown 162,000, or 1.6%.

**Labour Force Survey,** February 2002
Seasonally adjusted[1]

| | Labour force | | Employment | | Unemployment | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | '000 | % change, previous month | '000 | % change, previous month | '000 | rate (%) |
| **Canada** | **16,465.1** | **0.0** | **15,172.0** | **0.0** | **1,293.0** | **7.9** |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 257.5 | 0.2 | 211.8 | -0.2 | 45.8 | 17.8 |
| Prince Edward Island | 77.0 | 2.3 | 66.0 | 0.5 | 11.0 | 14.3 |
| Nova Scotia | 471.2 | -0.2 | 422.8 | -0.8 | 48.5 | 10.3 |
| New Brunswick | 384.9 | 0.3 | 341.6 | 0.4 | 43.3 | 11.2 |
| Quebec | 3,884.5 | 0.5 | 3,522.8 | 0.3 | 361.7 | 9.3 |
| Ontario | 6,443.4 | -0.1 | 5,996.8 | 0.3 | 446.7 | 6.9 |
| Manitoba | 594.9 | -0.3 | 560.6 | -1.0 | 34.3 | 5.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 505.3 | 1.0 | 476.2 | 1.2 | 29.1 | 5.8 |
| Alberta | 1,732.4 | -0.3 | 1,644.7 | -0.6 | 87.7 | 5.1 |
| British Columbia | 2,113.9 | -0.7 | 1,928.8 | -0.6 | 185.1 | 8.8 |

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

**Employment**




Although the number of self-employed individuals changed little in February, it has followed a steep downward trend for more than two years. Since the start of 2000, the number of self-employed has declined 8.7%.

Employment in the retail and wholesale trade sector was unchanged in February, after losses totalling 32,000 in December and January. Despite recent weakness, employment in retail and wholesale trade remains 70,000, or 3.0%, ahead of its level in February 2001.

Construction employed edged down by 9,000, while employment in education services fell 17,000. Farm employment declined slightly, as did the number of positions in health care and social assistance.

Provincially, Ontario was the brightest spot, gaining 20,000 jobs in February, all full-time, after little change over the previous 12 months. Manufacturing employment surged 41,000, mostly in machinery and transportation equipment. Ontario's unemployment rate in February declined 0.5 percentage points to 6.9%.

Employment edged up in Quebec (+10,000) as an advance of 22,000 full-time jobs was partly offset by a decline in part-time. Employment rose in manufacturing and construction. Compared with February 2001, employment in the province was up 57,000, or 1.7%. Despite February's slight rise in employment, more people were looking for work, which pushed the unemployment rate up from 9.1% to 9.3%.

In Saskatchewan, employment rose 6,000, the second consecutive monthly increase. February's gain was mostly in part-time jobs and was widespread across several industries. These recent gains follow job losses in 2001, leaving employment in the province at about the same level as in February 2001. The unemployment rate declined from 6.0% to 5.8%.

*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 9.)*

# Capacity utilization at six-year low

Industries operated at 80.3% capacity in the fourth quarter, the lowest rate since the fourth quarter of 1995, when it was 80.2%. The 1.2-percentage-point drop from the third quarter marked the sixth consecutive quarterly decline.

Some of the fourth quarter's drop in production was the result of the drawing-down of inventories by producers, retailers and wholesalers to meet higher consumer demand. The excess production capacity, along with falling corporate profits, were reflected in reduced business investment in plant and equipment in the fourth quarter.

Manufacturers reduced their rate of capacity use for a fifth straight quarter. The rate for the fourth quarter was 78.7%, down from 80.0% in the third, and the lowest since the fourth quarter of 1992 when it was 77.6%. The lower rates were widespread; 15 of the 21 major industry groups in manufacturing posted declines. The most notable were in computer and electronic products, electrical equipment and appliances, chemicals and transportation equipment.

