

Statistics Canada

Friday, December 24, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

Gross domestic product by industry at factor cost, October 1999
 Gross domestic product grew 0.1% in October, in line with the slower pace set in September.
 This marked the 15th consecutive increase in the longest uninterrupted series of gains in over a decade, mirroring the strong growth in full-time employment.

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Season's greetings!

The Daily will not be published December 27 through January 4. Publication will resume on Wednesday, January 5, 2000. The staff of *The Daily* sends you best wishes for a safe and happy holiday.





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MAJOR RELEASES

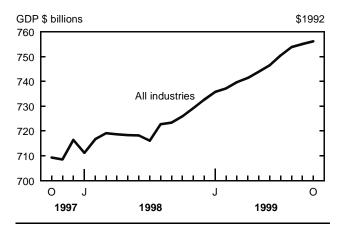
Gross domestic product by industry at factor cost

October 1999

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew 0.1% in October, in line with the slower pace set in September. This marked the 15th consecutive increase in the longest uninterrupted series of gains in over a decade, mirroring the strong growth in full-time employment.

A significant rebound in wholesaling, coupled with increased activity in the business services and the federal and provincial government services industries, more than offset auto-related declines in manufacturing and retailing.

Economy continued to advance at a slower pace



Manufacturing output off for a second month

Manufacturing output receded for a second consecutive month, falling 0.4% in October. This decline was mostly attributable to lower output of transportation equipment, food, chemicals, wood and clothing. These decreases were partly offset by higher output in the rubber, fabricated metal and electrical and electronic products industries. Overall, 13 of 22 major industry groups, accounting for almost two-thirds of manufacturing output, curtailed production.

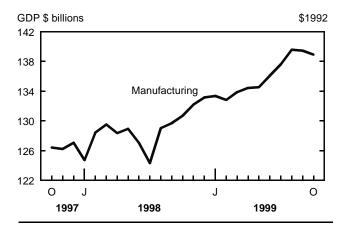
Manufacturing in the automotive industry shifted into lower gear for a second consecutive month in October. Output of cars and trucks fell 1.8%, a decline that was partly attributed to production line difficulties. Despite the recent downward movement, production was still

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.

significantly above that of a year ago, with output being a full 10% higher than in October 1998.

Second consecutive decline in manufacturing



A 1.4% decline in food production was caused by lower output of fruit and vegetable products, flour, cereals and sugar.

Lower production of inorganic chemicals pushed chemical products down 1.1% in October. Output in the chemical industry would have fallen further had it not been for continued growth in pharmaceutical production.

Production of most wood products receded in October. Lower output of doors, frames, plywood and particleboard parallelled a cooling of the United States housing market, although production of sawn lumber rose fractionally. Exports of all wood products have fallen in the last two months, after rising sharply in the previous two.

Manufacturing of clothing fell for a fourth consecutive month in October. While makers of mens' and boys' clothing continued to pare back production as a result of slack demand, output of miscellaneous clothing and apparel was up slightly after a sharp falling off since the beginning of the year.

Production of rubber products rose 4.6% in October, as new capacity in the tire and tube industry led to a significant increase in output. Higher production by hardware and tool makers lifted the output of the fabricated metal products industry.

Output of electrical and electronic products rose 0.5% in October, the smallest of eight consecutive monthly advances. Production of telecommunications equipment turned negative in October for only the second time in over a year. Manufacturers of computers and peripherals, and communication wire and cable both increased, but at a slower pace than in recent months. Despite the modest October gain, production of electrical and electronic equipment was 24.6% higher than in the same month last year.

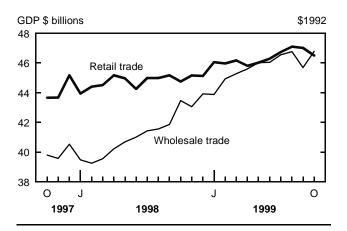
Poor auto sales hobbled retailing

Retailers experienced a significant 1.1% drop in activity as sharply lower truck sales resulted in the largest monthly decline for auto dealers in over a year. The strong sales of the previous three months, which temporarily drew down dealers' inventories, left many with insufficient stocks of popular models. The picture was generally brighter among other retailers, with higher sales for clothing, furniture and liquor stores.

Wholesaling activity rebounded

Wholesaling activity surged 2.4% in October, more than recouping a decline in the previous month. This rebound was caused by a recovery in computer and software sales after a spell of weakness in the previous two months. Excluding computer and software dealers, distributors of other types of goods did not fare so well, as less food, automotive products and hardware were sold.

