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Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, November 19, 1999

OVERVIEW

- **Provincial economies hurt by weak commodity prices in 1998**

  In 1998, Newfoundland had the highest economic growth among the provinces—double the Canadian average. Weak commodity markets held back growth in a number of provinces.

- **Shipments hold steady**

  After an exceptional August, manufacturers' shipments increased in September by 0.8%. The largest contributors to the increase were the refined petroleum and coal products and the paper and allied products industries.

- **Trucks lead advance in new vehicle sales**

  Trucks were mainly responsible for a 2.0% increase in the number of new motor vehicles sold in September. Trucks also propelled new vehicle sales higher in the third quarter.

- **Department stores post exceptional results**

  Department store sales advanced for a sixth consecutive month in September (+0.9%). Moreover, in the third quarter, department stores posted the best quarterly sales result of the decade (+5.4%).

- **More work and stress, less personal and free time**

  In a recent survey, one-third of 25- to 44-year-olds identified themselves as workaholics. More than half admitted to worrying they do not have enough time to spend with family and friends.

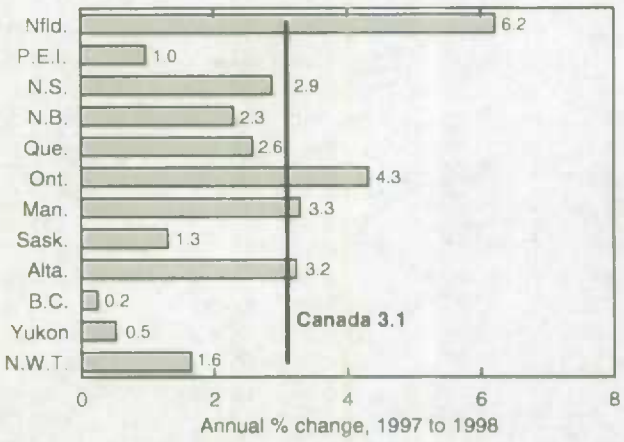
Provincial economies hurt by weak commodity prices in 1998

In 1998, the impact of global economic turmoil was felt in many provincial economies, as the Asian economic crisis dried up export markets and pulled down commodity prices. Profits were hammered by falling prices of oil, metals and key agricultural commodities, particularly in the Western provinces. Growth of gross domestic product (GDP) slowed from the 4.0% pace of the previous year down to 3.1%.

Despite the turbulence on world commodity markets, the Canadian economy fared well. Employment growth was the best of the 1990s, and personal incomes began to strengthen. Consumer spending cooled a bit but still maintained solid growth. Business non-residential construction levelled off, but machinery and equipment purchases continued at a strong pace. Public sector spending increased after several years of cutbacks.

The continuing economic boom in the United States allowed manufacturing to maintain its position as an engine of growth in Central Canada, with manufacturing gains concentrated in high-tech and transportation equipment. Labour unrest affected manufacturing output, with a summer auto strike south of the border prompting work stoppages on motor vehicle assembly

Gross domestic product at 1992 prices



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... Provincial economies hurt by weak commodity prices in 1998

lines. Domestic labour turmoil in the pulp and paper industry affected a number of provinces.

Newfoundland's growth was double the Canadian average in 1998, with oil production and related spin-offs boosting GDP there by 6.2%. While favourable economic conditions lowered the province's unemployment rate by nearly a full point, it remained Canada's highest, at 17.9%. Elsewhere in Atlantic Canada, growth generally picked up but fell short of the national rate.

The January 1998 ice storm that hit Quebec, Eastern Ontario and parts of the Maritimes caused power outages and temporarily froze economic activity in the affected regions. But the subsequent reconstruction efforts stimulated growth. Quebec's economy gained momentum (+2.6%) as a result, and that momentum was further enhanced by flourishing sales of high-tech firms. Ontario charged ahead again, with a 4.3% increase in GDP matching 1997 despite strike activity mid-year in manufacturing and construction.

Weak prices for oil and agricultural commodities pulled down growth in the Prairies, particularly in Saskatchewan (+1.3%). Manitoba fared much better (+3.3%) on the strength of a healthy manufacturing sector, and Alberta maintained solid growth (+3.2%) despite trouble in the oil patch.

