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Infomat

A Weekly Review

Thursday, December 24, 1998

OVERVIEW

- **Exports rebound and imports rise again**

  Exports rebounded in October, while imports maintained their upward trend. On both counts, the trade in automotive products—especially with the United States—and in machinery and equipment played significants roles.

- **Auto sector drives shipments higher**

  The auto sector drove manufacturers' shipments higher in October.

- **Annual inflation rate up slightly**

  The annual inflation rate rose from 1.0% in October to 1.2% in November.

- **Leading indicator maintains marginal growth**

  The leading indicator grew 0.2% in November, maintaining the marginal growth it has shown since June.

- **Department store sales decline**

  Department store sales were slightly lower in November than they were in October.

- **Number of EI beneficiaries falls**

  The number of persons receiving regular employment insurance benefits fell between September and October.

Exports rebound and imports rise again

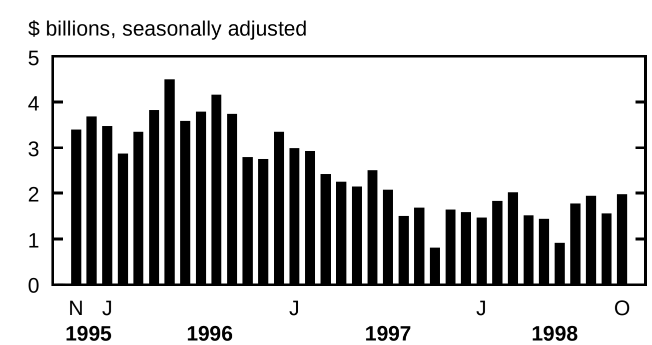
Exports rebounded 4.2% in October from the slight decline in September. The gain was mainly due to a sharp rise in automotive product exports, as well as to a jump in exports of machinery, equipment and forestry products. Exports to the United States made a strong recovery thanks to auto products. Higher exports of electronics and computers lifted exports to non-OECD countries by $230 million. Exports to Japan continued their downward trend.

Meanwhile, imports maintained their uptrend, rising 2.9% in October. Although imports grew in all sectors except energy, October's increase was fuelled by imports of automotive products, industrial goods, machinery and equipment. The merchandise trade surplus rose from a revised $1.53 billion in September to $1.95 billion in October.

Automotive exports jumped 9.6% in October, surpassing the $7 billion mark. All the automotive categories posted strong gains, but the best was car exports (+12.9%)—mostly to the United States. Largely, this reflected an end to the rail transportation backlog that had been slowing exports of finished cars.

Machinery and equipment exports revived after a two-month decline. Larger-than-normal exports of television and telecommunications equipment to South America, electrical hardware to France, and aircraft to the United States contributed to the growth. Computer exports continued their downward trend.

Merchandise trade balance



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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada
Canada

... Exports rebound and imports rise again

Exports of forestry products gained ground, as newsprint exports to South America and to the United States rose significantly—both in volume and in price. Lumber exports to the United States rose as prices fell slightly. Exports of forestry products to Japan continued to fall. Grain exports remained strong. Wheat exports rose sharply—particularly to South America and Asia—as higher volumes offset lower prices. Nevertheless, wheat exports were 32% lower than in October 1997.

Exports of energy products dropped 1.3%, mainly because of lower natural gas exports to the United States (-5.5% thanks to the mild weather). The decline was moderated by an increase in the value of crude oil exports to the United States, which are being used to replenish inventories there.

On the imports side, automotive imports grew for a third straight month (+9.3%). Imports of parts and motor vehicles were at their highest levels since May, as automakers started producing their 1999 models. Truck imports fell slightly following a strong gain in September. Industrial goods imports continued to rise. Metals and alloys recorded the greatest increase, with most of the growth coming from natural gas pipeline parts, gold and steel bars. Imports of metal products for cars also surged.

Overall, machinery and equipment imports showed some weakness. Higher imports of electrical equipment, lamps and other industrial machines were almost completely offset by lower imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and computers. Imports of aircraft and aircraft parts dropped sharply, mainly because contract deliveries of new aircraft are complete for 1998. Office equipment imports fell again, despite a significant increase in prices.

