



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, November 20, 2001

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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- **Canadian international merchandise trade, September 2001**
 Canada's merchandise exports fell 1.7% in September to their lowest level in 19 months, and imports declined at almost three times that pace.

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- **Composite Index, October 2001**
 As in September, the leading indicator posted a slight 0.1% gain in October. The overall index was buttressed by housing, as easier monetary policy has helped to offset the negative impact of the September terrorist attack on the United States.

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NEW PRODUCTS

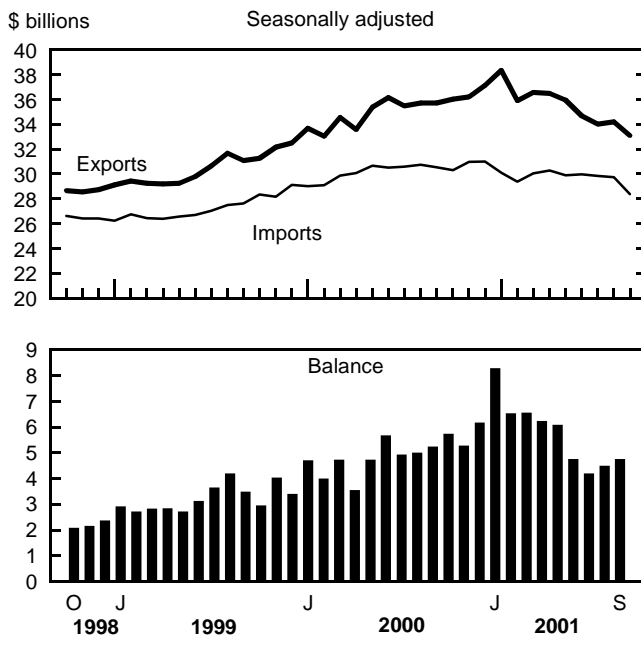
MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

September 2001

Canada's merchandise exports fell 1.7% in September to their lowest level in 19 months, and imports declined at almost three times that pace. Canadian companies exported just under \$33.1 billion worth of merchandise, the lowest level since February 2000. Four of seven principal commodity groupings recorded declines. Imports dropped 4.6% to \$28.4 billion; all principal commodity groups fell, except forestry products.

Exports, imports and trade balance



The September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States caused temporary delays in the international flow of goods at the Canada-U.S. border.

A detailed examination of import transactions supplied by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency revealed a marked decline shortly after September 11, followed by a resumption to near-normal levels by month's end. Analysis of imports by mode of transportation showed that rail gained at the expense of all other modes. Exports, however, saw a rise in marine movements.

Note to readers

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

Revisions

Merchandise trade data are generally revised regularly 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 tables for revised data.

The September export data show a continuation of the decline that was established in previous months. The drop in imports, however, was considerably more than recent declines. This can be partly attributed to higher imports in August from countries other than the United States.

It is, therefore, not possible to distinguish between the effects of September 11 and the general economic decline.

Exports, which have been on a general decline since January's record peak of \$38.3 billion, have now fallen for six straight months.

With imports declining faster than exports, Canada's trade surplus in September rose to just over \$4.7 billion. The cumulative merchandise trade surplus for the first three quarters of 2001 was \$51.1 billion, about \$8.9 billion higher than in the same period of 2000.

Merchandise exports to the United States, Canada's largest trading partner, fell 2.1% in September to \$28.2 billion; imports from south of the border were down 4.4% to \$20.4 billion. This pushed up the trade surplus with the United States to \$7.8 billion.

Exports up in only three sectors

Exports rose in only three principal commodity groups in September: agricultural and fishing products, industrial goods and consumer goods.

Of the major groupings, the biggest decline (-14.2%) occurred in energy exports, which dropped by over half a billion dollars to \$3.6 billion, a result of declining prices of energy products. Natural gas exports decreased for the fifth straight month in September to \$1.4 billion.

The latest monthly decline of 14.9% put natural gas exports at nearly one-half what they were in April. Crude petroleum exports fell 14.6% to \$1.2 billion, while the other energy products sub-sector, which includes electricity, petroleum and coal products, fell 12.6% to just under \$1.0 billion.

Overall, energy exports in September were 26.4% lower than in September 2000, the result of falling energy prices.

The value of passenger car exports declined 4.1% to just under \$4.0 billion in September. Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles fell 4.0% to \$1.5 billion, and exports of motor vehicle parts were down 2.2% to just over \$2.2 billion.

Machinery and equipment, Canada's largest export sector, fell 1.1% to \$7.8 billion in September, the sixth consecutive monthly decline. Since March, exports of machinery and equipment have fallen 14.4%.

Exports of other machinery and equipment rose 1.0% to \$4.5 billion. Within this group, television, telecommunications and related equipment increased 1.9% to \$1.1 billion, less than half the level of December 2000, but office machines and equipment fell 5.5% to \$682.5 million in September.

Exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment were down 8.1% in September to \$1.7 billion. Within this sector, aircraft engines and parts declined 10.0% to \$1.2 billion. The export of aircraft equipment has fallen for three months in a row.

Exports of forestry products fell 3.1% to \$3.1 billion in September, a 9.8% drop from September 2000. Exports of lumber, primarily softwood lumber to the United States, were down 0.5% to \$977.6 million.

On the positive side, exports in industrial goods and materials, Canada's third largest export sector, jumped 6.2% to \$5.8 billion, mainly on the strength of a nearly quarter-billion-dollar climb in exports of precious metals and alloys (+74.5%) to \$548.6 million. Aluminum exports rebounded 16.0% to \$654.9 million. Metal ores exports fell 22.2% to \$354.9 million. In August and September, metal ores exports fell by almost one-third; the fastest decline occurred in nickel ore.

Agricultural exports bounced back 3.9% to \$2.4 billion, driven by a 14.6% increase in the broad category other food, feed, beverages and tobacco, which climbed to \$800.8 million.

Third straight monthly decline in imports

Imports, which declined for the third month in a row in September, fell in six of the first nine months of 2001.

In September, imports of machinery and equipment fell 7.7% to \$8.7 billion in the wake of across-the-board

declines in virtually all sub-sectors. The aircraft and other transportation sector fell 18.0% to \$1.3 billion, a drop of nearly one-third during August and September alone.

Imports of industrial and agricultural machinery declined 8.9% to \$2.2 billion. Other machinery and equipment, which includes communications and related equipment, fell 4.6% to \$3.7 billion, the third consecutive quarterly decline. Other communication and related equipment imports in September were nearly half what they were in December 2000.

Office machines and equipment imports fell 2.2% in September to \$1.4 billion, down 17.2% from September 2000.

Auto manufacturing plant shutdowns in September led to a 7.2% decline in automotive products to just under \$6.0 billion dollars. Imports of passenger automobiles dropped 19.5% to \$1.8 billion, and truck imports decreased to \$778.8 million. Motor vehicle parts imports rose a slight 0.9% to \$3.4 billion.

Energy imports fell 7.2% to \$1.4 billion. This was the fourth monthly decline in a row for energy imports, during which time their value fell a total of 23.2%. Most of the decline was a result of the 5.7% drop in imports of crude petroleum to \$968.5 million.

Imports of agricultural and fishing products fell 2.7% to \$1.7 billion. Fresh fruit and vegetable imports led with a 6.0% decline to \$452.8 million.

Available on CANSIM: tables 2260001, 2260002, 2270001, 2270002, 2280001-2280003 and 2280033-2280040.

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 on the publication, please contact Jocelyne Elibani, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division. □

Merchandise trade

	August 2001 ^r	September 2001	August to September 2001	September 2000 to September 2001	January to September 2000	January to September 2001	January–September 2000 to January–September 2001
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	28,790	28,198	-2.1	-7.3	265,708	271,832	2.3
Japan	709	753	6.2	-11.1	7,641	7,247	-5.2
European Union	1,623	1,804	11.2	-7.1	16,678	16,679	0.0
Other OECD countries ¹	862	706	-18.1	-12.4	7,740	7,407	-4.3
All other countries	1,667	1,620	-2.8	-4.6	15,460	15,485	0.2
Total	33,651	33,080	-1.7	-7.4	313,226	318,650	1.7
Imports							
United States	21,375	20,433	-4.4	-8.8	200,299	195,130	-2.6
Japan	1,021	807	-21.0	-15.7	8,772	7,896	-10.0
European Union	2,850	3,117	9.4	10.4	24,519	26,236	7.0
Other OECD countries ¹	1,651	1,377	-16.6	-16.3	14,101	14,070	-0.2
All other countries	2,841	2,634	-7.3	-2.5	23,335	24,258	4.0
Total	29,736	28,368	-4.6	-7.1	271,027	267,593	-1.3
Balance							
United States	7,415	7,765	...	...	65,409	76,702	...
Japan	-312	-54	...	...	-1,131	-649	...
European Union	-1,227	-1,313	...	...	-7,841	-9,557	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-789	-671	...	...	-6,361	-6,663	...
All other countries	-1,174	-1,014	...	...	-7,875	-8,773	...
Total	3,915	4,713	...	...	42,199	51,057	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,604	2,731	4.9	18.8	20,479	23,192	13.2
Energy products	4,157	3,567	-14.2	-26.4	36,874	47,195	28.0
Forestry products	3,215	3,114	-3.1	-9.8	31,599	29,533	-6.5
Industrial goods and materials	5,419	5,756	6.2	4.7	49,341	50,126	1.6
Machinery and equipment	7,864	7,774	-1.1	-14.7	78,839	75,402	-4.4
Automotive products	7,906	7,626	-3.5	-4.2	73,979	69,980	-5.4
Other consumer goods	1,297	1,339	3.2	6.4	10,926	11,925	9.1
Special transactions trade ²	658	646	-1.8	-7.7	5,950	6,218	4.5
Other balance of payments adjustments	531	528	-0.6	-10.8	5,242	5,078	-3.1
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,762	1,715	-2.7	6.8	13,771	15,149	10.0
Energy products	1,457	1,352	-7.2	-11.2	12,993	14,324	10.2
Forestry products	238	239	0.4	-9.8	2,292	2,190	-4.5
Industrial goods and materials	5,704	5,641	-1.1	-4.0	52,704	52,215	-0.9
Machinery and equipment	9,379	8,660	-7.7	-17.2	91,113	86,829	-4.7
Automotive products	6,447	5,984	-7.2	-4.9	58,868	54,607	-7.2
Other consumer goods	3,660	3,599	-1.7	6.0	29,595	32,133	8.6
Special transactions trade ²	568	646	13.7	16.4	4,816	5,458	13.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	520	531	2.1	-2.0	4,877	4,684	-4.0

