



Infomat

A Weekly Review

SEP 15 2003

Friday, September 12, 2003

INSIDE

◆ SPOTLIGHT: Infomat's new weekly feature

Infomat kicks off a new weekly feature with a look at the first data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada. It found that starting a new life in Canada is not without its obstacles, especially when it comes to finding a job.

◆ Only one-third seek help for mental illness

One out of every 10 Canadians aged 15 and over suffers from a mental illness, or dependence on drugs or alcohol, according to data from the 2002 Canadian Community Health Survey. However, less than half these people actually sought treatment, the survey found.

◆ Near-record pace for building permits in July

The construction industry appears to have plenty of momentum heading into the second half of the year, new data on building permits suggest. Municipalities issued building permits at a near-record pace in July for both residential and non-residential construction projects.

Jobless rate jumps to highest level in nearly two years

Canada's unemployment rate jumped to its highest level in nearly two years in August, as employment edged down for the fourth time in the past five months. The rate rose from 7.8% in July to 8.0%, the highest level since December 2001.

The unemployment rate has been climbing in general since its most recent low of 7.3% in March.

The economy lost an estimated 19,000 jobs in August. On a year-to-date basis, employment increased only 0.3% between January and August, in sharp contrast to the 2.6% gain during the first eight months of 2002.

In the United States, the unemployment picture was bleak. The economy lost 93,000 jobs in August, the most since March. The unemployment rate fell to 6.1% from 6.2% as more discouraged workers dropped out of the labour force. Payrolls fell after a

(continued on page 2)

Unemployment

%, seasonally adjusted



Jobless rate jumps... (continued from page 1)

revised 49,000 drop in July, according to the Labour Department in Washington.

In Canada, the August declines were broad-based, hitting service industries as well as manufacturers, which have now shed jobs for 37 straight months.

Full-time employment fell by an estimated 22,300 jobs, while the economy gained about 3,200.

Nationwide, the largest loss was a decline of 24,000 jobs in the management industries, which include people employed in the maintenance of buildings, security services as well as call centres. It has been a growth industry over the longer term.

In addition, the health care and social assistance sector lost 18,000 jobs, mostly in Quebec and Alberta.

Manufacturing employment was unchanged. However, over the first eight months this year, the manufacturing sector has lost 62,000 jobs, a 2.7% decline.

Employment jumped 14,000 in public administration in August, bringing year-to-date gains to 6.1%, the strongest pace of any industry.

Construction employment continued to roll along in August, increasing by 11,000. So far in 2003, construction jobs have increased 3.6%. According to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing

Corporation, new housing starts in July were 11% higher than a year earlier.

Last month's power outage that hit Ontario and nine American states occurred during the Labour Force Survey reference week from August 10-16. However, while it caused many individuals to miss work, it likely did not affect overall numbers of either part-time or full-time workers.

An estimated one in four Ontario employees, or about 1.3 million people, missed some work because of the blackout. In total, this amounted to over 11 million hours, or 8.2 hours per absent employee. This does not include the time lost during the period of power conservation the week following the outage.

Workers lost hours in almost all industries in Ontario, except those in the utilities industry, many of whom were required to work longer hours.

Employment in Ontario dipped a slight 6,000. However, a decline in the number of people looking for work caused the unemployment rate to slip from 7.2% to 7.1%. A gain in manufacturing jobs in the province could not make up for a large loss in professional, scientific and technical services employment.

The largest declines in employment occurred in Quebec (-13,000) and New Brunswick (-7,000).

For more information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division.

Empowering employees: A route to innovation

Companies that use more positive human resources practices are more likely to innovate. They are also likely to launch an innovation that is a first in the market as opposed to an innovation that is simply new to their firm.

The study found that the probability of introducing an innovation is highest when firms use practices from three human resource management areas: training; employee involvement practices, such as information sharing, flexible job design and self-directed work groups; and compensation methods, such as individual incentives and profit sharing.