Within the energy sector, coal and petroleum product imports dropped, as did imports of crude oil. Some of this was price-driven, as crude oil prices fell but trading volumes remained almost unchanged.

Note to readers

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

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718-3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.

*The October 1998 issue of **Canadian international merchandise trade** (paper: 65-001-XPB, $19/$188; Internet: 65-001-XIB, $14/$141) will be released shortly. The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, services transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in **Canada's balance of international payments** (67-001-XPB, $38/$124). For further information, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647 or 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. See also "Current trends" on page 7.*

Auto sector drives shipments higher

Manufacturers' shipments rose 2.1% in October to $38.3 billion. The increase, which followed a four-month period of volatility, was concentrated in the auto sector, where shipments climbed 10.0% over September. Excluding that sector, shipments rose 0.2% in October. The largest offsetting decreases in shipments were in the food (-1.5%) and machinery (-4.4%) industries. Manufacturers' shipments now stand 3.9% above the October 1997 level. Unfilled orders increased strongly in October, whereas inventories rose slightly.

In the auto sector, the main contributors to October's growth in shipments were the motor vehicle (+12.7%) and the motor vehicle parts and accessories (+4.7%) industries. Shipments in the auto sector have grown strongly in recent months: New assembly lines were added, new models were launched, and the General Motors strike was resolved. The next largest contributor to October's growth was the electrical and electronic products industry (+3.1%). Telecommunications equipment led the way. Shipments from the wood industry (+2.9%) rose for a fourth consecutive month, supported by increases in construction in both the United States and Canada.

October's rise in shipments mirrored opinions expressed in the October Business Conditions Survey. In that survey, manufacturers, especially in the transportation equipment industry, reported they were planning to augment production during the last

(continued on page 3)

Note to readers

Unfilled orders are often considered a key determinant of future shipments, assuming orders are not cancelled. However, roughly half the increase in unfilled orders since the start of 1997 has been in the aircraft and parts industry, where some orders stretch out for years before they are filled.

New orders are orders received, whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Interpreting new orders as leading to future demand is inappropriate because new orders include orders already shipped. The month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile, particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders was large in relation to the current month's change. Not all orders translate into Canadian factory shipments because some large orders may have a component that is subcontracted out to other countries.

Manufacturers' shipments, October 1998
Seasonally adjusted

	$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	**38,278**	**2.1**
Newfoundland	148	12.7
Prince Edward Island	95	9.9
Nova Scotia	566	6.2
New Brunswick	681	0.6
Quebec	8,980	1.4
Ontario	20,907	3.1
Manitoba	871	-3.6
Saskatchewan	475	-4.7
Alberta	2,627	-0.6
British Columbia	2,925	2.0
Yukon and Northwest Territories	3	-0.5

... Auto sector drives shipments higher

quarter of 1998. In October, shipments increased in 13 of 22 major industry groups (representing 68.3% of the total value shipped) and in 7 of the 12 provinces and territories.

And manufacturers' backlog of unfilled orders jumped a strong 2.6% to $49.1 billion in the month. Including October, unfilled orders have increased strongly for five months. The largest increases compared with September were in aircraft and parts (+8.5%) and in motor vehicles (+5.8%). These gains were offset by lower unfilled orders in fabricated metal products (-2.0%) and in electrical and electronic products (-1.1%). Unfilled orders now stand 18.5% above their October 1997 level, however.

Inventories rose a slight 0.1% in October to $50.3 billion. The major contributors were aircraft and parts (+2.3%), motor vehicles (+3.3%) and railroad rolling stock (+5.4%). The largest offsetting decreases were in the wood (-1.7%) and electrical and electronic products (-1.7%) industries. The inventory-to-shipments ratio fell three basis points (-0.03) from September to stand at 1.31 in October. Lately, the ratio has settled down after it briefly soared to a peak of 1.42 in July 1998. Taking October into account, the trend of the ratio has started to turn down, but it remains four basis points above its level throughout most of 1997.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9555, 9558, 9559, 9562-9565, 9568-9579 and 9581-9595.