The British Columbia economy registered a lacklustre performance, edging up only 0.2% as production fell for key export commodities destined to Asian markets. The year marked the end of British Columbia's housing boom, and residential investment dropped.

The territories were hit hard by weak metal prices. The 1997 closure of a lead-zinc mine continued to hurt the Yukon economy (+0.5%). The Northwest Territories fared somewhat better (+1.6%) as diamand mine construction and increased activity around the creation of a new territory, Nunavut, in April 1999 helped to offset declines elsewhere.

Note to readers

All references to production (output) and to expenditure are at constant prices; any references to income are in nominal terms.

Gross domestic product at 1992 prices, 1998

	$ millions
Canada	**838,265**
Newfoundland	10,785
Prince Edward Island	2,706
Nova Scotia	19,674
New Brunswick	15,782
Quebec	183,223
Ontario	350,083
Manitoba	27,842
Saskatchewan	26,116
Alberta	98,630
British Columbia	99,708
Yukon	994
Northwest Territories	2,466

Available on CANSIM: matrices 8406-8429 and 9000-9231.

Provincial economic accounts: annual estimates, 1998 *(13-213-PPB, $50) is now available. These data can also be obtained on diskette (13-213-XDB, $80). To order, contact Client Services (613-951-3810, iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.* ***Provincial gross domestic product by industry, 1984-1998*** *(online at www.statcan.ca: 15-203-XIB, $39) is also now available. To purchase data for provincial gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, contact Yolande Chantigny (613-951-9163, chanyon@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. For further analytical information, contact Catherine Bertrand (613-951-4115) or Pierre Genereux (613-951-3650), System of National Accounts Branch.*

Shipments hold steady

After an exceptional August, manufacturers' shipments increased in September by 0.8% to $42.4 billion. Shipments increased or remained the same in 17 of the 22 major industry groups, representing 82.7% of the total value of shipments. Though more modest than the 3.5% surge in August, September's increase maintained the upward trend of shipments that began in July 1998.

Among the industries, the largest contributors to the increase were refined petroleum and coal products (+8.3%) and paper and allied products (+3.3%). Both advances can be partly attributed to price increases of, respectively, 5.0% and 1.8%. Shipments also rose in the aircraft and parts industry (+7.3%). The principal offsetting drop in shipments occurred in the machinery industry (-3.6%), where shipments were unseasonably low. Primarily, the agricultural implement and other machinery and equipment industries were behind that decline. The drop in shipments of agricultural implements can in part be ascribed to weak demand for these products.

Note to readers

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments, assuming the orders are not cancelled. New orders are orders received, whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Interpreting new orders as leading to future demand is inappropriate because new orders include orders already shipped. The month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile, particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders was large in relation to the current month's change. Not all orders translate into Canadian factory shipments because some large orders may have a component that is subcontracted to manufacturers in other countries.

(continued on page 3)

... Shipments hold steady

The value of unfilled orders rose for a fifth consecutive month, advancing 1.9% to $53.7 billion. September's advance was mainly attributable to two industries: motor vehicles (+11.2%) and electrical and electronic products (+8.1%). For the latter, the increase was concentrated in communications and other electronic equipment. The main decrease offsetting these gains was in the aircraft and parts industry (-1.5%).

In September, manufacturers' inventories rose 1.1% to $54.0 billion. Most of this rise occurred in the electrical and electronic products (+4.3%) and aircraft and parts (+3.2%) industries. September's increase in inventories maintained the upward trend that began in February 1999, which followed decreases in December 1998 and January of this year. Since both shipments and inventories increased in September, the inventory-to-shipments ratio remained unchanged at 1.27.

In October, 55,000 jobs were created in the manufacturing sector for an employment increase of 2.4%. October's job growth in manufacturing continued an upward trend that began a year earlier in the sector. In addition, the October Business Conditions Survey revealed that 79% of manufacturers expect their production to remain the same or to increase in the fourth quarter.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9555, 9558, 9559, 9562-9565, 9568-9579 and 9581-9595.

