



Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, June 21, 2002

INSIDE

◆ Incentives continue to stimulate new motor vehicle sales

New motor vehicle sales totalled 142,196 in April, up 1.7% from March. Despite three consecutive monthly decreases, sales for the first four months of 2002 were 11.9% higher than sales for the same period of 2001.

◆ Manufacturers' shipments up in almost all industries

After a buoyant first quarter, manufacturers' shipments jumped 5.0% in April to \$43.9 billion. This increase was observed in 18 of the 21 major groups, representing 93.3% of total shipments.

◆ Strongest gain in productivity in over two years

Canadian businesses increased their productivity by 1.0% in the first quarter, the strongest growth rate in over two years, despite a surge in the number of jobs and hours worked. Real output advanced by 1.8%, thanks to a feverish real estate market and the recovery in exports and manufacturing.

◆ Canadians consume more fat and calories

Total fat available from the food supply climbed 22% per person from 1991. The oils and fats category jumped 49%, partly because of increased use of oils by households and food service outlets, such as fast-food restaurants.

Drop in energy prices limits inflation

Energy prices were down 10.5% in May from May 2001, limiting the rise in the Consumer Price Index to 1.0%. This 12-month change is a sizeable drop from the 1.7% increase recorded in April 2002.

Excluding energy, the CPI would have increased 2.3% from May 2001, following increases of 2.5% in March and 2.4% in April.

Energy prices were down mainly because of a 35.3% drop in natural gas prices and a 10.8% decline in gasoline prices. Except for electricity, the prices of all items in the energy component fell. Apart from November and December 2001, a decrease of this size had not been seen since February 1987.

In contrast, food, cigarettes and automotive vehicle insurance premiums were the main source of upward pressure on the CPI. Food prices rose 2.1% in May from May 2001, primarily because of the prices of restaurant meals. Despite the influence of food prices on the CPI, May's increase represented a slowdown compared with the previous 17 months. During this period, the 12-month rate of change of the food index varied from 3.2% to 5.2%.

(continued on page 2)

Consumer Price Index, May 2002

% change, previous year, not seasonally adjusted

	All items	Food	Shelter	Transportation	Energy
Canada	1.0	2.1	-0.6	0.1	-10.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	2.1	3.0	-0.3	4.8	-6.9
Prince Edward Island	2.6	4.2	-1.0	2.3	-5.0
Nova Scotia	2.6	3.6	0.1	3.2	-6.1
New Brunswick	2.2	4.0	0.6	2.7	-5.3
Quebec	0.4	1.3	0.7	-2.9	-9.3
Ontario	0.8	2.4	0.4	-0.9	-11.4
Manitoba	0.9	1.8	-0.9	-0.8	-6.9
Saskatchewan	2.7	1.7	3.8	-0.2	1.7
Alberta	0.2	2.5	-9.2	3.3	-26.5
British Columbia	2.2	2.3	-0.6	3.9	-3.0
Whitehorse	0.3	0.6	-1.7	3.2	-3.9
Yellowknife	2.8	0.4	2.1	4.6	-0.7



Drop in energy prices... (continued from page 1)

Cigarette prices were up 22.7% and automotive vehicle insurance premiums increased 11.3%. Higher electricity prices and, to a lesser extent, higher air transportation prices and rents also contributed to the 12-month rise recorded in May. A decrease in the cost of mortgage interest had a moderating impact.

After monthly increases that ranged from 0.6% to 0.7% over the past three months, the CPI advanced more slowly, rising only 0.2% from April to May. Upward price pressure on the CPI came mainly from traveller accommodation and cigarettes; downward price pressure was largely induced by lower prices for fresh vegetables and gasoline.

The price of traveller accommodation advanced 10.7% from April. This increase may be explained by the introduction of high-season rates in some hotels, along with increased demand during the May long weekend. However, prices in this sector were down an average of 5.3% from May 2001, representing the 12th consecutive 12-month decrease.

Cigarette prices advanced 2.8% in May from April. This increase was the result of higher retail prices and of sales tax increases that came into effect in April in Nova Scotia and Manitoba. Prices of fresh vegetables continued to fall (-7.3%) because of an increase in supply. Prices, however, remained 3.4% higher than in May 2001.

