



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, February 19, 1997

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Canadian international merchandise trade, 1996 and December 1996**  
Exports declined 1.1% in December, but posted a gain of 5.3% over the course of 1996. Imports slipped in December as well (-2.7%), but advanced 3.4% for the year.

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  - **Wholesale trade, 1996 and December 1996**  
Wholesalers are major players in the Canadian economy. With December sales pushing total annual 1996 sales to \$254 billion, the wholesale industry now represents about 6.4% of Canada's gross domestic product.

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- Export and import price indexes, December 1996

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  - Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending February 7, 1997

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Canadian international merchandise trade

1996 and December 1996

Exports lost ground in December (-1.1%), falling to \$22.3 billion as automotive shipments declined. Outside of the auto sector, exports inched forward; increases in natural resources were nearly offset by weaker exports of industrial goods. While sales to Japan and the European Union advanced, exports to the United States and all other trading partners softened.

Imports fell 2.7% in December, retreating to \$19.9 billion from a record \$20.5 billion in November. While import activity slowed for most commodities, a reduction in auto parts was the largest setback. Purchases from the United States, Japan, and Europe all waned, but there were increased imports from the remaining trading partners.

Since imports declined more quickly than exports in December, the merchandise trade surplus increased to \$2.4 billion from \$2.1 billion in November. Canada's trade surpluses with the United States and Japan both gained ground, while deficits remained with all other trading partners.

#### Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services. In the third quarter of 1996, the overall merchandise trade surplus of \$9.7 billion compared with a current account surplus of \$0.6 billion.

#### Highlights for 1996

Exports moved ahead by 5.3% in 1996, compared with 16.5% in 1995. Accounting for the lion's share of the increase were exports of machinery, energy products and lumber. Falling prices in the pulp and paper industries and moderate growth in the auto sector dampened overall gains. Total exports in 1996 stood at \$267 billion.

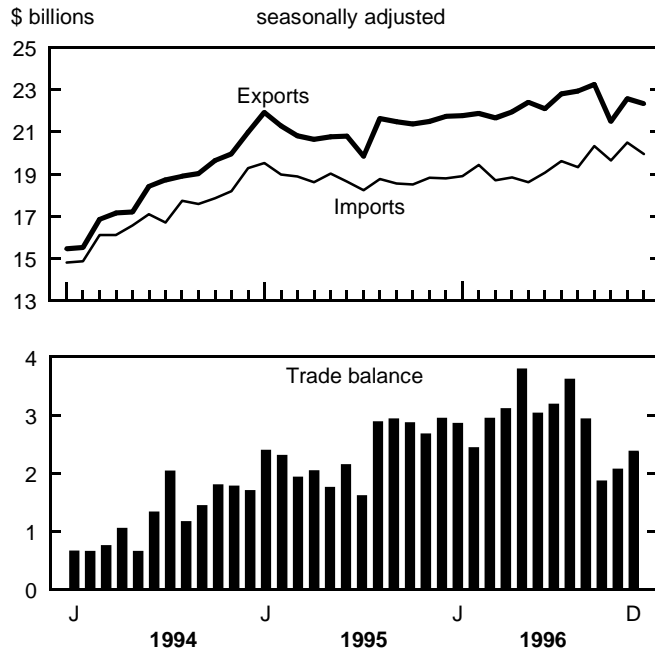
The pace of import growth slowed to 3.4% in 1996, compared with a brisk 11% in 1995. Energy imports contributed the most to the 1996 gain, followed by chemicals and plastics, automotive products, and aircraft. Losing the most ground were metals and metal ores, and drilling machinery. Total imports in 1996 amounted to \$233 billion.

The overall merchandise trade balance for 1996 stood at \$34.1 billion, well above the \$28.4 billion recorded for 1995.

