



# Infommat

## A Weekly Review

Friday, January 11, 2002

### OVERVIEW

#### ◆ Economic activity recovers slightly

Gross domestic product advanced 0.3% in October, after plunging 0.8% in September. A strong recovery in retail sales provided the single largest push to the economy.

#### ◆ Imports and exports at lowest level in nearly two years

Merchandise exports slid 1.0%, while imports declined 0.6% in October, both to their lowest levels in almost two years.

#### ◆ Smallest 12-month advance in CPI in more than two years

Consumers paid 0.7% more for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index basket in November compared with November 2000, the smallest 12-month advance since February 1999.

#### ◆ Retail sales rebound

Retail sales advanced 1.7% in October to \$24.2 billion, effectively cancelling the 1.5% decline in September.

#### ◆ Manufacturers' shipments at lowest level since May 1999

Manufacturers' shipments fell 2.9% in October to \$40.4 billion, the lowest level since May 1999.

#### ◆ Industrial product and raw materials prices lower

In November, the annual rate of growth in industrial product prices fell for the second consecutive month. Raw materials prices declined for the fourth straight month.

### Economic activity recovers slightly

**G**ross domestic product advanced 0.3% in October, after plunging 0.8% in September. Providing the single largest push to the economy was a strong recovery in retail sales, which jumped 2.3% in October, erasing September's decline.

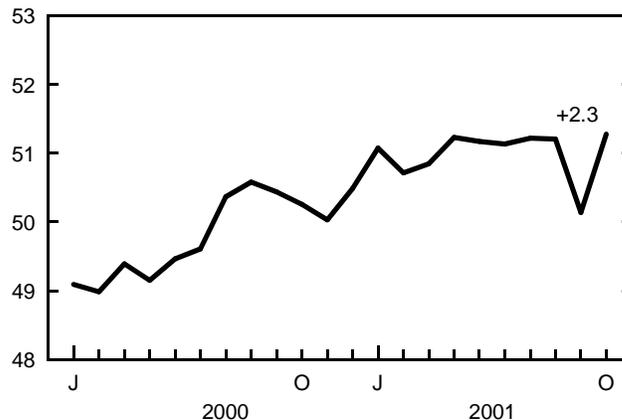
Although economic activity recovered somewhat in October, remaining at mid-2000 levels, the underlying weakness in the economy persisted.

The biggest contributor to the rebound in retail sales was motor vehicle dealers, whose activity rose 3.6%. Generous incentive programs spurred sales of new cars, which had been weak since April. Overall, almost all types of retailing were stronger. Department stores and auto parts stores specifically made significant gains.

Residential construction strengthened 2.3% in October, as buyers took advantage of historically low interest rates. Engineering projects and repair construction activity advanced

#### Retail trade

GDP \$ billions (\$1997)



(continued on page 2)



### ... Economic activity recovers slightly

for the second consecutive month after a string of declines. Non-residential construction declined for the second time in as many months.

The manufacturing sector edged up 0.2% in October; production had plummeted 4.1% over the June-to-September period. Increased factory output of paper products, motor vehicles and chemicals was responsible for much of the rise. Ten of the 21 major groups advanced, accounting for 62% of production. Paper products surged 4.2% in October, reaching levels not seen since the beginning of the year. Newsprint output also increased. However, production levels are still down 11.2% from October 2000.

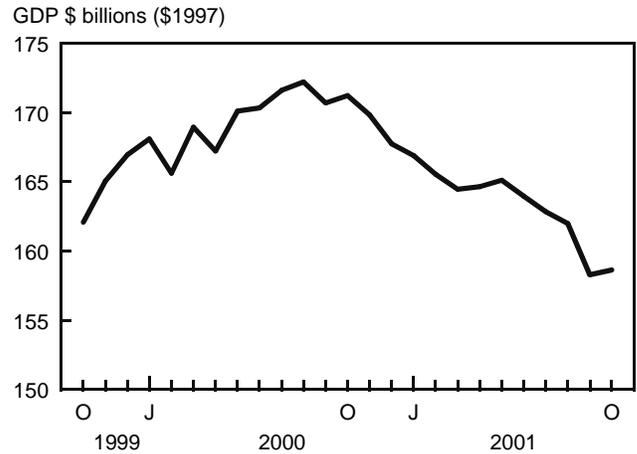
Production of motor vehicles expanded 2.8%, partly recovering from the parts shortages caused by border delays in September. Output in the computer and electronics industry fell 2.7%, the 14th consecutive monthly decline. Production declined 47% from its August 2000 peak. The wood products industry lost ground after two consecutive monthly increases. Sawmill output declined 2.7%, the seventh decline in 12 months. Deteriorating conditions in the lumber market caused extensive layoffs in this industry. Output in the mining industry, which declined for the second month, is now 8.7% off its April peak. Lower prices for oil and gas continued to discourage demand for exploration.

