



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2003**  
 Merchandise exports rose 1.3% to just under \$35 billion and imports fell 1.3% to \$30.0 billion. Canada's trade surplus with the rest of the world bounced back to \$4.9 billion in January, after falling for two consecutive months.

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- **Industrial capacity utilization rates, fourth quarter 2002**  
 Industrial capacity use declined marginally during the fourth quarter in the wake of declining automobile exports and a softening demand for goods in the American market. Industries operated at 82.9% capacity in the last three months of 2002, down 0.2 percentage points from the third quarter.

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### 2001 Census profiles and topic-based tabulation (various levels of geography)

Additional profiles for labour force activity, class of worker, occupation, industry, place of work, mode of transportation, language of work and unpaid work are now available for various levels of geography. Additional topic-based tabulation for the "Canada's workforce: paid work" topic is also available.

These profiles and topic-based tabulation are available for a fee (costs vary depending on geography level) in Beyond 20/20 format from the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre nearest you.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

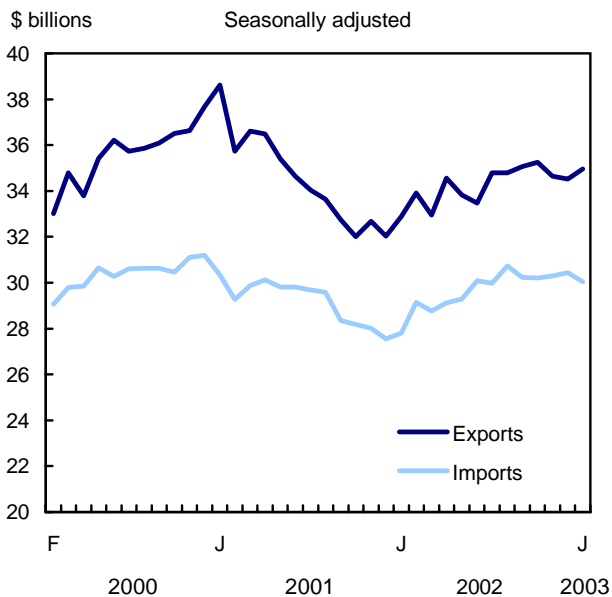
### Canadian international merchandise trade

January 2003

Merchandise exports rose 1.3% to just under \$35 billion and imports fell 1.3% to \$30.0 billion. Canada's trade surplus with the rest of the world bounced back to \$4.9 billion in January, after falling for two consecutive months.

Exports to the European Union, which accounted for 6.2% of the total, rose 27.2% to \$2.2 billion. Exports to the United States (84% of the total) were virtually unchanged at \$29.3 billion. Imports from Japan and the European Union fell by a combined \$631 million in January. In addition, imports from Canada's various smaller trading partners fell \$340 million. Partly offsetting these declines were increases in imports of goods from the United States (+2.0% to \$21.4 billion) and other OECD countries (+8.3% to \$1.9 billion).

#### Exports and imports



#### Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

Statistics Canada has begun releasing monthly international merchandise trade data approximately one week earlier, beginning today with the January 2003 reference month. This information will continue to be made available at the same time as the US trade statistics released by the US Bureau of the Census.

#### Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

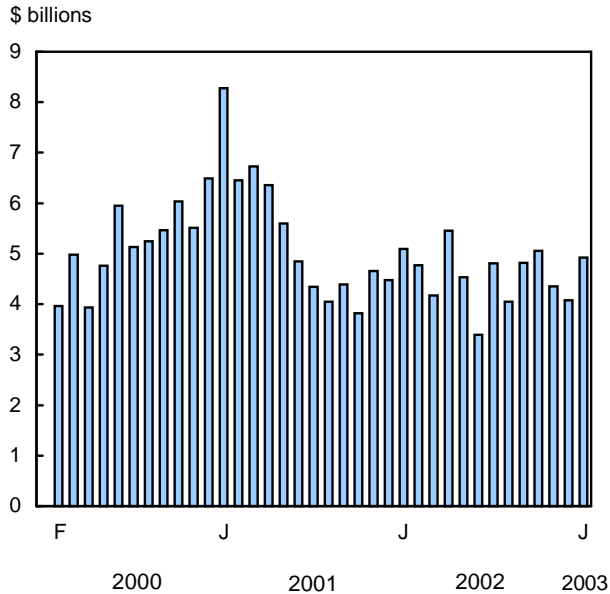
Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors. Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

