Friday, December 8, 1995

OVERVIEW

Exports boost real GDP

Higher exports, the result of recovering growth in the United States, boosted economic output in the third quarter.

Current account deficit lowest in eight years

In the third quarter of 1995, Canada's current account deficit fell to its lowest quarterly level in eight years.

International travel account deficit falls

The international travel account deficit fell in the third quarter due to record spending in Canada by overseas visitors and decreased spending by Canadians abroad.

GDP edges up in September

Economic activity rose moderately in September, when gross domestic product at factor cost advanced 0.2%.

Earnings up slightly

Average weekly earnings rose slightly in September, after monthly fluctuations since the beginning of the year.

U.I. benefits lowest since 1990

In the first three quarters of 1995, the amount of U.I. benefits Canadians received was the lowest paid since 1990.

Help-wanted ads on the rise

For the first time in 12 months, the help-wanted index increased in November.

Exports boost real GDP

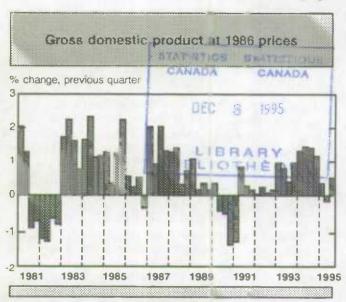
Higher exports in the third quarter, the result of a resurgence of growth in the United States, boosted real gross domestic product by 0.5%. This followed a slight downturn in the second quarter.

Aside from rising exports, the economy remained quite weak. Final domestic demand languished for a third consecutive quarter. Business investment in plant and equipment, residential construction and government expenditure all declined, though consumer spending picked up. Inventories continued to rise, though at a slower rate than in the first half of the year.

Office machines and equipment accounted for about 60% of the overall (2.4%) rise in exports. Imports edged up 0.2%. Higher imports of office machines and equipment, petroleum and coal products, communications equipment and business services were mostly offset by lower imports of machinery, aircraft and parts, and crude petroleum.

Construction activity continued to fall. New residential construction decreased further, bringing its total decline over the past five quarters to 29%. Business capital spending on machinery fell 2.2% after nine straight quarters of substantial growth.

(continued on page 2)



... Exports boost real GDP

After stalling in the first half of the year, personal spending rose 0.6% in the third quarter. The advance, encouraged by lower interest rates, was mostly the result of higher spending on durable goods, especially motor vehicles. However, real disposable income fell 0.7%, following a 0.2% slide in the previous quarter.

Financial market borrowing bounced back as the economy strengthened and interest rates edged down. Personal borrowing increased modestly and corporate financing was up sharply, partly due to takeover activity. Governments also took advantage of lower interest rates by stepping up their borrowing activity, despite a drop in the public sector deficit.

A 0.5% increase in labour income was attributable entirely to higher average wage rates.

After slipping in the second quarter, corporate profits advanced 5.5%. Profits now represent 8.6% of GDP, up from a low of 4.8% in the fourth quarter of 1991. The share of labour income in GDP fell from 56.7% to 53.8% over the same period.

The GDP chain price index – a measure of inflation – rose 0.6%, about the same pace as in the previous four quarters. Prices actually paid by consumers, businesses and governments grew less rapidly than this, as indicated by the 0.3% rise in the final domestic demand price index. Costs were held down by lower import prices, which are netted out of the overall GDP chain index.

For further information, order National economic and financial accounts, quarterly estimates (catalogue 13-001) or contact National Accounts and Environment Division at (613) 951-3640.

