



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, September 2003**

Merchandise trade rebounded in September, recovering most of the declines experienced in August, largely because of the power blackout in Ontario and the northeastern United States. As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the rest of the world increased for the third consecutive month, surpassing \$5.6 billion.

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- **New motor vehicle sales, September 2003**

In September, the number of new motor vehicles sold declined for a second consecutive month. However, while sales were down 1.9% from August, this was the second smallest monthly change since the beginning of the year.

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- Export and import price indexes, September 2003

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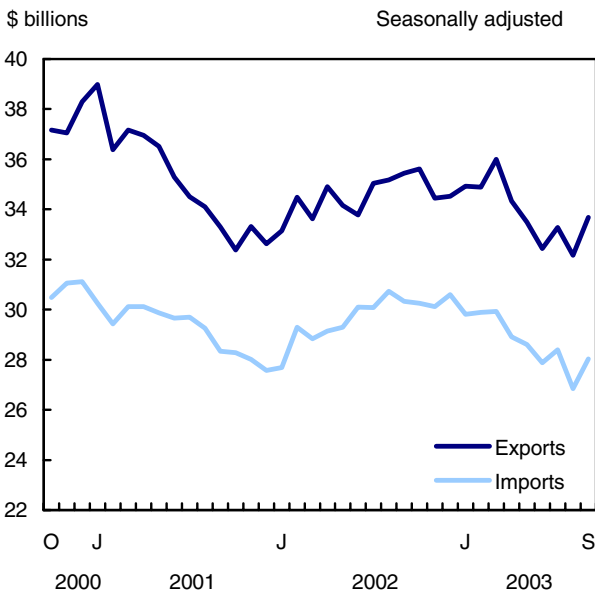
MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

September 2003

Merchandise trade rebounded in September, recovering most of the declines experienced in August, largely because of the power blackout in Ontario and the northeastern United States.

Exports and imports



Canadian companies exported \$33.7 billion in merchandise in September, up 4.7%. At the same time, imports rose 4.5% to just over \$28.0 billion.

As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the rest of the world increased for the third consecutive month, surpassing \$5.6 billion. During the past three months, the trade balance has increased by more than \$1 billion.

The trade surplus with the United States also improved in September, rising from \$7.7 billion to just

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

"Other OECD countries," mentioned in the text, include Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

over \$8.1 billion, thanks to strong movements in the automotive and forestry sectors.

American companies purchased \$27.7 billion in Canadian merchandise, up 4.4%. These exports accounted for 82% of Canada's total. Canada in turn purchased \$19.6 billion from the United States, up 4.0%, accounting for about 70% of total imports.

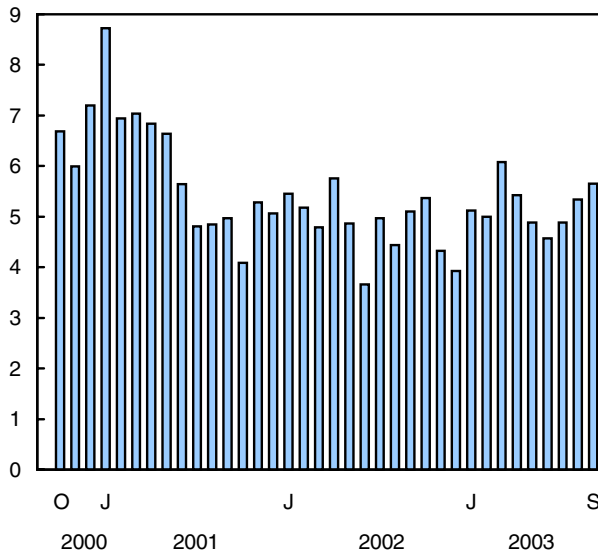
Canada's total non-US trade deficit widened a marginal \$95 million in September in spite of increased exports to every major region except the European Union, to which exports fell 10.9%. Canada's trade deficit with countries in the "other OECD country" category narrowed by \$305 million in September; this was the only non-US region with which Canada's trade deficit went down.

Canada registered a trade surplus with Japan for the second consecutive month. Exports increased 4.0% to \$838 million, while imports climbed 5.1% to \$804 million.

On a year-to-date basis, total merchandise exports were 1.4% lower than in the same period of 2002, while imports were down 2.7%.

Trade balance

\$ billions



Widespread export increases for all sectors

Almost half of the \$1.5 billion export jump in September stemmed from increased activity in the automotive sector, in which exports rose 10.4% to more than \$7.4 billion. This followed an abnormally low August, due in part to power outages in Ontario and the northeastern United States.