As a result, Canada's trade balance with the rest of the world rose from \$4.1 billion in December to \$4.9 billion in January. Strong energy exports and a half-billion dollar turn-around in aircraft exports contributed to the largest single monthly jump in exports in six months. Import declines occurred in automotive products and in machinery and equipment, the two largest import sectors.

Canadian companies sent \$29.3 billion in goods to the United States in January, while imports from south of the border increased 2.0% to \$21.4 billion. The trade surplus with the United States fell \$360 million to \$8.0 billion.

Imports from all other major trading regions, with the exception of other OECD countries, posted double-digit decreases in January. This caused Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States to narrow from \$4.3 billion in December to \$3.1 billion in January.

**Trade balance**



**Exports of energy, machinery and equipment up strongly**

Exports of energy products increased 7.6% to \$5.6 billion, the fifth monthly rise in a row, aided by record levels of petroleum and coal products (\$1.0 billion) and crude petroleum (\$2.0 billion). Natural gas exports to the United States jumped 11.1% to \$2.3 billion, as volumes and prices increased in response to colder-than-usual weather in North America.

In the machinery and equipment sector, exports rose 4.6% to \$8.1 billion. The increase was driven by a dramatic 40.5% increase in aircraft, engines and parts to \$1.6 billion, following lay-offs and slow sales in December. Industrial and agricultural machinery exports increased 2.4% to \$1.7 billion, but other machinery and equipment exports, including telecom, office machines and heavy equipment and tools, fell 2.7% to \$4.3 billion.

Exports of automotive products rose 1.3% to \$7.5 billion in January, breaking a four-month decline. Passenger automobile exports bounced back with a 3.6% increase to \$3.6 billion following five months of decline, as international demand rebounded and manufacturers restarted production lines after an extended Christmas shut-down.

Exports of motor vehicle parts increased 5.3% to \$2.6 billion, as Canada's auto parts industry supplied a larger portion of components destined for US assembly plants. Exports of trucks and other motor

vehicles declined 10.8% to \$1.3 billion. The decline in January is the fourth consecutive drop, totalling 19.3%, since a short-term increase in demand in the United States for trucks purchased before new tougher emission standards took effect on October 1, 2002.

Consumer goods exports rose 5.9% to \$1.5 billion in January — a record high — with increases in demand for medical supplies and medicines leading the way. Consumer goods exports have risen steadily over the past 10 years, nearly doubling every five years.

Forestry products exports fell 5.1% to \$2.9 billion, with prices and volumes declining in lumber and newsprint. Newsprint and other paperboard exports fell 5.1% to \$1.1 billion. Domestic demand for lumber used to build single family homes in Canada hit a new peak in January. Although new housing starts in the United States continued to rise to the highest annualized level since May 1986, Canada's lumber exports fell 9.3% to \$772 million in January.

Industrial goods and materials fell 3.5% to \$5.7 billion as a result of slower export activity of chemicals, plastics and fertilizers (-6.3% to \$2.0 billion) and metals and alloys (-3.4% to \$1.7 billion).

Agricultural and fishing products exports fell 4.1% to \$2.5 billion, as 10 of 13 commodity groups declined. With grain inventories reduced to the lowest levels on record because of prolonged drought conditions in the Prairies, wheat exports fell 31.8% to \$140 million, the lowest level since July 1989.

**Auto, machinery and equipment bring down imports**

Decreases in imports, mainly from Japan and European trading partners, offset increased imports from the United States.

