



# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, November 30, 2004**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

---

### Major releases

---

- **Canadian Economic Accounts, third quarter 2004**

3

Real gross domestic product advanced 0.8% in the third quarter, bolstered by robust manufacturing, wholesale and retail sectors. This was slightly higher than the average 0.7% growth in the previous four quarters. The economy ended the quarter on a weak note, with no growth in September, following 0.4% growth in August and 0.3% in July. A more detailed analysis is available in the Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review.

*(continued on page 2)*

### Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review

Third quarter 2004

The *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review* has the most up-to-date data and analysis on the economy and Canada's transactions with the rest of the world.

The section on gross domestic product (GDP) by income and expenditure provides information on topics such as consumer spending and business investment, and of course, the overall state of the economy. To find out which industries are booming, see the section on GDP by industry.

The section on labour productivity includes hours worked by Canadians, their wages and productivity for different industries. This section will be included on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

In the balance of international payments section, you can find investment flows between residents of Canada and non-residents, and exports and imports.

The international investment position gives you Canada's indebtedness to the rest of the world and how much Canadians have invested in other countries. This section will be included on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Find out more about the wealth of Canadian households, businesses and governments with detail on assets and liabilities in the National Balance Sheet Accounts section. This section will be included on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

The third quarter 2004 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 3, no. 3 (13-010-XIE, free), is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-3640, [iead-info-dcrrd@statcan.ca](mailto:iead-info-dcrrd@statcan.ca)), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

---

## **Other releases**

---

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Employment Insurance, September 2004                               | 8 |
| Monthly railway carloadings, third quarter 2004 and September 2004 | 9 |
| Computer and peripherals price indexes, September 2004             | 9 |
| Informatics professional services price indexes, 2003              | 9 |

---

## **New products**

---

|  |    |
|--|----|
|  | 11 |
|--|----|

---

## **Release dates: December 2004**

---

|  |    |
|--|----|
|  | 13 |
|--|----|

---

## Major releases

### Canadian Economic Accounts

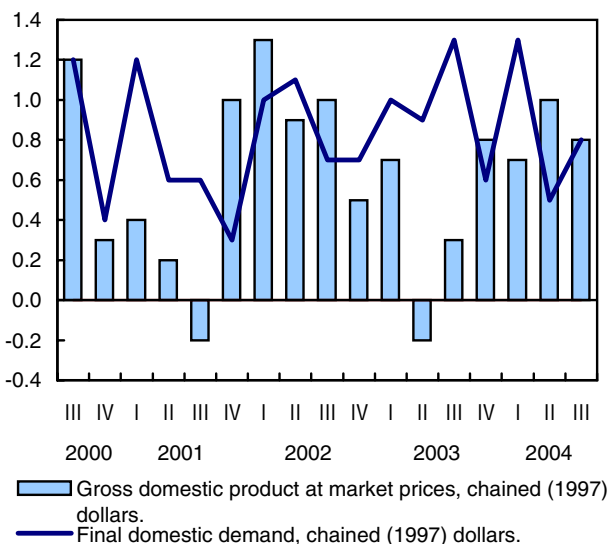
Third quarter 2004

Real gross domestic product (GDP) advanced 0.8% in the third quarter, bolstered by robust manufacturing, wholesale and retail sectors. This was slightly higher than the average 0.7% growth in the previous four quarters. The economy ended the quarter on a weak note, with no growth in September, following 0.4% growth in August and 0.3% in July.

Final domestic demand increased 0.8%, as consumer and government spending picked up steam while business investment advanced 1.1%. Increased domestic demand coupled with the stronger Canadian dollar contributed to a 3.1% increase of imports. Exports on the other hand fell 0.5% as a result of weaker international demand. A massive build-up of business inventories was registered in the quarter.

#### GDP posted solid gain

Quarterly % change



Industrial production (the output of factories, mines and utilities) was up 1.5% as higher output of manufacturers and utilities was dampened by lower mining activity. In the United States, the index of industrial production was up 0.8%.

Overall, the Canadian economy grew at an annualized rate of 3.2% in the third quarter.

### Real gross domestic product, chained (1997) dollars<sup>1</sup>

|                     | Change | Annualized change<br>% | Year-over-year change |
|---------------------|--------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| First quarter 2003  | 0.7    | 2.8                    | 3.1                   |
| Second quarter 2003 | -0.2   | -0.7                   | 2.0                   |
| Third quarter 2003  | 0.3    | 1.4                    | 1.3                   |
| Fourth quarter 2003 | 0.8    | 3.3                    | 1.7                   |
| First quarter 2004  | 0.7    | 2.7                    | 1.6                   |
| Second quarter 2004 | 1.0    | 3.9                    | 2.8                   |
| Third quarter 2004  | 0.8    | 3.2                    | 3.3                   |

1. The change is the growth rate from one period to the next. The annualized change is the growth rate compounded annually. The year-over-year change is the growth rate of a given quarter compared with the same quarter in a previous year.

