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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, January 20, 2000
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on following page)

Canadian economic observer

January 2000

The January issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes December's major economic events and presents a feature article on the labour market in the 1990s. 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 January 2000 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*), Current Economic Analysis Group.

OTHER RELEASES

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

November 1999

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

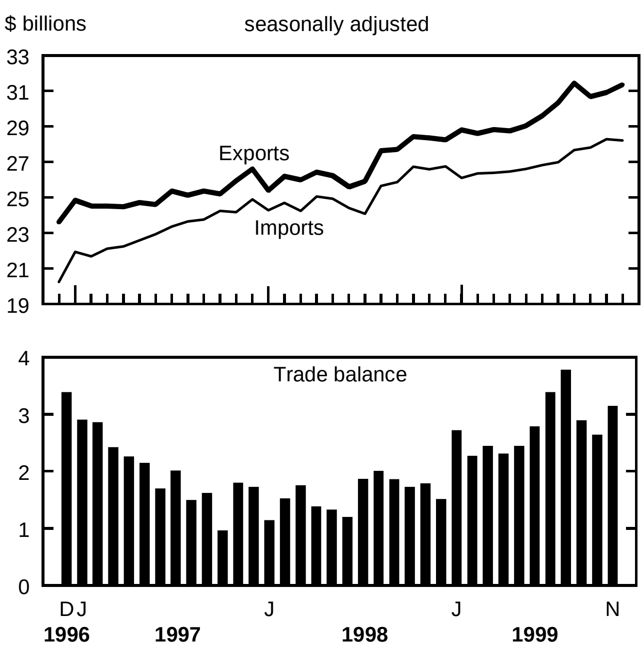
Imports fell slightly in November for the first time since January 1999. Exports rose 1.4% to a level almost as high as the August 1999 record of $31.4 billion.

Exports rose in November for the second straight month. The increase was mainly the result of strong exports of high-tech products, in particular nuclear, electronic and aeronautics products, as well as of minerals and natural gas.

Imports fell 0.2% to $28.2 billion, due primarily to lower imports of computers, compressors, telecommunications equipment and cattle.

The trade balance rose to $3.1 billion in November, its highest level since July 1999. This follows a strong third quarter, where merchandise trade contributed to the first positive balance of the current account since the last quarter of 1996.

Exports, imports and trade balance



High-tech sectors drive up exports

The growth rate of machinery and equipment exports continued its upward movement that started in the second quarter of 1999, after almost a year of stability. Strong high-tech equipment exports, particularly to the United Kingdom and China, pushed the sector upward, despite the offsetting drop in computer and aircraft exports.

Exports of industrial goods rose 2.7% as a result of strong exports of minerals and metal by-products as well as plastics and synthetic rubber. The improving economic situation in Southeast Asia, higher mineral prices and an end to strikes helped drive up mineral exports.

After dropping sharply in October, exports of energy products increased 1.9%. This gain was due to two main factors: the rebound of natural gas exports, and the continuing upward trend in crude oil, which increased 13.5% from September to November.

Exports of forestry products were relatively stable over the last three months. This was the result of offsetting movements in November. The decline in lumber exports to Asia was due mainly to the strike at Vancouver ports, while quotas and additional duties on lumber to the United States forced some Canadian producers to shut down operations in mid-November. Low American wood pulp inventories resulted in an increase in exports, despite a slight decrease in prices.

Exports of automotive products remained virtually unchanged in November. Higher automobile and parts exports, mainly the result of record sales in the United States, were offset by a sharp 7.3% drop in truck exports, which were due to temporary closures of some Canadian plants.

Imports dropped for the first time in 1999

The largest contributor to November's decline in imports was the machinery and equipment sector. Imports of compressors returned to more normal levels after sharp increases in the preceding two months. In addition, the downward trend in imports of computers since June 1999 continued in November.

Imports in 13 of the 17 agriculture and fishing sub-sectors decreased in November, with cattle recording the sharpest drop. After a 175.8% surge in October (the result of the Northwest Cattle import protocol signed by Canada and the United States), imports of cattle fell 40.3%.

Automotive product imports recovered slightly in November. Higher automobile and truck imports offset the sharp drop in auto parts. Strong domestic demand for automobiles and trucks stimulated imports. On the other hand, assembly-line problems in some Canadian plants led to an accumulation of parts inventories and a subsequent drop in auto parts imports.