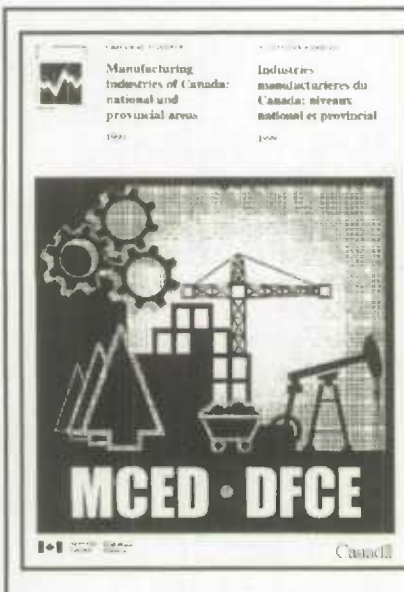
Gasoline prices fell 1.8% from April. Part of this price movement may be explained by weak world demand along with a relatively low price of oil per barrel. The decreases varied from 0.3% in Yellowknife to 3.0% in Ontario; increases were recorded in Prince Edward Island, Whitehorse, Newfoundland and Labrador and British Columbia.

The May 2002 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (Internet: 62-001-XIB, \$8/\$77; paper: 62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. For more information, contact Louise Chagné (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606) or Joanne Moreau (613-951-7130), Prices Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Manufacturing industries of Canada

The 1999 issue of *Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas* is now available. Data collected from the Annual Survey of Manufacturing are classified according to the 1997 North American Industry Classification System. This survey collects information on approximately 30,000 manufacturing establishments grouped into 259 manufacturing industries. It measures manufacturing production and provides an indication of the well-being of each industry and of its contribution to the Canadian economy. This publication includes an analysis of the manufacturing industry, as well as manufacturing statistics for Canada and the provinces.

Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas, 1999 (paper: 31-203-XPB, \$68) is now available. For more information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.



Incentives continue to stimulate new motor vehicle sales

Motor vehicle dealers reported a 1.7% increase in the number of new vehicles sold in April compared with March, when sales declined 3.7%.

Despite three consecutive monthly decreases, sales for the first four months of 2002 were 11.9% higher than sales for the same period of 2001. Incentives continued to stimulate sales. A total of 142,196 new vehicles were purchased in April, 2,360 more than in March.

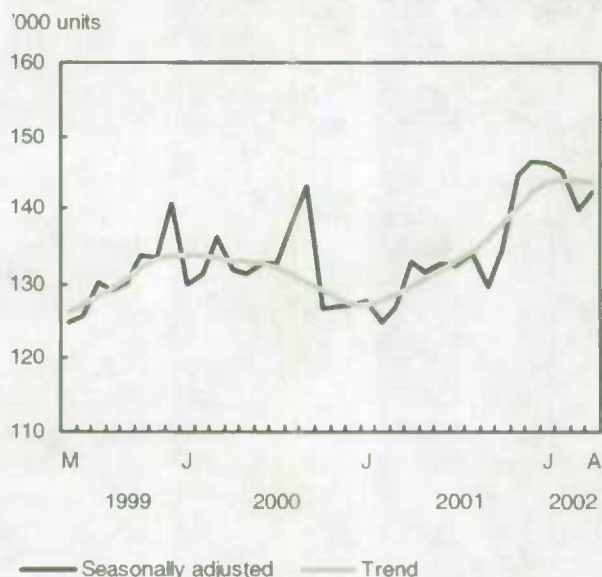
After a sharp 6.9% drop in March, new truck sales bounced back with a 2.7% gain in April. In all, 64,578 trucks were sold, up 1,691 compared with March. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

Sales of new passenger cars rose to 77,618 in April, up 0.9% from March. April's increase followed two successive monthly declines. Both overseas-built passenger cars (+1.0%) and North American-built models (+0.8%) contributed to the advance.

The average price of a new truck (excluding buses and most heavy trucks) was \$33,513 in April, up 3.1% from October 1999, while the average price of a new passenger car was \$24,868, up 1.5%.

The western provinces and Newfoundland and Labrador posted substantial gains in new motor vehicle sales ranging from 2.2% to 6.9%. In each of these provinces, the increase followed a sharp decline in March. After three straight monthly decreases in both Quebec and Ontario, sales increased 1.3% and 0.4%, respectively.

