



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, October 2003**
Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the rest of the world fell in October, as weak exports, particularly to the United States, stalled trade growth.

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- **Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, third quarter 2003**
Labour productivity in Canada's business sector increased 0.7% in the third quarter compared with the second, the strongest quarterly gain in more than a year. However, during the past year, unit labour costs in Canada have risen dramatically relative to the United States, as a result of the Canadian dollar appreciation.

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Perspectives on Labour and Income

December 2003 online edition

The December 2003 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, features two articles. The first, "Fighting the odds," focusses on the people in the adult population who were, or had the potential to become, problem gamblers. The second article, "Health care professionals," looks at the characteristics and earnings of health workers — professionals, technical personnel, and support personnel — during the 1990s, before examining the situation for nurses and doctors in more detail.

The December 2003 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 4 no. 12 (75-001-XIE, \$6/\$52) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613 951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

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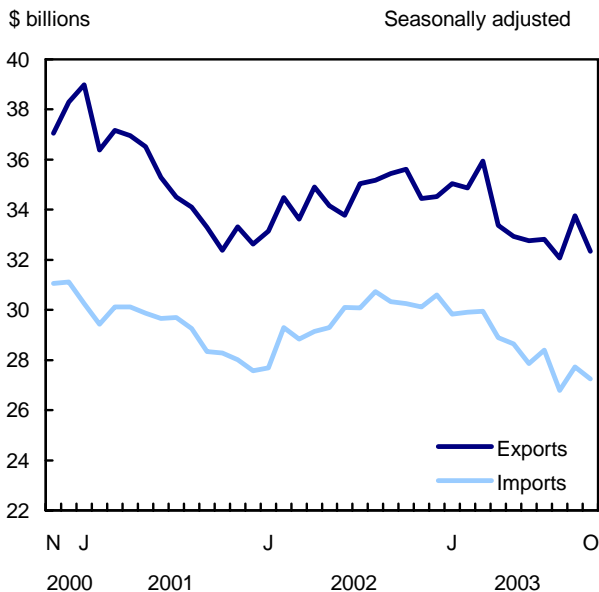
MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

October 2003

Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the rest of the world fell in October, as weak exports, particularly to the United States, stalled trade growth.

Exports and imports



Canadian companies exported \$32.3 billion in merchandise in October, a 4.2% decline, which erased most of September's recovery. Exports were higher than in August, but otherwise at their lowest level since October 1999. Imports fell 1.7% to \$27.2 billion.

As a result, the nation's trade surplus with the rest of the world took a hit of almost a \$1 billion and dropped to \$5.1 billion.

Trade with the United States caused most of these movements because of their high trade concentration with Canada. Exports south of the border dropped 3.8% to \$26.6 billion, partly as a result of the continued appreciation of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar. Imports from the United States fell 1.6% to \$19.2 billion.

Canada's exports to non-US destinations declined 6.0% to \$5.7 billion. Imports from countries other than the United States fell 1.9% to just over \$8 billion. The difference, Canada's non-US trade deficit, widened to \$2.3 billion in October.

Note to readers

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

"Other OECD countries," mentioned in the text, include Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs-basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

Canadian companies sent 12.9% less to Japan than in September, down to \$710 million, and registered a trade deficit for the month. Some of these declines were offset by increased exports to the European Union (+4.2%), Canada's second largest trading region. Sales to other OECD countries were also on the positive side.

In addition to the decline in imports from the United States, imports from the European Union fell 9.5% to \$2.5 billion.

On a sectoral basis, exports fell in three major areas: machinery and equipment, automotive products and energy products.

Machinery and equipment, energy lead general decline in exports

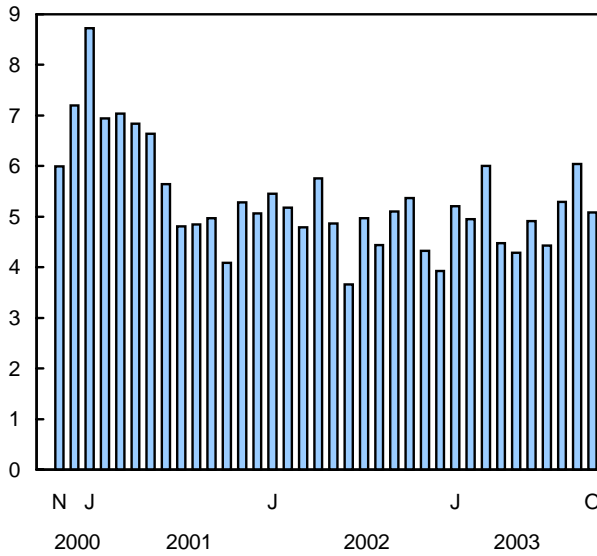
Merchandise exports decreased for all trade sectors, except for a 1.4% gain in industrial goods and materials.