For the sixth consecutive month, imports of industrial goods rose in November. The principal reasons for this increase were strong Canadian demand for steel products, mainly for the buoyant construction and automotive sectors, as well as higher gold prices and strong drug imports.

With the exception of a slight drop in October, energy product imports continued their upward trend. November's level was 81.7% higher than in November 1998, chiefly due to higher crude oil prices. Although all sub-sectors recorded increases, crude oil and jet fuel were the biggest contributors. The re-opening of some refineries after overhaul shutdowns was the main factor behind the sharp increase in jet fuel imports, while the advance in crude oil imports was mainly due to an erratic movement in this volatile sub-sector.

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 or 1 800 294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. □

Merchandise trade

	Oct. 1999[r]	Nov. 1999	Oct. 1999 to Nov. 1999	Nov. 1998 to Nov. 1999	Jan. to Nov. 1998	Jan. to Nov. 1999	Jan.-Nov. 1998 to Jan.-Nov. 1999
	seasonally adjusted, $ current						
	$ millions		% change		$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	26,560	26,881	1.2	10.8	245,413	282,265	15.0
Japan	789	724	-8.2	-10.7	8,735	8,370	-4.2
European Union	1,594	1,633	2.4	24.4	16,317	16,614	1.8
Other OECD countries [1]	592	694	17.2	12.3	6,874	6,419	-6.6
All other countries	1,379	1,419	2.9	3.4	16,668	14,753	-11.5
Total	30,913	31,351	1.4	10.5	294,010	328,423	11.7
Imports							
United States	21,366	21,083	-1.3	2.4	212,763	227,494	6.9
Japan	933	985	5.6	31.0	8,871	9,631	8.6
European Union	2,550	2,654	4.1	22.4	23,184	25,848	11.5
Other OECD countries [1]	1,161	1,209	4.1	23.6	10,420	11,922	14.4
All other countries	2,282	2,293	0.5	8.5	21,403	22,915	7.1
Total	28,292	28,224	-0.2	6.1	276,642	297,808	7.7
Balance							
United States	5,194	5,798	...	...	32,650	54,771	...
Japan	-144	-261	...	...	-136	-1,261	...
European Union	-956	-1,021	...	...	-6,867	-9,234	...
Other OECD countries [1]	-569	-515	...	...	-3,546	-5,503	...
All other countries	-903	-874	...	...	-4,735	-8,162	...
Total	2,621	3,127	...	...	17,368	30,615	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,179	2,163	-0.7	1.6	23,030	23,441	1.8
Energy products	2,779	2,833	1.9	53.3	22,172	27,020	21.9
Forestry products	3,294	3,294	0.0	9.1	32,106	35,427	10.3
Industrial goods and materials	4,956	5,091	2.7	8.5	52,809	52,285	-1.0
Machinery and equipment	7,404	7,620	2.9	15.0	72,121	77,674	7.7
Automotive products	8,061	8,060	0.0	2.6	69,578	87,735	26.1
Other consumer goods	1,139	1,127	-1.1	2.2	11,350	12,461	9.8
Special transactions trade [2]	573	628	9.6	9.0	4,990	6,697	34.2
Other balance-of-payments adjustments	528	536	1.5	3.3	5,857	5,684	-3.0
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,544	1,468	-4.9	-1.5	15,768	16,203	2.8
Energy products	1,044	1,241	18.9	81.7	8,064	9,478	17.5
Forestry products	228	235	3.1	8.3	2,274	2,498	9.9
Industrial goods and materials	5,328	5,391	1.2	4.6	55,164	56,385	2.2
Machinery and equipment	9,506	9,244	-2.8	6.3	92,287	98,827	7.1
Automotive products	6,450	6,498	0.7	3.7	60,599	69,488	14.7
Other consumer goods	3,157	3,140	-0.5	0.9	31,426	33,709	7.3
Special transactions trade [2]	503	495	-1.6	0.8	5,812	5,576	-4.1
Other balance-of-payments adjustments	531	510	-4.0	4.1	5,246	5,641	7.5

r *Revised figures.*
... *Figures not appropriate or not applicable.*
1 *Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary and the Czech Republic.*
2 *These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.*

■

Tobacco use

1999

Young men between the ages of 20 and 24 have the highest smoking rates of any group in Canada, according to the first results of a new survey that will track changes in tobacco use patterns.