**Industrial capacity utilization rates,** Fourth quarter 2001

| | % | % point change, previous quarter | 2001 % annual average |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total industrial** | **80.3** | **-1.2** | **82.4** |
| Forestry and logging | 78.4 | -2.6 | 83.2 |
| Oil and gas extraction | 69.3 | -0.2 | 70.6 |
| Mining | 84.9 | -7.5 | 91.3 |
| Electric power generation, transmission and distribution | 85.4 | -0.6 | 87.5 |
| Construction | 89.2 | 0.2 | 89.5 |
| Manufacturing | 78.7 | -1.3 | 80.9 |
| Food | 82.2 | 0.7 | 81.6 |
| Beverage and tobacco products | 77.0 | -1.0 | 77.7 |
| Textile mills | 78.3 | -2.0 | 80.9 |
| Textile product mills | 73.4 | -5.9 | 78.0 |
| Clothing | 77.7 | -4.4 | 82.7 |
| Leather and allied products | 70.5 | -8.9 | 74.5 |
| Wood products | 81.0 | -0.9 | 82.1 |
| Paper | 88.2 | 0.8 | 89.1 |
| Printing and related support activities | 72.2 | -3.6 | 76.1 |
| Petroleum and coal products | 95.8 | 1.2 | 95.2 |
| Chemicals | 74.1 | -2.0 | 78.5 |
| Plastics and rubber products | 79.9 | 0.1 | 80.6 |
| Non-metallic mineral products | 75.7 | 0.9 | 77.4 |
| Primary metal | 85.7 | 0.0 | 86.3 |
| Fabricated metal products | 78.5 | -2.1 | 80.7 |
| Machinery | 78.1 | -0.9 | 79.3 |
| Computer and electronic products | 61.3 | -5.1 | 70.9 |
| Electrical equipment, appliances and components | 66.5 | -5.5 | 74.8 |
| Transportation equipment | 84.8 | -0.6 | 84.5 |
| Furniture and related products | 71.9 | -3.6 | 78.8 |

**Industrial capacity utilization rate**


Producers in the computer and electronic products group of industries reduced output by 15.1% in the fourth quarter, the fifth consecutive quarterly drop. The fourth quarter's decline brought output to 54.3% of its third quarter 2000 peak. The prolonged world-wide slump in investment in telecommunications equipment continued to dampen production.

Output of computers and peripheral equipment, semiconductors and other electronic components and audio, video and other instruments also fell. The resulting excess production capacity was reflected in a rate of capacity use of 61.3% in the fourth quarter, down 5.1 percentage points from the third quarter, and down 38.2 percentage points from the third quarter of 2000, when the group was operating flat out at 99.5%.

Paper was among the handful of manufacturing industry groups that posted higher rates of capacity use in the fourth quarter. The rate rose 0.8 percentage points to 88.2% due to a moderate advance in production.

In the non-manufacturing group, only construction industries struck a positive note; interest rates at 40-year lows helped boost demand for housing. The resulting increase in residential construction was mainly responsible for the fourth quarter's increase in construction activity. The corresponding rise in the rate of capacity use by construction industries was 0.2 percentage points, bringing the rate to 89.2%.

*For more information, contact Susanna Wood (613-951-0655) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

# Twelve-year high in housing intentions

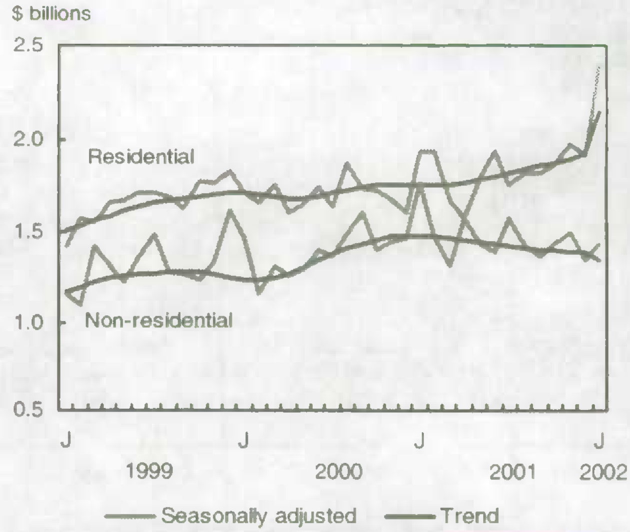
The momentum from last year's record level of building permits for housing has spilled over into January 2002. Builders took out permits for $2.4 billion worth of housing construction, 24.9% more than in December, for the best monthly performance since January 1990.

