



Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, January 12, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ Economic growth resumes

Gross domestic product advanced 0.5% in October, after levelling off at the end of the third quarter. The economy's resilience paralleled renewed employment growth in recent months.

◆ International merchandise trade remains stable

Exports, imports and the trade balance were virtually unchanged in October. Substantial increases in motor vehicle trade almost offset declines in energy products exports and industrial goods imports.

◆ Lower sales by motor vehicle dealers cause retail trade to decline

Retail sales declined 0.9% in October, after increasing in September and holding steady in August. Lower sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers led to declines in all provinces.

◆ Wholesale sales up in nearly all provinces

Wholesale sales rose 1.2% in October; all provinces except New Brunswick reported higher sales. This month's increase was broadly based, with 7 of the 11 trade groups reporting an upswing in sales.

◆ Average weekly earnings down slightly

In October, average weekly earnings for all employees declined very slightly to \$629.83, down 0.1% from September. Since October 1999, average weekly earnings increased by 2.6%.

◆ Canadian and foreign investors buy securities

Canadians continued to amass foreign securities in October. At the same time, foreign investment in Canadian stocks was substantial, but entirely related to foreign investment in new Canadian shares issued in payment for the acquisition of foreign companies.

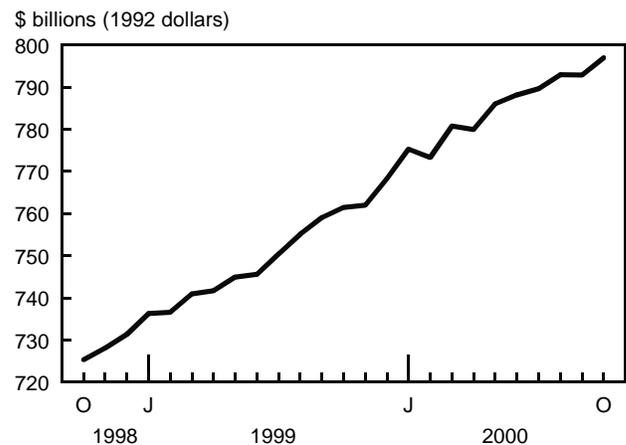
Economic growth resumes

Gross domestic product advanced 0.5% in October, after levelling off at the end of the third quarter. The economy's resilience paralleled renewed employment growth in recent months. If the economy were flat for the remainder of the year, economic growth in 2000 would show a 4.6% annual gain.

Production in the manufacturing sector, which registered a broad-based gain, rose 1.3% in October. Manufacturing output was led by the electrical and electronic equipment industry but was also buoyed by increased production of wood, plastic and primary metal products. The automotive industry, traditionally the engine of growth in manufacturing, saw only a modest gain. These increases were partly offset by declines in the rubber and beverage industries.

Industries providing telecommunications products and services returned to their leading role in the expansion of the economy after an uncharacteristic decline in September. Output of electrical and electronic products rose 3.2% in October, the ninth increase in 10 months. Output of telecommunications equipment rose the most, but significant gains were also reported by makers of other

Gross domestic product at factor cost



(continued on page 2)



... Economic growth resumes

electronic products, the latter being related to new product launches. The electrical and electronic products industry accounted for 75% of the manufacturing sector's growth so far in 2000.

The wood products sector regained some of the ground lost since March; production rose 3.0% in October. An upswing in home-building in Canada and recent stability in U.S. housing starts provided a much-needed respite to Canadian wood product manufacturers. Pulp and paper mills posted yet another month of record production, on the strength of back-to-back increases in pulp production.

The economy was also bolstered by increases in wholesaling and business services. Wholesalers more than made up for two lacklustre months, posting a 1.4% increase in activity in October. Business services advanced 1.3%. Almost half of the growth originated in firms providing architectural, engineering and scientific services. However, for the first time in seven months, computer service providers did not figure prominently in overall business services growth.