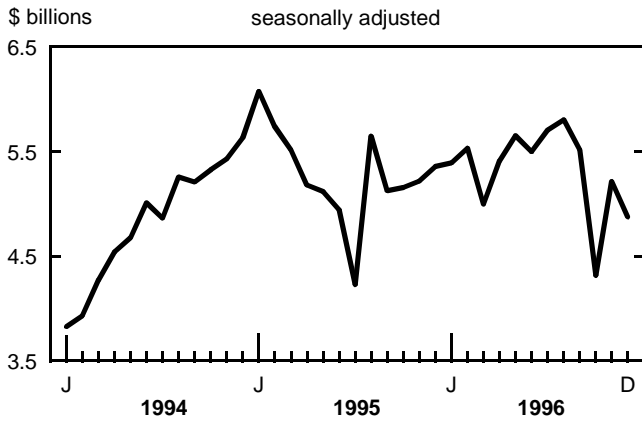
#### Automotive exports dip in December

Automotive exports slipped back 6.6% in December, partially offsetting November's 20.8% rebound in the wake of the General Motors strike. In addition to the impact of the strike, weak U.S. auto sales in the fourth quarter contributed to a decline for both cars and trucks, helping pull down fourth-quarter automotive exports by 15.4%. In 1996, automotive exports advanced 1.0%, a considerably lower rate than the 9.2% recorded in 1995. Although the demand for Canadian-made parts rose 8.0%, car and truck exports declined 0.3% and 3.6% respectively in 1996.

Exports, imports and trade balance



**Exports of automotive products**



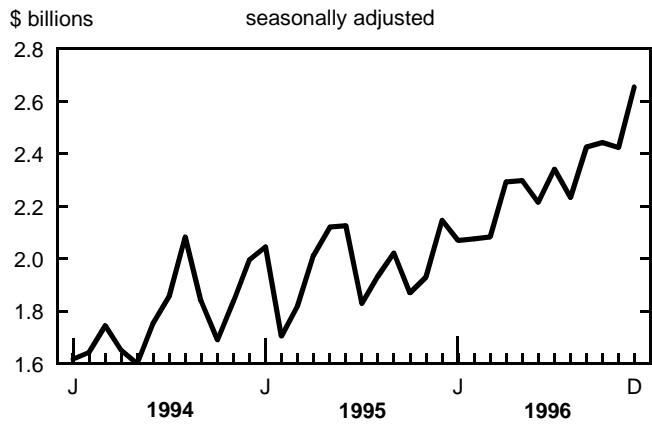
Industrial goods posted a 3.3% drop in December, as a reversal in precious metals and a third monthly decline for chemicals, plastics and fertilizers offset gains in exports of other industrial goods. The trend for industrial goods exports drifted downward in the latter half of the year, as demand from U.S. manufacturers moderated. Despite this loss of momentum, foreign sales of Canadian industrial goods managed a 2.3% increase in 1996 over 1995. Basic fabricated products, precious metals, inorganic chemicals and plastics made the greatest strides, offsetting declines in organic chemicals, copper and aluminum. Falling world prices for these metals in part reflected reduced demand from Europe and Japan.

Sales of machinery and equipment (M&E) declined marginally in December, as exports of industrial machinery and aircraft slipped from relatively high levels in November. Telecommunications companies trimmed their exports as well (for a third straight month), while exports of transportation equipment and farm machinery snapped back from November lows. Over the course of 1996, M&E producers boosted their exports by nearly 10%, in part reflecting robust business investment south of the border. Shipments in 1996 were bolstered the most by telecommunications equipment (+22.7%) and specialized equipment (+15.7%), and record deliveries of aircraft (+20.9%). Every M&E sector except office machines posted gains in 1996.

The greatest offset to December's export slippage came from the energy sector (+9.6%), thanks to further gains in crude petroleum shipments. From the early months of 1996, exports of crude oil and refined petroleum have followed an accelerating upward trend, helping push up energy exports by 17.0% for the year.

Faced with lean inventories, demand for crude among U.S. refiners shot up in 1996, as did prices. Price pressures came from both sides of the Atlantic in the fourth quarter, as North America and Europe scrambled to bolster record-low reserves of fuel oil. Natural gas exports were up nearly a third in 1996, due in part to high prices and U.S. distributors' efforts to replenish gas reserves.

