

Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, July 26, 2002

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◆ R&D investment expected to fall sharply

Investment in research and development is expected to fall 6.1% this year, its first decline in the 30 years data have been collected.

◆ Manufacturers' shipments decline fuelled by automotive sector

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◆ Energy exports drag down merchandise trade surplus

Canada's merchandise trade balance fell by almost \$1 billion in May, the eighth decline in the past 12 months and the largest single monthly drop since February 2001.

◆ Retail sales falter after robust April

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◆ Leading indicator up for 11th straight month

The composite index, an early indicator of economic health increased for the 11th straight month in June, although the rate of growth continued to slow.

Cigarette prices boost inflation rate

A jump in cigarette prices, resulting largely from higher taxes, accounted for just over half the 1.3% increase in the inflation rate in June as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

This increase was slightly higher than the 1.0% year-over-year increase in May, but less than the 12-month increases ranging from 1.5% to 1.8% between February and April.

Excluding food and energy, the CPI would have increased 2.6% in June.

Cigarette prices, which were 32.1% higher than in June last year, exerted the strongest upward pressure on the index. This surge was due mainly to provincial and federal tax increases.

Also exerting upward pressure were food prices, automobile insurance premiums and homeowner replacement costs. Food prices rose 2.4%, mainly because of the cost of restaurant meals, as well as potato prices. Automobile insurance premiums were 11.9% higher, while homeowner replacement costs were 5.2% higher.

On the other hand, energy prices, which were 10.4% lower than in June 2001, exerted a strong dampening effect. Prices of all items in the energy component were lower, except for electricity

(continued on page 2)

Consumer Price Index, June 2002

% change, previous year, not seasonally adjusted

	All items	Food	Shelter	Transportation	Energy
Canada	1.3	2.4	-1.0	0.8	-10.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.9	2.5	-0.2	5.0	-6.3
Prince Edward Island	1.8	2.4	-1.1	0.7	-7.2
Nova Scotia	2.6	3.2	0.2	4.4	-3.9
New Brunswick	2.6	3.7	0.5	4.2	-2.9
Quebec	1.3	1.2	1.1	-1.2	-5.6
Ontario	1.2	3.0	-0.5	0.4	-10.9
Manitoba	0.6	1.9	-1.5	-2.2	-10.2
Saskatchewan	1.9	1.4	0.6	-1.0	-4.8
Alberta	0.5	2.3	-9.5	3.9	-28.5
British Columbia	1.6	2.8	-0.4	1.8	-6.0
Whitehorse	0.0	-1.0	-1.6	1.9	-5.1
Yellowknife	2.7	1.0	2.1	2.6	-2.8



Cigarette prices boost... (continued from page 1)

prices, which rose 2.8%. Much of June's decrease was due to a 36.5% plunge in natural gas prices and a 7.6% decline in gasoline.

A decrease in the cost of mortgage interest also had a moderating effect.

On a month-over-month basis, the CPI continued its modest advance for a second straight month, rising only 0.3% between May and June.

This gain was somewhat less than monthly increases in February, March and April which ranged between 0.6% and 0.7%.

Upward pressure came mainly from a 7.9% increase in cigarette prices as well as a 4.2% gain in the cost of traveller accommodation

and a 16.0% surge in potato prices. Offsetting these were declines in electricity and gasoline prices.

Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick raised their provincial cigarette tax by \$5 per carton, effective June 18. Also on the same date, the federal excise tax was increased by \$3.50 per carton in all provinces.

A 1.8% decrease in the electricity index for Canada was due entirely to a 5.0% drop in prices in Ontario. This reflected changes resulting from the opening of the Ontario market to independent distributors, which occurred on May 1, 2002.

The June 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 Chainé (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606), Prices Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

R&D investment expected to fall sharply

Investment in research and development (R&D) is expected to fall 6.1% this year, its first decline in the 30 years data have been collected.

Based on survey data collected last summer, total research and development spending in Canada will decline to \$11.24 billion this year, down from the record high of \$11.97 billion last year. In contrast, overall investment in research and development grew 4.6% in 2001. The survey was done prior to the September 11.