Manufacturers' shipments, September 1999
Seasonally adjusted

	$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	**42,425**	**0.8**
Newfoundland	176	22.7
Prince Edward Island	81	2.0
Nova Scotia	633	-3.5
New Brunswick	766	-0.8
Quebec	9,701	1.3
Ontario	23,450	0.4
Manitoba	876	3.7
Saskatchewan	513	-0.7
Alberta	3,004	0.6
British Columbia	3,220	2.6
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	4	-6.0

*The September 1999 issue of **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing** (31-001-XPB, $20/$196) presents the full report. Detailed data on shipments by province are available on request. For further information, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-7092, kuncrai@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. See also "Current trends" on page 7.*

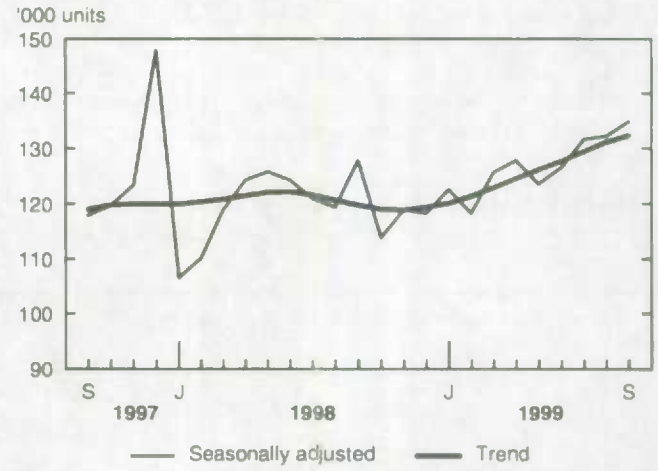
Trucks lead advance in new vehicle sales

In September, 134,773 new motor vehicles were sold, an increase from August of 2.0%. Truck sales accounted for more than three-quarters of this advance. Sales of new motor vehicles have been robust since the fall of 1998. (All figures are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated.)

Truck sales rose in September by 3.2% to 66,155 vehicles. This rise followed a decrease in August of 1.0%. Generally, truck sales have been rising since the start of 1999. Sales of new cars climbed for a fourth consecutive month in September, rising 0.8% to 68,617 cars. Sales of cars built overseas spiked sharply upward from August (+9.0%), whereas sales of North American-built cars declined 1.5%. Overall, sales of new cars have been climbing since the fall of 1998.

In the third quarter, new motor vehicle sales rose from the second quarter by 5.5%. Trucks registered twice the increase that cars did: new truck sales advanced 7.4% in the quarter, while new car sales rose 3.7%. Sales of new vehicles advanced 3.1% in the second quarter and 4.4% in the first quarter of 1999. Since the start of the year, trucks and cars have both contributed to the quarterly gains.

Sales of new motor vehicles



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... Trucks lead advance in new vehicle sales

Compared with September 1998, new motor vehicle sales this September were up 7.4% (data unadjusted for seasonal factors). The strongest gains were made by dealers in Newfoundland (+18.9%), Nova Scotia (+17.2%), New Brunswick (+16.0%) and Ontario (+12.5%). There were also significant increases in Prince Edward Island (+9.0%), the region formed by British Columbia, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (+8.5%) and in Quebec (+5.9%). Due to slow truck sales, declines were posted in the three Prairie provinces: Saskatchewan (-15.6%), Manitoba (-7.2%) and Alberta (-3.3%).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

*The September 1999 issue of **New motor vehicle sales** (63-007-XIB, $13/$124) can be downloaded from the Internet at www.statcan.ca. To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549, 1 877 421-3067, retailinfo@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. For analytical information, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363, kimacle@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.*

Note to readers

In 1998, net fuel sales totalled 48.3 billion litres, up from 1997 by 3.0%. Net fuel sales are defined as the sales of gasoline, diesel fuel and liquefied petroleum gas on which taxes were remitted at road-use rates. These net figures represent the amount of taxable fuel actually consumed on the public roads and streets in Canada. Breaking that 48.3 billion litres down by share, 73.0% of it was gasoline, 25.5% was diesel fuel and 1.5% was liquefied petroleum gas. In 1998, net sales of gasoline increased 3.4% to 36.0 billion litres. The largest increases occurred in Ontario and Quebec, which together accounted for 59.9% of net sales of gasoline and 57.3% of net sales of diesel oil.

