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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Industrial Product Price Index, 1999 and December 1999**

The 12-month increase in the Industrial Product Price Index hit a four-year high in December on the heels of strong price increases for petroleum and non-ferrous primary metals. Prices for industrial products increased 3.9% compared with December 1998, the largest year-over-year gain since December 1995.

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- **Raw Materials Price Index, 1999 and December 1999**

Surging oil prices pushed up the year-over-year increase in raw materials prices in December to their highest level on record. Manufacturers paid 33.9% more for raw materials in December 1999 than they did in December 1998, the strongest rate of increase since prices for the Raw Materials Price Index were first recorded in 1981.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial Product Price Index

1999 (annual) and December 1999 (preliminary)

The 12-month increase in the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) hit a four-year high in December on the heels of strong price increases for petroleum and non-ferrous primary metals.

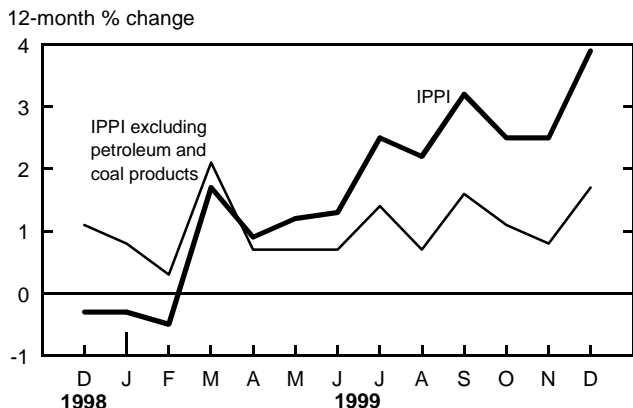
Prices for industrial products increased 3.9% compared with December 1998, the largest year-over-year gain since December 1995.

The index last month stood at 124.1 (1992=100), up from November's revised figure of 123.3.

The rising value of the Canadian dollar actually tempered the year-over-year increase in the IPPI. If the exchange rate had been the same in December 1999 as in December 1998, the IPPI would have increased by a more substantial 5.0%.

Both petroleum and non-ferrous primary metals showed marked gains on a 12-month basis, pushing up the total IPPI. A stronger Canadian dollar and declining motor vehicle prices dampened these increases.

Petroleum product prices push up IPPI



December 1999: Slight gain in prices

After two months of remaining virtually unchanged, the Industrial Product Price Index gained 0.6% in December compared with November. Prices for motor vehicles, petroleum products and meat were the major contributors to this increase.

Motor vehicle prices advanced 1.1% in December compared with November, boosted by a stronger U.S.

Note to readers

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time when a good leaves the plant and the time when the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale and retail costs.

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper and wood products. A rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar therefore affects the IPPI. A 1.0% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar has been estimated to change the IPPI by approximately 0.3%.

dollar. The exchange rate has a substantial impact on motor vehicle prices given that most cars built in Canada are destined for the United States, with prices quoted in American dollars. However, on a 12-month basis, motor vehicle prices were down 3.0%, pulled down by the effect of the fall in the value of the U.S. dollar.

Prices for the refined petroleum product industry continued their upward trend, gaining a further 2.3% in December and leaving prices 49.9% above December 1998 levels. Crude oil inventories dwindled further as members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) remained committed to production cuts, even in the face of rising prices. Crude oil prices, as measured by the Raw Materials Price Index, soared a record 142.9% between December 1998 and December 1999.

Meat product prices gained 3.1% in December compared with November, primarily due to a 10.7% climb in pork prices. For the most part, gains were made in the domestic pork market (+13.5%) but they were not sufficient to recover all the ground lost in November. Overall, meat product prices ended the year 10.2% higher than in December 1998.

Primary metal products edged up 0.3% in December as weaker prices for aluminum, iron and steel products dampened gains for nickel products as well as copper and copper alloy products.

