



Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, December 10, 1999

OVERVIEW

◆ Full-time job growth remains strong

Full-time employment surged in November by 89,000, whereas part-time employment declined by 29,000—reflecting the pattern seen all year. The national unemployment rate fell to 6.9%—the lowest in more than 18 years.

◆ Monthly GDP growth slows

In September, the economy advanced for a 14th consecutive month (+0.2%), capping a strong third quarter. September's slowing was seen in computer wholesaling, retailing and in auto production.

◆ Exports again fuel solid economic growth

In the third quarter, real gross domestic product advanced 1.2%—the fourth consecutive quarter of solid growth. The third quarter's growth was led by exports, which climbed 3.6%.

◆ Notable increase in Canadians travelling within Canada

In the second quarter, Canadians made 36.4 million trips within Canada, up 8.2% from the year-earlier quarter. Canadians did the vast majority of their domestic travelling within their own province.

◆ International travel to Canada slows sharply

In the second quarter, international travel to Canada slowed sharply compared with the year-earlier quarter. Visits from the United States and from Canada's traditional European markets both eased off.

◆ Current account swings to a surplus

In the third quarter, the current account swung from a deficit to a modest surplus for the first time since the fourth quarter of 1996. Nearly all of that swing stemmed from an upturn in Canada's surplus on goods trading.

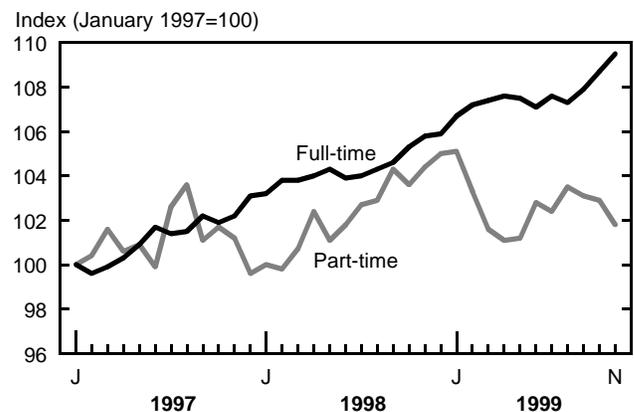
Full-time job growth remains strong

In November, overall employment increased strongly for a third month, rising by an estimated 60,000. Consequently, the number of jobs created so far this year stands at 313,000 (+2.1%) on job growth of 2.0% for adult men, 2.2% for adult women and 2.5% for youths. The national unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points in November to 6.9%—the lowest rate since August 1981. The unemployment rate fell to 5.8% for adult men, 5.6% for adult women and 13.2% for youths.

Full-time employment surged in November by 89,000, whereas part-time employment fell by 29,000. This has been the pattern so far this year: full-time employment has grown by 397,000 (+3.4%), whereas part-time employment has fallen by 84,000 (-3.1%). Despite being slower overall so far this year (+2.1%) compared with the same period last year (+3.0%), the growth in full-time jobs has been faster in 1999.

Most of November's job growth occurred in Quebec and in British Columbia. In Quebec, employment continued to climb briskly, bringing the gains over the last six months to 128,000 (+3.8%). This recent strength leaves employment up 89,000 (+2.6%) since the start of the year. Quebec's unemployment rate dropped in November to 8.4%—its lowest rate since April 1976.

Full- and part-time employment



(continued on page 2)



... Full-time job growth remains strong

In British Columbia, despite job growth in November of 13,000, an increase in the number job seekers lifted the province's unemployment rate to 8.0%. So far this year, employment is up in British Columbia only 0.8%. Also notable is that employment in New Brunswick is up 1.7% so far this year, while it has climbed 5.5% in Prince Edward Island.

Among goods-producers, job gains occurred in construction and in natural resources industries. Jobs were lost in manufacturing and at utilities. In construction, 30,000 jobs were added in November. Employment in the industry is up slightly this year (+1.3%). In natural resources (forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas), 11,000 new jobs arose in November—the fifth consecutive increase. The downtrend that began early last year in natural resources has reversed, and about half the job losses have been recouped. Natural resources employment is up so far this year by 1.1%. Despite shedding 22,000 jobs in November, manufacturers have been contributing strongly to job growth since September 1998—up 231,000 jobs (+11.1%). November (-14,000) marked the first significant job losses at utilities this year.

