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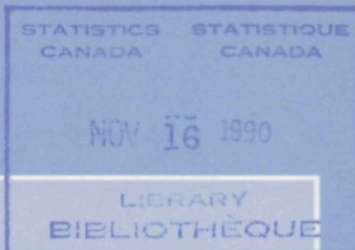
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Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

September 1990

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International Trade Division

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

September 1990

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This publication was prepared under the direction of:

Ellis Drover, Director, International Trade Division (613) 951-9733

François Bordé, Chief, Trade Measures and Analysis Section (613) 951-4809

Denis Pilon, Head, Price and Volume Indexes Unit (613) 951-4808

Marlene Sterparn, Head, Reconciliation and Analysis Unit (613) 951-1711

Also contributing to this issue:

Louise Berry, Analyst, Reconciliation and Analysis Unit (613) 951-6854

for manuscript design:

Heather Young (613) 951-9784

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For more detailed information on statistics, concepts and definitions, order the September 1990 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (cat. no. 65-001, \$18.20/\$182), available the first week of December 1990, or contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Marlene Sterpam (613-951-1711) (for analysis information), or Denis Pilon (613-951-4808) (for price index information), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division.

Current Account data which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, as well as data concerning trade in services and capital account movements, are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's balance of international payments* (cat. no. 67-001).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3620 to 3629, 3651, 3685 to 3713, 3718, 3719, 3887 to 3913.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Merchandise exports in September totalled \$12.2 billion, an increase of \$424 million over the August level.**
- **Exports of crude petroleum accounted for most of the overall increase in exports as a result of price increases.**
- **Imports declined for a second consecutive month, to reach a level of \$10.8 billion.**
- **The opposite movements of exports and imports in September produced a large increase in the trade surplus, which totalled \$1.5 billion.**
- **Continued decline of imports of key commodities such as machinery and equipment reflects the economic slowdown occurring in Canada.**

Monthly Summary

Following two consecutive months of decline, merchandise exports for September increased by \$424.3 million over revised August figures, to total \$12.2 billion. Imports continued to decline in September, dropping by \$373.1 million, to a level of \$10.8 billion. The opposite movement of exports and imports generated an increase in the trade surplus of \$797.4 million, following declines of \$848.3 million in July and \$367.1 million in August. The surplus registered in September stood at \$1.5 billion.

Significant growth in exports occurred in the energy products sector. There was a large upward movement in the export of crude petroleum (\$352.1 million), chiefly as a result of higher prices caused by the situation in the Persian Gulf. Both crude petroleum and natural gas exports were at their highest level thus far this year.

A marginal increase in exports of automotive products (\$4.6 million) followed a plunge of \$697.8 million in August. September's increase resulted from higher exports of cars and trucks, tempered by a fall in the export of motor vehicle parts.

Decreases in the export of machinery and equipment of \$187.6 million moderated the overall increase in exports.

Contributing to the decline in imports were large decreases in automotive products, primarily cars, which accounted for the bulk of the drop (-\$283.4 million).

Total car imports in September were the lowest recorded since July 1989, probably reflecting consumer uncertainty.

Imports of machinery and equipment were also down in September, which is consistent with the general slowdown of the economy, particularly in the construction sector. Decreases were also observed in the forestry products and food sectors.

These declines were somewhat offset by increased imports of crude petroleum. However, higher import prices were responsible for this increase.

The increase in Canada's trade surplus in September was almost totally accounted for by a \$708.2 million improvement in the merchandise trade balance with the United States. This increase followed two successive months of positive but declining surpluses with the U.S. Year-to-date improvement in the trade balance is the result of lower growth in imports.

Trade with all other principal trading partners resulted in deficits. However, the deficit with non-O.E.C.D. countries was reduced in September by \$164.1 million, and with "Other E.E.C. countries" by \$116.9 million. Canada's balance of trade with the United Kingdom changed from a surplus of \$8.1 million registered in August, to a September deficit of \$65.9 million. Trade with Japan produced a second consecutive monthly trade deficit (based on revised August figures).

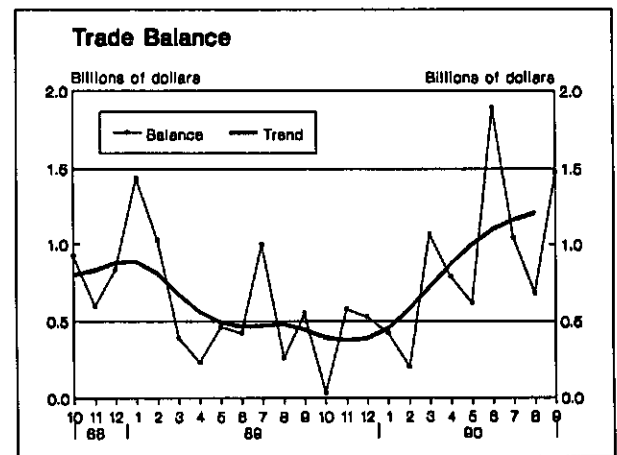
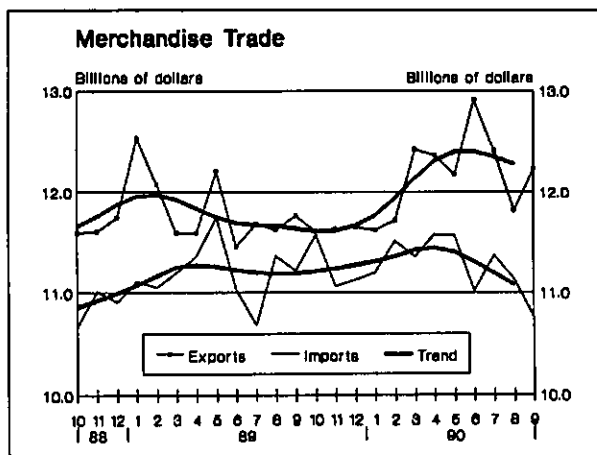