^r Revised figures.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia (a new member since January 2001).

² These are mainly low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

Composite Index

October 2001

As in September, the leading indicator posted a slight 0.1% gain in October. The overall index was buttressed by housing, as easier monetary policy has helped to offset the negative impact of the September terrorist attack on the United States. In October, five components rose, the same number as in September, while three fell and two were unchanged.

The continued strength of housing accompanied low vacancy rates and mortgage rates that have been cut nearly in half so far in 2001—the one-year rate is down to 4.50% on average. Lower mortgage rates also have freed up discretionary household income for other spending; there were notable gains in durable goods.

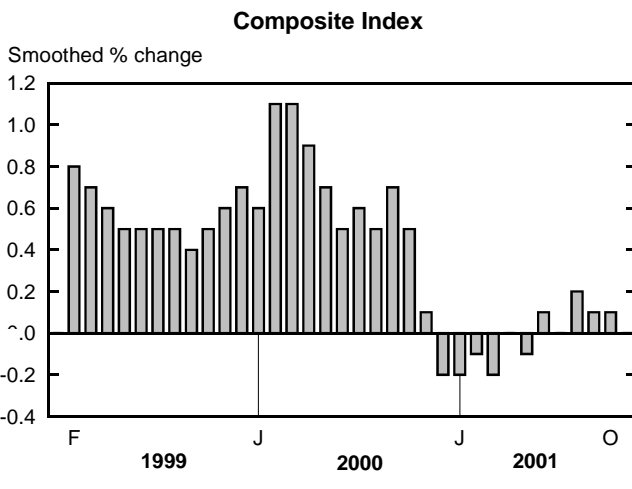
The slump in business conditions continued, and increasingly weighed down labour demand. Employment in services recorded a fourth straight drop, particularly for employment agencies, where demand has tumbled nearly 40% in the last 12 months. In the manufacturing sector, the trend in hours of work lost its recent strength in October. Prices on the Toronto Stock Exchange remained on a downward trend, falling 7.6% during September on top of a 34% drop from August 2000 to August 2001.

The U.S. leading indicator mirrored the Canadian index, edging up 0.1%. Virtually all of the increase originated in the money supply and the yield curve.

Available on CANSIM: table 3770003.

For more information on the economy, the November issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) 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 Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. □



Both housing starts and existing home sales hit their second highest level of the year in October.

Composite Index

	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	August 2001	September 2001	October 2001	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	166.0	166.1	166.1	166.4	166.6	166.8	0.1
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	106.5	107.5	107.4	109.2	109.2	111.1	1.7
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,500	2,500	2,493	2,485	2,476	2,473	-0.1
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	8,223	7,906	7,829	7,787	7,565	7,310	-3.4
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	96,390	96,929	96,929	96,992	97,378	98,438	1.1
U.S. composite leading indicator (1992=100) ³	107.0	107.1	107.2	107.4	107.6	107.7	0.1
Manufacturing							
Average work week (hours)	38.9	38.9	39.0	39.0	39.1	39.1	0.0
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	22,628	22,381	22,131	22,063	21,786	21,829	0.2
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.78	1.77	1.75	1.72	1.71	1.71	0.00 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	1,598	1,611	1,617	1,619	1,627	1,626	-0.1
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	7,081	7,140	7,177	7,179	7,213	7,234	0.3
Unsmoothed composite	164.8	167.0	167.3	167.0	166.7	165.9	-0.5

¹ Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

² Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

³ The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

⁴ The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.

⁵ Difference from previous month.