### Real gross domestic product by industry at basic prices, chained (1997) dollars

|                                   | April<br>2004 <sup>r</sup> | May<br>2004 <sup>r</sup> | June<br>2004 <sup>r</sup> | July<br>2004 <sup>r</sup> | August<br>2004 <sup>r</sup> | September<br>2004 <sup>p</sup> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| seasonally adjusted               |                            |                          |                           |                           |                             |                                |
|                                   | month-to-month % change    |                          |                           |                           |                             |                                |
| <b>All industries</b>             | <b>0.0</b>                 | <b>0.1</b>               | <b>0.6</b>                | <b>0.3</b>                | <b>0.4</b>                  | <b>-0.0</b>                    |
| Goods-producing industries        | 0.1                        | 0.2                      | 0.6                       | 0.5                       | 0.7                         | -0.1                           |
| Service-producing industries      | 0.0                        | 0.1                      | 0.6                       | 0.2                       | 0.3                         | -0.0                           |
| Industrial production             | 0.4                        | 0.2                      | 0.9                       | 0.3                       | 0.9                         | -0.3                           |
| Residential building construction | -0.4                       | -1.1                     | -1.1                      | 1.9                       | 1.5                         | 0.2                            |
| Manufacturing                     | -0.1                       | -0.0                     | 1.7                       | 0.3                       | 0.9                         | -0.2                           |
| Wholesale trade                   | 0.1                        | -0.7                     | 1.4                       | 0.8                       | 0.8                         | -0.4                           |

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures

### Consumer spending regained strength

Consumer spending advanced 0.7% in the third quarter, up from 0.5% growth in the second. Spending on goods accelerated, while spending on services slowed as a result of lower expenditures related to travel outside the country and on transportation services.

Consumer spending on recreational, sporting and camping equipment rose 2.5%, while record net outlays on games of chance pushed recreational services to a 1.5% gain. Purchases of new and used motor vehicles slipped 0.3%, despite lucrative incentives for 2004 models.

Purchases of clothing were strong after a weak second quarter. Consumer spending on furniture, furnishings and household equipment and maintenance was boosted by the strong housing market.

## Investment in residential structures slowed

Investment in residential structures remained at record levels in the third quarter, but slowed to 0.8%, half its second quarter pace. The slowdown was largely attributable to lower home re-sales. The activity of real estate agents and brokers fell 4.7%.

Renovation spending on the other hand posted a healthy 2.9% increase, while new housing construction was up 1.2%.

## Business investment in machinery and equipment picked up

Business investment in machinery and equipment advanced 2.0%, after averaging gains of 1.7% in the previous six quarters. Much of the strength came from outlays on industrial machinery (+5.2%) and computers and other office equipment (+6.7%).

Business investment in non-residential structures registered another weak quarter as higher outlays on engineering projects were offset by lower outlays on buildings.

## Corporate profits slowed

Corporate profits slowed to 2.1%, less than one-third the pace of the previous two quarters. While mining and oil and gas profits benefited from higher prices, manufacturing profits were restrained by weak exports.

The corporate surplus edged down in the third quarter reflecting slower growth in internally-generated funds and increased non-financial capital acquisition, led by the massive build-up of inventories.

## Exports slipped on weaker international demand

Exports slipped 0.5% in the third quarter reflecting declines in both goods and services. This was the first downturn in a year.

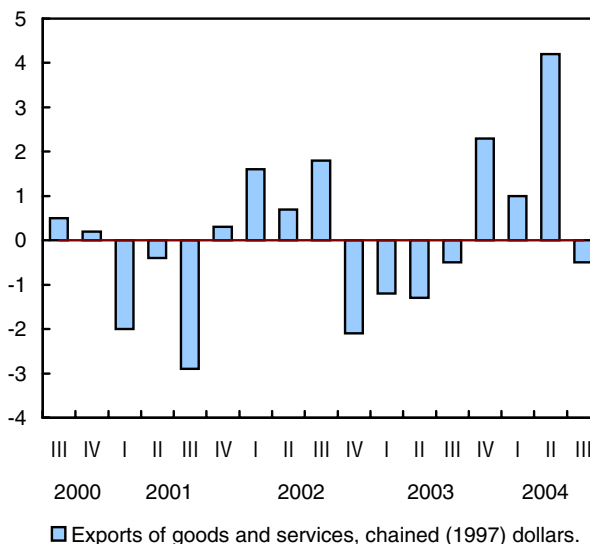
Lower exports of energy and automotive products were the main sources of weakness. Exports of machinery and equipment and forestry products were

both weak after a solid first half of the year. Exports of other consumer goods fell 4.7%.