Falling retail sales offset by rebound in wholesaling



Business services continued to expand

Activity in the business services industry rose 0.8% in October, spurred by continued growth in computer and consulting services and increased demand for temporary help and other miscellaneous business services. There was also some pick-up in activity among computer service firms, after less intensive growth in the previous four months.

Slower sales dampened real estate market

Business was slower for real estate agents for the fourth consecutive month in October, as sales of new and existing homes were down. Despite the recent monthly declines, home sales were still relatively strong compared with last year.

Mining sector showed some resilience

Output from the mining sector rose a slight 0.2%, following a surge in September. Rising oil and gas prices continue to propel investment in exploration projects, leading drilling and rigging companies to increase output for the fifth consecutive month. However, output of crude oil and natural gas fell for the third consecutive month, as production problems continued to plague the industry.

Output by metal mines remained flat in October as declines in gold production were offset by increases in other metal mines. Gold mine closures late in September took a toll on production. As well, there were additional mine closures at the end of October. Copper output increased substantially in October as a large copper mine resumed operations, while nickel output was hampered by labour strife. A 10.2% increase in non-metal mine output was solely attributable to higher diamond production.

Other industries

Construction activity continued to follow an upward trend in October (+0.2%), buttressed by increased work on non-residential projects. Weakness in the finance industries was due to lower stock market activity. Government services rose 0.4% in October, led by federal government services, which have been following a strong upward trend throughout 1999. Communications services saw little change in October, as telephone carriers reported flat activity. Increased dining out buoyed the food and accommodations industry.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.

The October 1999 issue of *Gross domestic product* by industry (15-001-XPB,\$15/\$145) is scheduled for release in early January 2000. See *How to order publications*.

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

Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca). For information regarding the purchase of data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 887-IMAD; IMAD@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry at 1992 prices

	May 1999 ^r	June 1999 ^r	July 1999 ^r	Aug. 1999 ^r	Sept. 1999 ^r	Oct. 1999 ^p	Sept. to Oct. 1999	Oct. 1999	Oct. 1998 to Oct. 1999
	seasonally adjusted								
	month-to-month % change						\$ change ¹	\$ level ¹	% change
All Industries	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	1,116	756,167	4.2
Goods-producing industries	0.3	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.5	-0.1	-379	252,561	5.8
Agriculture	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	59	13,668	6.4
Fishing and trapping	10.6	1.1	-3.7	-7.6	-1.6	4.3	31	749	4.6
Logging and forestry	0.6	-1.0	2.0	1.1	0.3	-2.4	-105	4,316	0.7
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1.4	-1.1	1.2	0.2	2.2	0.2	51	26,803	2.1
Manufacturing	0.1	1.2	1.1	1.4	-0.1	-0.4	-539	138,905	6.3
Construction	-0.1	0.9	0.3	-0.1	0.5	0.2	77	41,954	5.1
Other utilities	1.1	0.3	1.7	-0.8	1.9	0.2	47	26,166	9.0
Services-producing industries	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	1,495	503,606	3.4
Transportation and storage	0.6	0.7	-0.3	0.9	0.7	0.2	70	35,518	4.6
Communications	1.1	-0.1	1.1	-0.4	0.5	0.0	2	26,126	7.1
Wholesale trade	0.9	0.1	1.1	0.5	-2.3	2.4	1,104	46,783	7.6
Retail trade	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.8	-0.2	-1.1	-521	46,489	3.9
Finance and insurance	-0.1	0.8	-0.1	0.4	-0.2	-0.4	-148	41,308	1.8
Real estate and insurance agent	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	-37	79,759	2.6
Business services	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.9	0.8	337	44,458	8.3
Government services	0.3	0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	170	45,920	2.4
Education	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	119	40,577	0.1
Health and social services	-0.2	-0.6	-0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1	33	46,915	-1.1
Accommodation and food	-0.5	-0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.2	1.2	228	19,831	3.0
Other services	0.3	-0.2	0.4	-0.3	0.5	0.5	138	29,922	2.5
Other aggregations	0.4		4.0	4.0	0.5			101.071	
Industrial production	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.0	0.5	-0.2	-441	191,874	6.0
Non-durable manufacturing	-0.6	0.4	0.9	0.3	0.7	-0.6	-323	57,976	2.8
Durable manufacturing	0.6	1.7	1.2	2.2	-0.7	-0.3	-216	80,929	8.9
Business sector	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.1	809	626,708	4.9
Non-business sector	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	307	129,459	0.6

Revised figures. Preliminary figures. Millions of dollars at annual rate.