Table 1
Merchandise Trade of Canada
 September 1990

	Customs Basis		Balance of Payments Basis							
	Exports	Imports	Raw Values		Seasonally Adjusted			Period-to-period change		
			Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Balance	Exports	Imports	Balance
			\$ millions					%	%	\$ millions
1984	112,384	95,460	111,330	91,493	111,330	91,492	19,838	22.9	25.2	2,381
1985	119,474	104,355	119,061	102,669	119,061	102,669	16,392	6.9	12.2	-3,446
1986	120,670	112,511	120,318	110,374	120,317	110,374	9,943	1.1	7.5	-6,449
1987	125,087	116,239	126,226	115,119	126,225	115,119	11,106	4.9	4.3	1,163
1988	137,550	131,172	138,435	128,321	138,434	128,321	10,113	9.7	11.5	-993
1989	138,340	135,033	141,462	134,528	141,461	134,528	6,934	2.2	4.8	-3,180
1988										
First quarter	33,966	35,191	33,731	32,903	33,647	32,001	1,646	2.1	2.7	-172
Second quarter	36,217	33,574	36,444	33,165	35,250	31,799	3,452	4.8	-0.6	1,806
Third quarter	32,137	30,432	32,679	30,215	34,593	31,932	2,661	-1.9	0.4	-791
Fourth quarter	35,231	31,975	35,580	32,037	34,944	32,589	2,355	1.0	2.1	-305
1989										
First quarter	34,656	33,747	35,798	33,540	36,214	33,357	2,857	3.6	2.4	502
Second quarter	36,281	36,426	36,978	36,079	35,262	34,138	1,124	-2.6	2.3	-1,733
Third quarter	32,228	31,425	32,791	31,605	35,080	33,268	1,813	-0.5	-2.5	688
Fourth quarter	35,174	33,435	35,895	33,304	34,905	33,765	1,139	-0.5	1.5	-673
1990										
First quarter	36,120	35,140	35,526	34,904	35,769	34,072	1,697	2.5	0.9	558
Second quarter	39,253	35,793	38,854	35,516	37,475	34,178	3,298	4.8	0.3	1,600
Third quarter	34,768	31,146	34,258	31,370	36,466	33,266	3,200	-2.7	-2.7	-97
1989										
January	11,362	10,584	11,873	10,578	12,543	11,107	1,436	6.8	1.8	600
February	11,248	11,009	11,655	10,904	12,077	11,049	1,028	-3.7	-0.5	-408
March	12,045	12,153	12,270	12,058	11,594	11,201	393	-4.0	1.4	-635
April	11,700	11,900	11,774	11,804	11,590	11,357	233	0.0	1.4	-160
May	12,539	12,618	13,142	12,476	12,213	11,749	464	5.4	3.4	231
June	12,042	11,909	12,061	11,800	11,459	11,032	427	-6.2	-6.1	-37
July	9,850	9,503	10,014	9,640	11,685	10,685	1,000	2.0	-3.1	573
August	10,811	11,071	11,146	11,033	11,630	11,368	263	-0.5	6.4	-738
September	11,568	10,851	11,630	10,931	11,765	11,215	550	1.2	-1.3	287
October	11,919	12,215	12,223	11,970	11,611	11,578	33	-1.3	3.2	-516
November	12,345	11,414	12,501	11,393	11,638	11,061	577	0.2	-4.5	543
December	10,910	9,805	11,171	9,941	11,656	11,126	529	0.2	0.6	-48
1990										
January	11,431	10,812	11,181	10,667	11,624	11,197	427	-0.3	0.6	-102
February	11,476	11,374	11,328	11,414	11,716	11,513	203	0.8	2.8	-224
March	13,212	12,955	13,018	12,824	12,429	11,362	1,067	6.1	-1.3	864
April	12,635	11,588	12,457	11,546	12,376	11,587	788	-0.4	2.0	-279
May	13,428	12,365	13,294	12,385	12,184	11,569	615	-1.5	-0.2	-173
June	13,190	11,840	13,103	11,585	12,915	11,021	1,894	6.0	-4.7	1,279
July	11,011	10,053	10,964	10,058	12,415	11,370	1,046	-3.9	3.2	-848
August	11,711	10,822	11,301	10,956	11,813	11,135	679	-4.8	-2.1	-367
September	12,047	10,271	11,993	10,356	12,238	10,762	1,476	3.6	-3.4	797
Year-to-date										
1989	103,165	101,599	105,566	101,224	106,556	100,762	5,794	3.0	5.3	-1,964
1990	110,141	102,079	108,638	101,790	109,711	101,515	8,195	3.0	0.7	2,401

Note: Due to rounding, monthly data may not add up to quarterly data and quarterly data may not add up to annual data.

Short-Term Trend

Exports

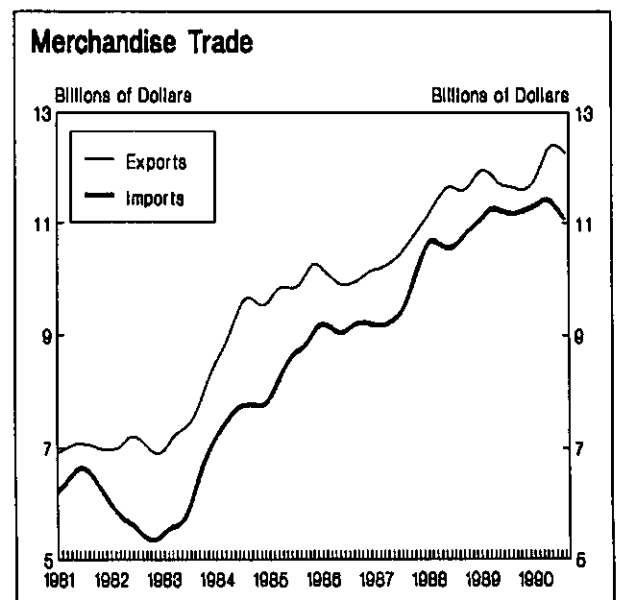
The revised short-term trend for exports began to decline in July (-0.4%), continuing in August with a further drop of -0.6%. This follows eight consecutive months of increase.

- The largest percentage decrease occurred in the agricultural and fishing products sector (-4.3%), primarily because of a 10.8% drop in the export of wheat.
- Machinery and equipment exports fell by 2.2%, fuelled by accelerated decreases in the export of all components of the sector. Industrial and agricultural machinery, in its fourth month of decline, fell by 2.9%; aircraft dropped by 1.7%; and, exports of other machinery and equipment were lower by 2.1%.
- In the automotive products sector, the August short-term trend for car exports showed a 2.2% decline, a larger decrease than that observed for July. Motor vehicle parts declined for the first time since January 1990, consistent with a slowdown in the rate of increase beginning in May. The August trend for trucks increased slightly (0.9%); growth in this commodity was also showing signs of slowdown.
- Declines in the export trend were offset by increases in certain commodities. Energy products, for example, which have been on the rise since December 1989, posted an increase of 6.5% for August. Crude petroleum increased by 8.1%, following increases in June and July of 2.8% and 5.8% respectively. In the case of natural gas, the trend was positive in August, but slowing. Other energy products have exhibited accelerated rates of growth, rising from a rate of increase in May of 1.4% to the August rise of 7.8%.
- The export trend for industrial goods and materials was up marginally (0.6%) in August, the same increase as observed in July. Although metal ores, and metals and alloys rose, chemicals, plastics and fertilizers continued the decline first noted in May.

Imports

The import trend fell for the fourth consecutive month. The 1.0% decline was the same as that registered for July.

- Imports of machinery and equipment decreased by 2.3% in August. The decrease in imports of industrial and agricultural machinery (-2.7%) marked the fourteenth consecutive month of decline in this commodity. Aircraft and other transportation equipment imports fell for the sixth month in a row, and declines in the trend were also noted for imports of office machines and other machinery and equipment.
- In the automotive products sector, the import trend in August declined for all major components. Imports of cars have been declining at an increasing rate since February 1990. Imports of trucks showed a quickening of the decline begun in May. The trend for motor vehicle parts began to decline in July. The rate of decline in August, at 1.9% is over double the decrease noted in July.
- Decreases in the overall import trend were offset somewhat by increases in energy products of 3.1%. The increased trend for crude petroleum of 5.9% was moderated by a decline in imports of other energy products of 1.9%.

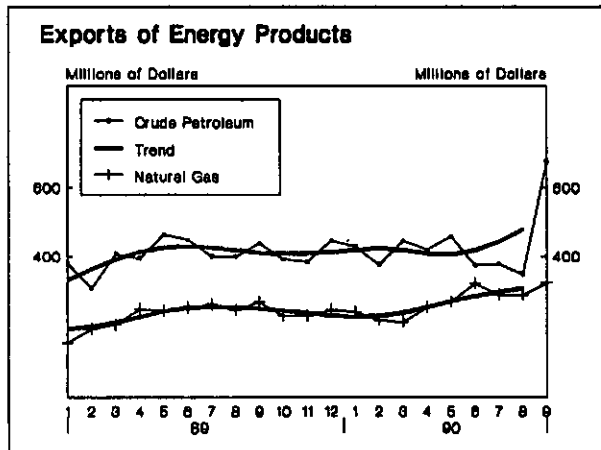


Detailed Analysis by Commodities and Trading Partners

Commodities

September exports increased by \$424.3 million over revised August figures to reach \$12.2 billion. This increase follows two consecutive months of decreases (-\$499.7 million in July and -\$602.1 in August).