Exports of automotive products dipped 1.6% to \$7.4 billion. Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles recorded the largest drop from September, a decline of \$90.5 million, or 6.7%, to \$1.3 billion. Passenger car exports fell a slight 0.8% to \$3.7 billion, while motor vehicle part exports remained unchanged at \$2.4 billion.

Machinery and equipment exports ended two months of gains, declining 6.2% to just over \$7.0 billion. The largest drops were in the areas of agricultural machinery and other equipment and tools, both of which fell by \$128 million.

Trade balance

\$ billions



Total exports of energy products fell \$8.5% in October to \$4.7 billion. Exports of natural gas fell by more than \$300 million, a 12.8% decline, as a result of lower prices and volumes. Prices declined 5%, as consumers got a breather before the peak winter demand season arrives. US storage levels of natural gas are adequate to supply the winter heating season, assuming average temperatures prevail.

Electricity exports represent only a fraction of Canada's total energy trade. However, October's export level, \$66 million, was the lowest in over 10 years. Most provinces reported declines, for a variety of reasons, including unfavorable international prices, strong provincial demand from industrial activity and dry conditions, decreasing hydro-generation surpluses.

Crude petroleum exports slipped for the third month in a row, falling 2.8% in October to \$1.6 billion. Prices dropped 6.8%, while shipment volumes increased since September.

After climbing steadily throughout the third quarter, exports of forestry products eased 5.1% in October to \$2.9 billion. Strong US housing demand, the largest market for these products, has kept exports escalating. However, the end of peak construction season may have had a dampening affect and contributed to these declines. Lumber exports fell 10.3% to \$782 million, mainly the result of a 6.3% decline in prices after four months of hikes.

There were also declines for newsprint, paper and wood pulp. The only increase (+1.3%) came in other

wood fabricated materials, which include plywood and particle board. Exports of these products have been increasing since April, setting record levels along the way — \$641 million in October — as producers are enjoying high prices for their products.

Agricultural exports ended three months of gains by falling 6.1% in October to \$2.4 billion. Exports of wheat and of other agricultural and fishing products both fell by about \$77 million. Most agricultural products dropped.

Offsetting these declines, meat and meat preparations gained 22.8% following a 47.6% surge in September, attributable mainly to beef exports to the United States and other countries, as borders reopened to certain Canadian beef products. Barley exports jumped 40%, up for the fourth consecutive month, as producers sent just over \$20 million abroad in October.

Only automotive sector shows growth in imports

Only one import sector showed improvement in October, despite the Canadian dollar appreciating relative to the US currency, giving Canadians higher purchasing power on imports denominated in US dollars.

Automotive imports edged up 1.8% to \$6.2 billion, led by a 10.3% increase in passenger auto imports, which surpassed \$2.0 billion. Car imports have expanded by \$560 million since the blackout in August. Truck and other motor vehicles edged up a slight 0.4% in October to \$1.1 billion. Offsetting these increases was a 2.7% decline in motor vehicle part imports to over \$3.0 billion.

The machinery and equipment sector experienced the most weakness, accounting for over 90% of overall import declines in October. Canadian companies bought \$7.7 billion in machinery and equipment, a 5.3% drop from September, as all categories declined. Imports of machinery and equipment, often an indicator of business investment were down 11.4% from levels in October 2002.

Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment fell 11.5%. They are down almost 25% from October 2002. Industrial and agricultural machinery slid 5.7% to \$2.1 billion, while imports of other machinery and equipment have been on a downward trend since late 2002. Imports of these products fell another 4.7% in October to \$3.6 billion.

