

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, January 31, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **Gross domestic product by industry at factor cost, November 1999** 2
 November's gross domestic product shot up 0.6% in light of strong export demand and robust full-time employment growth. This marked the sixteenth consecutive increase, continuing the longest uninterrupted series of gains in over a decade.

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MAJOR RELEASES

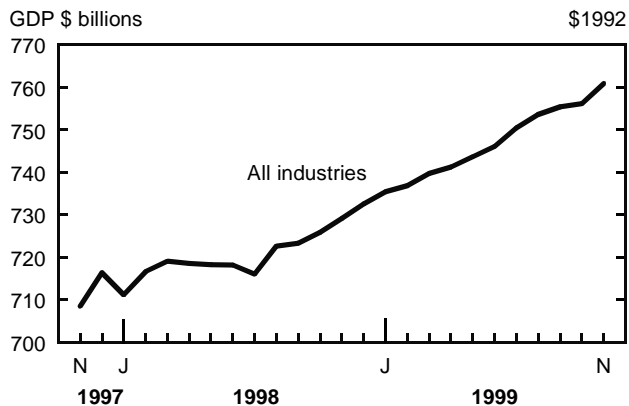
Gross domestic product by industry at factor cost

November 1999

November's gross domestic product shot up 0.6% in light of strong export demand and robust full-time employment growth. This marked the sixteenth consecutive increase, continuing the longest uninterrupted series of gains in over a decade.

The economy's strong showing in November followed three months in which economic growth gradually lost momentum, culminating with October's weak 0.1% advance.

Pace of economic growth picked up in November



A rebound in manufacturing, led by large gains in the electrical and electronic products industry, accounted for over 40% of November's increase. Wholesalers experienced a second strong month of growth in the wake of September's negative results, while retailing activity partly recovered from the declines of the previous two months.

Output of crude oil surged, following two months of production difficulties. Business service providers continued to forge ahead. Unseasonably warm weather conditions led to a drop in output of utilities, although the mild weather in November facilitated activity in construction and other building-related industries.

Broad-based rebound in manufacturing

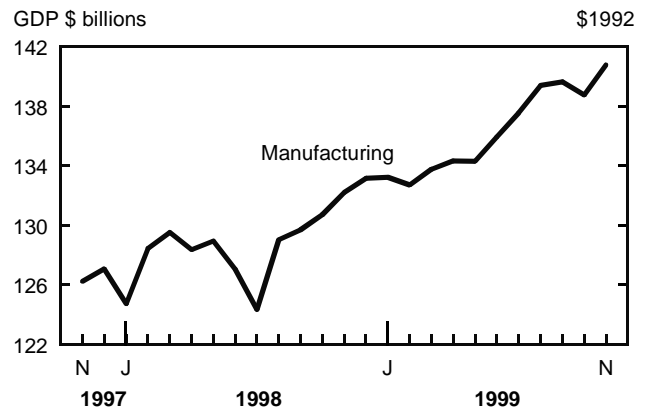
Factory output surged 1.5% in November, vaulting past the September level after October's 0.6% decline.

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.

A sharp increase in the electrical and electronic products industry led widespread gains with output of chemical, food and automotive products also rising significantly. Overall, 19 of 22 major industry groups, accounting for over 95% of total manufacturing production, advanced in November. Lower output was only recorded in the beverage, tobacco and oil refineries industries.

Manufacturing output surged after October slump



Manufacturing of electrical and electronic products surged 3.9% in November, as demand for telecommunications equipment showed no signs of abating. Production of communications and other related electronic equipment rose 7.8% in November, responding to a 10.2% spike in export demand. This was only the latest of a heady string of increases that has seen production in this industry expand by over 30% since December 1998.

While the burst in the communications equipment industry dominated the sector, significant production increases were also observed in the communications wire and cable and other electrical equipment industries. These gains were partly offset by a decline in the

computer and peripherals industry, the second in as many months.

Widespread activity in chemical plants lifted production of that industry by 2.5% in November. Industrial organic chemicals rebounded after production difficulties in October. Manufacturing of agricultural chemicals, soaps and miscellaneous chemical products also increased significantly.

Output of food products rebounded 1.6% in November. Production of canned and frozen fruits and vegetables rose after two months of decline. Makers of miscellaneous food products and flour and cereal products also raised output. The only significant decline was in the fish products industry, where a drop in output was partly attributed to temporary shutdowns.