The largest single contributor to the increase in exports was the energy products sector, which grew by \$594.4 million. This growth in exports was generated by increases in all components of the sector. Exports of crude petroleum rose by \$352.1 million, other energy products increased by \$219.2 million, and there was a slight increase in the export of natural gas of \$23.0 million. A significant jump in exports of crude petroleum (107.6%) was observed between August and September, bringing the level of exports from \$327.1 million to \$679.2 million. Although this level was the highest for the first nine months of 1990, and in fact was 82.9% higher than the January to August monthly average, the total was only 8.9% above the level observed for the same period in 1989. September exports of natural gas were also the highest thus far in 1990. At \$308.8 million, they were comparable to the \$308.1 million registered in June. Year-to-date exports of natural gas were greater than for the first nine months of 1989.



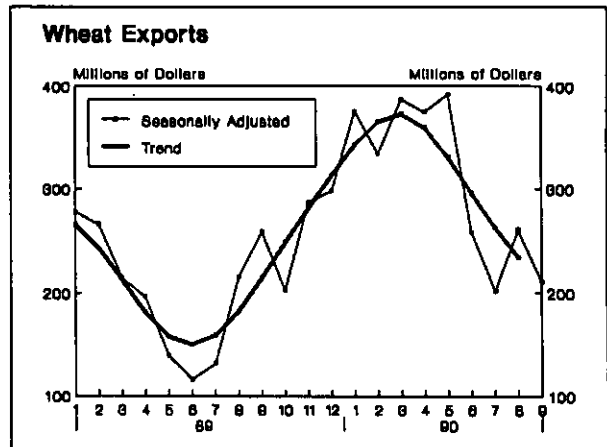
The forestry products sector also showed an increase in exports in September of \$19.1 million, following significant declines in July and August (-\$107.1 million and -\$53.9 million respectively). Exports of both

woodpulp and lumber rose, while newsprint sales declined slightly, coinciding with the disruption of newsprint production in Eastern Canada as a result of strike activity during the third quarter.

Exports of automotive products increased marginally (\$4.6 million) in September, following a significant decrease in August of \$697.8 million. Sales of cars rose by \$25.7 million (compared to a drop of \$587.8 million in August), while truck exports rose by \$24.5 million (compared to August's decline of \$177.8 million). After rising by \$67.7 million in August, exports of motor vehicle parts fell in September by \$45.6 million. Exports of automotive products could be reflective of reduced production due to strike activity in September.

Exports of machinery and equipment showed the largest sectoral decline in September (-\$187.6 million); decreases were registered in all commodity series with the exception of other transportation equipment, which increased by \$23.4 million. The greatest drop occurred in the export of television and telecommunication equipment group (-\$71.8 million), followed by industrial machinery (-\$40.1 million) and office machines and equipment (-\$34.9 million).

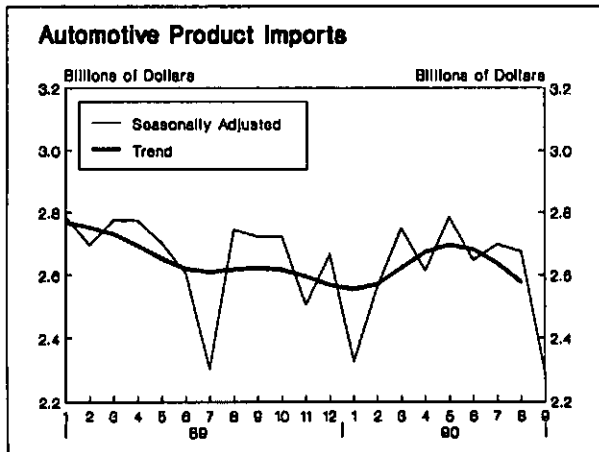
Agricultural and fishing products also registered a decrease in September, caused by a decline in the exports of wheat of \$49.9 million. Despite this decline, year-to-date sales of wheat were a healthy 53.7% higher than for the same period in 1989, as a result of higher than average sales earlier in the year. Decreased wheat sales coincided with depressed world grain markets and low wheat prices.



In the industrial goods and materials sector, increases in the export of metal ores of \$39.5 million and other industrial goods and materials of \$23.8 million were offset by declines in chemicals and plastics (-\$70.1 million) and metals and alloys (-\$7.1 million). In the metals and alloys group, exports of nickel continued to increase, as did exports of copper and precious metals. These increases were moderated by declines in the export of zinc and aluminum, as well as all iron and steel products. Exports of steel to the United States were affected by a prolonged strike against Canada's major producers, as well as by the high Canadian dollar.

Imports declined for the second consecutive month by \$373.1 million following a decline of \$235.0 million in August to reach a level of \$10.8 billion.

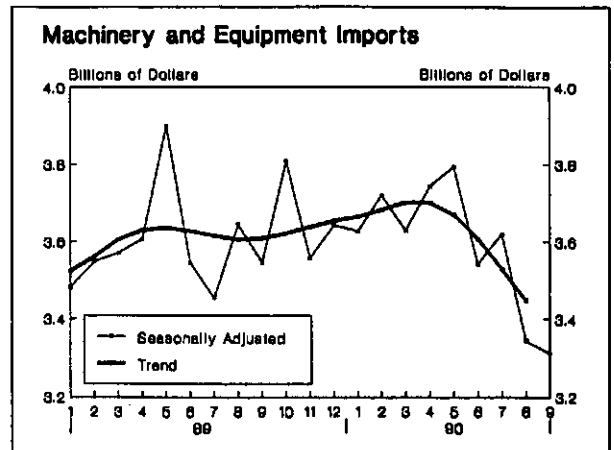
The largest declines in imports were experienced in the automotive products sector, which fell by \$382.1 million. Following a major increase in August of \$277.4 million, imports of cars fell \$283.4 million to a level of \$780.1 million, the lowest level since July 1989. Automobile sales (for both domestic and imported cars) declined in Canada during September, attributable in part to high interest rates. Imports of motor vehicle parts fell for the second consecutive month to a level of \$1.3 billion. September's decline of \$71.4 million follows a decrease in August of \$314.0 million. This was the lowest level of imports since January 1990, when sales totalled \$1.2 billion. The previous import low of \$1.0 billion occurred in July 1988.



Imports of machinery and equipment were also down in September. The decline of \$32.4 million to \$3.3 billion followed a significant decrease in August of \$275.1 million. Year-to-date levels were marginally

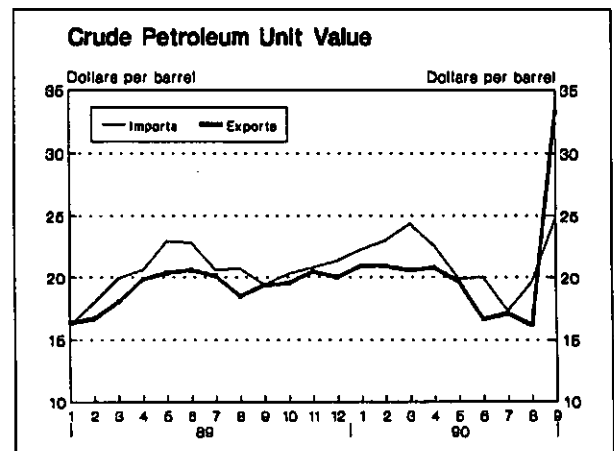
higher than those recorded in 1989. The largest decrease was observed in the imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment (-\$54.2 million), while industrial and agricultural machinery imports decreased by \$8.9 million.

