



Infomat

A Weekly Review

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Friday, November 23, 2001

OVERVIEW

◆ Sixth monthly decline in exports

Canada's merchandise exports fell 1.7% in September, to just over \$33 billion. This was the sixth straight monthly decline. However, with imports dropping faster than exports, Canada's trade surplus rose to just over \$4.7 billion.

◆ Manufacturers' shipments at lowest level in two years

Manufacturers decreased their shipments by 2.5% in September, the largest decline in almost two years. The manufacturing sector has also lost 75,000 jobs since the start of the year.

◆ Composite Index posts slight gain

The leading indicator posted a slight 0.1% gain in October on continued strength of housing.

◆ Steep drop in sales of new motor vehicles

New motor vehicle sales declined 5.3% in September. The drop in sales occurred despite incentives offered by manufacturers to clear their inventories of 2001 models.

◆ Employment increases in public sector

Employment in the public sector averaged 2.9 million employees in the second quarter of 2001, a year-over-year gain of 1.6%.

◆ Telecommunications profits rise

Operating profits in the telecommunications industry rose 2.6% to \$3.9 billion in 1999. However, only wireline and satellite service industries showed operating profits.

Sixth monthly decline in exports

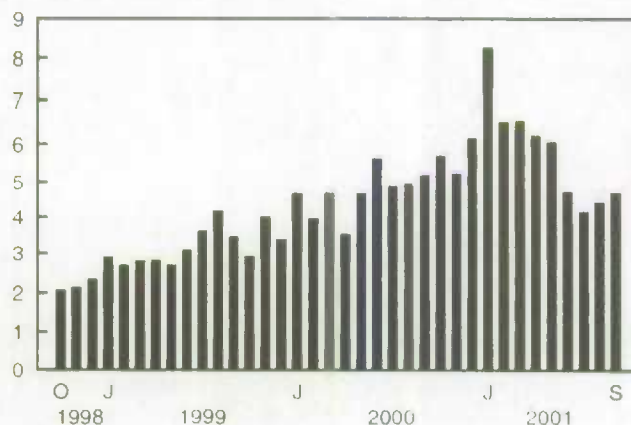
Canada's merchandise exports fell 1.7% in September to just under \$33.1 billion, their lowest level in nineteen months and the sixth consecutive monthly decline. Imports dropped 4.6% to \$28.4 billion.

The September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States caused temporary delays in the international flow of goods at the Canada-U.S. border. A detailed examination of import transactions revealed a marked decline shortly after September 11, followed by a resumption to near-normal levels by month's end. Analysis of imports by mode of transportation showed that rail gained at the expense of all other modes. Exports, however, saw a rise in marine movements.

Exports, which have been on a general decline since January's record peak of \$38.3 billion, have now fallen for six straight months. However, with imports declining faster than exports, Canada's trade surplus in September rose to just over \$4.7 billion. The cumulative merchandise trade surplus for the first three quarters of 2001 was \$51.1 billion, about \$8.9 billion higher than in the same period of 2000.

Merchandise trade balance

\$ billions, seasonally adjusted



... Sixth monthly decline in exports

Merchandise exports to the United States fell 2.1% in September to \$28.2 billion; imports from south of the border were down 4.4% to \$20.4 billion. The resulting trade surplus with the United States rose to \$7.8 billion.

Exports rose in only three principal commodity groups: agricultural and fishing products, industrial goods and consumer goods. The biggest decline (-14.2%) occurred in energy exports, which dropped by over half a billion dollars to \$3.6 billion, a result of declining prices of energy products. Overall, energy exports in September were 26.4% lower than in September 2000.

Machinery and equipment, Canada's largest export sector, fell 1.1% to \$7.8 billion in September, the sixth consecutive monthly decline. Since March, exports of machinery and equipment have fallen 14.4%. Exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment were down 8.1% in September to \$1.7 billion. Within this sector, aircraft engines and parts declined 10.0% to \$1.2 billion. The export of aircraft equipment has fallen for three months in a row.

Exports of forestry products fell 3.1% to \$3.1 billion in September. Exports of lumber, primarily softwood lumber to the

United States, were down 0.5% to \$977.6 million. On the positive side, exports in industrial goods and materials, Canada's third largest export sector, jumped 6.2% to \$5.8 billion, mainly on the strength of a nearly quarter-billion-dollar climb in exports of precious metals and alloys.