Motor vehicle assembly rose 2.6% in November, as producers recovered some of the ground lost over the previous two months. Auto parts plants trimmed production by 0.1% in the same period, lowering output of motor vehicle stampings, plastic parts and fabrics. As a result of strong sales in the United States, where most Canadian-built automobiles are destined, 1999 is shaping up to be a banner year for the automotive industry. Output of autos and parts was up 19.3% in the first 11 months of the year compared with the same period in 1998.

Output of sawmills was virtually unchanged (-0.2%) following a 0.1% rise in the previous month. The Vancouver Port strike, in which over 2,000 dock workers walked off the job during the first half of November, had a constraining effect on lumber exports, which fell 2.0%.

Despite flat computer sales, wholesalers had strong growth

Wholesaling activity surged 1.7% in November, the second consecutive increase after a computer-induced surge in October. Computer sales, the driving force in the wholesale expansion in recent years, were flat in November. Instead, buyer interest was focussed on commodities such as food, machinery, lumber and building materials, and grains.

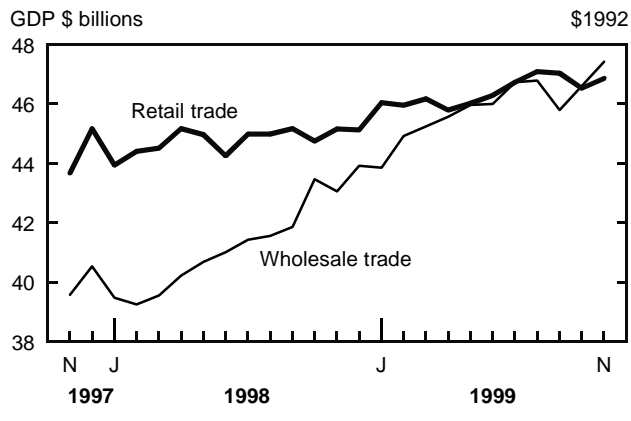
Auto sales led retailing higher

Retailing activity rose 0.7% in November, staging a partial comeback from a sharp decline in the previous month. The bulk of the increase was attributed to higher auto sales, which recovered about half their losses after plummeting in October because of flagging truck sales.

Activity in the rest of the retail sector was essentially flat in November, but there were significant offsetting movements. Most retailers — such as auto parts stores, grocery stores, gas stations and pharmacies — rang up

higher sales, which were offset by a sharp drop in traffic at department stores that was related to consolidation in the industry.

Wholesalers, retailers on upswing



A spurt in oil extraction buoyed the mining sector

Activity in the mining sector surged 1.6% in November due to a hefty increase in oil production. Despite favourable prices, oil output had been slow to rise because of production difficulties in previous months. The November increase pushed oil output to annual highs in both Atlantic and Western Canada. However, one of the mildest Novembers on record in key gas-heating markets resulted in sharply reduced demand for natural gas.

Metal mine output increased slightly in November, as continuing weakness in the gold sector partly offset increases in iron and other metal mines. In the other mines category, the resumption of operations at two Saskatchewan mines helped push uranium output back to normal levels after a four month slump. However, mine closures and labour strife reduced output of copper, nickel and zinc.

Non-metal mine output fell 3.7% in November, as potash producers' continuing efforts to curb excess market supply led to further shutdowns, while diamond miners also curtailed production.

Business services continued to show strength

Strong demand for business services led to a 0.8% increase in activity in that industry. Computer consulting service firms, as well as temporary help and other personnel agencies, both experienced healthy gains.

Construction output advanced

Total construction activity rose 0.5% in November, extending the steady growth observed in the previous 12 months. Encouraged by unusually mild weather conditions, work on non-residential projects continued to grow at a steady clip in November. Residential construction activity rose slightly, continuing on an unspectacular but steady upward course, despite steady increases in mortgage rates over the past year.

Warm weather a drag on utilities

Unseasonably warm temperatures in the East and the Prairies led to a 2.6% drop in electric power generation in November. The mild autumn climate also contributed to a 6.3% fall in gas distribution, the second consecutive monthly decline for this industry. Residential and commercial gas sales were particularly weak, although industrial sales increased during the month.

