



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, December 16, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

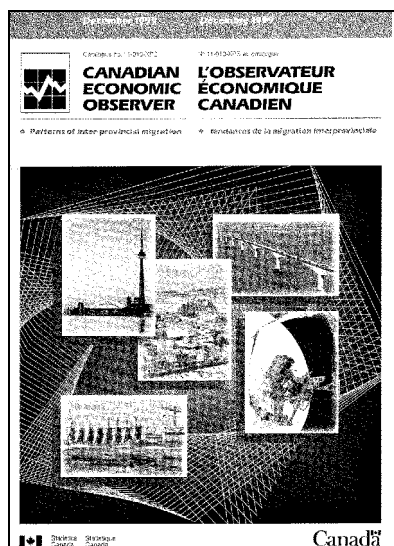
---

## MAJOR RELEASES

---

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, October 1999** 3  
Exports rose 1.2% in October to \$30.7 billion. Compared with October 1998, exports were up 7.9%. Imports increased for the ninth consecutive month, rising 0.7% to reach \$28.0 billion.
  
- **Composite Index, November 1999** 6  
The leading indicator grew by 0.5% in November, led by financial markets. This followed a downward-revised gain of 0.4% in October.

*(continued on following page)*



### Canadian economic observer

December 1999

The December issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in November and presents a feature article on patterns of inter-provincial migration. 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 1999 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. See *How to order publications*. For more information, contact Cyndi Bloskie (613-951-3634; [ceo@statcan.ca](mailto:ceo@statcan.ca)), Current Economic Analysis Group.



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

---

## OTHER RELEASES

---

Export and import price indexes, October 1999	8
Finances of federal government enterprises, fiscal year ended nearest to December 31, 1998	8
Steel primary forms, week ending December 11, 1999	9

---

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

---

## MAJOR RELEASES

### Canadian international merchandise trade

October 1999

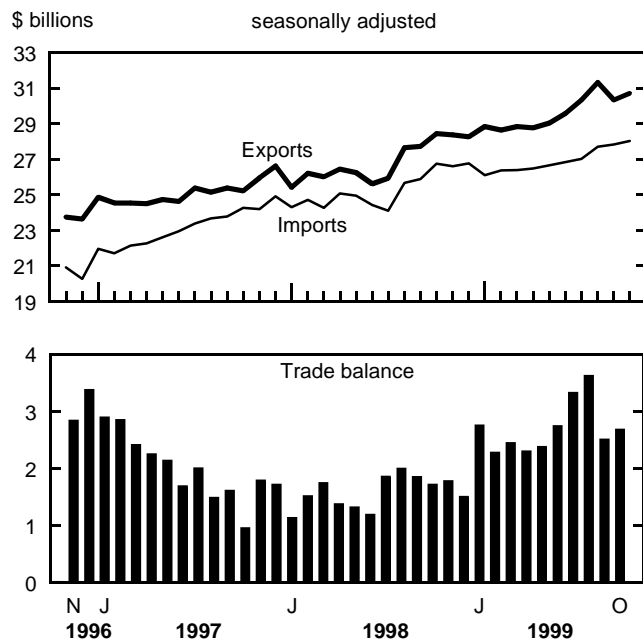
Exports rose 1.2% in October to \$30.7 billion. Despite volatility in the last three months, October's level of exports remained 7.9% higher than in October 1998. Imports increased for the ninth consecutive month, rising 0.7% to reach \$28.0 billion.

The recovery of exports in October followed a 3.2% drop in September. The October rebound was mainly due to higher exports of fertilizers, uranium, gold, automobiles, generators and locomotives.

The recovery of airplane and computer imports was partly offset by the sharp drop in imports of gold, as well as energy and automotive products.

In October, the trade balance rose to \$2.7 billion.

#### Exports, imports and trade balance



#### The recovery of the industrial goods sector pushed exports up

Exports recovered somewhat from last month's sharp decline, mainly due to increased exports in

#### Note to readers

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

sectors such as industrial goods, automotive products, and machinery and equipment.

Exports of industrial goods recovered strongly in October, chiefly due to strong exports of fertilizers, uranium, gold, aluminum and zinc. Exports of uranium showed signs of revival after a very slow third quarter, which was due to very low prices. The gold increase reflected a price effect, owing notably to the late September announcement by the International Monetary Fund and 15 central banks of a halt or restriction in gold sales. The American demand for aluminum remained very strong.

The slow recovery of exports in the automotive sector was spread over all sub-sectors. Of particular interest, however, was the spectacular 26.8% increase in exports of trucks between October 1998 and October 1999 because of the American demand for certain light models made in Canada and increased capacities in Canadian plants.