Manufacturers resumed full production, with 2004 model vehicles rolling off assembly lines and heading to dealerships across North America. Passenger auto exports accounted for the majority of the growth, climbing 18.1% to \$3.7 billion.

Motor vehicle parts exports grew 5.0% to \$2.4 billion and trucks and other motor vehicles inched up 1.0% to \$1.3 billion.

All industrial categories increased in September, pushing exports of industrial goods and materials up 4.4% to \$5.5 billion. Nickel ore exports returned to more normal levels, following months of labour strikes and production cutbacks during the summer.

Canadians exported \$5.1 billion in energy products, a gain of 4.6% from August. Leading the growth was a 7.0% increase in natural gas exports to \$2.5 billion, mainly on higher volumes, as prices rose only slightly. Electricity exports more than doubled, from \$111 million in August to just under \$250 million in September.

Offsetting these gains were lower crude petroleum exports, which slid 9.2% to \$1.4 billion, their second consecutive monthly decline. Prices for crude petroleum dipped 3.4%, ending two months of hikes.

Forestry product exports continued their upward trend, rising 5.2% to \$3.1 billion. Strong prices, combined with higher volumes attempting to satisfy solid US demand, were responsible for these increases. Lumber exports rose for the fifth consecutive month, up 9.7% in September. Housing starts south of the border continued their torrid pace, as new home purchasers sought to take advantage of low mortgage rates.

Other wood fabricated materials jumped 13.1% to a record level of over \$650 million on higher exports of plywood and of oriented strand board. Prices for these materials increased 5.3% in September and 30% in the last four months.

Wheat exports increased \$81 million (+29.2%) in September, growing by almost \$200 million during the third quarter of 2003. Shipments from Ontario accounted for the majority of this rise, as recent harvests yielded higher-than-usual production. This commodity was the main contributor to the 3.8% improvement for exports in the agricultural and fishing product sector.

Meat and meat preparation exports also surged 46.2%, with exports of Canadian beef to the United States resuming after months of a ban arising from the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) incident. Shipments began to flow slowly across the border after the United States, along with Mexico and Russia, allowed imports of boneless meat from cattle under 30 months old. There was still a widespread ban on Canadian beef products, including live cattle, and export values in September were lower than before the ban was implemented.

Also contributing to the overall rise in meat exports were large pork product exports, mainly to non-US destinations.

Exports of machinery and equipment edged up 1.2% to \$7.4 billion. The largest increases were office machines and equipment (+4.0%) and television, telecommunication and related equipment (+4.9%). Despite these increases, trade in the information technology sector was still below levels witnessed in previous years.

Automotive rebound spurs import growth

Strong automotive activity reversed most of the declines in August. Manufacturers overcame production delays and shutdowns that curtailed output during the summer slowdown, as well as the power outage. Imports in the automotive sector surged by \$617 million, or 11.4%. Passenger autos accounted for the bulk of the increase, rising by \$330 million, or 22.8%, from the previous month.

Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles climbed 20.9% to \$1.1 billion and motor vehicle parts advanced 3.1%, reaching \$3.1 billion.

Low inventories and the anticipation of increased winter demand boosted crude petroleum imports 12.9% to \$1.2 billion. Prices remained virtually unchanged in September (+0.1%), but have grown 8.4% during the third quarter. Other energy product imports rose 5.1%, led by petroleum and coal products (+6.0%) and coal and other related products (+3.9%).

Machinery and equipment imports edged up 1.6% in September to \$8.2 billion. Large imports of drilling machinery, used for the production and extraction of petroleum or gas, led to a 54.9% improvement in this category. Imports of aircraft, engines and parts grew 10.4% to \$583 million, while communication and related equipment imports jumped 6.8%.

Imports of industrial goods and materials reached \$5.2 billion, a rise of 2.5% in September. Metals and metal ores and chemicals and plastics contributed to this growth, while lower imports of other industrial goods and materials slightly offset these gains.

September's merchandise imports increased for all major sectors except consumer goods, cooling a slight 0.5%, and forestry products, dipping 0.4% to \$251 million.

Available on CANSIM: tables 226-0001, 226-0002, 227-0001, 227-0002, 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The September 2003 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$15/\$151) will be available soon. See *How to order products*. The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001-XIB, \$29/\$100; 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$133).

Data for October on Canadian international merchandise trade will be released on December 12.