**Exports of energy products**



An upturn in woodpulp exports, as well as increased sales of lumber to Japan, helped bolster forestry exports in December (+2.1%). Meanwhile, newsprint shipments were trimmed as some mill operators extended normal holiday downtime to help shore up inventories. In 1996, forestry exports declined 8.1%, reflecting the lingering effects of a world paper glut that emerged in 1995. In the face of the deluge, prices received by producers of pulp and paper declined significantly, despite a number of shutdowns for inventory control. Elsewhere in forestry, lumber exports grew 13.0% in 1996, as U.S. housing starts reached an eight-year high and supply concerns in the face of the quota system put increased pressure on prices.

In agricultural exports, December movements were mixed. With the exception of wheat, all commodities gained ground over November. Wheat shipments, however, dropped precipitously (-20.1%), reflecting weather-related transportation delays both in the Prairies and at West Coast ports. Compared with 1995, exports of agricultural and fishing products were up 5.6% in 1996. While exports of most grains and fish fell short of 1995 levels, increased sales of all other agricultural goods provided an offset.

### Imports dip in most sectors in December

After rebounding in November, automotive imports sank 7.8% in December due to lower parts purchases. To a degree, moderate imports of parts were a reflection of December's relatively low domestic assembly rates. Meanwhile, imports of cars and trucks picked up speed, as vehicle sales in Canada made further headway. Vehicle imports increased 4.6% in 1996, reflecting the 3.3% growth in new motor vehicle sales.

Machinery imports slipped by 4.7% in December, after setting a record in November. Despite widespread declines, these imports remained above their third-quarter levels. With a few exceptions, the general trend for machinery imports has been upward since July. For the whole of 1996, machinery purchases grew 1.3%.

Imports of energy products slipped 17.8% in December, on the heels of a two-month upsurge. The decline was driven by a lapse in imports of crude oil, which make up 72% of energy product purchases. Despite December's downturn, energy purchases contributed more to import growth in 1996 than any other sector, advancing 25.1%. As with energy exports, the run-up in crude prices in the latter half of 1996 played a major role in this expansion.

Imports of industrial goods declined for the first time in three months in December, down 1.3%, as imports of chemicals, plastics and fabricated materials eased, following their recent growth spurts. Although the trend for industrial imports flattened in the fourth quarter, the total value of purchases grew 1.9% in 1996. Chemicals and plastics, and to a lesser extent fabricated metal products, were at the forefront of the increase.

Consumer imports posted a marginal drop in December (-0.2%), still drifting down from September's high. Growth over 1996 (+1.0%) reflected increased consumer spending in Canada, especially for durable goods like furniture, televisions and cameras.

### Revisions

Merchandise trade data are revised on a continuing basis for every month of the current year. Factors that create the need for revisions include: the late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs documents, replacement of estimated figures with actual values once available, changes to classification of merchandise based on more current information, and updated seasonal adjustments. Revisions to previous years are made at the time of the release of April data.

Revised data for January 1991 to December 1996 can be obtained by accessing the relevant CANSIM matrices.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3611-3616, 3618-3629, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718-3720 and 3887-3913.**

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data, which will be available shortly in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$182). The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data, which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, services transactions, investment income and transfers, are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001-XPB, \$36/\$120). See *How to order publications*.

For more timely receipt of the merchandise trade data, a fax service is available on the morning of release.

