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A Weekly Review

Friday, April 12, 2002

INSIDE

◆ Potential buyers leaning toward the new-home market

Residential building sites might well be bustling with activity in the coming months; municipalities issued \$2.4 billion worth of housing permits in February, virtually unchanged from January's 12-year high. In contrast, permits in the non-residential sector have been on a downward trend for over a year.

◆ Tourism spending down drastically in wake of September 11

Spending on tourism fell drastically during the last three months of 2001 compared with the same period in 2000, as the impact of September 11 battered an industry already in decline. Tourists, both domestic and foreign, spent \$10.1 billion in Canada during the fourth quarter, down 6.3%.

◆ Employment gains highest in manufacturing, retail trade

Average weekly earnings were \$671.78 in January, up 1.7% from January 2001. This increase slightly outpaced the Consumer Price Index, which gained 1.3% over the same period. The number of employees on payrolls increased 0.2%; gains were led by manufacturing and retail trade.

◆ Fewer cases of young people involved in property crime

The number of cases involving young people in youth courts continues to decline, the result of a 23% decrease in cases involving property offences from 1996/97 to 2000/01, according to the Youth Court Survey.

Largest quarterly gain in jobs in 15 years

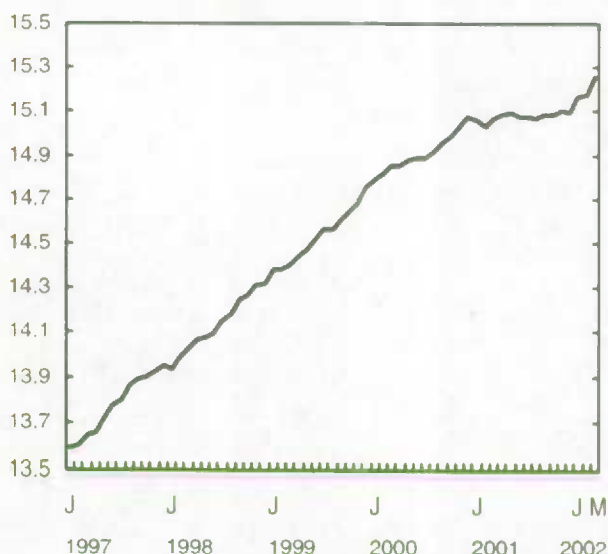
Employment jumped by 88,000 in March, bringing gains over the first three months of 2002 to 170,000, the largest quarterly increase since 1987. The strongest employment growth was in management, administrative and other support services, where an additional 27,000 were employed. The jobless rate decreased from 7.9% to 7.7%.

Retail and wholesale employers hired 18,000 more workers in March, bringing year-over-year growth to 4.1% since March 2001. Employment in agriculture grew 12,000. More than one-half of the increase was concentrated in Quebec, likely influenced by unusually mild weather.

Employment in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing edged up 12,000 in March, leaving it little changed for about one year. However, transportation and warehousing continued a downward trend that began in September, slipping by 10,000 workers.

Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



(continued on page 2)



Statistics
Canada

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Canada

Largest quarterly gain... (continued from page 1)

The private sector experienced virtually all of March's job growth (+87,000); self-employment and public sector employment remained relatively stable.

Part-time employment increased 48,000, and full-time employment rose 40,000. Youth employment rose 19,000, about 16,000 of which were full-time jobs. However, the youth unemployment rate was unchanged at 13.7%.

Employment among men gained 45,000, mostly in full-time jobs; the unemployment rate for men declined from 7.2% to 6.8%. Part-time employment for women rose 32,000. This gain was offset by a slight decline in full-time, for a net increase of

24,000 jobs. The jobless rate for women rose from 6.1% to 6.2% because of an increase in labour market participation.

Employment in Quebec was up 32,000 in March, bringing year-to-date gains to 69,000. The increase in employment occurred mainly in the trade sector (+20,000). The unemployment rate fell in Quebec from 9.3% to 8.9%.

In Ontario, employment rose 17,000, all in full-time jobs, bringing gains since the start of the year to 44,000. Despite the increase in employment, the unemployment rate was nearly unchanged at 7.0%, due to higher labour force participation.

