

The Daily

Statistics Canada

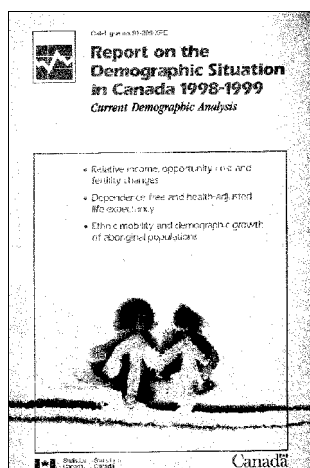
Wednesday, December 22, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **Canada's international transactions in securities, October 1999** 3
In October, foreign investors increased their holdings of Canadian securities with purchases of \$3.4 billion. Canadians, meanwhile, reduced their foreign security assets for the first time in six months.
- **Home repairs and renovations, 1998** 6
Homeowners spent an average of \$1,670 repairing or renovating their homes in 1998, basically unchanged from 1997 and still well below the peak of \$2,710 in 1989. In total, they spent \$12.8 billion on work to their homes, almost the same amount as in 1997.
- **Pension coverage among young and prime-aged workers, 1984 to 1994** 8
According to a new study on pension coverage among full-time employees in the private sector, pension coverage fell among young men between 1984 and 1994. In contrast, pension coverage of prime-aged women, those aged 35 to 54, increased substantially.

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Report on the demographic situation in Canada 1998-99

The *Report on the demographic situation in Canada* for 1998-99 is available today. The first part provides a complete picture of the Canadian population at the end of the twentieth century. It also describes and analyses the most recent demographic trends (population growth, fertility, deaths, marriages, divorces, international migration and inter-provincial migration), placing them in an international context.

The second part of the report contains three separate studies on current Canadian topics. The first deals with the relationship between fertility and income among the young. The second is a review of changes in life expectancy without dependency between 1986 and 1996. The third study takes a new look at the growth components among aboriginal population since 1986.

The 1998-99 edition of the *Report on the demographic situation in Canada* (91-209-XPE, \$31) is now available. See *How to order publications*. For more information, contact Alain Bélanger (613-951-2326), Demography Division.



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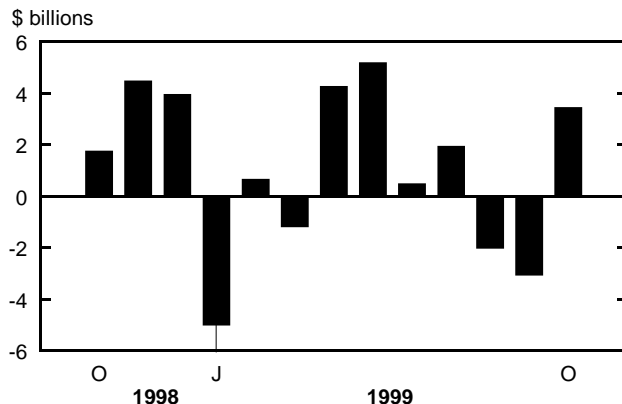
MAJOR RELEASES

Canada's international transactions in securities

October 1999

In October, foreign investors increased their holdings of Canadian securities with purchases of \$3.4 billion. That investment followed two months of divestments totalling \$5 billion, and it extended 1999's pattern of erratic foreign investment. October's buying was directed to Canadian bonds and stocks, as foreigners continued to sell off money-market holdings. Canadians, meanwhile, reduced their foreign security assets for the first time in six months.

Foreign investment in Canadian securities*



* Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

Foreign demand resumes for Canadian bonds and continues for stocks

After trimming \$6.3 billion from their holdings of Canadian bonds in the two previous months, foreign demand for Canadian bonds resumed with purchases of \$2.5 billion in October. Most of this activity was directed to outstanding federal government bonds in the secondary market, and it came solely from American investors. The differential on long-term government instruments, which had favoured investment in the United States since February 1999, turned in favour of Canada in October, albeit by a small margin.

Foreign demand for Canadian stocks continued as non-residents added a further \$1.9 billion to their holdings in October. The foreign investment in

Related market information

Interest rates

In October, the interest-rate differential on short-term government instruments continued to favour investment in the United States by widening to 20-25 basis points. The differential on long-term government instruments, which had favoured investment in the United States since February, turned in favour of Canada in October, albeit by a small margin.

Stock prices

In October, although Canadian stock prices (TSE 300 composite index) recorded a strong 4.3% gain, they were outperformed by their U.S. counterparts (Standard and Poor's 500 index), which rose 6.3%. The stronger U.S. prices in October narrowed the gap in their relative performance year-to-date: Canadian stock prices gained 11.9% versus a 10.9% rise in U.S. prices.

Canadian dollar

After climbing nearly two full cents in August and September, the Canadian dollar closed October virtually unchanged at 68 U.S. cents. The monthly close of the Canadian dollar in the first 10 months of 1999 ranged from a high of 68.35 U.S. cents in July to a low of 66.18 U.S. cents in January.

equities went to new issues, both floated in foreign markets and exchanged as part of an acquisition of an American firm by a Canadian company. From January to October 1999, foreign investment in Canadian shares totalled \$13 billion, near the record set for all of 1998 (\$13.5 billion). North American stock prices rose strongly in October: up 4.3% in Canada and up 6.3% in the United States.

