



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, October 29, 1999

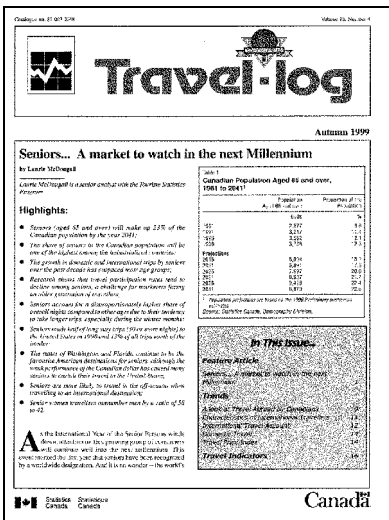
For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

- Gross domestic product by industry at factor cost, August 1999**  
 Economic activity continued to grow at a brisk pace in August with a 0.5% gain. It was the latest of 13 consecutive increases, forming the longest uninterrupted string of monthly advances in over a decade.

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### Travel-log Autumn 1999

The Autumn 1999 issue of *Travel-log*, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter, features the article "Seniors... a market to watch in the next millennium". As the International Year of the Senior Persons winds down, discover, among other things, that the growth in domestic and international trips by seniors over the past decade has outpaced most age groups; that travel participation rates tend to decline among seniors, a challenge for tourism marketers facing an aging population; that family and friends play an increasingly more important role in stimulating travel by seniors in Canada; that seniors account for a disproportionately higher share of overall nights compared with other ages due to their tendency to take longer trips, especially during the winter months; and that women outnumber men among senior travellers.

Each quarter, *Travel-log* examines the trends of the Travel Price Index. It also features the latest travel indicators, travellers' characteristics and the international travel account.

The Autumn 1999 issue of *Travel-log* (87-003-XPB, \$13/\$42; 87-003-XIB, \$10, \$32) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact Monique Beyrouti (613-951-1673; fax: 613-951-2909; [monique.beyrouti@statcan.ca](mailto:monique.beyrouti@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



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## **OTHER RELEASES**

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## **PUBLICATIONS RELEASED**

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## **RELEASE DATES: November 1999**

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11

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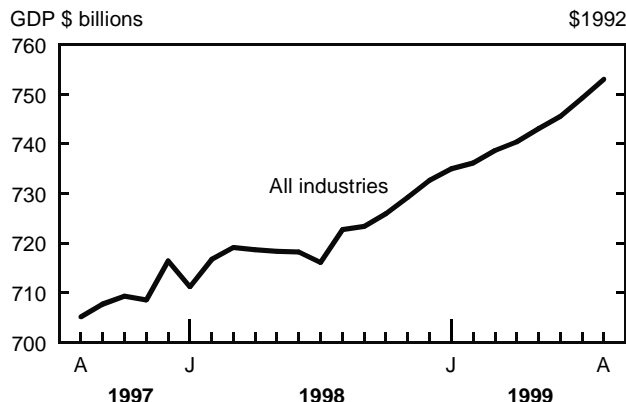
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Gross domestic product by industry at factor cost

August 1999

Economic activity continued to grow at a brisk pace in August with a 0.5% gain. It was the latest of 13 consecutive increases, forming the longest uninterrupted string of monthly advances in over a decade. Strong U.S. demand, improvements in commodity prices and an end to production difficulties such as strikes and shutdowns combined to paint a picture of strength in the middle of the third quarter.

#### Economy maintained strong growth in August



Spurred by higher automotive production, a booming manufacturing sector accounted for more than half of the overall increase in August. Retail sales improved again, in marked contrast to their performance during the first half of the year. A slowdown in computer sales sapped some momentum from wholesalers, constraining them to their smallest gain in seven months.

Computer and consulting services continued to grow, the transportation industries benefited from the general increase in shipments of goods, and health services were buoyed by the return to work of striking Quebec nurses. These increases were partly offset by a sharp decline at electric and gas utilities brought on by a return to more seasonable temperatures, while mining activity also declined for the sixth time this year.

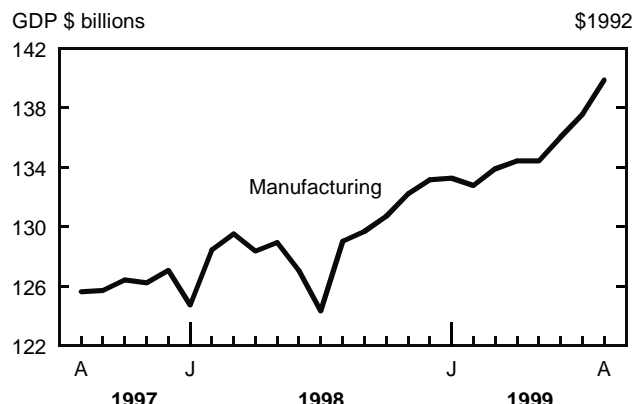
#### Note to readers

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

### Manufacturing propelled by strong U.S. demand and end to most production difficulties

Strong U.S. demand and recovery from several shutdowns propelled the manufacturing sector by 1.7% in August. It was the fifth increase in six months, and the largest so far in 1999. Overall, 14 of 22 major industry groups, accounting for 78% of manufacturing output, expanded production in August.