The aftershocks of September 11 continued to hamper travel-related industries. Output in air transportation, which was hit particularly hard in September (-19.9%), increased by just 2.0% in October. Flight reductions that began in September continued into October. Passenger rail transportation and interurban bus transportation industries continued to benefit from travellers reluctant to fly.

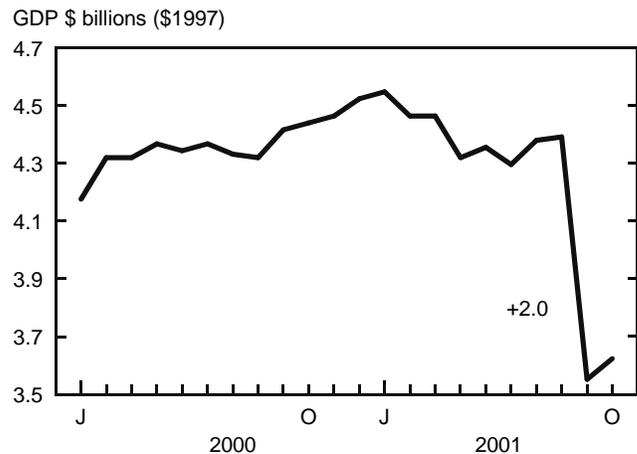
The accommodation industry rebounded somewhat, rising 5.9% after falling 10.7% in September. The number of room cancellations in October was somewhat lower than in September. The travel and tour agency industry advanced 3.8%, following a 12.5% drop in September. The gambling industry was flat as fewer U.S. casino patrons crossed the border. The restaurant industry, which suffered a minor setback in September, edged up 0.1%. Partial rebounds were also reported for car rentals, taxi and limousine services and the scenic and sightseeing industries.

*The October 2001 issue of **Gross domestic product by industry** (Internet: 15-001-XIE, \$11/\$110) will soon be released. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price. To purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-4623; imad@statcan.ca). For more information, contact Hans Messinger (613-951-3621; hans.messinger@statcan.ca) or Fabienne Leclerc (613-951-3659; fabienne.leclerc@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 9.)*

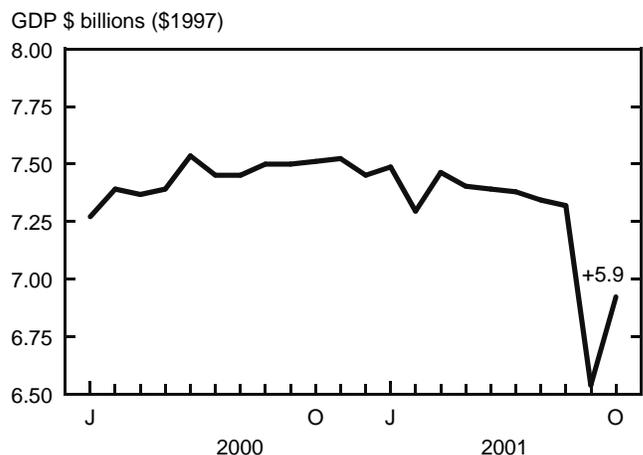
### Manufacturing output



### Air transportation



### Accommodation



## Imports and exports at lowest level in nearly two years

Canada's imports and exports of merchandise fell in October to their lowest levels in almost two years. Canadian companies exported \$32.4 billion in merchandise, down 1.0% from September. Merchandise imports declined 0.6% to \$28.2 billion. Both fell to their lowest level since November 1999.

The trade surplus in goods fell to just under \$4.2 billion. From January to October, Canada exported \$54.8 billion more in merchandise than it imported, resulting in a surplus about \$6.9 billion higher than in the same 10-month period in 2000.

Merchandise exports to the United States fell 1.6% in October to \$27.5 billion. Imports from south of the border were down 0.6% to \$20.3 billion. As a result, the trade surplus with the United States declined from \$7.5 billion to \$7.2 billion.

Strong export growth in aircraft, engines and parts—the lone bright spot in the machinery and equipment sector—resulted in a 3.0% rise in exports to \$7.9 billion. Greater international demand for Canadian-made passenger jets, coupled with delivery delays from September, pushed aircraft exports up 49.4% to a record \$1.7 billion.