Commercial services exports fell for a fifth consecutive quarter while exports of transportation services decreased after advancing in the previous four quarters.

## Exports slipped with international demand

Quarterly % change



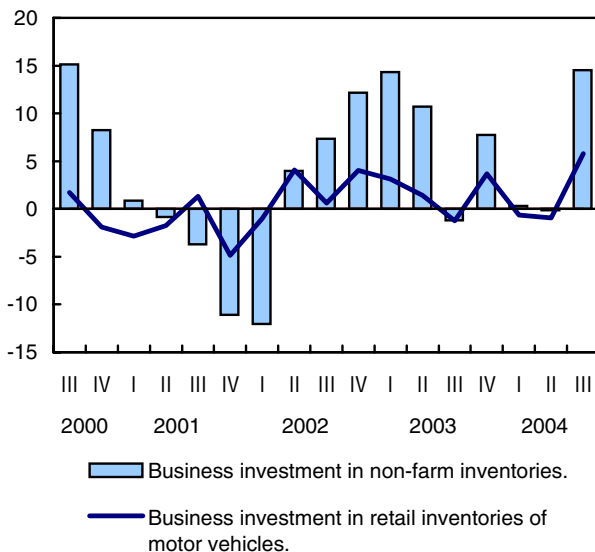
## Massive build-up of inventories

Businesses (excluding farms) raised inventories by \$14.5 billion in the third quarter. The build-up was widespread across manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers with much of it related to motor vehicles. Weak sales and exports all contributed to the build-up of motor vehicle inventories, as well as ramped up production and imports. Non-durable goods inventories were also up notably.

The economy-wide inventory-to-sales ratio edged up, leaving sufficient inventories to satisfy 61 days of sales at the current pace.

### Massive build up of inventories

Billions of chained (1997) dollars



### Imports of goods posted solid gain

Imports of goods advanced 3.8% in the third quarter. Imports of automotive products were up 7.5%, the strongest increase in 13 quarters. Machinery and equipment imports advanced 4.0%, as businesses took advantage of lower prices resulting from the stronger Canadian dollar versus the US dollar. Industrial goods and materials and consumer goods imports also posted significant increases.

Imports of agricultural and fish products and energy products fell after advancing in the first half of the year. Imports of services declined for the second consecutive quarter, pulled down by lower commercial and travel services.

### Manufacturing strong

Manufacturers increased output by 2.0%, the fourth consecutive quarterly increase. Sharply higher production of motor vehicles, chemical products, machinery, fabricated metals, and information and communication technology (ICT) equipment all contributed to the increase.

Continued decline in the clothing industry and sharply lower production of aluminium due to strike activity exerted a dampening effect on the sector.

### Wholesale and retail activity higher

Wholesaling was up 1.9% in the third quarter, led by machinery, computers and electronic products, while

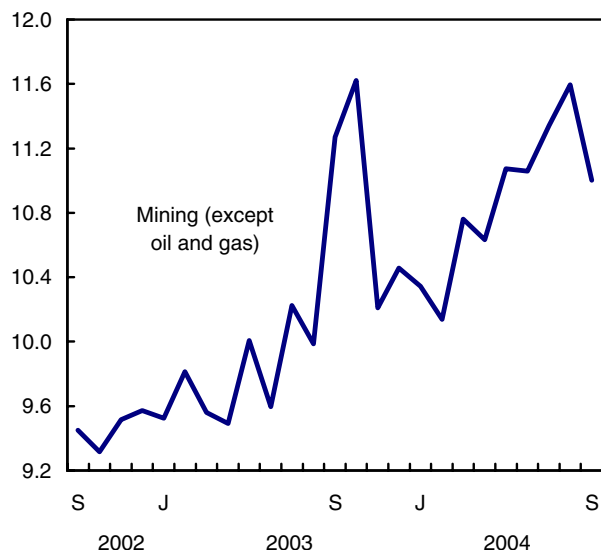
retailing activity advanced 1.5% spurred by widespread increases in sales. The output of ICT related services expanded by 3.2%, while hospitals more than recovered from strikes in the second quarter.

### Mining, oil and gas sector slipped

Output of the mining, oil and gas sector fell 0.4% largely due to a precipitous 44% strike-related decline in iron ore mining. Oil and gas extraction and drilling and rigging activities were down, despite high crude oil prices. Diamond mining surged a further 19%, while international demand pushed up nickel and potash mining.

### Sharp decline in mining

GDP billions of chained (1997) dollars



(seasonally adjusted at annual rates) in the third quarter. The surplus resulted from higher revenues, stemming mostly from the new Ontario health premium and higher corporate taxes and investment income.