Producers of services added 52,000 employees in November, led by gains in transportation and warehousing and in professional, scientific and technical services. In the former industry, 22,000 jobs were created, bringing the gains so far this year to 65,000. In the latter, employment rose for a second consecutive month (+17,000). However, employment in the industry is down this year by 1.7%. In public administration, employment in November was down 14,000, bringing the losses so far this year to 55,000.

Note to readers

In September, the latest month of available data, 511,220 Canadians received the regular type of employment insurance (EI) benefits. That was up from the previous month by 0.3%, but down from a year earlier by 7.8%. The amount paid out as regular benefits decreased 5.5% to \$610.9 million. The number of claims for EI made by the jobless fell 1.2% to 212,450 claims. (The data are seasonally adjusted.) For information on employment insurance, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Although overall public-sector employment remained little changed, job gains were strong at the start of the year due to hiring at hospitals and at schools, so that public-sector employment is up 8.1% this year. The number of employees in the private sector increased by 42,000 in November (+1.5% in 1999). Self-employment edged up; however, it has been sliding throughout 1999 and is down 1.4% this year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3450-3471, 3483-3502 and table 00799999.

*The full report, **Labour force information, for the week ending November 13, 1999** (71-001-PPB, \$11/\$103), is now available. For further information, contact Geoff Bowlby (613-951-3325) or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750), Labour Statistics Division. See also "Current trends" on page 8.*

Labour Force Survey, November 1999

Seasonally adjusted¹

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	rate (%)
Canada	15,984.5	0.1	14,876.0	0.4	1,108.5	6.9
Newfoundland	251.1	0.1	210.7	0.6	40.4	16.1
Prince Edward Island	73.0	1.5	63.3	1.8	9.6	13.2
Nova Scotia	461.2	0.3	416.8	0.6	44.3	9.6
New Brunswick	377.5	0.9	341.3	1.2	36.2	9.6
Quebec	3,807.1	0.3	3,487.2	1.0	319.9	8.4
Ontario	6,182.2	-0.5	5,834.5	-0.1	347.7	5.6
Manitoba	593.6	0.5	561.9	0.6	31.7	5.3
Saskatchewan	510.2	-0.8	483.0	0.0	27.2	5.3
Alberta	1,654.0	0.4	1,567.7	0.4	86.3	5.2
British Columbia	2,074.8	1.2	1,909.6	0.7	165.2	8.0

¹ Data are for both sexes aged 15 and over.

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Monthly GDP growth slows

The economy advanced for a 14th consecutive month in September (+0.2%). However, that 0.2% growth was roughly half the pace seen in the three previous months. The slower growth in September resulted from weakness in computer wholesaling, a lacklustre month for retailers and an easing back of auto production. September's advance marked the longest uninterrupted string of monthly gains in over a decade, and it capped a strong third quarter. (The data for monthly gross domestic product by industry, which is valued at 1992 prices, are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.)

Wholesaling activity fell 1.7%, as demand for computer equipment and software flagged on the eve of the new millennium. September's decline was a significant departure from the strong upward trend that wholesalers had maintained throughout 1999. Retail sales edged down 0.1%. Most store types—notably clothing, furniture and hardware stores—posted slower sales.

Manufacturing output rose modestly in September (+0.3%). That followed three months of robust gains. The slowing was due to automotive production, which recorded its largest monthly decline in over a year. The decline was more pronounced at vehicle assembly plants (-6.8%) than at parts producers (-1.9%). However, despite September's decline, output in the industry remains at record high levels.

