



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, November 21, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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 Canada's exports remained virtually stable in September, as a decline in exports of automotive products nearly offset a strong increase in exports of energy products. Canadian companies exported \$34.9 billion in worth of goods in September, up a marginal 0.1% from August.

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REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES



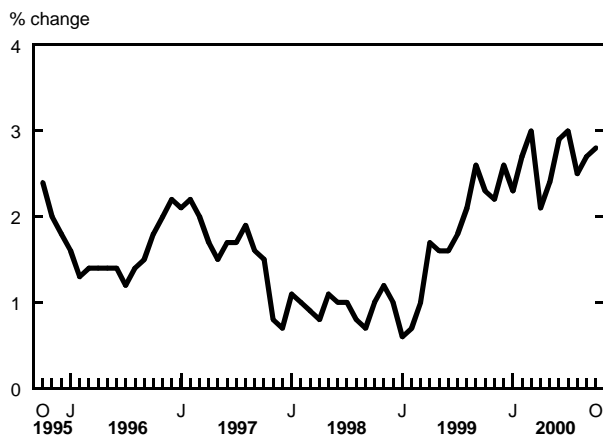
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

October 2000

Consumers paid 2.8% more in October than they did in October 1999 for the goods and services contained in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. This year-over-year increase was slightly larger than the 2.7% rise in September. Higher energy prices, prevalent since April 1999, were still the major contributor to the increase in the All-items CPI in October, accounting for almost half of the rise. Excluding the effect of higher energy prices, the All-items CPI advanced by 1.5% between October 1999 and October 2000. This increase falls within the range of 1.1% to 1.7% seen since March 1999.

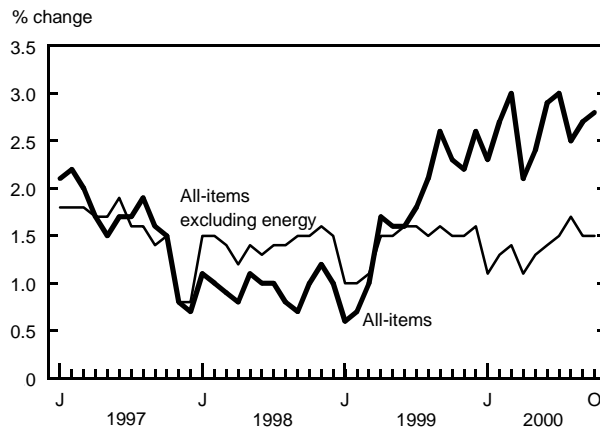
Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year



Energy prices have edged up, on average, by 15.2% between October 1999 and October 2000. More than half of this increase can be attributed to higher gasoline prices (+16.2%). Higher prices for natural gas (+31.8%) and fuel oil (+42.1%) also contributed to the energy index increase.

Higher mortgage interest cost, higher prices for restaurant food and telephone services and higher rents were among the other factors contributing to the annual increase in the All-items CPI in October. However, the indexes for the purchase of automotive vehicles, computer equipment and supplies, and child care exerted some downward pressure on the CPI.

Annual change in the CPI and in the CPI excluding energy



Changes in property taxes, including school taxes and special charges, are reflected in the CPI once a year, in the October index. The index rose by 0.4% it fell 0.5% in October 1999. Increases were widespread this year; only Manitoba, Quebec, Whitehorse and Yellowknife registered declines. Property owners in Nova Scotia saw the biggest increase, 3.2%, mainly because of higher assessment values. Prince Edward Island posted the smallest property tax rise, 0.2%. In Manitoba, an increase in the provincial rebate was the main cause for the 2.7% overall decline in property taxes. The indexes for Whitehorse and Yellowknife dropped 1.5%, while the index for Quebec fell by 0.4%.

Smaller monthly rise in the CPI

The CPI edged up by 0.2% in October from September. This monthly increase is slightly smaller than the 0.4% advance in September. For the second consecutive month, the All-items excluding energy index remained unchanged. Among the energy components, natural gas and fuel oil had the greatest impact. Higher prices for automotive insurance premiums, men's clothing and homeowners' maintenance and repairs also put upward pressure on the All-items CPI; exerting downward pressure were lower prices for traveller accommodation, air transportation, gasoline and women's clothing.