#### **Detailed analysis and tables**

More detailed analysis on today's releases from the national accounts, including additional charts and tables, can be found in the third quarter 2004 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 3, no. 3 (13-010-XIE, free), which is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

#### **Products, services and contact information**

##### **Gross domestic product by industry**

**Available on CANSIM: tables 379-0017 to 379-0022.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1301 and 1302.**

The September 2004 issue of *Gross Domestic Product by Industry*, Vol. 18, no. 9 (15-001-XIE, \$12/\$118) is now available. See *How to order products*. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price.

For general information or to order data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-IMAD; [imad@statcan.ca](mailto:imad@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lefrançois (613-951-3622; [imad@statcan.ca](mailto:imad@statcan.ca)), Industry Measures and Analysis Division.

#### **National economic and financial accounts**

**Available on CANSIM: tables 378-0001, 378-0002, 380-0001 to 380-0015, 380-0031, 380-0033 to 380-0035, 380-0059 and 382-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1804, 1901 and 2602.**

The third quarter 2004 issue of *National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Quarterly Estimates* (13-001-XIB, \$36/\$117) will soon be available. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price.

Detailed printed tables of unadjusted and seasonally adjusted quarterly data on income and expenditure accounts (13-001-PPB, \$54/\$193), financial flow accounts (13-014-PPB, \$54/\$193) and estimates of labour income (13F0016XPB, \$22/\$70), including supplementary analytical tables and charts are now available.

At 8:30 am on release day, the complete seasonally adjusted quarterly income and expenditure accounts, financial flow accounts, and monthly estimates of labour income data sets can be obtained on computer diskette. The diskettes (13-001-DDB, \$134/\$535; 13-014-DDB, \$321/\$1284; and 13F0016DDB, \$134/\$535) can also be purchased at a lower cost seven business days after the official release date (13-001-XDB, \$27/\$107; 13-014-XDB, \$65/\$257; and 13F0016XDB, \$27/\$107). To purchase any of these products, contact Client Services (613-951-3810; [iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca](mailto:iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca)), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-3640), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