GDP of retail and wholesale trade



Excluding automotive production, manufacturing output in September rose 1.0%. Manufacturers of electrical and electronic products completed an already strong third quarter with another significant monthly gain. Production of computers and peripherals advanced for a fourth consecutive month. An increase in output of telecommunications equipment, although more modest, was the 12th in 13 months. Strong demand for new pharmaceutical products led to higher production in the chemical products industry. Output of paper and allied products continued to rise in September. With the supply glut of earlier months now behind them, producers of newsprint and pulp continued to reactivate production lines that had been closed. Notable among the declines, the clothing industry slumped for a third straight month (-3.8%) and output was off among fabricated metal producers.

The mining sector's output climbed in September by 2.4%—only the third increase so far this year. Rising oil prices spurred drilling and rigging companies to break new ground. Even so, production of crude oil and natural gas edged down due to maintenance shutdowns. Metal mines were boosted by strong base metal production, as a number of mines returned to normal output levels. Gold production, however, fell for a fourth time so far this year. It dropped to its lowest level since the fall of 1995 because a number of mines closed. And, after several months of weakness, potash production rose sharply.

In business services, activity stepped up in September by 0.7%. As in previous months, providers of computer consulting services were busier, but they were eclipsed by temporary help agencies, as well as by suppliers of various other business services. Computer consultants, who have experienced dramatic growth over the past three years thanks to the Year 2000 work, began to see some business tapering off in the second half of 1999.

Utilities turned in a healthy gain in September (+1.7%), stimulated by a 15% surge in electricity exports to the United States. Telephone carriers reported less activity (-0.3%), their first drop in over a year and a half. This was due to a fall in demand for long distance services.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.

The September 1999 issue of **Gross domestic product by industry** (15-001-XPB, \$15/\$145) presents the full report. To purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 877-4623; IMAD@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. See also "Current trends" on page 8.

Exports again fuel solid economic growth

Real gross domestic product advanced 1.2% in the third quarter, the fourth consecutive quarter of solid growth. The economic growth was led by exports. Consumer demand maintained a healthy pace, whereas growth in business investment slowed significantly.

Exports climbed 3.6% after a flat second quarter. A booming U.S. economy stimulated exports of automotive products, computers and telecommunications equipment. Exports of computers accelerated to double-digit growth, while exports of television and telecommunications equipment soared for a second straight

Gross domestic product at 1992 prices¹

	% change	Annualized % change	Year-over-year % change
Third quarter 1998	0.6	2.6	2.4
Fourth quarter 1998	1.2	4.8	2.8
First quarter 1999	1.0	4.1	3.1
Second quarter 1999	0.8	3.1	3.6
Third quarter 1999	1.2	4.7	4.2

¹ The change is the growth rate from one period to the next. The annualized change is the growth rate compounded annually. The year-over-year change is the growth rate of a given quarter compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

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... Exports again fuel solid economic growth

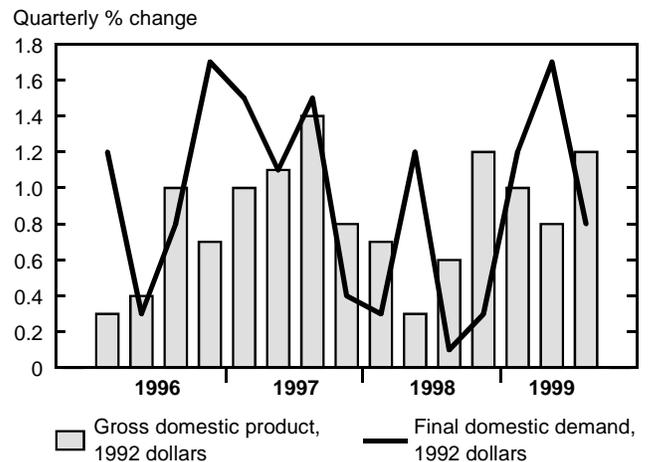
quarter. In the auto sector, strong U.S. demand pushed up third-quarter exports of motor vehicles and parts despite declines in September. Exports of forestry products were another bright spot.