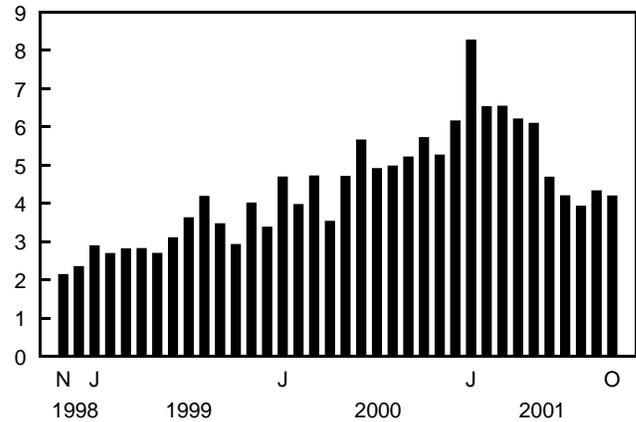
Exports in the automotive products sector declined 2.1% to \$7.4 billion. Passenger autos declined 2.4%, motor vehicle parts fell 2.5% and the trucks and other motor vehicles sub-sector dropped 1.0%. Industrial goods and materials exports fell 5.4% to \$5.4 billion.

Exports of energy products rose 0.5% to \$3.5 billion on the strength of increases in crude oil and natural gas. Exports of "other energy products" fell 18.3%. Electricity exports fared particularly badly, dropping 56.1% from September and 61.8% from October 2000. This occurred as prices and export markets declined dramatically in the wake of slackened industrial demand from the United States. Petroleum and coal products exports fell 9.8% in the face of continued lower demand for jet fuel.

Forestry product exports rose 0.8% to \$3.1 billion. Wood pulp and other wood products posted the strongest export growth in the forestry sector with a 9.8% increase. Newsprint rebounded

## Merchandise trade balance

\$ billions, seasonally adjusted



2.1% after three months of decline. Expanded news coverage of the war on terrorism lifted demand for newsprint and coated magazine stock. Lumber and sawmill product exports fell 2.9%, mainly due to lower exports of softwood lumber to the United States. Agricultural and fish product exports declined 2.4% to \$2.6 billion.

With respect to imports, machinery and equipment imports slid 0.6% to \$8.6 billion in October. Imports of aircraft, engines and parts sagged 13.2% as air carriers struggled with reduced passenger loads. Imports of industrial goods and materials rose 0.8% to \$5.6 billion. Energy product imports slumped 15.8% to \$1.2 billion. Agriculture and fishing products imports increased 2.1% to \$1.8 billion.

*The October 2001 edition of Canadian international merchandise trade (Internet: 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; paper: 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) is now available. For general information, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647; 1 800 294-5583), Marketing and Client Services. For analytical information, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 9.)*

## Smallest 12-month advance in CPI in more than two years

Consumers paid 0.7% more for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index basket in November compared with November 2000, the smallest 12-month advance since February 1999.

Continued declines in energy prices tempered the increase. Except for August, price increases have been slowing steadily since their recent peak of 3.9% in May 2001.

In November, the CPI excluding energy prices made a 12-month advance of 2.1%, the lowest rate in 2001. The CPI excluding energy has been reflecting price stability since July 2001. Energy prices, which dropped 12.5% from November 2000, provided the bulk of the downward pressure on the CPI. Except for electricity, prices for all components of the energy index fell substantially, bringing about the largest 12-month decline in that index since January 1987. Central to this decline were a 19.3% drop in gasoline prices and a 15.5% fall in natural gas prices.

(continued on page 4)

### ... Smallest 12-month advance in CPI in more than two years

In contrast to energy prices, prices for food were the primary source of upward pressure on the CPI in November. Food prices rose 3.9% between November 2000 and November 2001, as restaurant meals and beef prices continued to play a dominant role. Despite the impact of food prices, November's increase represented a slowdown from the previous nine months.

Higher prices for cigarettes, rent and homeowners' replacement cost were also important contributors to November's 12-month increase. Lower prices for automotive vehicle purchases, as well as traveller accommodation, tempered the impact of these increases.

On a month-over-month basis, the CPI declined 0.9% in November, the largest monthly decline since June 1959. The downward pressure on the CPI stemmed mostly from weaker prices for gasoline, natural gas and traveller accommodation. This was somewhat offset by higher cigarette prices.

Gasoline prices fell 10.0% between October and November, partly the result of weak global demand. Monthly declines in gasoline prices of this magnitude were last seen in 1986. Combined with previous declines, gasoline prices tumbled 19.3% between November 2000 and November 2001, the largest 12-month drop since December 1986.

Natural gas prices shrank 22.4% between October and November, the fifth consecutive monthly decline. Residents of most provinces witnessed falling natural gas prices; however, a credit received by customers in Alberta was largely responsible for the decline in the index. Natural gas prices declined 15.5% in 2001, falling below the level of the previous year for the first time in over three years.