Investment in the communications equipment sector, which accounted for slightly more than one-fifth of all R&D spending

by industries last year, is expected to plunge 22.5%, the major reason for the decline in overall spending.

Companies that make communications and telecommunications equipment have been hard-hit by a collapse in markets. The forecast calls for R&D spending among these firms to drop to \$2.5 billion this year, down from more than \$3.2 billion in 2001.

R&D investment in the manufacturing sector, which includes everything from auto parts to food, will drop about 9.3% to \$7.6 billion. Overall, 7,896 firms performed R&D in 2000, 380 of which were foreign-controlled.

The July 2002 issue of Science statistics (Internet: 88-001-XIB, \$6/\$59) is now available. For analytical information, contact Bert Plaus (613-951-6347), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

Manufacturers' shipments decline fuelled by automotive sector

Canada's factories caught their breath in May, a month after their shipments spiked to the second highest level in a year. Shipments fell 1.4% to just under \$43.4 billion, mainly because of the automotive sector, although the decline took back only a small part of a 5.2% jump in April. They declined in only 10 of 21 industries, representing 49% of total shipments.

Motor vehicle manufacturers shipped out \$5.5 billion worth of goods, down 7.5% from April when their shipments surged 14.4%. As well, the motor vehicle parts industry decreased 4.4% to \$2.7 billion, following April's 9.2% jump.

Helping to offset these declines were higher shipments in the petroleum and coal industry (+4.4%) and the computer and electronics industry (+6.0%). The recovery in manufacturing activity in 2002 and a cooler-than-normal spring gave rise to higher demand for petroleum and coal products.

Excluding both the motor vehicles and parts industries, shipments declined only 0.1%. However, levels remained strong compared with the same period of 2001.

Although factory output in the automotive sector declined, levels remained among the highest for the last year and a half. In recent months, several plants returned to full production from temporary shutdowns. In addition, manufacturers have stepped

up production of new models for the coming year, and some plants resumed overtime work.

Despite May's decline, the manufacturing sector's performance has been solid in 2002. Strong gains in employment, consumer confidence and low interest rates have been key stimuli for the economy. Consumer spending remained robust, and demand for housing and automobiles surpassed many analysts' expectations.

Following a small rise in employment of about 2,100 in May, the manufacturing sector created about 30,000 new jobs in June, according to the Labour Force Survey. Since the beginning of 2002, manufacturing employment has risen 113,000, returning the industry to its December 2000 peak.

Shipments of wood products declined 2.2% to \$2.6 billion, the first decrease in six months. Shipments in April had reached the highest level since January 2000, which coincided with the temporary expiration of U.S. softwood lumber duties. The prices for lumber, sawmill and other wood products have also softened over the last couple of months.

Inventories remained stable at \$62 billion, resulting in the first increase of the inventory-to-shipment ratio since December. The ratio edged up to 1.43 from April's 18-month low of 1.41. Because of the economic slowdown in 2001, the ratio had increased sharply over the course of the year, as lower inventories initially did not follow the significant cuts in production.

Manufacturers' recent efforts to reduce their stocks confirm intentions reported in April's Quarterly Business Conditions Survey. Companies had indicated that their inventories were under control, orders were picking up and it was time to boost production.

Another indication of strength in manufacturing was a 0.8% increase in unfilled orders to \$47.7 billion. This was the fourth consecutive rise and the longest series of monthly increases in unfilled orders since early 2000. These backlogs in orders are often seen as an early signal of where factory production is heading.

New orders dropped 1.1% to \$43.8 billion, only the second decline this year. New orders have improved considerably since the start of 2002, and remain 10% above December 2001.