Automotive products imports fell 7.4% to \$6.7 billion in January from December's record high. Although Canadians purchase far more North American vehicles than those built in Europe or Asia, the bulk of this month's decline in passenger auto imports has been at the expense of those assembled in the United States. Imports of passenger autos fell 24.0% to \$2.1 billion, which is still 14.0% higher than January 2002.

Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles, which include ATVs and snowmobiles, increased a modest 0.4% to \$1.1 billion, surpassing December's record level.

Motor vehicle parts imports, destined for Canadian auto assembly plants, bounced back by 3.6% to \$3.5 billion, ending a five-month decline with auto plants gearing up their post-Christmas production.

Imports in the largest sector, machinery and equipment, fell 1.8% to \$8.7 billion. Industrial and

agricultural machinery imports fell 1.7% to \$2.3 billion. Industrial machinery imports led with a 2.6% drop to \$1.3 billion. Imports of "other" machinery, which includes high-tech equipment, fell 3.7% to \$3.8 billion.

Aircraft and other transportation equipment imports increased 2.1% to \$1.3 billion. Imports of aircraft, engines and parts fell 8.1% to \$889 million, but this loss was offset by a 31.0% increase in other transportation equipment, which includes transport and travel trailers, to \$448 million.

Imports of consumer goods fell slightly to \$4.0 billion, a total drop of 1.2% from the record levels in October and November. Post-Christmas declines in imports of apparel and footwear and of watches, sporting goods and toys offset increases in pharmaceuticals and photographic goods.

Tensions in oil-producing countries and cold weather contributed to a 9.0% increase in imported energy products, which rose to \$1.6 billion. The crude petroleum import price index increased a seasonally adjusted 7.5% in January, which, when combined with the increase in import volume, resulted in a 14.6% jump in the value of imported crude petroleum to \$1.2 billion

**Available on CANSIM: tables 226-0001, 226-0002, 227-0001, 227-0002, 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.**

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.**

The publication *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) will be available soon. It will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93; 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124).

Merchandise trade data are available by fax or PDF format file on the morning of release.

For more information on the publications, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (613-951-9647; 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division.

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## Merchandise trade

	December 2002	January 2003	December 2002 to January 2003	January 2002 to January 2003	January to December 2001	January to December 2002	January–December 2001 to January–December 2002
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		%
<b>Principal trading partners</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
United States	29,288	29,349	0.2	4.8	350,907	348,384	-0.7
Japan	870	925	6.3	29.9	9,481	9,707	2.4
European Union	1,708	2,172	27.2	21.7	22,301	21,210	-4.9
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	839	800	-4.6	-3.5	10,925	11,026	0.9
All other countries	1,821	1,720	-5.5	9.1	21,024	20,358	-3.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,527</b>	<b>34,967</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>414,638</b>	<b>410,687</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>Imports</b>							
United States	20,956	21,377	2.0	4.5	255,027	254,688	-0.1
Japan	1,141	906	-20.6	16.6	10,586	11,737	10.9
European Union	3,358	2,962	-11.8	14.1	35,089	36,144	3.0
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	1,786	1,934	8.3	30.5	18,626	19,480	4.6
All other countries	3,206	2,866	-10.6	14.7	31,294	34,059	8.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,447</b>	<b>30,045</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>350,622</b>	<b>356,109</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Balance</b>							
United States	8,332	7,972	...	...	95,880	93,696	...
Japan	-271	19	...	...	-1,105	-2,030	...
European Union	-1,650	-790	...	...	-12,788	-14,934	...
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	-947	-1,134	...	...	-7,701	-8,454	...
All other countries	-1,385	-1,146	...	...	-10,270	-13,701	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,079</b>	<b>4,921</b>	...	...	<b>64,016</b>	<b>54,578</b>	...
<b>Principal commodity groupings</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,557	2,453	-4.1	-4.6	30,883	30,541	-1.1
Energy products	5,186	5,580	7.6	76.4	54,744	50,421	-7.9
Forestry products	3,066	2,911	-5.1	-5.1	39,307	36,650	-6.8
Industrial goods and materials	5,921	5,711	-3.5	2.1	66,797	69,435	3.9
Machinery and equipment	7,715	8,072	4.6	-3.9	99,733	94,718	-5.0
Automotive products	7,422	7,516	1.3	1.2	92,858	97,083	4.5
Other consumer goods	1,461	1,548	6.0	3.5	15,972	17,342	8.6
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	639	636	-0.5	-5.5	8,121	7,910	-2.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	559	540	-3.4	7.1	6,219	6,592	6.0
<b>Imports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,832	1,860	1.5	4.6	20,357	21,778	7.0
Energy products	1,470	1,602	9.0	34.7	17,752	16,458	-7.3
Forestry products	259	266	2.7	6.4	2,886	3,134	8.6
Industrial goods and materials	5,848	5,946	1.7	6.6	68,456	68,828	0.5
Machinery and equipment	8,823	8,663	-1.8	3.8	112,422	105,784	-5.9
Automotive products	7,239	6,706	-7.4	11.2	72,546	81,445	12.3
Other consumer goods	3,984	3,966	-0.5	9.4	42,926	46,416	8.1
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	441	479	8.6	-2.8	6,843	5,875	-14.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	551	557	1.1	7.7	6,430	6,391	-0.6