In British Columbia, employment was up 11,000, offsetting a similar drop in February. But with a rise in the number of people looking for work, the jobless rate advanced from 8.8% to 9.0%.

Employment also rose 11,000 in Alberta, fully offsetting February's decrease. The unemployment rate in March slipped 0.1 percentage points to 5.0%. In Manitoba, employment increased by 7,000, bringing total gains since August to 13,000. With March's increase, the unemployment rate fell from 5.8% to 5.0%.

Employment in New Brunswick was up 6,000 in March and the unemployment rate dropped from 11.2% to 10.4%. Employment in this province has been on an upward trend since July. In Newfoundland and Labrador, employment rose 3,000 in March, pushing the unemployment rate down from 17.8% to 16.6%. Employment changed little in the other provinces.

A more detailed summary, **Labour force information for the week ending March 16** (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 Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325), Labour Statistics Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Labour Force Survey, March 2002 Seasonally adjusted¹

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	16,533.1	0.4	15,260.1	0.6	1,273.0	7.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	257.6	0.0	214.8	1.4	42.8	16.6
Prince Edward Island	75.7	-1.7	66.3	0.5	9.4	12.4
Nova Scotia	470.2	-0.2	424.7	0.4	45.5	9.7
New Brunswick	387.5	0.7	347.1	1.6	40.3	10.4
Quebec	3,901.1	0.4	3,555.2	0.9	345.9	8.9
Ontario	6,466.6	0.4	6,014.2	0.3	452.4	7.0
Manitoba	597.4	0.4	567.3	1.2	30.1	5.0
Saskatchewan	504.2	-0.2	475.2	-0.2	29.0	5.8
Alberta	1,742.1	0.6	1,655.7	0.7	86.4	5.0
British Columbia	2,130.8	0.8	1,939.7	0.6	191.2	9.0

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

Labour Force Survey data on CANSIM

An extensive new set of Labour Force Survey tables is now available for the first time on CANSIM, Statistics Canada's electronic database. This collection comprises 93 tables, or 1.4 million series.

Data in these new tables include: hourly and weekly wages by industry and occupation, employment levels by union membership, job permanency, hirings and separations, multiple job-holders and establishment size; employment levels by industry and occupation, for the public versus private sector, by full- versus part-time employment and labour force characteristics for metropolitan areas, economic regions, medium-sized cities and rural and urban areas; actual and usual hours, overtime hours, hours of work lost and days lost from work due to personal reasons; educational attainment, student labour force participation during the school year and summer months, duration of unemployment, and methods of job search.

Tables 282-0001 to 282-0086 are seasonally unadjusted monthly and annual average data. Seasonally adjusted estimates can be found in tables 282-0087 to 282-0093. For more information, contact Jacques Ouellet (613-951-4168), or Client Services (1-866-873-8788; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Potential buyers leaning toward the new-home market

Residential building sites might well be bustling with activity in the coming months; municipalities issued \$2.4 billion worth of housing permits in February, virtually unchanged from January's 12-year high.

Scarcity of dwellings for rent or resale, low mortgage rates and high consumer confidence helped push potential buyers toward the new-home market.

The non-residential picture was quite different. Builders took out \$1.3 billion worth of permits in February, down 10.8% from January, primarily the result of substantially lower intentions in the commercial sector.

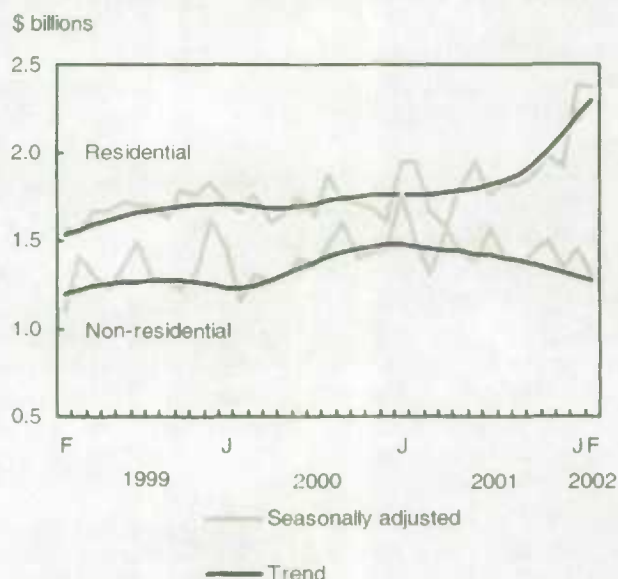
Overall, the total value of building permits issued by municipalities lost ground in February as construction intentions in the non-residential sector hit their lowest point in 21 months. Builders took out \$3.7 billion worth of building permits, down