On top of healthy gains in the three prior quarters, corporate profits accelerated in the third quarter to 10.6% growth in nominal terms. The strength in profits was seen throughout many industries, notably petroleum and gas, transportation, telecommunications, motor vehicles and banks. By contrast, growth in business non-residential investment slowed to 0.4%, down from a 5.5% increase in the previous quarter. This slowing was largely due to a drop in spending on aircraft and computers. Business spending on computers has reached a plateau after a year and a half of phenomenal growth. Investment in non-residential buildings and in engineering projects advanced solidly in the third quarter.

Personal income continued to increase steadily. Growth in personal spending outstripped the income advance, however, so the saving rate fell from 0.9% in the second quarter to 0.3%. Consumer spending, led by strength in durable goods purchases, accelerated slightly in the quarter to 1.2% growth. After a flat second quarter, spending on motor vehicles accounted for most of that growth and climbed a robust 7.3%. Purchases of household furniture and appliances also advanced strongly on the heels of solid housing investment growth in previous quarters.

Housing investment growth slowed to 0.6%. A decline in renovation activity partially offset increases in new construction and in transfer costs on existing homes. Urban housing starts edged down in the third quarter.

GDP and final domestic demand



Available on CANSIM: matrices 701-726, 728-735, 737-744, 748-750, 796, 797, 6520-6585 and 6597-6624.

The Third quarter 1999 issue of *National economic and financial accounts, quarterly estimates* (13-001-XPB, \$44/\$145) presents the full report. For information about other products and services that are available on this subject, contact Client Services (613-951-3810; iea-crd@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact the Information Officer (613-951-3640), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

Notable increase in Canadians travelling within Canada

In the second quarter, Canadians made 36.4 million trips within Canada, up 8.2% (or 2.7 million trips) compared with the second quarter of 1998. It was also the most trips recorded since the second quarter of 1996, the first year for which this type of comparison can be made.

An exceptionally warm spring, an unfavourable Canada-U.S. exchange rate for Canadians and a continuation of the spending spree on goods and services, albeit at a less frantic pace, may have led Canadians to travel more within their own country. Travellers in the 45-to-54 age bracket accounted for most of the travel increase.

It was within their own province where Canadians did the vast majority of their domestic travelling (32.3 million intra-provincial trips, +9.6%). By contrast, travel from one province to another declined from the year-earlier quarter by 1.9%, down to 4.1 million trips.

Total spending on domestic travel in the second quarter reached \$4.7 billion (+5.6%). This 5.6% increase was only slightly higher than the increase in the cost of travel, which was 5%. Spending

Note to readers

Domestic travel is defined as any trip of 80 kilometres or more one way that is taken by a Canadian resident and having a Canadian destination.

on intra-provincial travel climbed 17.0% to \$3.0 billion. That was somewhat mitigated by lower spending on inter-provincial travel, which dropped 9.6% to \$1.7 billion. This decrease was ascribed to fewer inter-provincial travellers and to lower spending by those travellers on lodging and on food and beverages purchased in restaurants and bars.

The split between overnight trips and same-day trips was almost even in the second quarter. The number of same-day trips rose faster (+12.7%) than the number of overnight trips (+4.0%). The average spent by travellers staying overnight was \$205 per person, while the average length of stay was 2.8 nights.

Various statistical profiles and micro-data files are available on request. To order, or for further analytical information, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard (613-951-1672; fax: 613-951-2909; gervliz@statcan.ca), Tourism Statistics Program.

International travel to Canada slows sharply

In the second quarter, international travel to Canada slowed sharply compared with the same quarter a year earlier. Visits both from the United States and from Canada's traditional European markets eased off. In total, 5.0 million international tourists made overnight trips to Canada between April and June 1999 (+1.2%). This contrasts sharply with increases in the first quarter (+11%) and in 1998 overall (+7%).

Most of the second quarter's travellers (3.9 million) came from the United States. Up just 0.9% from the year-earlier quarter, this marks the first sign of weakening in the U.S. travel market following four quarters of double-digit increases. Visitors from overseas countries increased for a second straight quarter, numbering 1.1 million (+2.2%).