Natural gas prices increased, on average, by 10.8% from September to October. Most of that impact came from a 17.3% rise in Ontario. Alberta (+9.3%), Quebec

(+8.8%), and Manitoba (+1.3%) also recorded monthly increases. Prices remained stable in Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Fuel oil prices rose by 3.1% from September to October, following a rise of 16.0% from August to September. Yellowknife registered the largest monthly rise, 4.9%; Saskatchewan and Alberta saw the smallest increase, 1.2%.

The index for automotive insurance premiums advanced 1.5% in October. This was owing to rate increases in Ontario (+1.0%) and, in British Columbia (+6.7%), to increases by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia.

The index for men's clothing rose by 2.4% in October, partly the result of the introduction of fall seasonal items.

The index for homeowners' maintenance and repairs rose by 1.7% from September to October, due mostly to increases in material costs.

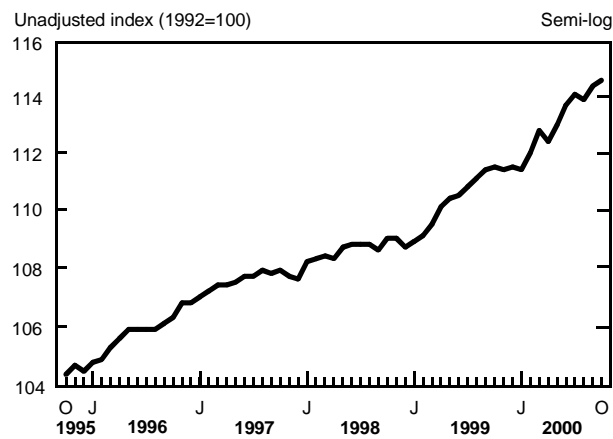
With the arrival of the off-peak tourism season, prices for traveller accommodation decreased by 6.3%. The decline was larger than September's drop of 2.4%. All provincial indexes dropped in October, Alberta's (-18.6%) the most and Quebec's (-1.1%) the least.

The air transportation index decreased by 6.7% from September to October. This partly because of seat sales on select domestic and transatlantic routes.

Gasoline prices edged down by 0.7% nationally. The decline is due mainly to competitive pricing in Ontario (-2.2%) and Manitoba (-2.5%). Price decreases were also recorded in Quebec (-0.2%) and Newfoundland (-0.3%). All other provinces recorded increases ranging from 0.5% in Yellowknife to 2.5% in Prince Edward Island.

The women's clothing index decreased by 1.5% from September to October, owing mainly to sale pricing on a broad variety of clothing items.

Consumer Price Index



Available on CANSIM: matrices 9940-9956.

Available at 7 a.m. on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

The October 2000 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. See *How to order products*.

November's Consumer Price Index will be released on December 14.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. □

Consumer Price Index and major components 1992=100

	Oct. 2000	Sept. 2000	Oct. 1999	Sept. to Oct. 2000	Oct. 1999 to Oct. 2000
not seasonally adjusted					
	% change				
All-items	114.6	114.4	111.5	0.2	2.8
Food	112.0	112.2	109.9	-0.2	1.9
Shelter	110.6	109.6	105.8	0.9	4.5
Household operations and furnishings	110.7	110.5	109.6	0.2	1.0
Clothing and footwear	107.5	107.4	107.3	0.1	0.2
Transportation	131.5	131.9	127.1	-0.3	3.5
Health and personal care	112.8	112.3	110.6	0.4	2.0
Recreation, education and reading	124.4	124.9	122.0	-0.4	2.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	98.1	98.4	94.6	-0.3	3.7
Goods	112.1	111.8	108.8	0.3	3.0
Services	117.5	117.4	114.7	0.1	2.4
All-items excluding food and energy	112.9	112.8	111.2	0.1	1.5
Energy	134.6	132.8	116.8	1.4	15.2
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992	87.3	87.4	89.7		
All-items (1986=100)	146.8				