These declines were partially offset by increased imports of office machines and equipment (\$12.0 million) and other machinery and equipment (\$18.6 million).



Forestry products and food also showed slight decreases.

These decreases were offset by increases in the imports of certain commodities. Energy products rose by \$46.8 million, primarily as a result of a large increase in imports of crude petroleum of \$116.7 million, which was offset by a decline in the imports of other energy products of \$69.9 million. Imports of crude petroleum, at \$520.5 million, are the highest since March 1982, when imports totalled \$522.6 million. While there was a slight increase in import volumes, the increase in imports is mostly attributable to the extremely large price rise which occurred as a result of the crisis in the Middle East.



Trading Partners

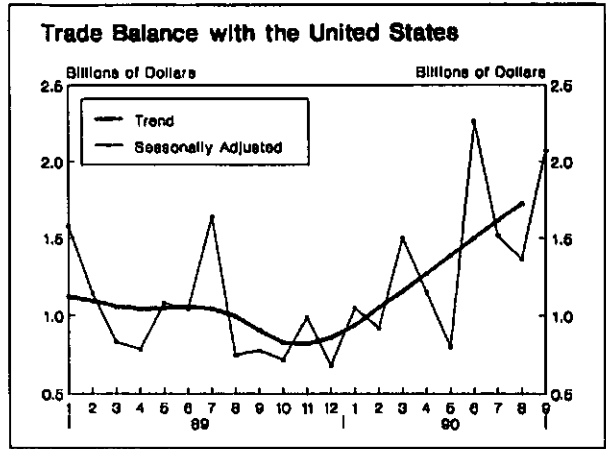
Increased exports to the United States in September were the major cause of the \$424.3 million increase in total exports. Exports to the United States grew by \$447.5 million, following declines in July and August of \$462.7 million and \$564.2 million respectively. At \$9.4 billion, September's exports to the United States were 2.7% higher than the January to August monthly average of \$9.2 billion.

Exports to "Other E.E.C. countries" also increased to reach a level of \$771.7 million. Exports to Japan remained stable, following declines registered in June, July and August.

Decreases were noted in exports to "Other O.E.C.D. countries" (-\$34.9 million), as well as to non-O.E.C.D. countries (-\$105.5 million). Exports to the United Kingdom showed a slight decline of \$4.0 million, after increasing by \$43.5 million in August. Despite the decrease in exports to the United Kingdom, exports for September stood 14.0% higher than the January to August average.

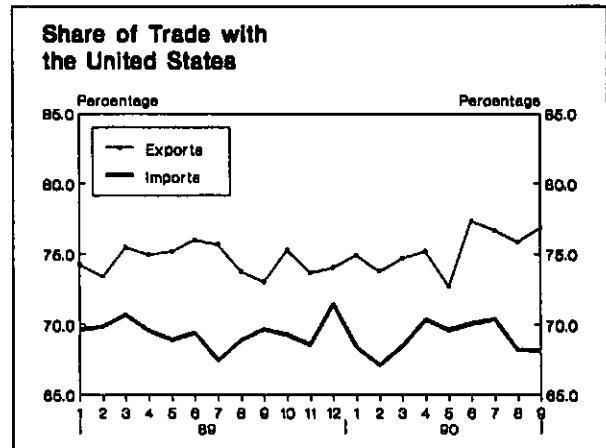
When the first nine months of 1990 are compared to the same period last year, year-to-date exports were up for the United States, "Other E.E.C. countries", "Other O.E.C.D. countries", and significantly higher for non-O.E.C.D. countries. Exports to the United Kingdom were down marginally, while exports to Japan showed a dramatic decrease.

Total imports declined by \$373.1 million in September. The main contributor to the decline was imports from the United States, which fell by \$260.6 million to \$7.3 billion, following a decrease in August of \$409.9 million. Nevertheless, imports from the United States for the first nine months of 1990 were still greater than for the same period in 1989.



The largest drop occurred in imports from non-O.E.C.D. countries (-\$269.7 million). This drop to a level of \$1.1 billion puts the year-to-date total at less than that observed in 1989.

Increases were posted in imports from the United Kingdom (\$70.0 million), "Other O.E.C.D. countries" (\$64.8 million), Japan (\$18.0 million) and "Other E.E.C. countries" (\$4.2 million).



Quarterly Summary

Total exports dropped by \$1.0 billion during the third quarter, following a large increase in the second quarter of \$1.7 billion. Nevertheless, the level of exports, at \$36.5 billion for the quarter, was higher than for the third quarter of 1989.

The major reason for the third quarter drop was a decrease of \$631.6 million in machinery and equipment exports to a total for the quarter of \$7.0 billion. This decline followed increases in the first and second quarters of \$747.9 million and \$497.0 million. The third quarter level for this sector remained higher than third quarter totals in 1989, and the year-to-date total was also larger. The biggest decline occurred in the other machinery and equipment group, which fell by \$413.9 million. This represents the first decline since the third quarter of 1989. The decrease of \$59.6 million in exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment was also the first decline since the third quarter of 1989. Industrial and agricultural machinery, on the other hand, posted a second consecutive quarterly decrease, falling by \$158.0 million during the third quarter.

The drop observed during the third quarter in the exports of agricultural and fishing products (-\$537.5 million) continued the decrease seen in the second quarter. Wheat alone fell by \$351.8 million. In spite of this large decrease, third quarter wheat sales were greater than for the same period in 1989, and year-to-date figures were significantly higher.

Forestry products exports declined significantly (-\$326.3 million). On a quarterly basis, exports have been falling all year, with the third quarter decline 73% greater than the drop experienced in the second quarter. Lumber products fell the most (-\$143.8 million), followed by woodpulp (-\$119.2) and newsprint (-\$63.4 million). The behaviour of lumber exports reflects the slowdown in construction in the United States.

These declines in exports were offset by increases in some commodities during the third quarter. Exports of energy products rose by \$479.5 million, continuing the increases observed during the first and second quarters. Crude petroleum was up \$206.5 million, and natural gas showed an increase of \$35.1 million. Exports of other energy products rose by \$237.9 million, mostly because of an increase in the export of petroleum and coal products of \$217.9 million.

The automotive products sector registered a third quarter increase of \$90.5 million, considerably lower than the \$894.2 million rise noted in the second quarter.

Exports of cars and trucks increased, but the decrease in exports of motor vehicle parts of \$166.0 million had a dampening effect on total exports of automotive products during the most recent quarter. Year-to-date exports of cars and trucks were greater than for the same period in 1989, while exports of parts were lower.

Exports of industrial goods and materials rose marginally (\$12.7 million) during the third quarter, primarily because of a large increase in metals and alloys (\$228.5 million). However, this increase was offset by third quarter declines in chemicals and plastics (-\$141.2 million), other industrial goods (-\$39.3 million) and metal ores (-\$35.3 million).

Total imports declined dramatically in the third quarter, by \$911.7 million, to reach a level of \$33.3 billion, almost the same level as that recorded for the third quarter of 1989. Despite this decline, imports for the first nine months of 1990 remained slightly higher than for the first three quarters of 1989.