Using more human resources management practices makes the relationship with innovation stronger. For example, a firm has a 32% probability of being a first-to-the-market innovator when it uses more than six such practices, an 11% probability when using three or fewer practices and only a 4% probability if none of these practices are adopted. Innovation is also most frequent when many practices are used intensively, for example, when a high proportion of workers are trained.

Other factors that display a positive association with innovation are international competition, at least in the manufacturing sector, and foreign ownership in the non-manufacturing sector.

A firm's innovation performance results from complex and dynamic interactions between its own internal innovation capacity and external expertise. From an internal point of view, a firm must retain its key workers and keep them highly motivated to assure continuity in the knowledge accumulation process, which is critical for innovation.

For more information, contact Nathalie Caron (613-951-4051; nathalie.caron@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

SPOTLIGHT: Today's immigrants

Job search difficult for new immigrants

Starting a new life in Canada is not without its obstacles, especially when it comes to finding a job, according to first data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada.

The survey found that most immigrants reported some difficulties in entering Canada's labour market. Seven out of every 10 newcomers who tried identified at least one problem with the process, including transferability of foreign qualifications, lack of contacts and language barriers. Almost one-fifth couldn't converse in either French or English when they arrived in Canada.

About 44% found work within a short time, and that increased to 70% after the immigrants were in Canada for six months. Even then, 42% of people who had a job were still looking for another position.

New immigrants were unlikely to get a job in line with their education and professional training. Of those employed at the time of the survey, six in 10 did not work in the same occupational field as they did before coming to Canada.

The two most common occupational groups for men before emigrating were natural and applied sciences, and management. Six months after they arrived in Canada, men were most often working in sales and service.

The LSIC was conducted by Statistics Canada in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada. It is a long-term study of how immigrants adapt to life in Canada, and how government programs can help them make the transition.

The survey interviewed about 12,000 of 164,000 people aged 15 and older who arrived in Canada between October 2000 and September 2001.

Note to readers

Infomat today introduces a new weekly feature called *Spotlight*, which will take readers behind the data that make the news.

Spotlight will give perspective to the mountain of information Statistics Canada produces. Each week, we'll take a closer look at a new survey, research paper, publication or other new product to show readers what the data say about various aspects of Canadian society, from education and technology to culture and crime.

Today, *Spotlight* falls on the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, a survey designed to study how newly arrived immigrants adjust over time to living in Canada.

Just under 125,000 of these new arrivals, or about three-quarters, had at least one type of foreign credential, either professional or technical. For these immigrants, the most critical hurdle in finding a job was lack of experience in the Canadian workforce and difficulty in transferring their qualifications.

Some six months after their arrival, 26% of immigrants with professional or technical credentials had at least one of their qualifications verified by an employer, educational institution or the governing body of their profession in Canada.

Another 13% had credentials checked by sources outside Canada or by immigration officers, while 61% had not even started the process of validation.

Of newcomers who had a credential validated by an employer, educational institution or professional organization within Canada, 13% had at least one rejected.

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Longitudinal survey: What it's all about

Just what is a longitudinal survey? Simply, it is one that is repeated over time. Conducting such a survey accomplishes two tasks: It provides the necessary information about changes that occur. It also shows the impact of these changes.

In the case of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, the same people will be interviewed three times – six months, two years and four years after their arrival in Canada.

The first wave of interviews with immigrants for the LSIC was conducted between April 2001 and June 2002, some six months after their arrival. Interviews in the second round have just been completed. Data from these won't be released until at least late 2004.

Information collected from the first interview will serve as a benchmark for the settlement experiences of these newcomers. By late 2005, when all three interviews have been completed, the survey will provide a clear understanding of how the settlement process unfolds for new arrivals.

Between 1991 and 2000, 2.2 million immigrants were admitted to Canada, the highest number admitted in any decade in the past 100 years. As a consequence, the 2001 Census recorded the highest share of foreign-born in the country in 70 years (18.4%).