Primary copper product prices (+4.4%) benefited from strong industrial production in the United States as well as improvements in demand from Europe and the Far East. Nickel product prices continued to move ahead (+1.2%) in December to stand 99.3% above their recent low in December 1998. A recently resolved labour dispute in Manitoba had tightened supplies at a time of accelerating demand.

Certain commodities, specifically motor vehicles, lumber, pulp, newsprint and certain metals, often have their prices quoted in U.S. dollars. Consequently, exchange rate fluctuations have an impact on their contribution to the IPPI.

If the exchange rate had remained unchanged from November to December, the index would have increased by half as much (+0.3%) as it did.

Annual average highlights: Petroleum prices rebound

For 1999 as a whole, manufacturers received an average 1.8% more for their products than in 1998. This was the largest average annual increase in industrial prices since 1995, when they rose an average 7.4%. The increase in 1999 was driven primarily by rising fuel prices and to a lesser extent by higher prices for lumber and motor vehicles. This contrasts with 1998 when refined petroleum and lumber products were the two groups whose prices lost the most ground. (Annual indexes are obtained by averaging the indexes for each month of the calendar year. The percentage changes calculated from such averages are referred to as annual changes.)

Prices for the refined petroleum industry were on the rebound throughout most of the year, climbing an average 14.9% from 1998. The increase reflected a 36.5% jump in crude oil prices.

Petroleum prices languished throughout much of 1998 as the industry was plagued with oversupply problems. Responding to these conditions, OPEC committed to significant production cuts in March 1999. For the most part, member countries have complied with the cuts. Accordingly, prices have been rising steadily, leaving December's price for the refined petroleum industry 50.8% above the recent low in February 1999 and surpassing the previous peak in January 1997.

This upward trend of petroleum product prices has had a substantial impact on the overall IPPI. If petroleum and coal products had been excluded, the 1999 annual average increase would have been a more modest 1.1% instead of 1.8%.

Turnaround for lumber prices

After a sustained slump throughout part of 1997 and much of 1998, lumber prices were on an upswing throughout most of 1999. Annual lumber prices advanced an average 12.3% in 1999, on the heels

of an 11.3% drop in 1998. The lumber industry was operating on an average of 90% of capacity in the first three quarters of 1999 compared with 83% for the first three quarters of 1998.

The turnaround was concentrated in softwood lumber, where prices climbed 12.9% in 1999. A strong North American housing market fostered much of these gains. Builders are the biggest lumber users and demand from this source has been growing. In the United States, housing starts increased 3% in 1999 compared with 1998.

In contrast, hardwood prices fell 2.7% in 1999. In general, hardwood lumber prices were mostly losing ground until July, after which they gained momentum.

In both cases, export prices were stronger than domestic prices.

Motor vehicle prices rise

Motor vehicle prices rose an average 1.7% in 1999 as consumer confidence translated into robust North American vehicle sales. American consumers bought a record number of cars while Canadian sales approached levels last seen in the late 1980s.

Annual truck prices gained 2.9% in 1999, bolstered in part by the popularity of sport-utility vehicles. The gains for automobile prices were more modest (+0.8%).

In both cases, domestic prices were outpaced by export market prices. This coincides with a growing volume of exports. Exports of automotive products, as measured by Canadian international merchandise trade statistics, gained 26.1% in the first 11 months of 1999 compared with the same period in 1998.

Annual motor vehicle prices have been climbing throughout the 1990s, leaving 1999 prices 55.6% higher than a decade ago. Over the same period, the U.S. dollar gained 25.4% in value vis-à-vis the Canadian dollar, pushing up prices for most motor vehicles, which have prices quoted in U.S. dollars.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

The December 1999 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of February. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. □

Industrial product price indexes (1992=100)