For further information on this release, contact Suzie Carpentier (613-951-9647; 1 800 294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. □

**Merchandise trade of Canada**

	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1996	Dec. 1996	Oct. to Nov. 1996	Nov. to Dec. 1996	1995	1996	1995 to 1996	Dec. 1995 to Dec. 1996
seasonally adjusted, \$ current									
	\$ millions			% change		\$ millions		% change	
<b>Principal trading partners</b>									
<b>Exports</b>									
United States	17,371	18,437	18,384	6.1	-0.3	202,038	217,029	7.4	6.2
Japan	798	704	842	-11.8	19.6	11,499	10,478	-8.9	8.6
European Union	1,230	1,307	1,330	6.3	1.8	15,922	15,276	-4.1	-12.6
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	356	425	331	19.4	-22.1	4,337	4,818	11.1	-26.6
All other countries	1,750	1,694	1,436	-3.2	-15.2	20,024	19,549	-2.4	-14.7
Total	21,505	22,567	22,324	4.9	-1.1	253,821	267,151	5.3	2.7
<b>Imports</b>									
United States	14,626	15,424	14,744	5.5	-4.4	168,985	176,368	4.4	1.4
Japan	688	620	578	-9.9	-6.8	8,361	7,178	-14.1	-9.1
European Union	1,734	1,950	1,940	12.5	-0.5	20,007	20,271	1.3	32.3
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	723	708	767	-2.1	8.3	7,815	8,812	12.8	19.5
All other countries	1,877	1,803	1,926	-3.9	6.8	20,263	20,397	0.7	26.1
Total	19,647	20,504	19,955	4.4	-2.7	225,431	233,025	3.4	6.1
<b>Balance</b>									
United States	2,745	3,013	3,640	...	...	33,053	40,661	...	...
Japan	110	84	264	...	...	3,138	3,300	...	...
European Union	-504	-643	-610	...	...	-4,085	-4,995	...	...
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	-367	-283	-436	...	...	-3,478	-3,994	...	...
All other countries	-127	-109	-490	...	...	-239	-848	...	...
Total	1,858	2,063	2,369	...	...	28,390	34,126	...	...
<b>Principal commodity groupings<sup>2</sup></b>									
<b>Exports</b>									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,865	1,721	1,730	-7.7	0.5	19,917	21,034	5.6	-5.0
Energy products	2,443	2,423	2,656	-0.8	9.6	23,562	27,560	17.0	23.8
Forestry products	3,059	2,963	3,024	-3.1	2.1	39,253	36,066	-8.1	-7.0
Industrial goods and materials	3,995	4,141	4,006	3.7	-3.3	48,371	49,468	2.3	0.8
Machinery and equipment	4,830	4,959	4,942	2.7	-0.3	52,297	57,425	9.8	5.1
Automotive products	4,316	5,213	4,869	20.8	-6.6	63,270	63,874	1.0	-9.1
Other consumer goods	705	692	688	-1.8	-0.6	7,111	8,212	15.5	8.9
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	929	913	914	-1.7	0.1	10,426	11,216	7.6	0.2
<b>Imports</b>									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,189	1,204	1,239	1.3	2.9	13,370	14,129	5.7	11.3
Energy products	1,038	1,043	857	0.5	-17.8	8,122	10,160	25.1	33.5
Forestry products	169	170	167	0.6	-1.8	2,038	1,912	-6.2	10.6
Industrial goods and materials	3,991	4,009	3,956	0.5	-1.3	44,981	45,852	1.9	8.2
Machinery and equipment	6,468	6,905	6,583	6.8	-4.7	75,623	76,589	1.3	1.9
Automotive products	4,001	4,487	4,135	12.1	-7.8	50,502	51,465	1.9	-2.4
Other consumer goods	2,192	2,190	2,185	-0.1	-0.2	25,571	25,836	1.0	3.8
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	630	636	584	1.0	-8.2	5,488	6,994	27.4	14.7

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

<sup>2</sup> Figures not adjusted to balance of payments basis.

<sup>3</sup> Mainly low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment and goods returned to country of origin.