Tourism from the United States declined in the second quarter by 3% in Ontario and 4% in New Brunswick. Otherwise, it increased slightly or remained stable in other regions. Quebec recorded the largest increase in visiting Americans (+8.6%), mostly from New England. Americans staying overnight injected almost

\$1.8 billion into the Canadian economy in the second quarter (+3.3%). They spent about \$462 per trip (+2.3%).

Visitors from overseas countries made 1.1 million trips to Canada between April and June (+2.2%). Notably, Asian travel expanded 6.2%. Overnight trips from Europe expanded a modest 1.2%, as most European currencies lost value against the Canadian dollar. Overseas visitors spent \$1.3 billion in the quarter (+5.3%).

Meanwhile, overnight trips by Canadians to the United States totalled 3.5 million for a rise of 0.1%. That brought a halt to the decline that began in the fourth quarter of 1996. Canadians made a record 950,000 trips overseas (+2.4%), a continuation of the growing but slowing trend in outbound travel to overseas destinations. They spent \$1.4 billion during these trips (+1.7%). Although visits to European destinations declined overall, the number of Canadians travelling to the United Kingdom surged 7.2%.

Various statistical profiles, tables and micro-data files of the characteristics of international travellers are now available for the second quarter of 1999. To order, contact Michel Campbell (613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; michel.campbell@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Laurie McDougall (613-951-6766; fax: 613-951-2909; mcdolau@statcan.ca), International Travel Section.

Current account swings to a surplus

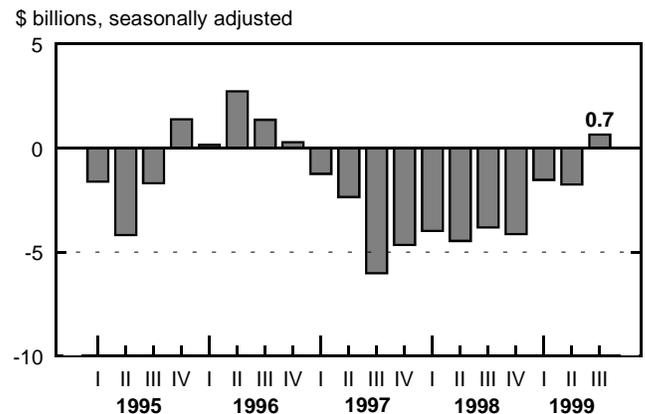
In the third quarter—for the first time since the fourth quarter of 1996—Canadian residents earned more from abroad than they spent abroad on goods, services, investment income and transfers. As a result, Canada's current account transactions with non-residents showed a modest seasonally adjusted surplus of \$0.7 billion. That compares with a \$1.8 billion deficit in the second quarter. Nearly all of that swing stemmed from an upturn in the surplus on goods trading.

The goods surplus, which advanced a strong \$2.2 billion in the third quarter to \$9.5 billion, approached the average values recorded in 1996. Canadian exporters substantially increased their sales in foreign markets, up \$4.8 billion to \$92.0 billion—a new high for a sixth consecutive quarter. Export gains were large and widespread, led by machinery and equipment, automotive and energy goods, and forest products. Goods importers were also active in the quarter, after a relatively flat first half, as total purchases also climbed to a new high (\$82.5 billion). Demand grew for automotive goods, machinery and equipment, and industrial, energy and consumer products.

Trade with the United States accounted for nearly all the growth in the overall surplus, whereas deficits widened with other OECD trading partners. By the third quarter, the two-way flow of goods between Canada and the United States surpassed \$1.5 billion per day.

The deficit on investment income marginally narrowed in the third quarter to \$7.3 billion, while that on services remained unchanged at \$1.8 billion, as increased payments to foreign air carriers balanced higher net exports of financial services, engineering services and technical services.

