



IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, October 19, 1990

OVERVIEW

■ Exports and Imports Decline

In August, merchandise exports fell 4.2% from July, registering a second straight drop. Imports fell 2.2% to \$11.1 billion.

■ Farm Product Price Index Drops Sharply

The Farm Product Price Index fell 4.7% in August, a second consecutive decline.

■ Number of Foreign Visitors Rebounds

The seasonally adjusted number of foreign overnight travellers to Canada rose 2.8% in August, following a decline of 3.1% in July.

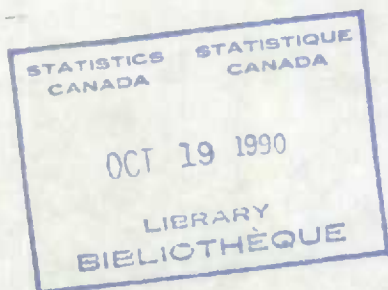
Exports and Imports Decline

In August, merchandise exports declined 4.2% to \$12.0 billion, a second consecutive decline. The drop was largely the result of a downturn in exports of passenger automobiles and chassis (-32%), which offset increases in the previous two months. A 29% decline in exports of aircraft also contributed to the overall drop.

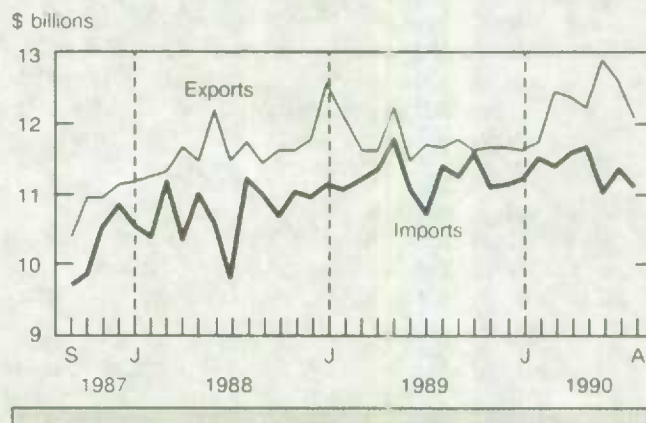
Merchandise imports fell \$249 million to \$11.1 billion. Imports of machinery and equipment fell sharply for the second time in three months, this time by 8.5%. Imports of automotive parts also fell, but imports of passenger cars rose, resulting in an overall drop of \$52 million in the automobile products sector.

The merchandise trade surplus was \$960 million in August, \$278 million lower than the surplus registered in July. The decline, however, was less than half of the drop posted in July.

(continued on page 2)



Merchandise Trade



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM OCTOBER 12 TO 18

AGRICULTURE

Farm Product Price Index (1986 = 100), August 1990.
Catalogue number 62-003 (Canada: \$7.10/\$71.00; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85.00; Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99.00).

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM

Touriscope - International Travel, August 1990.
Catalogue number 66-001P (Canada: \$6.10/\$61.00; United States: US\$7.30/US\$73.00; Other Countries: US\$8.50/US\$85.00).

Travel-log, Fall 1990.
Catalogue number 87-003 (Canada: \$10.50/\$42.00; United States: US\$12.50/US\$50.00; Other Countries: US\$14.75/US\$59.00).

HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

The Labour Force, September 1990.
Catalogue number 71-001 (Canada: \$17.90/\$179.00; United States: US\$21.50/US\$215.00; Other Countries: US\$25.10/US\$251.00).

INDUSTRY

Cement, August 1990.
Catalogue number 44-001 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Construction Type Plywood, August 1990.
Catalogue number 35-001 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Department Store Sales and Stocks, January 1990.
Catalogue number 63-002 (Canada: \$14.40/\$144.00; United States: US\$17.30/US\$173.00; Other Countries: US\$20.20/US\$202.00).

Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, August 1990.
Catalogue number 43-005 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Footwear Statistics, August 1990.
Catalogue number 33-002 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, August 1990.
Catalogue number 46-002 (Canada: \$5.60/\$56.00; United States: US\$6.70/US\$67.00; Other Countries: US\$7.80/US\$78.00).

Manufacturing Industries of Canada: sub-provincial areas, 1986.
Catalogue number 31-209 (Canada: \$61; United States: US\$73; Other Countries: US\$85).

Oil Pipe Line Transport, July 1990.
Catalogue number 55-001 (Canada: \$10.00/\$100.00; United States: US\$12.00/US\$120.00; Other Countries: US\$14.00/US\$140.00).