□

# Canadian economic accounts key indicators<sup>1</sup>

|   | Second<br>quarter<br>2003 | Third<br>quarter<br>2003 | Fourth<br>quarter<br>2003 | First<br>quarter<br>2004 | Second<br>quarter<br>2004 | Third<br>quarter<br>2004 | 2002      | 2003      |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| seasonally adjusted at annual rates                     |                           |                          |                           |                          |                           |                          |           |           |
| \$ millions at current prices                           |                           |                          |                           |                          |                           |                          |           |           |
| <b>GDP by income and by expenditure</b>                 |                           |                          |                           |                          |                           |                          |           |           |
| Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income         | 610,460                   | 614,552                  | 620,840                   | 627,860                  | 636,236                   | 641,980                  | 592,692   | 613,718   |
|   | 0.2                       | 0.7                      | 1.0                       | 1.1                      | 1.3                       | 0.9                      | 4.0       | 3.5       |
| Corporation profits before taxes                        | 142,180                   | 148,916                  | 154,064                   | 165,876                  | 178,136                   | 181,800                  | 137,480   | 151,210   |
|   | -11.0                     | 4.7                      | 3.5                       | 7.7                      | 7.4                       | 2.1                      | 8.6       | 10.0      |
| Interest and miscellaneous investment income            | 51,548                    | 53,308                   | 51,304                    | 54,612                   | 58,116                    | 59,672                   | 48,188    | 51,508    |
|   | 3.4                       | 3.4                      | -3.8                      | 6.4                      | 6.4                       | 2.7                      | -9.0      | 6.9       |
| Net income of unincorporated business                   | 77,688                    | 78,160                   | 79,232                    | 80,488                   | 81,876                    | 82,032                   | 74,730    | 78,076    |
|   | 0.6                       | 0.6                      | 1.4                       | 1.6                      | 1.7                       | 0.2                      | 6.8       | 4.5       |
| Taxes less subsidies                                    | 139,428                   | 144,664                  | 146,596                   | 147,620                  | 151,756                   | 153,592                  | 139,259   | 142,653   |
|   | -0.4                      | 3.8                      | 1.3                       | 0.7                      | 2.8                       | 1.2                      | 7.5       | 2.4       |
| Personal disposable income                              | 712,876                   | 714,548                  | 719,504                   | 729,200                  | 738,176                   | 741,904                  | 692,691   | 713,548   |
|   | 0.8                       | 0.2                      | 0.7                       | 1.3                      | 1.2                       | 0.5                      | 3.8       | 3.0       |
| Personal saving rate <sup>2</sup>                       | 2.0                       | 0.7                      | 1.3                       | 0.6                      | 0.5                       | 0.0                      | 3.2       | 1.4       |
|   | ...                       | ...                      | ...                       | ...                      | ...                       | ...                      | ...       | ...       |
| millions of chained (1997) dollars                      |                           |                          |                           |                          |                           |                          |           |           |
| Personal expenditure on consumer goods and services     | 618,084                   | 624,729                  | 625,780                   | 634,903                  | 638,154                   | 642,868                  | 601,594   | 620,444   |
|   | 0.8                       | 1.1                      | 0.2                       | 1.5                      | 0.5                       | 0.7                      | 3.4       | 3.1       |
| Government current expenditure on goods and services    | 206,608                   | 206,820                  | 208,788                   | 210,210                  | 210,856                   | 212,927                  | 198,902   | 206,466   |
|   | 1.5                       | 0.1                      | 1.0                       | 0.7                      | 0.3                       | 1.0                      | 2.8       | 3.8       |
| Gross fixed capital formation                           | 221,037                   | 227,857                  | 230,826                   | 233,916                  | 235,782                   | 237,860                  | 214,350   | 224,837   |
|   | 0.6                       | 3.1                      | 1.3                       | 1.3                      | 0.8                       | 0.9                      | 2.4       | 4.9       |
| Investment in inventories                               | 14,698                    | 3,434                    | 12,150                    | 3,430                    | 2,563                     | 17,071                   | 2,079     | 11,888    |
|   | ...                       | ...                      | ...                       | ...                      | ...                       | ...                      | ...       | ...       |
| Exports of goods and services                           | 436,945                   | 434,813                  | 444,732                   | 449,105                  | 468,064                   | 465,736                  | 450,568   | 439,799   |
|   | -1.3                      | -0.5                     | 2.3                       | 1.0                      | 4.2                       | -0.5                     | 1.1       | -2.4      |
| Imports of goods and services                           | 404,169                   | 401,081                  | 417,823                   | 420,932                  | 432,853                   | 446,270                  | 391,070   | 405,977   |
|   | 0.8                       | -0.8                     | 4.2                       | 0.7                      | 2.8                       | 3.1                      | 1.4       | 3.8       |
| Gross domestic product at market prices                 | 1,091,782                 | 1,095,469                | 1,104,391                 | 1,111,737                | 1,122,353                 | 1,131,302                | 1,074,621 | 1,096,359 |
|   | -0.2                      | 0.3                      | 0.8                       | 0.7                      | 1.0                       | 0.8                      | 3.4       | 2.0       |
| <b>GDP by industry at basic rates</b>                   |                           |                          |                           |                          |                           |                          |           |           |
| Goods producing industries                              | 314,466                   | 316,431                  | 320,947                   | 323,030                  | 326,006                   | 330,503                  | 311,916   | 317,208   |
|   | -0.8                      | 0.6                      | 1.4                       | 0.6                      | 0.9                       | 1.4                      | 1.8       | 1.7       |
| Services producing industries                           | 695,861                   | 698,179                  | 704,532                   | 709,868                  | 716,494                   | 721,966                  | 681,007   | 697,886   |
|   | 0.4                       | 0.3                      | 0.9                       | 0.8                      | 0.9                       | 0.8                      | 4.2       | 2.5       |
| Industrial production                                   | 236,015                   | 237,477                  | 240,806                   | 241,882                  | 245,035                   | 248,701                  | 236,852   | 238,435   |
|   | -1.4                      | 0.6                      | 1.4                       | 0.4                      | 1.3                       | 1.5                      | 2.0       | 0.7       |
| Non-durable manufacturing                               | 72,933                    | 71,963                   | 72,901                    | 73,204                   | 74,021                    | 75,173                   | 72,936    | 72,913    |
|   | -1.2                      | -1.3                     | 1.3                       | 0.4                      | 1.1                       | 1.6                      | 2.4       | -0.0      |
| Durable manufacturing                                   | 100,365                   | 100,748                  | 103,385                   | 103,889                  | 106,455                   | 109,019                  | 101,478   | 101,679   |
|   | -1.8                      | 0.4                      | 2.6                       | 0.5                      | 2.5                       | 2.4                      | 2.4       | 0.2       |
| Information and communication technologies sector (ICT) | 56,210                    | 56,801                   | 58,853                    | 59,485                   | 60,080                    | 62,007                   | 54,994    | 57,076    |
|   | -0.4                      | 1.1                      | 3.6                       | 1.1                      | 1.0                       | 3.2                      | 3.2       | 3.8       |
| Manufacturing   | 173,553                   | 172,932                  | 176,482                   | 177,287                  | 180,643                   | 184,343                  | 174,647   | 174,820   |
|   | -1.6                      | -0.4                     | 2.1                       | 0.5                      | 1.9                       | 2.0                      | 2.4       | 0.1       |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting              | 23,086                    | 22,878                   | 23,011                    | 23,566                   | 23,355                    | 23,937                   | 21,237    | 22,842    |
|   | 3.1                       | -0.9                     | 0.6                       | 2.4                      | -0.9                      | 2.5                      | -3.5      | 7.6       |
| Construction  | 55,747                    | 56,456                   | 57,520                    | 58,030                   | 57,970                    | 58,195                   | 53,904    | 56,273    |
|   | 0.7                       | 1.3                      | 1.9                       | 0.9                      | -0.1                      | 0.4                      | 2.9       | 4.4       |
| Wholesale trade   | 61,296                    | 61,053                   | 64,099                    | 63,711                   | 65,526                    | 66,770                   | 58,660    | 61,941    |
|   | -0.0                      | -0.4                     | 5.0                       | -0.6                     | 2.8                       | 1.9                      | 7.1       | 5.6       |
| Retail trade  | 56,902                    | 57,963                   | 57,419                    | 58,527                   | 58,878                    | 59,736                   | 55,590    | 57,126    |
|   | 1.2                       | 1.9                      | -0.9                      | 1.9                      | 0.6                       | 1.5                      | 5.3       | 2.8       |