Value of building permits by census metropolitan area
Seasonally adjusted

	February 2002 ^a	January to February 2002	January to February 2001	January- February 2001 to January- February 2002
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
St. John's	14.8	-5.8	23.8	28.0
Halifax	40.8	0.7	45.1	80.0
Saint John	6.4	-17.7	10.3	37.7
Chicoutimi- Jonquière	6.0	11.8	13.3	-14.3
Québec	52.8	57.6	129.1	-33.2
Sherbrooke	29.3	87.4	16.2	177.3
Trois-Rivières	5.2	-55.6	14.8	13.5
Montréal	349.9	-26.8	879.5	-5.8
Hull	26.4	-54.6	87.0	-2.7
Ottawa	132.4	73.6	325.2	-35.8
Kingston	10.0	-30.2	26.5	-8.3
Oshawa	68.2	86.8	88.3	18.6
Toronto	583.9	-29.7	1,889.4	-25.1
Hamilton	119.1	65.9	169.1	12.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	29.5	-19.6	60.1	10.4
Kitchener	104.9	47.2	119.7	47.2
London	49.4	-15.7	86.0	25.7
Windsor	86.0	102.3	85.3	50.7
Sudbury	3.9	104.6	8.3	-30.1
Thunder Bay	48.3	758.3	10.6	409.5
Winnipeg	40.9	-2.0	69.4	18.9
Regina	10.2	-36.6	29.9	-12.2
Saskatoon	48.1	98.6	39.0	85.6
Calgary	214.5	11.7	331.1	22.8
Edmonton	121.0	-32.2	196.6	52.3
Abbotsford	19.2	90.5	31.4	-6.7
Vancouver	276.2	37.0	492.3	-2.9
Victoria	49.5	73.3	60.9	28.3

^a Preliminary data.

Value of building permits



4.2% from January. However, February's total was 11.5% higher than the average monthly level in 2001.

After setting a record in January, the value of single-family permits — the largest contributor in the housing sector — decreased a slight 2.8% to \$1.8 billion in February. Municipalities issued permits for multi-family dwellings worth \$605 million, up 8.2%.

All 10 provinces posted stronger year-to-date results in the residential sector than in the same period of 2001. Advances in single-family permits contributed most to these gains, except in Newfoundland and Labrador and Saskatchewan.

The value of building permits declined in the non-residential sector in February on the heels of sluggish activity in the commercial component, which plunged 27.2% to \$584 million after a 21.0% increase in January.

On a year-to-date basis, non-residential building intentions reached \$2.7 billion during the first two months of 2002, down 15.2% from the same period of 2001.

Several indicators help explain the continuing downward trend in the non-residential sector. According to the latest data, industries operated at 80.3% capacity in the fourth quarter of 2001, the sixth consecutive quarterly decline. Also, deteriorating profits have hurt non-residential construction intentions.

The February 2002 issue of *Building permits* (Internet: 64-001-XIE, \$14/\$145) is now available. For general information, contact Vere Clarke (1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6556; clarver@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025; saineti@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Tourism spending down drastically in wake of September 11

Spending on tourism fell drastically during the last three months of 2001 compared with the same period in 2000, as the impact of September 11 battered an industry already in decline.

Tourists, both domestic and foreign, spent \$10.1 billion in Canada during the fourth quarter, down 6.3%, the largest year-over-year decline since collecting data on quarterly tourism expenditures began 15 years ago. (These data are in current prices and seasonally unadjusted.)

In addition, for the first time, total spending on tourism in the fourth quarter last year was below the level during the winter months of the first quarter, when such spending is traditionally lowest. The decline was probably related to the terrorist attacks of September 11. However, the tourism industry in Canada was in a slump well before that.