Current account deficit lowest in eight years

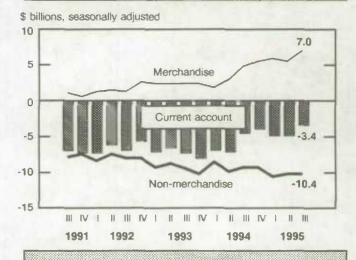
Canada's current account deficit fell to \$3.4 billion in the third quarter of 1995, its lowest quarterly level in eight years. The decline in the deficit stemmed entirely from trade in goods: Canadians bought less from abroad while exporting more. The deficit from other current transactions increased slightly, due mainly to higher profits earned in Canada by foreign multinationals. On the capital transactions side, foreigners invested heavily in Canadian bonds and increased by a record amount their direct investment capital in Canada.

The trade surplus in goods jumped to \$7.0 billion, up from the previous high of \$5.9 billion two quarters ago. The increase was due largely to lower purchases from countries other than the United States. The surplus with the United States edged down from its record level.

The Canadian profits of foreign multinationals reached a six-year peak of \$2.9 billion in the third quarter of 1995. Profits are now approaching the historical highs of over \$3 billion per quarter recorded in the late 1980s. During the current quarter, the forestry sector led the increase.

Against a background of declining interest rates, foreigners again invested heavily in Canadian bonds – \$11.9 billion during the quarter, the second highest investment on record. Two-thirds of the investment was in new federal and provincial issues. As was the case for most of 1994 and 1995, some three-quarters of new issues were denominated in foreign currencies with the balance in Canadian dollars.

Current account balance



Foreign direct investment in Canada increased by a record \$3.5 billion. Direct investors channelled \$2.4 billion of long-term capital into Canada, reinvested \$2.2 billion of their profits from Canadian operations and withdrew \$1.1 billion in short-term capital. Most of the long-term capital originated from countries of the European Union whose investors both purchased and sold existing business in Canada.

Foreigners sold \$1.1 billion more Canadian stocks than they purchased, continuing the pattern which began a year earlier. Over that period, they withdrew a total of \$4.0 billion from Canada, in sharp contrast to the \$18 billion they had moved into Canadian stocks over most of 1993 and 1994.

... Current account deficit lowest in eight years

As much as \$11.7 billion of capital was channelled abroad through the banks' foreign currency operations, surpassing the previous quarter's record of \$10.8 billion. This net outflow reflected a mixture of inter-bank operations with their affiliates abroad and lower deposits from other non-residents. The net outflow was widespread geographically.

For further information, order Canada's balance of international payments (catalogue 67-001) or contact Lucie Laliberté, Balance of Payments Division at (613) 951-9055.

International travel account deficit falls

The international travel account deficit fell 9.8% to \$1.1 billion in the third quarter. The travel account deficit peaked at \$2,3 billion in the fourth quarter of 1991. The drop in the deficit was attributable to decreased spending by Canadians abroad as well as record spending by overseas visitors in Canada.

Total receipts from visitors to Canada were unchanged from the second quarter, at \$2.9 billion. Overseas visitors, however, spent a record \$1.3 billion (up 2.4%), continuing the upward trend which began in mid-1991. Outlays by overseas residents now represent 47% of total spending by visitors to Canada, compared with 27% a decade

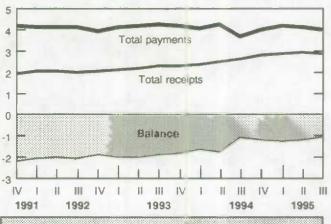
International travel receipts and payments