*Complete details will be available shortly in the 1998 issue of **Road motor vehicles: fuel sales** (for sale online at www.statcan.ca: 53-218-XIB, $21). For further information on fuel sales, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486, fax: 613-951-0009, laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.*

Department stores post exceptional sales

In September, consumers continued their spending spree in department stores. That month, their purchases in department stores totalled $1,586.5 million, an increase over August of 0.9% (seasonally adjusted data). This was the sixth sales increase in as many months. September's sales figures include the sales resulting from the liquidation of inventories held by the Eaton's stores. Overall, except for a slight decrease in the spring of 1998, department store sales have been showing sustained growth since early 1996.

The recent sales surge is reflected in an exceptional quarterly result. In the third quarter of 1999, department store sales were up from the second quarter by 5.4%—the best quarterly result of the decade. Previously, the best two results were registered in the first quarters of 1994 (+4.5%) and 1998 (+4.0%).

Compared with September 1998, department store sales this September stood 15.1% higher (data unadjusted for seasonal factors). Sales advanced by at least 10.0% in every province. The largest gains were seen in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

Inventory data for department stores are also now available. To purchase data, or for general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549, 1 877 421-3067, retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363, kimacle@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Department store sales including concessions
Not seasonally adjusted

	September 1999	September 1998 to September 1999	January-September 1999	January-September 1998 to January-September 1999
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change
Canada	**1,542.9**	**15.1**	**11,841.5**	**8.3**
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island[1]	28.3	14.6	221.3	12.3
Nova Scotia	44.2	10.1	357.0	8.6
New Brunswick	34.9	11.6	260.9	6.3
Quebec	274.8	13.7	2,193.0	7.8
Ontario	670.0	16.6	5,066.6	10.1
Manitoba	61.8	16.7	490.3	7.3
Saskatchewan	49.9	16.5	393.8	8.2
Alberta	179.2	14.7	1,386.0	7.9
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut[1]	199.7	13.7	1,472.6	3.9

[1] *For reasons of confidentiality, the data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are combined, as are the data for British Columbia, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.*

More work and stress, less personal and free time

According to a new survey, one-third of 25- to 44-year-olds, or 3 million Canadians, consider themselves workaholics. More than half of this age group, or 4.9 million individuals, feels a lack of time for family and friends. Similarly, almost half feel trapped in a daily routine. Nevertheless, only about one in four of the 25- to 44-year-olds plans to slow down in the coming year. In addition, more than half of this age group believes their feelings of stress will not change in the future.

Compared with the last survey in 1992, levels of severe time-stress were somewhat elevated overall in 1998. Of all women aged 15 and over, 21% perceived themselves as time-stressed, up from 16%. For men in that age group, the proportion reporting time-stress increased from 12% to 16%.

Time-stressed population

Age	Men		Women	
	1992	1998	1992	1998
	%			
15 and over	12	16	16	21
15-24	7	10	18	22
25-34	16	25	23	29
35-44	16	23	22	27
45-54	16	20	18	22
55-64	--	8	9	14
65 and over	--	--	--	--

-- *Amount too small to be expressed.*

Severely time-stressed individuals aged 15 and over spend more of their days than low-stressed individuals doing some form of work, either paid or unpaid. On total work activities, time-stressed men spent 9.7 hours per day and time-stressed women spent 9.4 hours per day in 1998, whereas low time-stressed men spent 6.8 hours and low time-stressed women spent 6.7 hours. The severely time-stressed also have less free time for leisure activities like playing sports, watching television and socialising: 2.2 hours less per day for men in 1998 and 2.0 hours less per day for women.

Between 1992 and 1998, the proportion of men aged 25 to 44 who reported being time-stressed increased at a faster rate than the proportion of women. About one in four of the men and women in this age group reported being severely time-stressed in 1998. For men this was an increase from less than one in six in 1992. (Overall, 25- to 44-year-olds represented 41% of the population aged 15 and over in 1998.)