OTHER RELEASES

National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey

2001

Data from the National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey are now available for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

This survey was conducted on behalf of the Labour Program of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) to establish fair wage schedules for workers on federal construction projects. The survey was conducted in phases, starting with the Atlantic provinces in 1999. It does not cover Quebec and the Yukon, where wage rates are set by the province or territory.

Hourly wage rates were collected in June, July and August for occupations in construction in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The occupations were selected on the basis of consultations at the beginning of 2001 with unions and employers in the construction industry in the two territories. Following further analysis, the list of occupations was finalized in consultation with HRDC.

The establishments surveyed were asked to provide wage rates for employees working full time in selected occupations, and to say whether the workers were unionized or non-unionized.

Hourly wage rates in construction varied between the two territories. Construction workers employed by companies in the Northwest Territories tended to receive higher pay than construction workers in Nunavut.

On a territory-wide basis, wage rates also varied significantly depending on occupation. Of the 12 occupations for which Northwest Territories data are available, the most frequently paid wage rate ranged from \$14.81 per hour for trade helpers and general labourers to \$23.93 per hour for journeyman plumbers.

In Nunavut, of the eight occupations for which data are available, the most frequently paid wage rate ranged from \$13.65 for trade helpers and general labourers to \$23.49 for certified electricians. In general, the construction industry in the two territories is short of qualified workers. This is primarily because the mining industry employs most of the qualified work force.

The three most highly paid occupations for which data are available in Nunavut were certified electricians, whose most frequently paid wage rate was \$23.49 an hour; operators of heavy equipment (\$19.35); and journeymen plasterers, drywall installers, finishers and lathers (\$19.29).

In the Northwest Territories, the most highly paid occupations for which data are available were certified plumbers, whose most frequently paid wage rate was \$23.93 an hour; certified sheet metal workers (\$23.89); and heavy duty equipment mechanics (\$23.82).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to request a copy of the data, contact Anne Ladouceur (613-951-2904; anne.ladouceur@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

Monthly railway carloadings

July, August and September 2001

The freight loaded by railways totalled 19.7 million metric tonnes in July, 18.6 million in August and 19.7 million in September (excluding intermodal traffic). This represented decreases of 4.6% in July, 9.9% in August and 5.4% in September compared with their corresponding months in 2000. The intermodal tonnage, made up of containers on flatcars and trailers on flatcars, fell 0.1% in September 2001 compared with September 2000 to 1.9 million metric tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 4040002.

The July, August and September 2001 issues of *Railway carloadings monthly*, Vol. 78, nos. 7, 8 and 9 (52-001-XIE, \$8/\$77) are now available. See *How to order products*.

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

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

November 1, 2001 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on November 1 totalled 81 000 metric tonnes, up 19.0% from November 1, 2000.

Available on CANSIM: tables 30023 and 30024.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandy Giefeldt (613-951-2505), (sandy.giefeldt@statcan.ca) or Robert Plourde

(613-951-8716), (robert.plourde@statcan.ca),
Agriculture Division. ■

Traveller accommodation services price indexes

Third quarter 2001

Monthly indexes that measure price movements of short-term accommodation services are now available for the third quarter. These indexes reflect changes in room rates, excluding all indirect taxes, for overnight or short stays with no meals or other services provided. The indexes are available by province and territory (for Canada) and by major client group.

Available on CANSIM: table 3260013.

For more information on these indexes, contact Prices Division (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; infounit@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Klaus Kostenbauer (613-951-0691; kostkla@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

September 2001

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis

are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to September 2001 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to September 2001. 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: tables 2280001, 2280003 and 2280033-2280040.

The September 2001 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. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Monthly railway carloadings, July 2001, Vol. 78, no. 7
Catalogue number **52-001-XIE** (\$8/\$77).

Monthly railway carloadings, August 2001, Vol. 78,
no. 8
Catalogue number **52-001-XIE** (\$8/\$77).

Monthly railway carloadings, September 2001,
Vol. 78, no. 9
Catalogue number **52-001-XIE** (\$8/\$77).

Broadcasting and telecommunications,
October 2001, Vol. 31, no. 4
Catalogue number **56-001-XIE** (\$10/\$32).

Consumer Price Index, October 2001
Catalogue number **62-001-XIB** (\$8/\$77).
Available at 7 am Wednesday, November 21

Consumer Price Index, October 2001
Catalogue number **62-001-XPB** (\$11/\$103).
Available at 7 am Wednesday, November 21

Science statistics, Vol. 25, no. 9
Catalogue number **88-001-XIB** (\$6/\$59).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban Inequality, 1998** 2
Shows the differences in living conditions between the large and small cities. In 1998, each Canadian city is divided into four income groups of roughly equal size (see the table on page 2).
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and cost of living, 1996** 4
Cost of living index for Canada, by province and territory, is shown in 1996. Accompanied by changes in employment and job vacancies, growth during the year.

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