## Wholesale trade

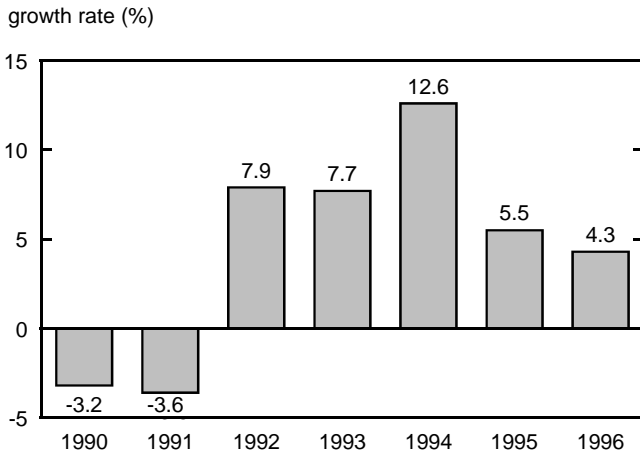
1996 and December 1996

In December, sales by wholesalers were \$21.7 billion, relatively unchanged from the previous month. Inventories grew slightly for the second month in a row, up 0.5% to \$31.9 billion. The inventory-to-sales ratio grew slightly for the second consecutive month to 1.47.

Wholesalers are major players in the Canadian economy. With sales of \$254 billion in 1996, the wholesale industry now represents about 6.4% of Canada's gross domestic product, compared with 5.6% in 1990.

Sales by Canadian wholesalers soared after the 1990-91 recession. Following annual increases of almost 8% in 1992 and 1993, the annual growth rate peaked in 1994 at 12.6%. While total annual sales rose in the following two years, the annual rate of growth slowed considerably, to 5.5% in 1995 and 4.3% in 1996.

### Strong growth rate followed the 1990-91 recession



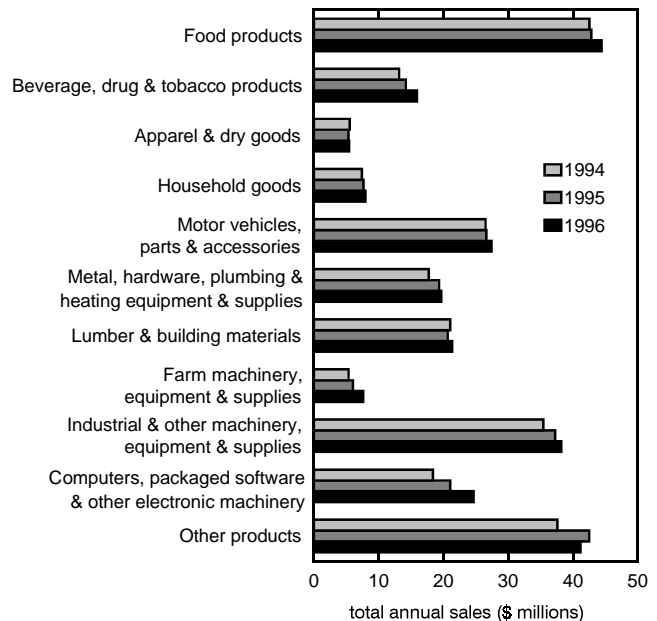
### Sales by Canadian wholesalers continued to climb in 1996

For 1996, the wholesale sector, which is composed of 11 broadly defined trade groups, posted increases in 10 of the 11 groupings. The most prominent growth in dollar terms occurred in the computer and packaged software industry (+17.3%), followed by beverage, drug and tobacco (+12.0%), food (+3.8%) and farm machinery (+26.7%). The only group to experience a decline in 1996 was the other products category

(-3.2%), which is a combination of various industries such as other paper and paper products, seeds and seed processing, industrial and household chemicals, etc., some of which suffered from lower prices in 1996.

Since the beginning of 1995, sales of computer and packaged software have been very volatile, but have generally retained an upward movement. The annual 1996 sales for this group climbed to \$24.7 billion. Products within this trade group are greatly influenced by innovation and improvement, such as pentium computers, electronic alarm systems, telecommunications equipment (cellular phones) and new packaged software.