Traveller accommodation prices fell 9.8% in November. Promotions and discounts were implemented to attract customers during this seasonal low point. Non-seasonal factors, such as the

### Consumer Price Index, November 2001 % change, previous year, not seasonally adjusted

	All items	Food	Shelter	Transportation	Energy
<b>Canada</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-5.3</b>	<b>-12.5</b>
Newfoundland	-0.5	3.9	-1.8	-5.9	-13.6
Prince Edward Island	0.9	3.4	-0.9	-3.9	-9.6
Nova Scotia	-0.1	2.6	-1.4	-6.9	-15.8
New Brunswick	0.1	2.3	-0.4	-7.2	-13.4
Quebec	1.1	3.9	0.7	-6.0	-12.9
Ontario	1.2	4.4	3.2	-5.4	-8.3
Manitoba	0.8	3.6	0.9	-4.6	-9.6
Saskatchewan	2.0	2.8	6.5	-3.5	2.0
Alberta	-2.5	3.7	-11.0	-3.9	-39.7
British Columbia	0.3	3.7	1.0	-4.7	-5.9
Whitehorse	0.5	2.6	0.1	-3.8	-6.5
Yellowknife	1.2	5.0	-1.4	-0.2	-6.5

events of September 11 and the effects of an economic slowdown, were evident in the 12-month percentage changes. Prices were 7.5% lower than in November 2000, the sixth consecutive 12-month decrease.

The introduction of a federal tax increase on cigarettes, along with tax hikes implemented by some provinces, resulted in monthly increases ranging from 2.0% in Newfoundland and Manitoba, to a high of 12.3% in Quebec. Overall, cigarette prices for Canada rose 8.2% between October and November 2001, and were up 24.7% from November 2000.

*The November 2001 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 Client Services (1 866 230-2248 or 613-951-9606; infounit@statcan.ca) or Joanne Moreau (613-951-7130), Prices Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 9.)*

## Retail sales rebound

Retail sales advanced 1.7% in October to \$24.2 billion, effectively cancelling September's decline of 1.5%. All sectors posted sales gains; retail sales in all provinces advanced at least 1.0%, except for a 0.5% gain in British Columbia. In constant dollars, total retail sales rose 2.3% in October, after falling 2.1% in September.

Retailers in the general merchandise sector and in the clothing sector led the rebound, after posting the largest losses in September. Sales in the general merchandise sector advanced 3.5%. Department store sales were up 5.6%; the openings of several new department stores contributed to the increase. Retailers in the clothing sector also reported a 3.5% sales gain, following a 2.1% decline in September.

### Note to readers

*Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.*

Sales in the automotive sector advanced 1.8% in October, following a 2.1% decline the previous month. Within this sector, auto parts, accessories and services stores (+6.4%) and motor and recreational vehicle dealers (+3.3%) recovered from their respective sales declines in September. Sales of gasoline service stations fell 6.3%, reflecting an 8.0% drop in gas prices at the pump. Manufacturers' incentives offered to car buyers continued to stimulate demand. About half of October's gain came from stronger sales at motor and recreational vehicle dealers. Excluding these dealers, retail sales advanced 1.1% after a 1.0% decline in September.

*(continued on page 5)*

### ... Retail sales rebound

Sales in furniture stores advanced 1.5%, while drugstore sales increased 1.0%. Food retailers continued to enjoy a period of strong sales increases that started in early 2000, despite a weaker increase of 0.1% in October and in September.

For the first 10 months of 2001, retail sales were 4.4% higher than in the same period of 2000. This compares with a 2.5% year-over-year increase for the same period when adjusted for price movements. Alberta (+9.1%), Newfoundland (+8.0%) and British Columbia (+6.0%) posted the strongest sales in the first 10 months of 2001 compared with the same period in 2000.

*The October 2001 issue of Retail trade (Internet: 63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155) is now available. To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (1 877 421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; paul.gratton@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

### Retail sales, October 2001 Seasonally adjusted

	\$ millions	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>Canada</b>	<b>24,207</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Newfoundland	422	2.4	11.4
Prince Edward Island	108	3.4	6.4
Nova Scotia	736	1.1	4.5
New Brunswick	597	3.8	5.3
Quebec	5,501	1.4	2.6
Ontario	9,108	1.7	1.1
Manitoba	840	1.2	7.0
Saskatchewan	706	1.5	4.9
Alberta	2,927	2.8	8.9
British Columbia	3,179	0.5	5.6
Yukon	31	3.4	8.0
Northwest Territories	36	1.9	7.2
Nunavut	16	-0.7	1.1

## Manufacturers' shipments at lowest level since May 1999

**M**anufacturers' shipments declined 2.9% in October to \$40.4 billion, the lowest level since May 1999. Thirteen of 21 industries, representing 62% of total shipments, reported lower shipment values. As well, shipments were down in six provinces and the territories.

Uncertainty in the global economy led to cuts in production and employment in the Canadian manufacturing sector. As demand declined, manufacturers trimmed output, but the impact on inventories was more gradual. The contraction has been gaining momentum, as industries have drawn down goods-in-process and finished products.