Foreign investors again reduce their holdings of Canadian money market paper

Continuing the trend observed during much of 1999, foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian money market instruments by a further \$1 billion in October. In the first 10 months of this year, foreigners have shed \$12.6 billion from their holdings of short-term paper, roughly split between federal Treasury bills (\$6.7 billion) and the paper of other governments and corporations (\$6.0 billion). U.S. investors accounted for half the divestment so far this year, with the balance sold off by European and Asian investors. Since May 1999, the differential on short-term government instruments has, for the most part, favoured investment in the United States.

Canadian investors sell foreign bonds after two months of buying

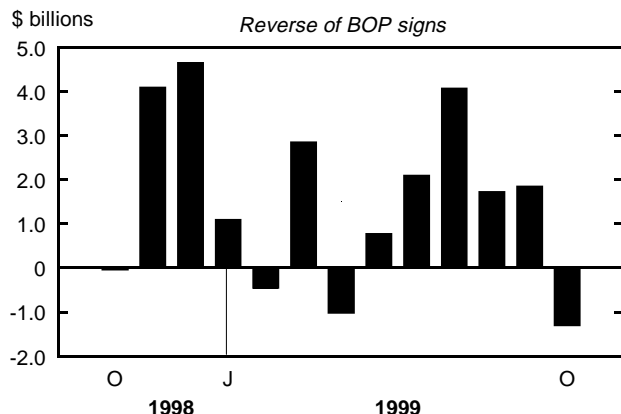
After acquiring \$3.2 billion of foreign bonds in August and September, Canadian investors sold some of their holdings in October (\$1.5 billion), mainly U.S. Treasuries. An uneven monthly investment pattern in the first 10 months of 1999 has resulted in a relatively small divestment of foreign bonds (\$0.9 billion) by Canadian residents. Although they bought only a small amount of foreign stocks in October, Canadian investors purchased \$12.5 billion worth during the first 10 months of this year, over 60% in U.S. shares and the remainder in overseas shares.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2328-2330, 2378-2380 and 4195.

The October 1999 issue of *Canada's international transactions in securities* (67-002-XPB, \$18/\$176; 67-002-XIB, \$14/\$132) will be available in January 2000. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Don Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division. □

Canadian investment in foreign securities*



* Includes bonds and stocks.

Canada's international transactions in securities

	July 1999	August 1999	September 1999	October 1999	January to October 1998	January to October 1999
	\$ millions					
Foreign investment in Canadian securities	1,912	-1,984	-3,025	3,413	16,632	4,675
Bonds (net)	2,336	-4,608	-1,643	2,474	9,682	4,281
Outstanding	1,575	-371	948	2,668	-9,257	8,084
New Issues	3,503	531	3,526	1,049	42,706	26,880
Retirements	-2,627	-5,288	-5,990	-1,730	-24,556	-31,346
Change in interest payable ¹	-115	521	-127	487	788	663
Money market paper (net)	-1,724	327	-2,418	-978	-2,469	-12,648
Government of Canada	-1,458	1,030	-2,497	-2,018	-3,037	-6,694
Other paper	-267	-703	79	1,040	568	-5,954
Stocks (net)	1,301	2,297	1,037	1,916	9,419	13,043
Outstanding (including retirements)	465	1,921	785	-310	-3,882	7,319
New Issues	835	375	251	2,226	13,301	5,724
Canadian investment in foreign securities	-4,057	-1,711	-1,838	1,297	-13,516	-11,628
Bonds (net)	1,076	-1,080	-2,102	1,531	-3,158	892
Stocks (net)	-5,133	-632	264	-235	-10,359	-12,519

¹ Interest accrued less interest paid.

Note: A minus sign indicates an outflow of money from Canada. For instance, a minus sign indicates a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada; and a minus sign indicates an increase in Canadian investment abroad.

Home repairs and renovations

1998

Homeowners spent an average of \$1,670 repairing or renovating their homes in 1998, basically unchanged from 1997 and still well below the peak of \$2,710 in 1989.

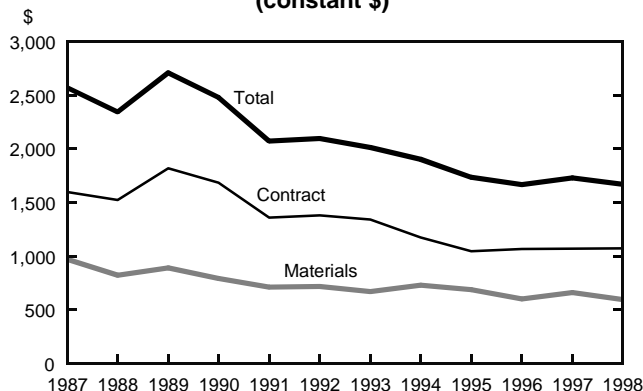
In 1998, average spending on work contracted out was \$1,070, continuing an upward trend that began in 1995. However, the average remained below the 1989 peak of \$1,820.

