Friday, November 2, 2001

OVERVIEW

Alberta, Newfoundland lead economic growth

Thanks to a booming energy sector, Newfoundland and Alberta tied for the number-one ranking in economic growth among the 10 provinces in 2000, each with a 5.6% gain in gross domestic product.

◆ Composite index picks up slightly

The composite index rose 0.1% in September. The impact of the September 11 terrorist attack on the United States had not yet been registered in most data.

Raw materials prices continue their decline

The growth in prices of industrial products remained unchanged in September at 0.6%, while that of raw materials continued its decline, dropping 9.8%.

◆ Foreign investors return to Canadian bonds with sizeable investment

The \$7.8-billion increase in foreign holdings of Canadian bonds in August was the largest monthly increase since September 1993.

◆ Another rise in weekly earnings

From July to August, average weekly earnings for all employees rose \$2.73, to \$668.52. The number of employees on payrolls rose a slight 8,700.

◆ Laid-off individuals found a job faster

The proportion of laid-off individuals who managed to find another job within three months increased from 27% in 1993 to 47% in 1997.

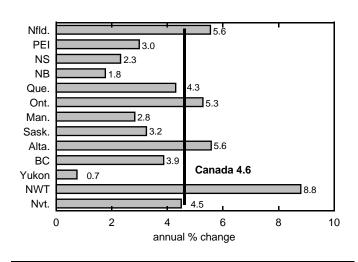
Alberta, Newfoundland lead economic growth

ross domestic product (GDP) rose in all provinces and territories in 2000. Thanks to a booming energy sector, Newfoundland and Alberta tied for the number-one ranking among the 10 provinces, each with 5.6% growth in GDP. Growth in Ontario (+5.3%) also outpaced the national average of 4.6%, as export demand for computers and telecommunications equipment compensated for weakness in the auto sector. The Northwest Territories posted the strongest increase in the country (+8.8%), on the strength of the energy sector and diamond-related construction.

Canada enjoyed solid growth in 2000, with several themes emerging among the provincial economies. Computer- and communications-related fields continued to be a source of strength, despite a deceleration late in the year. Spectacular earnings from skyrocketing prices stimulated exploration activity for oil and natural gas. Growth in the auto sector levelled off after double-digit gains in 1999, and agriculture had a mixed showing.

Labour market conditions tightened, and the unemployment rate fell to 6.8%, the lowest average annual rate in over 25 years.

Gross domestic product at 1997 prices, 2000



(continued on page 2)



... Alberta, Newfoundland lead economic growth

Labour income, boosted by federal pay equity outlays, grew 6.8%, the largest increase in a decade. Corporate profits swelled more than 20% for the second consecutive year, inflated by high energy prices and healthy showings in the computer and telecommunications industries. Government coffers continued to burgeon, particularly at the federal level. Business plant and equipment investment advanced robustly, and exports climbed, boosted by U.S. demand for energy products and goods related to information and communication technology.

Newfoundland's economy outpaced the national average for the third consecutive year, growing 5.6%. The oil extraction sector dominated the economic picture; iron ore mining also fared well. Tourism-related construction sustained growth in Prince Edward Island (+3.0%), offsetting weakness in agriculture, where shipments of potatoes were constrained by a U.S. import ban. The

Gross domestic product at 1997 prices

	2000	1997	1998	1999	2000
	\$ millions		Annual %	6 change	
Canada	1,011,858	4.5	4.0	5.1	4.6
Newfoundland	12,835	1.1	7.8	6.7	5.6
Prince Edward Island	3,170	-0.3	5.6	3.8	3.0
Nova Scotia	22,815	3.3	3.4	5.7	2.3
New Brunswick	18,606	0.9	3.5	4.6	1.8
Quebec ¹	214,978	3.5	3.4	5.2	4.3
Ontario	426,625	4.9	4.8	7.4	5.3
Manitoba	32,842	4.2	4.3	2.7	2.8
Saskatchewan	31,441	5.5	2.9	1.2	3.2
Alberta	120,466	7.5	4.5	1.9	5.6
British Columbia	124,464	3.4	1.7	2.8	3.9
Yukon	1.079	-6.2	-3.6	0.2	0.7
Northwest Territories	2,255				8.8
Nunavut	907				4.5

A correction has been applied to GDP for Quebec due to an error in government current expenditures on goods and services for 1999 and 2000. This error has been corrected for the provincial account, and will be reflected at the national level in May 2002.