Job search difficult... (continued from page 3)

The survey showed that that an immigrant's network of family and friends had at least as much impact as economic factors on where they settle in Canada.

Immigrants in the economic class might have been expected to cite economic factors as their chief reason for settlement choice, but this was not the case.

About 44% of those newcomers who entered as principal applicants in the economic class said they chose their destination because family and friends were already living there. Only 19% said they were influenced by job prospects.

Half of the principal applicants in the economic class who settled in Toronto said they did so to join family and friends. Less than one-quarter (23%) chose it because of job prospects.

A full report on the survey's results titled *Highlights of the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada, 2000/01* (89-611-XIE) is available free of charge on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca).

For more information, contact Tina Chui (613-951-8108), Housing Family and Social Statistics Division.

Major occupation groups of immigrants before and after arriving in Canada

	2001			
	Men		Women	
	Before arriving	After arriving	Before arriving	After arriving
	Number			
Immigrants with occupations before and after arriving in Canada	39,700	43,800	22,300	28,300
	%			
Management occupations	12.7	4.4	8	2.6
Occupations in business, finance and administration	8.1	9.8	25.3	17.9
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	38.6	18.8	16.8	6.8
Health occupations	3.5	1.8	10	4.2
Occupations in social science, education, government service and religion	7.3	4.8	17.6	6.2
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	1.8	1.0 ^E	3.8	1.8 ^E
Sales and service occupations	10.2	24.9	12.1	37.3
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	9.9	10.4	0.7 ^E	2.7
Occupations unique to primary industry	3.6	1.8	1.3 ^E	2.6
Occupations unique to processing, manufacturing and utilities	4.1	22.3	4.4	17.9

^E Use with caution.

Slight acceleration in growth of new housing prices

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose 0.3% in July. On a 12-month basis, this index of contractors' selling prices advanced 4.7%. This is up from June's annual increase of 4.5% and reflects a continued strong demand for new housing.

Twelve of the 21 urban centres registered monthly increases. In Hamilton and Victoria, where both indexes rose 1.1%, builders cited rising prices for building materials and labour along with a favourable housing market.

Builders in Victoria also noted higher land values. Increases were observed in Kitchener-Waterloo (+0.7%), Regina (+0.6%) and Toronto (+0.5%), as higher prices for labour and building materials, such as plywood and drywall, pushed prices up in these areas.

St. Catharines-Niagara, London and Vancouver recorded increases of 0.2%, while Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton, Ottawa-Gatineau, Calgary and Edmonton posted slight increases (+0.1%).

Eight of the surveyed centres registered no change and the only monthly decrease occurred in Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-0.2%).

Québec posted the largest 12-month increase for new homes (+8.9%), followed by Victoria (+7.4%) and Hamilton (+7.0%). There were no annual decreases in July.

For more information, contact Susan Morris (613-951-2035; morrsus@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Only one-third seek help for mental illness

One out of every 10 Canadians aged 15 and over suffers from a mental illness, or dependence on drugs or alcohol, according to new data from the 2002 Canadian Community Health Survey. However, less than half these people actually sought treatment, the survey found.

About 2.6 million people reported symptoms consistent with alcohol or illicit drug dependence, or one of five mental disorders covered in the survey, at some time during the 12 months prior to the interview.

But only 832,000, barely one-third of the total, saw or talked to a health professional, such as a psychiatrist, a family physician, a medical specialist, a psychologist or a nurse. Of these people, 60% considered the consultations "a lot helpful".

Five mental health disorders were assessed in the survey: major depression, mania disorder, panic disorder, social phobia and agoraphobia, as well as alcohol and illicit drug dependence. About 37,000 people aged 15 and over were surveyed.

It found that major depression afflicts almost as many Canadians as heart disease, diabetes or a thyroid condition.

Some 4% of people interviewed in the survey reported symptoms or feelings associated with major depression, compared with 5% with diabetes, 5% with heart disease and 6% with a thyroid condition.