Energy product imports dropped 4.5% to \$1.4 billion on widespread declines. Crude petroleum imports slipped \$12 million to \$960 million, their third consecutive monthly drop. Crude petroleum represents 70% of overall energy imports and usually the leading contributor to any movements. This was not the case in October, as petroleum and coal product imports fell

by a larger \$38 million to \$263 million, mainly on easing demand for motor gasoline.

Imports of industrial goods and materials cooled a slight 0.4% to \$5.2 billion. At the same time, imports of consumer good dipped 0.8% to \$3.8 billion, the second consecutive marginal drop.

Available on CANSIM: tables 226-0001, 226-0002, 227-0001, 227-0002, 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The October 2003 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade* (65-001-XIB, \$15/\$151) will be

available soon. 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, \$32/\$100; 67-001-XPB, \$41/\$133). See *How to order products*.

Merchandise trade data are available in PDF format on the morning of release.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for November will be released on January 14, 2004.

For general information, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Matthew MacDonald (613-951-8551), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	September 2003 ^r	October 2003	September to October 2003	October 2002 to October 2003	January to October 2002	January to October 2003	January- October 2002 to January- October 2003
seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	27,666	26,606	-3.8	-10.4	289,335	278,347	-3.8
Japan	815	710	-12.9	-27.2	8,463	8,330	-1.6
European Union	1,923	2,004	4.2	8.5	18,958	19,763	4.2
Other OECD countries ¹	1,120	1,173	4.7	-0.6	10,283	10,401	1.1
All other countries	2,237	1,841	-17.7	-4.5	18,303	19,056	4.1
Total	33,761	32,334	-4.2	-9.2	345,340	335,896	-2.7
Imports							
United States	19,556	19,238	-1.6	-10.6	212,306	200,095	-5.8
Japan	790	800	1.3	-15.1	9,610	8,974	-6.6
European Union	2,815	2,547	-9.5	-17.6	29,899	29,229	-2.2
Other OECD countries ¹	1,552	1,601	3.2	-4.6	16,126	16,418	1.8
All other countries	3,009	3,062	1.8	1.4	27,807	30,490	9.6
Total	27,722	27,247	-1.7	-9.9	295,748	285,208	-3.6
Balance							
United States	8,110	7,368	...	...	77,029	78,252	...
Japan	25	-90	...	...	-1,147	-644	...
European Union	-892	-543	...	...	-10,941	-9,466	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-432	-428	...	...	-5,843	-6,017	...
All other countries	-772	-1,221	...	...	-9,504	-11,434	...
Total	6,039	5,087	...	...	49,592	50,688	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,535	2,380	-6.1	-6.8	25,796	24,102	-6.6
Energy products	5,114	4,679	-8.5	-6.6	39,867	52,531	31.8
Forestry products	3,048	2,893	-5.1	-3.8	31,070	28,628	-7.9
Industrial goods and materials	5,492	5,567	1.4	-6.5	58,733	54,742	-6.8
Machinery and equipment	7,477	7,011	-6.2	-16.0	81,389	75,047	-7.8
Automotive products	7,479	7,360	-1.6	-8.3	81,770	73,653	-9.9
Other consumer goods	1,486	1,330	-10.5	-11.7	14,701	14,255	-3.0
Special transactions trade ²	610	579	-5.1	-13.8	6,619	6,025	-9.0
Other balance of payments adjustments	519	536	3.3	-1.1	5,394	6,909	28.1
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,781	1,735	-2.6	-4.2	18,139	18,071	-0.4
Energy products	1,471	1,405	-4.5	-15.8	13,430	16,155	20.3
Forestry products	251	248	-1.2	-8.8	2,613	2,532	-3.1
Industrial goods and materials	5,256	5,233	-0.4	-10.2	57,300	54,416	-5.0
Machinery and equipment	8,148	7,715	-5.3	-11.4	87,973	82,165	-6.6
Automotive products	6,044	6,154	1.8	-11.3	67,532	63,613	-5.8
Other consumer goods	3,827	3,795	-0.8	-5.0	38,447	38,631	0.5
Special transactions trade ²	447	465	4.0	-5.7	4,966	4,470	-10.0
Other balance of payments adjustments	497	497	0.0	-6.9	5,353	5,156	-3.7

