



# Infomat

## A Weekly Review

Friday, July 5, 2002

### INSIDE

#### ◆ Canadians investors continue to diversify into foreign markets

Canadian investors' appetite for foreign securities remained high in April, with an investment of \$3.5 billion in stocks and bonds. This brought the year-to-date investment in foreign securities to \$14.9 billion.

#### ◆ Earnings growth slightly stronger in services-producing industries

In April, average weekly earnings were virtually unchanged from March at \$673.85. Earnings rose 2.1% from April 2001 and were slightly stronger in services-producing industries than in goods-producing industries.

#### ◆ Consequences of spousal violence more severe for women

In a survey conducted from 1994 to 1999, men reported being the victim of a significant amount of spousal violence, however, the nature and consequences of violence were more severe for women. Women were more than twice as likely as men to report having been beaten.

#### GDP increases for seventh consecutive month

The economic turnaround continued in April as gross domestic product (GDP) surged ahead a further 0.8%. This is the seventh consecutive monthly advance and the single largest monthly gain since early 2000.

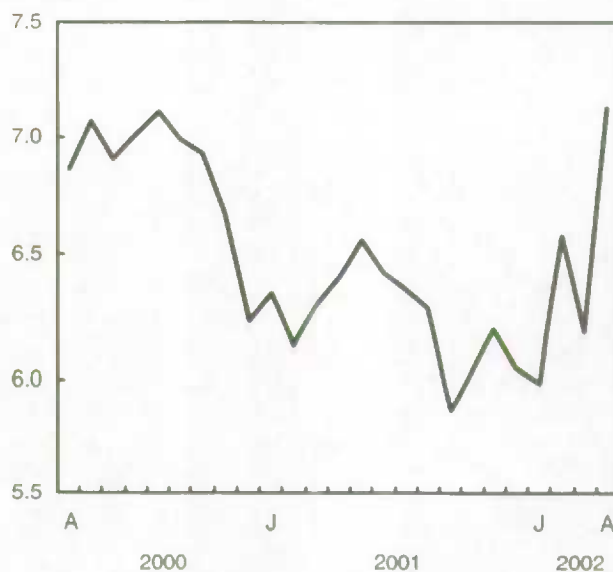
Consumer demand for housing and household furnishings rose because of employment gains and historically low interest rates. The real estate agents and brokerage industry reported higher activity levels, as sales of existing housing bounced back. Although residential construction dipped in April, output levels were 16.2% higher than in April 2001.

The continued high level of residential construction led to increased output in the construction feeder industries. Manufacturers of asphalt products, paints, glass and glass products, concrete, gypsum products, architectural and structural metal products, boilers, ventilation and electric lighting equipment all raised production.

(continued on page 2)

#### Motor vehicle production

\$ billions



## GDP increases for... (continued from page 1)

Retailers of household furnishings and appliances saw more consumer traffic as new homeowners attempted to fill their new living spaces. After two consecutive monthly declines, retail sales edged up 0.3% in April. Wholesalers of furniture also gained, as sales rose a further 0.8%.

Increased consumer confidence also led to higher activity in the travel-related industries, including air transportation, passenger rail transportation, taxis, and the amusement and recreation industries.

The temporary elimination of softwood lumber duties from April 22 to May 21 resulted in a significant 4.3% increase in output in forestry and wood products, the third consecutive monthly advance. However, output is still 9.4% below April 2001.

Wood product manufacturers boosted production by 8.7%, resulting in record output levels. Sawmill producers provided the largest push in April, as production surged 12.8%. This latest surge in production was concentrated in the provinces affected by the countervailing duties (British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec). Lumber producers in Atlantic Canada are exempted from the countervailing duties and are required only to pay the anti-dumping duties.