New motor vehicle sales



The April 2002 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (Internet: 63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) is now available. For general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Cl rance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Organizational and technological change in the private sector

From 1998 to 2000, four out of 10 private sector firms introduced organizational change by improving organizational structures or implementing new management techniques.

The 2000 Survey of Electronic Commerce and Technology collected data on four methods of introducing technological change. Three-quarters of the private sector enterprises that introduced changes purchased off-the-shelf technologies. Customizing or significantly modifying existing technologies ranked second.

An overview of organizational and technological change in the private sector, 1998-2000 (Internet: 88F0006XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the Our products and services page, choose Research papers (free), then Science and technology. For more information, contact Louise Earl (613-951-2880; louise.earl@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

Manufacturers' shipments up in almost all industries

After a buoyant first quarter, manufacturers' shipments jumped 5.0% in April from March to \$43.9 billion. This was the strongest increase in almost four years, when the motor vehicle industry partially recovered from the General Motors strike in the United States.

April's shipments confirm the intentions to raise production revealed in April's Business Conditions Survey. While this increase was observed in 18 of the 21 major groups, representing 93.3% of total shipments, it came mainly from the motor vehicle sector. However, even excluding that industry, shipments were strong, with an increase of 3.3%.

The number of new jobs created in the manufacturing sector since the start of 2002 is estimated at 83,000, including 4,700 in the motor vehicle industry alone. All provinces and territories reported an increase in shipments in April.

The auto industry led the way, recording the largest monthly increase in shipments to reach \$5.9 billion (+13.8%). Motor vehicle sales received a powerful boost from the continued financial incentives offered by automobile manufacturers and from strong American demand. The automotive parts industry was close behind, rising 9.3% from March to \$2.9 billion.

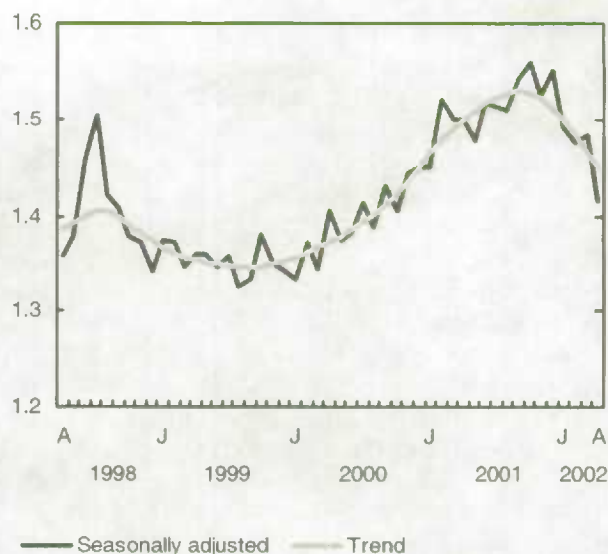
In the plastics and rubber products industry, the 9.0% increase was mainly the result of the spillover effect from motor vehicle manufacturing. The value of shipments in this industry reached nearly \$2 billion, the highest level recorded. In the petroleum and coal products industry, the increase in shipments (+6.3%) was mainly attributable to a 4.3% rise in prices.

Manufacturers' shipments, April 2002

Seasonally adjusted

	\$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	43,913	5.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	193	3.8
Prince Edward Island	112	10.3
Nova Scotia	702	6.2
New Brunswick	1,081	7.3
Quebec	10,199	3.0
Ontario	23,842	6.4
Manitoba	982	5.7
Saskatchewan	638	11.2
Alberta	3,288	2.3
British Columbia	2,873	0.6
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	15.8

Inventory-to-shipment ratio



A few major orders helped boost shipments in the chemical products industry to \$3.0 billion. Lastly, a fifth consecutive monthly increase was observed in the wood products industry (+3.9%), which benefited from a window of opportunity to export without tariffs until the end of May 2002.

Slightly offsetting the general increase, shipments in the aerospace product and parts industry fell 7.7%. This decline wiped out the gains in this industry in March.