Spending declined in all major categories, especially accommodation, which was down 13.3% and transportation, which was down 9.0%. Tourists spent 11.2% less on air transportation alone in the fourth quarter.

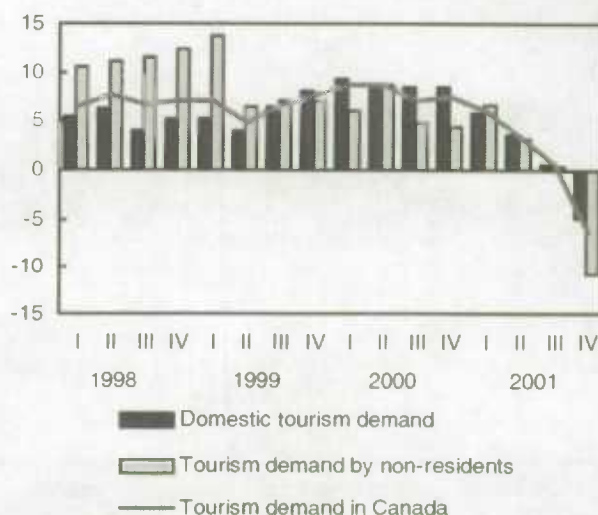
Foreign visitors spent \$2.4 billion in Canada, down 10.8%. Even so, this still represented 23% of total expenditures in the fourth quarter of 2001. Their total number of visits was down about 17% from the level between October and December 2000.

Spending by Canadian travellers in Canada was also down during the last three months of the year. Canadians themselves spent \$7.7 billion in the fourth quarter of 2001, a 4.9% decline from the same three months in 2000. Canadians also greatly reduced their number of trips abroad, by almost 23%. Same-day trips and overnight trips to the United States fell at almost the same rate as American trips to Canada.

On an annual basis, tourists spent just over \$44.3 billion on tourism in Canada during 2001, down a slight 0.1% from the previous year. Declines in spending occurred in three of the four quarters. Spending by foreigners fell 1.3%, while spending on tourism by Canadians showed a slight gain of 0.4%.

Tourism spending in Canada

Year-to-year percentage change, unadjusted for seasonal variation, current prices



Various factors, such as the global economic slowdown, the continued strength of the American dollar compared with the Canadian currency, and the events of September 11, may all have had an impact on tourism activities last year.

Foreigners accounted for 29.7% of total spending, compared with 70.3% for Canadians, virtually the same as in 2000. During the past 10 years, the proportion of foreign spending has grown steadily from a level of 22% in 1989.

The fourth quarter 2001 issue of the *National tourism indicators* (Internet: 13-009-XIB, free) can be downloaded from Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Free publications, then National accounts. To order a paper copy of the publication (13-009-XPB, free), contact the client services officer (613-951-3640; lead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca).

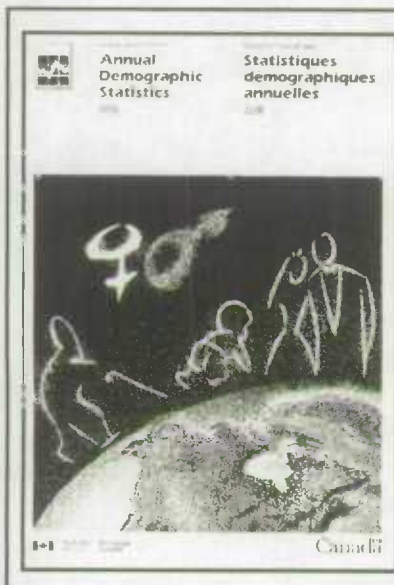
Annual demographic statistics

The 2001 edition of *Annual demographic statistics* provides the most recent population estimates and projections up to 2006 by age group and sex, plus data on births, deaths and migrations. It also provides data on census families and marriages and divorces.

A CD-ROM, included with the publication, contains even more data. The historical time series includes population data back to 1971 for provinces and territories, and to 1986 for census divisions and census metropolitan areas. The CD-ROM includes the population projections as well as animated age pyramids, which illustrate the aging of the population.