According to the World Health Organization, five of the 10 leading causes of disability are related to mental disorders. Health Canada estimates that in 1998, mental disorders were the third highest source of direct health care costs at \$4.7 billion.

The overall prevalence rates for the surveyed mental health disorders and substance dependencies were about the same for women as for men. About 1.4 million women, or 11% of the total, experienced such symptoms, compared with 10%, or 1.2 million, men.

Mood disorders and anxiety disorders were more common for women. About 6% of women reported feelings and symptoms consistent with a major depression or mania; 4% of men reported similar experiences.

Measured mental disorders or substance dependence in the past 12 months

	Total		Males		Females	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Major depression	1,120,000	4.5	420,000	3.4	700,000	5.5
Mania disorder	190,000	0.8	90,000	0.7	100,000	0.8
Any mood	1,210,000	4.9	460,000	3.8	750,000	5.9
Panic disorder	400,000	1.6	130,000	1.1	270,000	2.1
Agoraphobia	180,000	0.7	40,000	0.4	140,000	1.1
Social anxiety disorder (Social phobia)	750,000	3	310,000	2.6	430,000	3.4
Any anxiety	1,180,000	4.7	440,000	3.6	740,000	5.8
Alcohol dependence	640,000	2.6	470,000	3.8	170,000	1.3
Illicit drugs dependence	170,000	0.7	120,000	1	50,000	0.4
Substance dependence	740,000	3	540,000	4.4	200,000	1.6
Total - Any measured disorder or substa	2,600,000	10.4	1,190,000	9.7	1,410,000	11.1

Teenagers and young adults aged 15 to 24 were most likely to report suffering from the surveyed mental disorders and substance dependence problems. Some 18% reported having feelings or symptoms consistent with them, compared with 12% of those aged 25 to 44.

In terms of alcohol and illicit drug dependencies, almost 8% of teens and young people reported these problems compared to about 3% of those aged 25 to 44.

Even so, teens and young adults were least likely to use any resources for problems concerning their mental health or use of alcohol or illicit drugs.

Only one-quarter of those aged between 15 and 24 reported having used some type of resources such as consultation with any health professional, religious advisor, group support or telephone helpline during the year prior to the survey.

The survey collected information on why people did not get any help for their problems. Nearly one-third (31%) preferred to manage the problems themselves; 19% reported they did not get around to it, or did not bother; and 18% reported that they were afraid to ask for help, or they were afraid of what others would think.

For more information, contact Lorna Bailie (613-951-0837), Health Statistics Division.

Increase in median family income highest in Nunavut

Median total income for families increased 7.7% from 1997 to 2001, after adjustment for inflation. Nunavut had the largest increase at 13.2%, followed by the Northwest Territories, Alberta and Newfoundland and Labrador.

The increase to \$44,800 in Nunavut happened mostly between 2000 and 2001, a turnaround from previous years when median total income declined in that territory. However, this amount was still well below that of the Northwest Territories, which was highest among all provinces and territories in 2001 at \$70,300, followed by Yukon at \$61,000 and Alberta at \$59,900.

From 2000 to 2001, median total income increased for both couple families and single-parent families in all provinces and territories, the only time that happened between 1997 and 2001. In 2001, the median for couple families reached \$59,600, and \$27,200 for lone-parent families.

Among census metropolitan areas between 1997 and 2001, Edmonton saw the highest increase in median family total income, at 11.8%. Next highest were increases of 11.0% in Ottawa-Gatineau, 10.0% in Calgary, 9.6% in St. John's and 8.5% in Kitchener.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-866-652-8443; 613-951-9720 saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

Near-record pace for building permits in July

The construction industry appears to have plenty of momentum heading into the second half of the year, new data on building permits suggest. Municipalities issued building permits at a near-record pace in July for both residential and non-residential construction projects.

In total, they approved permits worth \$4.53 billion, up 3.3% from June and just shy of the monthly record of \$4.59 billion in January.