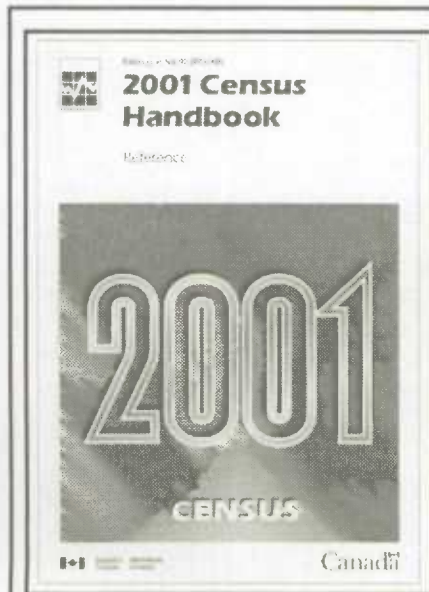
Canadian wood manufacturers also benefited from the recent high levels of activity in the residential construction industry. Wholesalers of lumber products reported a 4.6% sales increase. Wood product manufacturers' demand for transportation services to meet tariff deadline requirements raised the activity levels of both the trucking and rail industries.

Higher North American sales of cars and trucks reduced dealer inventories and accelerated production in the Canadian motor vehicle and parts industries. The motor vehicle assembly industry boosted production 15.4% in April, in an attempt to replenish inventories. The motor vehicle parts industry output expanded by 3.3% to meet the needs of both Canadian and U.S. assembly plants.

The recent strength in the motor vehicle assembly industry also raised output levels for manufacturers of tires, plastic motor vehicle parts and primary and fabricated metal products. The Canadian steel industry benefited from the recent imposition of duties in the United States on steel imports from various countries excluding Canada.

One of the few areas of weakness occurred in industries affected by labour disputes. The Ontario provincial employees strike in April had a negative impact on output in the public administration sector. The labour strike in the aerospace and parts manufacturing industry reduced output 7.5% and offset some of the significant gains made in the rest of the manufacturing sector.

The April 2002 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (Internet: 15-001-XIE, \$11/\$110) is now available. To purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-4623; imad@statcan.ca). For more information, contact Jo Ann MacMillan (613-951-7248; joann.macmillan@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 6.)



## 2001 Census Handbook

The *2001 Census Handbook* is a reference document covering every aspect of the 2001 Census of Population and Census of Agriculture. The document provides an overview of every phase of the census and traces its history from the early days of New France to the present.

Information about the protection of confidential information in questionnaires and tables is also included. Census questions and variables are described, along with information about data quality and the possible uses of census data.

The *2001 Census Handbook* (Internet: 92-379-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the home page, choose Census, then New Census Products or Reference from the sidebar. For more information, contact the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre nearest you. (See page 9.)



## Canadians investors continue to diversify into foreign markets

Canadian investors' appetite for foreign securities remained high in April, with an investment of \$3.5 billion in stocks and bonds. This brought the year-to-date investment in foreign securities to \$14.9 billion, \$3.7 billion behind the pace of 2001.

With April's investment of \$1.8 billion in foreign stocks and with most of it directed to overseas shares, investment in foreign shares climbed to \$10.7 billion for the first four months of 2002.

After making a record investment in foreign bonds in February, followed by virtually no change in March, Canadian residents acquired an additional \$1.7 billion of foreign bonds in April, mainly U.S. treasuries.

Foreign investors added \$1.4 billion to their holdings of Canadian bonds in April, bringing their investment to \$6.3 billion over the first four months of 2002. American investors have been the main buyers of Canadian bonds so far in 2002, adding \$11.1 billion to their holdings, while the combined holdings of Asian and European investors fell \$4.8 billion. Bond investment since the beginning of 2002 was focussed on Canadian corporate bonds (\$9.3 billion), with foreign investors reducing their holdings of government bonds by \$2.9 billion.

Foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian equities marginally in April (-\$0.2 billion), following the large \$3.6 billion reduction in March. From January to April, foreign investors, mainly Europeans, have sold \$3.6 billion in Canadian equities.

Foreign investors' holdings of Canadian money market paper went virtually unchanged in April following their first significant investment of the year, \$1.2 billion in March.

The April 2002 issue of *Canada's international transactions in securities* (Internet: 67-002-XIB, \$14/\$132; paper: 67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176) will be available soon. For more information, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments Division.