As for imports, with the exception of forestry products, all principal commodity groups fell. For example, imports of machinery and equipment declined 7.7%; the aircraft and other transportation sector dropped 18.0%; imports of industrial and agricultural machinery contracted 8.9%; other machinery and equipment, which includes communications and related equipment, fell 4.6%.

For more details, consult *Canadian international merchandise trade* (Internet: 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; paper: 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188). Current account data are available quarterly in *Canada's balance of international payments* (Internet: 67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93; paper: 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). For analytical information, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Manufacturers' shipments at lowest level in two years

Manufacturers' shipments fell 2.5% in September to \$41.8 billion, their lowest level in almost two years. Declines were extensive in 19 of 21 industries, representing 94% of total shipments. Eight provinces reported lower shipment values.

The largest declines were in the petroleum and coal products, aerospace products and parts, and computer and electronic products industries. Recent forecasts of economic instability were compounded by the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. The continuing economic slowdown, production cutbacks, layoffs, delivery delays and postponed or cancelled orders have adversely affected the manufacturing sector.

September's decrease offset the modest 0.5% gain reported in August. In addition, manufacturing employment fell by 75,000 since the beginning of the year, with the largest decline reported in computer and electronic products manufacturing.

Despite a 3.5% rise in product prices, shipments of petroleum and coal products fell 9.1% in September to \$2.6 billion, their lowest level since May 2000. Maintenance shutdowns at various plants contributed to the lower value. The aerospace products and parts industry, meanwhile, reported a 16.6% decline in shipments.

Plagued by weak international demand, the computer and electronic products industry continued to slump in September. Shipments plunged 9.0%, following a 6.2% drop in August. Manufacturers of computers and peripheral equipment, as well as those of communications equipment, have cut production throughout 2001. Computer and electronic product shipments peaked at \$3.6 billion in August 2000.

Manufacturers' shipments, September 2001
Seasonally adjusted

	\$ millions	% change, previous month
Canada	41,841	-2.5
Newfoundland	194	1.3
Prince Edward Island	101	-4.8
Nova Scotia	733	1.5
New Brunswick	1,052	-1.9
Quebec	9,861	-4.4
Ontario	22,143	-1.4
Manitoba	916	-5.4
Saskatchewan	578	-0.1
Alberta	3,517	-3.6
British Columbia	2,740	-2.7
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	6	39.6

Despite efforts by manufacturers to slash production throughout 2001, inventories have only shrunk modestly during the year since their apex of \$65.8 billion in November 2000. Inventories contracted only 0.7% to \$64.1 billion in September, the sixth decrease in seven months. A modest 0.1% rise in finished-product inventories could not offset the declines in raw materials (-1.3%) and goods-in-process (-0.6%).

Manufacturers of computer and electronic products reduced inventories 4.9%, the third consecutive monthly decrease. Global demand for computer-related products has weakened significantly, while finished-product inventories have remained persistently high. In response, manufacturers scaled back production and cut employment, which caused inventories to begin slowly contracting. Finished-product inventories have dropped 5.0% since their peak

(continued on page 3)

... Manufacturers' shipments at lowest level in two years

in November 2000. During the same period, shipments have fallen 43%.

September's strong decline in shipments boosted the inventory-to-shipment ratio to 1.53, exceeding the previous nine-year high of 1.52 attained earlier in 2001. The finished-product inventory-to-shipment ratio rose to 0.48 in September, its highest level since mid-1998. This ratio has been steadily rising since mid-2000.

Unfilled orders held steady at \$48.9 billion in September. Although unfilled orders have fluctuated throughout 2001, the

trend has been gradually decreasing since late 2000, reflecting the slowing economy. New orders declined 1.4% to \$41.8 billion in September, the third decline in four months. Excluding the impact of the aerospace industry, new orders fell 2.1%.

For more details, consult the September 2001 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (Internet: 31-001-X1B, \$15/\$147). To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789, 613-951-9497, manufact@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; kowarus@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Composite Index posts slight gain

As in September, the leading indicator posted a slight 0.1% gain in October. The overall index was buttressed by housing, as easier monetary policy helped to offset the impact of the September 11 terrorist attack on the United States.

In October, five components rose, the same number as in September, while three fell and two were unchanged. Both housing starts and existing home sales hit their second highest level of the year in October.

The continued strength of housing accompanied low vacancy rates, and mortgage rates so far this year have been cut nearly in half (the one-year rate is down to 4.50% on average). Lower mortgage rates also have freed up discretionary household income for other spending, as demonstrated by notable gains in durable goods.