	Relative importance	Dec. 1998	Nov. 1999 ^r	Dec. 1999 ^p	Dec. 1998 to Dec. 1999	Nov. to Dec. 1999
					% change	
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	100.00	119.4	123.3	124.1	3.9	0.6
Intermediate goods ¹	59.28	118.1	124.1	124.8	5.7	0.6
First-stage intermediate goods ²	7.91	113.8	132.7	133.8	17.6	0.8
Second-stage intermediate goods ³	51.37	118.7	122.7	123.4	4.0	0.6
Finished goods⁴	40.72	121.2	122.2	123.0	1.5	0.7
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	112.8	114.3	114.7	1.7	0.3
Capital equipment	10.21	126.9	124.7	125.5	-1.1	0.6
All other finished goods	20.13	122.7	125.0	125.9	2.6	0.7
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	115.3	119.8	121.7	5.6	1.6
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	112.1	109.8	109.3	-2.5	-0.5
Beverages	2.12	114.7	116.9	116.9	1.9	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	135.5	139.7	139.7	3.1	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	113.4	116.1	115.9	2.2	-0.2
Textile products	1.82	109.8	108.0	108.1	-1.5	0.1
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	109.9	110.1	110.1	0.2	0.0
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	136.1	143.9	145.2	6.7	0.9
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	115.2	116.4	116.4	1.0	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.65	127.6	132.6	133.5	4.6	0.7
Printing and publishing	3.05	132.8	135.5	136.1	2.5	0.4
Primary metal products	7.58	116.8	126.3	126.7	8.5	0.3
Metal fabricated products	4.11	123.2	123.8	123.9	0.6	0.1
Machinery and equipment	4.08	114.6	115.2	115.7	1.0	0.4
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	135.1	130.4	131.6	-2.6	0.9
Electrical and communications products	6.03	108.2	106.6	106.9	-1.2	0.3
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	113.1	115.8	115.8	2.4	0.0
Petroleum and coal products ⁵	6.01	86.7	126.9	129.8	49.7	2.3
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	113.3	119.4	119.2	5.2	-0.2
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	118.1	119.5	119.6	1.3	0.1
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	110.1	118.4	124.5	13.1	5.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Intermediate goods are used principally to produce other goods.

² First-stage intermediate goods are used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.

³ Second-stage intermediate goods are most commonly used to produce final goods.

⁴ Finished goods are most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.

⁵ This index is estimated for the current month.

Raw Materials Price Index

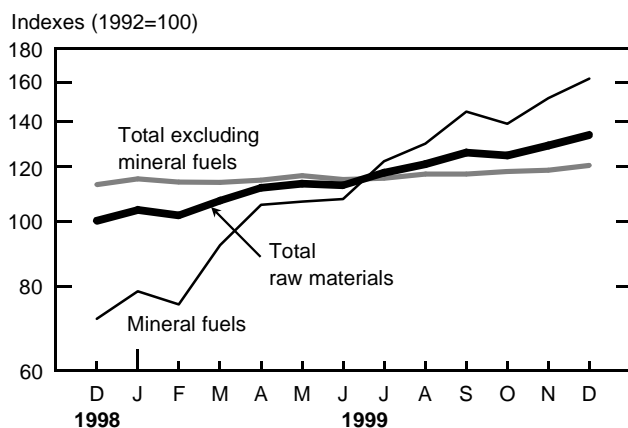
1999 (annual) and December 1999 (preliminary)

Surging oil prices pushed up December's year-over-year increase in raw materials prices to their highest level on record.

Manufacturers paid 33.9% more for raw materials in December 1999 than they did in December 1998, the strongest rate of increase since prices for the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) were first recorded in 1981.

Crude oil prices, which have been rising since March 1999, had a solid impact on this year-over-year increase. If the mineral fuels category, almost all of which is crude oil, were excluded, the increase in raw materials prices would have been just 6.8%. Crude oil prices rose 142.9% between December 1998 and December 1999.

Crude oil prices at a high in 1999



The Raw Materials Price Index stood at 134.0 in December (1992=100), up from the revised November figure of 129.3.