Inventories rose for the first time in 10 months, reflecting efforts to meet rising demand. Inventories rose 0.3% in April to \$62.2 billion. The hefty increase in shipments led to a substantial decline in the inventory-to-shipment ratio, which reached 1.42. Not since the end of 2000 has the ratio been so low. This value is also well below the 1.56 registered in October 2001, which was a record for the previous nine years.

Unfilled orders rose 0.6% from March to \$47.3 billion, a third consecutive monthly increase. Excluding the effect of the aerospace product and parts industry, unfilled orders grew by 2.1%. New orders grew 4.5% to \$44.2 billion, the highest level since May 2001. New orders have mainly been rising since the start of 2002, except for a slight decline in March.

The April 2002 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (Internet: 31-001-XIB, \$15/\$147) will be available soon. For general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Daniela Ravindra (613-951-3514; ravidan@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Strongest gain in productivity in over two years

Canadian businesses increased their labour productivity by 1.0% in the first quarter, the strongest growth rate in over two years, despite a surge in the number of jobs and hours worked.

Real output in the business sector advanced by 1.8%, the biggest quarterly increase since the fourth quarter of 1999. A feverish real estate market and the rebound in exports and manufacturing were largely the source of this growth. Moreover, the need to meet demand encouraged businesses to continue liquidating their stocks and boosting output.

The strong recovery in real output and labour productivity was accompanied by strong growth in the labour market. Hours worked increased 0.8% from the fourth quarter of 2001, the result of a 1.0% increase in the number of jobs.

Canadian businesses experienced two consecutive decreases in their gross domestic product (GDP) in the second and third quarters of 2001. But during the 2001 downturn, business sector productivity held up remarkably well. After decreasing 0.6% in the fourth quarter of 2000, productivity increased in all quarters of 2001.

Contrary to the lengthy recession in the early 1990s, the contraction phase in the 2001 economic cycle was short. Businesses quickly adjusted their workforce to the drop in demand, which helped increase productivity in 2001.

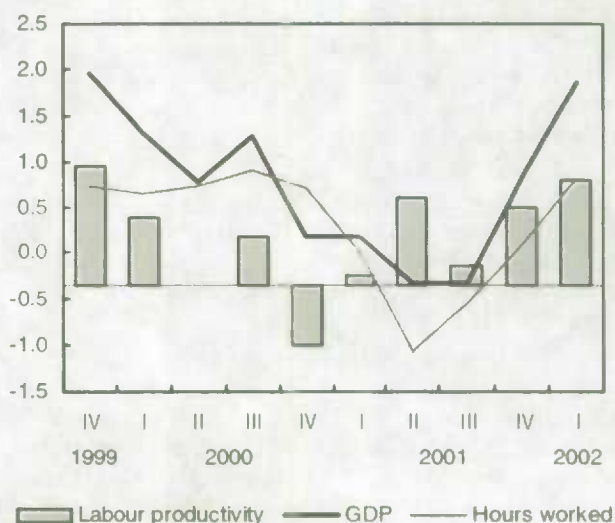
Last year, households, encouraged by low interest rates, helped contain the brief recession in the business sector by maintaining consumption. Moreover, the 2001 downturn occurred during a contained inflation period, unlike the situation during the 1990 to 1992 recession.

Hourly compensation rose 0.7% on a quarter-to-quarter basis in the first three months of the year, whereas labour productivity increased 1.0%. Consequently, labour cost per individual fell 0.4%, its second consecutive quarterly decrease.

The productivity growth rate for American businesses (+2.0%) was twice as high as that of their Canadian counterparts. But real output was stronger in Canada than in the United States. During the first quarter, output increased 1.8% in Canada, compared with 1.5% in the United States. Also, hours worked advanced 0.8% in Canadian businesses, but dropped 0.7% in American businesses.

Productivity performance

Quarterly % change



For the fourth quarter in a row, American businesses continued to decrease their labour inputs and, in conjunction with output growth, this led to increases in productivity. In contrast, the rebound in economic activity in Canada has been characterized by balanced growth in both jobs and productivity.

On a year-to-year basis, real output in the first quarter rose 2.0% in Canada, almost twice as fast as in the United States (+1.2%). However, labour productivity in Canada increased 2.8% in the first quarter from the first quarter of 2001, less than the 4.1% rate in the United States. On an annual basis, Canadian productivity growth has lagged U.S. productivity growth since the second quarter of 2000.