*The October 1998 issue of **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing** (31-001-XPB, $20/$196) is now available. Detailed data on shipments by province are available on request. For further information, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092; kuncrai@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. See also "Current trends" on page 7.*

Annual inflation rate up slightly

This November, consumers paid 1.2% more than they did last November for the goods and services within the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. So far this year, the annual increases had ranged from 0.7% (September) to 1.1% (January and May).

The major contributors to the slightly higher annual inflation rate in November were price increases for cable services, new vehicles, university tuition, property taxes, travel tours, cigarettes and rent. Partly counterbalancing those increases were lower prices for gasoline, computers and telephone services. As for cablevision, consumers paid 17.5% more for these services than they did last November because several cable operators that were offering free trial periods for new channels ended these special offers and increased their rates for basic and specialty packages of cable services. Charges for cable services rose by only 2.9% in New Brunswick.

From October to November, the CPI remained unchanged. Upward pressure came from rising prices for food purchased from stores and from prices for new vehicles. But this was offset by downward pressure from lower costs for traveller accommodation, clothing, footwear and gasoline.

Average prices for food from stores went up 1.6% from October to November. Consumers paid on average 10.2% more for fresh vegetables, mostly due to seasonally higher prices for tomatoes (+24.0%) and lettuce (+10.6%). Fresh fruit prices jumped 2.6%, mainly from higher prices for bananas (+9.9%) and other fresh fruit (+3.9%). The price increases for bananas and some other fresh fruit resulted from supply shortages caused by Hurricane Mitch. An average price increase of 11.9% for turkeys, due to returns to regular prices after Thanksgiving Day specials, also contributed to the overall increase in food prices.

Consumers buying new vehicles in November paid 2.5% more on average than buyers did in October. List prices for the 1999 models were close to the equivalent 1998 models, so the higher cost to consumers was because dealers had reduced or ended rebate offers.

Offsetting the increases, prices for traveller accommodation fell 14.3% from October to November, as many hotel and motel operators introduced winter rates. This seasonal price decrease continued the trend observed in the last four years. As well, prices for clothing and footwear fell 1.5% from October, with decreases in most categories. Prices fell for all types of women's clothing, but the decreases for coats and jackets (-6.1%), and dresses (-6.3%) were the main contributors to the overall decline. The unusually mild fall weather was a key factor encouraging retailers to mark down prices to move winter inventory. As for gasoline, prices fell 1.0% in November after increasing 2.2% in October. The reduction at the pump reflected a 2.6% drop in the world price of crude oil in October.

Consumer Price Index, November 1998
% change from previous year, not seasonally adjusted

	All-items	Food	Shelter	Transpor-tation	Energy
Canada	**1.2**	**1.6**	**1.0**	**-0.4**	**-3.5**
Newfoundland	0.3	1.7	-2.5	-0.6	-7.3
Prince Edward Island	-0.4	-0.7	-1.5	-2.6	-10.1
Nova Scotia	0.6	1.1	-1.2	-0.7	-5.9
New Brunswick	0.5	2.0	-0.5	-0.5	-3.6
Quebec	1.5	2.7	1.3	-0.2	-3.0
Ontario	1.2	1.7	1.6	-0.2	-2.5
Manitoba	1.7	-0.5	2.9	0.9	2.2
Saskatchewan	2.0	-0.3	3.2	1.7	2.0
Alberta	1.4	1.2	1.5	0.2	-5.0
British Columbia	0.2	0.6	-1.5	-1.8	-8.3
Whitehorse	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	1.5	-2.1
Yellowknife	0.7	2.0	-0.8	1.1	-2.9

Among the provinces, consumers in Prince Edward Island saw prices fall an average of 0.4% compared with November 1997. In all the other provinces, consumers faced price increases ranging from 0.2% in British Columbia to 2.0% in Saskatchewan. Between October and November, the highest increase in the CPI was in Saskatchewan (+0.4%); the largest decrease was in British Columbia (-0.2%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9956.