Note to readers

An error was found in the estimates of government current expenditures on goods and services for Quebec for 1999 and 2000. The data included in this article have been corrected.

picture was mixed in Nova Scotia (+2.3%) and New Brunswick (+1.8%), where the completion of major projects led to a drop-off in construction activity.

Central Canada reaped the benefits of strong export demand for computers and telecommunications equipment, which compensated for a levelling-off of activity in the auto sector. Quebec's aerospace industry continued to expand at a torrid pace; exports of aircraft surged to meet world demand for regional jets. Overall economic growth in Quebec was 4.3%.

On the Prairies, Manitoba posted a moderate showing (+2.8%); a strong rebound in mining and expanded capacity in hog processing contributed to growth. Saskatchewan grew at a slightly higher rate, 3.2%. Stellar gains in the energy sector offset declines in agriculture in Saskatchewan, and were the source of robust gains in Alberta (+5.6%).

British Columbia's economy strengthened to 3.9% growth, the largest increase since 1993. Gains were broad-based; several industries advanced at a healthy pace.

Yukon's GDP rose a very moderate 0.7%, still hampered by metal mining woes. The Northwest Territories, however, posted a spectacular 8.8% advance; economic growth was boosted by diamond-related construction. Strength in mining and increased government investment were the source of a healthy 4.5% growth rate in Nunavut.

Provincial economic accounts, annual estimates, 2000 (diskette: 13-213-XDB, \$80; paper: 13-213-PPB, \$50) is now available. To purchase this product, contact the client services officer (613-951-3810; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. For more information, contact Andrée Desaulniers (613-951-9149), or Bruce Cooke (613-951-9061), System of National Accounts Branch.

Composite index picks up slightly

he leading indicator edged up 0.1% in September after an upward revision resulted in a 0.1% gain in August. Household demand continued to offset weak business spending, although the effects of the September 11 attack on the United States have not yet been registered in most data.

Six components of the leading indicator rose and four fell. The three components linked to household demand all buttressed the overall index. The housing index rose less rapidly (+0.2%) in September than in August (+1.6%), as housing starts slowed in Ontario after vacancy rates edged up over the summer. House sales remained high. Elsewhere, outlays for durable goods increased, especially for furniture and appliances.

Business demand continued to be weak. In manufacturing, new orders continued to shrink. Employment in business services

again fell rapidly, marked by their largest three-month retreat since 1991. The Toronto Stock Exchange 300 Composite Index (TSE 300) tumbled again in September, on top of its 34% year-over-year drop from its peak of August 2000.

As in Canada, the leading indicator in the United States went a fourth straight month without a decrease. Of the four components rising, initial claims for unemployment insurance and consumer confidence will feel the full effects of the terrorist attack in the next reference month.

For more information on the economy, see the October 2001 issue of **Canadian economic observer** (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227). Details of the Composite Index for September will be available in the November issue. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

^{..} Figures not available.

Raw materials prices continue their decline

anufacturers' prices, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), grew 0.6% in September compared with September 2000. The annual rate of growth was the same in September as in August. Conversely, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) declined 9.8%, its fourth consecutive month of negative growth. The IPPI was 129.2 in September, compared with 128.5 in August. The RMPI fell from 138.8 in August to 135.4 in September.

If petroleum and coal product prices were excluded, the IPPI would have risen 1.5% instead of 0.6%. Petroleum and coal product prices fell 9.6% in September compared with September 2000, for a third consecutive month of negative growth.

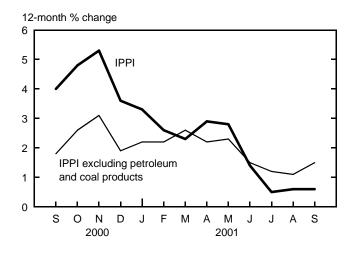
Price increases for motor vehicles, lumber and meat products were the major contributors to the annual rise in manufacturers' prices. Falling prices for petroleum and coal products, primary metal products, and pulp and paper products partly offset the yearly increase. On a month-to-month basis, industrial prices were up 0.5% from August. Higher prices for motor vehicles and petroleum and coal products were partly offset by lower prices for meat products and lumber products.