The slump in business conditions continued, and increasingly weighed down labour demand. Employment in services recorded a fourth straight drop, particularly for employment agencies, where demand has tumbled nearly 40% in the last 12 months.

In the manufacturing sector, the trend in hours of work lost its recent strength in October. The Toronto Stock Exchange remained on a downward trend, falling 7.6% during September, on top of a 34% drop from August 2000 to August 2001.

The U.S. leading indicator mirrored the Canadian index, edging up 0.1%. Virtually all of the increase originated in the money supply and the yield curve.

For more details on the economy, consult the November issue of *Canadian economic observer* (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227). For analytical information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

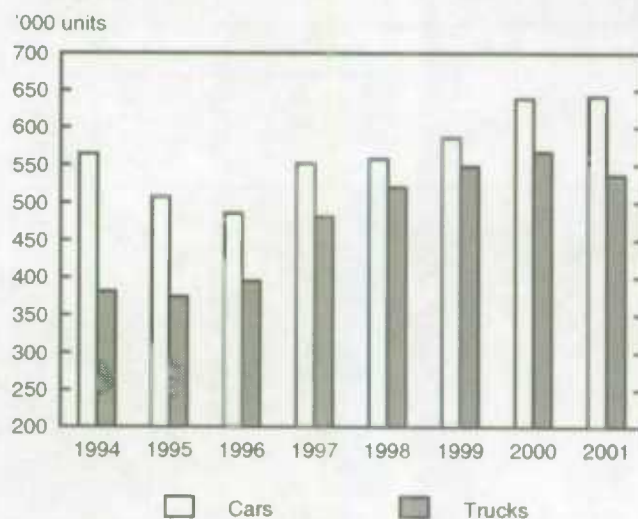
Steep drop in sales of new motor vehicles

New motor vehicle sales declined 5.3% in September compared with August. A steep drop in truck sales was largely responsible for the reduction. In all, 127,386 new motor vehicles were sold in September, down 7,154 vehicles from the previous month.

The decrease in new motor vehicles sold in September was the second largest monthly decline in 12 months, after an 11.2% drop in October 2000. September's retreat occurred despite the incentives offered by manufacturers to clear their inventories of 2001 models. Consumer confidence was shaken, in part, by the tragic events of September 11. September's decline has caused the general upward movement shown by new motor vehicles sales since the start of 2001 to falter.

September's lower number of new truck sales was more than twice that of passenger cars. Compared with August, truck sales fell 7.6% to 56,424 units. This drop wiped out the 3.1% gain registered in August. After the 16.2% fall in October 2000, this was the second largest monthly decrease since June 1998. With

Year-to-date sales of new motor vehicles for the first nine months of the year



(continued on page 4)

... Steep drop in sales of new motor vehicles

September's results, the market share for trucks slipped to 44.3%, the second lowest in five years. The lowest result was posted in October 2000.

In September, 70,962 new passenger cars were sold, a drop of 3.4% from August. This decrease followed a 0.6% gain in August. North American-built cars were largely responsible for the decline. They were down 4.6% from August, while overseas-built cars were down only 0.8%. The upward movement in new passenger car sales since the start of the year appears to have ended. Previously, sales had been generally stable since the start of 2000, following an upward movement that began at the end of 1998.

From the second to the third quarter of 2001, new motor vehicle sales were down 1.3%. Compared with the third quarter of 2000, sales were down 4.0%. In both cases, almost the entire decrease was attributable to trucks. Sales of passenger cars declined more slowly than trucks in the third quarter. Car sales decreased just 0.2% in the third quarter compared with the second, while truck sales fell 2.7%. In the new passenger car category, the drop in quarterly sales was entirely due to North American-built cars

(-1.9%). Overseas-built cars rose 3.9% in the third quarter compared with the second.

Motor vehicle sales to the end of September were 2.3% lower than in the same period of 2000, which was a record year for sales. Year-to-date truck sales were down 5.4% from 2000, but new passenger car sales have actually increased a slight 0.4%.

Compared with August, new motor vehicle sales were down in all provinces and territories in September. The largest decreases were reported in Nova Scotia (-10.5%) and the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (-9.8%). Only Alberta (+5.0%), the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (+0.6%), and Quebec (+0.2%) posted year-to-date sales increases compared with 2000.