The increase was fuelled by gains for both single- and multi-family dwellings. The value of permits for non-residential construction also rose, but to a lesser extent, 6.8% to $1.4 billion.

Municipalities issued a total of $3.8 billion in building permits, a 17.4% increase from December and the highest monthly figure in 12 years. This value was also 3.2% higher than intentions in January 2001.

January's level of housing permits was 23.1% ahead of January 2001 intentions. However, non-residential permits in January were down 18.7% from January 2001. Among the metropolitan areas, the strongest starts in January compared with January 2001 (in dollars) occurred in Edmonton and Calgary. In both areas, the residential sector played a key role.

### Value of building permits




### Value of building permits by census metropolitan area

Seasonally adjusted

| | January 2002 | December 2001 to January 2002 | January 2001 to January 2002 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | $ millions | % change | |
| St. John's | 16.1 | -6.9 | 2.4 |
| Halifax | 41.4 | -2.9 | 87.4 |
| Saint John | 7.8 | 46.8 | 59.4 |
| Chicoutimi- Jonquière | 5.3 | -3.0 | -14.7 |
| Québec | 32.9 | -69.7 | -50.5 |
| Sherbrooke | 15.8 | 105.3 | 105.6 |
| Trois-Rivières | 11.7 | -9.2 | 131.6 |
| Montréal | 467.2 | 11.1 | -14.5 |
| Hull | 55.6 | 162.5 | 127.7 |
| Ottawa | 76.1 | -41.5 | -54.8 |
| Kingston | 14.6 | 192.6 | -23.4 |
| Oshawa | 39.5 | -20.2 | 40.9 |
| Toronto | 835.2 | 36.3 | -9.3 |
| Hamilton | 74.6 | 43.0 | -24.8 |
| St. Catharines-Niagara | 36.9 | 37.0 | 14.7 |
| Kitchener | 71.6 | -21.5 | 35.1 |
| London | 59.7 | 11.0 | 7.3 |
| Windsor | 42.5 | -28.7 | -0.2 |
| Sudbury | 1.9 | -24.7 | -53.9 |
| Thunder Bay | 5.8 | -64.9 | -33.7 |
| Winnipeg | 41.0 | 51.5 | 18.5 |
| Regina | 16.2 | 28.3 | -22.9 |
| Saskatoon | 24.3 | 95.4 | -7.2 |
| Calgary | 192.9 | -11.2 | 24.6 |
| Edmonton | 179.2 | 9.3 | 87.0 |
| Abbotsford | 9.9 | 27.1 | -25.5 |
| Vancouver | 199.5 | -14.0 | -16.3 |
| Victoria | 28.2 | -13.9 | -7.6 |

Several factors helped push up the value of residential permits, including low mortgage rates and their positive impact on housing affordability, the high level of immigration and the tight vacancy rates for apartments in several centres.

Ontario was by far the largest contributor (+41.2% to $1.1 billion) to the strong gain from December. Alberta (+19.3%) and Quebec (+16.2%) followed far behind. For those three provinces and New Brunswick, January's residential figures were the highest in 10 years. The largest decline occurred in Nova Scotia (-7.7%), following high construction intentions in December.

The 6.8% gain in non-residential intentions in January was fuelled by proposed industrial and commercial projects. Builders took out $242 million worth of industrial permits, a 55.2% rebound from December; all categories gained except factories and plants. The largest increase in industrial permits was in Quebec (+214.6% to $81 million).

Despite January's increase, the non-residential sector is seeing a continuing downward trend. Several indicators help explain this. Only 17% of manufacturers expected their production to increase in the first quarter of 2002. Declining corporate operating profits in 2001 and industrial capacity utilization rates may have hurt the sector. As well, non-residential construction activity is expected to decrease in 2002, according the recent survey on private and public investment intentions.