On an annual basis, productivity in American businesses benefited from a strong contraction in hours worked in the first quarter. The decline in hours worked at an annual rate was four times as fast in the United States (-2.8%) as it was in Canada (-0.7%) in the first quarter.

For more information, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; maynard@statcan.ca). Micro-Economics Analysis Division.

Canadians consume more fat and calories

There are more calories and fat available per person from Canada's food supply, with a significant rise having occurred in the 1990s. Recently released data indicate that the proportion of people who are obese is on the rise, although more people are active.

Total fat available from the food supply climbed 22% per person from 1991. The oils and fats category represents the biggest contributor to total fats, followed by red meat, poultry and fish. A jump of 49% in the level of oils and fats was due in part to the increased use of oils by households and by food service outlets, such as fast-food restaurants.

However, the contribution of red meat, poultry and fish to total fat, which stood at 24% in 2000, dropped almost 8% from 1976. The contribution of red meat has dropped from just over 26% of total fats in 1976 to 16% in 2000, mostly because of declining beef consumption. During the same period, consumers have turned to poultry, a naturally leaner meat, along with leaner cuts of beef and pork.

The levels of protein per person provided by the food supply were on the rise during the late 1990s. Nevertheless, the contribution of total meat, the principal source of protein, has declined largely because of lower beef consumption. Poultry's contribution has climbed more than 80% since 1976, partially offsetting the decline in beef.

The level of food energy available per Canadian, which remained relatively stable from the mid-1970s to the early 1990s, jumped 16% from 1991 to 2000. Rising consumption of oils and wheat flour were the major factors in this substantial increase.

Pasta, bakery products and cereal-based snacks have become popular items in grocery carts in 2001, weighing in at 89 kg of grain-based products per person, up substantially from 72 kg a decade ago.

Note to readers

The data in this article represent food and nutrients available for consumption. They do not represent actual quantities consumed because they do not allow for losses, such as waste or spoilage in stores, households, private institutions or restaurants, or losses during preparation.

Food consumption

	1991	2000	2001
	kilograms		
Fruits	109.07	126.77	--
Vegetables	167.01	183.69	--
Red meat	63.17	63.83	62.86
Poultry	28.31	35.16	36.20
Oils and fats	23.33	31.95	--
Cereal products	71.53	88.32	88.66
Pulses and nuts	7.50	10.10	9.73
Sugars and syrups	37.24	40.68	39.38
Alcoholic Beverages ¹	108.57	100.64	102.68

¹ Data are in litres, for population aged 15 and over.

-- Data not available.

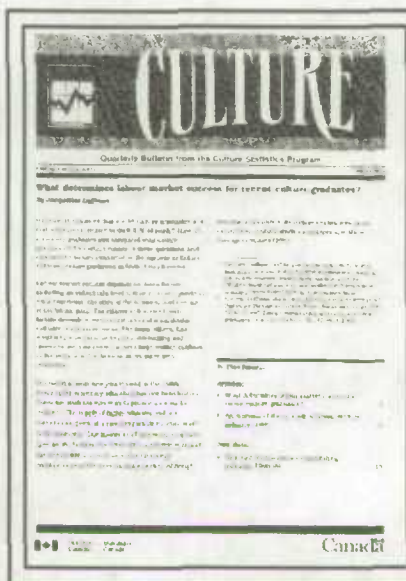
In 2001, Canadians drank almost 87 litres of milk each, down 8% from a decade ago. Canadians have reduced their consumption of higher fat milk by more than a third during the past 30 years, and by just over 25% during the past decade. However, compared with a decade ago, cream consumption rose by two litres to seven litres, in part because of the increased popularity of coffee.

The 2001 issue of *Food consumption in Canada* (Internet: 32-229-XIB, \$26) will be available shortly. For more information, contact Debbie Dupuis (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2553), Agriculture Division.

Focus on culture Vol. 13 no. 4

Focus on culture presents up-to-date analysis of important cultural issues and trends. This issue includes: an article that examines the success of graduates in postsecondary culture programs in finding work related to their field of study; an analysis of the specialized design services industry; and tables with the latest data on the Canadian periodical publishing industry.