1. The first line is the series itself expressed in millions of dollars, seasonally adjusted at annual rates. The second line is the quarter to quarter percentage change at quarterly rates.

2. Actual rate.

... Figures not applicable.

## Other releases

### Employment Insurance

September 2004 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in September was 536,110, down 2.4% from August. Most provinces and territories recorded decreases, with the largest in Ontario (-4.9%) and Manitoba (-4.5%). Compared with September of last year, the number of regular beneficiaries has fallen by 7.4% nationally.

Also on a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in September totalled \$698 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 222,330.

### Employment Insurance statistics

|  | September<br>2004    | August<br>2004       | September<br>2003 | August<br>to<br>September<br>2004 | September<br>to<br>September<br>2004 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| seasonally adjusted                              |                      |                      |                   |                                   |                                      |
|  |                      |                      |                   |                                   | % change                             |
| Regular beneficiaries                            | 536,110 <sup>P</sup> | 549,490 <sup>P</sup> | 578,930           | -2.4                              | -7.4                                 |
| Regular benefits paid<br>(\$ millions)           | 698.0 <sup>P</sup>   | 793.9 <sup>r</sup>   | 783.8             | -12.1                             | -10.9                                |
| Initial and renewal<br>claims received<br>('000) | 222.3 <sup>P</sup>   | 245.1 <sup>r</sup>   | 247.9             | -9.3                              | -10.3                                |
| unadjusted                                       |                      |                      |                   |                                   |                                      |
| All beneficiaries ('000) <sup>1</sup>            | 685.3 <sup>P</sup>   | 786.0 <sup>P</sup>   | 689.7             |                                   |                                      |
| Regular beneficiaries<br>('000)                  | 387.1 <sup>P</sup>   | 519.7 <sup>P</sup>   | 417.0             |                                   |                                      |
| Initial and renewal<br>claims received<br>('000) | 196.1                | 192.9                | 224.1             |                                   |                                      |
| Payments (\$ millions)                           | 1,011.4              | 1,328.0              | 1,199.1           |                                   |                                      |
| year-to-date (January to September)              |                      |                      |                   |                                   |                                      |
|  | 2004                 | 2003                 | 2003 to 2004      |                                   |                                      |
|  |                      |                      |                   |                                   | % change                             |
| Claims received ('000)                           |                      | 1,991.0              | 2,102.9           | -5.3                              |                                      |
| Payments (\$ millions)                           |                      | 11,536.9             | 11,382.7          | 1.4                               |                                      |

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

**Note:** Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source

and may, from time-to-time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits for the week containing the 15th day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

### Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

|                                      | September<br>2004 <sup>p</sup> | August<br>to<br>September<br>2004 | September<br>2003<br>to<br>September<br>2004 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| seasonally adjusted                  |                                |                                   |  |
|                                      |                                | % change                          |  |
| <b>Canada</b>                        | <b>536,110</b>                 | <b>-2.4</b>                       | <b>-7.4</b>                                  |
| Newfoundland and<br>Labrador         | 38,650                         | 2.0                               | 8.1  |
| Prince Edward Island                 | 8,450                          | -1.1                              | 4.7  |
| Nova Scotia                          | 30,280                         | 0.9                               | 0.3  |
| New Brunswick                        | 34,470                         | -0.1                              | 2.3  |
| Quebec                               | 178,720                        | -1.5                              | -5.2   |
| Ontario                              | 130,370                        | -4.9                              | -12.5  |
| Manitoba                             | 13,440                         | -4.5                              | -8.3   |
| Saskatchewan                         | 12,130                         | -0.2                              | -10.5  |
| Alberta                              | 29,540                         | 0.0                               | -15.2  |
| British Columbia                     | 58,340                         | -0.5                              | -14.2  |
| Yukon Territory                      | 930                            | 1.1                               | -9.7   |
| Northwest Territories<br>and Nunavut | 1,180                          | -0.8                              | 3.5  |
| unadjusted for seasonality           |                                |                                   |  |
|                                      |                                | % change                          |  |
| Northwest Territories                | 640                            | -7.2                              | 1.6  |
| Nunavut                              | 330                            | -17.5                             | 6.5  |