*The January 2002 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 more information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.*

## Earnings growth higher in service-producing industries

On an annual average basis, average weekly earnings were up 1.7% in 2001 compared with a 2.3% rise in 2000. The earnings gain in 2001 was lower than the corresponding 2.6% increase for the Consumer Price Index.

In 2001, the number of employees on payrolls grew more slowly (+268,000) than in 2000 (+404,000), but more sharply than in 1999 (+167,000). Among the provinces, employment gains in 2001 were strongest in Ontario (+94,000) and Alberta (+65,000). Quebec (+41,000) and British Columbia (+19,000) posted modest gains, the result of employment losses in goods-producing industries.

**Average weekly earnings, all industries,** December 2001
Seasonally adjusted

| | $ | % change, previous month | % change, previous year |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Canada** | **671.43** | **0.1** | **1.9** |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 613.77 | 0.6 | 2.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 524.52 | -0.8 | 0.6 |
| Nova Scotia | 576.56 | 0.1 | 1.7 |
| New Brunswick | 598.46 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Quebec | 631.95 | 0.2 | 2.5 |
| Ontario | 717.07 | 0.1 | 1.9 |
| Manitoba | 600.21 | 0.8 | 1.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 604.78 | -0.2 | 1.9 |
| Alberta | 693.32 | 0.4 | 3.3 |
| British Columbia | 666.28 | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Yukon | 750.63 | -0.9 | 1.2 |
| Northwest Territories[1] | 879.66 | 0.4 | .. |
| Nunavut[1] | 795.38 | 1.5 | .. |

[1] *Data not seasonally adjusted.*
.. *Figures not available.*

At the national level, service-producing industries generated employee growth of 2.5% and earnings growth of 2.2% in 2001. In contrast, goods-producing industries had employee growth of 0.8% and earnings growth of 1.1%.

In December, average weekly earnings for all employees were virtually unchanged from November at $671.43. Compared with December 2000, average weekly earnings were up 1.9%.

Most industries posted modest earnings gains in December compared with December 2000, except construction and professional, scientific and technical services. In construction, stronger employment growth in industries in which earnings are lower than average is partly responsible for the 1.9% decline in average earnings.

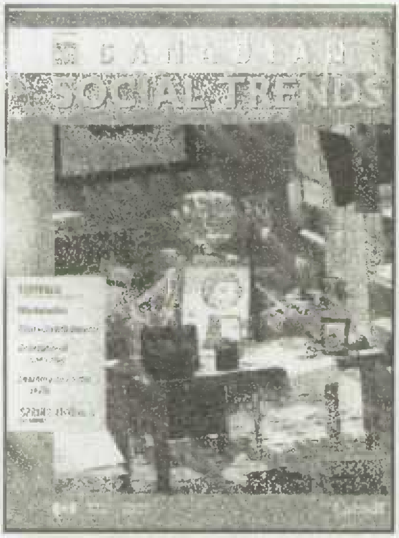
In professional, scientific and technical services, earnings were virtually unchanged. Small average earnings declines in most industries of the sector were partly offset by modest earnings gains in architectural, engineering and related services and in management, scientific and technical consulting services.

The number of employees on payrolls rose by 19,400, or 0.15%, in December. Employment gains were strongest in construction (+16,200) and professional, scientific and technical services (+6,700). The sharp employment gains in construction mirror growth in housing starts and building permits in the past few months, but also reflect the effect of unusually mild weather in December.

Employment in the manufacturing sector was down again in December (-3,600), but this decline was mostly due to a textile union strike in Quebec. Most provinces saw employment gains; Ontario (+11,400) led the way. British Columbia was the only province to post a decline (-1,500).