Merchandise trade data are available in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on the publications, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Matthew MacDonald (613-951-8551), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	August 2003 ^r	September 2003	August to September 2003	September 2002 to September 2003	January to September 2002	January to September 2003	January–September 2002 to January–September 2003
seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	26,566	27,728	4.4	-7.1	259,649	253,576	-2.3
Japan	806	838	4.0	8.7	7,488	7,703	2.9
European Union	2,005	1,787	-10.9	-5.3	17,111	17,607	2.9
Other OECD countries ¹	841	1,189	41.4	9.8	9,103	9,219	1.3
All other countries	1,958	2,142	9.4	16.7	16,375	17,128	4.6
Total	32,177	33,684	4.7	-4.9	309,724	305,238	-1.4
Imports							
United States	18,849	19,606	4.0	-9.2	190,790	180,963	-5.2
Japan	765	804	5.1	-22.4	8,668	8,191	-5.5
European Union	2,778	2,948	6.1	-0.7	26,809	26,718	-0.3
Other OECD countries ¹	1,502	1,545	2.9	-14.7	14,448	14,837	2.7
All other countries	2,944	3,133	6.4	7.1	24,786	27,588	11.3
Total	26,838	28,036	4.5	-7.6	265,501	258,296	-2.7
Balance							
United States	7,717	8,122	...	...	68,859	72,613	...
Japan	41	34	...	...	-1,180	-488	...
European Union	-773	-1,161	...	...	-9,698	-9,111	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-661	-356	...	...	-5,345	-5,618	...
All other countries	-986	-991	...	...	-8,411	-10,460	...
Total	5,338	5,648	...	...	44,223	46,942	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,421	2,512	3.8	1.0	23,242	21,701	-6.6
Energy products	4,912	5,140	4.6	11.9	34,859	47,524	36.3
Forestry products	2,932	3,085	5.2	-0.1	28,064	25,786	-8.1
Industrial goods and materials	5,282	5,513	4.4	-5.3	52,781	49,187	-6.8
Machinery and equipment	7,354	7,439	1.2	-9.9	73,040	67,937	-7.0
Automotive products	6,728	7,425	10.4	-11.7	73,743	66,177	-10.3
Other consumer goods	1,410	1,505	6.7	-3.6	13,195	12,986	-1.6
Special transactions trade ²	689	601	-12.8	-7.8	5,947	6,000	0.9
Other BOP adjustments	449	464	3.3	-17.4	4,852	7,938	63.6
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,734	1,783	2.8	-4.6	16,327	16,355	0.2
Energy products	1,536	1,698	10.5	19.7	11,762	15,113	28.5
Forestry products	252	251	-0.4	-5.6	2,341	2,285	-2.4
Industrial goods and materials	5,073	5,198	2.5	-9.7	51,472	49,062	-4.7
Machinery and equipment	8,036	8,167	1.6	-8.6	79,263	74,402	-6.1
Automotive products	5,412	6,029	11.4	-15.1	60,595	57,426	-5.2
Other consumer goods	3,846	3,827	-0.5	-3.1	34,453	34,850	1.2
Special transactions trade ²	452	583	29.0	18.0	4,473	4,148	-7.3
Other BOP adjustments	496	499	0.6	-8.9	4,819	4,651	-3.5

^r Revised figures.

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

² These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

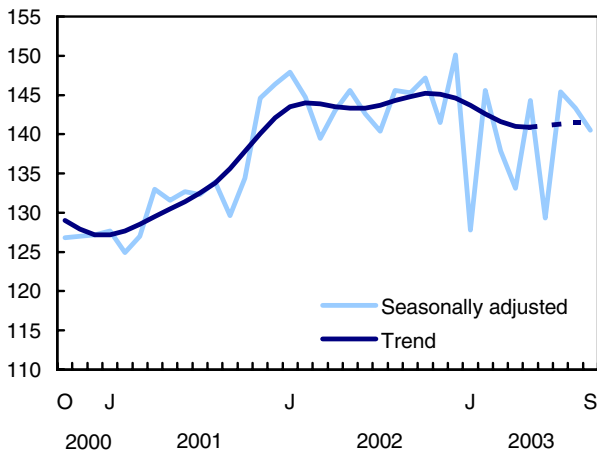
New motor vehicle sales

September 2003

In September, the number of new motor vehicles sold declined for a second consecutive month. However, while sales were down 1.9% from August, this was the second smallest monthly change since the beginning of the year. In all, dealers sold 140,539 vehicles in September. This represented a decline of 2,733 units from August and was mainly attributable to passenger cars.