The sharp decrease in motor vehicle sales caused overall retail sales to decline 0.5%. Sharply lower traffic at auto dealer showrooms more than offset higher sales at department and grocery stores.

Note to readers

The gross domestic product of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other producers into outputs. Monthly gross domestic product by industry is valued at 1992 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

Mining sector output rose 0.9% in October, buoyed by a sharp increase in drilling and rigging activity. A return to more normal temperatures caused the number of rigs drilling in Western Canada to rise sharply. In contrast, logging activity fell for a third consecutive month in October, bringing the industry back to production levels registered earlier in the year.

Output in the construction industry fell 0.2% in October, capping recent growth in the industry. The easing reflected continued weakness in non-residential construction and a modest reversal in residential building activity.

*The October 2000 issue of **Gross domestic product by industry** (Internet: 15-001-XIE, \$11/\$110; print-on-demand, \$58) has now been released. To purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 877-4623; imad@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. See also "Current trends" on page 7.*

International merchandise trade remains stable

Total exports and imports were virtually unchanged in October from September. As a result, the trade balance remained stable at \$4.6 billion.

Canada exported \$35.1 billion worth of goods in October, up 0.1% from September. Increased exports of passenger cars were offset by lower exports of energy products.

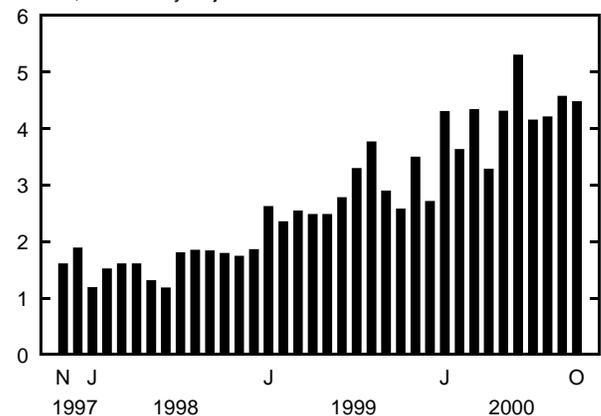
Exports of motor vehicle products rose 4.6%, propelled by increases of 8.8% in exports of passenger cars and chassis and 0.1% in exports of parts. Truck exports edged down 0.3%. Exports in the machinery and equipment sector rose 1.8%, owing to an increase in exports of other equipment and tools, such as measuring and optical instruments as well as furniture, which reached a record \$2.0 billion. Exports of telecommunications equipment and office machinery also contributed to the sector's advance.

Energy exports were down 9.7% in October. The decline affects natural gas exports (-8.4%) as well as exports of refined petroleum products and coal (-17.5%) and crude petroleum (-1.5%). The arrival of more temperate weather conditions brought electricity exports down to a more usual level of \$230 million after four months of exceptionally high exports to California.

Forestry exports were down 0.5% in October. Lumber exports, which had moved back up in September, were off 2.8%. Wood pulp exports also declined (-4.5%). In contrast, paper exports advanced 2.4%.

Merchandise trade balance

\$ billions, seasonally adjusted



Like exports, imports were virtually unchanged at \$30.5 billion in October. An increase in imports of motor vehicle products was partly offset by a decline in imports of industrial goods and materials.

Imports of industrial goods and materials declined 2.0%, led by a drop in imports of metal fabricated basic products (such as metal automotive parts and plumbing items) as well as imports of steel bars, rods and plates and of concentrated metals, especially copper.

(continued on page 3)

... International merchandise trade remains stable

Imports in the machinery and equipment sector were down 0.9%, owing to a drop in imports of airplanes and airplane engines and parts, as well as ships and other transportation equipment. In contrast, the upward movement of imports of communication equipment such as wireless telephone equipment, printed circuits and parts, which started at the beginning of 2000, continued in October, rising 2.6% to a record \$2.5 billion. Imports of computers and parts also rose (+2.1%).