***Employment, earnings and hours*** *(72-002-XIB, $24/$240) 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 Robert Frindt (613-951-4069) or Jean Leduc (613-951-4061), Labour Statistics Division.*

# New from Statistics Canada



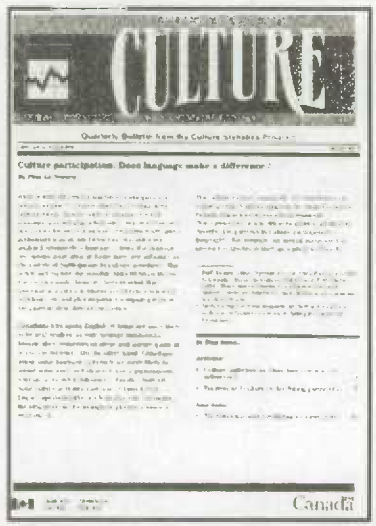

## Canadian social trends
Spring 2002

The spring 2002 issue of *Canadian social trends* contains four articles and a special insert with the summary of main findings of the 2000 Youth in Transition Survey.

The feature article, "Driven to excel: A portrait of Canada's workaholics," briefly profiles people who describe themselves as workaholics; "Staying in touch: Contact between adults and their parents" examines the factors that contribute to frequent contact between adult children and their parents; "The changing recreational spending patterns of Canadian families" looks at the choices Canadians make when deciding how to spend their recreation dollar; "Learning computer skills" examines how men and women aged 15 and over learned their computer skills and which methods they found most important.

*The spring 2002 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.*

## Focus on culture
Vol. 13, no.3



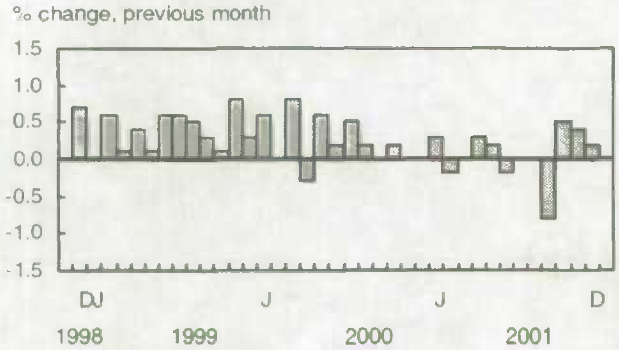

The current issue of *Focus on culture* features the article "Culture participation: Does language make a difference?," which explores links between home language and participation in various cultural activities.

This issue also includes an article examining ties between culture and tourism in Canada. The analysis focuses on the different levels of culture activity by Canadian, US and overseas visitors while travelling in Canada.

***Focus on culture**, Vol. 13, no. 3 (Internet: 87-004-XIE, $7/$20; paper: 87-004-XPB, $9/$27) is now available. A preview article from this publication, "Culture participation: Does language make a difference?," is also available free on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the* Our products and services *page, choose* In depth. *For more information, contact Marla Waltman Daschko (613-951-3028; marla.waltman-daschko@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.*

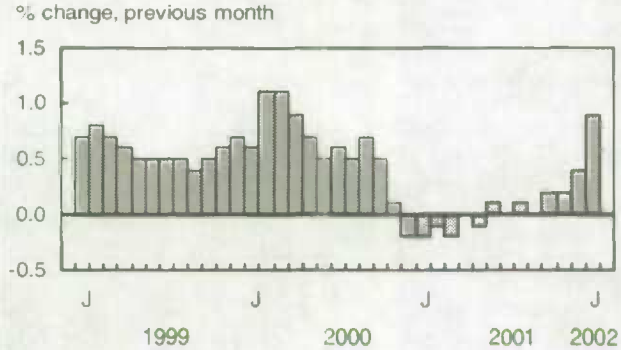
# Current Trends

### Gross domestic product



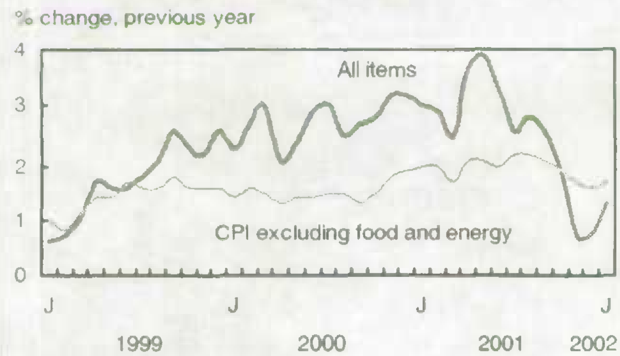

Total economic activity advanced 0.2% in December, after rising 0.4% in November.