Consumer Price Index for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife 1992=100

	Oct. 2000	Sept. 2000	Oct. 1999	Sept. to Oct. 2000	Oct. 1999 to Oct. 2000
not seasonally adjusted					
	% change				
Newfoundland	114.2	114.0	110.9	0.2	3.0
Prince Edward Island	113.3	112.9	108.4	0.4	4.5
Nova Scotia	115.4	115.0	111.7	0.3	3.3
New Brunswick	113.9	113.7	110.4	0.2	3.2
Quebec	111.5	111.4	109.0	0.1	2.3
Ontario	115.2	114.9	111.9	0.3	2.9
Manitoba	118.8	119.0	116.2	-0.2	2.2
Saskatchewan	117.5	117.5	114.3	0.0	2.8
Alberta	119.2	119.1	115.1	0.1	3.6
British Columbia	114.5	114.3	111.8	0.2	2.4
Whitehorse	115.1	115.8	112.9	-0.6	1.9
Yellowknife	111.5	112.0	110.1	-0.4	1.3

Canadian international merchandise trade

September 2000

Canada's exports remained virtually stable in September, as a decline in exports of automotive products nearly offset a strong increase in exports of energy products.

Canadian companies exported \$34.9 billion worth of goods in September, up a marginal 0.1% from August. Energy exports were up 6.5% — much of this gain was the result of higher prices — while exports of automotive products declined 2.6%.

However, a 5.3% decline in automotive products imports pushed the total level of imports down 0.7% to \$30.6 billion.

As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the world was \$4.3 billion in September, \$236 million higher than in August.

Note to readers

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

equipment and computers, which pushed down import prices.

Higher prices for petroleum products and natural gas sustained export growth

Higher prices for petroleum products and natural gas pushed up energy exports in September; natural gas exports rose 16.3% to \$1.6 billion. Canada exported a record \$797 million in petroleum products, 18.2% more than in August. Cooler temperatures in the United States in late September drove down electricity exports by 20.2% to \$349 million.

Forest products exports rose 2.2% in September to \$3.4 billion. Lumber exports recovered after five months of losses, increasing 7.8%. Wood pulp exports were also up in September by 3.1% over August.

However, exports of motor vehicle products dropped 2.6% to \$7.8 billion in September, following declines in exports of 3.8% for passenger vehicles and chassis and 3.0% for parts. Truck exports saw a slight increase of 1.2%. However, Canadian exports of motor vehicle products in the first nine months of 2000 reached \$72.4 billion, an increase of \$1.3 billion over the same period of 1999.

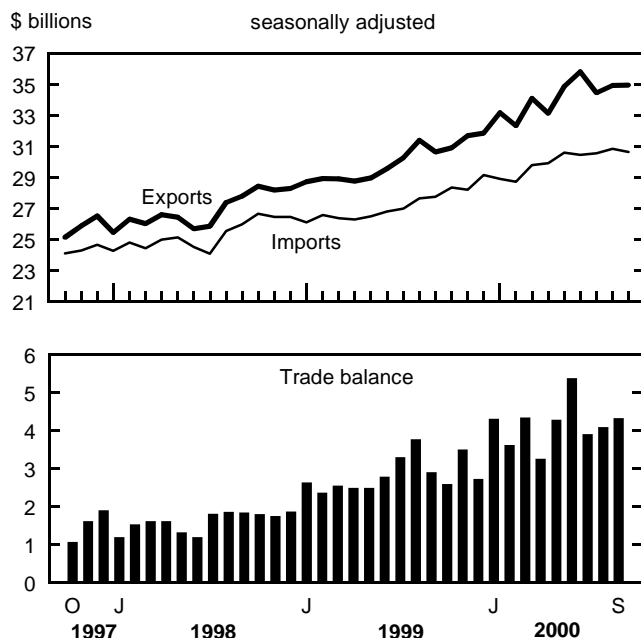
The machinery and equipment sector fell 0.6%. Exports of airplanes were down 6.1%, and exports of other transportation equipment dropped 7.6%. These declines were partly offset by increases of 4.2% for telecommunications equipment and 0.7% for other equipment and tools.