^r Revised figures

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

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

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost

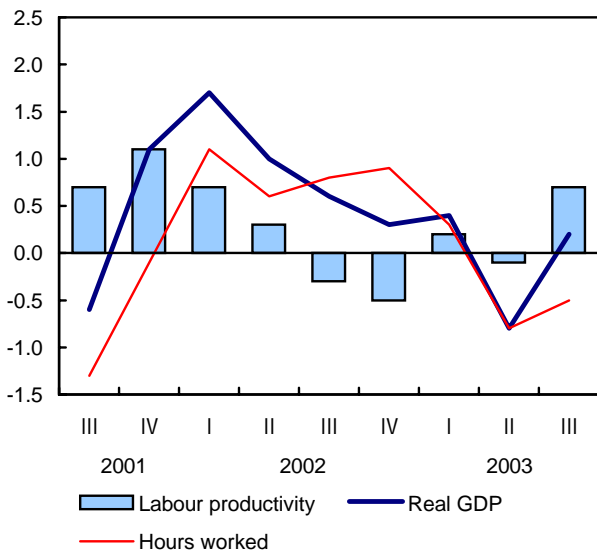
Third quarter 2003

Labour productivity in Canada's business sector increased 0.7% in the third quarter compared with the second, the strongest quarterly gain in more than a year.

This increase put an end to a lacklustre performance during the last five quarters, when productivity ranged between a gain of 0.3% and a decline of 0.5%.

Productivity bounces back

Quarterly % change



In the United States, the third-quarter growth in labour productivity was 2.1%, three times Canada's pace. However, this figure is still subject to revision.

In returning to stronger productivity growth, Canadian businesses experienced a slight increase in economic activity, despite the huge power outage in Ontario in August.

So far this year, economic activity in Canada has been affected by an exceptional combination of negative shocks. These included SARS, mad cow disease, the mid-August power blackout in Ontario, forest fires in British Columbia and the rising value of the Canadian dollar.

In the third quarter, businesses were able to increase their production slightly without hiring more workers.

Note to readers

This release contains a brief analysis of detailed data on productivity growth and other related variables. A comprehensive analysis, including additional charts and tables, is now available in HTML or PDF format in the publication Canadian economic accounts quarterly review (13-010-XIE, free). Definitions of some concepts can be found in the note to readers of that publication.

This release on labour productivity estimates is based on the revised data from the labour statistics consistent with the System of National Accounts disseminated in The Daily of December 4. In light of these revisions, the detailed data on productivity and other related variables were revised back to 1998.

In addition, the estimates of hours worked for the third quarter used in the productivity calculations were adjusted to take into account the hours lost during the power outage in Ontario. The results of specific questions included in the September Labour Force Survey, published in The Daily of October 30, were used to determine the net impact on hours worked, that is, hours lost minus overtime hours. In the business sector, the net loss was estimated at 13.9 million hours.

Quarterly measures of labour productivity and related variables appear for the first time today in detail, reflecting 16 industries of the business sector. The statistical series for these industries start as of the first quarter of 1997. These detailed industry data are available in a new CANSIM table (table 383-0012).

In this release, the use of the term "productivity" refers to labour productivity. Calculations of the productivity growth rate and its related variables are based on index numbers rounded to one decimal place.

Better productivity performance in the United States largely the result of exceptional gain in production

The much higher gain in productivity in the United States in the third quarter was due to its exceptional increase in economic output. In fact, during the second and third quarters, the gap in production growth between the two countries has remained high.

In the second quarter, real gross domestic product rose 1.1% in the United States, compared with a 0.8% decline in Canada.

In the third quarter, GDP south of the border rose a strong 2.4%, compared with a gain of 0.2% in Canada. The US gain was the highest quarterly increase since the first three months of 1984 (+2.7%).

The growth in the United States was the result of several factors, including reductions in income tax, interest rates that were at an all-time low, and the weakness of the US dollar. In Canada, a decline in non-farm inventories of businesses, as well as the drop in exports, had a dampening effect on production growth.