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

<sup>2</sup> These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

## Industrial capacity utilization rates

Fourth quarter 2002

Industrial capacity use declined marginally during the fourth quarter in the wake of declining automobile exports and a softening demand for goods in the American market. Industries operated at 82.9% capacity in the last three months of 2002, down 0.2 percentage points from the third quarter. It was the first decline in the rate since the fourth quarter of 2001.

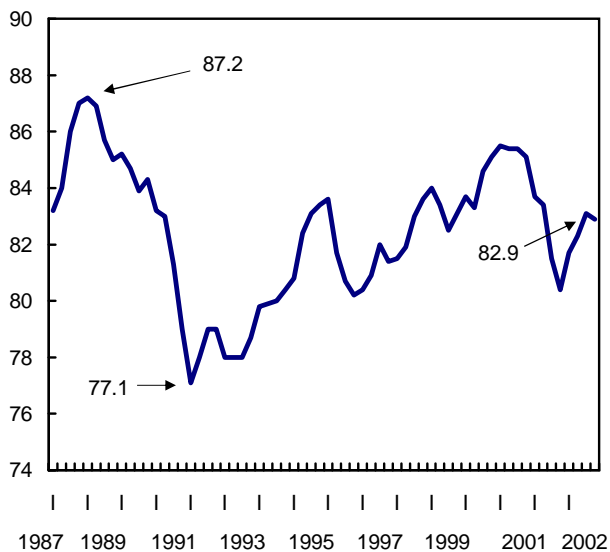
Despite this slight decrease in the fourth quarter, the rate was still above the average of 82.5% for 2002 as a whole.

### Note to readers

An industry's **capacity use** is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of its capital stock. In addition, since 1987 Statistics Canada has been surveying companies for their estimates of annual capacity use, in order to produce survey-based industry measures. A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques. The surveyed rates anchor the calculated quarterly series and ensure they reflect such changes.

### Capacity utilization slips

% (rate of capacity use)



The drop in exports in the fourth quarter was only partly offset by strong consumer spending. Declining exports of automotive products in particular had a negative impact on industrial production, and were a major factor in the downturn in industrial capacity use from October to December. To a large extent, this reflected a weaker demand for products in the United States as a result of the slowdown in the American economy.

Moreover, industries' investments in plants and equipment fell 6.4% in 2002, despite sustained growth in profits. The Survey of Capital and Repair Expenditures also projected a drop in industries' investment for 2003. Domestic demand, however, experienced a slight rebound in the quarter and consumer expenditures

increased, especially for motor vehicles and residential durable goods.