For more information, consult the September 2001 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (Internet: 63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124). To order data or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Cl  rance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Employment increases in public sector

From April to June of 2001, the public sector employed an average of 2.9 million employees, who received about \$28 billion in wages and salaries during this period. This was an increase of 1.6%, or 44,567 employees, from the second quarter of 2000.

The overall government work force, consisting of paid employees for federal, provincial/territorial and local governments, accounted for 83% of the total increase, or 36,800 employees. These governments employed an average of 2.6 million paid workers in the second quarter, up 1.4% from the first quarter. The balance of public sector employees was employed in government business enterprises.

Public sector employment, second quarter 2001 (preliminary)

	Total public sector	Second quarter 2000 to second quarter 2001 % change
Canada	2,895,938	1.6
Newfoundland	55,779	1.4
Prince Edward Island	16,697	0.2
Nova Scotia	105,103	0.6
New Brunswick	82,924	2.4
Quebec	720,509	0.4
Ontario	991,800	2.0
Manitoba	144,548	1.6
Saskatchewan	116,818	1.2
Alberta	275,088	1.9
British Columbia	365,429	2.5
Yukon	5,100	2.1
Northwest Territories	7,441	3.0
Nunavut	5,012	16.5
Exterior	3,136	1.3

Note to readers

Public sector employment data are not expressed as "full-time equivalent" and do not distinguish between full- and part-time employees.

Federal government employment was up 8.2%, or 28,177, in the second quarter, more than one-half of the overall increase in the public sector. However, most of this increase was due to the hiring of temporary workers who conducted the 2001 Census, the number of whom peaked in May at 40,000. Although employment rose, federal government wages and salaries declined 19.3%, reflecting the reduction in retroactive pay-equity payments made last year.

Provincial government employment rose 0.5%. Gains in employment in hospitals and social services were partly offset by weakness in the provincial general government and university and college sectors.

Local government employment edged up 0.3%, or 2,600 employees. Gains in employment in local general government were partly offset by employment lost in school boards, except in Newfoundland, Quebec and British Columbia.

The number of paid employees in public enterprises, which account for the remaining portion of the public sector, increased 2.3%, or 7,766 jobs in the second quarter. Much of this was due to greater employment in government utilities. Government business enterprises employed an average of 272,593 workers in the second quarter.

For information on the Public Institutions Division's products and services, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767; fax: 613-951-0661; joanne.rice@statcan.ca), Data Dissemination, Public Institutions Division. For more information, contact Robert Sauve (613-951-8306; robert.sauve@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division.

Telecommunications profits rise

Operating profits in the telecommunications industry rose 2.6% in 1999, even though only two of five sectors showed a profit. According to the annual Survey of Telecommunications, the industry recorded an overall operating profit of \$3.9 billion, up \$100 million from 1998. Operating revenues increased 1.8% to \$29.0 billion, while operating expenses rose 1.7% to \$25.1 billion.

Of the five telecommunications industries, only the wireline telephone industry and satellite service industry showed operating profits in 1999. Posting losses were the wireless industry (cellular phone, paging and radio communications companies), reselling industries and other telecommunications industries.

The industry's net income improved dramatically in 1999, posting a gain of \$825 million compared with a \$329 million loss in 1998. This change was due largely to the wireline industry's reporting much larger write-offs in 1998 than in 1999, a result of restructuring to prepare for pending market liberalizations.

Full-time employment continued its downward trend, slipping 3.0% from 1998 levels to 80,749 persons. In contrast, part-time

employment increased 2.9%. Overall, there were 2.3% fewer people working in the industry. However, the decrease in employment did not lead to lower labour expenses, as salaries, wages and benefits increased 8.9%. Revenue per employee (based on full-time equivalents) increased 5.3% from 1998. The wireless sector led the way at almost \$382,000. The wired sector reported the highest average full-time remuneration, \$70,723.

The telecommunications industry continued its high level of capital spending (\$5.98 billion) in 1999, although this was a decline of 7.2% from 1998. Construction expenditures fell 28.2%, while machinery and equipment spending rose 3.5%.

There were almost 27 million voice-grade access paths to the public switched telephone network (PSTN), a 9.4% increase. This consisted of 20.1 million voice-grade access lines and 6.9 million mobile, or wireless, telephone channels (subscribers). Most of the growth in PSTN access in 1999 came from mobile services, which increased 29.1% over 1998. Almost 38% of mobile services, or 2.6 million subscribers, had digital service at the end of 1999.