Drop in motor vehicle products brought imports down

Imports declined 0.7% in September, driven by lower imports of motor vehicle products, which were off 5.3% to \$6.3 billion after reaching a record high in August. Imports of trucks, mostly light trucks, were the main contributors to the decline in the sector, decreasing 21.7% to \$755 million. Imports declined 4.8% for passenger vehicles and chassis and 1.5% for engines and parts.

Canadian manufacturers continued to import telecommunications equipment, such as equipment for wireless telephony, printed circuits and parts. These imports are included in the category of other machinery and equipment, which rose 2.2% to a record level

Exports, imports and trade balance



The cumulative trade balance with all countries for the first nine months of 2000 was a surplus of \$37.3 billion, up \$12.2 billion from the same period in 1999.

The large increase in the trade surplus was a result of higher prices for energy products such as crude petroleum, natural gas and electricity, which pushed up export prices, and lower prices for high technology

of \$5.1 billion in September. Also up were imports of ships and of airplane engines and parts. However, imports of computers and parts fell 5.7% in September after reaching a record \$1.8 billion in August. For the first nine months of 2000, the value of computer imports was up \$1.7 billion over the same period in 1999.

Prices for crude petroleum and refined petroleum products pushed energy imports up 2.2% to a record \$1.6 billion in September. Imports of crude petroleum rose 0.2% to \$1.3 billion. Imports of refined products, such as kerosene and power plant fuel, rose 24.1% to \$265 million.

Revisions

Merchandise trade data are generally regularly revised 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, 3685-3713, 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-XIB, \$14/\$141; 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188). 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-XIB, \$29/\$93; 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order products*.

Merchandise trade data are available 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, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. □

Merchandise trade

	Aug. 2000 ^r	Sept. 2000	Aug. to Sept. 2000	Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000	Jan. to Sept. 1999	Jan. to Sept. 2000	Jan.-Sept. 1999 to Jan.-Sept. 2000
seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	30,005	30,183	0.6	14.8	228,509	264,255	15.6
Japan	795	803	1.0	5.4	6,907	7,335	6.2
European Union	1,791	1,793	0.1	18.0	13,424	15,701	17.0
Other OECD countries ¹	650	613	-5.7	-10.9	5,184	6,130	18.2
All other countries	1,674	1,556	-7.0	13.6	12,118	14,302	18.0
Total	34,915	34,948	0.1	14.1	266,144	307,721	15.6
Imports							
United States	22,600	22,372	-1.0	6.1	184,883	199,472	7.9
Japan	1,018	960	-5.7	6.0	7,698	8,729	13.4
European Union	2,823	2,835	0.4	14.3	20,694	24,728	19.5
Other OECD countries ¹	1,684	1,620	-3.8	39.2	9,544	14,092	47.7
All other countries	2,728	2,863	4.9	35.3	18,270	23,442	28.3
Total	30,852	30,649	-0.7	10.4	241,090	270,462	12.2
Balance							
United States	7,405	7,811	...	...	43,626	64,783	...
Japan	-223	-157	...	...	-791	-1,394	...
European Union	-1,032	-1,042	...	...	-7,270	-9,027	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-1,034	-1,007	...	...	-4,360	-7,962	...
All other countries	-1,054	-1,307	...	...	-6,152	-9,140	...
Total	4,063	4,299	...	...	25,054	37,259	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,356	2,307	-2.1	6.5	19,024	20,624	8.4
Energy products	4,241	4,516	6.5	48.3	21,104	35,938	70.3
Forestry products	3,356	3,431	2.2	3.3	28,978	31,330	8.1
Industrial goods and materials	5,367	5,364	-0.1	13.0	42,298	48,056	13.6
Machinery and equipment	9,028	8,972	-0.6	22.9	63,167	77,360	22.5
Automotive products	8,028	7,817	-2.6	0.2	71,125	72,384	1.8
Other consumer goods	1,207	1,233	2.2	12.0	10,083	10,796	7.1
Special transactions trade ²	761	708	-7.0	13.1	5,522	5,984	8.4
Other balance of payments adjustments	571	601	5.3	14.0	4,840	5,250	8.5
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,584	1,591	0.4	9.1	13,157	13,715	4.2
Energy products	1,606	1,641	2.2	54.1	7,211	13,154	82.4
Forestry products	265	263	-0.8	11.4	2,033	2,289	12.6
Industrial goods and materials	5,825	5,846	0.4	10.8	45,650	52,631	15.3
Machinery and equipment	10,458	10,508	0.5	15.9	79,938	90,907	13.7
Automotive products	6,677	6,323	-5.3	-2.5	56,473	58,471	3.5
Other consumer goods	3,364	3,367	0.1	7.0	27,364	29,510	7.8
Special transactions trade ²	533	551	3.4	10.4	4,618	4,813	4.2
Other balance of payments adjustments	542	560	3.3	6.7	4,651	4,974	6.9