### Wholesalers in 10 of the 11 trade groups posted increased sales in 1996



### Sales growth by Canadian wholesalers parallels export growth

The growth of sales in the wholesale sector since 1992 is closely linked to the growth in exports. Sales by Canadian wholesalers surged 33% since the end of the 1990-91 recession, while exports swelled 72% over the same period. Reasons accounting for the difference in the rate of growth relate to wholesale sales being affected by the weakness of the domestic market in recent years, even though there have been recent signals pointing to a possible turnaround. Also, the low value of the Canadian dollar and the opening of markets

due to trade agreements between Canada and other countries have stimulated exports from industries other than wholesalers (e.g., manufacturers, services).

### **Provincial wholesale patterns vary**

Since 1992, provincial sales patterns have varied across the country. Wholesalers in the western provinces tended to emerge from the recession first and with annual growth rates stronger than the national average until 1994. In 1995, both Alberta and British Columbia experienced a considerable slowdown in sales (sales actually declined in B.C.), yet sales picked up in 1996. Saskatchewan and Manitoba reported stronger 1995 sales growth than the national average, at 13.2% and 7.0% respectively, largely influenced by sales of farm machinery and equipment. Manitoba wholesalers built upon this momentum in 1996, as sales soared 13.9%, whereas sales for Saskatchewan wholesalers only increased about 1%, reflecting less demand for potash. (Note: these annual figures do not include sales by wholesalers of grain and petroleum.)

Wholesalers in Quebec and Ontario had annual sales that paralleled that of the national average. Ontario wholesalers, however, consistently exhibited stronger annual growth rates than their counterparts in Quebec.

Wholesalers in the Atlantic provinces seemed to feel the effects of the recession longer than the rest of the country. Sales did not pick up until 1993 or 1994. Wholesalers in Nova Scotia experienced strong sales growth from 1993 to 1996. The Hibernia project helped Newfoundland wholesalers maintain steady, though unspectacular, sales since the recession.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.**

The December issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XPB, \$18/\$180) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Catherine Mamay (613-951-9683) or Sylvie Ouellette (613-951-3552), Industry Division. □

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	Dec. 1995	Sept. 1996 <sup>r</sup>	Oct. 1996 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1996 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1996 <sup>p</sup>	Nov. to Dec. 1996	Dec. 1995 to Dec. 1996
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Sales, all trade groups</b>	<b>19,988</b>	<b>21,637</b>	<b>21,952</b>	<b>21,729</b>	<b>21,718</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Food products	3,537	3,749	3,804	3,741	3,714	-0.7	5.0
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,246	1,320	1,331	1,288	1,311	1.8	5.2
Apparel and dry goods	428	453	458	463	456	-1.4	6.5
Household goods	623	680	693	669	711	6.2	14.0
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	2,168	2,364	2,438	2,373	2,345	-1.2	8.2
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,566	1,659	1,709	1,660	1,677	1.0	7.1
Lumber and building materials	1,605	1,862	1,900	1,933	1,909	-1.2	18.9
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	538	673	674	711	700	-1.6	30.0
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,122	3,241	3,208	3,249	3,236	-0.4	3.7
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	1,833	2,169	2,298	2,117	2,190	3.4	19.5
Other products	3,322	3,468	3,440	3,526	3,470	-1.6	4.4
Newfoundland	185	185	184	184	185	0.4	-0.2
Prince Edward Island	46	45	49	47	45	-4.4	-1.7
Nova Scotia	472	475	494	491	490	-0.1	3.9
New Brunswick	289	306	304	289	287	-1.0	-0.7
Quebec	4,538	4,660	4,752	4,676	4,673	-0.1	3.0
Ontario	8,690	9,506	9,518	9,511	9,518	0.1	9.5
Manitoba	688	795	827	803	831	3.5	20.8
Saskatchewan	626	722	746	768	758	-1.2	21.2
Alberta	1,831	2,117	2,144	2,114	2,166	2.5	18.3
British Columbia	2,601	2,801	2,913	2,822	2,742	-2.9	5.4
Yukon	9	11	11	11	10	-6.6	10.8
Northwest Territories	14	13	12	13	13	1.9	-9.0
<b>Inventories, all trade groups</b>	<b>31,829</b>	<b>31,573</b>	<b>31,536</b>	<b>31,750</b>	<b>31,897</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Food products	2,387	2,429	2,408	2,414	2,410	-0.2	1.0
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,501	1,599	1,624	1,625	1,647	1.4	9.7
Apparel and dry goods	1,037	1,022	1,031	1,038	1,041	0.3	0.3
Household goods	1,500	1,471	1,415	1,387	1,362	-1.9	-9.2
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	4,234	3,911	3,867	3,814	3,814	0.0	-9.9
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,833	2,688	2,721	2,665	2,846	6.8	0.5
Lumber and building materials	3,116	3,041	3,016	3,124	3,087	-1.2	-1.0
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,602	1,600	1,623	1,712	1,731	1.1	8.1
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,037	7,094	7,082	7,185	7,137	-0.7	1.4
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	1,818	1,946	1,966	2,014	2,079	3.2	14.3
Other products	4,763	4,773	4,782	4,772	4,744	-0.6	-0.4