Other industries

November's brisk increase in goods production led to a marked rise in trucking activity, lifting the transportation industries by 0.9%. Output in the finance and insurance industries rose 0.5% after being hobbled by a slump in the stock markets in October. Strikes in education services held the reins on that industry in November.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.

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

For information regarding the purchase of data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 887-IMAD or IMAD@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. 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), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. □

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry at 1992 prices

	June 1999 ^r	July 1999 ^r	Aug. 1999 ^r	Sept. 1999 ^r	Oct. 1999 ^r	Nov. 1999 ^p	Oct. to Nov. 1999	Nov. 1999	Nov. 1998 to Nov. 1999
seasonally adjusted									
	month-to-month % change						\$ change ¹	\$ level ¹	% change
All industries	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	4,751	760,927	4.3
Goods-producing industries	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.6	-0.2	0.8	2,108	254,642	5.8
Agriculture	0.6	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.1	10	13,624	5.3
Fishing and trapping	1.1	-3.7	-7.6	-1.6	4.3	6.3	47	796	19.5
Logging and forestry	-3.4	1.9	2.0	3.0	0.3	1.0	44	4,477	3.3
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	-1.1	1.8	0.1	1.9	0.4	1.6	420	27,422	3.5
Manufacturing	1.2	1.2	1.4	0.2	-0.6	1.5	2,026	140,781	6.5
Construction	0.9	0.3	-0.1	0.5	0.3	0.5	215	42,241	5.8
Other utilities	0.2	1.5	-1.0	1.8	0.0	-2.5	-654	25,301	4.9
Services-producing industries	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5	2,643	506,285	3.6
Transportation and storage	0.7	-0.3	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.9	330	36,008	5.6
Communications	-0.4	1.2	-0.3	0.6	0.1	0.7	178	26,392	6.7
Wholesale trade	0.1	1.6	0.1	-2.1	1.8	1.7	802	47,406	10.1
Retail trade	0.6	1.0	0.8	-0.1	-1.1	0.7	329	46,853	3.8
Finance and insurance	0.8	-0.1	0.7	-0.3	-0.2	0.5	188	41,632	2.2
Real estate and insurance agent	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	141	79,924	2.6
Business services	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.9	0.8	376	44,888	8.3
Government services	0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	140	46,079	2.6
Education	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	-0.1	-22	40,542	0.0
Health and social services	-0.6	-0.2	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	-4	46,922	-1.0
Accommodation and food	-0.4	-0.3	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.3	66	19,633	1.7
Other services	-0.2	0.4	-0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	119	30,006	2.5
Other aggregations									
Industrial production	0.7	1.3	0.9	0.6	-0.4	0.9	1,792	193,504	5.8
Non-durable manufacturing	0.4	1.0	0.2	1.0	-0.9	1.3	781	58,711	3.5
Durable manufacturing	1.8	1.3	2.2	-0.5	-0.4	1.5	1,245	82,070	8.7
Business sector	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.7	4,628	631,322	5.2
Non-business sector	-0.1	-0.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	123	129,605	0.6

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Millions of dollars at annual rate.



OTHER RELEASES

Asphalt roofing

December 1999

Production of asphalt shingles totalled 2 224 699 metric bundles in December, a 14.4% increase from 1 945 504 metric bundles produced in December 1998.

Overall 1999 production amounted to 43 873 397 metric bundles, a 5.5% increase from 41 595 014 metric bundles produced during the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27).

The December 1999 issue of *Asphalt roofing* (45-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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. ■

Coal and coke statistics

November 1999

Improved conditions in Asian markets led to increased coal production in November. Coal production totalled 6 224 kilotonnes, up 0.4% from November 1998. Production in British Columbia, which is destined for export markets, rose 11.5% to 2 218 kilotonnes. Production in other provinces, which is intended mainly for electric power generation, decreased 4.9% to 4 006 kilotonnes. The year-to-date production figure for Canada stood at 66 589 kilotonnes, down 4.0% from the same period a year earlier.

Strong demand from Asian countries led to a 6.8% increase in exports from November 1998 to 2 948 kilotonnes. Exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) increased 25.8% to 1 695 kilotonnes during the same period. Year-to-date figures show total exports of 31 151 kilotonnes, 1.9% below last year's level.