The value of the U.S. dollar strengthened against the Canadian dollar, pushing up prices of commodities that are quoted in U.S. dollars, notably automobiles. If the exchange rate had remained unchanged, the IPPI would have declined 0.1% instead of rising 0.5%. On a 12-month basis, the influence of the dollar was also evident. The IPPI was up 0.6% in September compared with

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes, September 2001

	Index (1992=100)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) IPPI excluding petroleum and	129.2	0.5	0.6
coal products	127.2	0.3	1.5
Intermediate goods	128.3	0.2	-1.2
Finished goods	130.4	1.1	3.3
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	135.4	-2.4	-9.8
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	118.3	-0.9	-3.9
Mineral fuels (crude oil)	172.6	-4.6	-17.3
Vegetable products	123.6	0.7	9.6
Animals and animal products	120.8	-3.2	3.5
Wood	124.2	-0.6	-12.5
Ferrous materials	118.6	1.1	0.5
Non-ferrous metals	103.4	1.7	-15.7
Non-metallic minerals	122.0	-0.9	-0.2

Effect of petroleum product prices on IPPI



September 2000, but without the exchange rate effect, the IPPI would have fallen 0.9%.

Manufacturers paid 9.8% less for their raw materials in September than they did in September 2000. Mineral fuels were mostly responsible for half the decline in the RMPI in September. If mineral fuels were excluded, the RMPI would have declined 3.9% on a year-over-year basis, instead of falling 9.8%. These decreases were partly offset by higher prices for vegetable and animal products. On a monthly basis, raw materials prices were down 2.4% in September from August. Lower prices for mineral fuels and animal products were somewhat offset by higher prices for non-ferrous metals.

In the RMPI, crude oil prices were 5.1% lower in September than in August, on expectations of weaker demand. This decrease was not reflected in the IPPI, petroleum and coal product prices having increased 3.5% from August. Lumber and other wood product prices fell 1.3% in September from August. Lower prices for softwood lumber were the major factor behind this monthly decrease, due in part to high inventory and uncertainty in the market.

Rising prices for motor vehicles contributed to the 3.3% increase in the price of finished goods since September 2000. Producers of intermediate goods received 1.2% less for their goods in September compared with September 2000. Lower prices for pulp and paper products, primary metals products and petroleum products were the major contributors to this decline.

The September 2001 issue of **Industry price indexes** (paper: 62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) is now available. For more information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375; danielle.gouin@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Foreign investors return to Canadian bonds with sizeable investment

oreign investors increased their holdings of Canadian securities by \$7.2 billion in August, as they invested heavily in Canadian bonds. The \$7.8-billion increase in the foreign holdings of Canadian bonds in August was the largest monthly increase since September 1993.

New issues of Canadian bonds outpaced retirements by \$4.0 billion, led by \$4.9 billion worth of new corporate bonds sold in foreign markets. The nearly \$32 billion worth of new corporate bonds floated in foreign markets in the first eight months of 2001 already exceeds the previous annual record of \$26.3 billion, set in 1998.

As well, the secondary market saw a \$3.2-billion foreign investment in August, mainly in federal government issues. This was the largest investment in that market in 16 months. American and British investors accounted for more than 90% of the investment, but some buying also came from Japan.

Foreign investors acquired a small amount (\$0.5 billion) of Canadian stocks in August, after reducing their holdings by \$3.8 billion in July. The divestment was due to an acquisition of a Canadian company, where foreign portfolio investors sold their shares to a foreign direct investor. In the first eight months of 2001, total foreign investment in Canadian stocks amounted to \$4.3 billion, a fraction of the \$40.0 billion invested in the same period of 2000.

Foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian money market paper by a further \$1.1 billion in August, the third consecutive month of reductions. In the first eight months of 2001, foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian money market paper by \$7.7 billion. August's foreign divestment consisted solely of federal treasury bills, whereas for the year-to-date, the divestment was split—two-thirds federal treasury bills, and one-third other money market paper. The federal government has steadily reduced its dependence on financing through treasury bills over the last several years.

After July's negligible investment, Canadian investors bought \$1.4 billion worth of foreign stocks in August. Residents sold a small amount of foreign bonds for the third consecutive month. Nearly all of August's foreign equity investment went to U.S. shares.

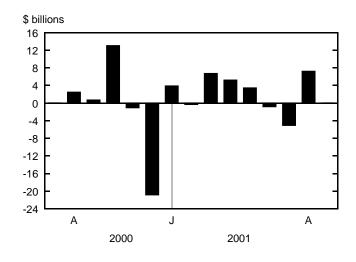
Related market information

In August, a slightly larger decline in Canadian short-term interest rates over that for U.S. rates reduced the differential to 47 basis points, from 59 in July. A one-quarter-percentage-point drop in both Canadian and U.S. long-term rates caused the differential to decline slightly to 31 basis points in August, continuing to favour investment in Canada.

Canadian stock prices (TSE 300 Composite Index) fell 3.8% in August to their lowest monthly closing of this year (7,399.2). The 6.4% decline in U.S. stock prices (Standard & Poor's Index) in August brought the decline in the last three months to 9.7%. The latest close represents a one-quarter loss in value since its record close in August 2000.

The Canadian dollar closed down 0.77 U.S. cents in August, following a similar decline in July.

Foreign investment in Canadian securities¹



¹ Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

The August 2001 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.

Another rise in weekly earnings

rom July to August, average weekly earnings for all employees rose \$2.73, to \$668.52. On a year-over-year basis, average weekly earnings were up 1.8%, short of the 2.8% year-over-year growth in the consumer price index in August.

For most provinces, average weekly earnings were slightly higher than in August 2000. The provinces with the strongest earnings growth in the past year were Alberta (+2.8%), Saskatchewan (+2.2%) and Newfoundland (+2.0%).

Note to readers

With the January 2001 data, the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours began publishing its estimates based on the North American Industry Classification (NAICS). The NAICS-based estimates are not comparable with the previously published estimates based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of 1980.

(continued on page 5)

... Another rise in weekly earnings

Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees were \$17.00, up 10 cents from July, and up 2.4% from August 2000. Average weekly hours for hourly paid employees were down 0.1, to 31.2 hours, and average overtime hours were virtually unchanged from July.

The number of employees on payrolls rose a slight 8,700 (+0.1%). The largest employment gain was in transportation and warehousing, mostly due to the end of the public transit strike in Vancouver. The largest employment loss by industry was in durable goods manufacturing, with most of the losses in Ontario. Alberta had the largest employment gain (+4,600), with small employment gains in most industries.

Employment, earnings and hours (Internet: 72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240) will be available soon. For more information, contact Robert Frindt or Jean Leduc (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Average weekly earnings, all industries, August 2001 Seasonally adjusted

	\$	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	668.52	0.4	1.8
Newfoundland	604.91	0.5	2.0
Prince Edward Island	531.94	1.5	1.2
Nova Scotia	567.49	0.6	0.7
New Brunswick	595.49	0.7	0.4
Quebec	625.13	0.5	1.6
Ontario	716.37	0.5	2.0
Manitoba	601.45	0.4	1.6
Saskatchewan	603.36	0.9	2.2
Alberta	689.00	0.2	2.8
British Columbia	666.70	0.2	1.3
Yukon	757.07	0.4	0.8
Northwest Territories ¹	863.91	0.5	
Nunavut ¹	780.49	0.7	

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Laid-off individuals found a job faster

hree-quarters of those who were laid off from a full-time job from 1993 to 1997 found a new job within a year. During this five-year period, a total of just over 1 million individuals were laid off from jobs in which they had at least one year of tenure. On average, 74% of them found a new job within 12 months.

For some, the period of unemployment was relatively short. For example, 17% found a new job within a month. In 8% of cases, the jobless period lasted no more than a week; some found work even before they were laid off.