On the other hand, spending on materials purchased separately has been on a downward trend since 1987. In 1998, owners spent on average \$600 for materials.

In total, homeowners spent \$12.8 billion on repairs and renovations, virtually the same amount as in 1997. About 67% of the nation's 7.6 million homeowners made repairs or renovations to their buildings last year.

Of these 7.6 million homeowners, 9% spent \$5,000 or more. Still, for many homeowners, expenditures were modest (about 24% spent less than \$500).

Average expenditure on home repairs and renovations (constant \$)



Highest average spending in Ontario and British Columbia

Homeowners in Ontario and British Columbia spent the most on repairs and renovations. Those in Ontario averaged \$1,810, while average spending in British Columbia reached \$1,760. For the fourth consecutive year, homeowners in New Brunswick spent the least, an average of \$1,240 per household.

Owners in Ontario and British Columbia also spent the most on contracting out. Of every dollar

Note to readers

Data from the 1998 Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey were collected in March 1999 from a sample of about 20,000 homeowners.

To ease historical comparisons, data from previous years have been adjusted to reflect price changes in the construction field. Only summary level expenditures from previous years have been adjusted.

A change to the survey's questionnaire was introduced in 1998. Questions on repairs and maintenance were moved to the beginning of the questionnaire because they are the more common type of spending. In previous years this block of questions was at the end. This may have had an impact on reporting patterns. For this reason, comparisons with previous years in this release refer only to total expenditures on repairs and renovations.

they spent on repairs and renovations, about 70 cents went to work contracted out. Even though these two provinces represented just over half of total homeowner households, their combined expenditures for contractor work accounted for 59% of the \$8.2 billion spent nationally on contractors.

Newfoundlanders continued to have the largest proportion of do-it-yourself activity. Overall, two-thirds of their repair and renovation budget went to purchase building materials. Nova Scotians were a distant second with 46% of their budgets spent on materials they bought themselves.

Rural homeowners more likely to be do-it-yourselfers

Rural area homeowners were more likely than their urban counterparts to be do-it-yourselfers. Of all rural homeowners, 59% purchased materials separately, compared with 53% for urban homeowners. The opposite was true for spending on contract work. Only 31% of rural homeowners relied on contractors, compared with 38% of urban homeowners.

Overall, rural homeowners spent an average \$1,720 on repairs and renovations, compared with \$1,660 for their urban counterparts. They spent considerably more on materials than urban owners (\$800 versus \$540).

Owners spent more on older dwellings

Not surprisingly, the older the dwelling, the greater the amount spent on repairs and maintenance. For example, owners occupying houses built before 1946 spent an average \$710 for repairs and maintenance, compared with only \$260 spent by owners of houses built after 1990.

Spending on renovations followed a similar pattern. Owners of homes built before 1946 spent an average \$730, whereas those occupying homes built in 1991 or later spent on average only \$180 for renovations.

Household income also played a major role in home repair and renovation. Homeowners whose household income was less than \$20,000 spent an average of \$830 on repairs and renovations. In contrast, households whose income was \$80,000 or more spent on average \$3,060.

Similarly, only 54% of households with an income under \$20,000 did some kind of repairs or renovations, compared with 77% of households in the highest income group (\$80,000 and over).

Summary data from the 1998 Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey are available free of charge on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). The menu path is "Canadian statistics", "The people", "Families, households and housing", and then "Expenditures". Tables presenting detailed repair and renovation data for Canada and the provinces (62F0061XDB/XPB) are also available, as are custom tabulations.

Home repairs and renovations

	Current dollars	Constant dollars ¹
	\$ billions	
1987	11.8	15.4
1988	11.5	14.5
1989	13.8	17.0
1990	13.3	16.1
1991	12.0	13.7
1992	12.7	14.2
1993	12.8	13.9
1994	12.8	13.6
1995	12.0	12.6
1996	11.9	12.3
1997	12.8	12.9
1998	12.8	12.8

¹ To ease historical comparisons, data in this column have been adjusted using indices that reflect price changes in the construction field.

The publication, *Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure in Canada, 1998* (62-201-XIB/XPB), will be released in February 2000. See *How to order publications*.

For further information or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355 or 613-951-7355; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Pension coverage among young and prime-aged workers

1984 to 1994

Between 1984 and 1994, the percentage of workers having a pension plan at their job dropped among men under 35 employed full time in the private sector. In contrast, pension coverage of women aged 35 to 54 employed full time rose substantially.

Previous Canadian studies have shown that real earnings of young men dropped substantially between the beginning of the 1980s and the mid-1990s. The fact that pension coverage of young men has also fallen (as the study shows) suggests that the decrease in their earnings has been accompanied by a decrease in their fringe benefits, as well.

At the same time, these results are good news for women. They suggest that, as long as their movement toward better jobs is permanent, women who are now aged 35 to 54 should have a greater pension income than those who were the same age 15 years ago.