The drop in the rate in the fourth quarter is also attributable to lower capacity utilization in forestry and logging, mining and oil and gas extraction, and electric power. The rate remained steady in the manufacturing sector and rose slightly in the construction sector. (Rates of capacity use have been revised back to the first quarter of 2000 to incorporate revisions in source data).

### Automobile industry stalls manufacturing

After three consecutive quarterly increases, the capacity utilization rate in the manufacturing sector remained steady at 84.3%, the same as in the third quarter.

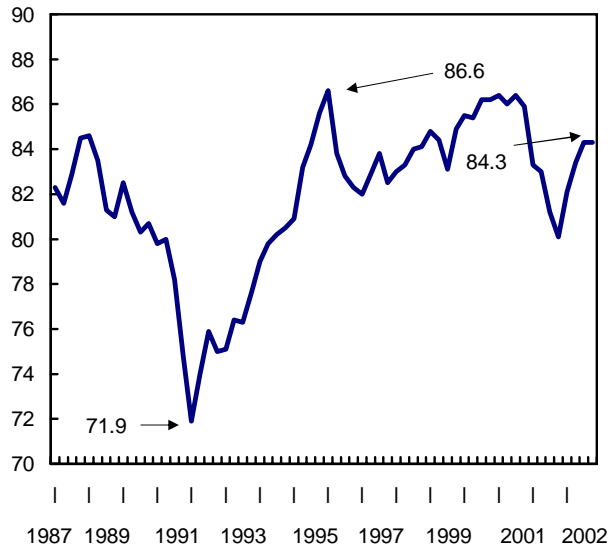
Thirteen of the 21 industrial groups in the manufacturing sector reduced their capacity utilization. The drop in transportation equipment was offset by rising rates in chemicals, wood products, machinery and primary metals.

Transportation equipment manufacturers reduced their capacity utilization from 91.3% in the third quarter to 88.9% in the fourth. Strong domestic demand for motor vehicles was not enough to offset the drop in motor vehicle exports in the fourth quarter. Total exports of automotive products posted their biggest drop since the fourth quarter of 1996, and exports of passenger cars alone fell 17.0%. This led to a drop of 8.0% in motor vehicle production. Labour disputes and persistent problems in air transportation were at the root of reductions in aircraft production.

Capacity use in the chemical industries rose from 81.3% to 84.1%, the fourth straight quarterly increase. Pharmaceutical and drug product manufacturers and basic chemical manufacturers were the main contributors to the 3.4% increase in production in this industry.

**Manufacturing pauses**

% (rate of capacity use)



The capacity utilization rate rose 3.4 percentage points among wood product manufacturers, peaking at 98.5% in the fourth quarter. All components of the wood products manufacturing sector contributed to a 3.5% increase in production, as the sector continued to benefit from strong residential construction.

Significant increases in the production of engines, turbines, metal cutting machine tools and industrial machinery contributed to a 2.4% increase in production in the machine manufacturing industry. Consequently, machinery manufacturers ran at 83.0% capacity, an increase of 2.2 points.

In the primary metals industries, the rate rose from 91.8% to 93.7% in the fourth quarter. This is the highest rate posted since the third quarter of 1998, when it reached 94.9%. The increase in production among all components of the primary metals manufacturing

industry, with the exception of metallurgy, was the basis for the 1.0% increase in production in this industry.

**Ups and downs in the other sectors**

The capacity utilization rate in the construction sector edged up 0.1 points to 86.1%. Production in the construction sector rose 0.9% as a result of the strong residential construction market. Investment in residential construction rose 2.6% and, even though activities associated with new housing construction slowed in the fourth quarter compared with the third, the level remained 17.0% higher than in the fourth quarter 2001.