On a month-to-month basis, the index gained 3.6% in December compared with November. Crude oil prices increased 7.3% during the month. Higher prices for aluminum materials, hogs, copper, nickel, cattle, coffee, logs and raw tobacco were somewhat offset by lower prices for grains, oilseeds, unrefined sugar, pulpwood and gold.

Annual average: First overall price increase in three years

For 1999 as a whole, manufacturers paid an average of 7.9% more for their raw materials than in 1998. This followed two straight years of declines in the RMPI, which fell on average 14.5% in 1998 and 1.6% in 1997.

Note to readers

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Also, unlike the Industrial Product Price Index, the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

Annual indexes are obtained by averaging the indexes for the 12 months of the calendar year. The percentage changes calculated from such averages are referred to as annual changes.

Again, crude oil played a major role throughout the year. If mineral fuels were excluded from the total, raw material prices in 1999 would have decreased an average of 1.1% from 1998, instead of increasing 7.9%. Crude oil prices rose an average 36.5% in 1999.

Hog prices, which had reached very low levels at the end of 1998, also recovered last year, increasing more than 2.5 times between December 1998 and December 1999. As a result, on average, hog prices were 0.8% higher in 1999 than they were in 1998.

In addition, wood prices rose an average of 3.4% in 1999 compared with 1998, the first annual positive price change since 1995. An average 5.3% increase in log prices was offset somewhat by lower pulpwood prices (-2.7%). Stronger housing starts in Canada and the United States, and growing log exports to Japan were mainly responsible for the increase in log prices.

Annual change in raw material prices

	1999 ^P	1998	1997
	%		
Raw Materials Price Index	7.9	-14.5	-1.6
Mineral fuels	33.8	-25.3	-3.9
Vegetable products	-12.7	-10.2	-5.3
Animals and animal products	2.2	-6.9	1.7
Wood	3.5	-14.6	-0.9
Ferrous materials	-10.7	-1.3	0.1
Non-ferrous metals	-1.2	-13.4	-1.4
Non-metallic minerals	2.3	3.5	3.1
Total excluding mineral fuels	-1.1	-10.0	-0.7

^P Preliminary data. Revised data will be published in June 2000.

Grains, oilseeds, unrefined sugar led average decline in vegetable prices

Price declines in grains and oilseeds led an average 12.7% drop in the price index for vegetable products in 1999.

Prices fell for grains (-9.0%), oilseeds (-22.1%), unrefined sugar (-23.8%) and coffee (-21.7%). The only offsetting factor was a 13.7% increase in prices for fresh potatoes.

Grain and oilseed prices have been taking a beating during the past few years. On an annual

basis, since 1996, grain prices have declined 36.5% and oilseed prices 27.9%. It is difficult to foresee any short-term relief for these commodities as inventories are high, farmers are experiencing record-breaking crops, and the export market is fiercely competitive.

Coffee prices plunged during the first nine months of 1999, and then roared back during the last quarter due to poor weather conditions in Brazil. However, on an annual basis, coffee prices in 1999 were 47.3% lower than the record price year of 1997.

In 1999, unrefined sugar was subject to huge inventories, record crops and market restraints from Russia, the world's largest sugar importer. As a result, prices were near seven-year lows.

Non-ferrous metal prices down as gold, copper decline

Non-ferrous metal prices declined an average 1.2% in 1999 compared with 1998. Copper prices were 3.3% lower on average, which was mainly due to significantly higher worldwide inventories and lacklustre demand.

Gold prices fell 5.0% as world banks decided that gold no longer held the same store of value as other potential investments. As well, the International Monetary Fund also decided to reduce its gold holdings.

Certain metals, particularly those associated with the steel and stainless steel industry, were subject to higher annual prices in 1999. Zinc prices increased 2.4% on average. Prices of nickel, used

primarily in the stainless steel industry, shot up 30.4% on average.