^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.

OTHER RELEASES

Export and import price indexes

September 2000

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1992=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to September 2000 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 export groups and 61 import groups).

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 September 2000. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only Standard International Trade Classification 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 September 2000 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

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

Construction type plywood

September 2000

Canadian firms produced 155 704 cubic metres of construction-type plywood during September, down 8.0% from the 169 158 cubic metres produced in September 1999.

Year-to-date production totalled 1 479 467 cubic metres, an increase of 1.5% from the 1 457 921 cubic metres produced during the same period of 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The September 2000 issue of *Construction type plywood* (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sara Breen (613-951-3521; sara.breen@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

September 2000 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for September. Other selected data about these products are also available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; hardele@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Consumer Price Index: Inter-city indexes

October 1999

A table showing inter-city indexes of retail price differentials for selected groups of consumer goods and services as of October 1999 is now available.

This table shows consumer price differentials among 11 cities in all 10 provinces for a selection of commodities and services in the reference period. The table includes the shelter component, which now makes it possible to provide an all-items index.

This table is now available in Excel format at a cost of \$40. It will be published in the November 2000 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XPB). Starting in February 2001, it will be also be available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) in HTML and PDF formats.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606), Prices Division. ■

Postcensal estimates of population by CD and CMA

July 1, 2000 (preliminary)

The postcensal estimates of population by age and sex for Census Divisions (CDs) and Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) as of July 1, 2000, as well as the updated estimates as of July 1, 1998 and 1999, are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 6151-6168, 6169-6186, 6190-6201 and 6230-6241, which contain data based on 1991 Census counts, have been terminated. Matrices 9235-9245, 9248-9258 and 9261-9296 contain data based on 1996 Census counts.

These estimates will be published in *Annual demographic statistics, 2000* (91-213-XIB, \$56; 91-213-XPB, \$125), which will be available in March 2001. See *How to order products*.

To obtain these data, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307;

chamlis@statcan.ca), Demography Division or the nearest Regional Reference Center. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel Larrivée (613-951-0694; fax: 613-951-2307; daniel.larrivee@statcan.ca). ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Construction type plywood, September 2000
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Quarterly demographic statistics, April–June 2000
Catalogue number **91-002-XIB** (\$8/\$25).

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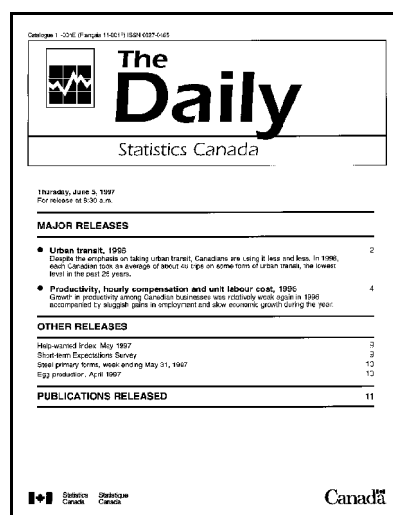
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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. A telephone inquiry service is available with toll-free access for those located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services—from seminars to consultations—are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

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