The May 2002 issue of the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing (Internet: 31-001-XIB, \$15/\$147) is now available. For general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; kowarus@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Manufacturers' shipments, May 2002
Seasonally adjusted

	\$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	43,367	-1.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	187	-1.7
Prince Edward Island	107	-3.9
Nova Scotia	665	-5.3
New Brunswick	1,048	-3.1
Quebec	10,329	0.7
Ontario	23,206	-2.6
Manitoba	952	-2.2
Saskatchewan	586	-8.2
Alberta	3,365	1.8
British Columbia	2,916	1.0
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	6	31.1

Energy exports drag down merchandise trade surplus

Canada's merchandise trade surplus fell by almost \$1 billion in May, the eighth decline in the past 12 months and the largest single monthly drop since February 2001. The trade balance decreased from \$5.5 billion in April to just over \$4.5 billion.

Exports declined 1.9% to \$33.9 billion with levels down for all of Canada's principal trading areas, except Japan. Merchandise imports, however, rose 1.2% to \$29.4 billion.

Canadian companies sent \$29.0 billion worth of goods to the United States, down 1.6% from April, whereas, they imported \$21.2 billion worth from south of the border, a 1.7% increase. As a result, the trade surplus with the United States plunged \$826 million to \$7.8 billion.

Canada incurred a trade deficit with countries other than the United States amounting to \$3.2 billion in May, an increase of \$157 million.

Exports faltered following April's 5.1% increase, which was the strongest monthly growth in over two years. Six of the seven commodity sectors decreased; the only increase, a tepid 0.3%, was in industrial goods and materials.

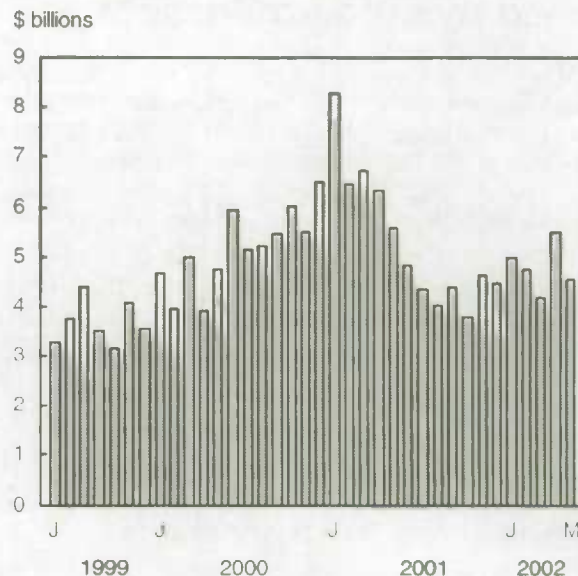
Energy exports dropped 6.2% to \$4.1 billion, a loss of more than a quarter-billion dollars. Burgeoning inventories in the United States reduced the demand for natural gas in May, resulting in a 6.1% decline. On a year-to-date basis, energy exports were down 38.6% from the first five months of 2001.

The automotive products sector fell a slight 0.2%, remaining near the year-high level of \$8.2 billion, as sales in the United States of incentive-laden passenger autos continued. In the machinery and equipment sector, exports decreased 1.9% to \$7.6 billion, almost wiping out April's gain. The lingering effect of a work stoppage at the beginning of May reduced exports of aircraft, engines and parts by 9.3%.

Exports of television, telecommunications and related equipment bounced back with Canadian firms exporting over \$1 billion worth of equipment in May, a 6.3% jump. However, industrial and agricultural machinery exports fell 6.3% to \$1.5 billion dollars. Industrial goods and materials, the third largest export sector, held steady, rising 0.3% to \$5.8 billion.

The forestry products sector remained virtually unchanged at \$3.2 billion in May. A brief duty-free window for softwood lumber to the United States in the first three weeks of May,

Trade balance



followed by lower exports when duties resumed, resulted in a 2.9% increase in exports of lumber to \$1.1 billion.

Five of seven major sectors increased imports. Imports of energy products rose 9.8% to \$1.4 billion, the third straight monthly increase. Automotive product imports held steady, falling only 0.2% to \$6.6 billion.

Imports of machinery and equipment, Canada's largest import sector, increased 0.5% to \$8.7 billion in May. The aircraft, engines and parts sub-sector plummeted 20.6% to \$620.8 million, as passenger carriers continued modernizing their fleets.