| | Third | Second | Third | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|
| | quarter 1994 | quarter 1995 | quarter 1995 | | |
| | seasonally adjusted ¹ | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | | |
| United States | | \$ minions | | | |
| Receipts | 1,428 | 1.563 | 1,519 | | |
| Payments | 2,183 | 2.476 | 2,365 | | |
| Balance | -755 | -913 | -846 | | |
| | -100 | -913 | -040 | | |
| All other countries | | 1.010 | . 0.40 | | |
| Receipts | 1,178 | 1,316 | 1,348 | | |
| Payments Balance | 1,489 -310 | 1,611 -295 | 1,592 -244 | | |
| | -310 | -250 | -244 | | |
| Total | | 0.070 | | | |
| Receipts | 2,606 | 2,879 | 2,867 | | |
| Payments | 3,672 | 4,087 | 3,957 | | |
| Balance | -1,065 | -1,208 | -1,090 | | |
| | unadjusted | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | | |
| United States | | | | | |
| Receipts | 2,586 | 1,610 | 2,726 | | |
| Payments | 2,194 | 2,726 | 2,321 | | |
| Balance | 392 | -1,116 | 405 | | |
| All other countries | | | | | |
| Receipts | 2,140 | 1,383 | 2,487 | | |
| Payments | 1,696 | 1,571 | 1,783 | | |
| Balance | 444 | -188 | 704 | | |
| Total | | | | | |
| Receipts | 4,726 | 2,993 | 5,213 | | |
| Payments | 3,890 | 4,297 | 4,104 | | |
| Balance | 836 | -1,304 | 1,109 | | |

For further information, contact Ruth Martin, Education, Culture and Tourism Division at (613) 951-1791.

Travel account balance





Note to readers

Unless otherwise noted, all data are seasonally adjusted.

While Canadians travelling overseas reduced their spending by 1.2% to \$1.6 billion, they continued to outspend visitors from overseas by \$244 million.

The travel account deficit with the United States improved by 7.3%. This difference, at \$846 million, was well below the \$1.9 billion peak reached in the fourth quarter of 1991. At that time, the Canadian dollar stood at US88 cents, compared with US74 cents in the third quarter of 1995. Americans decreased their spending in Canada by 2.8% during the third quarter, while Canadians reduced their spending in the United States by 4.5%.

In 1994, the international travel account deficit represented 25.8% of the current account deficit. That share stood at 31.5% when the international travel account deficit peaked in 1992 at \$8.2 billion.

Seasonally adjusted data may not add to totals due to rounding.

GDP edges up in September

Economic activity rose moderately in September, when gross domestic product at factor cost advanced 0.2%. This followed similar gains in the previous two months. Production in September reached a level slightly higher than its most recent peak in December 1994.

Manufacturers raised output 0.3% and this, along with the increases in July and August, advanced production 0.8% in the third quarter. Nonetheless, output remained short of its first quarter level. In September, production increased most for transportation equipment, electrical and electronic products, and paper. Cutbacks by manufacturers of rubber, fabricated metals and textiles offset some of these gains. Manufacturers continued to accumulate stocks of finished goods, although at a much slower pace than in the first and second quarters.

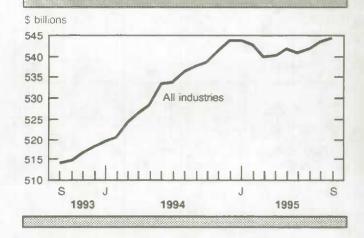
Construction activity increased 0.9%, after a gain of 0.3% in August. Activity on industrial projects advanced the most. Home building rose 1.3% following several significant declines earlier this year. The gain reflects a pickup in the construction of single and double dwellings. Oversupply of unsold homes, a factor which has constrained growth in this industry, fell markedly for a second consecutive month.

Transportation and storage services increased 0.8%. Air transport led the gain, but rail and truck services also contributed.

Wholesalers enjoyed a 0.3% increase in sales, which approached the level at the start of the year. Wholesalers of food, and computer and software recorded the largest gains. Sales of lumber and building material rose for a second consecutive month, mirroring the improvement in home building.

Retail sales edged down 0.2% after increasing 0.9% in August. Sales of automotive products slipped in September after leading the gain in August. Sales by retailers of clothing sagged again, while furniture and appliance dealers experienced a slight decline following some firming in July and August.

Gross domestic product at factor cost



Note to readers

Gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added by labour and capital when they transform inputs purchased from other industries into output. Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1986 prices. All estimates are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

Community, business and personal services rose 0.4%. Increases in accommodation and food services, computer services and, to a lesser extent, in health services accounted for most of the advance.