*The November 1998 issue of **The Consumer Price Index** (62-001-XPB, $11/$103) is now available. For further information, contact the information officer (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. See also "Current trends" on page 7.*

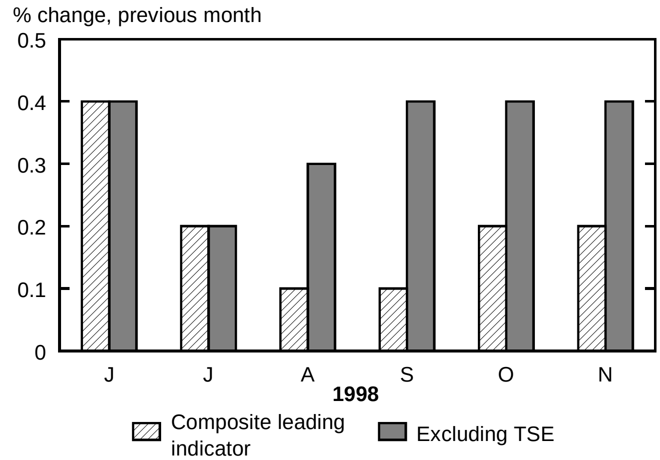
Leading indicator maintains marginal growth

The leading indicator grew 0.2% in November, maintaining the marginal growth it has shown since June. However, excluding the negative impact of the stock market, the composite index's other components have risen at a steady clip (except for July and August) of 0.4% since June. Manufacturing and business services were important sources of that growth.

New orders accelerated to a 1.4% gain in November's index, as export demand picked up, especially for autos. The average workweek increased for a second straight month, partly as labour disputes subsided. The ratio of shipments to inventories of finished goods fell for a fifth straight month, as firms rebuilt inventories depleted during strikes.

Household demand remained choppy. Demand for personal services hit its highest level of the year, underpinning the gain in services employment. Spending on durable goods also continued to advance as labour market conditions improved. Conversely, the housing market component shrank 0.3%, which in turn dampened furniture and appliance sales. The financial markets continued to recover from their swoon in late summer. Still, the stock market remained about 20% below the peak it reached earlier this year. And the U.S. leading index levelled off, due to shaky consumer confidence.

Composite Index



Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For further information, the December 1998 issue of ***Canadian economic observer*** *(11-010-XPB, $23/$227) is now available. For further information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. See also "Current trends" on page 7.*

Department store sales decline

Department store sales declined from October to November by 0.6%, down from $1,425.8 million to $1,417.5 million. (Unless otherwise stated, all data are seasonally adjusted.) Although department store sales have been relatively volatile from one month to the next, overall sales have been generally flat since the spring of 1998. Department store sales were 3.6% higher this November than they were last November. Year-to-date sales to the end of November 1998 totalled $15.6 billion, 6.8% more than in the same period a year earlier.

Unadjusted for seasonal factors, department store sales in most provinces rose in November 1998 when compared with November 1997. Stores in Alberta, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan experienced the largest year-over-year sales increases, whereas stores in British Columbia (including the Yukon and the Northwest Territories) and in New Brunswick recorded declines.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

Accounts receivable data for department stores are also now available. To purchase data, or for general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; 1 877 421-3067, logener@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Jeff Fritzsche (613-951-2812; fritjef@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Department store sales including concessions
Not seasonally adjusted

	November 1998	November 1997 to November 1998	January-November 1998	January-November 1997 to January-November 1998
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
Canada	**1,804.0**	**0.8**	**14,229.3**	**6.2**
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island[1]	38.2	1.9	264.5	6.1
Nova Scotia	65.0	2.7	442.0	5.5
New Brunswick	47.7	-0.9	330.4	4.6
Quebec	307.2	0.1	2,614.7	5.9
Ontario	781.0	0.8	6,016.7	7.2
Manitoba	76.2	1.8	595.5	6.8
Saskatchewan	58.5	2.2	472.5	8.5
Alberta	211.5	5.0	1,669.4	10.1
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories[1]	218.8	-3.2	1,823.6	0.0

[1] *For reasons of confidentiality, the data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are combined, as are the data for British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.*

Number of EI beneficiaries falls

An estimated 551,450 Canadians received regular employment insurance benefits in October, a 2.3% drop from September. The number of beneficiaries decreased in Ontario, Newfoundland, Quebec and British Columbia. All the other provinces and both territories registered increases. Compared with September, the amount paid out as regular benefits increased 4.0% to $674.2 million in October.