Factors related to changes in pension coverage among full-time employees in the private sector

The study focused on three factors that may be related to movements in pension coverage among full-time employees in the private sector.

Pension coverage is lower in industries employing lower-skilled workers. Because worker turnover is less costly in these industries than in other sectors, firms in these industries may have fewer incentives to use pension plans as a means of keeping employees with the company. Employment shifts toward these low-coverage industries may then tend to reduce registered pension plan (RPP) coverage.

Within industries, increases in the skill level of jobs may lead to higher pension coverage. Firms that employ highly-skilled workers may have strong incentives to keep them and, consequently, may often offer a pension plan. Changes in the propensity of workers to hold higher-skilled jobs (approximated by the propensity to hold highly-paid jobs) may then influence RPP coverage.

The presence of unions may increase workers' chances of being offered a pension plan, if unions negotiate both wage offers and fringe benefits. If so, a decline in union coverage could be associated with a decrease in RPP coverage.

Three other factors, which may also be associated with changes in pension coverage, could not be taken into account in the analysis. Small firms may have fewer financial resources than large firms and, as a result, may be less likely to offer RPPs. Employment shifts

Note to readers

Today, data is being released on pension coverage. It was drawn from the Survey of Union Membership (SUM), the Labour Market Activity Survey (LMAS) and the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID).

This release summarizes the findings of a study titled "The evolution of pension coverage of young and prime-aged workers in Canada". It focuses on the extent to which full-time employees of different ages were covered by a registered pension plan (RPP) in the private sector between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s.

The study looked at three different data sources, which were consistent in overall trends, but it focussed on one (the combination of SUM, LMAS and SLID) because of the availability of socio-economic characteristics.

toward small firms could then reduce pension coverage. However, since employment shifts toward small firms were very slight during the period considered, this cannot be a major explanation of the decline in RPP coverage among young men.

Because eligibility conditions are based on a minimum amount of seniority, increases in the proportion of workers with low seniority (for instance, less than one year) could, in principle, account for part of the decline in RPP coverage among young men. This is unlikely to be the case—at least for young men aged 25 to 34—since the proportion of these young men with less than one year of seniority has remained unchanged during the period considered.

Finally, there have been a number of legislative changes that may influence pension coverage, in either a positive or a negative way.

Pension coverage falling among young men

While pension coverage fell substantially among men aged 17 to 24 between 1984 and 1994, it also declined among men aged 25 to 34, though the decrease was not as great.

Because workers aged 17 to 24 are most likely to change jobs, and therefore their pension circumstances, the study focused on workers aged 25 to 34 versus prime-aged workers aged 35 to 54 to examine the factors associated with coverage growth and decline.

Among men aged 25 to 34 employed full time in the private sector, about 46% were covered by a registered pension plan in 1994, down from 51% a decade earlier. Among those aged 35 to 54, coverage remained fairly stable, varying between 64% and 66%.

During the period, employment of young men aged 25 to 34 shifted substantially from high coverage industries (such as manufacturing) toward industries with low coverage (such as consumer services).

Furthermore, a smaller proportion were employed in unionized jobs in the mid-1990s than in the mid-1980s within industries such as manufacturing and construction. It is in these sectors that the largest drop in pension coverage rates was observed. Both of the above factors were associated with the decline in RPP coverage among men aged 25 to 34 between the mid-1980s and the mid-1990s.

As mentioned above, the analysis could not take directly into account the impact of legislative changes.

The decline in pension coverage among young men is not unique to Canada. American studies have shown that, between the late 1970s and the late 1980s, the coverage rate of men aged 21 to 35 fell from 56% to 49% in the United States.

Pension coverage rose among women aged 35-54

While pension coverage held relatively steady for men aged 35 to 54, women in this age group experienced a significant increase in coverage. In 1994, about 47% were covered by an RPP, up from 40% a decade earlier. Thus, the gap in pension coverage between men and women remained but was reduced.

The increase in RPP coverage of women aged 35 to 54 employed full time appears to be related mainly to their growing tendency to hold jobs that both pay well and have better fringe benefits. The study estimates that much of the growth in RPP coverage was associated with this tendency to be in "better" jobs, as measured by pay rates.

The decline in the unionization rate of these women had an opposite effect. It was associated with reductions in their RPP coverage. However, the growing propensity to be in relatively well paid, higher-skilled positions

more than offset any trends associated with declining unionization.

These results are generally positive for women. They suggest that, as long as their movement toward better jobs is permanent, women who are now aged 35 to 54 should have a greater pension income than those who were the same age 15 years ago.

Growth in group RRSPs may be an offsetting factor

There are currently no data on the number of Canadian workers involved with their employer in group registered retirement savings plans (group RRSPs).

Some young people who do not have a pension plan in their job may well be participating in a group RRSP. Hence, the decline in RPP coverage among young men may have been partly offset by the growth of group RRSPs. It is impossible, given the lack of existing data on group RRSPs, to confirm whether this is the case.

Nevertheless, the findings in this study suggest that, unless the growth in group RRSPs completely offsets the decrease in RPP coverage, new groups of young men may have to accept jobs providing lower fringe benefits than those received by previous groups.