Imports in the third largest import sector, industrial goods and materials, increased 1.0% to \$5.7 billion, mainly on a 12.3% increase in imports of organic chemicals to \$553.0 million. These organic chemicals are used mainly in the production of pharmaceuticals.

Canadian international merchandise trade (Internet: 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; paper: 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) is now available. For more information, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647). For analytical information, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Retail sales falter after robust April

Retail sales tumbled 1.3% in May to \$25.1 billion, more than wiping out the 1.0% gain posted in April, which followed two months of flat sales.

The decline was led by a 5.3% plunge in clothing sales, which more than offset a 3.3% gain in April. Only drug and furniture stores posted gains in May.

Provincially, sales fell in five provinces, including Ontario, where they have been flat since mid-2000, except for a surge from last October to January.

Clothing purchases, which have been volatile over the last three years, may have been affected by the cold, wet spring. The \$1.3 billion in clothing sales in May was 0.7% below the level in the same month last year.

Restrained consumer spending also took its toll on the automotive sector, where sales fell 1.6% to \$10.1 billion, following a 1.1% gain in April. After strong growth since the fall of 2001, sales have slowed in the last four months. Within this sector, large declines were reported by automobile parts, accessories and services stores (-4.0%) and gasoline service stations (-3.7%). These followed large increases in April.

Retail sales, May 2002
Seasonally adjusted

	\$ millions	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	25,103	-1.3	3.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	417	-3.5	1.1
Prince Edward Island	112	-1.0	5.0
Nova Scotia	761	0.1	4.4
New Brunswick	605	0.8	3.7
Quebec	5,787	-0.6	4.1
Ontario	9,254	-3.2	1.2
Manitoba	881	-2.8	6.0
Saskatchewan	739	0.2	5.4
Alberta	3,099	0.5	7.5
British Columbia	3,359	1.0	6.3
Yukon	32	6.7	8.8
Northwest Territories	41	-4.0	12.6
Nunavut	17	0.8	3.4

Consumers spent 1.5% less in the general merchandise sector after a 1.3% gain in April. Department stores led the decline with a 3.0% drop in sales. Despite this decline, growth since September 2001 in the general merchandise sector originated mainly from department stores. Sales by other general merchandise stores increased 0.7%, for the third time in four months.

Stores classified as "other retail" reported a 2.7% sales drop, following a 0.5% gain in April. This sector, which includes businesses such as liquor stores, sporting goods stores, hardware stores and bookstores, has been enjoying rising sales since the summer of 1996.

Drugstore sales increased 2.4 %, after a 0.9% decline in April. With a seventh gain in the last eight months, drugstores continued the strong sales growth seen since the spring of 2000. Sales in the furniture sector advanced 0.9%, the third consecutive monthly increase. The recent gains reflect the strong activity in the housing market.

Provincially, sales fell in Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. All five had recorded gains in April. Retailers in the remaining provinces reported increases ranging from 0.1% to 1.0%. British Columbia's 1.0% gain was the sixth monthly increase in eight months.

Wholesale sales fell 1.2%. During the month, wholesalers sold \$34.5 billion worth of goods and services. May's decline followed six months of consecutive growth. Despite the drop, the upward trend continued both for total sales and for nine of the 11 wholesale sectors (excluded are industrial machinery and the other products category).

Sales in eight of the 11 sectors fell. Hardest hit were industrial machinery and farm machinery, accounting for about half of the \$405 million drop in sales. Sales declined in almost all provinces; only Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had slight increases.

*The May 2002 issues of **Retail trade** (Internet: 63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155) and **Wholesale trade** (Internet: 63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) are now available. For general information, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549). For analytical information, contact Pierre Desjardins (613-951-9682; pierre.desjardins@statcan.ca) for Retail trade and Jean Lebreux (613-951-4907; jean.lebreux@statcan.ca) for Wholesale trade, Distributive Trades Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)*

Leading indicator up for 11th straight month

The composite index, an early indicator of economic health increased for the 11th straight month in June, although the rate of growth continued to slow. The index increased 0.5% in June, compared with a slightly revised 0.8% in May, 1.2% in April and 1.3% in March.