Temporary shutdowns at several automobile assembly plants in October resulted in a 14.4% drop in motor vehicle shipments. At \$4.4 billion, October's shipments were the lowest since July 1998. Lower shipments in recent months were a result of the ongoing slowdown in the motor vehicle industry, continuing attempts to adjust retail inventory levels, and shortages of parts due to delays at the Canada-U.S. border.

Decreasing petroleum and coal prices and lower production capacity led to a 12.6% decline in shipments of petroleum and coal products, which, at \$2.3 billion, were the lowest in almost two years. The aerospace product and parts industry reported an 11.8% decline to \$973 million. Weak international demand continued to afflict the computer and electronic products industry, where shipments fell 4.7% to \$1.7 billion. Slightly offsetting the decreases in October were higher shipments in the paper industry (+4.3%) and in the food industry (+0.9%).

### Manufacturers' shipments, October 2001 Seasonally adjusted

	\$ millions	% change, previous month
<b>Canada</b>	<b>40,389</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
Newfoundland	176	-9.8
Prince Edward Island	101	1.1
Nova Scotia	736	0.7
New Brunswick	902	-14.7
Quebec	9,832	0.2
Ontario	21,119	-4.0
Manitoba	933	1.4
Saskatchewan	564	-2.2
Alberta	3,311	-5.2
British Columbia	2,711	-0.9
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	-40.9

From October 2000 to October 2001, manufacturers reduced production in an attempt to lower finished-product inventories. In October, total inventories fell 0.9% to \$63.4 billion, the fifth consecutive decline. Although the decline was concentrated in goods-in-process (-2.2%), finished-product inventories were also down (-0.6%). Finished-product inventories stood at \$19.7 billion, the lowest level since January 2001.

The primary contributor to October's lower inventories was the aerospace product and parts industry, where inventories dropped 2.5% for the industry's first decline in 2001. The industry's total inventories of \$8.0 billion were pulled down by a 4.1% decrease in goods-in-process inventory. Manufacturers of computer and electronic products reduced inventories 1.7%. Raw-material (-2.1%) and finished-product (-1.5%) inventories also declined.

(continued on page 6)

### ... Manufacturers' shipments at lowest level since May 1999

A 5.4% decrease in the petroleum and coal products industry rounded out the top three contributors to lower inventory levels. Also, the chemical products industry reported a 1.1% increase in inventories in October, to \$5.0 billion.

The inventory-to-shipments ratio jumped in October to 1.57, its highest level since early 1992. October's decrease in inventories was exceeded by the significant decline in shipments, thus triggering the sharp rise in the ratio. The finished-products inventory-to-shipments ratio increased to 0.49, its highest level since July 1998.

## Industrial product and raw materials prices lower

**M**anufacturers' prices, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), declined 1.9% in November compared with November 2000, their second consecutive month of negative growth. This was a slightly stronger pace than the year-over-year decline of 1.2% in October.

Petroleum and coal product prices tumbled 23.8%, the fifth straight month of negative growth. If petroleum and coal product prices were excluded, the IPPI would have decreased only 0.2% instead of 1.9%. Lower prices for pulp and paper products and primary metal products also contributed to the annual decline. Higher prices for motor vehicles and fruit, vegetable and feed products as well as meat products partly offset the decrease.

On a month-to-month basis, industrial prices were unchanged in November, after declining 1.3% in October. Lower prices for petroleum and coal products and meat products were offset by higher prices for autos, trucks and other transportation equipment, primary metal products and lumber products.

Manufacturers paid 16.2% less in November for their raw materials than in November 2000, the fourth consecutive month of negative growth. Mineral fuels were responsible for most of the decline in the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI), along with wood products and non-ferrous metals. If mineral fuels were excluded, the RMPI would have declined only 3.2%. These decreases were partly offset by higher prices for vegetable products and ferrous materials. On a monthly basis, the RMPI declined 2.9%.

In the RMPI, crude oil prices were 10.9% lower in November than in October due to high inventories and lower demand. This decrease was reflected in the IPPI; petroleum and coal product prices dropped 7.1%. Lumber and other wood product prices were up 1.2%. On an annual basis, prices for lumber and other wood products rose 1.9%.

From October to November, the value of the U.S. dollar strengthened against the Canadian dollar, inflating prices of commodities quoted in U.S. dollars, notably automobiles and lumber. If the exchange rate had not changed, the IPPI would

Unfilled orders dropped 1.8% to \$47.9 billion. New orders dropped 5.1% to \$39.5 billion, the lowest level since early 1999.