Statistics on jobless claims (applications for EI benefits) are not available for October because administrative changes to claimant reporting procedures are occurring at the provincial level.

The discrepancy between the estimated number of regular beneficiaries and the data on regular payments can be explained in part by differences in their reference periods. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received employment insurance benefits for the week containing the 15th day of the month. Regular benefit payments is the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

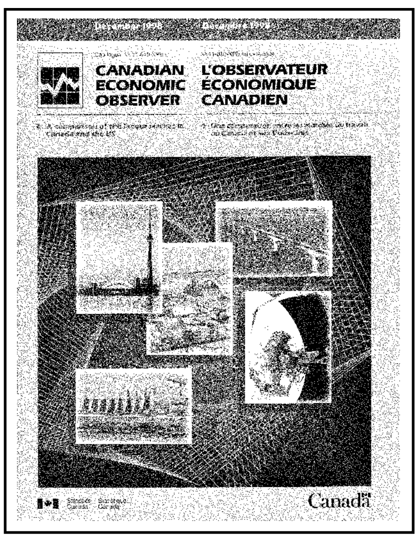
EI beneficiaries receiving regular benefits, October 1998
Seasonally adjusted

	Beneficiaries	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	**551,450**	**-2.3**	**-5.8**
Newfoundland	34,330	-2.3	6.3
Prince Edward Island	9,030	1.3	-0.1
Nova Scotia	31,170	1.0	2.7
New Brunswick	36,570	0.2	-0.9
Quebec	189,910	-1.6	-8.2
Ontario	119,720	-3.1	-16.9
Manitoba	14,050	2.2	1.7
Saskatchewan	12,720	9.4	17.1
Alberta	35,360	4.1	19.9
British Columbia	69,500	-0.5	1.3
Yukon	1,380	1.0	9.6
Northwest Territories	1,270	1.0	14.4

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5702-5717 and 5735-5736.

For further information, contact Justin Lacroix (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Division.

New from Statistics Canada



Canadian economic observer
December 1998

The December issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses the current economic conditions, summarises the major economic events that occurred in November and presents a feature article that compares the labour market in Canada with that in the United States.

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

The December 1998 issue of ***Canadian economic observer*** *(11-010-XPB, $23/$227) is now available. For further information, contact Cyndi Bloskie (613-951-3634; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.*

New from Statistics Canada

Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM
Fourth quarter 1998

Statistics Canada's directory of who owns and controls what is available in CD-ROM format, which makes searching this comprehensive reference source a snap.

The fourth quarter 1998 edition of ***Inter-corporate ownership on CD-ROM*** *(61-517-XCB, annual subscription with quarterly updates: $995; single copy without updates: $350) is now available. The* ***Inter-corporate ownership, 1998 directory*** *is also now available in hard copy (61-517-XPB, $350). For further information, contact Gail Sharland (613-951-9843) or Steve Dufour (613-951-2651), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.*

Industrial monitor on CD-ROM
December 1998

Industrial monitor on CD-ROM offers up-to-date data on more than 150 manufacturing industries and 33 other industries covering construction, wholesale trade and retail trade. This information is offered for 25 sectors, and can be purchased by individual sector or as a complete package. For each industry, up to 50 variables are organized in the Table Viewer according to five table types: supply, demand, price, labour/employment, and investment/capital stock. The underlying database is also accessible via the Series Browser for more extensive time-series analysis and inter-industry comparisons.

Industrial monitor on CD-ROM is linked to the Standard Industrial Classification manual, provides pop-up textual descriptions for every series, and uses consistent data conventions—all features designed to make analysis easy and accurate. State-of-the-art functions offer quick and easy searching, charting, viewing, exporting and transforming capabilities.