The report titled "The evolution of pension coverage of young and prime-aged workers in Canada" is now available at no charge on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). The menu path is "Products and Services", "Downloadable research papers", and then "Analytical studies".

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact René Morissette (613-951-3608) or Marie Drolet (613-951-5691), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division.

Pension coverage in the private sector¹

	1984	1989	1994	1984 to 1994 percentage-point difference
	%			
Men employed full time²				
17-24	28.4	24.4	16.4	-12.0
25-34	51.1	48.2	46.4	-4.7
35-54	63.6	64.2	65.9	2.3
17-64	52.9	52.4	53.4	0.5
Women employed full time²				
17-24	21.2	22.2	11.6	-9.6
25-34	41.3	38.4	41.0	-0.3
35-54	39.9	43.8	47.2	7.3
17-64	35.6	37.3	39.3	3.7

¹ Pension coverage is the percentage of employees covered by a registered pension plan in their job. The following industries are excluded: agriculture, fishing and trapping, education and related services, health and welfare services, religious organizations, federal administration, provincial administration, local administration and other government offices.

² Results for individuals aged 55 to 64 are not presented because many of these individuals may benefit from early retirement provisions. As well, those still working full time may not be representative of the whole population of individuals aged 55 to 64.



OTHER RELEASES

Report on the demographic situation in Canada

1998-99

According to a study on dependence-free life expectancy, published today in *Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada*, Canadians can now expect to live longer than ever—and in better health.

The life expectancy of Canadians is among the highest in the world, and it continues to rise. The gains recorded in 1997 were significant, especially for men (+0.33 years). Their life expectancy reached 75.8 years. The gains were more modest among women (+0.18 years), bringing their life expectancy to 81.4 years.

Canadians are living longer lives, but they are also doing so in sound health. Dependence-free life expectancy is the number of years of dependence-free life that can be expected by an individual subject to current mortality and morbidity conditions. In 1996, it reached 58.9 years among women aged 15, while it reached 57.0 years among men of the same age. This represents 88% and 93%, respectively, of total life expectancy at that age.

During the last decade, a large part of the gains reported among Canadians in terms of death rates translated into increased life expectancy without dependency. Life expectancy among men at age 15 grew by 1.8 years, three-quarters of which (1.4 years) were without dependency. Among women, life expectancy grew less rapidly during the same period (a gain of one year), but it is noteworthy that their entire gain represented years without dependency.

To learn more about dependence-free life expectancy, consult the 1998-99 edition of *Report on the demographic situation in Canada* (91-209-XPE, \$31). See *How to order publications*.

The report contains two other studies, one on fertility and the other on the components of Canada's aboriginal population growth. As well, it presents a complete picture of the Canadian population at the end of the twentieth century. It also describes and analyses the most recent demographic trends (population growth, fertility, deaths, marriages, divorces, international migration and inter-provincial migration), placing them in an international context.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact

Alain Bélanger (613-951-2326; fax: 613-951-2307; belaala@statcan.ca), Demography Division. ■

Multifactor productivity

1998

In 1998, the business sector recorded a gain in multifactor productivity of 0.5%. This increase occurred within a context of slower economic growth. It followed a 2.9% jump in multifactor productivity in 1997, which was the strongest in more than a decade.

Growth in multifactor productivity, a comprehensive measure of production efficiency, is measured by the increase in output minus the growth of combined inputs (labour and capital). It is an important determinant of the standard of living.

These multifactor data mirror the situation with labour productivity growth as reported in *The Daily* on June 30, 1999. Labour productivity increased 0.7% in 1998 after a 2.9% gain the year before.

The overall gain in multifactor productivity in 1998 was due mainly to the services sector, which recorded a 0.8% increase. This offset a 0.5% decline in multifactor productivity in the goods-producing sector, which occurred despite a 1.1% growth in productivity in manufacturing.

Between 1988 and 1998, roughly two-thirds of the growth in economic output in the goods-producing sector was due to growth in productivity. This was the largest contribution that productivity has made to economic growth since the 1960s. Productivity was also responsible for about three-quarters of the growth in output in the manufacturing sector during the same 10-year period.

In contrast, productivity contributed 12% of the economic growth in the services sector between 1988 and 1998. This was below the level experienced during two previous business cycles, 1966-1973 and 1973-1979.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9458.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Tarek M. Harchaoui (613-951-9856; fax: 613-951-5403; harctar@statcan.ca), Micro-economic Analysis Division. □