Imports of motor vehicle products rose 2.3% in October. Truck imports led the way with an increase of 22.0%. In the consumer goods sector, imports of miscellaneous end products

such as pharmaceuticals reached a record \$1.2 billion. With the approach of the holiday season, imports of watches, toys, video games and sports items advanced 6.7%. As well, imports of photographic products such as film, cameras and videodisks registered a fifth straight monthly increase.

Canadian international merchandise trade (Internet: 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; paper: 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) includes tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data are available quarterly in **Canada's balance of international payments** (Internet: 67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93; paper: 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). For more information, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1 800 294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. See also "Current trends" on page 7.

Lower sales by motor vehicle dealers cause retail trade to decline

Retail sales declined 0.9% in October to \$23.3 billion, leaving sales slightly below their July level. The October decline followed a 0.4% gain in September and unchanged sales in August. The strong sales gains in the May-to-July period were followed by weaker sales in recent months.

Retailers in the automotive sector posted a 3.3% sales decrease in October, after five consecutive monthly gains. This decline, the largest in a year, resulted from a 5.8% drop in sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers. Excluding these dealers' sales, total retail sales advanced 0.9% in October. Motor and recreational vehicle dealers, the largest component of the auto sector, achieved strong sales in the spring and summer of 2000 by making extensive

use of attractive financing and large cash rebates. However, reduced incentives at both the start of and in the early fall of 2000 resulted in weaker sales gains in this period.

Like the automotive sector, lower sales were reported in October by clothing stores (-1.4%) and furniture stores (-0.5%). Lower prices for women's clothing accounted for about half of the 1.4% sales decline in the clothing sector. All types of stores in the clothing sector reported lower sales in October. Retailers in this sector have seen strong sales gains since the fall of 1999.

Consumers returned to general merchandise stores in October, increasing their purchases by 3.1%. This gain completely offset the declines of the previous two months, which were partly due to lower sales of big-ticket items. Sales in general merchandise stores have generally been increasing since early in the spring of 2000.

Also, advances were reported by stores classified as other retail (+0.9%) and food stores (+0.6%), after virtually unchanged sales in September. The other retail category includes liquor stores, sporting goods stores, hardware stores and bookstores. Drug stores were the only sector to report significant increases in both September (+1.0%) and October (+0.5%).

Lower sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers in October affected retail trade in all provinces. Sales were down by at least 1.0% in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Alberta and British Columbia. Sales declines in Ontario (-0.9%) and Quebec (-0.2%) essentially offset the increases they reported in September. Ontario's decline came after five consecutive monthly gains. In Quebec, sales have shown little progress since the increases in June and July.

*The October 2000 issue of **Retail trade** (Internet: 63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155; paper: 63-005-XPB, \$21/\$206) is now available. For data or general information, contact Client Services (1 877 421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Paul Gratton (613-651-3541; gratpau@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

Retail sales, October 2000
Seasonally adjusted

| | \$ millions | % change, previous month | % change, previous year |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Canada | 23,293 | -0.9 | 6.3 |
| Newfoundland | 374 | -0.7 | 5.8 |
| Prince Edward Island | 102 | -2.6 | 2.8 |
| Nova Scotia | 703 | -1.6 | 2.1 |
| New Brunswick | 567 | -2.7 | 2.1 |
| Quebec | 5,374 | -0.2 | 6.3 |
| Ontario | 8,995 | -0.9 | 7.2 |
| Manitoba | 783 | -0.7 | 6.1 |
| Saskatchewan | 670 | -1.7 | 6.1 |
| Alberta | 2,668 | -1.3 | 6.8 |
| British Columbia | 2,977 | -1.1 | 5.4 |
| Yukon | 29 | 2.7 | 9.1 |
| Northwest Territories | 34 | 3.1 | 6.5 |
| Nunavut | 16 | 2.6 | 11.6 |

Wholesale sales up in nearly all provinces

Wholesale sales rose 1.2% to \$31.9 billion in October. The increase was broadly based, with 7 of the 11 trade groups reporting an upswing in sales. Despite this month's climb, wholesale sales have weakened in recent months, after having risen since mid-1998.