For more information, contact Haig McCarrell (613-951-5948), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

New from Statistics Canada

Quarterly telecommunications statistics Second quarter 2001

The publication *Quarterly telecommunications statistics* offers details of operating revenues, operating profits, capital expenditures, per-capita wireline investment and employment in the telecommunications industry.

The telecommunications industry consists of wireline, wireless and satellite telecommunications carriers, as well as resellers of telecommunications services.

The second quarter 2001 issue of *Quarterly telecommunications statistics* (Internet: 56-002-XIE, \$21/\$40) is now available. For more information, contact Heidi Ertl (613-951-1891) or Jo Anne Lambert (613-951-6673), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.

New from Statistics Canada

Perspectives on labour and income

November 2001 online edition

The November 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income* features an article examining trends in job-seeking from 1976 to 2000. It looks at the contribution of demographic and other factors to changes in the overall shares of full- and part-time job seekers. Also in this issue is a brief note which examines family incomes in 1999 and changes since 1990.

The November 2001 online edition of *Perspectives on labour and income* (Internet: 75-001-XIE, \$5/\$48) is now available. For more information, contact Henry Pold, (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



Canadian economic observer

November 2001

The November issue of *Canadian economic observer* analyses current economic conditions and summarizes the major economic events that occurred in October. Also presented are two feature articles: mergers, acquisitions and foreign control between 1994 and 1998, and the labour market in the week of September 11, 2001.

A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations. A new Internet edition of the *Historical statistical supplement* is also available, containing annual historical data for all series reported monthly in the *Canadian economic observer*.

The November 2001 issue of the *Canadian economic observer* (paper: 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) and the *Canadian economic observer historical statistical supplement 2000/01* (Internet: 11-210-XIB, \$21) are now available. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

Longitudinal Administrative Databank

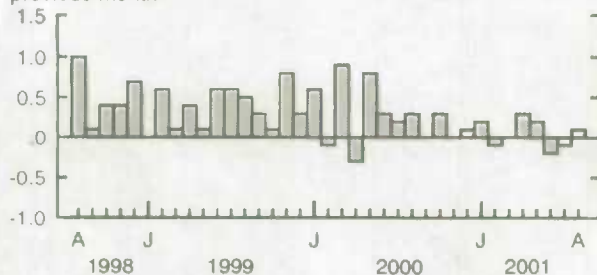
Data for 1999 have been added to the *Longitudinal Administrative Databank* (LAD). This databank now spans 18 years (1982 to 1999) and contains information about individuals and census families. The LAD contains a wide variety of income and demographic variables, such as employment income, self-employment income, Registered Retirement Savings Plan contributions, alimony, age, sex, and census family composition.

Custom tabulations, including 1999 data, are now available in the *Longitudinal Administrative Databank* (13C0019, variable price). For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

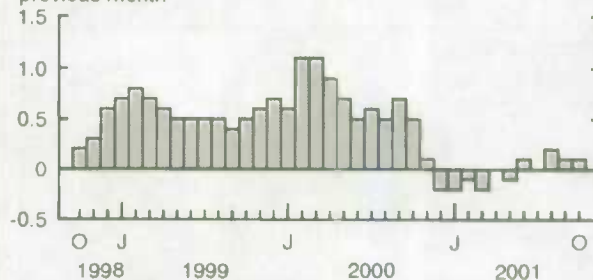
% change,
previous month



Total economic activity increased a marginal 0.1% in August, after a 0.1% reduction in July.

Composite Index

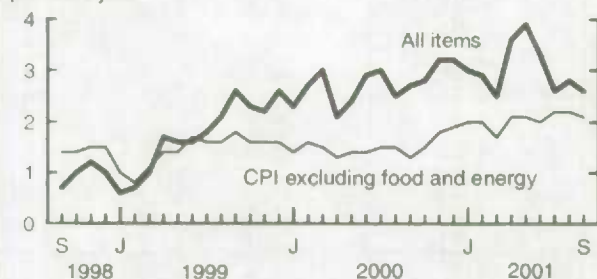
% change,
previous month



The leading indicator posted a slight 0.1% gain in October. The overall index was buttressed by the housing sector.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



Consumer prices for goods and services were 2.6% higher in September than they were a year earlier. Excluding food and energy, prices rose 2.1%.

Unemployment rate

%



In October, the unemployment rate increased slightly to 7.3%.