#### Sharpest manufacturing increase in a year



The biggest gains were in transportation equipment, primary metal products, fabricated metal products and electronic goods. Printers and publishers and makers of plastic products also experienced significant gains. These increases were partly offset by declines in the output of oil refineries, tobacco processors and makers of machinery.

Increased automotive production accounted for almost half of the overall manufacturing gain, as both parts and assembly plants capitalized on newly added capacity and raised output to meet heightened demand from the United States. Indeed, strong sales south of the border continued to drive dealer inventories

there to multi-year lows in August. After a lacklustre second quarter, motor vehicle assembly picked up considerably in both July and August, rising over 17% to record levels in these two months. The industry is now twice the size it was 10 years ago.

Manufacturing of primary metal products rose 3.6% in August, due to renewed activity at several base metal mines. The end of strike and shutdown activity at several base metal mines led to higher output at related smelters, while increased drilling and rigging activity led to higher production in the steel pipe and tube industry.

Production of fabricated metal products rose 2.0% in August. The stamped metal products industry reported the largest increase and makers of hardware and tools ratcheted up production. Output of heating equipment also rose, compensating for a drop in July.

Manufacturing of electrical and electronic products advanced 1.5% in August, spurred by continuing strong international demand for telecommunications equipment, where output jumped 5.8%. Exports of these products have grown at breakneck speed since the beginning of 1999. Manufacturers of computers and peripherals also expanded production significantly in August. However, these increases were partly offset by a drop in miscellaneous electronic equipment production and communications wire and cable production, both partly erasing significant July increases.

Wood production rose 1.9% in August. Sawmills posted their fifth consecutive increase, buoyed by strong homebuilding activity.

The printing and publishing industry, which continued to be depressed by strike activity, nevertheless managed a 1.7% rise in August. It was the single largest monthly increase in a year and came as publishers and the combined printers and publishers group both raised output.

Output in the expanding plastics industry rose 2.7% after edging down 0.3% in July because of short-lived production problems among makers of plastic film and sheeting. In addition, the industry continued to be buoyed by strong demand for new plastic molded products, which lifted the production of "other" plastic products for the 10th time in 11 months.

Oil refineries experienced the largest of three declines this year, as output fell 4.0% in August. Scheduled maintenance shutdowns were mostly responsible for the drop.

Machinery production fell 0.5% in August, as makers of compressors, refrigeration equipment and agricultural machinery all curtailed production. The industry remains at a low ebb, after a precipitous decline in 1998 that was partly brought on by a collapse in the market for farm machinery.

## Another good month for retailers

Retail activity continued to pick up after a sluggish second quarter, rising 0.7% in August after July's 1.1% surge. Gains were widespread in August, with the most significant increases at automotive dealers, department stores and grocery stores. However, sales activity at clothing and liquor stores was down.

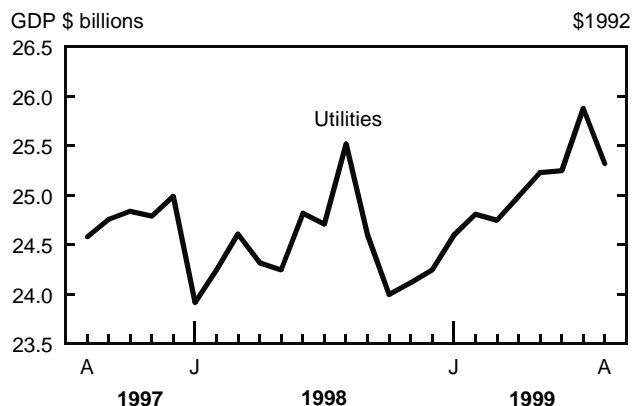
## Wholesalers showed modest gain

Wholesale trade edged up 0.3% in August, the smallest increase in 1999. The weaker-than-usual performance was attributed to a negative month for distributors of computers and software, which contrasts with the hectic pace of growth seen in previous months. On the positive side, wholesalers of automotive products showed the largest increase, while distributors of hardware and food products also had a good month.

## End of hot weather depressed utilities

A return to cooler temperatures in August, after July's blistering heat wave, sharply reduced demand for electricity. Natural gas distribution was also down, partly because gas-fired co-generation plants that produced electricity during July's peak period also curtailed output. The reappearance of more seasonable norms was continent-wide, as output of electricity in the United States also fell significantly.