*The October 2001 issue of the **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing** (Internet: 31-001-XIB, \$15/\$147) is now available. To order data, or for general information, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789, 613-951-9497, [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Marketing and Dissemination Section. For analytical information, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; [kowarus@statcan.ca](mailto:kowarus@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 9.)*

### Industrial product and raw materials price indexes, November 2001

	Index (1992=100)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)</b>	<b>106.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	105.9	0.5	-0.2
Intermediate goods	103.1	-0.2	-3.7
Finished goods	111.6	0.2	0.6
<b>Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-16.2</b>
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	90.2	0.7	-3.2
Mineral fuels (crude oil)	132.2	-7.7	-30.1
Vegetable products	88.8	3.9	10.3
Animals and animal products	104.1	-1.6	0.3
Wood	80.2	0.1	-13.0
Ferrous materials	87.0	-1.0	5.1
Non-ferrous metals	78.9	3.5	-10.7
Non-metallic minerals	109.3	-0.2	0.2

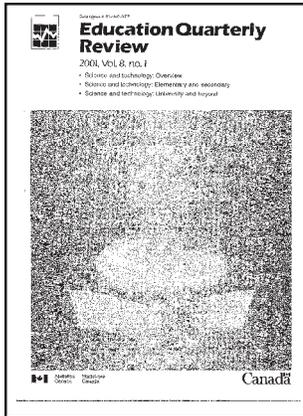
have declined 0.5%. The influence of the dollar was also evident in the year-to-year figures; the IPPI was down 1.9% from November 2000, but without the exchange rate effect, the IPPI would have decreased 2.5%.

Rising prices for motor vehicles pushed year-over-year prices up for finished goods, which rose 0.6%. On a monthly basis, prices for finished goods were up a slight 0.2%. As for intermediate goods, producers received 3.7% less for their goods in November than in November 2000. Prices for input goods in November 2001 were down 0.2% from October.

The IPPI was 106.5 in November, unchanged from its revised level in October. The RMPI fell to 103.5 in November from its revised level of 106.6 in October.

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

## New from Statistics Canada



### Education quarterly review

*Education quarterly review* analyzes current issues and trends in education. The December 2001 issue, previously released in electronic format, is now available in paper format. This issue contains three reports on science and technology skills at the elementary, secondary and post-secondary levels.

These reports use data from the 1994/95 Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, as well as Statistics Canada's National Graduates Survey.

*The December 2001 issue of **Education quarterly review**, Vol. 8, no. 1 (Internet: 81-003-XIE, \$16/\$51; paper: 81-003-XPB, \$21/\$68) is now available. For more information, contact Client Services, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca)).*

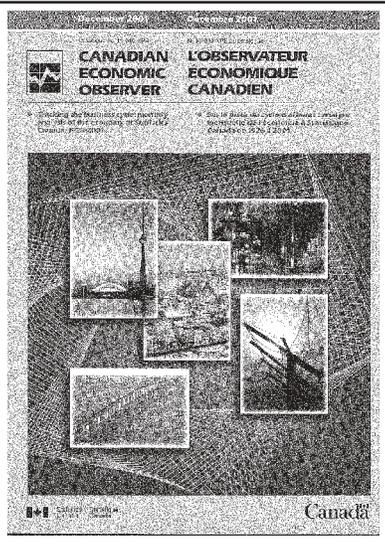
### Quarterly telecommunications statistics

*Quarterly telecommunications statistics* details the industry's operating revenues and profits, employment, capital expenditures and per capita wireline investment, among other data, for the third quarter of 2001. The telecommunications industry consists of wireline, wireless and satellite telecommunications carriers, as well as resellers of telecommunications services.

*The third quarter 2001 issue of **Quarterly telecommunications statistics** (Internet: 56-002-XIE, \$21/\$40) is now available. For more information, contact Heidi Ertl (613-951-1891) or Jo Anne Lambert (613-951-6673), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.*

## New from Statistics Canada

### Canadian economic observer December 2001



The December 2001 issue of *Canadian economic observer* analyzes current economic conditions and summarizes the major economic events that occurred in November 2001. It also presents a feature article on the monthly analysis of the economy conducted at Statistics Canada between 1926 and 2001.

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

*The December 2001 issue of Canadian economic observer, Vol. 14, no. 12, (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.*

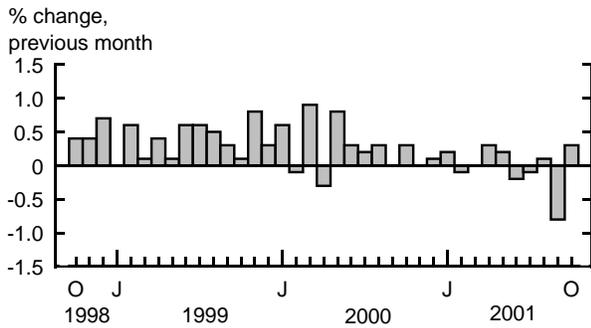
### Canadian vehicle survey

The first quarter 2001 issue of *Canadian vehicle survey* measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada, except some vehicles such as motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment. The estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only. Vehicles included in the *Canadian vehicle survey* travelled an estimated 70.9 billion kilometres in the first quarter of 2001.