Current account balance



The international travel deficit fell from a revised \$525 million in the second quarter to just under \$500 million, mostly due to less spending on the part of Canadians in the United States, since Canadian spending in overseas countries increased from the second quarter. In total in the third quarter, Canadians spent \$4.1 billion outside the country, down slightly from the second quarter. Meanwhile, foreigners spent \$3.6 billion in Canada, unchanged from the second quarter. Americans spent slightly more here than they did in the second quarter, whereas spending here by overseas residents fell slightly.

In the financial and capital account (not seasonally adjusted), Canadian residents acquired foreign assets at roughly twice the rate they increased their international liabilities. The increase in assets came primarily from two sources. One, Canadians invested a significant amount in foreign securities (\$7.7 billion, the largest

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... Current account swings to a surplus

quarterly increase this year), mostly in U.S. markets. And two, Canadian financial institutions substantially increased their deposits abroad, particularly in the United Kingdom and, in large measure, in foreign currencies.

As for the liabilities, foreign companies steered a record \$12.6 billion into direct investment in Canada, half of this to acquire existing businesses. Mainly, it was Americans buying communications and electronic products companies here. Foreign portfolio holders also added to their holdings of Canadian stocks, but this was more than offset by their net selling of Canadian debt instruments. Much of the investment in stocks came from

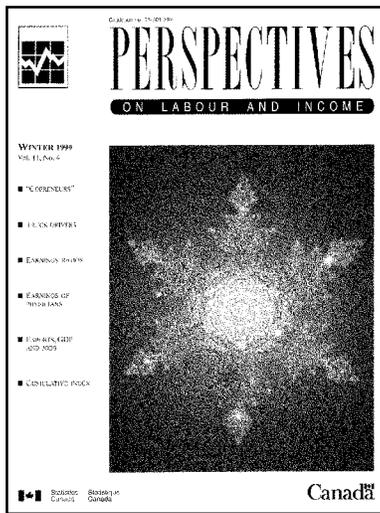
American investors. Foreign investment in Canadian stocks has been robust over the last two quarters, at \$11.4 billion.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2325-2327, 2355, 2360-2377 and 3183.

*The Third quarter 1999 issue of **Canada's balance of international payments** (paper: 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124; online at statcan.ca: 67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93) will be available shortly. For further information, contact Arthur Ridgeway (613-951-8907) or Patrick O'Hagan (613-951-1798), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division. For more information on the international travel account, contact Johanne Plante (613-951-1910; johanne.plante@statcan.ca), Tourism Statistics Program.*



New from Statistics Canada



Perspectives on labour and income

Winter 1999

The feature article in the Winter issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, “Working together—self-employed couples”, compares the characteristics of self-employed dual-earner couples with those of couples who have paid jobs. It then looks at the jobs of self-employed couples who co-own a business.

This issue also includes articles on work patterns of truck drivers; a new female-to-male wage ratio (produced from the Labour Force Survey); earnings of physicians; and the importance of exports to GDP and jobs (reprinted from the November 1999 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*).

The Winter 1999 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* (75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58) is now available. For further information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

Barriers to innovation in services industries

A new research document entitled *Barriers to innovation in services industries in Canada* shows that impediments to innovation vary according to industrial affiliation, size of firm, perceived competitive environment and propensity to perform research and development.

The publication *Barriers to innovation in services industries in Canada* (88F0017MIB) is now available free on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). To obtain a printed copy, call 613-951-6309. For further information, contact Daood Hamdani (613-951-3490), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

Ontario wage survey

1999

Data for 1999 from the Ontario Wage Survey are now available. This survey was sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada and ONESTEP (a non-profit umbrella organisation that promotes community-based training). The information covers wages paid to workers in more than 200 occupations in 16 regions of Ontario.