The machinery and equipment sector was primarily responsible for the decrease in imports, falling by \$801.1 million to \$10.3 billion. Imports of both industrial and agricultural machinery (-\$255.7 million) and aircraft and other transportation equipment (-\$146.0 million) fell for the second consecutive quarter. The decline in imports of other machinery and equipment followed an increase during the second quarter; however, at -\$458.9 million, this decrease was the largest single decline within the sector.

Imports of automotive products declined by \$386.3 million, after increasing \$411.7 million during the second quarter. Car imports fell for the second consecutive quarter (-\$173.2 million), while imports of trucks and motor vehicle parts were down by \$190.5 million and \$22.7 million following strong increases in the second quarter.

Increased imports of certain commodities moderated the decline in total imports. Energy products rose by \$121.8 million, as a result of higher imports of crude petroleum of \$161.6 million. Other energy products, on the other hand, fell by \$39.8 million. Imports of industrial goods and materials grew by \$84.1 million. Although other industrial goods dropped by \$88.2 million during the quarter, the increase in imports of metals and ores of \$173.1 million following a second quarter decline of \$319.8 million resulted in the increase in imports of goods in this sector.

Table 2
Merchandise Trade by Principal Trading Areas
 September 1990
 Balance of Payments Basis
 Seasonally Adjusted

	Aug.	Sept.	Period-to-period change				Year-to-date Total	Change over previous year	
			Aug.	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.		%	\$ millions
	\$ millions		%	%	\$ millions		\$ millions	%	\$ millions
Exports to:									
United States	8,958	9,406	-5.9	5.0	-564	448	82,672	4.0	3,149
United Kingdom	333	329	15.0	-1.2	43	-4	2,637	-3.8	-103
E.E.C. 86 excl. U.K.	651	772	-0.6	18.6	-4	121	6,157	1.0	63
Japan	588	589	-9.5	0.0	-62	0	5,846	-10.7	-703
Other O.E.C.D. 86 *	344	309	28.6	-10.1	77	-35	2,650	10.7	255
Other countries	939	833	-9.0	-11.2	-92	-106	9,748	5.3	493
Total	11,813	12,238	-4.8	3.6	-602	424	109,711	3.0	3,154
Imports from:									
United States	7,596	7,335	-5.1	-3.4	-410	-261	70,044	0.2	133
United Kingdom *	325	395	-2.5	21.6	-8	70	3,286	-2.5	-84
E.E.C. 86 excl. U.K.	777	781	-11.9	0.5	-105	4	7,489	0.9	70
Japan	657	675	10.4	2.7	62	18	6,313	1.8	109
Other O.E.C.D. 86 *	378	443	9.3	17.2	32	65	3,490	18.8	551
Other countries *	1,403	1,133	16.0	-19.2	194	-270	10,894	-0.2	-27
Total	11,135	10,762	-2.1	-3.4	-235	-373	101,515	0.7	753
Balance with:									
United States	1,363	2,071			-154	708	12,628		3,016
United Kingdom	8	-66			52	-74	-649		-20
E.E.C. 86 excl. U.K.	-126	-9			101	117	-1,331		-8
Japan	-68	-86			-124	-18	-467		-812
Other O.E.C.D. 86 *	-34	-133			44	-100	-839		-296
Other countries	-464	-300			-286	164	-1,145		520
Total	679	1,476			-367	797	8,195		2,401

* Raw series

Table 2A
Statistical Alignment of Canadian Exports to the United States with United States Imports from Canada
 Customs Basis
 September 1990

	\$ millions
Total Canadian exports to United States	9,165.8
Freight and other related charges incurred in bringing the merchandise to the Canadian border	-220.9
Canadian re-exports of goods of foreign origin to United States	-458.0
United States imports of goods of Canadian origin from other countries	8.5
Re-exports of U.S. goods returned through Canada and designated as Canadian origin by the U.S.	304.9
Monthly average exchange rate (\$US/\$Cdn)	1.1582
Total United States imports from Canada (Country of Origin and F.O.B. place of lading Basis)	US \$7,598.2

Notes:

1. United States trade data includes Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands.
2. Totals may not add due to rounding.
3. Readers interested in aligning Canadian imports from United States to United States exports to Canada should refer to the *United States Department of Commerce News Release (FT900)* or contact International Trade Division Data Dissemination Section at 613-951-9647.

Note on Reconciliation of Canada/ United States Data

Bilateral trade between Canada and the United States is significant to both countries. In 1989, 75% of Canada's exports were destined for the United States, while almost 70% of Canada's imports came from that country. Likewise, Canada was the largest buyer of American goods (22%), while 19% of America's imports were from Canada. Only U.S. imports from Japan were higher than those from Canada in 1989.

Given the importance of the bilateral trade, there has long been a concern with ensuring that it be accurately measured. In the early 1970's, both countries' customs and statistical agencies met to discuss the growing discrepancies between the bilateral trade data. A reconciliation program was developed, its short-term goal being the 'reconciliation' of differences in concepts and classification systems, to arrive at a single best measure of trade between the two countries. The long-term goal was the "exploration of the feasibility of harmonizing the conceptual frameworks of the two sets of statistics and eventually of using each other's import data as a means of reducing the reporting burden on exporters in both countries".¹

Discrepancies between the two sets of data result from the use of customs administrative documents to compile trade statistics. Import data tend to be more accurate than export data because imports are subject to greater administrative control. Under the reconciliation program, a number of adjustments were made to correct for these discrepancies. On the import side, there were adjustments for trade definition, freight and errors, while for exports, there were adjustments for trade definition, valuation, freight and a particularly large adjustment for undercoverage.

In 1988, Canada adopted the Harmonized System of Coding and Classification, a system developed under the Customs Cooperation Council for trade and tariff classification. The United States followed in 1989. These steps facilitated the data exchange program whereby Canada and the United States agreed to replace their export statistics (bilateral trade only) with counterpart import statistics starting in January 1990.

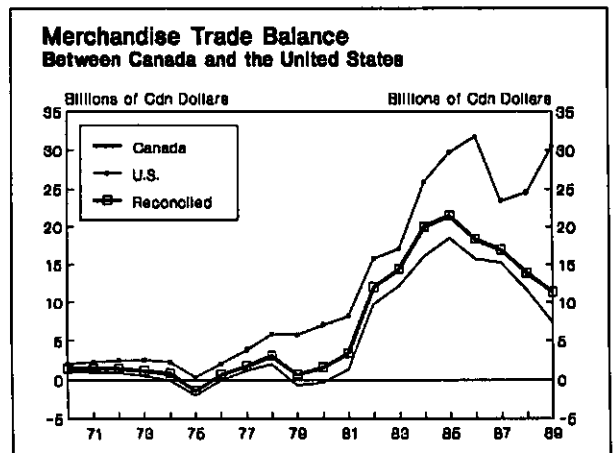
Consequently, since January 1990, Canada has been using United States imports from Canada data (compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census) to produce exports to the United States. Likewise, the United States has been using Canadian imports from the United States (compiled by Statistics Canada) to

measure exports to Canada. Due to conceptual differences, however, discrepancies still arise when comparing both countries' published data. The differences covering Canadian exports to the U.S. and United States imports from Canada are outlined each month in Table 2A of this publication.