Multifactor productivity

	1966-1973	1973-1979	1979-1988	1988-1998	1997 ^P	1998 ^P
	Average annual growth rate in %					
Business sector-total						
Real GDP	4.9	3.6	3.2	2.1	5.1	3.3
Labour	1.9	2.2	1.9	1.1	2.7	2.9
Capital	4.3	4.3	3.8	2.2	1.5	2.9
Combined inputs	2.7	3.0	2.6	1.5	2.3	2.9
Multifactor productivity	2.1	0.6	0.5	0.6	2.9	0.5
Business sector-services						
Real GDP	5.6	4.9	3.8	2.8	5.3	4.2
Labour	3.2	3.5	3.0	1.9	2.9	3.1
Capital	4.3	5.1	4.6	3.9	3.4	4.4
Combined inputs	3.6	4.0	3.5	2.5	3.0	3.5
Multifactor productivity	1.9	0.8	0.3	0.3	2.2	0.8
Business sector-goods						
Real GDP	4.2	2.5	2.6	1.3	4.9	2.1
Labour	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.0	2.5	2.5
Capital	4.4	3.8	3.2	1.1	0.6	2.7
Combined inputs	1.9	2.0	1.8	0.5	1.6	2.6
Multifactor productivity	2.3	0.4	0.8	0.8	3.3	-0.5
Business sector-manufacturing						
Real GDP	4.9	2.5	2.5	1.8	6.4	3.8
Labour	1.3	0.7	0.4	0.0	3.0	3.1
Capital	4.0	1.6	2.6	1.5	1.6	2.1
Combined inputs	2.1	1.0	0.9	0.4	2.4	2.7
Multifactor productivity	2.8	1.5	1.5	1.3	4.0	1.1

^P Preliminary data.

Note: The output used to derive multifactor productivity is a value-added measure.

Retail Commodity Survey

Third quarter 1999 (preliminary)

In the third quarter of 1999, Canadians increased their retail spending by 7.1% over the same quarter of the previous year. This increase was reflected across all commodity groups. Increases in the price of gasoline led to strong increases in sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives. Increases in sales of home furnishings and electronics, as well as motor vehicles, parts and service, were also particularly notable. (The data are not seasonally adjusted.)

In the third quarter, sales of fuels, oils and additives reached \$4.8 billion. Fuel alone accounted for 95.2% of this category. Oils, and additives, such as windshield-washer fluid and antifreeze, accounted for the rest. The notable increase in sales of fuels, oils and additives compared with the same quarter last year (+19.3%) means that this merchandise category accounted for \$7.14 out of every \$100 consumers spent at a retail business in the third quarter of 1999. This represented an increase of 11.4% over the same quarter in 1998, when consumer spending on this category was \$6.41 of every \$100.

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

	Third quarter 1998	Second quarter 1999 ^r	Third quarter 1999 ^P	Third quarter 1998 to third quarter 1999
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Food and beverages	15,119	14,904	15,348	1.5
Health and personal care products	4,173	4,391	4,503	7.9
Clothing, footwear and accessories	6,043	6,095	6,353	5.1
Home furnishings and electronics	4,542	4,414	5,049	11.2
Motor vehicles, parts and service	18,299	21,206	20,015	9.4
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	4,040	4,235	4,820	19.3
All other goods and services	10,786	11,962	11,414	5.8
Total, all commodities	63,001	67,208	67,501	7.1

^r Revised data.

^P Preliminary data.

The year-over-year rise in sales of used motor vehicles (+16.6%) in the third quarter was higher than that for new motor vehicles (+10.2%). This increase for used cars may be explained by the high price of new vehicles combined with the greater availability of

used vehicles on retailers' lots (possibly due to leases coming to the end of term). This same phenomenon was observed in each of the two previous quarters. It should be noted that sales of new vehicles continue to hold the greater share of retail automotive vehicle sales (68.4%). However, this share was larger a year earlier at 69.6%.

In the third quarter, all components of household furnishings and electronics showed increases in sales of more than 10.0% compared to the same quarter last year. More specifically, sales of electronics rose 12.5%, household furnishings 11.1%, indoor furniture 10.4% and household appliances 10.0%. Electronics includes computers when they are sold by retailers not specialized in the sales of computers. However, stores that specialize in computer sales are classified as wholesalers.

Despite a strong increase in sales of household furnishings, the market share of stores specializing in these types of articles fell from 35.2% to 34.0%, to the benefit of non-specialized stores (such as department stores and home and auto supply stores). Bed and bath accessories accounted for 35.1% of this merchandise group, decorative products (including Christmas decorations) for 28.1%, floor coverings and tiles for 25.7%, and window treatments for 11.1%.

Retail stores sold \$2.4 billion worth of sporting and leisure goods in the third quarter (+6.1%). These

sales represented \$3.50 out of every \$100 Canadians spent in a retail store in the third quarter. Sporting goods accounted for 35.9% of the sports and leisure market. Leisure goods include merchandise such as toys, sewing supplies, artists' supplies, videocassettes and books. Books, newspapers and other periodicals accounted for 24.9% of sales in the sports and leisure market, while toys, games and hobby supplies accounted for 15.7%, and tapes, videocassettes and CDs for 14.4%.

Hunting, fishing, and camping equipment, along with team-sports equipment (such as hockey and soccer), were the most popular sporting goods items in the third quarter. Combined, they represented just over 45.0% of the market for sporting goods. Although the group of "other durable goods stores" (includes stores selling sporting goods, CDs, jewellery and cameras) benefited from a very large share of the sporting goods market (57.9%), other types of stores, such as home and auto supply stores, as well as the department stores, held a substantial share (31.8% when combined).