The movement of new motor vehicle sales has remained generally stable in recent months

'000 units



The last few trend points could be subject to revisions when more data are added. This is indicated by the dashed line.

September's decline occurred despite the continuation of incentive programs to purchase new motor vehicles, which are often intended to clear out inventories of current-year models or to recapture market share. Sales for the first nine months of 2003 were down 3.7% from the same period of 2002. Cumulative sales lagged more in the first part of the year, with the gap starting to narrow in August.

The movement of new motor vehicle sales has remained generally stable for the past few months, following a period of declines that began at the start of 2003. New motor vehicle sales remained at a high level throughout 2002, following a period of sustained growth that prevailed during most of 2001.

On the basis of preliminary figures from the automobile industry, the number of new motor vehicles sold in October is estimated to have declined

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated. Seasonally adjusted provincial data dating back to January 1991 are available on CANSIM.

Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. **Trucks** include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

North American-built new motor vehicles include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included with those for British Columbia.

approximately 2%, with most of the decline attributable to trucks.

Passenger car sales down

In September, although sales of both passenger cars and trucks were lower, truck sales declined only marginally from August, whereas the decline for passenger car sales was more substantial.

A total of 72,017 new passenger cars were sold in September, a decrease of 3.4% following a rise of 0.3% in August. North American-built cars and overseas-built cars both contributed to this decline.

The movement of new passenger car sales has been slightly downward in recent months, following a period of steeper declines that began in the fall of 2002. Previously, sales had remained at a high level during most of 2002, following an upward trend that began in early 2001.

In September, truck sales edged down 0.3%. Dealers reported selling 68,522 new trucks, nearly the same number as in August, when sales declined 3.3%. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

Despite September's decline, sales of new trucks have been following an upward movement that began a few months ago, following a period of decline that started in early 2003. Previously, sales had remained generally stable throughout 2002.

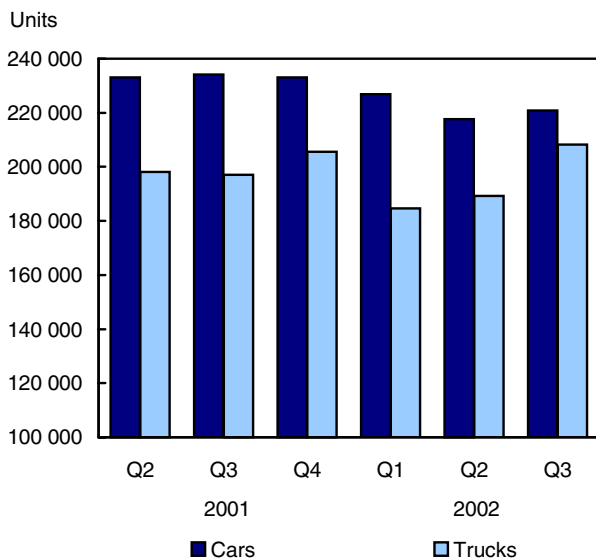
Quarterly sales confirm the popularity of trucks

In the third quarter, new motor vehicle sales rose 5.5% from the second quarter, when they were down 1.1%. However, third-quarter sales slipped 0.5% from the third quarter of 2002.

Truck sales in the third quarter were up 10.1% from the second quarter (+2.5%). On a year-over-year basis, third-quarter truck sales were up 5.7%. Sales of passenger cars increased 1.5% in the third quarter from the second, when they had declined 4.1%. Sales of new passenger cars in the third quarter were down 5.7% from the third quarter of 2002.

These third-quarter figures also show that trucks increased their market share, which reached 48.5% in the third quarter, compared with 46.5% in the second quarter and 44.9% in the first.

Truck sales grew faster than passenger cars sales in third quarter.



Ontario stands out

In September, the number of new motor vehicles sold was down in all provinces except Ontario.

In Ontario, sales advanced 2.1% from August, when they had declined (-1.9%). A major power blackout struck the province in August. Sales in Ontario have been fairly stable for the past few months, following a period of decline that began in early 2003. New motor vehicle sales had remained at a high level in Ontario throughout 2002. Previously, they had gone through a period of sustained growth that prevailed throughout most of 2001.

In the other provinces, the largest declines were observed in Prince Edward Island (-14.0%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-12.1%) and Nova Scotia (-11.6%).

Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

The September 2003 issue of *New motor vehicles sales* (63-007-XIB, \$14/\$133) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The October 2003 data on new motor vehicle sales will be released on December 11.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363), Distributive Trades Division.

□

New motor vehicle sales

	September 2002	August 2003 ^r	September 2003 ^p	September 2002 to September 2003	August to September 2003
seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	145,348	143,272	140,539	-3.3	-1.9
Passenger cars	78,973	74,535	72,017	-8.8	-3.4
North American ¹	55,370	52,519	50,709	-8.4	-3.4
Overseas	23,604	22,017	21,308	-9.7	-3.2
Trucks, vans and buses	66,374	68,737	68,522	3.2	-0.3
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,194	2,318	2,037	-7.2	-12.1
Prince Edward Island	423	458	394	-6.9	-14.0
Nova Scotia	3,993	4,001	3,535	-11.5	-11.6
New Brunswick	3,496	3,291	3,149	-9.9	-4.3
Quebec	37,311	37,842	36,386	-2.5	-3.8
Ontario	57,774	53,687	54,821	-5.1	2.1
Manitoba	4,002	4,105	3,981	-0.5	-3.0
Saskatchewan	3,409	3,876	3,599	5.6	-7.1
Alberta	16,888	17,336	16,854	-0.2	-2.8
British Columbia ²	15,858	16,358	15,784	-0.5	-3.5
	September 2002	August 2003	September 2003 ^p	September 2002 to September 2003	
unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	144,297	145,108	142,012	-1.6	
Passenger cars	79,125	78,013	73,286	-7.4	
North American ¹	54,782	52,954	50,433	-7.9	
Overseas	24,343	25,059	22,853	-6.1	
Trucks, vans and buses	65,172	67,095	68,726	5.5	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,198	2,655	2,101	-4.4	
Prince Edward Island	434	494	421	-3.0	
Nova Scotia	3,726	4,047	3,273	-12.2	
New Brunswick	3,267	3,293	2,996	-8.3	
Quebec	36,850	40,504	37,287	1.2	
Ontario	58,247	53,348	56,846	-2.4	
Manitoba	4,311	4,209	4,364	1.2	
Saskatchewan	3,569	3,918	3,859	8.1	
Alberta	16,866	16,679	16,555	-1.8	
British Columbia ²	14,829	15,961	14,310	-3.5	

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

² Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

OTHER RELEASES

Non-residential building construction price index

Third quarter 2003

The composite price index (1997=100) for non-residential building construction in the third quarter was 119.2, up 0.6% from the second quarter and 3.3% from the third quarter of 2002. The year-to-year percentage changes for each of the last three quarters were the highest measured since an increase of 3.7% in the second quarter of 2001.

Montréal's index rose 1.0% from the second quarter, followed by Halifax and Vancouver (both +0.6%), Ottawa (+0.5%), Toronto (+0.4%), Edmonton (+0.3%) and Calgary (+0.2%).

Ottawa had the highest change (+4.2%) from the third quarter of 2002, followed by Toronto (+4.0%), Montréal (+3.2%), Calgary (+2.9%), Halifax (+2.8%), Edmonton (+2.3%) and Vancouver (+1.1%).

Non-residential building construction price indexes (1997=100)

	Third quarter 2003	Third quarter 2002 to third quarter 2003 % change	Second quarter to third quarter 2003
Composite	119.2	3.3	0.6
Halifax	110.2	2.8	0.6
Montréal	117.3	3.2	1.0
Ottawa	121.3	4.2	0.5
Toronto	124.2	4.0	0.4
Calgary	119.7	2.9	0.2
Edmonton	117.7	2.3	0.3
Vancouver	108.9	1.1	0.6

Note: Non-residential building construction price indexes provide an indication of changes in construction costs in seven major urban areas (Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver). Three construction categories — industrial, commercial and institutional buildings — are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school).

Besides the major urban areas and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the changes in costs is available by trade group — structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical — within the building types. These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour,

equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0039 and 327-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

The third quarter 2003 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$85) will be available in January. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rebecca McDougall (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

September 2003

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to September 2003 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to September 2003. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001, 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The September 2003 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$15/\$151) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Production of eggs, September 2003
Catalogue number 23-003-XIB
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (If applicable 11-001-XIE) 11-001-XIE 11-001-XIE

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- Urban transit, 1995 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 68% of Canadian trips are a average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was initially weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- High-wind index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 3
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- EGY production, April 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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