The sectors reporting the largest increases in October were other products (which includes agricultural chemicals, seeds and seed processing, and industrial and household chemicals) (+4.3%); food products (+3.4%); and apparel and dry goods (+3.3%).

On the other hand, the small rise in October in sales of lumber and building materials (+0.5%) was far from sufficient to reverse this sector's downward sales trend, which dates from late 1999. The increase could be attributed to housing starts being pushed

Wholesale trade, October 2000

Seasonally adjusted

| | \$ millions | % change, previous month | % change, previous year |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Canada | 31,954 | 1.2 | 4.5 |
| Newfoundland | 229 | 0.6 | 9.6 |
| Prince Edward Island | 54 | 0.7 | 7.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 580 | 5.5 | 6.3 |
| New Brunswick | 402 | -1.1 | 3.4 |
| Quebec | 6,492 | 1.2 | 3.7 |
| Ontario | 16,002 | 0.8 | 4.7 |
| Manitoba | 931 | 3.1 | 9.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 930 | 7.6 | 4.9 |
| Alberta | 3,115 | 1.4 | 11.2 |
| British Columbia | 3,194 | 0.0 | -2.8 |
| Yukon | 10 | 5.0 | -1.0 |
| Northwest Territories | 13 | 17.4 | 6.2 |
| Nunavut | 3 | 17.1 | -3.2 |

back until later in the season as a result of strikes and bad weather during the spring and summer months.

Wholesalers' sales rose in October in all provinces except New Brunswick. There was strong monthly sales growth in the Prairies. After two months of declining sales, Saskatchewan's sales rebounded strongly, posting a 7.6% rise. Despite this increase, Saskatchewan's wholesale sales have been declining since the start of 2000. Alberta's wholesalers enjoyed a modest 1.4% increase. In both these provinces, the largest contributor was the other products sector, with agricultural chemicals leading the way. Sales also climbed in Manitoba (+3.1%), led by the apparel and dry goods sector as well as the farm machinery, equipment and supplies sector.

In October, Nova Scotia posted a strong increase in wholesale sales (+5.5%), which regained the strength showed in July and August. In that province, major sales gains were posted by the beverages, drugs and tobacco sector, the apparel and dry goods sector and the motor vehicles, parts and accessories sector.

Following two consecutive months of declining sales, New Brunswick's wholesale sales went down again, dropping 1.1%. The two sectors primarily responsible for the decline were the computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery sector and the industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies sector. In general, wholesale sales in that province weakened in 2000.

The value of inventories was unchanged at \$42.9 billion in October. Inventories have been generally rising over the past several years. The inventory-to-sales ratio fell from 1.36 in September to 1.34 in October. The ratio has levelled off since late 1999.

The October 2000 issue of Wholesale trade (Internet: 63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140; print-on-demand, \$45) is now available. For data or general information, contact Client Services (1 877 421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Juliet Howland (613-951-0062; howljul@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Average weekly earnings down slightly

In October, average weekly earnings for all employees declined very slightly to \$629.83, down 0.1% from September. Since October 1999, average weekly earnings increased by 2.6%.

Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees were \$15.67 in October, down 6 cents from September. Average weekly hours for hourly rated employees were at 31.7, up 0.2 hours from September, owing to an increase in average overtime hours.

Payroll employment increased substantially in October, by 33,700. This is the third straight month of strong employment gains. The largest monthly employment gains were in business services. The largest employment loss was in the construction industry. Most provinces and territories gained employment in October.