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Export and import price indexes

December 1996

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1986=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to December 1996 for the 5 commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1986=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to December 1996. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only standard international trade classification (SITC) section indexes.

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

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3611-3616, 3618-3629, 3651 and 3685.**

The December 1996 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$182) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division. ■

### Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending February 7, 1997

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending February 7 increased 7.2% to 4.4 million tonnes from the same period of 1996. The number of cars loaded rose 5.0%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 281 000 tonnes, a 3.2% advance from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures showed a 13.4% increase.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 6.5% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 22.8 million tonnes, a 4.1% decrease from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528; fax: 613-951-0579), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

### Industrial monitor on CD-ROM

February 1997

*Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* offers data on 165 manufacturing industries and 33 non-manufacturing industries, covering construction, wholesale and retail trade. This extremely current information is offered on 24 sectors and can be purchased by individual sector or as a complete package.

For each industry, up to 50 variables are organized in the Table Viewer in five table types that include supply, demand, price, labour/employment, and investment/capital stock. The underlying database is also available via the Series Browser for more extensive time series analysis and inter-industry comparisons.

*Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is linked to the *Standard industrial classification manual*, provides "pop-up" textual descriptions for every series, and embodies consistent data conventions — all features designed to make analysis easy and accurate. State-of-the-art functions offer searching, graphing, viewing, exporting and transforming capabilities, providing you with the exact information you require quickly and simply.

The February 1997 issue of *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is now available. The full package (15F0015XCB) costs \$3,000, a savings of more than 40% over the annual subscription price of \$250 per individual sector. You will receive an updated CD-ROM once each month. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, or to request a demonstration CD-ROM, contact Milt Ingalls (613-951-9060), Industry Measures and Analysis Division, or your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

### Stocks of frozen poultry meat

February 1, 1997 (preliminary)

Data on stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage as of February 1 are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.**

For further information on this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-2860), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Oil pipeline transport, November 1996**

**Catalogue number 55-001-XPB**

(Canada: \$11/\$110; United States: US\$14/US\$132;  
other countries: US\$16/US\$154).

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**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Economic dependency profiles, 1992** 2  
Canada's high level of transfers for the 1992-93 year received an average \$15.83 in transfer payments for every \$100 of employment income. That was an increase of almost 10% from 1991 in the rate of transfer payments to employment income.
- **Monthly survey of manufacturing, April 1994** 6  
After five months of lackluster performance, the index of manufacturers' shipments grew to \$27.7 billion, up 1.7% in April after a 2.1% surge in March. The backlog of unfilled orders has increased by \$4.5 billion in the latest five months.
- **Industrial product price index, May 1994** 8  
Driven by higher prices for processed raw materials, the year-over-year change in prices for manufacturing goods jumped to +4.3% in May, the highest rate among members of the G7.
- **Raw materials price index, May 1994** 12  
The index rose 3.2% in May. Crude oil prices rose up 10.2% and were the major contributor to the change.

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