Permits for housing in July hit \$2.78 billion, up 4.7% from June and just short of the monthly record of \$2.80 billion set in January. The value of non-residential permits grew 1.1% to \$1.8 billion, its highest level since January. The major factor was a 56.7% leap in industrial permits.

The torrid pace of permits set a new record for the first seven months of the year. Between January and July, builders took out permits worth \$29.5 billion, up 9.0% from the same seven-month period last year.

According to July's Labour Force Survey, more than 933,000 Canadians were employed in construction, up 1.1% from the previous month and 5.4% higher than for the same month last year.

July's increase in construction intentions in the housing sector was the third straight monthly gain.

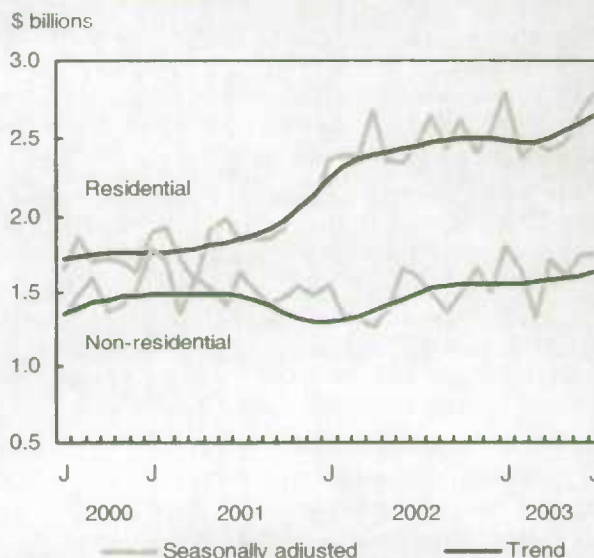
Builders took out a record \$950 million in permits for multi-family units in July, up 15.6% from June. This more than offset a decline in the value of single-family intentions, which edged down 0.3% to \$1.8 billion.

On a year-to-date basis, permits for residential construction totaled \$18.0 billion from January to July, up 6.0% from the first seven months of 2002. This consisted of a record \$12.6 billion in single-family intentions, up 3.4%, and a record \$5.4 billion in multi-family permits, up 12.6%.

Nearly 20,000 new housing units were approved across the country in July, of which 10,335 were for single-family housing. So far this year, permits for 129,000 units have been approved, of which just over one-half were single family dwellings.

A major gain in proposed industrial projects propelled the non-residential sector to its third increase in four months.

Construction intentions are strong in both residential and non-residential sectors



The value of construction intentions for industrial buildings reached \$449 million in July, up 56.7% from June. It was the highest level since September 2000. A large-scale manufacturing project in Quebec contributed significantly to the increase.

In contrast, the value of building permits in the institutional component tumbled 12.0% to \$557 million. (A large project for a medical building in Alberta inflated June's results.) July's level was still 7.6% higher than the average monthly value in 2003, and 16.2% higher than the average monthly level in 2002, which was a banner year.

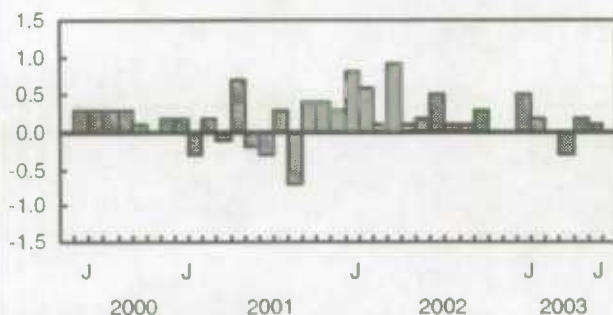
In the commercial component, the value of permits totaled \$743 million in July, down 8.4% from June. This drop was the result of a 27.8% decline in projects related to trade and services. July's level was the lowest in the last four months, and 6.3% below the average monthly level this year.