The time required to find a new job after a layoff declined. In 1993, only 27% of individuals who had been permanently laid off that year managed to find another job within three months. In 1997, 47% found a job within three months. This reflects the more favourable economic conditions at the end of the observation period, and the more rapid adjustment by workers.

One year after their layoff, 19% of individuals were unemployed—either they had not found a new job, or they had lost their new job. The proportion unemployed one year later varied from a high of 25% for those laid off in 1993, to a low of 15% in 1997.

The chances of finding a new job decreased with age. Men under 35 and women under 25 had a better chance of finding a new job after a layoff. Women's chances of finding a new job were in all cases worse than the chances of men in the corresponding age group. Men 55 and over had a 66% lower chance of finding a job compared with men aged 16 to 24, whereas women 55 and over had a 77% lower chance.

The chances of finding a new job were better for individuals without spouses and for those without children—two factors likely to increase mobility. A layoff from a long-duration job

Note to readers

The data used in this article originated in the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID). They examine the consequences of permanent layoffs from full-time jobs from 1993 to 1998. The job search success rate and the unemployment rate were examined for individuals after one year. Therefore, these characteristics are only available from 1993 to 1997.

SLID is a longitudinal survey launched in 1993. Since 1996, it has covered 30,000 households, representing about 60,000 people. The layoffs covered by this study were those that occurred for structural or cyclical reasons (the company moved or went out of business or a business slowdown occurred). The time period covered was one of expansion following the 1990-to-1992 recession.

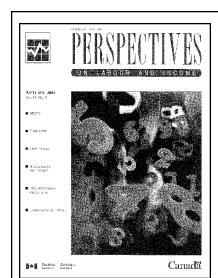
(of at least five years) also decreased the chances of a finding a new job.

Regardless of the year of layoff, more people experienced a wage loss in their new job. About 47% received a reduced wage, while 32% received a wage increase. The remainder, about 21%, received a wage that was equal (plus or minus 5%) to the wage in the job they lost. For those who experienced a pay cut, the average loss was nearly 30%. For those who experienced a gain, the average increase was just under 26%. In all, 21% of layoffs were followed by wage losses of more than 30%, while only 14% were followed by gains of more than 30%.

The article "After the layoff" is now available in the October 2001 issue of **Perspectives on labour and income** (Internet: 75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48). To learn more, contact Diane Galarneau (613-951-4626, diane.galarneau@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. For more information, contact Henry Pold, (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

^{..} Figures not available.

New from Statistics Canada



Perspectives on labour and income

October 2001 online edition

The October 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* features the article "After the layoff," which examines permanent layoffs from full-time jobs from 1993 to 1998. Data from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics are used to explore, among other topics, the length of time it takes a permanently laid-off person to find a new job, the factors determining how long a jobless period lasts, and the factors which affect the wage gap between a new job and the old one.

Another short article examines the effects of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States on the hours lost and absences in Canada in September.

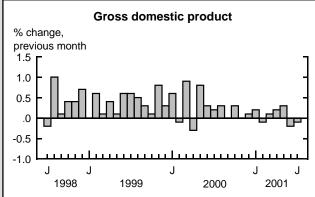
The October 2001 online edition of **Perspectives on labour and income** (Internet: 75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold, (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

The effects of interprovincial mobility on individuals' earnings October 2001

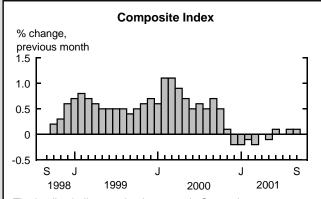
The research paper, titled *The effects of interprovincial mobility on individuals' earnings: Panel model estimates for Canada*, found that people who move from one province to another stand a good chance of earning more money, depending on their age and from where they move. The report studied the impact of interprovincial migration using tax filer data that allowed earnings to be tracked as individuals moved from one province to another from 1982 to 1995.