The October 2000 issue of Employment, earnings and hours (Internet: 72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240; paper 72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320) presents the month's industry data and other labour market indicators through in detail. For more information, contact Jean Leduc or Robert Frindt (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Average weekly earnings, all industries, October 2000

Seasonally adjusted

| | \$ | % change, previous month | % change, previous year |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| All industries | 629.83 | -0.1 | 2.6 |
| Logging and forestry | 826.57 | 0.9 | 5.3 |
| Mining, quarrying and oil wells | 1,151.51 | -1.2 | 3.6 |
| Manufacturing | 776.37 | -1.4 | 3.0 |
| Construction | 722.84 | 0.0 | 3.2 |
| Transportation and storage | 748.89 | 0.1 | 1.2 |
| Communications and other utilities | 819.17 | -0.1 | 0.4 |
| Wholesale trade | 665.13 | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Retail trade | 372.22 | -0.2 | -0.1 |
| Finance and insurance | 818.12 | -1.3 | 1.7 |
| Real estate and insurance agencies | 658.35 | -0.4 | 2.3 |
| Business services | 747.14 | 1.1 | 6.3 |
| Education-related services | 681.09 | 0.4 | 1.3 |
| Health and social services | 550.16 | 0.4 | 4.4 |
| Accommodation, food and beverage | 247.14 | 1.0 | 4.8 |
| Public administration | 763.12 | 0.0 | 2.2 |
| Miscellaneous services | 427.13 | 0.0 | 3.7 |

Canadian and foreign investors buy securities

Canadians continued to amass foreign securities in October, adding a further \$3.9 billion to their holdings of foreign stocks and bonds. The total accumulation for the first 10 months of 2000 reached \$48.2 billion, the vast majority of it in foreign stocks.

Canadians added \$3.2 billion to their holdings of foreign stocks, bringing the total accumulation to \$41.2 billion for the first 10 months of 2000. In October, 70% of the investment was directed to American and overseas stocks. This was similar to the pattern over the first nine months.

Canadian investors also acquired \$0.7 billion of foreign bonds in October, bringing their accumulated investment since the start of 2000 to \$7.0 billion. This overall build-up of foreign bonds mainly consisted of U.S. treasuries.

At the same time, foreign holdings of Canadian equities rose by \$7.2 billion, solely on the strength of new Canadian shares that were issued in payment for the acquisition of foreign companies. Having accumulated over \$18.0 billion in the secondary market over the first nine months of 2000, foreigners divested \$1.6 billion of their holdings of existing shares in October. The dampening of foreign demand for Canadian equities was reflected in stock prices, which declined by more than 7% for a second month in a row.

After reducing their holdings of Canadian money market paper by \$5.5 billion from May to September, foreign investors acquired \$1.1 billion worth in October. This investment came mainly from American investors and was spread over government and corporate paper.

With the small drop in October, foreign holdings of Canadian bonds declined in 9 of the first 10 months of 2000, for a total reduction of \$15.1 billion. During this period, retirements of foreign-held Canadian bonds were twice as high as new issues sold in foreign markets.

*The October 2000 issue of **Canada's international transactions in securities** (Internet: 67-002-XIB, \$14/\$132; paper: 67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176) will be available soon. For more information, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division.*

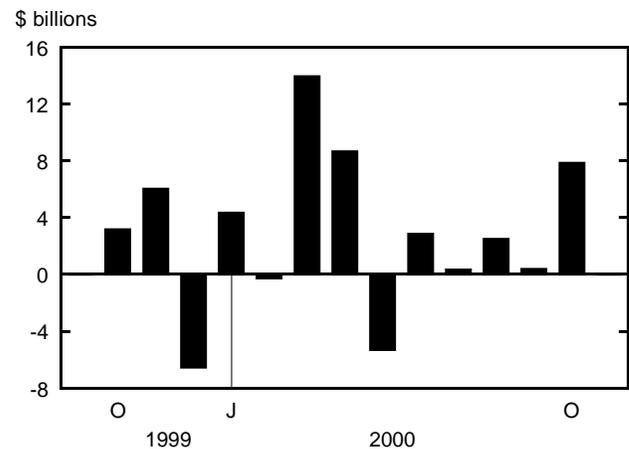
Related market information

The short-term interest rate differential between Canadian and U.S. government paper rose by 10 basis points to 57 basis points in October, continuing to favour investment in the United States. In contrast, the differential for long-term government bonds, which also favoured investment in the United States, shrank to 14 basis points, its lowest level since April 2000.