*The first quarter 2001 issue of Canadian vehicle survey (Internet: 53F0004XIE, free) is now available. For more information, contact Wendy Christoff (613-951-2498; chriwen@statcan.ca). To obtain data, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.*

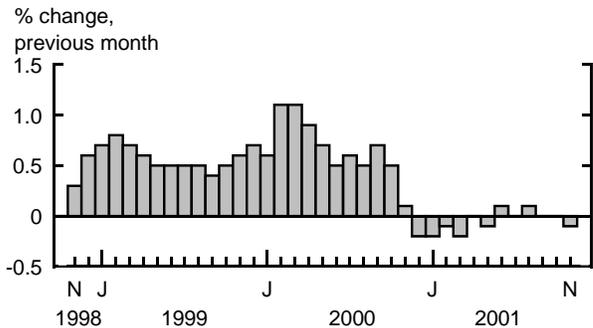
## Current trends

### Gross domestic product



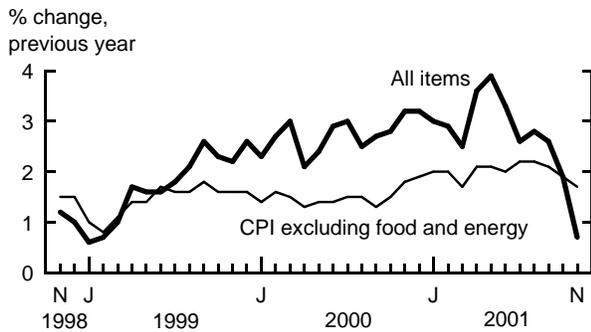
Total economic activity advanced 0.3% in October, after declining 0.8% in September.

### Composite Index



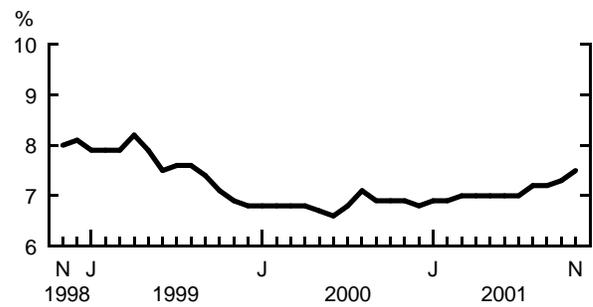
The leading indicator edged down 0.1% in November, mainly as a result of worsening conditions in manufacturing.

### Consumer Price Index



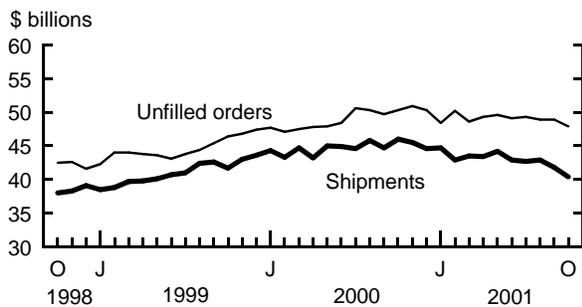
Consumer prices for goods and services were 0.7% higher in November than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.7%.

### Unemployment rate



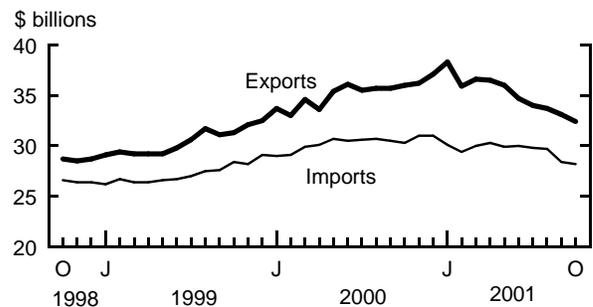
In November, the unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points to 7.5%.

### Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments declined 2.9% in October to \$40.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders fell 1.8% to \$47.9 billion.

### Merchandise trade



In October, the value of merchandise exports fell 1.0% to \$32.4 billion. Imports declined 0.6% to \$28.2 billion.

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

## Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross domestic product (\$ billions, 1997) <sup>1</sup>	October*	932.1	0.3%	-0.6%
Composite Index (1992=100)	November	166.2	-0.1%	-0.7%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q3 2001	37.6	-14.4%	-24.0%
Capacity utilization rate (%) <sup>2</sup>	Q3 2001	79.4	-2.5†	-7.0†
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	October	24.2	1.7%	3.7%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	October	131.3	2.9%	6.1%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	October	32.2	-0.9%	0.8%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	November	15.1	0.1%	0.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	November	7.5	0.2†	0.6†
Participation rate (%)	November	66.0	0.1†	-0.1†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	October*	669.99	0.23%	2.04%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	December*	126	-5.3%	-27.6%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	October	537.9	1.3%	15.5%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	October	32.4	-1.0%	-10.1%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	October	28.2	-0.6%	-7.0%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	October	4.2	-0.1	-1.5
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billions)	October	40.4	-2.9%	-12.3%
New orders (\$ billions)	October	39.5	-5.1%	-15.2%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	October	47.9	-1.8%	-4.7%
Inventory/shipments ratio	October	1.57	0.03	0.16
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	November	115.8	-0.9%	0.7%
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	November*	106.5	0.0%	-1.9%
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	November*	103.5	-2.9%	-16.2%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	October	106.8	0.1%	2.8%