The advance in June was broadly based, led by manufacturing. Seven components increased, two declined and one was unchanged. The only moderating factors were housing and the stock market.

New orders for durable goods rose 2.9%, their fourth straight gain and the strongest since July 2000. This strength was attributable to construction goods, automotive products and aeronautics, which were reacting to robust household demand and exports in recent months.

The housing index declined from May's 25-year high, primarily because of a drop in existing home sales after their record run at the start of the year.

The July 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627). Current Economic Analysis Group. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)



Canadian economic observer

The July issue of *Canadian economic observer* analyses current economic conditions and summarizes the major economic events that occurred in June.

A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The July 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca). Current Economic Analysis Group.

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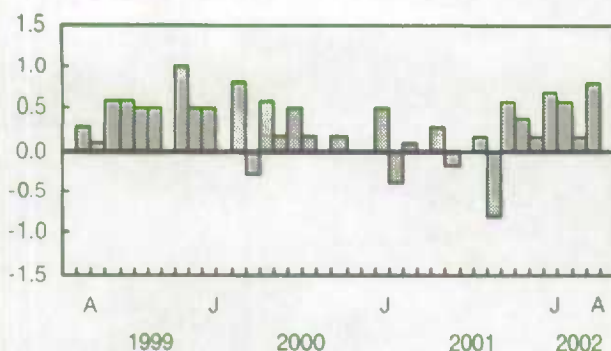
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Current trends

Gross domestic product

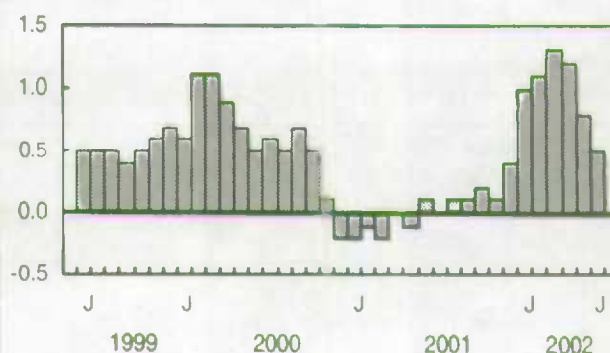
% change, previous month



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

Composite index

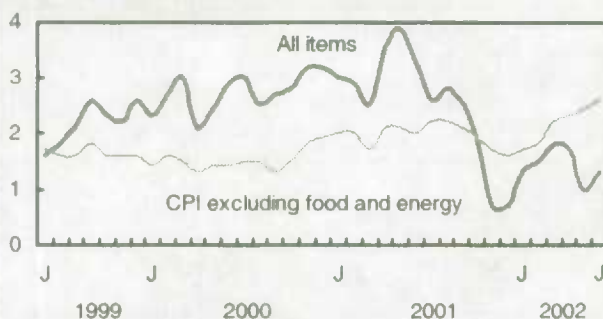
% change, previous month



The leading indicator gained 0.5% in June. The advance was broadly based, led by manufacturing.

Consumer Price Index

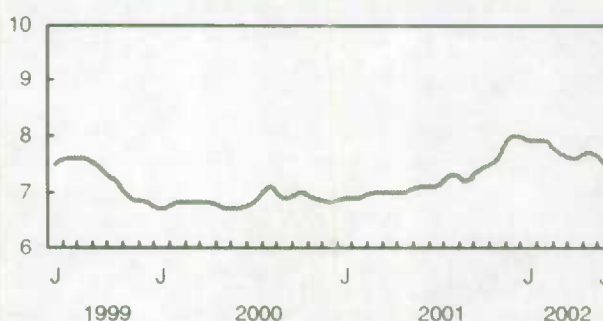
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 1.3% higher in June than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.6%.

Unemployment rate

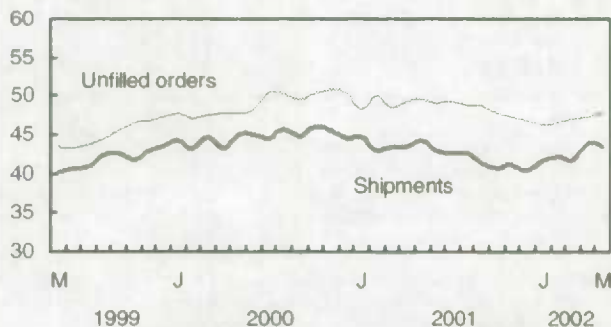
%



In June, the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 7.5%.