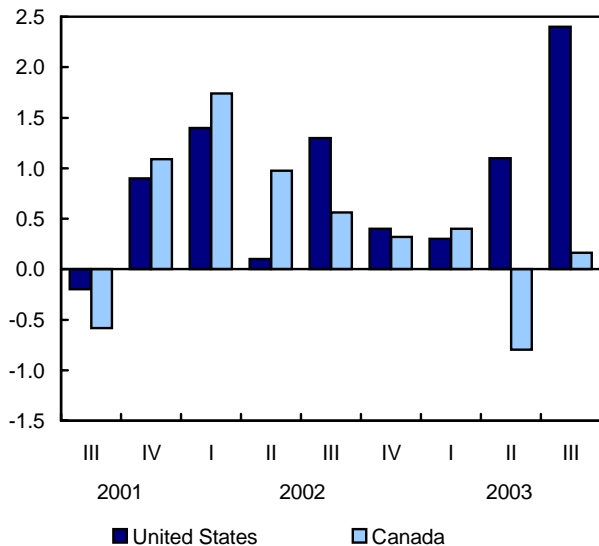
The exceptional third-quarter gain in production in the United States was accompanied by a slight

improvement in the labour market. While the number of hours worked continued to decrease in Canada in the third quarter, the US business sector saw an end to the downturn in employment.

While hours worked dropped 0.8% in the second quarter in Canada, they declined 0.5% in the third quarter. The number of hours worked in the third quarter was affected by the power outage that occurred in Ontario in August and the period of energy conservation that followed. Had it not been for this power outage, the number of hours worked would have dropped by only 0.3% instead of 0.5% in the third quarter. The power outage thus accounted for two-fifths of the decrease in hours worked in the business sector in the third quarter.

Spectacular growth in United States.'s output

Quarterly % change



In comparison, hours worked in US businesses increased 0.4 % in the third quarter, marking only the second increase in the past 14 quarters.

These factors combined to produce lower productivity gains in Canada than in the United States during the third quarter. Productivity growth in the United States has been higher than in Canada since the second quarter of 2002.

Higher Canadian dollar continues to drive labour costs in Canada

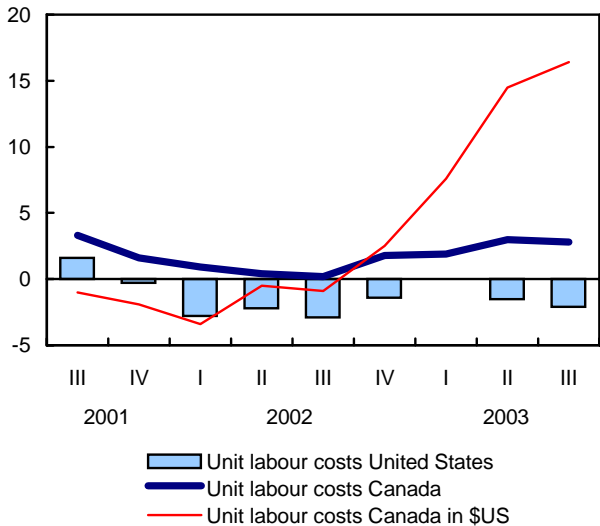
American businesses also held a significant advantage over Canadian businesses with respect to changes in labour costs.

On a year-to-year basis, unit labour costs in the third quarter increased 2.8% in Canada, but dropped 2.1% in the United States, as expressed in the respective currencies of each country.

The gap in unit labour costs between Canada and the United States for the third quarter was the result of weaker growth in labour productivity in Canada, since the changes in hourly compensation were similar. Labour productivity in Canada increased scarcely 0.3% compared with the third quarter of 2002, while in the United States, productivity was up 5.0% on a year-over-year basis.

Canadian dollar appreciation continues to increase unit labour costs

Year-over-year %



Expressed in US dollars, the advantage for American businesses in terms of unit labour costs was even greater in the third quarter. With the 11.7% upsurge in the value of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis its US counterpart between the third quarters of 2002 and 2003, the United States continues to hold a clear advantage in terms of the trend for unit costs.

Unit labour costs for Canadian businesses, as measured in US currency, posted a spectacular

increase of 16.4% annually in the third quarter, while those of American businesses recorded a drop of 2.1%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 383-0008 and 383-0012.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5042.