Particleboard, Waferboard and Fibreboard, August 1990.
Catalogue number 36-003 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing, August 1990.
Catalogue number 41-011 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, August 1990.
Catalogue number 25-001 (Canada: \$6.10/\$61.00; United States: US\$7.30/US\$73; Other Countries: US\$8.50/US\$85).

Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, August 1990.
Catalogue number 41-006 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, June 1990.
Catalogue number 15-001 (Canada: \$12.70/\$127.00; United States: US\$15.20/US\$152.00; Other Countries: US\$17.80/US\$178.00).

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, July 1990.
Catalogue number 15-001 (Canada: \$12.70/\$127.00; United States: US\$15.20/US\$152.00; Other Countries: US\$17.80/US\$178.00).

INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK

Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing Industries, Second Quarter 1990.
Catalogue number 31-003 (Canada: \$11.00/\$44.00; United States: US\$13.25/US\$53.00; Other Countries: US\$15.50/US\$62.00).

JUSTICE

Juristat - Criminal Victimization in Canada: the Findings of a Survey, October 1990.
Catalogue number 85-002, Vol. 10 no. 16 (Canada: \$3.90/\$78.00; United States: US\$4.70/US\$94.00; Other Countries: US\$5.45/US\$109.00).

Juristat - Impaired Driving Statistics, 1989.
Catalogue number 85-002, vol. 10 no. 17 (Canada: \$3.90/\$78.00; United States: US\$4.70/US\$94.00; Other Countries: US\$5.45/US\$109.00).

LABOUR

Unemployment Insurance Statistics, July 1990.
Catalogue number 73-001 (Canada: \$14.70/\$147.00; United States: US\$17.60/US\$176.00; Other Countries: US\$20.60/US\$206.00).

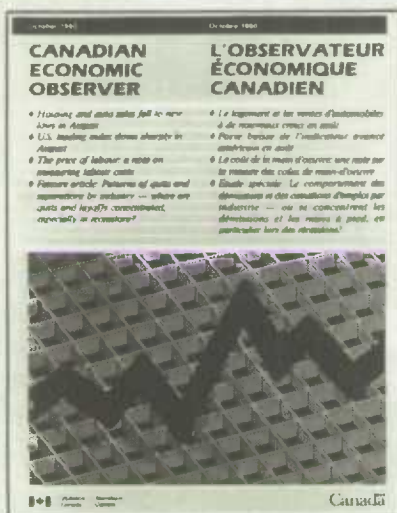
PRICES

Industry Price Indexes, July 1990.
Catalogue number 62-011 (Canada: \$18.20/\$182.00; United States: US\$21.80/US\$218.00; Other Countries: US\$25.50/US\$255.00).

SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics, January 1990.
Catalogue number 63-011 (Canada: \$6.10/\$61.00; United States: US\$7.30/US\$73.00; Other Countries: US\$8.50/US\$85.00).

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Canadian Economic Observer

The October 1990 issue of the *Canadian Economic Observer* includes an article on the pattern of quits and layoffs in the Canadian economy, particularly in recessions.

The research needed for this article was made possible by a new data source developed by Statistics Canada from information provided by Employment and Immigration and from Labour Force Survey data. Here are a few of the article's highlights:

- The turnover rate for the economy has been generally stable since 1978, except during the 1982 recession when a 42% drop in quits more than offset a 31% increase in permanent layoffs, resulting in a lower permanent separations rate.
- Labour mobility declined in the 1982 recession, as hiring fell about 50% and more workers stayed with their firm, despite layoffs.
- Quits and layoffs vary considerably by industry. Goods industries

have more temporary layoffs than services industries. Permanent separations are highest in the primary and construction industries, while quit rates are highest in the low-wage consumer services.

For more information, order the *Canadian Economic Observer* (catalogue number 11-010).

The Daily Available at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time

Starting October 22, 1990

As part of an ongoing effort to facilitate access to Statistics Canada's products and services, all statistical information produced by the Agency will be released at 8:30 a.m. local Ottawa time, effective October 22, 1990. The only exceptions are the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey results, which will continue to be released at 7:00 a.m.

For further information, contact Lyne Bélanger (613-951-1199), Communications Division.