### End of hot weather cooled utilities



### **Mixed results in mining sector**

Total mining activity inched down 0.3% in August, concealing, however, some significant offsetting movements. Output of crude petroleum and natural gas fell significantly, retracing a gain in July. The latest drop, coming as it did against a backdrop of rising crude petroleum and gas prices, was partly attributable to scheduled maintenance shutdowns at refineries. This decline was partly offset by the continued recovery in drilling and rigging activity, as oil and gas companies continued to expand their exploration activities.

Base metal mines staged a partial comeback in August following the end of strike and shutdown activity. However, slumping demand for fertilizers continued to take its tolls on potash producers, and led to a third consecutive decline in non-metal mine output. Recent efforts by potash producers at chopping supply to shore up prices have left production at its lowest ebb in three years. Overall, the mining sector has been in decline since the beginning of 1998.

### **Other industries**

The health services industry recovered from a strike by Quebec nurses which had depressed output in the

previous two months. Providers of computer consulting services continued to be the force behind an increase in business services activity. Transportation companies, particularly those in rail and trucking, benefited from the increased shipments of goods in August. Construction activity edged up 0.1% in August, as higher activity in homebuilding was partly offset by lower non-residential construction.

### **Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.**

The August 1999 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001-XPB, \$15/\$145) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; [evanric@statcan.ca](mailto:evanric@statcan.ca)). For information regarding the purchase of data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 887-IMAD or [IMAD@statcan.ca](mailto:IMAD@statcan.ca)), Industry Measures and Analysis Division □

## Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, at 1992 prices

	March 1999 <sup>r</sup>	April 1999 <sup>r</sup>	May 1999 <sup>r</sup>	June 1999 <sup>r</sup>	July 1999 <sup>r</sup>	Aug. 1999 <sup>p</sup>	July to Aug. 1999	Aug. 1999 <sup>p</sup>	Aug. 1998 to Aug. 1999
seasonally adjusted									
	month-to-month % change						\$ change <sup>1</sup>	\$ level <sup>1</sup>	% change
<b>All industries</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>752,582</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Goods-producing industries</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>250,334</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Agriculture	0.0	0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-60	12,957	0.6
Fishing and trapping	-6.0	-3.0	10.6	1.1	-5.4	-10.3	-80	696	-7.8
Logging and forestry	-0.1	-0.3	0.7	-0.9	2.0	0.9	40	4,404	4.1
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	-2.0	-1.1	1.3	-1.3	0.1	-0.3	-81	25,734	-5.9
Manufacturing	0.8	0.4	0.0	1.2	1.1	1.7	2,299	139,873	8.4
Construction	0.7	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.2	0.1	50	41,352	4.1
Other utilities	-0.2	1.0	1.0	0.1	2.5	-2.2	-566	25,318	-0.8
<b>Services-producing industries</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1,820</b>	<b>502,248</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Transportation and storage	-0.1	0.2	0.7	0.6	-0.2	0.7	243	35,095	4.7
Communications	0.4	0.3	1.4	0.0	0.9	0.0	3	26,246	11.2
Wholesale trade	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.3	120	46,837	12.7
Retail trade	0.5	-0.8	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.7	308	47,054	4.6
Finance and insurance	1.5	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.5	207	41,644	2.4
Real estate and insurance agent	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	85	79,448	2.3
Business services	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.9	0.2	95	43,770	8.0
Government services	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.2	0.4	183	45,495	1.7
Education	-0.5	0.7	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	58	40,464	0.7
Health and social services	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-0.6	-0.2	0.8	378	46,915	-1.0
Accommodation and food	0.5	0.1	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	0.6	109	19,621	1.9
Other services	0.0	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.1	31	29,659	1.8
<b>Other aggregations</b>									
Industrial production	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	1.2	0.9	1,652	190,925	5.0
Non-durable manufacturing	0.1	0.6	-0.7	0.4	1.1	0.5	306	58,099	3.2
Durable manufacturing	1.4	0.3	0.5	1.8	1.1	2.5	1,993	81,774	12.5
Business sector	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	2,805	623,622	4.9
Non-business sector	-0.2	0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.5	617	128,960	0.7

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> Millions of dollars at annual rate.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Coal and coke statistics

August 1999

Reduced demand for coal for electric power generation in Western Canada drove down coal production in August. Coal production fell 7.5% from August 1998 to 5 874 kilotonnes. Coal production in Alberta and Saskatchewan (sold mainly to electric power generating stations) was down 10.8% to 3 869 kilotonnes. Year-to-date production stood at 48 176 kilotonnes, down 4.8%.