### Composite index



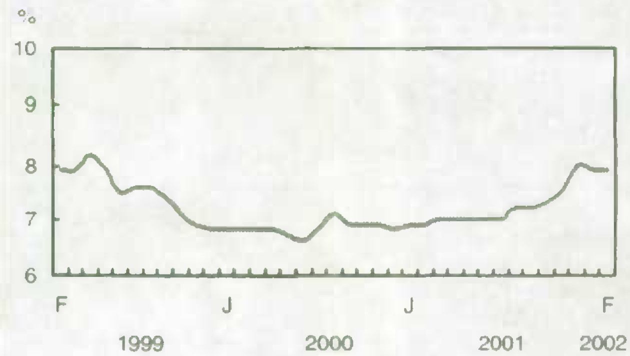

The leading indicator gained 0.9% in January, due mainly to strength in household spending.

### Consumer price index



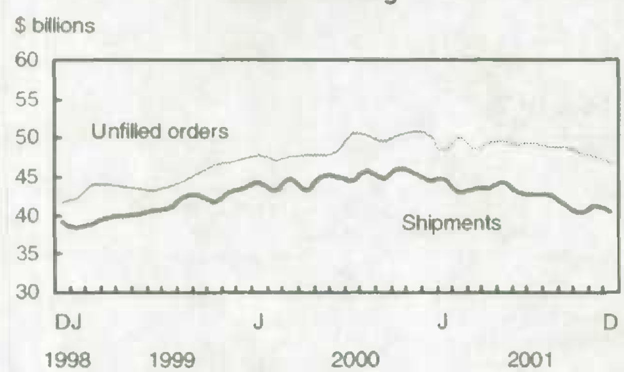

Consumer prices for goods and services were 1.3% higher in January than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.7%.

### Unemployment rate



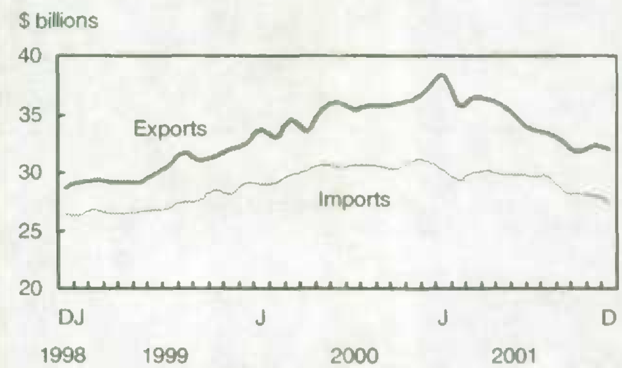

In February, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 7.9%.

### Manufacturing




Manufacturers' shipments fell 1.8% in December to $40.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 1.5% to $46.8 billion.