A 0.7% gain in the mining sector was concentrated in the production of crude petroleum, which had weakened during the previous two months. Excluding crude petroleum and natural gas, output in the mining sector edged down 0.1%.

For further information, order Gross domestic product by industry (catalogue 15-001) or contact Michel Girard, Industry Measures and Analysis Division at (613) 951-9145. (See also "Current trends" on page 9.)

Earnings up slightly

In September, higher hourly earnings for employees paid by the hour advanced employees' average weekly earnings 0.3% to \$575.74. Earnings now stand 0.9% higher than in January 1995. The most substantial earnings increases were registered by employees in construction, business services, and logging and forestry. Public administration and insurance and real estate were the only two industries where employees' earnings fell slightly.

Businesses added 22,000 employees to their payrolls in September, bringing employment levels to 10.7 million. Half of the 105,000 increase in employees since January occurred in August and September. Employment gains were strongest among manufacturers, where increases over the past two months brought manufacturing employment to its highest level in four years.

(continued on page 5)

... Earnings up slightly

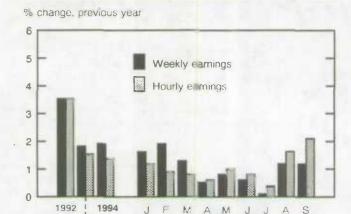
Despite stable employment levels since July, employment in public administration has registered an average monthly decline of 2,000 employees since January. In September, a drop in the number of federal and provincial employees was offset by an increase in local administration.

Employment in education and related industries fell in September, bringing the total decline since June to 43,000 employees. Employment in the trade industries slipped by 2,000 employees after rising by 9,000 in August. Wholesale trade employment

Average weekly earnings, September 1995 Seasonally adjusted

| Province/Territory | Industrial aggregate (\$) | % change, previous month | % change, previous year | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Canada | 575.74 | 0.3 | 1.2 | |
| Newfoundland | 533.72 | 0.2 | -1.6 | |
| Prince Edward Island | 484.37 | 2.6 | 7.1 | |
| Nova Scotia | 491.42 | 0.5 | -1.1 | |
| New Brunswick | 519.06 | 2.2 | 2.8 | |
| Quebec | 550.29 | 1.0 | 0.4 | |
| Ontario | 614.70 | 0.5 | 1.4 | |
| Manitoba | 511.77 | 1.0 | 1.7 | |
| Saskatchewan | 497.48 | 0.3 | 1.4 | |
| Alberta | 552.31 | 0.0 | -0.7 | |
| British Columbia | 599.49 | -0.1 | 3.6 | |
| Yukon | 696.58 | 3.3 | -0.1 | |
| Northwest Territories | 725.74 | 1.4 | 4.5 | |

Weekly and hourly earnings



remained virtually unchanged from May, while retail trade employment fell for the first time in seven months.

1995

1993

Provincially, employment gains were concentrated in Quebec and Ontario.

For further information, order Employment, earnings and hours (catalogue 72-002) or contact Stephen Johnson, Labour Division at (613) 951-4090, fax: (613) 951-4087, the Internet: philpat@statcan.ca.

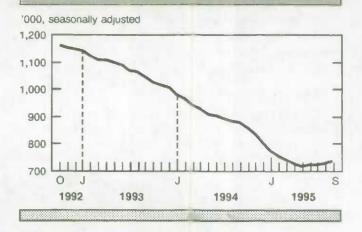
U.I. benefits lowest since 1990

During the first three quarters of 1995, Canadians were paid \$10.7 billion (unadjusted) in regular and special unemployment insurance benefits, down 14.6% from the same period last year. This was the lowest amount paid in the January-to-September period since 1990. A 16.2% drop in the average number of beneficiaries was the most important reason for the drop.