Levels of stress vary with "role complexity", or the number of duties an individual has to undertake. Not surprisingly, time-stress levels are highest for married men and women aged 25 to 44 who are employed full time with children at home. In the 1998 survey, 38% of the women in this category reported being time-stressed. That is the highest percentage of any category. For example, the percentage for married men in the same situation is 26%. And for married women aged 25 to 44 employed full time but with no children at home the percentage reporting time stress is 20%.

Note to readers

Cycle 12 of the General Social Survey examined how Canadians allocated their time in 1998 for work (both paid and unpaid), as well as for personal and leisure activities. The target population was all individuals aged 15 and over living in a private household in all provinces. The representative sample had 10,749 respondents. Data were collected over a 12-month period from February 1998 to January 1999. Respondents kept a diary of their time use over a 24-hour period and answered yes or no to a series of 10 questions on their perception of time. Their responses were used to create a measure of time-stress. Those who agreed with seven or more of the questions were considered to have high levels of time-stress.

The survey suggests that relief from stress does come with age. For seniors aged 65 and over, reported feelings of severe time-stress were virtually non-existent in the 1998 survey. At the other end of the age continuum, even young people under 25 (including those of high school age) reported some fairly high levels of time-stress. Although young people were less likely to be time-stressed than other age groups as a whole, young women were twice as likely as young men to be severely time stressed.

In 1998, those who had the most responsibilities were also those who tended to work the longest days. The "struggle to juggle" in 1998 was most difficult for those aged 25 to 44 who were married parents and employed full time. Overall, men in this category averaged 48.6 hours and women averaged 38.8 hours per week of paid work and work-related activities. This was an increase of 2.0 hours per week since 1992 for men and it was up 2.0 hours for women, too.

For many people in this category, an increase in paid work did not result in less time doing unpaid work. These individuals spent around one half-hour more per week on unpaid work than in 1992. Men spent 22.8 hours each week at unpaid work and women spent 34.4 hours. Unpaid work includes household work, childcare, shopping, helping others, volunteering and civic activities. A decrease in leisure time accompanied the longer hours spent working.

For those who were married parents and employed full time, time-use patterns were even more revealing after considering the reported level of time-stress. Men reporting high levels of time-stress spent 52.3 hours per week on paid work. They also spent 24.1 hours per week on unpaid work. Their low time-stress counterparts, by contrast, reported an average 44.8 hours per week of paid work and 22.7 hours of unpaid work.

*The survey results are now available in **Overview of the time use of Canadians, 1998** (12F0080XIE, free), which is posted on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). Look under "Products and services" followed by "Downloadable publications (free)". In-depth analysis of the survey's many topics (including Internet use, self-directed learning, paid and unpaid work, volunteering, quality of life, attendance at various cultural events, television viewing habits and sports participation) is available via custom tabulations or from the public-use microdata file (12M0012XCB, $1,600). Similar files based on the 1986 and 1992 surveys are also available. To order, or for general information, contact Client Services (613-951-5979, fax: 613 951-0387, hfsslf@statcan.ca). For further analytical information, contact Cynthia Silver (613-951-2101, silvcyn@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.*

New from Statistics Canada

Canada: A portrait
56th edition

The millennial edition of *Canada: A portrait* paints a visual and analytical portrait of Canada's social, economic and cultural life on the eve of the new century. Drawing from Statistics Canada's rich database, the 204-page book contains a series of feature articles and more than 100 photographs illustrating the major trends and issues that have shaped our lives.

The easy-to-read text looks at Canada then and now from six perspectives: the land, the people, the society, arts and leisure, the economy, and Canada's place in the world. Each of the six chapters features a preface written by a prominent Canadian who has made a remarkable contribution to the nation's social and intellectual life: singer Susan Aglukark, author Pierre Berton, economics professor Richard Lipsey, actor Monique Mercure, musician Oscar Peterson and broadcaster/journalist David Suzuki.