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Note:** The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.**

Data on Employment Insurance for October will be released on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services at 613-951-4090 or, call toll free 1-866-873-8788; ([labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this

release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. ■

## Monthly railway carloadings

Third quarter 2004 and September 2004

Canada's railways loaded less freight between July and September compared with the previous three months in the wake of a big drop in five major commodities.

In total, rail freight loaded during the third quarter totalled 65 million metric tonnes, down 10.2% from the second quarter.

Non-intermodal freight, consisting mostly of bulk commodities, accounted for 81.5% or 58.3 million tonnes, of the total, down 11% from the second quarter. About 744,000 railway cars were required to transport the freight.

Five commodity groupings combined for an overall decrease of 6.6 million tonnes: wheat; potash; iron ores and concentrates; coal; and lumber. A major factor was a labour dispute in Quebec which brought loadings of iron ores and concentrates down by 4.6 million tonnes.

Loadings of intermodal freight, that is, containers and trailers hauled on flat cars hit 6.7 million tonnes, down 2.5% from the second quarter. Trailers on flat cars accounted for only 5.8% of intermodal traffic in the third quarter, down from 7.6% in the same three months of last year.

Freight from the United States hit 6.5 million tonnes, up 8.6% in the third quarter compared with the same three months last year. The increasing strength of the Canadian dollar versus the US dollar partly explains this rise.

On a monthly basis, railways loaded 24 million tonnes of freight in September, roughly the same as in August.

Non-intermodal freight in September was unchanged at 19.5 million tonnes.

Snow storms and an early frost in the Prairies damaged wheat and other crops, cutting wheat loadings in September to less than half those of August. However, fresh, chilled or dried vegetables were at their highest levels since 1999. Canola loadings were back up after a big drop in August but remain far below loadings of previous years.

Intermodal loadings in September rose 2.9% to 2.3 million tonnes from August. They accounted for 9.4% of the total tonnage.

Freight arriving from the United States, either destined for or passing through Canada, totalled 2.2 million tonnes, up 2.6% from August.

On a year-to-date basis, non-intermodal loadings for the first nine months of 2004 increased 7.2% compared with the same period last year. Intermodal loadings were

up 1.7%, while traffic received from the United States rose 4.2%.

**Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.**

The September 2004 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 81, no. 9 (52-001-XIE, \$9 / \$83) 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 the Dissemination Unit (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; [TransportationStatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:TransportationStatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## Computer and peripherals price indexes

September 2004

Prices for commercial computers, as measured by the computer and peripherals price indexes, were down 0.6% in September compared with August. Consumer computers prices, representing computer brands and models normally purchased by consumers and small businesses fell 2.3%.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices for September declined 1.6% on a monthly basis, while printer prices were down 0.6% from August.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0001 and 331-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.**

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Fred Barzyk (613-951-2493; [fred.barzyk@statcan.ca](mailto:fred.barzyk@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

## Informatics professional services price indexes

2003 (preliminary)

Informatics professional services price indexes (IPSPI) are now available for 2003. Indexes for 2001 and 2002 have been revised. The IPSPI measure change in the total price of informatics professional services as well as changes in their labour cost and realised net multiplier components. These indexes are available at the Canada-level only.

---

**Available on CANSIM: tables 329-0014, 329-0051 and 329-0052.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2333.**

*infounit@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Beaudry (613-951-5646; *gilles.beaudry@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

For more information on these indexes, contact Prices Division (613-951-9606; 1-866-230-2248;

---

## New products

---

**Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series:  
The Evolution of the Gender Earnings Gap Amongst  
Canadian University Graduates**, no. 235  
**Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2004235**  
(free).

**Infomat: A Weekly Review**, November 30, 2004  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XWE** (\$100).

**Estimates of Labour Income, Monthly Estimates:  
Day of Release**, September 2004  
**Catalogue number 13F0016DDB** (\$134/\$535).