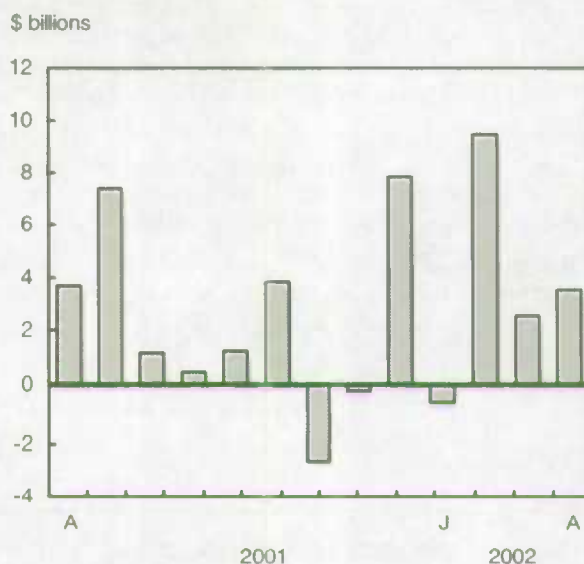
### Related market information

A rise of 7 basis points in Canadian short-term interest rates, combined with a drop of similar size in comparable U.S. rates, pushed up the differential to 65 basis points in April from 51 in March. This spread, favouring investment in Canada, is the largest since the 83 basis points in June 2001.

A slightly larger decline in U.S. 10-year government bond rates than that experienced in Canadian rates caused the differential to climb to 53 basis points in April, the largest spread favouring investment in Canada since October 2001.

Canadian stock prices declined 2.4% in April, after gaining 2.8% in March. The Canadian dollar recorded its largest gain against the U.S. dollar since June 2001. A full one-cent gain brought the dollar to U.S. 63.76 cents, a level not seen since August 2001.

### Canadian investment in foreign securities<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Includes bonds and stocks.

## Report on the demographic situation in Canada

The *Report on the demographic situation in Canada* is a valuable tool for researchers, academics and students seeking information on demographic trends in Canada. The first part comprehensively reviews the Canadian demographic situation, describing recent trends in population growth, fertility, mortality and migration.

The second part consists of two studies. The first is a comparative analysis of recent trends in Canadian and American fertility. The second study examines major socio-demographic factors associated with the use of home-care services by elderly people living in private households.

The 2001 issue of the *Report on the demographic situation in Canada* (Internet: 91-209-XPE, \$31) is now available. For more information, contact Alain Bélanger (613-951-2326), Demography Division.

## Earnings growth slightly stronger in services-producing industries

In April, average weekly earnings for all employees were virtually unchanged from March at \$673.85. Earnings were up 2.1% from April 2001, slightly above the 1.7% increase in the Consumer Price Index for the same period.

Average weekly earnings growth since April 2001 was slightly stronger in services-producing industries than in goods-producing industries, especially for employees in health and social services (+5.2%), accommodation and food (+5.8%) and public administration (+5.9%).

Earnings growth in both health and social services and accommodation and food was led by increases in hourly pay rates. In public administration, 40,000 additional census employees in April and May of 2001 reduced average pay rates in those months and increased the 12-month growth rate by approximately 3.5%.

Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees stood at \$17.11, up \$0.04 from March and 2.8 % higher than in April 2001. Average weekly hours declined slightly to 31.8 hours per week from 31.9 in March, because of a decline in overtime hours.

Employees on payrolls increased by 50,000 over March. Employment growth was strongest in services-producing industries, especially professional, scientific and technical services (+12,500) and health and social services (+6,900).

At the provincial level, Ontario recorded the strongest employment gain, followed by Alberta. The employment gain in

**Average weekly earnings, all industries, April 2002**  
Seasonally adjusted

	\$	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>Canada</b>	<b>673.85</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	613.92	-0.3	2.9
Prince Edward Island	531.70	0.8	3.5
Nova Scotia	581.56	-0.2	2.7
New Brunswick	598.03	0.1	1.9
Quebec	634.24	-0.2	2.6
Ontario	719.38	0.1	1.8
Manitoba	599.60	-0.1	2.9
Saskatchewan	608.82	0.0	2.8
Alberta	696.26	0.0	2.6
British Columbia	665.96	-0.4	0.6
Yukon	764.42	0.7	2.4
Northwest Territories <sup>1</sup>	888.00	0.5	3.5
Nunavut <sup>1</sup>	790.08	-0.4	2.5

<sup>1</sup> Data not seasonally adjusted.