The TSE 300 Composite Index fell for the second month in a row, declining 7.1% in October and 7.7% in September. Even with this two-month decline, Canadian stock prices have risen 14.6% since the start of the year. The Standard & Poor's 500 index declined a marginal 0.5% in October after declining 5.4% in September. This index has fallen 2.7% overall since the beginning of the year.

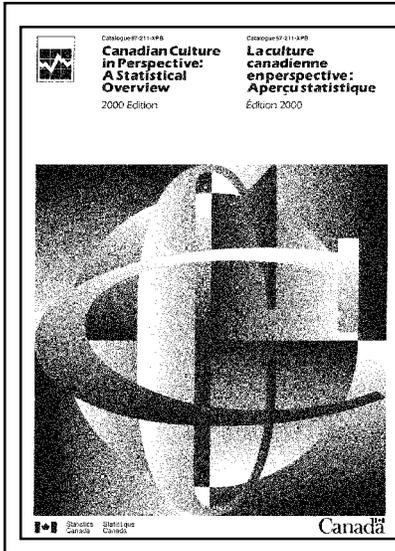
The Canadian dollar fell nearly a cent against the American dollar in October, closing the month at 65.68 U.S. cents. This was the first time it closed below 66 U.S. cents since December 1998, when it was recovering from the historical low in the 64-U.S.-cent range.

Foreign investment in Canadian securities¹



¹ Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

New from Statistics Canada



Canadian culture in perspective: A statistical overview 2000 Edition

The third edition of *Canadian culture in perspective: A statistical overview* provides a comprehensive statistical portrait of the health and vitality of cultural activities and industries in Canada. This compendium enables readers to track various themes and trends over time.

This edition contains sections on the economic impact of the culture sector, culture activities by tourists and the international trade position of the culture sector; on social dimensions of culture; and on various sectors such as heritage, the performing arts and festivals, visual arts and libraries. It also explores ownership and content issues in the culture industries (publishing, film, broadcasting and music).

Canadian culture in perspective: A statistical overview (Internet: 87-211-XIB, \$31/\$23; paper: 87-211-XPB, \$31/\$23) is now available. For more information, contact Mary Cromie (613-951-6864), Culture Statistics Program.

Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises 1998

Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises provides a comprehensive statistical portrait of the financial performance of business enterprises between 1994 and 1998. It analyses 62 industrial groupings on the basis of factors such as total operating revenues, operating profits and return on capital employed. There are also data on corporate income taxes paid to federal, provincial and territorial governments.

The publication *Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises* (61-219-XPB, \$57) will be available soon. For more information, contact Paula Helmer (613-951-9852; fax: 613-951-0318; helmpau@statcan.ca), Industrial Organization and Finance Division.

Health indicators December 2000

Health indicators is Web-based data publication produced by Statistics Canada and the Canadian Institute for Health Information. It provides a set of indicators that measure the health of the Canadian population and the health care system using the latest available data.

The indicators are organized into four categories: health status (including health conditions, mortality rates, measures of well-being); non-medical determinants of health (socio-economic characteristics and health behaviours); health system performance (measures of accessibility, appropriateness, effectiveness of health care services); and community and health system characteristics (contextual information).