### Merchandise trade




In December, the value of merchandise exports fell 1.2% to $32.0 billion. Imports declined 1.8% to $27.5 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] | December | 943.1 | 0.2% | 0.7% |
| Composite Index (1992=100) | January | 168.9 | 0.9% | 1.3% |
| Operating profits of enterprises ($ billions) | Q4 2001 | 33.8 | -5.6% | -29.9% |
| Capacity utilization rate (%)[2] | Q4 2001* | 80.3 | -1.2† | -4.8† |
| **DOMESTIC DEMAND** | | | | |
| Retail trade ($ billions) | December | 25.0 | 1.6% | 5.8% |
| New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units) | January* | 146.3 | 0.0% | 11.6% |
| Wholesale trade ($ billions) | December | 32.5 | 0.3% | 1.8% |
| **LABOUR** | | | | |
| Employment (millions) | February* | 15.2 | 0.0% | 0.9% |
| Unemployment rate (%) | February* | 7.9 | 0.0† | 1.0† |
| Participation rate (%) | February* | 66.4 | 0.0† | 0.4† |
| Average weekly earnings ($) | December | 671.43 | 0.10% | 1.92% |
| Help-wanted Index (1996=100) | February | 124 | -0.8% | -26.6% |
| Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands) | December | 557.2 | 0.0% | 16.9% |
| **INTERNATIONAL TRADE** | | | | |
| Merchandise exports ($ billions) | December | 32.0 | -1.2% | -13.8% |
| Merchandise imports ($ billions) | December | 27.5 | -1.8% | -11.4% |
| Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billions) | December | 4.5 | 0.1 | -1.6 |
| **MANUFACTURING** | | | | |
| Shipments ($ billions) | December | 40.4 | -1.8% | -9.5% |
| New orders ($ billions) | December | 39.7 | -2.5% | -9.9% |
| Unfilled orders ($ billions) | December | 46.8 | -1.5% | -6.9% |
| Inventory/shipments ratio | December | 1.56 | 0.02 | 0.11 |
| **PRICES** | | | | |
| Consumer Price Index (1992=100) | January | 116.2 | 0.3% | 1.3% |
| Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100) | January | 106.2 | 0.9% | -1.2% |
| Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100) | January | 103.2 | 2.6% | -13.0% |
| New Housing Price Index (1992=100) | December | 107.3 | 0.2% | 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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# Products released from March 7 to 13, 2002

| SUBJECT AREA<br>Title of product | Period | Catalogue number | Price ($) (issue/subscription) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **AGRICULTURE** | | | |
| Cereals and oilseeds review | December 2001 | 22-007-XIB | 11/112 |
| Cereals and oilseeds review | December 2001 | 22-007-XPB | 15/149 |
| Economic overview of farm incomes - all farms | December 2001 | 21-005-XIE | free |
| Livestock feed requirements study | 1999-2000 | 23-501-XIE | free |
| **CENSUS OPERATIONS** | | | |
| 2001 Census Dictionary | | 92-378-XIE01000 | free |
| A profile of the Canadian population: Where we live | | 96F0030XIE01001 | free |
| Community Profiles | | 97C0018 | free |
| Geographic Areas and Statistical Classifications | | 97F0001XCB01000 | 70 |
| Urban and Rural | | 97F0002XCB01000 | 70 |
| **CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS** | | | |
| Focus on culture, Vol. 13, no. 3 | | 87-004-XIE | 7/20 |
| Focus on culture, Vol. 13, no. 3 | | 87-004-XPB | 9/27 |
| **GEOGRAPHY** | | | |
| Census Consolidated Subdivisions Cartographic Boundary Files | | 92F0167XCE01000 | various |
| Census Division and Census Subdivision Reference Maps, for Provinces and Territories, 2001 Census | | 92F0149XIB01000 | various |
| Census Divisions and Economic Regions Cartographic Boundary Files | | 92F0161XCE01000 | 100 |
| Census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census tracts for the 2001 Census | | 92F0138MIE | free |
| Census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census tracts for the 2001 Census | | 92F0138MPE | 10 |
| Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations Cartographic Boundary File | | 92F0166XCE01000 | 100 |
| Census Subdivisions Cartographic Boundary Files | | 92F0162XCE01000 | various |
| Census Tract Reference Maps, by Census Metropolitan Area or Census Agglomeration, 2001 Census | | 92F0145XIB01000 | various |
| Census Tracts Cartographic Boundary Files | | 92F0168XCE01000 | various |
| Designated Places Cartographic Boundary File | | 92F0165XCE01000 | 100 |
| Dissemination Areas Cartographic Boundary Files | | 92F0169XCE01000 | various |
| Dissemination Area Reference Maps, by Census Tract, for Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 Census | | 92F0146XIB01000 | various |
| Dissemination Area Reference Maps, by Non-tracted Census Agglomeration, 2001 Census | | 92F0147XIB01000 | various |
| Dissemination Area Reference Maps, by Census Division, for Areas outside Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 Census | | 92F0148XIB01000 | various |
| Federal Electoral Districts (1996 Representation Order) Cartographic Boundary File | | 92F0163XCE01000 | 100 |
| Federal Electoral Districts (1996 Representation Order) Reference Map, 2001 Census | | 92F0152XIE01000 | various |
| Geography Catalogue, 2001 Census | | 92-405-XIE01000 | free |
| GeoSearch, 2001 Census | | 97C0013 | free |
| GeoSuite, 2001 Census | | 92F0150XCB01000 | 60 |
| National Reference Maps, 2001 Census | | 92F0144XIB01000 | various |
| Population and Dwelling Counts, for Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2001 and 1996 Censuses - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01001 | 60 |
| Population and Dwelling Counts, for Census Metropolitan Areas, Census Agglomerations and Component Census Subdivisions (Municipalities), 2001 and 1996 Censuses - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01002 | 60 |
| Population and Dwelling Counts, for Census Divisions, Census Subdivisions (Municipalities) and Designated Places, 2001 and 1996 Censuses - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01003 | 60 |
| Population Counts, for Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, by Urban Core, Urban Fringe, Rural Fringe, and Urban Areas, 2001 Census - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01004 | 60 |
| Population and Dwelling Counts, for Urban Areas, 2001 Census - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01005 | 60 |
| Population Counts, for Urban Areas Showing Census Subdivisions (Municipalities), 2001 Census - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01006 | 60 |
| Population Counts, for Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions (Municipalities), by Urban and Rural, 2001 Census - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01007 | 60 |
| Population and Dwelling Counts, for Federal Electoral Districts (1996 Representation Order), 2001 and 1996 Censuses - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01008 | 60 |
| Population Counts, Showing Urban Population Size Groups and Rural Areas, for Census Divisions, 2001 Census - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01009 | 60 |
| Population and Dwelling Counts, for Provinces and Territories, Census Divisions and Dissemination Areas, 2001 Census - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01010 | 60 |
| Population and Dwelling Counts for Census Metropolitan Areas, Census Agglomerations and Census Tracts, 2001 and 1996 Censuses - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01011 | 60 |
| Population and Dwelling Counts, for Provinces and Territories, by Statistical Area Classification, 2001 Census - 100% data | | 93F0050XDB01012 | 60 |
| Provinces and Territories Cartographic Boundary File | | 92F0160XCE01000 | various |