Manufacturing

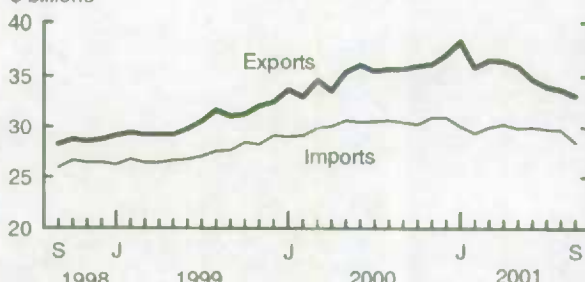
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments declined 2.5% in September to \$41.8 billion. The backlog of unfilled orders remained unchanged at \$48.9 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In September, the value of merchandise exports fell 1.7% to \$33.1 billion. Imports declined 4.6% to \$28.4 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 (\$ billions, 1997) ¹	August	939.8	0.1%	0.4%
Composite Index (1992=100)	October*	166.8	0.1%	-0.2%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billions)	Q2 2001	44.7	0.6%	-11.3%
Capacity utilization rate (%)	Q2 2001	83.2	-0.4†	-2.6†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billions)	September*	23.7	-1.7%	1.2%
New motor vehicle sales (thousands of units)	September	127.4	-5.3%	-8.6%
Wholesale trade (\$ billions)	September*	32.7	-0.9%	3.6%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	October	15.1	0.0%	0.8%
Unemployment rate (%)	October	7.3	0.1†	0.4†
Participation rate (%)	October	65.9	0.1†	-0.1†
Average weekly earnings (\$)	August	668.52	0.4%	1.8%
Help-wanted Index (1996=100)	October	140	-5.4%	-20.9%
Regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries (in thousands)	August	535.0	-1.4%	7.8%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billions)	September*	33.1	-1.7%	-7.4%
Merchandise imports (\$ billions)	September*	28.4	-4.6%	-7.1%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billions)	September*	4.7	0.8	-0.5
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billions)	September*	41.8	-2.5%	-6.5%
New orders (\$ billions)	September*	41.8	-1.4%	-5.3%
Unfilled orders (\$ billions)	September*	48.9	0.0%	-1.7%
Inventory/shipments ratio	September*	1.53	0.03	0.10
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	October*	116.8	-0.5%	1.9%
Industrial Product Price Index (1992=100)	September	129.2	0.5%	0.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1992=100)	September	135.4	-2.4%	-9.8%
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	September	106.7	0.2%	2.9%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

¹ 1997 replaces 1992 as the base year used in determining prices for gross domestic product by industry. Also, valuation has been changed from factor cost to basic prices.

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A weekly review

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Products released from November 15 to 21, 2001

SUBJECT AREA Title of product	Period	Catalogue number	Price (\$) (issue/subscription)
AGRICULTURE			
Cereals and oilseeds review	August 2001	22-007-XIB	11/112
Cereals and oilseeds review	August 2001	22-007-XPB	15/149
Production and value of honey and maple products	2001	23-221-XIB	free
Rural and small town Canada analysis bulletin	1990-2000	21-006-XIE	free
CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS			
Canadian economic observer	November 2001	11-010-XPB	23/227
Canadian economic observer, Historical statistical supplement	2000/01	11-210-XIB	21
DISTRIBUTIVE TRADES			
Motor vehicle sales	September 2001	63-007-XIB	13/124
HEALTH STATISTICS			
Marriages-shelf tables	1998	84F0212XPB	20
Mortality-summary list of causes	1998	84F0209XPB	20
LABOUR AND HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS ANALYSIS			
Perspectives on labour and income	November 2001	75-001-XIE	5/48
MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION AND ENERGY			
Electric lamps, light bulbs and tubes	September 2001	43-009-XIB	5/47
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	September 2001	31-001-XIB	15/147
Oils and fats	September 2001	32-006-XIB	5/47
Pulpwood and wood residue statistics	August 2001	25-001-XIB	6/55
Steel wire and specified wire products	September 2001	41-006-XIB	5/47
PRICES			
Consumer Price Index	October 2001	62-001-XIB	8/77
Consumer Price Index	October 2001	62-001-XPB	11/103
SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION			
Broadcasting and telecommunications	October 2001	56-001-XIE	10/32
Science statistics	2001-2002	88-001-XIB	6/59
TRANSPORTATION			
Monthly railway carloadings	July 2001	52-001-XIE	8/77
Monthly railway carloadings	August 2001	52-001-XIE	8/77
Monthly railway carloadings	September 2001	52-001-XIE	8/77

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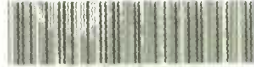
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