These time series can be easily captured and manipulated to create customized demographic analyses in any spreadsheet program. The population figures can be used to calculate per-capita rates for market research, quantitative analysis and planning.

Annual demographic statistics, 2001 (paper: 91-213-XPB, \$125 including the CD-ROM and an electronic version 91-213-XIB, \$56, without the CD-ROM) is now available. For more information, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; lise.champagne@statcan.ca), Demography Division.



Employment gains highest in manufacturing, retail trade

Average weekly earnings were \$671.78 in January, up 1.7% from January 2001. This increase slightly outpaced the Consumer Price Index, which gained 1.3% over the same period. January's average earnings were virtually unchanged from December.

Average earnings growth between January 2001 and January 2002 varied considerably among employee types. Employees paid by the hour had the largest earnings gain compared with January 2001 (+3.8%). Salaried employees saw a more modest gain in average earnings of 0.9% over the same period. Other employees, such as commissioned salespersons, registered a slight earnings decline (-0.5%).

Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees stood at \$17.03 in January, almost unchanged from December. Average weekly hours were up 0.1 hours from December 2001 to 32.1; average overtime hours remained about the same.

In January, the number of employees on payrolls increased 0.2% or 27,000. Both manufacturing and retail trade gained 9,000 workers, marking the highest employment gains.

Among the provinces, Ontario (+12,000) and Alberta (+8,000) recorded the strongest employment gains. In Ontario, durable goods and accommodation and food led the way; in Alberta, construction gained strongly. In British Columbia, construction posted the strongest employment increase. Manufacturing employment in Quebec was up almost 10,000, with 3,000 of that

Average weekly earnings, all industries, January 2002 Seasonally adjusted

	\$	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	671.78	0.1	1.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	615.27	0.3	2.7
Prince Edward Island	533.08	1.2	2.2
Nova Scotia	580.36	0.7	2.1
New Brunswick	596.41	-0.3	1.0
Quebec	633.55	0.4	2.0
Ontario	716.52	0.1	2.0
Manitoba	596.93	-0.3	1.9
Saskatchewan	603.17	0.0	1.5
Alberta	694.56	0.3	2.8
British Columbia	665.12	-0.3	0.0
Yukon	762.63	0.9	2.4
Northwest Territories ¹	869.24	-0.1	2.4
Nunavut ¹	780.15	-0.6	-0.1

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

gain resulting from the end of a strike in textiles and 5,000 from the end of shutdowns in sawmills.

Detailed data will be available in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (Internet: 72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240). For more information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-4090; toll free: 1-866-873-8788; labour@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Robert Frindt (613-951-4069), Labour Statistics Division.

Remote data access: On-line service for research and analysis

A unique on-line service for researching and analysing Statistics Canada's data on education, *Remote Data Access* (RDA) is a pilot project of the Centre for Education Statistics. Using this service, researchers can write and test their own computer programs using a file with artificial data. They can then send these programs via the Internet to Statistics Canada, where they will be run on the actual microdata file. The results are returned to the client.

This service is an alternative to Statistics Canada's research data centres and regional offices, which are not always accessible to researchers. For the moment, the only survey file available is the 1998 Adult Education and Training Survey. However, the 2000 Program for International Assessment and the 2000 Youth in Transition Survey will soon be available.

Remote Data Access (81C0051) is now available free, but there will be a minimal charge after an evaluation period of about three to six months. RDA is available to any researcher, provided Statistics Canada has approved their project. See (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/rda/index.htm>). From Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca), choose Learning resources from the side menu, then Postsecondary, then Remote Data Access. For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

Fewer cases of young people involved in property crime

The number of cases involving young people in youth courts continues to decline, the result of a substantial decrease in cases involving property offences, according to the Youth Court Survey.

Youth courts heard 99,590 cases in the fiscal year 2000/01, down 10% from 1996/97. During this period, the number of cases involving property crimes declined 23% to 40,023 and those involving violent crimes declined 6% to 21,760.

Property crime accounted for 40% of all cases before youth courts, and violent crime accounted for 22%. About one-half of these violent crime cases were for common assaults, which include pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats. Other *Criminal Code* offences accounted for 18% and *Young Offenders Act* offences accounted for 12% of all cases.