Quebec in April was substantially reduced by a strike of approximately 7,500 employees in aerospace products and parts manufacturing.

Detailed data will be available soon in *Employment, earnings and hours* (Internet: 72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240). For more 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), Labour Statistics Division.

## Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey

The prevalence of smoking continues to drop, according to the latest results from the *Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey*. Nearly 22% of the population aged 15 years and over were smokers in 2001. This compares with about 24% of the population in 2000 and 31% in 1994, the highest rate in the last decade.

Young adults aged 20 to 24 still have the highest smoking rate of any age group. The prevalence of smoking among this group was 32%, with a rate of 35% for men and 29% for women. In 1985, the rate for men in this age group was 41% and for women, 45%.

For information on the public-use microdata file, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division.



## Consequences of spousal violence more severe for women

In the reference period from 1994 to 1999, 8% of women and 7% of men experienced at least one incident of spousal violence.

Although men reported being the victim of a significant amount of spousal violence, the nature and consequences of violence were more severe for women. Women were more than twice as likely as men to report having been beaten and five times more likely to say they had been choked.

Among all victims of spousal violence, 28% reported either a physical or mental condition or problem that affected their daily activities. This compares with 21% of the population who were not victims.

The effects of spousal violence, in terms of supplying and maintaining medical services, counselling and shelter services, as well as criminal justice services, are greater for female victims than for male victims. Female victims were five times more likely than male victims to have received medical attention and to have been hospitalized because of spousal violence.

About 48% of women and 17% of men abused by a marital partner used a social service, whereas, 37% of women and 15% of men reported the spousal violence to the police. Lower reporting rates by men may reflect the less severe nature of the violent incidents experienced by men and the fact that social services for male victims may not be as widely available.

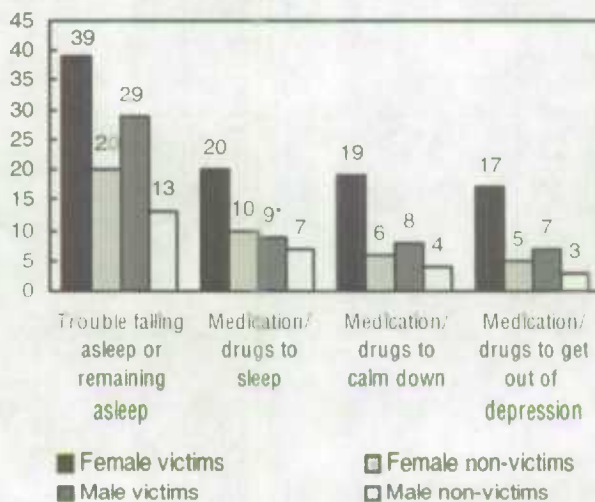
The most commonly reported emotional consequence for both male and female victims of spousal violence was being upset, confused and frustrated. Anger and hurt or disappointment were also frequently cited.

Women were more fearful than men as a result of the violence. They were also more likely to state that they experienced sleeping problems, depression or anxiety attacks and were almost four times more likely to report reduced self-esteem (23% versus 6%).

Female victims of spousal violence were twice as likely as men to have used medication during the month preceding the

### Emotional consequences of spousal violence

%, 1994 to 1999



\* The difference between male victims and non-victims for this category is not statistically significant.

survey interview to help them sleep, to calm down or to help get them out of depression.