The conclusion of export contracts for the replacement of nuclear reactor machinery and locomotives resulted in strong exports by the whole machinery and equipment sector to the United States and Europe.

Despite a slight increase in exports of crude oil, the energy sector was down 2.5% due to the drop in coal and natural gas exports. The average export price of coal to Japan has fallen 32% since October 1998, reducing the value by 21% despite a volume increase of 11%. Exports of natural gas to the United States declined, the result of unusually mild temperatures in the United States as well as a drop of natural gas extraction in Alberta.

#### Imports continue their upward trend

Imports rose in October, mainly because of the recovery of imports of new airplanes and portable systems computers. However, imports of personal computers, down strongly since January, do not seem to have rebounded.

Imports of cattle from the United States were up 174.1% in October. This increase follows the implementation of the Northwest Cattle Project, the

Canada-U.S. trade agreement on the importation of cattle from certain states in the American Northwest. Strong imports of distilled alcohol and red wine for millennium celebrations also contributed to increased imports in the agriculture and fishing sector.

October imports of automotive products decreased for the second consecutive month. The strong decline in imports of passenger cars these last two months brought the level to 5.3% below the record level reached in August. Despite a drop in October, the level of truck imports was 23.1% higher than a year earlier, mainly due to the renewal of heavy truck fleets. After last month's strong decrease, imports of parts, which were up just 0.1%, remained fairly weak as a result of certain production problems in Canadian plants.

While all energy products experienced a decline, crude oil imports were the main contributor as a result of the production stoppage of a North Sea rig.

### Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), changes in classification of

merchandise based on more current information, and seasonal adjustments. Consult the appropriate CANSIM matrices for revised data.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685-3699, 3701-3711, 3713, 3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.**

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188 or 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141). The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order publications*.

Readers may obtain merchandise trade data on a more timely basis by fax on the morning of release.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647; 1-800-294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. □

## Merchandise trade

	Sept. 1999 <sup>r</sup>	Oct. 1999	Sept. to Oct. 1999	Oct. to Oct. 1999	Jan. to Oct. 1998	Jan. to Oct. 1999	Jan.-Oct. 1998 to Jan.-Oct. 1999
seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
<b>Principal trading partners</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
United States	26,063	26,474	1.6	10.3	221,160	254,758	15.2
Japan	751	771	2.7	1.3	7,924	7,637	-3.6
European Union	1,520	1,541	1.4	-2.2	15,004	14,902	-0.7
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	689	585	-15.1	-8.7	6,256	5,727	-8.5
All other countries	1,303	1,326	1.8	-8.9	15,295	13,263	-13.3
Total	30,326	30,698	1.2	7.9	265,641	296,288	11.5
<b>Imports</b>							
United States	21,238	21,383	0.7	2.9	192,177	206,555	7.5
Japan	907	918	1.2	16.6	8,119	8,621	6.2
European Union	2,457	2,511	2.2	16.0	21,015	23,181	10.3
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	1,112	1,082	-2.7	3.9	9,442	10,595	12.2
All other countries	2,116	2,134	0.9	8.8	19,289	20,398	5.7
Total	27,829	28,028	0.7	4.8	250,043	269,351	7.7
<b>Balance</b>							
United States	4,825	5,091	...	...	28,983	48,203	...
Japan	-156	-147	...	...	-195	-984	...
European Union	-937	-970	...	...	-6,011	-8,279	...
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	-423	-497	...	...	-3,186	-4,868	...
All other countries	-813	-808	...	...	-3,994	-7,135	...
Total	2,497	2,670	...	...	15,598	26,937	...
<b>Principal commodity groupings</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,176	2,152	-1.1	-2.3	20,901	21,253	1.7
Energy products	2,753	2,683	-2.5	30.5	20,324	23,559	15.9
Forestry products	3,285	3,284	0.0	9.2	29,088	32,130	10.5
Industrial goods and materials	4,740	4,927	3.9	4.5	48,117	47,145	-2.0
Machinery and equipment	7,216	7,361	2.0	9.5	65,494	69,963	6.8
Automotive products	7,907	8,063	2.0	6.6	61,722	79,700	29.1
Other consumer goods	1,111	1,142	2.8	5.0	10,247	11,338	10.6
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	629	562	-10.7	2.2	4,414	6,050	37.1
Other balance-of-payments adjustments	507	525	3.6	-1.7	5,338	5,151	-3.5
<b>Imports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,469	1,545	5.2	4.8	14,278	14,761	3.4
Energy products	1,065	797	-25.2	14.2	7,381	7,950	7.7
Forestry products	239	228	-4.6	6.5	2,057	2,263	10.0
Industrial goods and materials	5,272	5,296	0.5	1.2	50,009	50,954	1.9
Machinery and equipment	9,045	9,509	5.1	7.1	83,593	89,587	7.2
Automotive products	6,567	6,481	-1.3	3.3	54,332	63,088	16.1
Other consumer goods	3,157	3,160	0.1	6.2	28,314	30,566	8.0
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	491	486	-1.0	-3.6	5,321	5,059	-4.9
Other balance-of-payments adjustments	525	526	0.2	8.5	4,756	5,125	7.8