Drug offences made up 6,967 cases, a 30% increase from 1996/97, although they represented only 7% of the total caseload in 2000/01.

Case rates for youth courts were highest in Western Canada. Courts in Saskatchewan recorded a rate of 946 cases for every 10,000 youths, followed by Manitoba at 667 and Alberta at 632. All were substantially higher than the national average of 403. The lowest case rates were in Prince Edward Island, Quebec and British Columbia.

The survey covered young people aged 12 to 17. Youths aged 16 and 17 accounted for larger proportions of cases in youth

Cases heard in youth court by major crime category

Offence category	1996/97	2000/01	1996/97 to 2000/01
	Number		% change
Total cases	110,065	99,590	-10
Violent crimes	23,044	21,760	-6
Property crimes	51,767	40,023	-23
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	18,285	18,264	0
Drug-related offences	5,353	6,967	30
<i>Young Offenders Act</i> offences	11,335	12,447	10
Other federal statute offences	281	129	-54

court, 51% in 2000/01. Those aged 15 accounted for 22%, and those aged 12 to 14, 25%.

Sixty percent of youth court cases resulted in guilty findings in 2000/01. Probation was the most serious sentence ordered in 48% of cases with guilty findings. A custody sentence (open or secure) was ordered about one-third of the time.

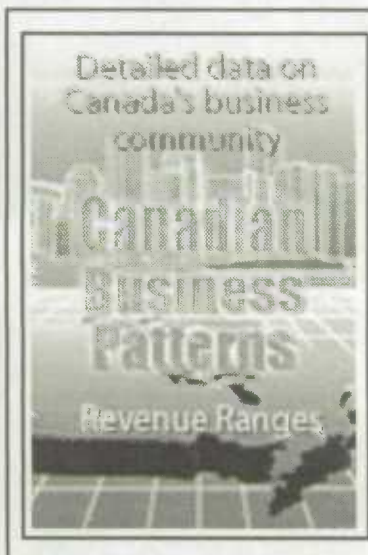
In 2000/01, repeat young offenders, those with at least one prior conviction, were involved in 21% of cases with convictions.

The Juristat Youth court statistics, 2000/01, Vol. 22, no. 3 (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.

Canadian business patterns: Revenue ranges

A new CD-ROM, *Canadian business patterns: Revenue ranges*, offers a count of businesses based on a range of revenue levels. Clients can now analyse businesses by industry, revenue and geographic area. Tables may be requested for all provinces and territories, as well as census agglomerations and census metropolitan areas.

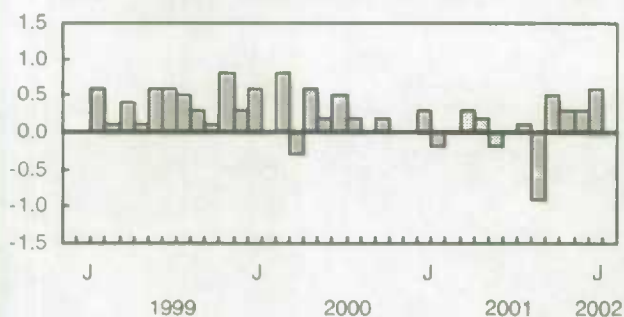
The CD-ROM *Canadian business patterns: Revenue ranges* (61F0102XCB) is now available for the reference period December 2000. The cost for extractions varies from \$200 to \$1,000, depending on the complexity of the request. For more information, contact Beau Cinnamon (613-951-9021) or France Couture (613-951-0389; brdinofodre@statcan.ca), Business Register Division.



Current trends

Gross domestic product

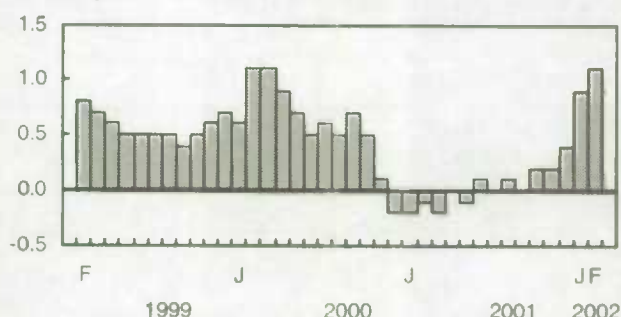
% change, previous month



Total economic activity advanced 0.6% in January, after rising 0.3% in December.