A more comprehensive analysis, including additional charts and tables are now available in the *Canadian economic accounts quarterly review* (13-010-XIE, free). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

For related product, see the new electronic publication *Productivity Growth in Canada, 2003* (15-204-XIE, \$37; 15-204-XPE, \$49) that will be available soon. See *How to order products*. For more information on productivity growth, see the page *Overview and description of publications* in our site

The fourth quarter data for labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost will be released on March 12, 2004.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-3292; maynard@statcan.ca), Micro-Economic Analysis Division.

Business sector : Labour productivity and related variables for Canada and the United States

	Third quarter 2001	Fourth quarter 2001	First quarter 2002	Second quarter 2002	Third quarter 2002	Fourth quarter 2002	First quarter 2003	Second quarter 2003	Third quarter 2003
% change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted									
Canada									
Labour productivity	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.3	-0.3	-0.5	0.2	-0.1	0.7
Real GDP	-0.6	1.1	1.7	1.0	0.6	0.3	0.4	-0.8	0.2
Hours worked	-1.3	-0.1	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.9	0.3	-0.8	-0.5
Hourly compensation	1.6	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.1
Unit labour cost	0.9	-0.4	0.2	-0.3	0.7	1.2	0.3	0.8	0.5
Exchange rate ¹	0.3	2.2	0.9	-2.5	0.6	0.4	-3.8	-7.4	-1.3
Unit labour cost in US\$	0.5	-2.5	-0.7	2.3	0.1	0.8	4.2	8.9	1.8
United-States									
Labour productivity	0.8	2.1	2.1	0.2	1.5	0.4	0.6	1.8	2.1
Real GDP	-0.2	0.9	1.4	0.1	1.3	0.4	0.3	1.1	2.4
Hours worked	-1.0	-1.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.3	-0.6	0.4
Hourly compensation	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.5
Unit labour cost	-0.2	-1.6	-1.2	0.8	-1.0	0.1	0.1	-0.8	-1.4
% change from the previous year, seasonally adjusted									
Canada									
Labour productivity	1.4	3.3	3.8	1.0	1.9	0.2	-0.4	-0.7	0.3
Real GDP	4.5	6.9	6.3	1.3	3.4	3.6	2.3	0.5	0.1
Hours worked	3.0	3.6	2.2	0.4	1.4	3.5	2.6	1.2	-0.2
Hourly compensation	4.4	0.7	6.9	3.7	2.7	1.9	1.5	2.3	3.0
Unit labour cost	2.9	-2.4	2.9	2.7	0.8	1.8	1.9	3.0	2.8
Exchange rate	7.1	0.1	0.0	4.3	1.4	-0.7	-5.3	-10.0	-11.7
Unit labour cost in US\$	-3.9	-2.6	2.8	-1.4	-0.6	2.5	7.6	14.5	16.4
United States									
Labour productivity	2.6	2.5	3.1	2.0	5.3	4.2	2.7	4.3	5.0
Real GDP	4.9	4.7	4.1	-0.2	2.7	3.4	2.2	3.2	4.4
Hours worked	2.2	2.1	1.0	-2.1	-2.5	-0.8	-0.5	-1.1	-0.6
Hourly compensation	5.5	4.5	6.8	3.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8
Unit labour cost	2.7	2.0	3.7	1.8	-2.3	-1.4	0.0	-1.5	-2.1

¹ The exchange rate corresponds to the US dollar value expressed in Canadian dollars.

Source: US data are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Productivity and costs- Third quarter 2003* published in *NEWS*, December 3.

OTHER RELEASES

Problem gambling 2002

Three-quarters of adult Canadians spent money on some form of gambling in 2002, and the majority did so without problems. However, just over one in 20 were, or had the potential to become, problem gamblers, according to a new study.

Using the 2002 Canadian Community Health Survey, Cycle 1.2 on Mental Health and Well-being, the study estimates that 1.2 million adult Canadians were at risk of experiencing a problem with gambling, or were problem gamblers.

Of these, an estimated 700,000 were at low risk, another 370,000 at moderate risk, and 120,000 were already problem gamblers. That is, they had suffered adverse effects from their gambling behaviour, such as financial or social problems, anxiety or depression, or dependence on alcohol.

These 1.2 million individuals represented 5% of the total adult population, and 6% of all gamblers.

According to the study, those most likely to be in the at-risk or problem categories were men, Aboriginal persons, those with less education, individuals who played video lottery terminals (VLTs), and people who gambled frequently.