**Estimates of Labour Income, Monthly Estimates,**  
September 2004  
**Catalogue number 13F0016XDB** (\$27/\$107).

**Estimates of Labour Income, Monthly Estimates,**  
September 2004  
**Catalogue number 13F0016XPB** (\$22/\$70).

**National Income and Expenditure Accounts,  
Quarterly Estimates: Day of Release**, Third  
quarter 2004, Vol. 52, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 13-001-DDB** (\$134/\$535).

**National Income and Expenditure Accounts,  
Quarterly Estimates**, Third quarter 2004, Vol. 52, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 13-001-PPB** (\$54/\$193).

**National Income and Expenditure Accounts,  
Quarterly Estimates**, Third quarter 2004, Vol. 52, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 13-001-XDB** (\$27/\$107).

**Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review**,  
Third quarter 2004, Vol. 3, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 13-010-XIE**  
(free).

**Financial Flow Accounts, Quarterly Estimates: Day  
of Release**, Third quarter 2004  
**Catalogue number 13-014-DDB** (\$321/\$1284).

**Financial Flow Accounts, Quarterly Estimates**, Third  
quarter 2004  
**Catalogue number 13-014-PPB** (\$54/\$193).

**Financial Flow Accounts, Quarterly Estimates**, Third  
quarter 2004  
**Catalogue number 13-014-XDB** (\$65/\$257).

**Gross Domestic Product by Industry**,  
September 2004, Vol. 18, no. 9  
**Catalogue number 15-001-XIE** (\$12/\$118).

**Monthly Railway Carloadings**, September 2004,  
Vol. 81, no. 9  
**Catalogue number 52-001-XIE** (\$9/\$83).

**Household Expenditures Research Papers Series:  
Estimating Homeowners' Expenses on Repairs and  
Renovations: Recent Changes in Approach**, 2004,  
no. 2  
**Catalogue number 62F0026MIE2004002**  
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE  
extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or  
-XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions;  
-XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and  
-XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

## How to order products

### To order by phone, please refer to:


- The title
  - The catalogue number
  - The volume number
  - The issue number
  - Your credit card number.
- From Canada and the United States, call: **1-800-267-6677**  
From other countries, call: **1-613-951-7277**  
To fax your order, call: **1-877-287-4369**  
For address changes or account inquiries, call: **1-800-700-1033**

**To order by mail, write to:** Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.  
Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

**To order by Internet, write to:** [infostats@statcan.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.ca) or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Paragraphe 11-001-XIE) 0000-0000-0000



Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.

### MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1996** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are taking it less and less. In 1996, about 1.5 billion trips were taken on public transit, up from 1.4 billion in 1995. 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
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 8
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 13

### PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

11

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to [listproc@statcan.ca](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2004. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.

---

## Release dates: December 2004

---

(Release dates are subject to change.)

---

| Release date | Title   | Reference period               |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1            | Industrial product and raw materials price indexes                            | October 2004                   |
| 1            | Study: Water use, shadow prices and the Canadian business sector productivity | 1981 to 1996                   |
| 2            | Economic contributions of culture in Canada                                   | 1996 to 2001                   |
| 3            | Labour Force Survey   | November 2004                  |
| 6            | Building permits  | October 2004                   |
| 6            | Deposit-accepting intermediaries: Activities and economic performance         | 2003                           |
| 7            | Program for International Student Assessment                                  | 2003                           |
| 8            | Production of principal field crops   | November 2004                  |
| 8            | Evolving housing conditions in Canada's metropolitan areas                    | 1991 to 2001                   |
| 9            | Victim services   | 2003                           |
| 9            | Study: Alcohol and illicit drug dependence                                    | 2002                           |
| 9            | New Housing Price Index   | October 2004                   |
| 10           | Industrial capacity utilization rates   | Third quarter 2004             |
| 10           | Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost                 | Third quarter 2004             |
| 13           | New motor vehicle sales   | October 2004                   |
| 13           | Household spending  | 2003                           |
| 14           | Canadian international merchandise trade                                      | October 2004                   |
| 14           | Monthly Survey of Manufacturing   | October 2004                   |
| 15           | Canada's international investment position                                    | Third quarter 2004             |
| 15           | Performing arts   | September 1, 2002 to August 31 |
| 16           | Canada's international transactions in securities                             | October 2004                   |
| 16           | National balance sheet accounts   | Third quarter 2004             |
| 16           | Travel between Canada and other countries                                     | October 2004                   |
| 17           | Consumer Price Index  | November 2004                  |
| 20           | Wholesale trade   | October 2004                   |
| 20           | Annual estimates of productivity  | 2003                           |
| 21           | Retail trade  | October 2004                   |
| 21           | Leading Indicators  | November 2004                  |
| 21           | Employment Insurance  | October 2004                   |
| 22           | Communities Survey  | 2004                           |
| 22           | Employment, earnings and hours  | October 2004                   |
| 23           | Gross domestic product by industry  | October 2004                   |

---