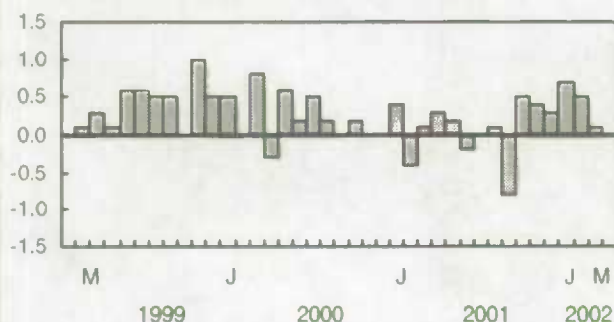
Focus on culture (Internet: 87-004-XIE, \$7/\$20; paper: 87-004-XPB, \$9/\$27) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca;) or Marla Waltman Daschko (613-951-3028; marla.waltman-daschko@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



Current trends

Gross domestic product

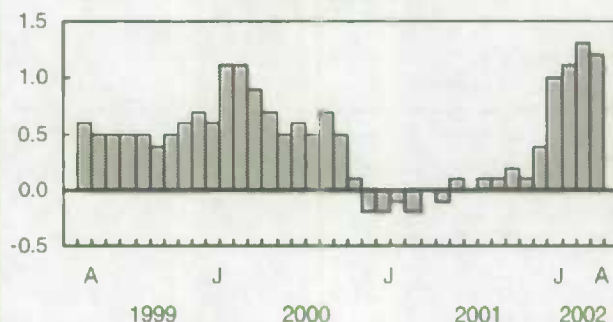
% change, previous month



Total economic activity advanced 0.1% in March, after rising 0.5% in February.

Composite index

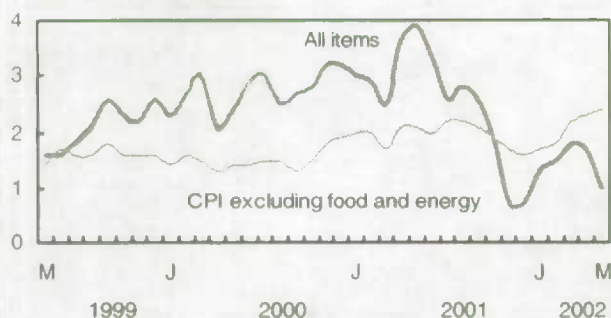
% change, previous month



The leading indicator gained 1.2% in April. Manufacturing turned up noticeably as household and export demand improved.

Consumer Price Index

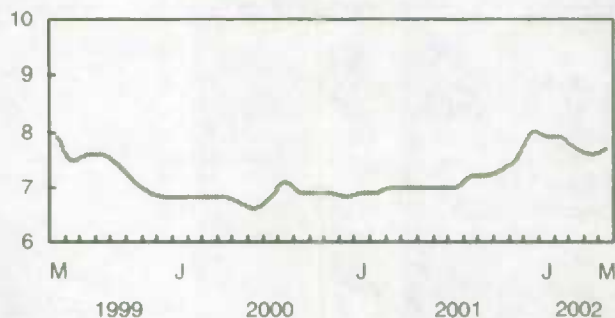
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 1.0% higher in May than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.4%.

Unemployment rate

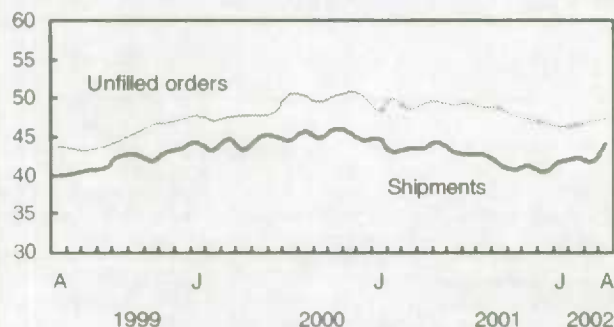
%



In May, the unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage points to 7.7%.