Gambling continues to expand. In 2002, an estimated 18.9 million adult Canadians wagered \$11.3 billion on everything from VLTs, lottery tickets and bingos to blackjack and slot machines in casinos. This amount was more than a four-fold increase from \$2.7 billion a decade earlier.

The surge in the gambling industry began during the 1990s when provincial governments began legalizing permanent casinos and VLTs. In 2002, 76% of Canadians reported that they had spent money gambling in the previous year, 4 in 10 on a weekly basis.

One of four people whose gambling included VLTs were at-risk or problem gamblers, confirming the much-reported notion that VLTs are the "crack cocaine" of gambling. Those who bought only lottery tickets had the lowest chance of becoming problem gamblers.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan had considerably higher proportions of at-risk gamblers than other provinces. This may be because they have the highest VLT participation rates in the country, above-average Aboriginal populations, and, along with Ontario, the highest attendance rates at casinos.

Constant gambling and excessive spending can take its toll in many facets of life, particularly personal and family finances, as well as an individual's health.

Half of all problem gamblers reported that their gambling caused difficulties in relationships with family or friends. Four in 10 obsessive gamblers (42%) reported a high level of stress in their life, compared with 23% of gamblers who reported no problems.

About 18% of problem gamblers reported that they had contemplated suicide in the year prior to the survey, six times the proportion (3%) of non-problem gamblers.

The insidiousness of excess gambling is revealed by the 27% of moderate-risk gamblers and 64% of problem gamblers who wanted to stop gambling in the year prior to the survey, but believed they could not. About 56% of problem gamblers had tried to quit, but couldn't.

Frequent gambling quickly lightens the wallet. About 62% of problem gamblers spent more than \$1,000 a year on gambling, compared with only 4% of people who gambled with no problem.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5015.

The article "Fighting the odds" is available in the December 2003 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 4, no. 12 (75-001-XIE, \$6/\$52). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Katherine Marshall (613-951-6890; katherine.marshall@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

Export and import price indexes October 2003

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 October 2003 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to October 2003. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001, 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The October 2003 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade* (65-001-XIB, \$15/\$151) 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. ■

Dairy statistics

October 2003 (preliminary)

Dairy farmers sold over 625 000 kilolitres of milk and cream to dairies in October, up 4% from October 2002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The fourth quarter 2003 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001-XIB, \$29/\$96) will be available in February 2004. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending December 6, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending December 6 totalled 304 575 metric tonnes, down 0.2% from 305 229 tonnes a week earlier but up 5.6% from 288 416 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of December 6 was 14 712 680 tonnes, down 1.7% from 14 967 893 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat: A Weekly Review, December 12, 2003
Catalogue number **11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$100).

Infomat: A Weekly Review, December 12, 2003
Catalogue number **11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

Income and Expenditure Accounts Technical Series: Real Gross Domestic Product: Sensitivity to the Choice of Base Year, no. 6
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(free).

Income and Expenditure Accounts Technical Series : The Canadian System of National Accounts Vis-à-vis the U.N. System of National Accounts, no. 11
Catalogue number **13-604-MIB1991011**
(free).

Human Activity and the Environment: Annual Statistics,
Catalogue number **16-201-XPE** (\$43).

New Motor Vehicle Sales, October 2003, Vol. 75, no. 10
Catalogue number **63-007-XIB** (\$14/\$133).

Perspectives on Labour and Income,
December 2003, Vol. 4, no. 12
Catalogue number **75-001-XIE** (\$6/\$52).

Industrial Research and Development, 2003 intentions
Catalogue number **88-202-XIE** (\$37).

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Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian 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, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses and industry weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
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- Egg production, Apr. 1997 12

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RELEASE DATES: DECEMBER 15 TO 19

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Release date	Title	Reference period
15	Leading indicators	November 2003
15	Film and video distribution	2001/02
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	October 2003
16	International investment position	Third quarter 2003
17	National balance sheet accounts	Third quarter 2003
17	Household spending	2002
17	Travel between Canada and other countries	October 2003
18	Canada's international transactions in securities	October 2003
18	Annual estimates of productivity	2002
19	Consumer Price Index	November 2003
19	Film, video and audio-visual production	2001/02
19	Employment Insurance	October 2003