The research paper **The effects of interprovincial mobility on individuals' earnings: Panel model estimates for Canada** (Internet: 11F0019MIE01163, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). A paper copy (11F0019MPE, \$5/\$25) can be ordered by contacting Hélène Lamadeleine (613-951-5231). For more information, contact Ross Finnie (613-533-6000 ext. 74219), Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

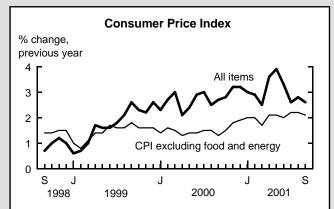
Current trends



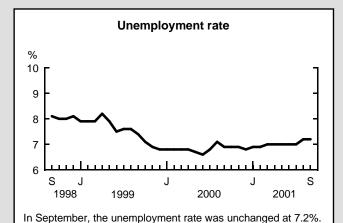
Total economic activity declined 0.1% in July, after a 0.2% reduction in June.

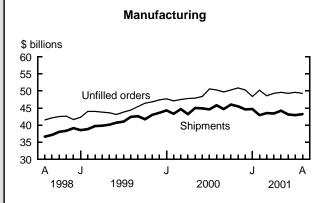


The leading indicator edged up 0.1% in September, as household demand continued to offset weak business spending.



Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.6% higher in September than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.1%.





Manufacturers' shipments increased 0.7% in August to \$43.2 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders posted a 0.5% decrease to \$49.3 billion.



billion. Imports declined 0.9% to \$29.7 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	August*	939.8	0.1%	0.4%	
Composite Index (1992=100)	September	166.4	0.1%	0.09	
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q2 2001	44.7	0.6%	-11.39	
Capacity utilization rate (%)	Q2 2001	83.2	-0.4†	-2.6†	
DOMESTIC DEMAND					
Retail trade (\$ billions)	August	24.3	0.3%	3.69	
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	August	135.8	1.9%	-1.99	
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	August	33.2	0.8%	4.19	
LABOUR					
Employment (millions)	September	15.1	0.1%	0.99	
Unemployment rate (%)	September	7.2	0.0†	0.3	
Participation rate (%)	September	65.8	-0.1†	-0.2	
Average weekly earnings (\$)	August*	668.52	0.4%	1.89	
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	September	148	-3.3%	-16.49	
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	August*	535.0	-1.4%	7.89	
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	August	34.1	-3.4%	-4.49	
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	August	29.7	-0.8%	-3.49	
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	August	4.4	-1.0	-0.5	
MANUFACTURING					
Shipments (\$ billions)	August	43.2	0.7%	-5.69	
New orders (\$ billions)	August	43.0	-0.6%	-5.59	
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	August	49.3	-0.5%	-1.99	
Inventory/shipments ratio	August	1.50	-0.01	0.11	
PRICES					
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	September	117.4	0.3%	2.69	
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	September*	129.2	0.5%	0.69	
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	September*	135.4	-2.4%	-9.89	
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	August	106.5	0.2%	2.99	

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

Infomat A weekly review

Editor: Lahouaria Yssaad; (613) 951-0627; lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.ca. Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard; (613) 951-1088; madeleine.simard@statcan.ca.

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^{*} 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

Products released from O	ctober 25 to	31, 2001	
SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Livestock statistics update	2001-2003	23-603-UPE	45/149
Stocks of frozen meat products	October 2001	23-009-XIE	free
ANALYTICAL STUDIES			
Are the kids all right? Intergenerational mobility and child well-being in Canada		11F0019MIE01171	free
Are the kids all right? Intergenerational mobility and child well-being in Canada		11F0019MPE	5/25
The effects of interprovincial mobility on individuals' earnings:			
Panel model estimates for Canada	1982-1995	11F0019MIE01163	free
The effects of interprovincial mobility on individuals' earnings:			
Panel model estimates for Canada	1982-1995	11F0019MPE	5/25
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS			
Juristat: Homicide in Canada	2000	85-002-XIE	8/70
Juristat: Homicide in Canada	2000	85-002-XPE	10/93
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS			
Provincial economic accounts, annual estimates	2000	13-213-XDB	80
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			Business Conditions Survey: Canadian manufacturing industries, October 2001 Workplace and Employee Survey: Job vacancies, 1999 Help-wanted Index, October 2001	Labour Force Survey, October 2001	
5	Building permits, September 2001 Income in Canada, 1999	7	8	New Housing Price Index, September 2001	
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