In September, Canadians collected \$859.3 million in benefits, down 15.0% from September 1994. Comparing the same month in previous years, this was the lowest amount paid since September 1989 when \$735.7 million was paid.

The average weekly benefit paid to beneficiaries rose 1.5% to \$255.43 (unadjusted) from September 1994. The average weekly benefit ranged from \$232.60 in Prince Edward Island to \$312.34 in the Northwest Territories.

Number of U.I. beneficiaries receiving regular benefits



(continued on page 6)

... U.I. benefits lowest since 1990

The number of Canadians receiving regular U.I. benefits advanced 1.1% to 734,000 in September. The trend for the number of beneficiaries has been increasing since June, following a general decline that started in mid-1992. Increases, ranging from 0.8% in British Columbia to 8.7% in the Northwest Territories, were observed in all provinces and territories except Ontario (-1.9%) and Quebec (-0.7%).

U.I. beneficiaries receiving regular benefits, September 1995 Seasonally adjusted

| Province/territory | Total ('000) | % change, previous month | % change, previous year |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Canada | 734 | 1.1 | -16.1 |
| Newfoundland | 40 | 1.2 | -17.2 |
| Prince Edward Island | 10 | 1.8 | -12.3 |
| Nova Scotia | 38 | 2.6 | -20.4 |
| New Brunswick | 42 | 2.9 | -16.6 |
| Quebec | 253 | -0.7 | -14.9 |
| Ontario | 173 | -1.9 | -21.0 |
| Manitoba | 20 | 2.1 | -12.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 15 | 2.2 | -15.0 |
| Alberta | 52 | 2.1 | -16.3 |
| British Columbia | 82 | 0.8 | -12.7 |
| Yukon | 1 | 3.9 | -16.5 |
| Northwest Territories | 1 | 8.3 | -7.8 |

Note to readers

The majority who collect unemployment insurance benefits receive regular benefits (73.0% in September). In order to qualify for regular benefits, a person must have experienced an interruption of earnings, be capable of and available for work, and be unable to find suitable employment. In addition to regular benefits, claimants can qualify for special benefits (e.g., training, maternity, sickness and fishing).

Data on the number of beneficiaries relate to a specific week of the reference month. Data on benefit payments, benefit weeks and claims refer to a complete calendar month.

Unless otherwise noted, all data are seasonally adjusted.

In September, 256,000 individuals filed claims for U.I., down 3.9% from August, but up 5.5% from September 1994. From January to September 1995, 2,126,000 people (unadjusted) submitted claims, 2.7% higher than in the same period in 1994.

For further information, order Unemployment insurance statistics (catalogue 73-001) or contact Adib Farhat, Labour Division at (613) 951-4045, fax: (613) 951-4087.

Help-wanted ads on the rise

For the first time in 12 months, the help-wanted index (1991=100) increased in November, advancing 2% to 93. After gaining 15% in 1994, the index stalled at 102 between November 1994 and March 1995. Then, between March and October 1995, it declined 11%.

The help-wanted index is an indicator of the intent of employers to hire new workers. The increase in November is in line with the moderate rise reported by the composite index.

In November, the index advanced in all regions except Quebec, where it remained unchanged. The

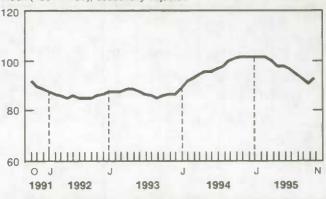
Note to readers

The help-wanted index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. In these labour markets, the help-wanted index reflects the changes in the demand for labour. However, since not all jobs are filled through help-wanted ads, the index represents only a part of all hiring.

The help-wanted indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Help-wanted index

index (1991 = 100), seasonally adjusted



Prairies led with an increase of 5%, followed by a 3% gain in both the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia, and a rise of 1% in Ontario.

These increases followed three months of declines in both Ontario and the Prairies, four in Quebec and seven in British Columbia.