In the electric power sector, the rate fell from 89.5% in the third quarter to 88.3% in the fourth, as production in this sector fell 0.9% in the last three months of the year.

Capacity use in the oil and gas extraction sector declined 1.2 points to 66.7%. The drop in the rate is attributable to a 1.1% decrease in production in this sector. In the mining sector, the rate increased 1.8 points to 81.4% in the fourth quarter. Drilling activities, with a 23.2% increase in production, contributed to a 2.2% increase in production in the mining sector as a whole.

In the forestry and logging sector, production fell 1.7%, leading to a decline of 1.4 points in the capacity utilization rate to 80.3%.

**Available on CANSIM: table 028-0002.**

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2821.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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**Industrial capacity utilization rates**

	Third quarter 2002 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 2002	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2002	2001 <sup>r</sup>	2002	2001 to 2002
			Percentage point change			Percentage point change
<b>Total industrial</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>82.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Forestry and logging	81.7	80.3	-1.4	76.8	77.4	0.6
Mining and oil and gas extraction	71.7	71.4	-0.3	76.6	71.9	-4.7
Oil and gas extraction	67.9	66.7	-1.2	69.6	67.6	-2.0
Mining	79.6	81.4	1.8	90.8	80.9	-9.9
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	89.5	88.3	-1.2	87.5	88.5	1.0
Construction	86.0	86.1	0.1	86.4	86.0	-0.4
Manufacturing	84.3	84.3	0.0	81.9	83.5	1.6
Food	81.3	80.8	-0.5	81.6	81.6	0.0
Beverage and tobacco products	80.8	77.3	-3.5	80.5	79.8	-0.7
Beverage	84.3	82.0	-2.3	82.8	83.0	0.2
Tobacco	71.5	64.7	-6.8	74.6	71.0	-3.6
Textile mills	76.5	75.0	-1.5	78.9	76.6	-2.3
Textile product mills	81.8	79.2	-2.6	76.6	79.3	2.7
Clothing	82.7	85.2	2.5	82.0	81.9	-0.1
Leather and allied products	70.5	69.0	-1.5	72.5	70.4	-2.1
Wood products	95.1	98.5	3.4	82.0	93.8	11.8
Paper	92.7	93.0	0.3	88.6	90.4	1.8
Printing and related support activities	72.3	69.9	-2.4	76.5	72.9	-3.6
Petroleum and coal products	96.6	96.0	-0.6	94.9	96.3	1.4
Chemical	81.3	84.1	2.8	80.4	81.1	0.7
Plastics and rubber products	89.4	88.9	-0.5	84.2	88.7	4.5
Plastic products	90.0	89.1	-0.9	83.4	89.0	5.6
Rubber products	87.7	88.4	0.7	86.2	87.6	1.4
Non-metallic mineral products	83.7	85.5	1.8	79.9	83.9	4.0
Primary metal	91.8	93.7	1.9	88.6	91.2	2.6
Fabricated metal products	84.6	83.9	-0.7	80.7	83.7	3.0
Machinery	80.8	83.0	2.2	79.3	80.0	0.7
Computer and electronic products	65.8	64.7	-1.1	72.1	66.8	-5.3
Electrical equipment, appliances and components	73.2	72.4	-0.8	76.3	73.1	-3.2
Transportation equipment	91.3	88.9	-2.4	86.0	88.9	2.9
Furniture and related products	83.1	82.0	-1.1	80.8	82.2	1.4
Miscellaneous manufacturing	83.1	84.5	1.4	80.3	82.5	2.2

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.



## OTHER RELEASES

### New Housing Price Index

January 2003

The price of a new home in Canada rose 0.3% in January from December, as measured by the New Housing Price Index (1992=100). Compared with January 2002, this index of contractors' selling prices increased 5.1%, sustaining the momentum experienced in December 2002.

Continued demand for new housing, along with increased costs to builders for skilled labour and building materials, helped push prices upward on a national basis.