For more information, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

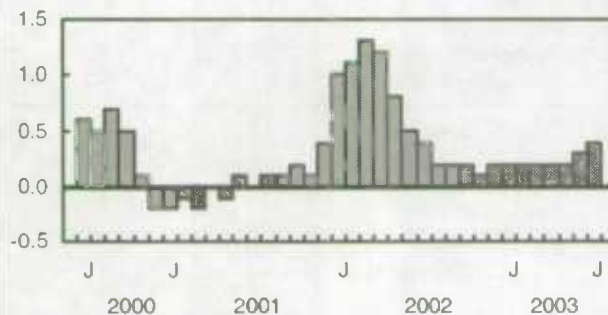
% change, previous month



Total economic activity edged up 0.1% in June, after a 0.2% gain in May.

Composite Index

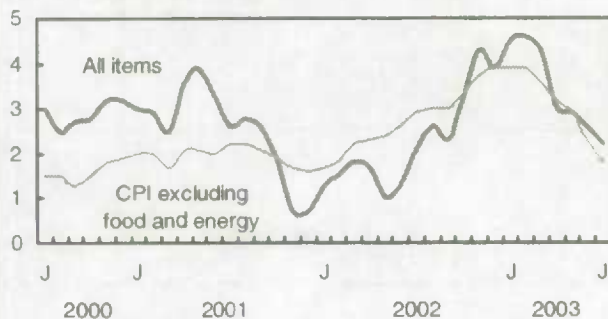
% change, previous month



The leading indicator grew 0.4% in July after rising 0.3% in June.

Consumer Price Index

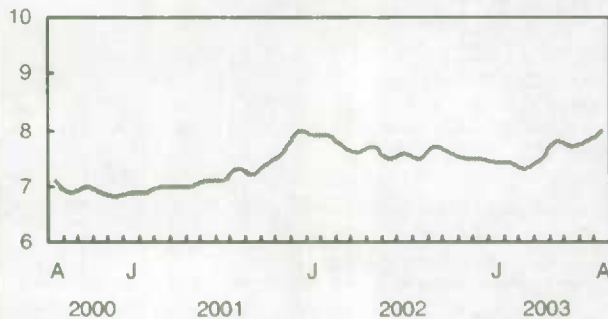
% change, previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.2% higher in July than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.8%.

Unemployment rate

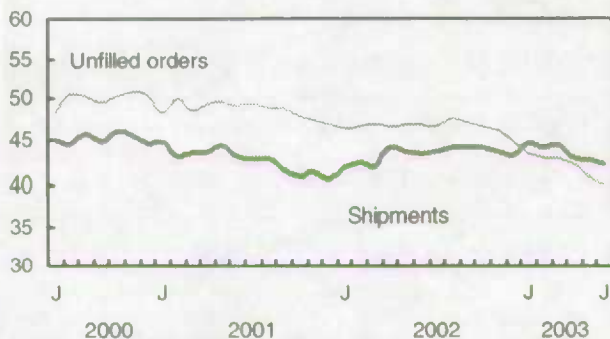
%



In August, the unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points to 8.0%.