Canadian imports from the United States, on a country of consignment basis, are valued FOB (free-on-board) plant. Thus, inland freight (\$324 million in August 1990) must be added to arrive at American exports to Canada (published by the United States Bureau of the Census), which are valued at the port of exit. Likewise, various adjustments are made to American imports from Canada (published by the United States) to arrive at Canadian exports to the United States (as published by Statistics Canada), including the subtraction of American goods returned to measure Canadian domestic exports and the addition of Canadian re-exports to the United States to arrive at total exports.

Lastly, data published in the United States Bureau of the Census release FT-900 concerning Canada are on a raw, customs basis (in American dollars), whereas data published in this issue are on a seasonally adjusted, BOP basis (in Canadian dollars). These last two adjustments added \$279 million and \$46 million respectively to Canada's trade balance in August. The effect of these adjustments impacts greatly on the trade balance of each country with respect to its partner, as shown in the table following.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis in the U.S. publishes trade data on a Balance of Payments, seasonally adjusted basis, quarterly. Data for the third quarter will be released on November 27, 1990.



1. The reconciliation of U.S.-Canada trade statistics 1970, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, and Statistics Canada, 1973.

Canada/U.S. Reconciliation of Data - August 1990

	Cdn exports/ U.S. imports	Cdn imports/ U.S. exports	Balance
U.S. Published - Customs basis	7,158.2	6,648.3	-509.9
Exchange rate	1,1444	0.8735	
	8,192.1	7,608.1	
Canadian re-exports of goods of foreign origin to U.S.	536.9		
U.S. imports of goods of Canadian origin from other countries	-8.3		
Re-exports of U.S. goods returned	-353.1		
U.S. Inland Freight		-324.3	
Canadian - Customs basis *	8,375.9	7,283.8	1,092.1
BOP Adjustments	44.3	-1.3	45.6
Seasonal Adjustment	546.8	268.3	278.5
Canadian Published	8,967.0	7,550.8	1,416.2

* Exports data on a Customs basis excludes freight.
Imports data on a Customs basis is on a country of consignment basis.

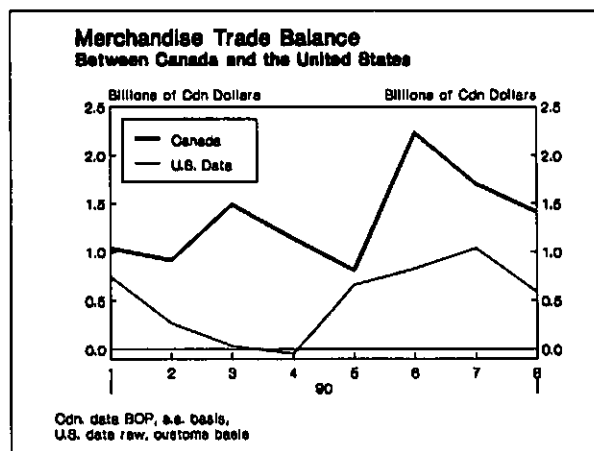


Table 3
Exports by Commodity Groupings
 September 1990
 Balance of Payments Basis

	Seasonally adjusted					Raw values		
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Year-to-date		Percentage change		
				Value	% change	Sept. '90/Sept. '89/Sept. '88/Sept. '87	Sept. '89	Sept. '88
	\$ millions							
AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING PRODUCTS	972	1,002	956	9,887	13.1	-3.8	-12.4	5.4
Wheat	202	261	211	2,797	53.7	-17.8	-28.9	46.1
Other agricultural and fishing products	770	741	745	7,091	2.5	0.7	-5.2	-6.0
ENERGY PRODUCTS	1,027	1,055	1,649	10,073	8.4	51.8	15.5	-7.1
Crude petroleum *	349	327	679	3,650	8.9	69.8	35.5	-29.1
Natural gas	287	286	309	2,468	9.1	13.5	9.5	16.9
Other energy products	391	442	661	3,954	7.4	57.0	2.4	7.3
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	1,686	1,632	1,651	15,750	-6.4	-13.4	5.4	-6.7
Lumber and sawmill products	541	497	502	4,969	-4.5	-15.4	15.7	-30.7
Woodpulp and other wood products	443	457	485	4,510	-13.2	-20.5	10.5	17.1
Newsprint and other paper and paperboard	702	679	665	6,271	-2.3	-5.4	-5.7	3.0
INDUSTRIAL GOODS AND MATERIALS	2,390	2,594	2,580	22,377	-8.0	-3.7	3.5	22.7
Metal ores	392	476	515	4,036	-6.2	8.8	-0.7	44.1
Chemicals, plastics and fertilizers	525	599	529	5,194	-2.1	-0.4	-16.5	23.9
Metals and alloys	991	1,064	1,057	8,933	-15.6	-11.8	24.1	16.0
Other industrial goods and materials	482	455	478	4,214	1.8	-0.4	-6.4	16.6
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	2,419	2,362	2,174	21,630	16.1	4.3	3.5	9.4
Industrial and agricultural machinery	485	478	421	4,484	9.1	-5.7	4.3	1.0
Aircraft and other transportation equipment	609	488	492	4,817	18.2	6.9	7.0	13.4
Other machinery and equipment	1,325	1,396	1,261	12,329	18.1	7.0	1.9	11.4
AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS	3,482	2,784	2,789	26,092	-0.2	-0.5	-4.2	11.4
Passenger autos and chassis	1,822	1,234	1,260	12,295	5.1	-3.1	-10.4	29.7
Trucks and other motor vehicles	862	684	709	6,344	3.0	6.0	0.4	5.3
Motor vehicle parts	798	866	821	7,453	-10.0	-1.9	2.5	-6.7
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	222	243	236	2,096	5.4	13.5	-18.9	2.7
SPECIAL TRANSACTIONS TRADE *	251	176	236	2,176	96.6	81.7	29.5	90.6
UNALLOCATED ADJUSTMENTS *	-34	-34	-34	-371	-24.6	-38.4	-137.3	2.1
TOTAL	12,415	11,813	12,238	109,711	3.0	3.1	-0.8	7.9

* Raw series

Table 4
Imports by Commodity Groupings
 September 1990
 Balance of Payments Basis

	Seasonally adjusted					Raw values		
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Year-to-date		Percentage change		
				Value	% change	Sept. '90/Sept. '89	Sept. '88	Sept. '87
	\$ millions							
AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING PRODUCTS	754	729	719	6,540	6.5	-0.7	8.3	7.1
Fruits and vegetables	249	247	242	2,177	6.6	6.0	-2.9	19.3
Other agricultural and fishing products	505	482	476	4,363	6.4	-3.2	13.0	2.7
ENERGY PRODUCTS	442	639	686	5,275	12.2	39.3	10.7	-15.5
Crude petroleum	258	404	521	3,356	21.0	77.7	17.6	-17.5
Other energy products	183	235	165	1,918	-0.5	-14.4	2.2	-12.9
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	122	99	93	1,039	2.4	-21.2	15.1	-12.0
INDUSTRIAL GOODS AND MATERIALS	2,173	2,173	2,187	19,653	-1.1	-2.5	3.6	12.7
Metals and metal ores	492	625	630	5,216	-9.2	-2.5	6.0	2.7
Chemicals and plastics	737	669	706	6,243	2.0	2.0	1.1	19.1
Other industrial goods and materials	944	878	851	8,194	2.4	-5.8	3.7	16.6
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	3,620	3,345	3,312	32,332	0.1	-8.6	1.3	25.0
Industrial and agricultural machinery	1,070	961	952	9,580	-5.8	-18.8	2.6	14.4
Aircraft and other transportation equipment	359	396	342	3,694	-12.4	-3.2	-27.5	51.2
Office machines and equipment	569	497	509	4,754	1.1	-8.7	2.4	14.0
Other machinery and equipment	1,621	1,490	1,509	14,303	8.2	-2.8	9.8	31.2
AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS	2,698	2,674	2,292	23,354	-3.2	-14.2	-5.2	7.5
Passenger autos and chassis	786	1,064	780	8,345	-6.0	-18.2	-6.8	-5.3
Trucks and other motor vehicles	270	284	257	2,646	0.7	-13.6	8.0	-10.4
Motor vehicle parts	1,641	1,327	1,256	12,362	-2.0	-11.5	-6.7	24.2
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	1,412	1,290	1,299	11,861	5.9	-1.6	7.9	10.8
Apparel and footwear	342	291	292	2,836	10.6	-7.1	21.3	-11.6
Miscellaneous consumer goods	1,070	999	1,006	9,025	4.5	-0.0	4.6	18.0
SPECIAL TRANSACTIONS TRADE *	222	262	243	2,150	1.3	-5.4	21.4	19.8
UNALLOCATED ADJUSTMENTS *	-72	-76	-68	-689	-3.4	-12.4	0.9	21.4
TOTAL	11,370	11,135	10,762	101,515	0.7	-5.3	2.1	12.3