## Products released from March 7 to 13, 2002

| SUBJECT AREA<br>Title of product | Period | Catalogue number | Price ($) (issue/subscription) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **GEOGRAPHY** – Concluded | | | |
| Road Network Files (RNFs) | | 92F0157XCE01000 | various |
| Skeletal Road Network Files (SRNFs) | | 92F0158XCE01000 | various |
| Urban Areas Cartographic Boundary File | | 92F0164XCE01000 | 100 |
| **HEALTH STATISTICS** | | | |
| Health reports, Vol. 13, no. 3 | | 82-003-XIE | 15/44 |
| Health reports, Vol. 13, no. 3 | | 82-003-XPE | 20/58 |
| **HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS** | | | |
| Canadian social trends | Spring 2002 | 11-008-XIE | 8/27 |
| Canadian social trends | Spring 2002 | 11-008-XPE | 11/36 |
| **INTERNATIONAL TRADE** | | | |
| Exports by commodity | December 2001 | 65-004-XMB | 37/361 |
| Exports by commodity | December 2001 | 65-004-XPB | 78/773 |
| **INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK** | | | |
| Building permits | January 2002 | 64-001-XIE | 14/145 |
| **LABOUR STATISTICS** | | | |
| Labour force information, for the week ending February 23, 2002 | | 71-001-PIB | 8/78 |
| Labour force information, for the week ending February 23, 2002 | | 71-001-PPB | 11/103 |
| **MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY** | | | |
| Cement | January 2002 | 44-001-XIB | 5/47 |
| Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard | January 2002 | 36-003-XIB | 5/47 |
| **SERVICE INDUSTRIES** | | | |
| Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics | December 2001 | 63-011-XIE | 6/55 |
| **SPECIAL SURVEYS** | | | |
| Compensation Sector Survey | September-October 2001 | 75M0011XCB | 2,000 |

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions (B signifies bilingual, E signifies English); those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote the paper version. XDB means the electronic version on diskette, while -XCB denotes a compact disc.
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