Weaker demand in Asian markets led to a 16.0% decline in exports to 2 851 kilotonnes compared with August 1998. Exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) decreased 10.3% to 1 146 kilotonnes during the same period. Year-to-date figures slipped 1.2% to 23 192 kilotonnes compared with the same period a year earlier.

Coke production increased to 290 kilotonnes in August, up 5.7% from August 1998.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The August 1999 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available in early November. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; [alefeba@statcan.ca](mailto:alefeba@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Electric power statistics

August 1999

Cooler temperatures led to lower electricity generation in August. Net generation of electricity decreased to 45 339 gigawatt hours (GWh), down 1.8% from August 1998. Exports decreased 15.1% to 4 654 GWh and imports decreased from 1 035 GWh to 659 GWh.

Improved reservoir levels in Quebec helped hydro-electricity generation increase 2.4% to 26 680 GWh. Colder temperatures throughout Canada enabled a 10.6% decline in thermal conventional generation to 11 879 GWh. Generation from nuclear sources was down 0.5% to 6 780 GWh.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of August totalled 365 985 GWh, up 0.6% compared with August 1998. Year-to-date exports (27 344 GWh) were down 11.3% whereas year-to-date imports

(10 113 GWh) rose 0.3% compared with the same period in 1998.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrices 3985-3999.

The August 1999 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available in early November. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts and data quality of this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; [alefeba@statcan.ca](mailto:alefeba@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending October 7, 1999

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending October 7, 1999, increased 3.5% to 5.0 million tonnes compared with the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 4.5%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 404 000 tonnes, a 9.8% increase from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures advanced 13.6%.

Total traffic increased 4.0% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 194.5 million tonnes, down 1.4% compared with the same period in 1998.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; [larocque@statcan.ca](mailto:larocque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

### Ontario Adult Literacy Survey

1998

Data are now available from the 1998 Ontario Adult Literacy Survey. Information is contained in a microdata file that profiles the English or French reading skills of immigrants living in Ontario. In particular, the survey profiled immigrants from the Caribbean with English as a mother tongue and immigrants with a Chinese, Polish, Spanish, Portuguese or Italian mother tongue. Furthermore, the study measured Ontario's immigrants' perceived skills in English or French and in their own mother tongue (if applicable) as well as perceived

needs with regard to training and the barriers which may restrict access to such training.

To order the microdata file (89M0018XCB, \$2,000), contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355; [ssd@statcan.ca](mailto:ssd@statcan.ca)), Special Surveys Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nancy Darcovich (613-951-4360), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Infomat - A weekly review**, October 29, 1999  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE**  
(Canada: \$3/\$109).

**Infomat - A weekly review**, October 29, 1999  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE**  
(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

**Travel-log**, Autumn 1999  
**Catalogue number 87-003-XIB**  
(Canada: \$10/\$32).

**Travel-log**, Autumn 1999  
**Catalogue number 87-003-XPB**  
(Canada: \$13/\$42; outside Canada: US\$13/US\$42).

**Federal government expenditures on scientific activities, 1999-2000: Science statistics, service bulletin**, vol. 23, no. 5  
**Catalogue number 88-001-XIB**  
(Canada: \$6/\$59).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

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Catalogue 11-001E (PDF) (English) 11-001E (PDF) (French) 11-001E (PDF) (French)	
	
Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1999	
For release at 8:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Urban transit, 1995</b> Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995</b> Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.	4
<b>OTHER RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Help-wanted index, May 1997</b>	3
• <b>Short-term Expectations Survey</b>	2
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## Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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## RELEASE DATES: NOVEMBER 1999

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
2	Business Conditions Survey: Canadian manufacturing industries	October 1999
3	Help-wanted Index	October 1999
4	Building permits	September 1999
5	Labour Force Survey	October 1999
9	General Social Survey - time use	1998
10	New Housing Price Index	September 1999
10	Provincial gross domestic product, income and expenditures by province	1998
15	New motor vehicle sales	September 1999
15	Financial performance indicators for Canadian businesses	1998
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	September 1999
16	Health reports	Fall 1999
17	Impaired driving	1998
18	Canadian international merchandise trade	September 1999
18	Wholesale trade	September 1999
19	Consumer Price Index	October 1999
19	Retail trade	September 1999
19	2000 Release dates	2000
23	Canada's international transactions in securities	September 1999
24	Composite Index	October 1999
24	Employment Insurance	September 1999
25	Farm cash receipts	July-Sept. 1999
25	Net farm income	1999
26	Industrial Product Price Index	October 1999
26	Raw Materials Price Index	October 1999
26	Employment, earnings and hours	September 1999
29	International travel account	July-Sept. 1999
30	National economic and financial accounts	July-Sept. 1999
30	Balance of international payments	July-Sept. 1999
30	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	September 1999