Coke production in November increased to 276 kilotonnes, up 11.1% from November 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The November 1999 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XPB, \$12/\$114) 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. ■

Electric power statistics

November 1999

Favourable conditions for generation by hydro stations enabled net generation of electricity to increase to 46 852 gigawatt hours (GWh), up 3.6% from November 1998. Exports increased 65.3% to 3 734 GWh, and imports decreased from 1 356 GWh to 1 169 GWh.

In sharp contrast with the low reservoir levels in November 1998, favourable generating conditions across Canada led to an 11.6% increase in hydro-electricity generation to 29 855 GWh. This created the conditions for a substantial increase in exports, coming mainly from Quebec. At the same time, thermal conventional generation declined 10.5% to 11 359 GWh. Generation from nuclear sources was down 2.7% to 5 638 GWh.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of November 1999 totalled 503 419 GWh, up 2.1% from the previous year. Year-to-date exports (37 462 GWh) were down 6.2%, whereas year-to-date imports (13 356 GWh) fell 5.3% from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3985-3999.

The November 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. ■

Monthly railway carloadings

November 1999

The freight loaded by railways in Canada during November totalled 21.4 million metric tonnes (excluding intermodal traffic). The intermodal tonnage, represented by "container-on-flat-cars" and "trailers-on-flat-cars" amounted to 2.1 million metric tonnes.

The cumulative freight loaded (excluding intermodal traffic) for the first 11 months of 1999 reached 216.8 million metric tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1430.

The November issue of publication *Railway carloadings* (52-001-XIE, \$8/\$77) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

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

Police-reported Aboriginal crime in Saskatchewan

Data about police-reported Aboriginal crime in Saskatchewan are now available.

For more information, to enquire more about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, or to order a copy of the report (85F0031XIE, \$28), contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1 800 387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Survey of Innovation

1999 (preliminary)

Data on a limited number of variables from the Survey of Innovation for 1999 are now available. All manufacturing industries as well as selected natural resource industries have been surveyed.

To order data, for more information about the survey, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Susan Schaan (613-951-1953; susan.schaan@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Asphalt roofing, December 1999
Catalogue number 45-001-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products, November 1999
Catalogue number 55-001-XIB
(Canada: \$9/\$86).

New motor vehicle sales, November 1999
Catalogue number 63-007-XIB
(Canada: \$13/\$124).

Wholesale trade, November 1999
Catalogue number 63-008-XIB
(Canada: \$14/\$140).

Canada's international transactions in securities,
November 1999
Catalogue number 67-002-XIB
(Canada: \$14/\$132).

Canada's international transactions in securities,
November 1999
Catalogue number 67-002-XPB
(Canada: \$18/\$176; outside Canada: US\$18/US\$176).

Financial Management System
Catalogue number 68F0023XIB
(Free).

Police-reported Aboriginal crime in Saskatchewan
Catalogue number 85F0031XIE
(Canada: \$28).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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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, 65% of Canadians took an average of about six 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.

OTHER RELEASES

- Help-wanted index, May 1997 3
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- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, April 1997 12

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RELEASE DATES: FEBRUARY 2000

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
1	An overview of the 1999 labour market	1999
1	Business conditions survey: Manufacturing industries	January 2000
2	Field crop reporting series: December 31 grain stocks	1999
2	Help-wanted Index	January 2000
3	Film and video distribution	1997-98
3	Estimates of labour income	November 1999
4	Labour Force Survey	January 2000
4	Building permits	December 1999
10	New Housing Price Index	December 1999
15	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	December 1999
16	New motor vehicle sales	December 1999
17	Travel between Canada and other countries	December 1999
17	Livestock statistics	
18	Canadian international merchandise trade	December 1999
21	Pan-Canadian education indicators	
22	Wholesale trade	December 1999
22	Composite Index	January 2000
23	Retail trade	December 1999
23	Canada's international transactions in securities	December 1999
23	Employment Insurance	December 1999
24	Consumer Price Index	January 2000
24	Farm cash receipts	Oct.-Dec. 1999
25	Industrial Product Price Index	January 2000
25	Raw Materials Price Index	January 2000
25	Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	Oct.-Dec. 1999
25	International travel account	Oct.-Dec. 1999
25	Characteristics of international travellers	July-Sept. 1999
25	Employment, earnings and hours	December 1999
28	National economic and financial accounts	Oct.-Dec. 1999
28	Balance of international payments	Oct.-Dec. 1999
28	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	December 1999