In 1999, 4 out of every 10 males in this age group (39%) were smokers, either on a daily or occasional basis, up from 35% in 1990. However, this proportion was virtually unchanged from the level in 1994.

Smoking trends among teenagers have followed a similar pattern, according to the data. In 1999, 28% of 15- to 19-year-olds smoked, either on a daily or occasional basis. This was up from 21% at the beginning of the decade, although the rate has remained steady since 1994.

Overall, however, smokers now constitute a smaller proportion of the population. In 1999, an estimated one-quarter (25%) of the population aged 15 and over — about 6.1 million people — were smokers, down from about 30% in 1990. This decline is likely due to two factors: lower smoking rates among older people and a range of tobacco control measures.

Even so, for many Canadians, smoking is a well-established habit. Slightly over half (52%) of these 6.1 million smokers reported that they had smoked their first cigarette over 20 years ago. And while there are now more former smokers than current smokers, the people who quit are being steadily replaced. In 1999, an estimated 84,000 people started smoking, compared with about 387,000 who quit.

Smoking increasingly a young person's habit

Smoking is increasingly becoming a young person's habit, according to the survey. Declines in smoking rates have been greatest among older individuals, who are more likely to have successfully quit.

In 1999, only 19% of men aged 45 and over, and 17% of women in this age group, were smokers. This was well below national averages of 27% among men and 23% for women. Among individuals aged 55 and over, only 14% were current smokers.

Among teens (aged 15 to 19), 29% of girls and 28% of boys were smokers in 1999. Smoking rates for young adults (20-24) were particularly high with 39% of men and 29% of women smoking in 1999. (While the rate for men in this age group has increased since 1990, it fell from 35% among women.) Among current smokers aged 15 to 17, more than one-third (35%) reported having had their first cigarette at age 12 or earlier. Almost 80% had tried smoking by the age of 14.

Note to readers

This report summarizes the first results of the Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey. This new Health Canada survey, conducted by Statistics Canada, and analyzed by Health Canada, monitors changes in tobacco use patterns. During the course of a year, it will collect information from about 20,000 randomly selected respondents.

While the survey will be conducted on a monthly basis, data will be released every six months. This first set of data includes information collected between February and June 1999.

The survey collects information on current and past smoking behaviour, as well as data on environmental tobacco smoke exposure in homes, access to cigarettes, use of other tobacco products, the importance of federal regulations and personal characteristics of respondents (such as age, sex, marital status, income and education).

In addition, the survey has been designed to track changes in smoking patterns and smoking consumption among individuals most at risk — youth and young adults. It also facilitates comparison of estimates across provinces.

Smokers by age and sex

1999

Age group	Males	Females
	%	
15 - 19	28	29
20 - 24	39	29
25 - 44	33	27
45+	19	17
Total	27	23

Daily cigarette consumption declining

In 1999, daily smokers consumed an average of 17.0 cigarettes each day, down from 18.4 in 1990. The highest level of use, 21.4 cigarettes a day, was reported by men aged 35 to 44.

Daily consumption has declined steadily for both men and women, but the decrease has been a little faster for men. As a result, the amount smoked daily by men and women is now closer than it has been since 1990.

Among teenagers, the number of cigarettes smoked daily has declined for both sexes during the past decade. However, more recent trends suggest shifts in this pattern — consumption among teenaged boys has declined during the 1990s, while it has increased among teenaged girls.

Cigarette consumption among teen smokers is now at virtually the same level for both girls and boys — about 12.7 cigarettes each day. But if trends continue, young females who smoke daily will soon consume more cigarettes each day than their male counterparts.

More detailed analysis, including provincial information, can be obtained from Health Canada's Web site at *www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/bc/ctums/index.html*. Fact sheets developed for Wave 1 of the Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey have been released as part of National Non-smoking Week. For more information about this initiative, visit Health Canada's Web site.

For more information on the results of this survey, contact Margaret de Groh (613–957–1786; Margaret_de_groh@hc-sc-gc.ca), Laboratory centre for disease control, Health Canada. For information about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eddy Ross (613-951-3240; *rossedd@statcan.ca*), Special Surveys Division, Statistics Canada.

For information on the public-use microdata file, contact Client Services (613-951-7355 or 1 888 297-7355; fax 613-951-3012; *ssd@statcan.ca*), Special Surveys Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

The labour market in the 1990s

The performance of the labour market in the 1990s was significantly different than that of the 1980s, according to a feature article in the January 2000 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, available today.