The 1999 data from the *Ontario Wage Survey* are posted at the following Web site address: www.on.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ows. For further information, contact Monique Simard (613-951-2092; monique.simard@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

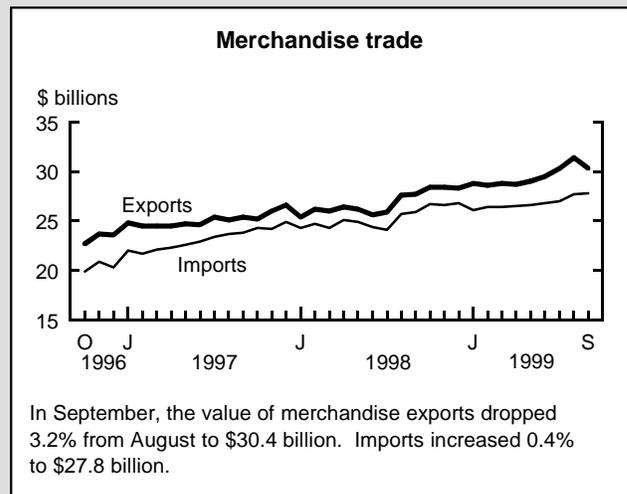
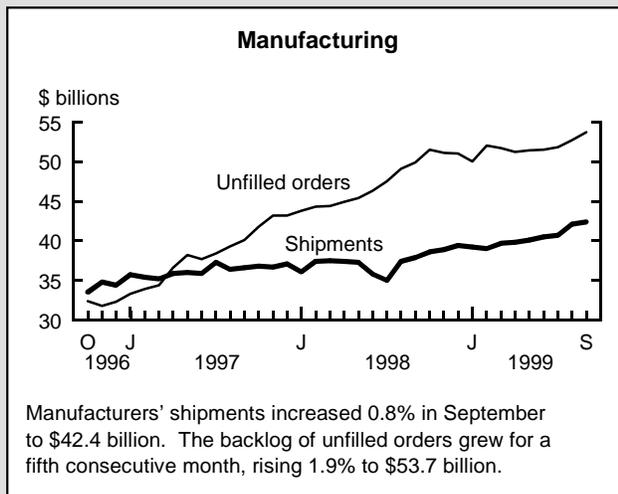
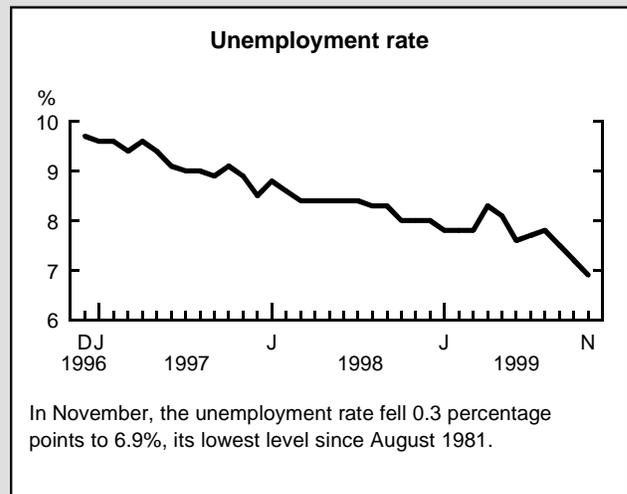
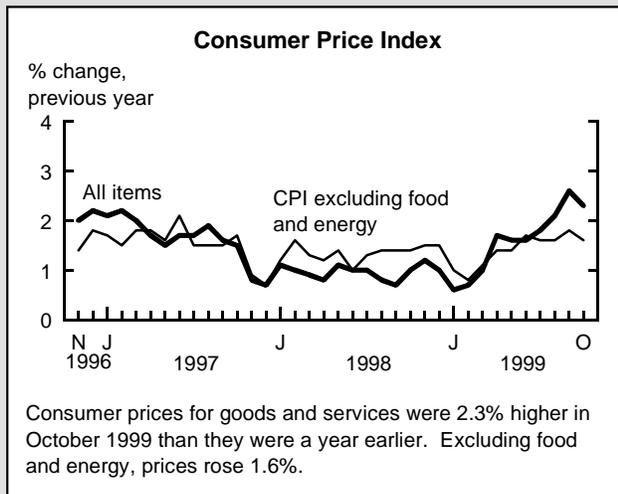
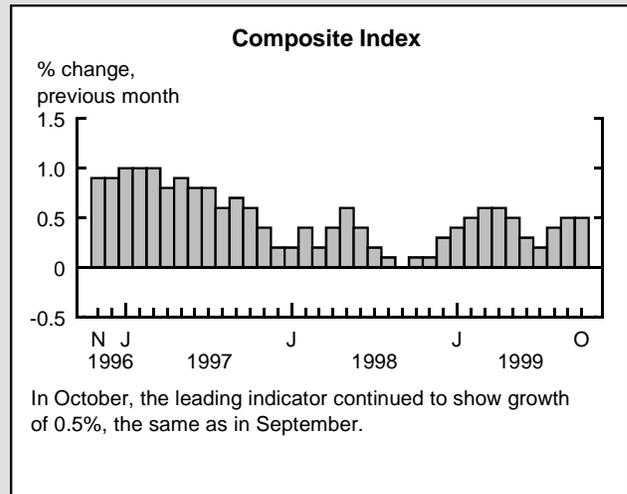
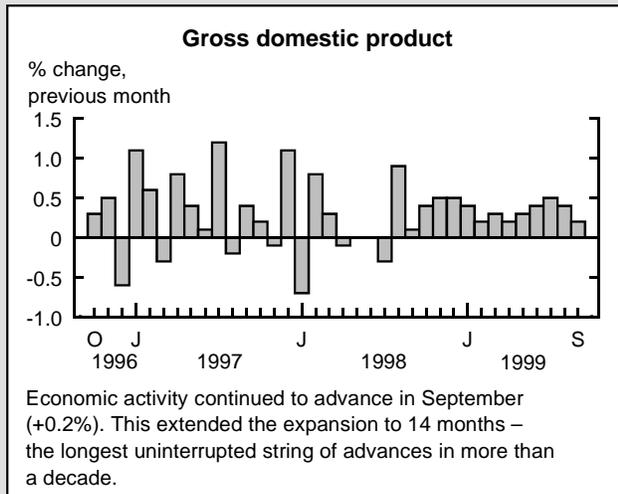
Health statistics at a glance