For further information, contact Adib Farhat at (613) 951-4045 or Carole Fraser at (613) 951-4039, Labour Division

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM DECEMBER 1 TO 7, 1995

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|--|---|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
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| Cement | October 1995 | 44-001 | 6/60 | 8/72 | 9/84 |
| Coal and coke statistics | September 1995 | 45-002 | 11/110 | 14/132 | 16/154 |
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| Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes) | October 1995 September 1995 | 43-009 57-001 | 6/60 11/110 | 14/132 | 16/154 |
| Electric power statistics Electric power statistics | 1994 | 57-206 | 29 | 35 | 41 |
| Gas utilities | August 1995 | 55-002 | 16/160 | 20/200 | 23/230 |
| Gypsum products | October 1995 | 44-003 | 6/60 | 8/72 | 9/84 |
| Pack of processed beans, green and wax | 1995 | 32-238 | 14 | 17 | 20 |
| Pack of processed peas | 1995 | 32-235 | 14 | 17 | 20 |
| Paper and allied products industries | 1993 | 36-250 | 38 | 46 | 54 |
| Production and inventories of process cheese | 0 . 1 . 1005 | 00.004 | 0.000 | 0.670 | 0.40.4 |
| and instant skim milk powder | October 1995 | 32-024 | 6/60 20/200 | 8/72 24/240 | 9/84 28/280 |
| Retail trade Rigid insulating board | September 1995 October 1995 | 63-005 36-002 | 6/60 | 8/72 | 9/84 |
| Specified domestic electrical appliances | October 1995 | 43-003 | 6/60 | 8/72 | 9/84 |
| INTERNATIONAL TRADE | 000000000000000000000000000000000000000 | | | | 0,00 |
| Imports by country, microfiche version | JanSept. 1995 | 65-0060XMB | 60/200 | 72/240 | 84/280 |
| Imports by country, paper version | JanSept. 1995 | 65-0060XPB | 120/400 | 145/480 | 168/560 |
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NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Perspectives on labour and income

Winter 1995

The winter 1995 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, released today, presents three articles addressing pension topics based on data from income tax files. These studies look at tax rules for pensions and RRSPs, the characteristics of people who are saving for retirement, and the extent to which individuals are making use of their RRSP contributions allowance. Other articles examine couples in which wives earn more than their husbands, the financial situation of men who retire early, and the growth of non-standard work.

Each quarter, Perspectives draws on many data sources to explore emerging income issues and developments in the labour market.

The winter 1995 issue of Perspectives on labour and income (75-001E, \$17/\$56) is now available. For further information, contact Jeffrey Smith at (613) 951-6894 or Doreen Duchesne at (613) 951-6893, Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



Canada's culture, heritage and identity

1995 edition

Canada's culture, heritage and identity: A statistical perspective, a new annual publication released today, provides information on the nation's cultural fabric.

The 107-page statistical compendium replaces eight former publications. It is an invaluable tool for students, teachers, policy-makers and members of the cultural sector – a sector which plays an important social and economic role in Canada.

The publication provides basic data on Canadian identity and cultural diversity, culture in homes, government financial support, and cultural exports. In addition, it profiles individual cultural sectors, such as book and periodical publishing, performing arts and music, visual arts, radio and television, and film and video production.

Canada's culture, heritage and identity: A statistical perspective (catalogue 87-211, \$30) is now available. For further information, contact Mary Allen at (613) 951-1544, fax: (613) 951-9040, Culture Statistics Program.

RRSP contribution limit (room)

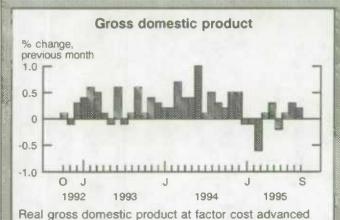
1995

The 1995 edition of the databank of RRSP contribution limits (room) is now available. The demographic and financial data will be of particular interest to researchers, policy planners, financial institutions and marketers.