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

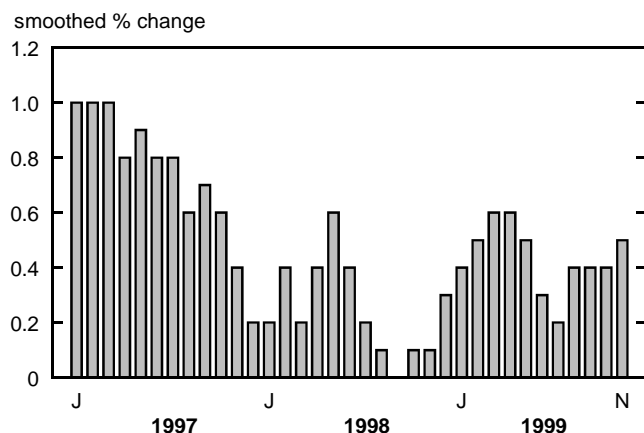
<sup>2</sup> These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

## Composite Index

November 1999

The leading indicator grew by 0.5% in November, led by financial markets. This followed a downward-revised gain of 0.4% in October. Demand for durable goods also remained an important source of growth, while housing continued to be a drag on the overall index.

Composite index



The stock market continued to improve, fuelled by a 20% gain in industrial products, especially technology-related issues. A marked increase in orders for durable goods, especially electronics, also reflects the strength of business demand, while employment in business services ended a string of six consecutive declines.

Household spending remained mixed, with strength for durable goods (notably vehicles) contrasting with a second consecutive drop for housing. Existing home sales continued to slow; this also checked demand for furniture and appliances.

The growth of the U.S. leading indicator eased for the first time in seven months. Consumer spending slackened a bit as confidence dipped and interest rates rose.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.**

For further information on the economy, consult the December issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227), which is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

## Composite Index

	June 1999 <sup>r</sup>	July 1999 <sup>r</sup>	August 1999 <sup>r</sup>	September 1999 <sup>r</sup>	October 1999 <sup>r</sup>	November 1999	Last month of data available
							% change
<b>Composite leading indicator (1981=100)</b>	<b>215.0</b>	<b>215.4</b>	<b>216.2</b>	<b>217.1</b>	<b>218.0</b>	<b>219.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Housing index (1981=100) <sup>1</sup>	132.1	133.8	135.0	135.7	135.3	135.0	-0.2
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,336	2,320	2,304	2,291	2,281	2,278	-0.1
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	6,706	6,835	6,928	6,987	7,058	7,161	1.5
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>2</sup>	41,414	41,148	41,187	41,511	41,761	42,019	0.6
U.S. composite leading indicator (1967=100) <sup>3</sup>	228.8	229.2	229.7	230.1	230.5	230.7	0.1
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average workweek (hours)	38.7	38.8	38.8	38.8	38.8	38.7	-0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>4</sup>	16,796	16,750	16,758	16,818	16,986	17,230	1.4
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.67	1.69	1.70	1.72	1.73	1.74	0.01 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>4</sup>	1,426	1,433	1,446	1,461	1,475	1,485	0.6
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>4</sup>	4,765	4,771	4,778	4,798	4,838	4,890	1.1
Unsmoothed composite	215.0	215.2	219.2	219.9	219.8	221.6	0.8

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>1</sup> Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

<sup>2</sup> Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

<sup>3</sup> The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

<sup>4</sup> The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.

<sup>5</sup> Difference from previous month.

