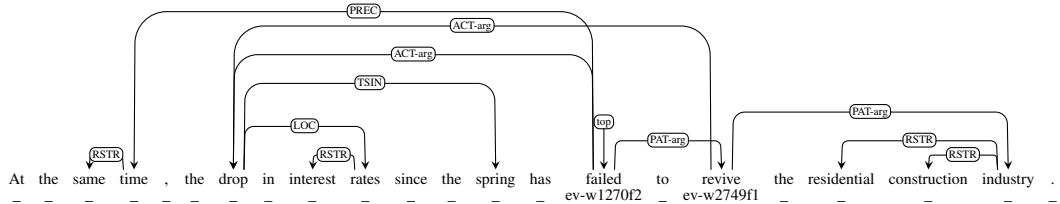
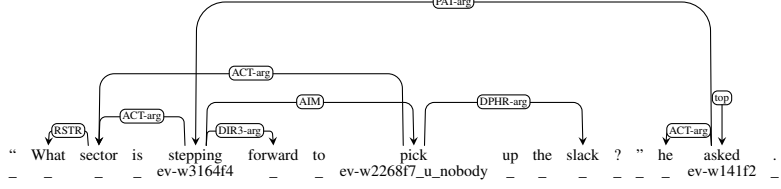


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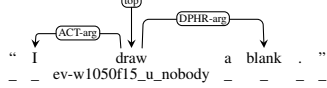




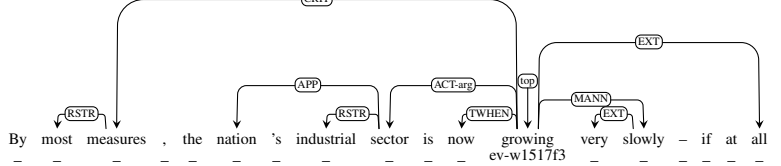
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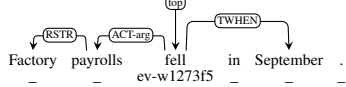
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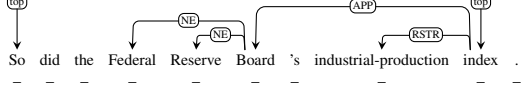
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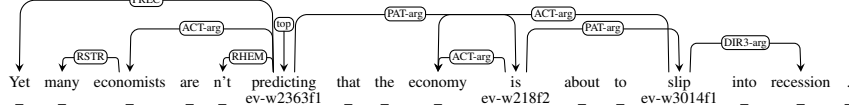
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[20036017]