CURRENT TRENDS*

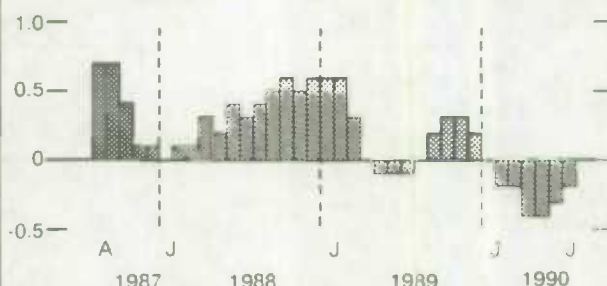
Gross Domestic Product

% change, previous month



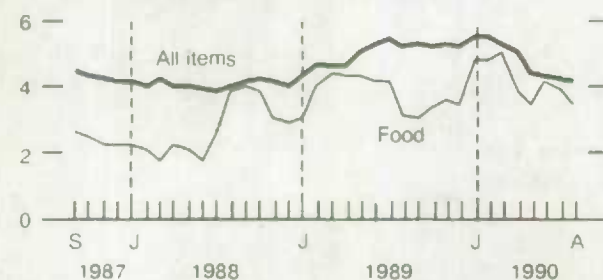
Composite Leading Indicator

% change, previous month

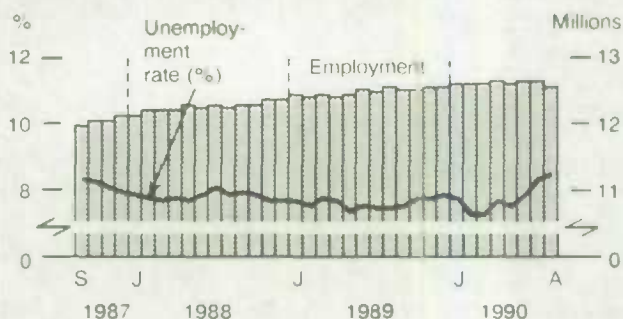


Consumer Price Index

% change, previous year

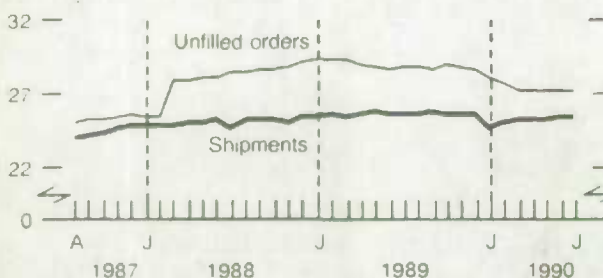


Unemployment Rate and Employment



Manufacturing

Billions of dollars



Merchandise Trade

Billions of dollars



*All series are seasonally adjusted except the consumer price index.



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LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
GENERAL				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	July	512	0.1%	1.3%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	July	143.4	-0.2%	-0.8%
Profits of Industrial Corporations (\$ billion)	2nd Q	4.6	-24%	-53%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	July	16.3	0.8%	1.9%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	August	113	-3.0%	-6.3%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	Sept.	12.6	0.2%	0.6%
Unemployment Rate (%)	Sept.	8.4	0.1	1.0
Participation Rate (%)	Sept.	67.1	0.1	-0.1
Labour Income (\$ billion)	July	31.8	0.3%	7.2%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	July	514.09	0.2%	5.3%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	August*	12.0	-4.2%	3.6%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	August*	11.1	-2.2%	-2.4%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	August*	1.0	-0.3	0.7
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	July	25.1	0.4%	-0.8%
New Orders (\$ billion)	July	25.0	0.2%	-1.8%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	July	27.7	-0.3%	-8.0%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	July	1.48	-0.02	-0.03
Capacity Utilization (%)	2nd Q	79.7	-0.5	-5.3
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	August	119.8	0.0%	4.1%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	August	109.2	0.1%	-0.3%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	August	107.3	4.2%	-0.5%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	August	141.2	-1.1%	-0.6%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of average weekly earnings and the price indexes.

* New this week.

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A Weekly Review

Published by the Communications Division
Statistics Canada.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613) 951-1116
Editor: Yves Saint-Pierre (613) 951-1197

R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Catalogue: 11-002E. Price: Canada: \$2.50 per issue, \$125.00 per year; United States: US\$3.00 per issue, US\$150.00 per year; Other Countries: US\$3.50 per issue, US\$175.00. To subscribe: send money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publication Sales, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6. To order by telephone dial: 1-800-267-6677 within Canada or 613-951-7277 from all other countries.

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