OTHER RELEASES

Telecommunications statistics

Second quarter 1999

Second quarter data from the new Quarterly Survey on the Telecommunications Industry in Canada (NAICS 5133) are now available. For the first time, this survey includes the major alternative wireline carriers and the wireless industry. As well, estimates are now provided for those units not covered in the survey (reseller, satellite and small wireline and wireless service providers).

The data include operating revenues and expenses, capital expenditures, employment, network infrastructure (access lines and wireless subscribers) and traffic data.

Operating revenues in the second quarter for the telecommunications industry were \$7.2 billion. Operating margin, the difference between operating revenues and operating expenses, amounted to \$1.2 billion (16.2% of revenues). Capital expenditures were over \$1.5 billion this quarter, representing \$63.93 for every public access line in the country and \$56.59 for each cellular subscriber.

There were 25 million access paths to the public switched telephone network, comprising 19 million public access lines and 6 million mobile telephone subscribers. Most of the recent growth in access comes from wireless or mobile services, which has increased 15.9 % over the previous quarter.

The second quarter issue of *Telephone statistics* (56-002-XIB, \$21/\$40) 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 Haig McCarrell (613-951-5948) or Joanne Lambert (613-951-6673), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

Electric power statistics

October 1999

Cooler temperatures throughout the country and favourable generating conditions for hydro-electric stations enabled net generation of electricity to increase to 46 183 gigawatt hours (GWh), up 9.2% from October 1998. This is the largest monthly year-over-year

increase since June 1994. Exports increased 57.5% to 4 559 GWh, and imports decreased from 1 615 GWh to 887 GWh.

In sharp contrast to the low reservoir levels in October 1998, favourable generating conditions across Canada led to an 18.8% increase in hydro-electricity generation to 29 433 GWh. Generation from nuclear sources was up 30.7% to 5 684 GWh due to greater capability in Ontario. This caused thermal conventional generation to be reduced 15.9% to 11 066 GWh.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of October totalled 456 258 GWh, up 1.9% from the previous year. Year-to-date exports (36 558 GWh) were down 3.0%, whereas year-to-date imports (11 614 GWh) fell 8.9% from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3985-3999.

The October 1999 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XIB, \$9/\$85) will be available shortly. 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), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending December 7, 1999

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending December 7, 1999, increased 3.7% to 5.0 million tonnes compared with the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 4.6%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 405 000 tonnes, up 7.2% from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures increased 13.3%.

Total traffic increased 3.9% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 240.5 million tonnes, down 0.1% from the previous year.

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; laroque @statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

Television viewing

Fall 1998

Fall 1998 data on television viewing are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Lotfi Chahdi (613-951-3136; fax: 613-951-9040; *chahlot@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Infomat - A weekly review, December 24, 1999 Catalogue number 11-002-XIE

(Canada: \$3/\$109).

Infomat - A weekly review, December 24, 1999

Catalogue number 11-002-XPE

(Canada: \$4/\$145; outside Canada: US\$4/US\$145).

Gross domestic product by industry,

September 1999

Catalogue number 15-001-XPB

(Canada: \$15/\$145; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$145).

Road motor vehicles, fuel sales, 1998 Catalogue number 53-218-XIB

(Canada: \$21).

Telephone statistics, telecommunications, vol. 23,

no. 2

Catalogue number 56-002-XIB

(Canada: \$21/\$40).

Wholesale trade, October 1999 Catalogue number 63-008-XIB

(Canada: \$14/\$140).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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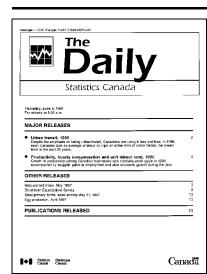
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RELEASE DATES: JANUARY 2000

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period	
5	Industrial Product Price Index	November 1999	
5	Raw Materials Price Index	November 1999	
5	Help-wanted Index	December 1999	
7	Labour Force Survey	December 1999	
7	Estimates of labour income	October 1999	
12	Building permits	November 1999	
12	New Housing Price Index	November 1999	
18	New motor vehicle sales	November 1999	
19	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	November 1999	
19	Travel between Canada and other countries	November 1999	
20	Canadian international merchandise trade	November 1999	
21	Consumer Price Index	December 1999	
24	Wholesale trade	November 1999	
24	Canada's international transactions in securities	November 1999	
26	Retail trade	November 1999	
26	Composite Index	December 1999	
26	Employment Insurance	November 1999	
27	Employment, earnings and hours	November 1999	
28	Industrial Product Price Index	December 1999	
28	Raw Materials Price Index	December 1999	
31	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	November 1999	