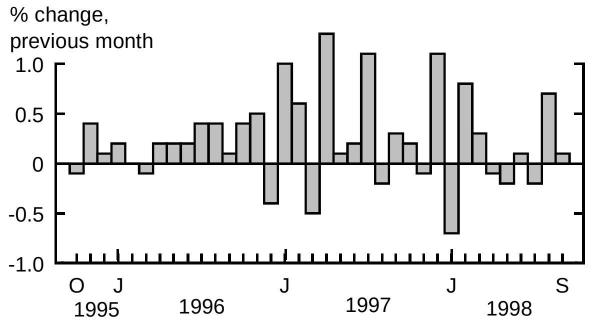
The December 1998 issue of ***Industrial Monitor on CD-ROM*** *is now available. An annual subscription (one CD-ROM per month) to the full package (15F0015XCB) costs $995, a savings of more than 80% off the annual subscription price of $258 per individual sector. For further information, or to request a free demo CD-ROM, contact Kim Lauzon (613-951-9417; fax: 613-951-3688; lauzonk@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division, or contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.*

Season's Greetings!

Infomat will not be published on January 1, 1999. Publication will resume on January 8, 1999.

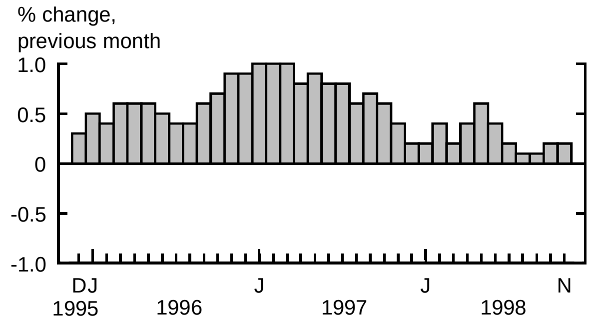
Current trends

Gross domestic product



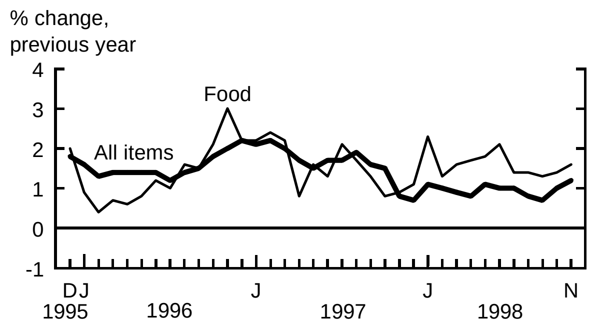
Economic activity edged up 0.1% in September. This followed August's 0.7% recovery.

Composite Index



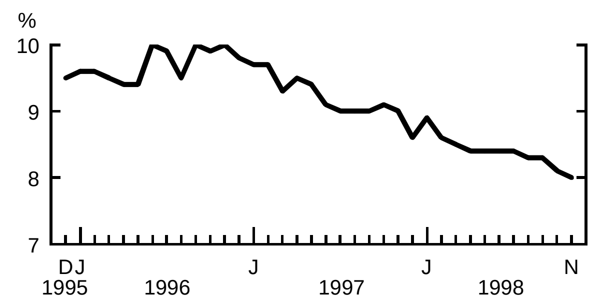
In November, the leading indicator grew 0.2%, maintaining the marginal growth it has shown since June.

Consumer Price Index



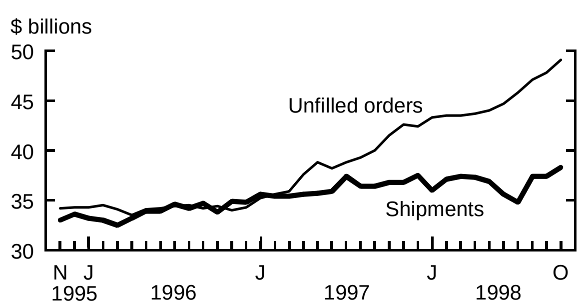
Consumers paid 1.2% more for goods and services in November 1998 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.6%.