* Raw series

Table 5
Merchandise Trade of Canada
 Constant Dollars, Laspeyres Price Indexes and Terms of Trade
 September 1990
 Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

	Constant 1986 dollars (1)				Laspeyres price index (2)						
	Exports		Imports		Period-to-period change (4)		1986=100.0		Period-to-period change (4)		Terms of Trade(3)
					Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	
	\$ millions		%						%		
1986	120,317	110,374	100.0	100.0	100.0	
1987	124,717	117,271	3.7	6.2	101.8	98.8	103.0	1.8	-1.2	3.0	
1988	136,376	133,265	9.3	13.6	103.0	97.5	105.6	1.2	-1.4	2.5	
1989	137,498	139,647	0.8	4.8	104.8	97.9	107.0	1.8	0.4	1.3	
1988											
First quarter	33,201	32,762	3.3	3.4	102.0	97.8	104.3	-1.4	-1.8	1.9	
Second quarter	34,955	33,047	5.3	0.9	101.9	96.9	105.2	-0.2	-0.9	0.8	
Third quarter	34,003	33,280	-2.7	0.7	103.4	97.0	106.6	1.5	0.1	1.4	
Fourth quarter	34,217	34,176	0.6	2.7	104.3	97.6	106.9	0.9	0.7	0.3	
1989											
First quarter	34,920	34,522	2.1	1.0	105.6	97.3	108.6	1.3	-0.3	1.7	
Second quarter	33,848	35,155	-3.1	1.8	106.2	98.2	108.1	0.5	0.9	-0.4	
Third quarter	34,390	34,582	1.6	-1.6	104.2	97.8	106.5	-1.9	-0.5	-1.5	
Fourth quarter	34,341	35,387	-0.1	2.3	103.8	97.6	106.4	-0.4	-0.2	-0.2	
1990											
First quarter	35,056	34,875	2.1	-1.4	104.4	99.5	104.9	-0.6	1.9	-1.4	
Second quarter	37,188	35,619	6.1	2.1	103.4	98.5	105.0	-1.0	-1.0	0.1	
Third quarter	36,228	34,431	-2.6	-3.3	102.9	98.7	104.3	-0.5	0.2	-0.7	
1989											
January	12,107	11,526	5.7	0.4	105.5	97.3	108.4	1.0	-0.1	1.0	
February	11,605	11,439	-4.2	-0.8	105.5	97.4	108.3	0.1	0.1	-0.1	
March	11,208	11,557	-3.4	1.0	106.0	97.3	108.9	0.4	0.0	0.6	
April	11,114	11,599	-0.8	0.4	106.3	98.2	108.2	0.3	0.9	-0.6	
May	11,738	12,182	5.6	5.0	106.4	98.3	108.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	
June	10,997	11,374	-6.3	-6.6	106.0	98.5	107.6	-0.4	0.3	-0.6	
July	11,384	11,002	3.5	-3.3	105.0	98.1	107.0	-0.9	-0.4	-0.5	
August	11,389	11,884	0.0	8.0	104.0	97.3	106.9	-0.9	-0.8	-0.1	
September	11,616	11,696	2.0	-1.6	103.6	97.7	106.0	-0.4	0.4	-0.8	
October	11,356	12,073	-2.2	3.2	104.4	97.9	106.6	0.7	0.2	0.6	
November	11,468	11,623	1.0	-3.7	103.9	97.7	106.3	-0.5	-0.3	-0.3	
December	11,517	11,691	0.4	0.6	103.6	97.2	106.6	-0.3	-0.4	0.2	
1990											
January	11,388	11,565	-1.1	-1.1	103.8	98.7	105.2	0.2	1.5	-1.3	
February	11,384	11,674	0.0	0.9	105.7	100.5	105.2	1.9	1.9	0.0	
March	12,284	11,637	7.9	-0.3	104.1	99.4	104.7	-1.5	-1.1	-0.4	
April	12,306	12,095	0.2	3.9	103.5	98.5	105.1	-0.5	-0.9	0.3	
May	11,992	12,016	-2.5	-0.7	103.8	98.8	105.1	0.3	0.2	-0.0	
June	12,890	11,508	7.5	-4.2	102.8	98.4	104.5	-1.0	-0.3	-0.6	
July	12,520	11,919	-2.9	3.6	101.6	97.8	103.9	-1.2	-0.7	-0.6	
August	11,877	11,550	-5.1	-3.1	101.1	98.1	103.1	-0.4	0.4	-0.8	
September	11,830	10,962	-0.4	-5.1	105.7	100.5	105.2	4.6	2.4	2.1	
Year-to-date											
1989	103,157	104,259	1.0	5.2							
1990	108,471	104,926	5.2	0.6							

(1) The Paasche current weighted price index used to calculate constant dollars can be derived by dividing current values by the constant dollars above.

(2) The Laspeyres price index uses fixed weights based on 1986 trade and therefore reflects changes in price only.

(3) The Terms of Trade are the ratios of export price indexes to import price indexes, multiplied by 100.

(4) Change over previous period.

Note: Due to rounding, monthly data may not add up to quarterly data and quarterly data may not add up to annual data.

... figures not appropriate.