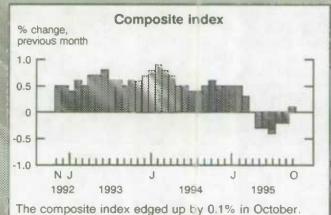
Small area data on RRSP room are produced annually for many levels of postal geography, including cities and towns, and areas as small as letter-carrier walks.

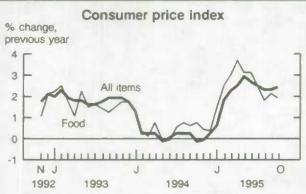
For further information, contact Client Services, Small Area and Administrative Data Division at (613) 951-9720, fax: (613) 951-4745.

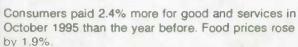
CURRENT TRENDS

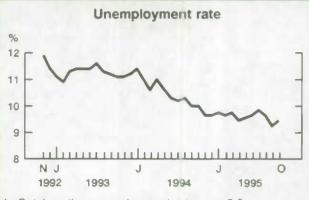


0.2% in September.





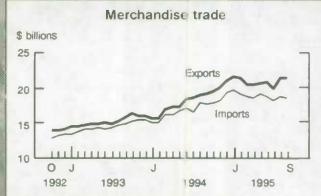








Manufacturers' shipments were unchanged at \$32.9 billion in September. The level of unfilled orders fell 1.9% to \$33.0 billion.



The value of merchandise exports was stable at \$21.4 billion in September. Imports fell 1.4% to \$18.5 billion.



LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

| 1010202825 | Period | Level | Change, previous period | Change, previous year |
|---|--------------|--------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| GENERAL | | | | |
| Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1986) | September | 544.2 | 0.2% | 1.2% |
| Composite index (1981 = 100) | October | 171.3 | 0.1% | 0.9% |
| Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion) | 3rd quarter | 25.0 | 3.2% | 20.3% |
| DOMESTIC DEMAND | | | | - 170 |
| Retail trade (\$ billion) | September | 17.9 | 0.1% | 3.2% |
| New motor vehicle sales ('000 units) | September | 105.2 | 2.0% | -0.2% |
| LABOUR | | | | |
| Employment (millions) | November* | 13.5 | -0.3% | 0.2% |
| Unemployment rate (%) | November* | 9.4 | 0.0^{\dagger} | -0.2 |
| Participation rate (%) | November* | 64.4 | -0.4 [†] | -0.9^{\dagger} |
| Labour income (\$ billion) | September* | 35.1 | 0.6% | 3.1% |
| Average weekly earnings (\$) | September | 575.74 | 0.3% | 1.2% |
| INTERNATIONAL TRADE | | | | |
| Merchandise exports (\$ billion) | September | 21.4 | 0.0% | 12.3% |
| Merchandise imports (\$ billion) | September | 18.5 | -1.4% | 5.4% |
| Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion) | September | 2.9 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| MANUFACTURING | | | | |
| Shipments (\$ billion) | September | 32.9 | 0.0% | 9.6% |
| New orders (\$ billion) | September | 32.2 | -0.5% | 4.9% |
| Unfilled orders (\$ billion) | September | 33.0 | -1.9% | 1.7% |
| Inventory/ shipments ratio | September | 1.37 | 0.01 | 0.06 |
| Capacity utilization (%) | 3rd quarter* | 83.1 | -0.3 [†] | -1.4 |
| PRICES | | | | 1-0.01 |
| Consumer price index (1986=100) | October | 133.8 | -0.1% | 2.4% |
| Industrial product price index (1986=100) | October | 129.0 | -0.5% | 6.3% |
| Raw materials price index (1986=100) | October | 124.5 | -2.7% | 1.8% |
| New housing price index (1986=100) | September | 134.2 | -0.1% | -1.5% |

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

* new this week

* percentage point

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