Canada: A portrait first appeared in 1927 on the occasion of Canada's 60th anniversary. This 56th edition celebrates another important milestone as the nation enters a new age.

***Canada: A portrait** (11-403-XPE, $47.95) is available now. For further information, contact Jonina Wood (613-951-1114, fax: 613-951-5116, woodjon@statcan.ca), Communications Division.*

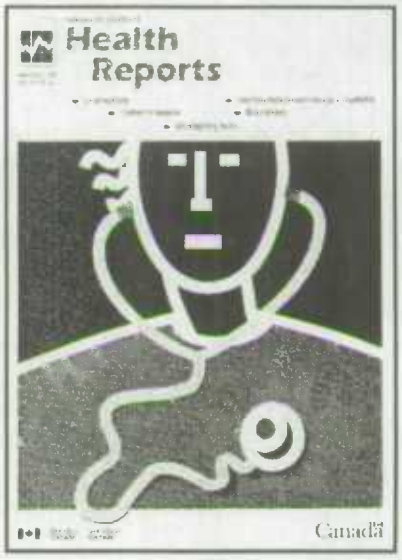
Manufacturing industries: Primary product specialization and coverage ratios
1997

Primary product specialization and coverage ratios are now available for the manufacturing industries in an extended time-series table that covers the period from 1987 to 1997 at the four-digit level of the Standard Industrial Classification.

Primary product specialization ratios measure the homogeneity of industries, while coverage ratios measure the completeness of those industries. More specifically, the primary product specialization ratio measures the extent to which the establishments classified to an industry specialize in making the defining products of that industry. The primary product coverage ratio measures the extent to which the defining products of an industry are made by the establishments classified to that industry.

*The time-series table, **Manufacturing industries of Canada: Primary product specialization and coverage ratios** (print: 31F0002XPB, $50; electronic format: 31F0002XDB, $50) is now available. To order, or for further information, contact Jean-Marie Houle (613-951-9497, fax: 613-951-9499, manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.*

Health reports
Autumn 1999



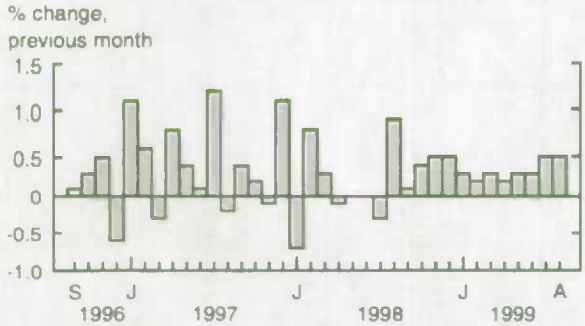
The Autumn 1999 issue of *Health reports* features these articles: "Changes in children's hospital use", "The health of lone mothers", "Long working hours and health", "Hormone replacement therapy and incident arthritis" and "Older drivers: A complex public health issue".

Each quarter, *Health reports* provides comprehensive and timely analysis of national and provincial health information, as well as the vital statistics derived from surveys or administrative databases. The reports are intended for a broad audience that includes health professionals, researchers, policy-makers, educators and students.

*The Autumn 1999 issue of **Health reports** (paper: 82-003-XPB, $35/$116; online at www.statcan.ca: 82-003-XIE, $26/$87) is now available. For further information, contact Marie Beaudet (613-951-7025, beaumar@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.*