The publication *Health indicators* (82-221-XIE, free) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). Selected indicators at the health-region level are also available in the Statistical profile of Canadian communities on the Web site. For more information, contact Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118; jason.gilmore@statcan.ca), Statistics Canada or Phil Taylor (416-481-2002; ptaylor@cihi.ca), Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Literacy in Canada: Disparity between francophones and anglophones 1994

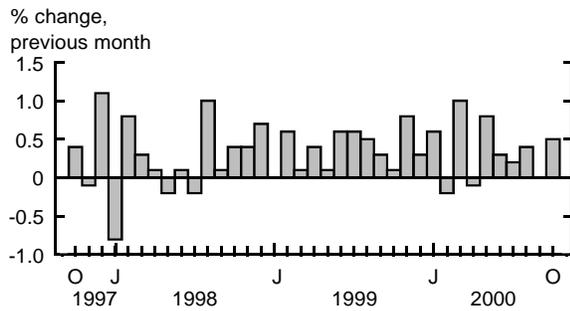
This study analyses the sizable differences in literacy levels between francophones and anglophones in Canada. Indeed, francophones did less well on skill tests than anglophones. This study, based on data from the 1994 International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS, the development and management of which were co-ordinated by Statistics Canada), identifies factors that could explain such disparities between the two linguistic groups.

The study also examines substantial differences in literacy between Quebec francophones, living in a majority situation, and francophones living outside Quebec in a minority situation.

Literacy in Canada: Disparity between francophones and anglophones (89-573-XIE, free) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). On the Products and services page, choose Free publications, then Education. For more information, contact Jean-Pierre Corbeil (613-951-2315; corbjea@statcan.ca), Demography Division.

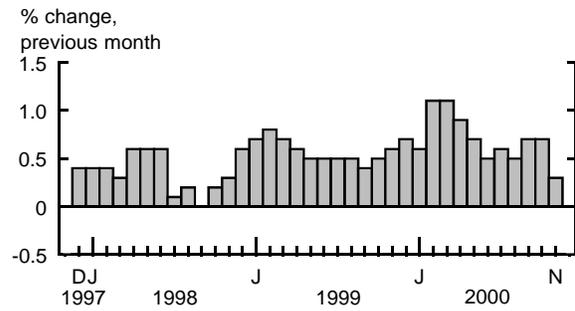
Current trends

Gross domestic product



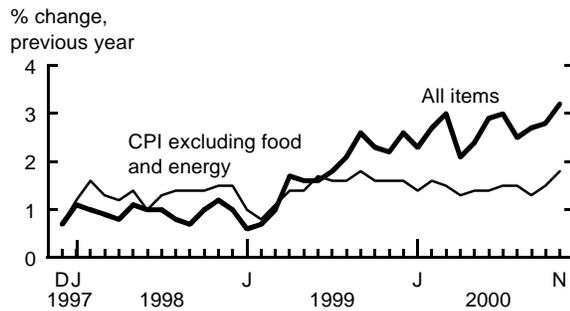
Gross domestic product advanced 0.5% in October, after levelling off at the end of the third quarter.

Composite Index



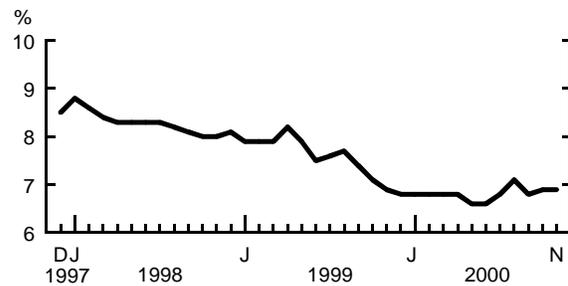
Growth in the leading indicator slowed again in November, rising 0.3%, compared with 0.7% in both September and October.

Consumer Price Index



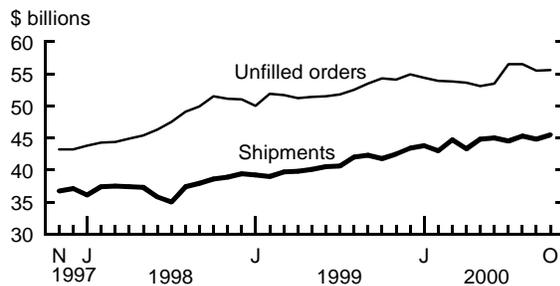
Consumer prices for goods and services were 3.2% higher in November 2000 than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 1.8%.