### New Housing Price Index (1992=100)

	Jan. 2003	Jan. 2002 to Jan. 2003	Dec. 2002 to Jan. 2003
	% change		
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>113.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>
House only	118.4	6.8	0.3
Land only	105.7	1.5	0.1
St. John's	107.6	5.8	0.2
Halifax	125.4	3.5	1.0
Charlottetown	108.5	1.1	0.4
Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton	97.6	3.3	1.2
Québec	115.2	8.5	1.2
Montréal	126.6	9.3	1.2
Ottawa–Gatineau	132.6	6.6	0.0
Toronto	115.2	4.4	0.1
Hamilton	116.9	7.1	-0.1
St. Catharines–Niagara	114.1	3.1	1.2
Kitchener–Waterloo	115.8	4.5	-0.1
London	109.0	2.5	0.9
Windsor	107.0	0.6	0.0
Sudbury–Thunder Bay	99.0	1.3	0.0
Winnipeg	124.4	3.3	0.2
Regina	144.8	6.4	-0.1
Saskatoon	121.6	1.0	0.0
Calgary	146.5	5.9	0.2
Edmonton	126.9	9.2	0.4
Vancouver	87.0	2.1	0.3
Victoria	77.0	5.9	0.0

Thirteen of the 21 urban centres surveyed registered monthly increases. Of the centres with the strongest growth, Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton, Québec, Montréal and St. Catharines–Niagara led the way with increases of 1.2%. Home-builders in these four urban centres noted higher prices for building materials and labour; builders in Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton and Montréal also noted higher land values. Significant

increases were also observed in Halifax (+1.0%) and London (+0.9%), which were at least in part the result of higher prices for building materials, labour and land.

Elsewhere, new house prices rose in Charlottetown (+0.4%), Edmonton (+0.4%) and Vancouver (+0.3%). St. John's, Winnipeg and Calgary all recorded increases of 0.2%, and Toronto posted an increase of 0.1%.

Five urban centres registered no change; Hamilton, Kitchener–Waterloo and Regina registered decreases of 0.1% from December.

On an annual basis, the largest 12-month increase for new homes was recorded in Montréal (+9.3%). Edmonton came in second (+9.2%), followed by Québec (+8.5%). There were no annual decreases.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2310.

The first quarter 2003 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in July. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rebecca McDougall (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)) or Susan Morris (613-951-2035; [morrus@statcan.ca](mailto:morrisus@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

### Farm Product Price Index

December 2002

Prices received by farmers for their agricultural commodities rose 5.9% in December from December 2001, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). This continues the monthly year-over-year increases that began in February 2000.

Crop prices rose 11.1% from December 2001, extending the monthly year-over-year increases that began in September 2000. The livestock and animal products index climbed 1.0% above year-earlier levels, the first increase after nine consecutive monthly year-over-year decreases.

The FPPI (1997=100) rose 1.2% from November to 108.0 in December, the highest level since June 1996.

**Farm Product Price Index**  
(1997=100)

	Dec. 2001	Nov. 2002 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 2002 <sup>p</sup>	Dec. 2002 to Dec. 2001	Dec. 2002 to Nov. 2002
					% change
<b>Farm Product Price Index</b>	<b>102.0</b>	<b>106.7</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Crops</b>	<b>100.7</b>	<b>110.4</b>	<b>111.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Grains	100.1	110.0	109.3	9.2	-0.6
Oilseeds	83.5	103.0	103.5	24.0	0.5
Specialty crops	118.8	140.4	149.1	25.5	6.2
Fruit	92.1	105.9	111.5	21.1	5.3
Vegetables	108.8	109.9	109.9	1.0	0.0
Potatoes	152.3	148.6	155.9	2.4	4.9
<b>Livestock and animal products</b>	<b>103.3</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>104.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Cattle and calves	117.7	115.5	121.9	3.6	5.5
Hogs	75.1	65.6	68.8	-8.4	4.9
Poultry	96.1	91.8	91.0	-5.3	-0.9
Eggs	101.4	106.3	106.2	4.7	-0.1
Dairy	111.3	117.8	118.5	6.5	0.6

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

The crop index was up 1.4% from November. The index has increased in 8 of the last 12 months. There were increases in the oilseed, potato, specialty crop and fruit indexes; only the grain index showed a monthly decrease.