Table 6
Exports by Commodity Groupings in 1986 Dollars
 September 1990
 Balance of Payments Basis

	Seasonally adjusted					Raw values		
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Year-to-date		Percentage change		
				Value	% change	Sept. '90/Sept. '89	Sept. '89/Sept. '88	Sept. '88/Sept. '87
	\$ millions							
AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING PRODUCTS	940	1,031	958	9,500	19.0	2.5	-4.2	-14.7
Wheat	202	297	224	2,614	88.4	7.8	-21.7	-16.3
Other agricultural and fishing products	738	734	734	6,885	4.4	1.0	1.9	-14.1
ENERGY PRODUCTS	1,270	1,264	1,465	11,037	2.1	16.2	5.4	19.0
Crude petroleum *	363	360	365	3,136	-1.5	0.1	2.7	9.3
Natural gas	455	444	480	3,732	10.1	15.8	16.8	29.5
Other energy products	452	459	620	4,170	-1.6	30.3	-0.9	20.6
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	1,539	1,518	1,506	14,236	-1.5	-8.3	4.2	-9.5
Lumber and sawmill products	555	525	527	5,061	-3.9	-12.9	14.3	-21.3
Woodpulp and other wood products	302	317	337	2,991	-6.5	-9.1	1.5	-3.9
Newsprint and other paper and paperboard	682	675	642	6,184	3.4	-3.7	-2.3	-1.0
INDUSTRIAL GOODS AND MATERIALS	2,357	2,458	2,459	21,686	-0.8	-5.7	11.5	14.3
Metal ores	356	410	441	3,492	-2.8	6.3	-2.8	28.0
Chemicals, plastics and fertilizers	503	606	546	5,264	3.1	-7.3	-4.0	21.6
Metals and alloys	997	978	980	8,505	-4.0	-10.1	44.5	1.6
Other industrial goods and materials	501	464	492	4,426	2.7	-4.5	-5.8	16.6
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	2,322	2,276	2,104	20,838	15.0	3.7	1.0	9.7
Industrial and agricultural machinery	425	421	366	3,918	5.5	-7.6	-0.9	-0.3
Aircraft and other transportation equipment	546	432	441	4,290	16.1	6.7	2.0	8.8
Other machinery and equipment	1,351	1,423	1,297	12,629	17.9	6.4	1.4	13.8
AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS	3,676	2,976	2,934	27,570	0.0	-1.1	-3.1	16.8
Passenger autos and chassis	1,942	1,359	1,343	13,256	6.0	-3.8	-9.4	38.0
Trucks and other motor vehicles	922	730	757	6,754	2.4	5.2	2.3	11.6
Motor vehicle parts	812	886	834	7,559	-10.6	-2.3	3.6	-5.6
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	197	212	207	1,821	2.9	13.3	-22.9	0.1
SPECIAL TRANSACTIONS TRADE *	253	177	229	2,151	100.7	78.0	27.3	89.6
UNALLOCATED ADJUSTMENTS *	-34	-34	-32	-367	-23.1	-39.6	-136.7	1.6
TOTAL	12,520	11,877	11,830	108,471	5.2	1.0	0.4	7.5

* Raw series

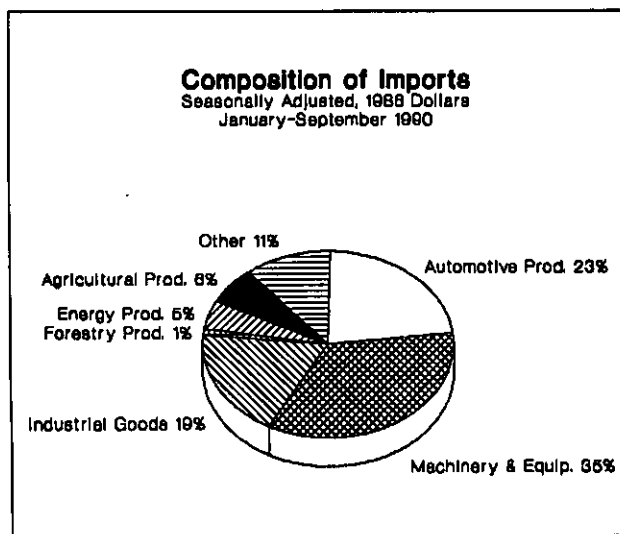
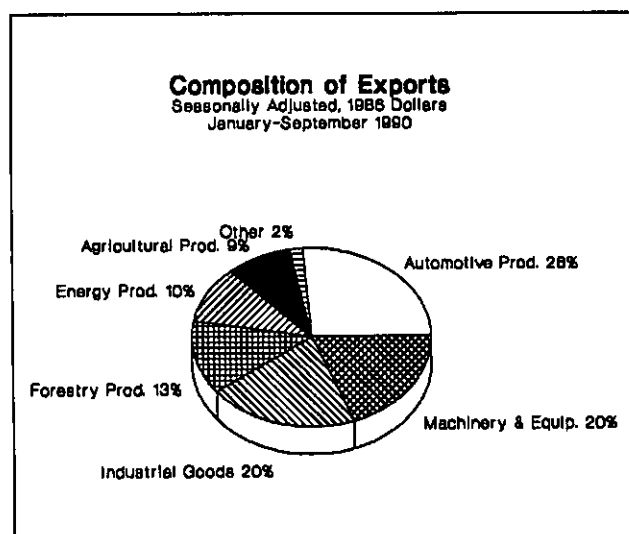


Table 7
Imports by Commodity Groupings in 1986 Dollars
 September 1990
 Balance of Payments Basis

	Seasonally adjusted					Raw values			
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Year-to-date		Percentage change			
				Value	% change	Sept. '90/Sept. '89/Sept. '87	Sept. '89/Sept. '88	Sept. '87	
	\$ millions								
AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING PRODUCTS	747	732	720	6,670	7.6	-2.2	13.7	1.3	
Fruits and vegetables	237	233	229	2,115	7.1	1.4	9.9	1.7	
Other agricultural and fishing products	510	499	491	4,555	7.8	-3.5	15.2	1.2	
ENERGY PRODUCTS	513	626	544	5,304	4.4	3.8	-0.8	6.5	
Crude petroleum	304	360	340	3,089	9.8	11.4	-0.9	14.6	
Other energy products	208	266	204	2,215	-2.3	-5.8	-0.7	-2.3	
FORESTRY PRODUCTS	111	96	91	945	8.4	-13.2	19.6	-21.3	
INDUSTRIAL GOODS AND MATERIALS	2,146	2,201	2,183	19,371	0.8	-2.7	6.4	9.9	
Metals and metal ores	461	626	592	4,924	-4.7	-5.1	10.6	-2.0	
Chemicals and plastics	761	709	751	6,479	7.9	9.9	1.2	14.9	
Other industrial goods and materials	923	866	840	7,968	-1.0	-9.7	7.4	15.9	
MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT	4,070	3,760	3,695	35,920	1.4	-8.1	3.5	27.7	
Industrial and agricultural machinery	1,135	1,025	1,008	10,117	-7.0	-19.4	1.9	17.7	
Aircraft and other transportation equipment	371	404	349	3,812	-12.6	-6.0	-26.3	49.9	
Office machines and equipment	929	819	847	7,598	12.8	2.9	13.1	20.7	
Other machinery and equipment	1,635	1,512	1,491	14,394	7.2	-5.8	10.4	33.5	
AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS	2,793	2,666	2,304	23,632	-4.8	-16.8	-6.8	12.2	
Passenger autos and chassis	701	894	666	7,373	-9.2	-23.7	-13.6	-3.1	
Trucks and other motor vehicles	289	307	273	2,846	-1.1	-16.3	7.0	-5.1	
Motor vehicle parts	1,803	1,465	1,365	13,413	-3.1	-12.8	-5.0	30.8	
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS	1,384	1,276	1,247	11,573	4.1	-4.0	7.2	11.3	
Apparel and footwear	262	220	219	2,171	0.2	-12.8	15.3	-20.6	
Miscellaneous consumer goods	1,122	1,057	1,028	9,402	5.0	-2.3	5.8	19.8	
SPECIAL TRANSACTIONS TRADE *	232	271	247	2,223	-3.0	-12.4	23.9	21.9	
UNALLOCATED ADJUSTMENTS *	-75	-79	-69	-712	-7.3	-18.9	2.9	23.4	
TOTAL	11,919	11,550	10,962	104,926	0.6	-7.9	2.6	15.0	

* Raw series

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