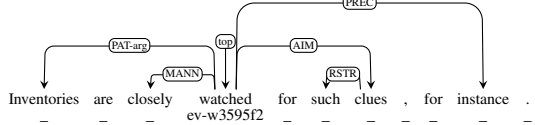
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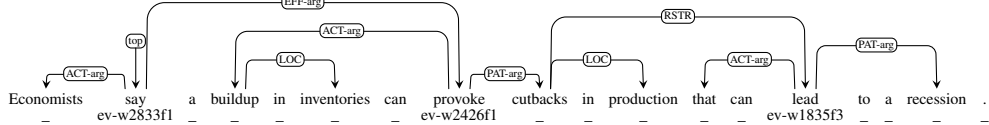
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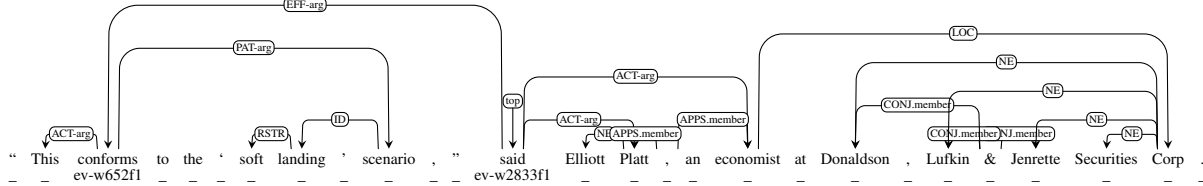
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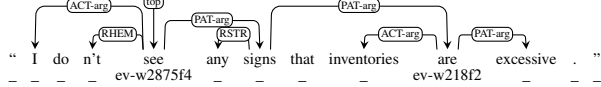
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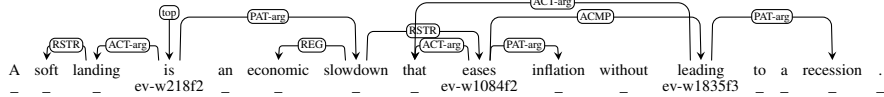
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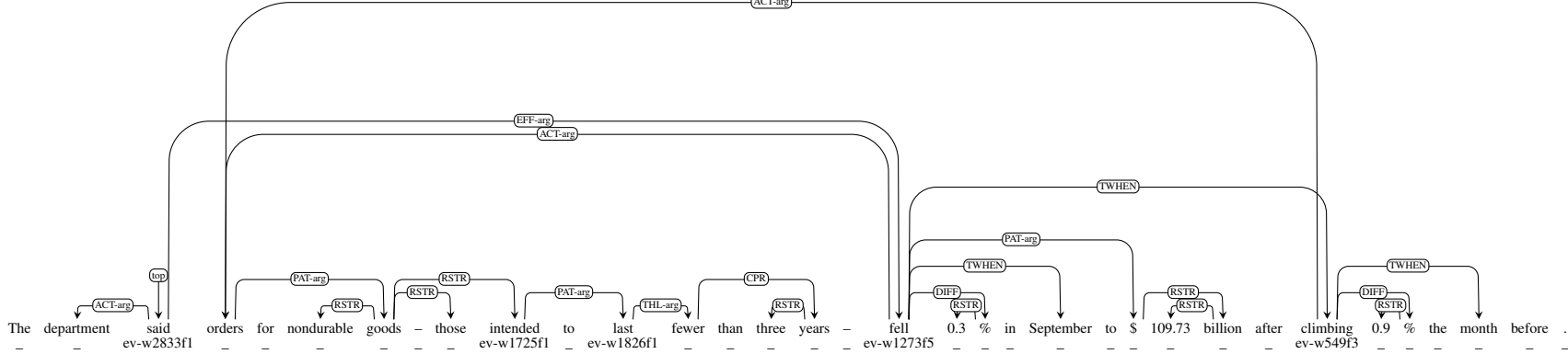
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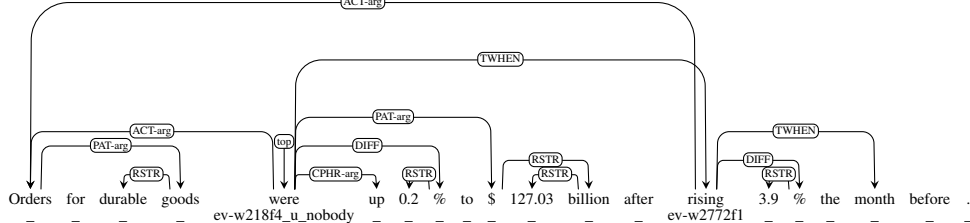
[20036025]



[20036026]



[20036027]



[20036028]

The department previously estimated that durable-goods orders fell 0.1 % in September .

[20036029]

Factory shipments fell 1.6 % to \$ 234.4 billion after rising 5.4 % in August .

[20036030]

Shipments have been relatively level since January , the Commerce Department noted .

[20036031]

Manufacturers ' backlogs of unfilled orders rose 0.5 % in September to \$ 497.34 billion , helped by strength in the defense capital goods sector .

[20036032]

Excluding these orders , backlogs declined 0.3 % .

[20036033]

In its construction spending report , the Commerce Department said residential construction , which accounts for nearly half of all construction spending , was off 0.9 % in September to an annual rate of \$ 191.9 billion .

[20036034]

David Berson , economist for the Mortgage Bankers Association , predicted the drop in interest rates eventually will boost spending on single-family homes , but probably not until early next year .

[20036035]

Spending on private , nonresidential construction was off 2.6 % to an annual rate of \$ 99.1 billion with no sector showing strength .