For data or general information, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067 or retailinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Ghysline Forget (613-951-9791), Distributive Trades Division. □

Commodity share of sales across store types

Third quarter 1999

	Food stores	Drug stores	Clothing and shoe stores	Household furniture, appliance and household furnishing stores	General merchandise and automotive parts, accessories and service stores	Other retail stores	All retail stores
	%						
Food and beverages	76.4	1.2	0.0	0.0	7.8	14.5	100.0
Health and personal care products	18.1	58.4	0.9	0.0	15.0	7.6	100.0
Clothing, footwear and accessories	0.8	0.2	51.8	0.0	33.4	13.7	100.0
Home furnishings and electronics	1.6	2.2	0.9	60.1	29.1	6.2	100.0
Motor vehicles, parts and service	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	14.3	85.6	100.0
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	7.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	88.7	100.0
All other goods and services	18.3	3.1	1.6	4.0	25.2	47.7	100.0
Total, commodity groups	22.4	4.9	5.3	5.2	16.9	45.3	100.0

Commodity share of sales within store types

Third quarter 1999

	Food stores	Drug stores	Clothing and shoe stores	Household furniture, appliance and household furnishing stores	General merchandise and automotive parts, accessories and service stores	Other retail stores	All retail stores
	%						
Food and beverages	77.5	5.7	0.2	0.0	10.5	7.3	22.7
Health and personal care products	5.4	79.7	1.1	0.1	6.0	1.1	6.7
Clothing, footwear and accessories	0.4	0.4	92.3	0.0	18.6	2.9	9.4
Home furnishings and electronics	0.5	3.3	1.3	86.4	12.9	1.0	7.5
Motor vehicles, parts and service	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	25.2	56.0	29.7
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	14.0	7.1
All other goods and services	13.8	10.9	5.2	12.9	25.3	17.8	16.9
Total, commodity groups	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Survey of Large Retailers

October 1999 and third quarter (preliminary)

In October, sales for the group of large retailers reached \$6.2 billion, up from a year earlier by 4.1%. However, the composition of the group affected the year-over-year change. A significant number of food stores that were included in the October 1998 survey have now left the group. Excluding food retailers, the year-over-year sales increase in October would have been 8.4%. Sales in October include those made by Eaton's merchandise liquidator. (All data in this report are unadjusted for seasonality.)

Except for food and beverage sales (-3.6%), all the large retailers' major product lines showed positive sales increases compared with October 1998. This October, the large retailers saw strong sales increases in health and personal care products (+21.2%); home furnishings and electronics (+12.0%); and housewares (+8.4%).

Sales of health and personal care products increased by \$87.9 million. In keeping with the pattern established in the summer of 1998, October marked the 16th consecutive month of double-digit year-over-year sales growth in this category. October's growth was boosted by rising consumer purchases of cosmetics and fragrances (+38.6%), prescription drugs (+27.9%) and over-the-counter drugs (+26.7%).

In the third quarter, the group of large retailers increased their market share of health and personal care products. (The third quarter is the most recent period for which commodity estimates for all retail stores are available.) These large retailers benefited from sustained sales increases for these products and, as a result, their market share steadily grew to 29.5% in the third quarter, up from 27.8% in the third quarter of 1998.

The large retailers' sales of home furnishings and electronics reached \$903.5 million in October, up from a year earlier by \$97.1 million. The largest year-over-year sales increases within this category were for computers and related equipment (up \$14.7 million or 29.7%); artwork and other home decorating products (up \$16.8 million or 28.2%); household furniture (up \$23.3 million or 19.9%); and cameras and photographic equipment (up \$3.4 million or 16.9%).

Stores belonging to the large retailers accounted for 49.6% of all the purchases of home furnishings and electronics from all retail stores in the third quarter. Market share for the group remained relatively stable in the third quarter, compared with the third quarter of 1998.

Houseware sales by the large retailers reached \$300.8 million in October, a \$23.4 million increase over the same month last year. Non-electric household supplies (e.g., brooms, mops, and laundry baskets) recorded the largest percentage increase in this category, up 12.1% (+\$7.3 million). Tableware posted the smallest year-over-year increase at 2.7%.

The large retailers' sales of clothing, footwear and accessories advanced only 4.6% year-over-year in October. This followed a 9.8% year-over-year increase in September. As a result of sales increases in all three months of the third quarter, the market share for clothing, footwear and accessories for the group rose 2.1 percentage points, rising from 56.4% in the third quarter of 1998 to 58.5% in the third quarter of 1999.