Manufacturing

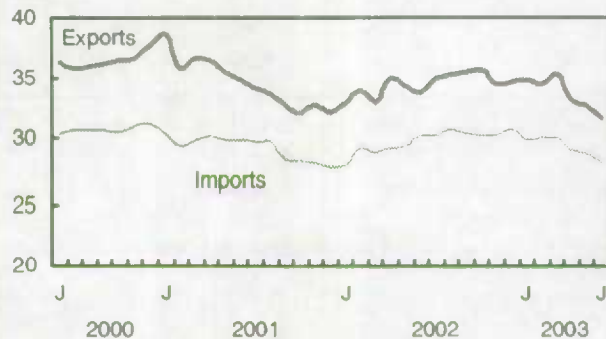
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments fell 0.5% in June to \$41.9 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders declined 1.3% to \$39.6 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In June, the value of merchandise exports dropped 3.2% to \$31.6 billion. Imports fell 2.2% to \$28.0 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	June	995.0	0.1%	1.9%
Composite Index (1992=100)	July	182.5	0.4%	2.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q2 2003	40.4	-1.3%	11.7%
Capacity utilization rate (%) ²	Q1 2003	82.8	0.3†	1.2†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	June	26.4	0.3%	2.7%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	June	130.0	-10.2%	-8.9%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	June	35.8	0.0%	3.3%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August*	15.7	-0.1%	1.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	August*	8.0	0.2†	0.5†
Participation rate (%)	August*	67.5	0.0†	0.5†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	June	693.29	0.9%	2.1%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	May	561.4	2.7%	0.3%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	June	31.6	-3.8%	-6.5%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	June	28.0	-2.2%	-7.0%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	June	3.6	-0.4	-0.1
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	June	41.9	-0.5%	-3.1%
New orders (\$ billions)	June	41.4	2.0%	-4.7%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	June	39.6	-1.3%	-15.6%
Inventory/shipments ratio	June	1.50	-0.01	0.07
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	July	122.2	0.1%	2.2%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	July	105.3	1.3%	-1.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	July	110.0	-1.5%	-2.4%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	July*	116.7	0.3%	4.7%

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 Industry Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

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A weekly review

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presents highlights from new data releases, along with sources, links and contacts for further information. It also contains schedules of upcoming major news releases and announces the Agency's new products and services.

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Products released from September 4 to 10, 2003

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Cereals and oilseeds review	June 2003	22-007-XIB	11/112
Cereals and oilseeds review	June 2003	22-007-XPB	15/149
Farm Product Price Index	June 2003	21-007-XIB	Free
Field crop reporting series	July 31	22-002-XIB	11/66
Field crop reporting series	July	22-002-XPB	15/88
Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain	July 31, 2003	22-002-XIB	11/66
Field crop reporting series: Stocks of Canadian grain	July 31, 2003	22-002-XPB	15/88
ANALYTICAL STUDIES			
Economic analysis (E.A.) research paper series: The effect of tariff reductions on firm size and firm turnover in Canadian manufacturing	No. 14	11F0027MIE2003014	Free
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS			
Canada's international transactions in securities	June 2003	67-002-XIE	14/132
CENSUS OPERATIONS			
Teacher's Kit, web extensions and guide	2001	92F0192XIE	Free
CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS			
Education, skills and learning research papers: Access, persistence and financing: First results from the Postsecondary Education Participation Survey International Adult Literacy Survey database	2002	81-595-MIE2003007 89-588-XIE	Free Free
Travel-log	Vol. 22, no. 3	87-003-XIE	5/16
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS			
Aging and social support - Tables	2002	89-583-XIE	Free
Canadian social trends	Autumn 2003	11-008-XIE	8/27
Canadian social trends	Autumn 2003	11-008-XPB	11/36
General Social Survey, Cycle 16: Caring for an aging society	2002	89-582-XIE	Free
2002 General Social Survey cycle 16:			
INCOME STATISTICS			
Entry Exit Component for Labour Interview	January 2002	75F0002MIE2003005	Free
Income research paper series: Entry Exit Component for Income	May 2002	75F0002MIE2003004	Free
Income research paper series: Preliminary Interview Questionnaire January 2002		75F0002MIE2003006	Free
Income research paper series: SLID Labour Interview Questionnaire January 2002		75F0002MIE2003007	Free
Income research paper series: Income Interview Questionnaire	May 2002	75F0002MIE2003008	Free
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS			
Gross domestic product by industry	June 2003	15-001-XIE	11/110
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK			
Building permits	July 2003	64-001-XIE	14/145
LABOUR STATISTICS			
Labour force information	Week ending August 16, 2003	71-001-XIE	8/78
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Asphalt roofing	July 2003	45-001-XIB	5/47
Cement	July 2003	44-001-XIB	5/47
Construction type plywood	June 2003	35-001-XIB	5/47
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