Unemployment rate



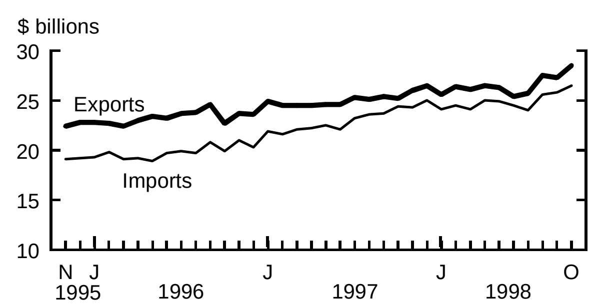
In November, the unemployment rate notched down 0.1 percentage points to 8.0%.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments rose 2.1% in October to $38.3 billion. The level of unfilled orders jumped 2.6% to $49.1 billion.

Merchandise trade



In October, the value of merchandise exports jumped 4.2% from September to $28.5 billion. Imports advanced 2.9% to $26.5 billion.

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

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product ($ billion, 1992)	October*	720.5	0.2%	2.0%
Composite Index (1981=100)	November*	208.6	0.2%	3.5%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q3 1998	25.6	3.7%	– 9.1%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q3 1998	83.5	– 0.6†	– 1.2†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	October*	20.6	– 1.7%	2.5%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	October	111.9	– 10.9%	– 7.2%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	November	14.54	0.7%	3.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	November	8.0	– 0.1†	– 1.0†
Participation rate (%)	November	65.6	0.4†	0.7†
Labour income ($ billion)	September	38.9	0.1%	3.0%
Average weekly earnings ($)	October*	608.44	0.6%	2.0%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	October*	28.5	4.2%	13.0%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	October*	26.5	2.9%	8.6%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	October*	2.0	0.5	1.2
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	October	38.3	2.1%	3.9%
New orders ($ billion)	October	39.5	4.1%	3.1%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	October	49.1	2.6%	18.5%
Inventory/shipments ratio	October	1.31	– 0.03	0.02
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	November*	109.0	0.0%	1.2%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	October	120.2	0.7%	0.7%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	October	107.9	– 0.3%	– 14.0%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	October	100.2	0.1%	1.0%

Note: *All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.*
* *new this week*
† *percentage point*

Infomat

A weekly review

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Publications released from December 17 to 23, 1998

Division/Title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription Canada (C$)	Outside Canada (US$)
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS				
Crime and police resources in Canadian municipalities	1997			
Paper		85-223-XPE	32	32
Internet		85-223-XIE	24	24
Juristat Vol. 18, no. 14: Adult criminal court statistics	1997/98			
Internet		85-002-XIE	8	8
Paper		85-002-XPE	10/93	10/93
CENSUS				
Education in Canada: Recent trends in Canada and future challenges	1991 Census	96-321-MPE	34.95	34.95
CULTURE, TOURISM AND THE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS				
Touriscope Vol. 14, no. 10: International travel, advance information	October 1998	66-001-PPB	8/73	8/73
CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS				
Canadian economic observer	December 1998	11-010-XPB	23/227	23/227
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES				
Wholesale trade	October 1998	63-008-XIB	14/140	14/140
HOUSEHOLD SURVEY METHODS				
Methodology of the Canadian labour force survey	1998	71-526-XPB	50	50
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Imports by commodity	October 1998			
Paper		65-007-XPB	78/773	78/773
Microfiche		65-007-XMB	37/361	37/361
LABOUR				
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 **Happy New Year!**
4	5	6 **Industrial product price index**, November 1998 **Raw materials price index**, November 1998	7 **Help-wanted index**, December 1998	8 **Labour force survey**, December 1998
11	12 **Building permits**, November 1998 **New housing price index**, November 1998	13	14	15 **New motor vehicle sales**, November 1998 **Spending on entertainment services**, 1986-1996
18	19 **Travel between Canada and other countries**, November 1998 **Monthly survey of manufacturing**, November 1998	20 **Consumer price index**, December 1998 **Wholesale trade**, November 1998	21 **Canadian international merchandise trade**, November 1998 **Composite index**, December 1998	22 **Retail trade**, November 1998
25 **Canada's international transactions in securities,** November 1998	26 **Employment insurance**, November 1998	27 **Labour force update**, 1998	28 **Industrial product price index,** December 1998 **Raw materials price index**, December 1998 **Employment, earnings and hours,** November 1998	29 **Real GDP at factor cost by industry**, November 1998

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