Manufacturing

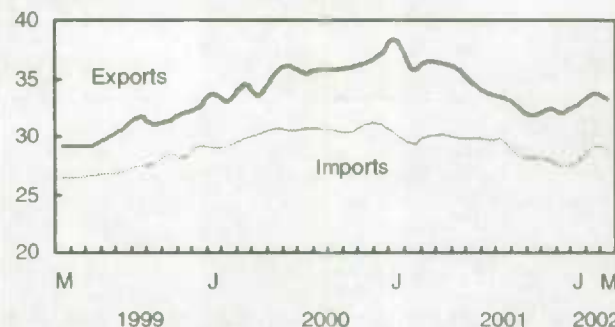
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments jumped 5.0% in April to \$43.9 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders rose 0.6% to \$47.3 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In March, the value of merchandise exports slipped 2.0% to \$33.2 billion. Imports decreased 1.0% to \$28.8 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	March	956.0	0.1%	2.0%
Composite Index (1992=100)	April	175.2	1.2%	5.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q4 2001	33.8	-5.6%	-29.9%
Capacity utilization rate (%) ²	Q1 2002	81.7	1.3†	-2.3†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	April*	25.5	1.0%	5.5%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	April	142.2	1.7%	6.9%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	April*	34.8	2.4%	7.3%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	May	15.3	0.2%	1.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	May	7.7	0.1†	0.7†
Participation rate (%)	May	66.7	0.1†	0.7†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	March	674.04	0.14%	1.86%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	May	126.8	0.2%	-19.4%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	March	548.8	-0.8%	9.1%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	April*	34.3	2.9%	-5.9%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	April*	29.1	1.6%	-3.4%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	April*	5.2	0.5	-1.1
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	April*	43.9	5.0%	1.2%
New orders (\$ billions)	April*	44.2	4.5%	0.3%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	April*	47.3	0.6%	-4.0%
Inventory/shipments ratio	April*	1.42	-0.06	-0.08
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	May*	118.6	0.2%	1.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	April	107.3	0.1%	-1.5%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	April	112.0	1.1%	-5.7%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	April	109.4	0.6%	3.7%

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.

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A weekly review

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Products released from June 13 to 19, 2002

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
ANALYTICAL STUDIES			
The "who, what, when and where" of gender pay differentials		71-584-MIE	free
CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS			
Focus on culture, Vol. 13, no. 4		87-004-XIE	7/20
Focus on culture, Vol. 13, no. 4		87-004-XPB	9/27
International travel, advance information	April 2002	66-001-PIE	6/55
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES			
New motor vehicle sales	April 2002	63-007-XIB	13/124
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE			
Corporations Returns Act - Foreign control in the Canadian economy	1999	61-220-XIE	30
Inter-corporate ownership	Q2 2002	61-517-XCB	350/995
INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Exports by country	Q1 2002	65-003-XMB	62/206
Exports by country	Q1 2002	65-003-XPB	124/412
LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS			
Perspectives on labour and income		73-001-XPE	18/58
Work absence rates	1991-2001	71-535-MPB	50
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Construction type plywood	April 2002	35-001-XII	5/47
Manufacturing industries of Canada: National and provincial areas	1999	31-203-XPB	68
Primary iron and steel	April 2002	41-001-XIB	5/47
Pulpwood and wood residue statistics	April 2002	25-001-XIB	6/55
Refined petroleum products	February 2002	45-004-XIB	16/155
Refined petroleum products	February 2002	45-004-XPB	21/206
Steel wire and specified wire products	April 2002	41-006-XIB	5/47
PRICES			
Consumer Price Index	May 2002	62-001-XIB	8/77
Consumer Price Index	May 2002	62-001-XPB	11/103
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS			
Financial management system (FMS)	2002	68F0023XIB	free
SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION			
An overview of organizational and technological change in the private sector	1998-2000	88F0006XIE2002009	free
Federal government expenditure and personnel in the natural and social sciences	1992-1993 to 2001-2002	88F0006XIE2002010	free
Innovation analysis bulletin	May 2002	88-003-XII	free
TRANSPORTATION			
Aircraft movement statistics	January 2002	51F0001PIE	free
Aircraft movement statistics	February 2002	51F0001PIE	free
Aircraft movement statistics	March 2002	51F0001PIE	free
Aircraft movement statistics	April 2002	51F0001PIE	free

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