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

\* new this week

† percentage point

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

<sup>2</sup> Calculation of the rates of capacity use is now based on the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

# Infomat

## A weekly review

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## Products released from December 20, 2001 to January 9, 2002

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Cereals and oilseeds review	October 2001	22-007-XIB	11/112
Cereals and oilseeds review	October 2001	22-007-XPB	15/149
Farm Product Price Index	October 2001	21-007-XIB	free
Stocks of frozen meat products	December 2001	23-009-XIE	free
<b>ANALYTICAL STUDIES</b>			
Retirement issues	December 2001	75-003-XIE	free
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL FLOWS</b>			
Canada's balance of international payments	Q3 2001	67-001-XIB	29/93
<b>CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS</b>			
Education quarterly review	December 2001	81-003-XPB	21/68
International Adult Literacy Survey: Document and data files	1994-1998	89M0016XCB	free
<b>CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS</b>			
Canadian economic observer	December 2001	11-010-XPB	23/227
<b>DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES</b>			
Retail trade	October 2001	63-005-XIB	16/155
Wholesale trade	October 2001	63-008-XIB	14/140
<b>INCOME STATISTICS</b>			
Income trends in Canada	1980-1999	75F0002MIE01004	free
<b>INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS</b>			
Gross domestic product by industry	October 2001	15-001-XIE	11/110
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>			
Canadian international merchandise trade	October 2001	65-001-XIB	14/141
Canadian international merchandise trade	October 2001	65-001-XPB	19/188
Imports by commodity	October 2001	65-007-XMB	37/361
Imports by commodity	October 2001	65-007-XPB	78/773
<b>MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY</b>			
Asphalt roofing	November 2001	45-001-XIB	5/47
Cement	November 2001	44-001-XIB	5/47
Construction type plywood	October 2001	35-001-XIB	5/47
Electric power statistics	October 2001	57-001-XIB	9/85
Energy statistics handbook	October 2001	57-601-XCB	284
Energy statistics handbook	October 2001	57-601-UPB	387
Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation	November 2001	44-004-XIB	5/47
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	October 2001	31-001-XIB	15/147
Natural gas transportation and distribution	2000	57-205-XIB	23
Primary iron and steel	October 2001	41-001-XIB	5/47
Production and disposition of tobacco products	November 2001	32-022-XIB	5/47
Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas	August 2001	26-006-XPB	19/186
<b>SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION</b>			
Service bulletin: Science statistics, Vol. 25, no. 12		88-001-XIB	6/59
Telecommunications statistics	Q3 2001	56-002-XIE	21/40
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Air carrier traffic at Canadian airports	1999	51-203-XIB	31
Air passenger origin and destination, Canada-United States report	1999	51-205-XIB	35
Aviation service bulletin, Vol. 33, no. 11		51-004-XIB	8/82
Canadian vehicle survey	Q1 2001	53F0004XIE	free
Rail in Canada	1999	52-216-XIB	39

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Calendar of key releases: January 2002				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3 Industrial Product Price and Raw Materials Price Indexes, November 2001	4
7	8	9	10 Building permits, November 2001 Help-wanted Index, December 2001	11 Labour Force Survey, December 2001 New Housing Price Index, November 2001
14	15 New motor vehicle sales, November 2001 Financing of small and medium enterprises, 2000	16	17	18 Canadian international merchandise trade, November 2001 Wholesale trade, November 2001 Travel between Canada and other countries, November 2001
21 Retail trade, November 2001	22 Consumer Price Index, December 2001 Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, November 2001	23 Youth in Transition Survey, 2000	24 Canada's international transactions in securities, November 2001 Employment Insurance, November 2001 Unmet needs for health care, 1998-99	25 The labour market : Year-end review, 2001 Deposit-accepting intermediaries: Activities and economic performance, 2000
28 Employment, earnings and hours, November 2001	29 Composite Index, December 2001	30 Industrial Product Price and Raw Materials Price Indexes, December 2001	31 Real gross domestic product by industry, November 2001 Stocks of grain, December 31, 2001	

**Note:** Except for the releases marked with an asterisk, all the release dates in this calendar are fixed. A more detailed calendar of fixed release dates for the entire year is available from Statistics Canada's Web site at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca).

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