[20036036]

Government construction spending rose 4.3 % to \$ 88 billion .

[20036037]

After adjusting for inflation , the Commerce Department said construction spending did n't change in September .

[20036038]

For the first nine months of the year , total construction spending ran about 2 % above last year 's level .

[20036039]

The government 's construction spending figures contrast with a report issued earlier in the week by McGraw-Hill Inc. 's F.W. Dodge Group .

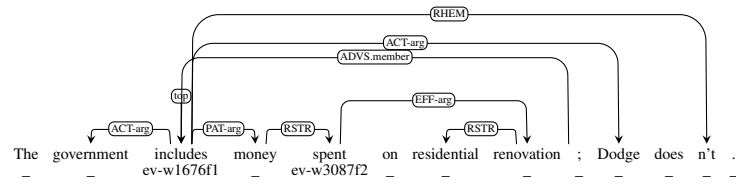
[20036040]

Dodge reported an 8 % increase in construction contracts awarded in September .

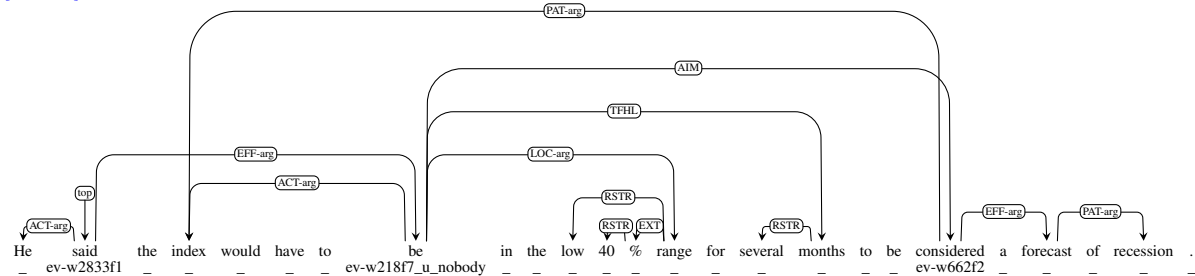
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The government counts money as it is spent ; Dodge counts contracts when they are awarded .