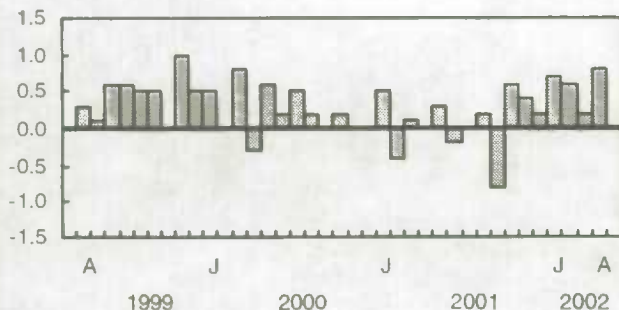
Since 1974, the overall rates of family homicides recorded in Canada and in family homicides as a percentage of total homicides have declined. Nearly 2,600 spousal homicides have been recorded, the majority of which (77%) have been against women. However, the homicide rate for women decreased 62%, while the homicide rate for men dropped more than half.

The 2002 issue of *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile* (Internet: 85-224-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the Our products and services page, choose Free publications, then Justice. For more information, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

## Current trends

### Gross domestic product

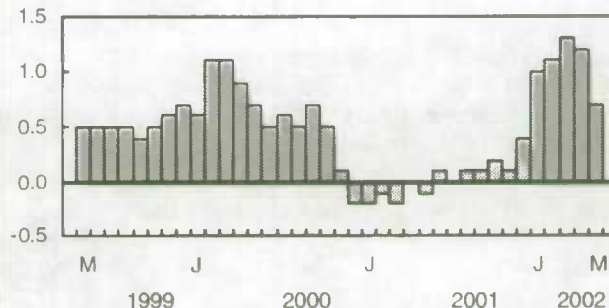
% change, previous month



Total economic activity advanced 0.8% in April, after rising 0.2% in March.

### Composite index

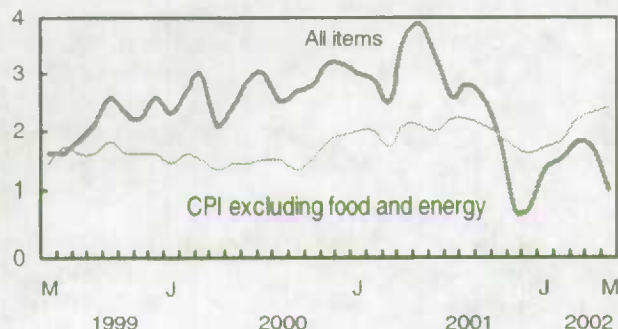
% change, previous month



The leading indicator gained 0.7% in May. New orders accelerated in response to household and export demand.