Following the recession of the early 1990s, firms apparently preferred to trim hiring to adjust to a weak economic recovery, rather than increase layoffs. With a low hiring rate, the participation rate in the labour force was depressed, particularly among young people. Workers created their own jobs and self-employment increased. With fewer job opportunities, rates of quitting fell in paid jobs, and labour mobility slowed — increasing job tenure among the employed. Downsizing was also higher in the 1990s.

Perhaps the most distinguishing feature of the labour market in the 1990s was a shift in the types of jobs created. Job gains between 1990 and 1998 were concentrated in self-employment rather than in traditional full-time paid employment.

Full-time paid jobs accounted for only 18% of net job creation, compared with 47% in the 1980s. On the other hand, self-employment accounted for 58% of the net change from 1990 to 1998, compared with only 22% during the 1980s. It is too early to assess whether this shift represents an enduring change in the nature of work in Canada.

In addition, there is evidence that downsizing was greater in the 1990s than in the 1980s, at least up to 1996.

One might have expected to see most downsizing in industries that were thought to have undergone substantial technological change, such as the business services sector, and in manufacturing, where international competition flourished. Instead, fully 73% of the increase in downsizing was concentrated in the public sector, specifically health, education and government, and in consumer services industries.

The labour market in the 1990s was also marked by a continued increase in the human capital of workers, that is, in both their education and experience. For example, the proportion of the labour force with a university education increased from about 10% in 1976 to 18% in 1998.

The experience of the labour force, as represented by age, increased almost as rapidly. The number of mature workers, aged 45 to 54, increased 4.8% each year during the 1990s. At the same time, the number of less experienced workers, those under 35, fell 1.1% each year.

Workers in the 1990s faced similar rates of unemployment as during the 1980s even though they were more experienced, and had a higher level of education. Put another way, workers had to accumulate more experience and education to maintain their position in the labour market during the 1990s.

The article titled "The labour market in the 1990s" is in the January 2000 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 Garnett Picot (613-951-8214) or Andrew Heisz (613-951-3748), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

November 1999

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1992=100) are now available on a balance of payments basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to November 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 November 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 November 1999 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, $19/$188 or 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. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending January 15, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending January 15, 2000, totalled 329 885 tonnes, up 5.7% from the week-earlier 312 133 tonnes and up 23.1% from the year-earlier 267 873 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 682 104 tonnes, an 18.7% increase compared with 574 436 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

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*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics

November 1999

Pulpwood receipts in November totalled 3 179 174 cubic metres, up 16.9% from 2 719 431 cubic metres in November 1998. Wood residue receipts rose 11.4%, from 6 107 768 cubic metres in November 1998 to 6 802 935 cubic metres in November 1999. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 9 021 362 cubic metres, up 9.2% from 8 260 248 cubic metres in November 1998.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue increased 3.6% to 14 155 534 cubic metres, up from 13 662 781 cubic metres in November 1998. Year-to-date consumption of pulpwood and wood residue (102 660 199 cubic metres) increased 9.1% from 94 112 274 cubic metres a year earlier.

Data for 1998 were revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.

The November 1999 issue of *Pulpwood and wood residue statistics* (25-001-XIB, $6/$55) 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 Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; *simales@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, November 1999
Catalogue number 25-001-XIB
(Canada: $6/$55).

Consumer Price Index, December 1999
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB
(Canada: $11/$103; outside Canada: US$11/US$103).
Available at 7 a.m. on Friday, January 21.

Touriscope, International travel, vol. 15, no. 11
Catalogue number 66-001-PPB
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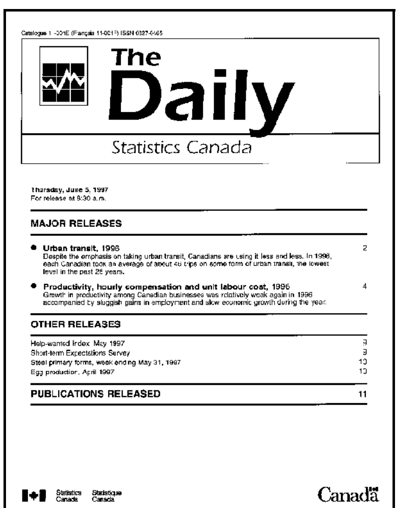
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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