## OTHER RELEASES

### Export and import price indexes

October 1999

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1992=100) on a balance-of-payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to October 1999 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1992=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to October 1999. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only standard international trade classification (SITC) section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also now available on a customs basis.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices: 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685, 8430-8435, and 8438-8447.**

The October 1999 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188; 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647 or 1 800 294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. ■

### Finances of federal government enterprises

Fiscal year ended nearest to December 31, 1998

In 1998, federal government business enterprises (including monetary authorities) earned an after-tax profit of \$3.9 billion, up \$0.5 billion or 14.7% from the previous year. Monetary authorities (Bank of Canada and Exchange Fund Account) accounted for \$3.3 billion of this total, an increase of \$0.5 billion (+18.2%) from 1997. After-tax profits of financial enterprises amounted to \$0.4 billion while those of non-financial enterprises were \$0.2 billion.

Total assets of federal government business enterprises increased by \$15.0 billion (+13.6%) to \$125.0 billion at the end of 1998. Gross debt (total liabilities) reached \$119.3 billion, up \$16.2 billion (+15.7%) from 1997. As a result, total net worth

decreased by \$1.2 billion to \$5.7 billion in 1998. Data are available through custom and special tabulation. For more information or general enquiries on products or services, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; [jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca](mailto:jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca)), Public Institutions Division.

### Federal government business enterprises

Fiscal year ended nearest to December 31

	Income	Expenses	After-tax profits	Net worth (assets less liabilities)	
\$ billions					
			For all enterprises <sup>1</sup>	For monetary authorities	
1998	20.6	16.6	3.9	3.3	5.7
1997	20.2	16.7	3.4	2.8	7.0
1996	19.3	16.0	3.2	2.8	6.7
1995 <sup>2</sup>	18.2	14.4	3.7	3.2	6.5
1994	26.5	21.6	4.6	3.4	12.3
1993	25.8	20.8	4.7	4.2	11.8
1992	26.7	22.7	3.9	5.4	11.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes monetary authorities.

<sup>2</sup> Privatization of Canadian National Railways and Petro Canada.

**Note:** Data for federal government enterprises finance are compiled with the Financial Management System (FMS), which allows a standardized presentation of public sector accounting. The FMS adjusts data from governments' public accounts and other records insuring the compatibility of the national aggregates over time.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3300-3314.**

Data are available through custom and special tabulation. For more information or general enquiries on products or services, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; [jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca](mailto:jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca)), Public Institutions Division.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Richard Sauriol (613-951-1829; [saurric@statcan.ca](mailto:saurric@statcan.ca)) or J. F. Carboneau (613-951-8561; [carbjea@statcan.ca](mailto:carbjea@statcan.ca)), Public Institutions Division. ■



## **Steel primary forms**

Week ending December 11, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending December 11, 1999, totalled 302 613 tonnes, up 3.2% from the week-earlier 293 307 tonnes and up 5.4% from the year-earlier 287 001 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 15 180 393 tonnes,

a 0.8% increase compared with 15 052 850 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; [milsomg@statcan.ca](mailto:milsomg@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

---

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

---

**Canadian economic observer**, December 1999  
**Catalogue number 11-010-XPB**  
(Canada: \$23/\$227; outside Canada: US\$23/US\$227).

**Quarterly report on energy supply-demand in Canada**, fourth quarter 1998  
**Catalogue number 57-003-XPB**  
(Canada: \$43/\$141; outside Canada: US\$43/US\$141).

**Consumer Price Index**, November 1999  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XPB**  
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).  
**Available at 7 a.m. on Friday, December 17**

**Industry price indexes**, October 1999  
**Catalogue number 62-011-XPB**  
(Canada: \$22/\$217; outside Canada: US\$22/US\$217).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

---

### How to order publications

---

Simplify your data search with the *Statistics Canada Catalogue* (11-204-XPE, \$16; outside Canada: US\$16).

Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

**Order publications by phone:**

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

**1-800-267-6677**

From other countries call:

**1-613-951-7277**

To fax your order:

**1-877-287-4369**


Address changes or account inquiries:



**1-800-700-1033**

**To order a publication by mail write:** Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Operations and Integration Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

**To order by Internet:** write to [order@statcan.ca](mailto:order@statcan.ca) or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)), under the headings *Products and services*, *Downloadable publications*.

**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**

Catalogue 11-001E (PDF) 11MB (13,584,037 bytes)	
	
Thursday, June 3, 1997 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>	
Help-wanted index, May 1997	3
Short-term Expectations Survey	2
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	12
Egg production, April 1997	12
<b>PUBLICATIONS RELEASED</b>	11

### **Statistics Canada's official release bulletin**

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to [listproc@statcan.ca](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Dan Smythe (613-951-1103, [smytdan@statcan.ca](mailto:smytdan@statcan.ca))

Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088), [prevcha@statcan.ca](mailto:prevcha@statcan.ca)

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 1999. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.