### Consumer Price Index

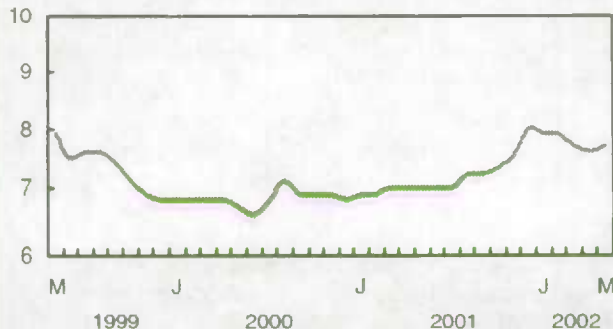
% change, previous year



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

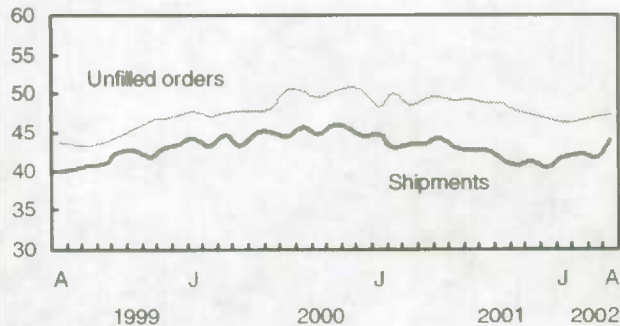
%



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

### Manufacturing

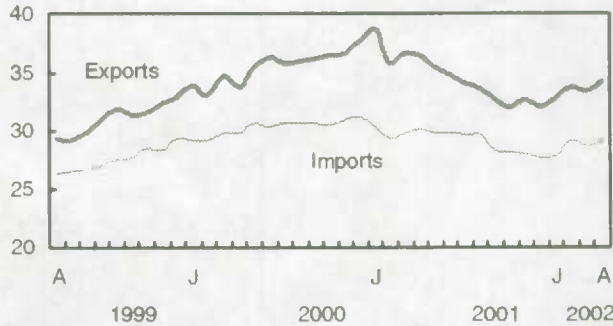
\$ billions



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 April, the value of merchandise exports increased 2.9% to \$34.3 billion. Imports rose 1.6% to \$29.1 billion.

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.



## Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) <sup>1</sup>	April*	966.3	0.8%	3.0%
Composite Index (1992=100)	May	176.4	0.7%	6.3%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q1 2002	34.7	9.0%	-16.3%
Capacity utilization rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Q1 2002	81.7	1.3†	-2.3†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
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%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
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 (\$)	April	673.85	0.05%	2.09%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	June*	127.6	0.6%	-16.8%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	April	531.8	-3.1%	6.8%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
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
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
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
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	May	118.6	0.2%	1.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	May	106.6	-0.7%	-2.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	May	112.6	0.6%	-5.4%
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

<sup>1</sup> 1997 replaces 1992 as the base year used in determining prices for gross domestic product by industry. Also, valuation has been changed from factor cost to basic prices.

<sup>2</sup> 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 June 27 to July 3, 2002

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Agriculture economic statistics	May 2002	21-603-UPE	26/52
Canada food stats	1960-2002	23F0001XCB	75/120
Farm Product Price Index	April 2002	21-007-XIB	free
Field crop reporting series, Vol. 81, no. 4		22-002-XIB	11/66
Field crop reporting series, Vol. 81, no. 4		22-002-XPB	15/88
Food consumption in Canada	2001	32-229-XIB	26
Fruit and vegetable production, Vol. 71, no. 1		22-003-XIB	23/46
Stocks of frozen and chilled meat products	June 2002	23-009-XIE	free
<b>CENSUS OPERATIONS</b>			
2001 Census catalogue	2001	92-377-XIE	free
2001 Census handbook	2001	92-379-XIE	free
2001 Census standard products subsets	2001	92-400-XIE	free
<b>DEMOGRAPHY</b>			
Report on the demographic situation in Canada	2001	91-209-XPE	31
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS</b>			
National tourism indicators	Q1 2002	13-009-XIB	free
National tourism indicators	Q1 2002	13-009-XPB	free
Purchasing power parities and real expenditures, United States and Canada	1992-2001	13-604-MIB2002039	free
Purchasing power parities and real expenditures, United States and Canada	1992-2001	13-604-MPB2002039	free
<b>INCOME STATISTICS</b>			
2000 Survey of Household Spending data quality indicators, no. 1		62F0026MIE2002001	free
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>			
Canadian international merchandise trade	April 2002	65-001-XIB	14/141
Canadian international merchandise trade	April 2002	65-001-XPB	19/188
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b>			
Production and disposition of tobacco products	May 2002	32-022-XIB	5/47
Quarterly report on energy supply-demand in Canada	Q3 2001	57-003-XPB	43/141
Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas	January 2002	26-006-XPB	19/186
<b>SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION</b>			
Innovation in the forest sector, no. 11		88F0006XIE2002011	free
Survey of Innovation 1999, methodological framework: Decisions taken and lessons learned, no. 12		88F0006XIE2002012	free
<b>SERVICE INDUSTRIES</b>			
Adapting to change: The life and health insurance industry amidst a changing financial services landscape, no. 39		63F0002XIB2002039	free
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Monthly railway carloadings	April 2002	52-001-XIE	8/77

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## AGRICULTURE

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Farm numbers down across Canada: Census of agriculture, 2001	May 24
Fewer farmers working the land, 1998-2001	March 22
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## OTHER ARTICLES

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Economic growth cools dramatically in most provinces, 2001	April 26
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High-tech companies less likely to be accepted for debt financing, 2000	February 1
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