Composite index

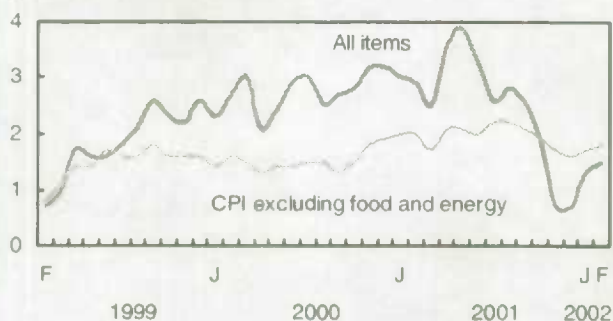
% change, previous month



The leading indicator gained 1.1% in February. Household demand continued to accelerate, while manufacturing lagged.

Consumer price index

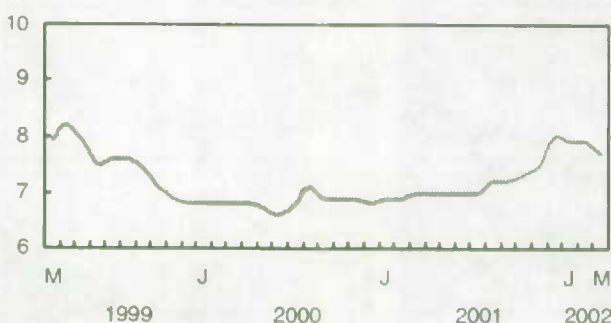
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 1.5% higher in February than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.8%.

Unemployment rate

%



In March, the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 7.7%.

Manufacturing

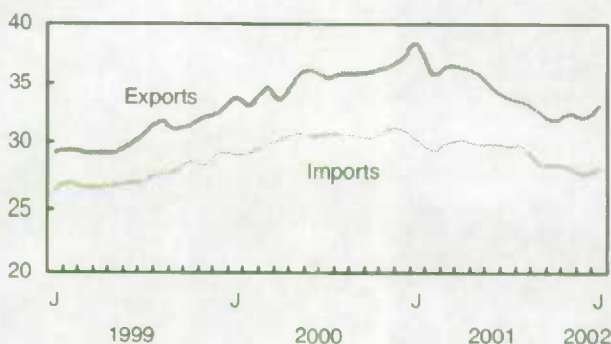
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments surged 3.1% in January to \$41.7 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 0.8% to \$46.4 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In January, the value of merchandise exports rose 3.1% to \$33.0 billion. Imports climbed 1.6% to \$27.9 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	January	948.4	0.6%	1.0%
Composite Index (1992=100)	February	170.9	1.1%	2.6%
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)	January	25.3	1.1%	6.4%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	January	146.3	0.0%	11.6%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	January	33.3	2.0%	3.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	March*	15.3	0.6%	1.3%
Unemployment rate (%)	March*	7.7	-0.2†	0.7†
Participation rate (%)	March*	66.6	0.2†	0.5†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	January	671.78	0.14%	1.74%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	March	126	1.6%	-25.0%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	January	559.2	0.4%	15.1%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	January	33.0	3.1%	-13.9%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	January	27.9	1.6%	-7.3%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	January	5.1	0.6	-3.1
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	January	41.7	3.1%	-6.7%
New orders (\$ billions)	January	41.3	3.9%	-3.3%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	January	46.4	-0.8%	-4.0%
Inventory/shipments ratio	January	1.49	-0.05	0.04
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	February	116.9	0.6%	1.5%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	February	106.4	0.3%	-1.4%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	February	105.1	2.2%	-12.3%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	February*	108.3	0.7%	3.2%

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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Published by the Official Release Unit, Communications Division,
Statistics Canada, 10th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.

Price per issue: paper, \$4; online at www.statcan.ca, \$3. Annual subscription:
paper, \$145; online, \$109. All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude
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