Health statistics at a glance is a CD-ROM designed to meet the needs of a wide audience, such as market researchers, educators, students, special interest groups, policy developers and program managers. It is an innovative and interactive source of health facts and analysis.

The CD-ROM packages together all 84 topics from the *Statistical report on the health of Canadians*, in-depth analyses of selected articles from *Health reports*, as well as the revised *Health indicators* database. The wide variety of topics includes health determinants, health status, health-care utilisation and causes of death (1996 and 1997). Embedded links connect with related multi-dimensional tables for further analysis.

The CD-ROM *Health statistics at a glance* (82F0075XCB, \$100) is now available. For further information, contact Deirdre Gillieson (613-951-1635; fax: 613-951-0792), Health Statistics Division.

Current trends



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 (\$ billion, 1992)	September	755.1	0.2%	4.4%
Composite Index (1981=100)	October	218.3	0.5%	5.1%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q3 1999*	39.8	7.6%	30.5%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q3 1999*	86.0	1.8†	3.6†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	September	22.2	0.4%	6.9%
Department store sales (\$ billions)	September	1.59	0.9%	12.0%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	September	134.8	2.0%	5.4%
Wholesale trade (\$ billion)	September	30.2	-1.0%	9.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	November*	14.88	0.4%	2.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	November*	6.9	-0.3†	-1.1†
Participation rate (%)	November*	65.5	0.0†	0.0†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	September	613.92	0.3%	1.5%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	November	162	0.0%	11.0%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	September	30.3	-3.2%	9.5%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	September	27.8	0.4%	7.5%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	September	2.5	-1.1	0.7
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	September	42.4	0.8%	12.1%
New orders (\$ billion)	September	43.4	1.0%	12.5%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	September	53.7	1.9%	7.6%
Inventory/shipments ratio	September	1.27	0.00	-0.09
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	October	111.5	0.1%	2.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	September	123.1	0.5%	3.1%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	September	125.5	3.5%	16.1%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	September	101.3	0.2%	1.2%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

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A weekly review

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