To order data, or for general information, contact Client services (613-951-3549 or 1 877 421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Janet Sear (613-951-5580; searj@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Sales for the group of large retailers

	September 1998	September 1999 ^r	September 1998 to September 1999 unadjusted	October 1998	October 1999 ^p	October 1998 to October 1999
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Food and beverages	2,003	2,028	1.3	2,176	2,097	-3.6
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,198	1,316	9.8	1,259	1,317	4.6
Home furnishings and electronics	758	852	12.4	806	903	12.0
Health and personal care products	396	453	14.3	414	502	21.2
Housewares	270	300	11.1	277	301	8.4
Sporting and leisure goods	226	232	2.5	273	282	3.5
Hardware, lawn and garden products	180	194	7.5	182	190	4.4
All other goods and services	565	609	7.8	608	647	6.4
Total, all commodities	5,596	5,984	6.9	5,997	6,241	4.1

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Production and disposition of tobacco products

November 1999

Manufacturers shipped 3.6 billion cigarettes in November, down 13% from the previous month and 7% from November last year. Year-to-date shipments,

at 42.8 billion cigarettes, were 2% lower than in the first 11 months of 1998.

During November, companies produced 3.8 billion cigarettes, down 10% from October and 18% from November 1998. Year-to-date production reached 43.5 billion cigarettes, 4% below last year's level for the 11 months.

Inventories expanded during November, which is usual when manufacturers are preparing for the holiday season. Closing inventories increased to 4.2 billion cigarettes, up 12% from the 3.7 billion opening inventory, but still 12% below the 4.8 billion in inventory at the end of November last year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The November 1999 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products* (32-022-XIB, \$5/\$47) is available on the Internet. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact: Ola Ogini (613-951-7380; ola.ogini@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Business entries and exits

First quarter 1999

Statistics Canada has recently completed a prototype survey intended to measure business entries and exits. This survey measured the number of business startups and closures in order to determine the net formation of businesses. However, unlike an earlier version of the Business Entry and Exit survey conducted in the early 1990s, which presented results by region (Maritimes, Québec, Ontario, Prairies, British Columbia and the Territories) and by industrial sector, this prototype survey targeted smaller urban areas with a population of business establishments between 5,000 and 10,000. Examples of these targeted areas are Halifax, Sherbrooke, St. Catharines-Niagara, Saskatoon and Kamloops.

The Business Register shows a total of 226,807 business establishments operating within the smaller urban areas targeted by the prototype survey. This represents 12.6% of the 1,795,130 establishments recorded on the Business Register for all of Canada.

The estimates of the business entries and exits for smaller urban areas across Canada for the first quarter of 1999 are 5,096 business entries and 4,555 business exits for a net increase of 541 businesses. While the net growth of the business establishment population is relatively low, the turnover rate for smaller urban areas is about 4%.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts and methodology serving as the basis for this prototype survey, contact Philippe Gagné (613-951-9735; gagnphi@statcan.ca), Business Register Division. ■

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds)

Second quarter 1999

At the end of the second quarter of 1999, the market value of the total assets of employer-sponsored pension plans increased 3.5% to \$522 billion.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5749.

For more information about the current survey results and related products/services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Nine-day period ending November 30, 1999

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the nine-day period ending November 30, 1999, increased to 6.7 million tonnes, up 14.8% compared to the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 16.2%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totaled 567 000 tonnes, a 27.3% increase from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures showed an increase of 13.4%.

Total traffic increased 15.7% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 235.2 million tonnes, a decrease of 0.2% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: (613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

October 1999

In October, sawmills produced 6 125.4 thousand cubic metres of lumber and ties, a 2.4% increase from 5 980.3 thousand cubic metres (after revisions) in October 1998.

For January to October 1999, production totalled 58 355.4 thousand cubic metres, up 4.6% from 55 755.0 thousand cubic metres (after revisions) produced during the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 53, 122 (series 2).

The October 1999 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills* (35-003-XIB, \$9/\$86) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this

release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; simales@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction, and Energy Division. ■

Oilseed crushings

November 1999

In November, oilseed processors crushed 245 626 metric tonnes of canola. Oil production totalled 102 070 tonnes, while meal production amounted to 154 663 tonnes.

In the first four months of the 1999/2000 crop year, the canola crush volume was 964 584 tonnes, a 15%

decline from 1 133 211 tonnes crushed in the same four months of 1998/99.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The November 1999 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be released in early February 2000. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to inquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856; karen.gray@statcan.ca) or Les Macartney (613-951-8714), Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Monthly survey of manufacturing, October 1999
Catalogue number 31-001-XPB
(Canada: \$20/\$196; outside Canada: US\$20/US\$196).

Production and disposition of tobacco products,
November 1999
Catalogue number 32-022-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Sawmills and planing mills, October 1999
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB
(Canada: \$9/\$86).

Canadian international merchandise trade,
October 1999
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(Canada: \$14/\$141).

Canadian international merchandise trade,
October 1999
Catalogue number 65-001-XPB
(Canada: \$19/\$188; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$188).

Imports by commodity, October 1999
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

Quarterly estimates of trusted pension funds,
Second quarter 1999
Catalogue number 74-001-XPB
(Canada: \$19/\$62; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$62).

**Science statistics service bulletin: Industrial
research and development**, 1995-99, vol. 23, no. 9
Catalogue number 88-001-XIB
(Canada: \$6/\$59).

**Report on the demographic situation in
Canada**, 1998-1999
Catalogue number 91-209-XPE
(Canada: \$31; outside Canada: US\$31).

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• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
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