Unemployment rate



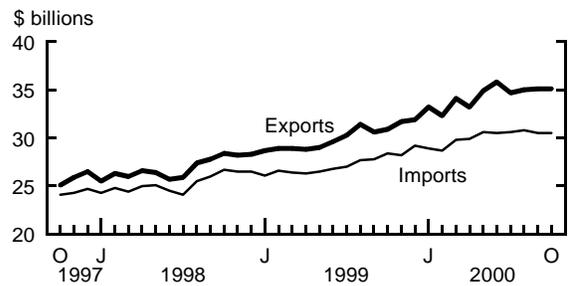
In November, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.9% from October. While employment grew, so too did the labour force by a similar amount.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments increased by 1.7% in October to \$45.5 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders rose 0.2% to \$55.6 billion.

Merchandise trade



In October, the value of merchandise exports increased a marginal 0.1% from September to \$35.1 billion. Imports were also virtually unchanged \$30.5 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* | 797.0 | 0.5% | 4.6% |
| Composite Index (1992=100) | November | 168.0 | 0.3% | 8.7% |
| Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion) | Q3 2000 | 52.6 | 0.1% | 15.7% |
| Capacity utilization (%) | Q3 2000 | 86.9 | -0.1† | 1.5† |
| DOMESTIC DEMAND | | | | |
| Retail trade (\$ billion) | October | 23.3 | -0.9% | 6.3% |
| Department store sales (\$ billions) | November* | 1.50 | -3.1% | 6.3% |
| New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units) | October | 123.3 | -12.4% | -4.8% |
| Wholesale trade (\$ billion) | October | 32.0 | 1.2% | 4.5% |
| LABOUR | | | | |
| Employment (millions) | December* | 15.07 | 0.2% | 2.2% |
| Unemployment rate (%) | December* | 6.8 | -0.1† | 0.0† |
| Participation rate (%) | December* | 66.2 | 0.1† | 0.6† |
| Average weekly earnings (\$) | October | 629.83 | -0.1% | 2.6% |
| Help-wanted Index (1996=100) | December | 181 | 0.0% | 7.7% |
| INTERNATIONAL TRADE | | | | |
| Merchandise exports (\$ billion) | October | 35.1 | 0.1% | 13.5% |
| Merchandise imports (\$ billion) | October | 30.5 | 0.1% | 7.7% |
| Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion) | October | 4.6 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| MANUFACTURING | | | | |
| Shipments (\$ billion) | October | 45.5 | 1.7% | 8.9% |
| New orders (\$ billion) | October | 45.7 | 4.3% | 7.0% |
| Unfilled orders (\$ billion) | October | 55.6 | 0.2% | 2.4% |
| Inventory/shipments ratio | October | 1.34 | -0.01 | 0.03 |
| PRICES | | | | |
| Consumer Price Index (1992=100) | November | 115.0 | 0.3% | 3.2% |
| Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100) | November* | 130.1 | 0.6% | 5.2% |
| Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100) | November* | 153.8 | 2.1% | 18.9% |
| New Housing Price Index (1992=100) | October | 103.9 | 0.2% | 2.4% |

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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| Cereals and oilseeds review | October 2000 | 22-007-XPB | 15/149 |
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| Estimates of labour income: Tables and analytical document | October 2000 | 13F0016XPB | 20/200 |
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| National tourism indicators | Q3 2000 | 13-009-XIB | no charge |
| National tourism indicators | Q3 2000 | 13-009-XPB | no charge |
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| Nation's crime rate falls for eighth consecutive year, 1999 | August 4 |

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| Reference period: | Issue date: |
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