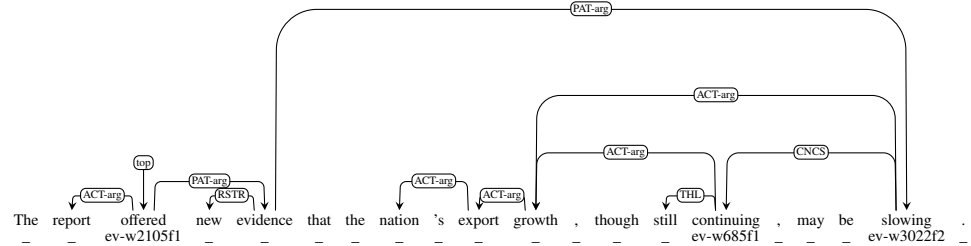
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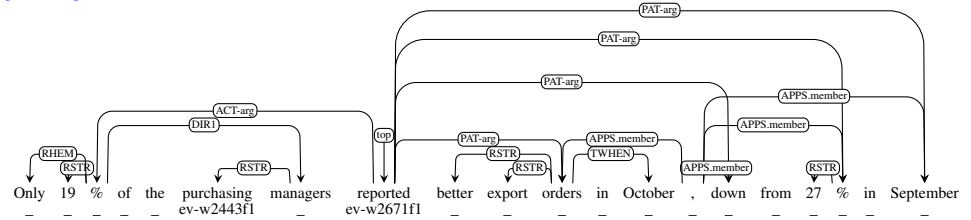
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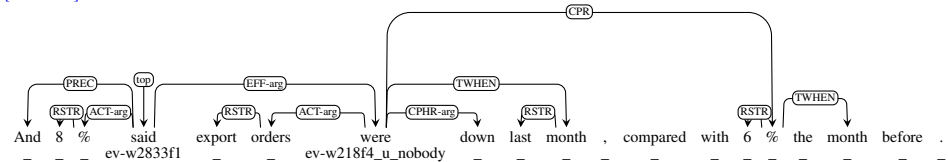
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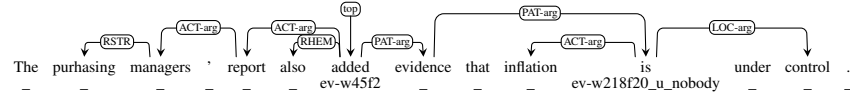
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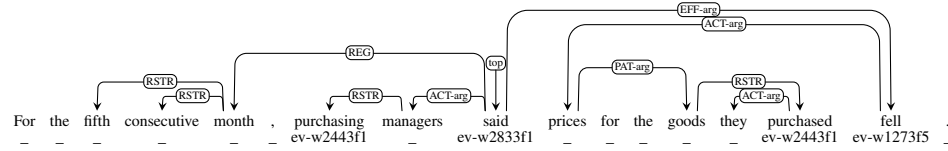
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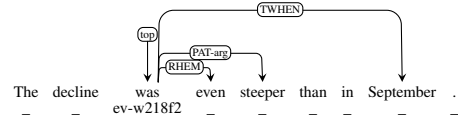
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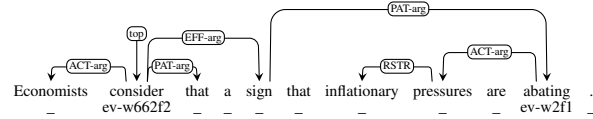
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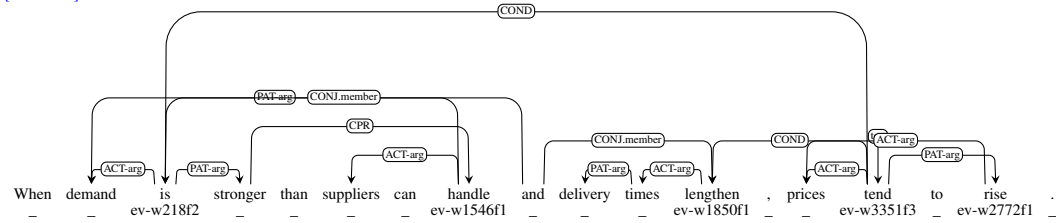
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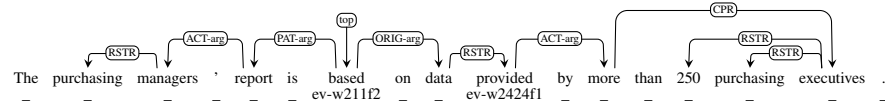
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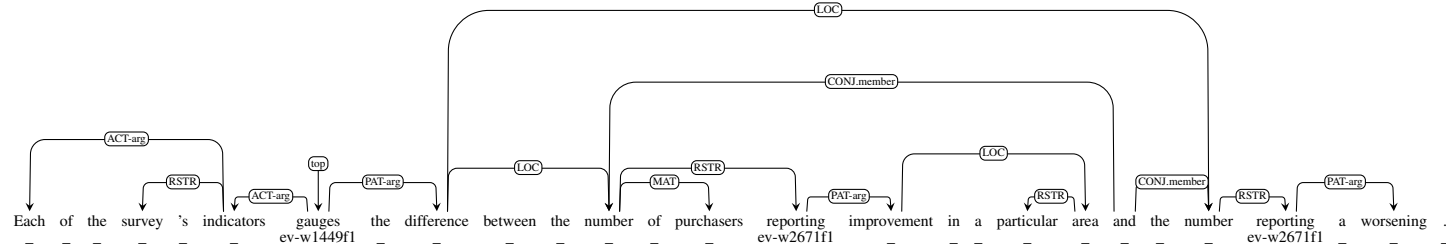
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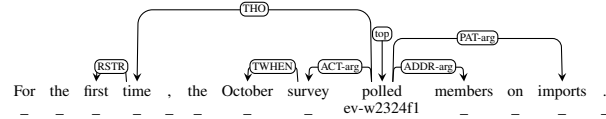
[20036054]



[20036055]



[20036056]



[20036057]