Manufacturing

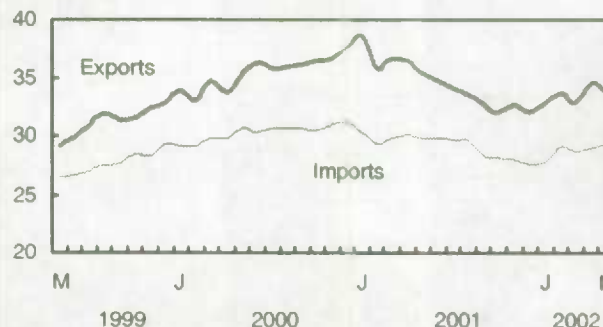
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments fell back 1.4% in May to \$43.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders rose 0.8% to \$47.7 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In May, the value of merchandise exports declined 1.9% to \$33.9 billion. Imports rose 1.2% to \$29.4 billion.

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

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) ¹	April	966.3	0.8%	3.0%
Composite Index (1992=100)	June*	177.3	0.5%	6.7%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q1 2002	34.7	9.0%	-16.3%
Capacity utilization rate (%) ²	Q1 2002	81.7	1.3†	-2.3†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	May*	25.1	-1.3%	3.8%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	May	145.8	2.2%	10.8%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	May*	34.5	-1.2%	4.2%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	June	15.4	0.4%	2.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	June	7.5	-0.2†	0.4†
Participation rate (%)	June	66.8	0.1†	0.9†
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)	May*	554.2	4.2%	9.9%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	May*	33.9	-1.9%	-4.2%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	May*	29.4	1.2%	-1.5%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	May*	4.5	-1.0	-1.1
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	May	43.4	-1.4%	-2.0%
New orders (\$ billions)	May	43.8	-1.1%	-1.7%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	May	47.7	0.8%	-3.8%
Inventory/shipments ratio	May	1.43	0.02	-0.05
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	June*	119.0	0.3%	1.3%
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)	May	110.1	0.6%	4.2%

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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Products released from July 18 to 24, 2002

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Canadian potato production, Updates	July 2002	22-008-UIB	free
CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS			
International travel, advance information	May 2002	66-001-PIE	6/55
CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS			
Canadian economic observer	July 2002	11-010-XPB	23/227
Canadian economic observer, Historical statistical supplement	2001/02	11-210-XIB	21
Canadian economic observer, Historical statistical supplement	2001/02	11-210-XPB	28
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES			
Retail Trade	May 2002	63-005-XIB	16/155
Wholesale trade	May 2002	63-008-XIB	14/140
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS			
National income and expenditure accounts, quarterly estimates	Q1 2002	13-001-XIB	33/109
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE			
Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	Q1 2002	61-008-XIE	26/86
INTERNATIONAL TRADE			
Canadian international merchandise trade	May 2002	65-001-XIB	14/141
Canadian international merchandise trade	May 2002	65-001-XPB	19/188
Imports by commodity	May 2002	65-007-XMB	37/361
Imports by commodity	May 2002	65-007-XPB	78/773
LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS			
Perspectives on labour and income	July 2002	75-001-XIE	5/48
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Asphalt roofing	June 2002	45-001-XIB	5/47
Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation	June 2002	44-004-XIB	5/47
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	May 2002	31-001-XIB	15/147
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products	February 2002	55-001-XIB	9/86
Primary iron and steel	May 2002	41-001-XIB	5/47
Quarterly report on energy supply-demand in Canada	Q2 2001	57-003-XPB	43/141
Steel wire and specified wire products	May 2002	41-006-XIB	5/47
PRICES			
The Consumer Price Index	June 2002	62-001-XIB	8/77
The Consumer Price Index	June 2002	62-001-XPB	11/103
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