The grain index was at 109.3, down a slight 0.6% from November but 9.2% above its year-earlier levels. The monthly grain index had recorded year-over-year increases since September 2000, as grain prices were supported by two consecutive years of drought conditions in many parts of western Canada.

The oilseed index increased 0.5% in December to 103.5. On a year-over-year basis, the oilseed index rose 24.0%, continuing the strong upward trend that started in February 2001. Tight world oilseed supplies coupled with drought-stricken domestic production has boosted oilseed prices.

The potato index rose 4.9% from November, after four consecutive month-to-month decreases. On a year-over-year basis, the potato index increased 2.4%, remaining above year-earlier levels for the seventeenth consecutive month. Potato prices had soared through the first half of 2002, as lower production tightened supplies of table potatoes.

The specialty crop index was up 6.2% in December to a high of 149.1. Higher prices were recorded for dry peas, lentils and mustard seed, as these crops experienced below-average yields for a second consecutive year. On a year-over-year basis, the index

was 25.5% above December 2001. The specialty crop index has been above year-earlier levels since June 2001.

The livestock index rose to 104.3 in December, up 2.8% from November. There were increases in all livestock indexes, except for poultry and eggs.

The cattle and calves index increased 5.5% in December to 121.9. On a year-over-year basis, the cattle and calves index was up 3.6%, the second increase after a continuous drop since October 2001. Abundant supplies of red meat on the North American market and high feed grain costs had pressured prices.

The hog index was up 4.9% from November, but down 8.4% from December 2001. In March 2002, the index began a steady slide from the previous year levels, as Canadian hog prices were pressured by slower disposition of North American pork supplies and higher slaughter volumes.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.**

The December 2002 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 2, no. 12 (21-007-XIB, free), is now available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call 1-800-465-1991. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-3122; [gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca](mailto:gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

**Export and import price indexes**

January 2003

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to January 2003 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to January 2003. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

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Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001, 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.**

The January 2003 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

### Dairy statistics

January 2003 (preliminary)

Consumers purchased 252 000 kilolitres of milk and cream in January. Sales of milk stood at 233 000 kilolitres and those of cream stood at 19 000 kilolitres.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0007 to 003-0012, 003-0029, 003-0033, 003-0034 and 003-0046.

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.**

The first quarter 2003 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001-XIB, \$27/\$89) will be available in May. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

### Construction type plywood

December 2002

Data on construction type plywood are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0005.

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2138.**

The December 2002 issue of *Construction type plywood*, Vol. 50, no. 12 (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47), is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Monthly railway carloadings

October 2002

The freight loaded by railways in Canada in October totalled 21.2 million metric tonnes (excluding intermodal traffic), up 1.8% from October 2001. The intermodal tonnage, represented by containers on flat cars and trailers on flat cars, rose 9.3% from October 2001 to reach 2.3 million metric tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

The October 2002 issue of *Monthly railway carloadings*, Vol. 79, no. 10 (52-001-XIE, \$8/\$77) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; [laroque@statcan.ca](mailto:laroque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Farm product price index**, December 2002, Vol. 2,  
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**Catalogue number 21-007-XIB**  
(free).

**Construction type plywood**, December 2002, Vol. 50,  
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**Catalogue number 35-001-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Monthly railway carloadings**, October 2002, Vol. 79,  
no. 10  
**Catalogue number 52-001-XIE** (\$8/\$77).

**Electric power statistics**, December 2002, Vol. 70,  
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**Catalogue number 57-001-XIB** (\$9/\$85).

**Capital expenditure price statistics**, Third  
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