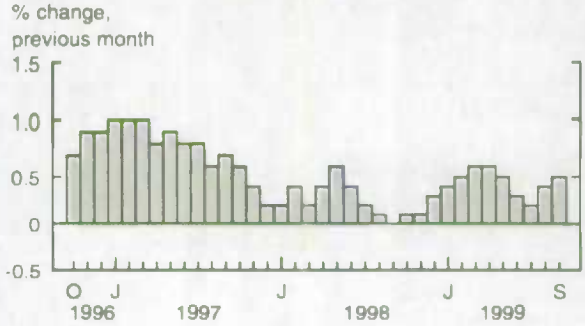
Current trends

Gross domestic product



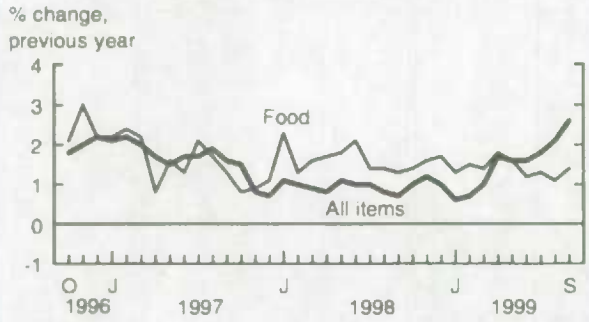
Economic activity continued to advance briskly in August (+0.5%). This extended the expansion to 13 months – the longest uninterrupted string of advances in more than a decade.

Composite Index



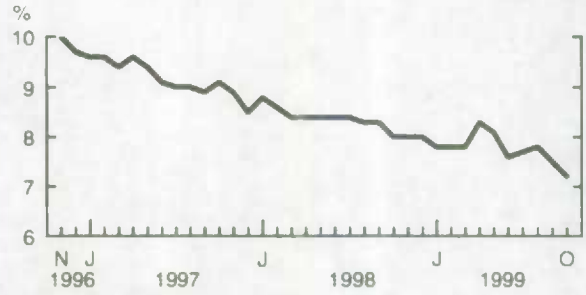
The growth of the leading indicator continued to improve in September, rising to 0.5%. It marked one of the rare times in the past two years where the growth extended to 9 of the index's 10 components.

Consumer Price Index



Consumers paid 2.6% more for goods and services in September 1999 than they did a year earlier. Food prices rose 1.4%.

Unemployment rate

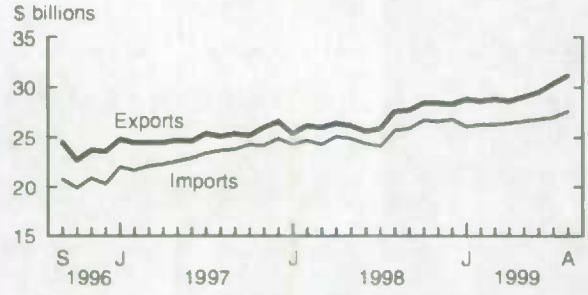


In October, the unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 7.2%, its lowest level since March 1990.

Manufacturing

Manufacturers' shipments increased 0.8% in September to $42.4 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders grew for a fifth consecutive month, rising 1.9% to $53.7 billion.

Merchandise trade



In August, the value of merchandise exports climbed 2.7% from July to $31.2 billion. Imports increased 2.3% to $27.6 billion.

Note: *All series are seasonally adjusted except the Consumer Price Index.*

Latest statistics

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product ($ billion, 1992)	August	752.6	0.5%	4.1%
Composite Index (1981=100)	September	217.4	0.5%	4.8%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	Q2 1999	37.2	1.6%	..
Capacity utilization (%)	Q2 1999	83.8	0.5†	1.0†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	August	22.1	1.2%	7.0%
Department store sales ($ billions)	September	1.59	0.9%	12.0%
New motor vehicle sales (thousand of units)	September*	134.8	2.0%	5.4%
Wholesale trade ($ billion)	August	30.6	1.4%	10.6%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	October	14.82	0.5%	2.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	October	7.2	-0.3†	-0.8†
Participation rate (%)	October	65.5	0.1†	0.2†
Average weekly earnings ($)	August	610.42	-0.1%	0.8%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	October	162	1.3%	11.9%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	August	31.2	2.7%	12.8%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	August	27.6	2.3%	7.6%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	August	3.6	0.2	1.6
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	September*	42.4	0.8%	12.1%
New orders ($ billion)	September*	43.4	1.0%	12.5%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	September*	53.7	1.9%	7.6%
Inventory/shipments ratio	September*	1.27	0.00	-0.09
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	September	111.4	0.3%	2.6%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	September	123.1	0.5%	3.1%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	September	125.5	3.5%	16.1%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	September	101.3	0.2%	1.2%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.
** new this week*
† percentage point
.. figures not available yet due to a survey redesign

Infomat
A weekly review

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