As well, prices of aluminum materials, used more and more in the motor vehicle industry, increased an average 2.6% on an annual basis in 1999. Between December 1998 and December 1999, aluminum materials prices jumped 26.1%.

In contrast, prices of ferrous materials declined an average 10.7% in 1999 compared with 1998. Prices for iron ore concentrates fell an average 7.9%, while those for iron and steel scrap fell 12.8%.

However, indications are that the steel industry will remain strong in 2000. Prices of iron and steel scrap heavily favoured by mini-mills recovered substantially during the last eight months of 1999. The International Iron and Steel Institute estimates that world crude steel demand increased a marginal 0.8% in 1999, and should increase almost 3% in 2000. Recent reports of higher steel prices in 2000 could add upward pressure to prices of iron and steel scrap and iron ore concentrates.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1879.

The December 1999 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of February. See *How to order publications*.

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Raw materials price indexes (1992=100)

	Relative importance	December 1998	November 1999 ^r	December 1999 ^p	December 1998 to December 1999 % change	November to December 1999
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	100.00	100.1	129.3	134.0	33.9	3.6
Mineral fuels	31.47	71.7	151.9	162.4	126.5	6.9
Vegetable products	9.41	126.8	114.0	112.8	-11.0	-1.1
Animals and animal products	24.41	101.4	113.1	116.1	14.5	2.7
Wood	14.88	130.5	135.8	136.6	4.7	0.6
Ferrous materials	3.17	116.5	120.6	122.7	5.3	1.7
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	104.8	113.7	118.2	12.8	4.0
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	116.7	119.1	119.1	2.1	0.0
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	68.53	113.2	118.9	120.9	6.8	1.7

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Crude oil and natural gas

November 1999 (preliminary)

Crude oil production was 1.4% higher in November compared with the same period a year earlier, the first increase after 12 consecutive monthly year-over-year decreases.

Production in Alberta continued to decline in November 1999 but at a much lower rate. The drop in Alberta was more than offset by production increases at Hibernia, which reached 7.0% of total Canadian crude oil production in November 1999.

The year-to-date production of crude oil declined 5.4%. This reflects decisions by Canadian producers to curtail production due to weak prices in 1998 and the first half of 1999, rather than lower demand by U.S. refineries. Despite the decline in crude oil exports, Canada remains one of the major suppliers of crude oil to the United States along with Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

Natural gas production was up 0.5% from November 1998. Domestic sales fell 11.4% due to unseasonably warm weather in November 1999 and lower demand for natural gas by the industrial sector. Exports, which accounted for 55.8% of the total production, continued to increase, up 7.4% from November 1998.

Year-to-date exports of natural gas were up 5.5% over the same period in 1998 while year-to-date Canadian sales rose 1.5%. Sales to the residential and commercial sectors increased largely due to the unseasonably cold weather in the first half of 1999. The sales increase in the industrial sector was due primarily to higher demand for natural gas by electric utilities and the chemical industry.

Crude oil and natural gas

	Nov. 1998	Nov. 1999 ^P	Nov. 1998 to Nov. 1999
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	10 367.6	10 513.3	1.4
Exports	6 268.4	6 706.3	7.0
Imports ²	3 710.4	4 027.9	8.6
Refinery receipts	7 828.1	7 706.2	-1.6
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	13 483.7	13 545.5	0.5
Exports	7 039.9	7 561.5	7.4
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	6 238.6	5 529.3	-11.4
	Jan. to Nov. 1998	Jan. to Nov. 1999	Jan.-Nov. 1998 to Jan.-Nov. 1999
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	117 689.9	111 389.8	-5.4
Exports	71 238.5	65 746.8	-7.7
Imports ²	41 029.7	43 451.1	5.9
Refinery receipts	87 501.4	88 560.5	1.2
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	146 161.6	148 017.8	1.3
Exports	81 485.8	85 972.1	5.5
Canadian domestic sales ⁴	56 885.5	57 743.6	1.5

^P Preliminary data.

¹ Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates due to timing differences and the inclusion in the ITD data of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export.

³ Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

The November 1999 issue of *Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas* (26-006-XPB, \$19/\$186) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Gérard Desjardins (613-951-4368; desjger@statcan.ca) or Michel Palardy (613-951-7174; palardy@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

November 1999 (preliminary)

November sales by the group of large retailers reached \$6.6 billion, a 4.4% increase over November 1998. However, changes in the composition of the group affected the year-over-year variation. Most of Eaton's stores were closed in November and a significant number of food stores that were included in the November 1998 estimates have now left the group. (All data in this report are unadjusted for seasonality.)

With the exception of the clothing, footwear and accessories category (-1.1%), all major product lines sold by the group of large retailers recorded year-over-year sales increases in November.

Health and personal care products had the largest percentage sales increase at 13.3%. Within this category, most of the growth was due to increased sales of prescription (+30.2% or +\$31.4 million) and over-the-counter drugs (+25.7% or +\$15.0 million).

Hardware and lawn and garden products sold by the group of large retailers also had strong sales in November (+11.0%). Within this category, the largest percentage increases were due to higher sales of cut flowers and potted plants (+31.6% or +\$3.2 million), outdoor power equipment (+27.7% or +\$4.1 million), and other hardware and building products (+14.2% or +\$2.0 million). Sales of hardware supplies rose 9.0% or \$1.1 million, while sales of hand and power tools were up 8.8% or \$5.9 million.

Home furnishings and electronics sales by the group of large retailers rose 8.6% in November compared with November 1998. Artwork and other home decorating products had the biggest percentage jump in sales (+21.0% or +\$29.6 million), followed by telephones and home office electronics (+15.1% or +\$6.0 million), major

appliances (+14.6% or +\$13.3 million), and computer software (+14.4% or +\$4.8 million).

Sales of housewares by the group of large retailers recorded the fourth largest sales increase in November, advancing 8.3% over the same period in 1998. Household cleaning supplies (+13.5% or +\$17.3 million) contributed most of the growth in this category. Sales of other non-electric household supplies such as brooms, flashlights and batteries were up 13.8% or \$8.9 million. Tableware sales for the group of large retailers dropped 2.8% (-\$2.5 million).

The year-over-year decrease (-1.1% or -\$16.0 million) in sales of clothing, footwear and accessories by the group of large retailers may be attributable to the restructuring within the department store sector and the unseasonably warm temperatures recorded in November. However, it is interesting to note that sales of women's clothing increased (+1.2% or +\$7.5 million), while sales of men's clothing dropped (-3.8% or -\$16.2 million) during November.

Within the group of large retailers, the top commodity groups with year-over-year percentage increases in November were cut flowers and indoor potted plants (+31.6%), prescription drugs (+30.2%), automotive fuels (+29.3%), outdoor power equipment (+27.7%), over-the-counter drugs (+25.7%), hunting, fishing and camping equipment (+23.9%), and artwork and other home decorating products, including Christmas decorations (+21.0%).

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549 or 1 877 421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Catherine Draper (613-951-0669; drapcat@statcan.ca), Retail Commodity Section, Distributive Trades Division. □

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	October 1998	October 1999 ^r	October 1998 to October 1999 unadjusted	November 1998	November 1999 ^p	November 1998 to November 1999
	\$ 000,000		% change	\$ 000,000		% change
Commodities						
Food and beverages	2,176	2,087	-4.1	1,975	1,999	1.2
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,259	1,312	4.1	1,442	1,426	-1.1
Home furnishings and electronics	806	903	11.9	1,005	1,092	8.6
Health and personal care products	414	503	21.3	426	483	13.3
Housewares	277	301	8.4	284	308	8.3
Sporting and leisure goods	273	283	3.9	384	404	5.4
Hardware and lawn and garden products	182	190	4.3	184	204	11.0
All other goods and services	608	648	6.5	607	666	9.7
Total	5,997	6,226	3.8	6,306	6,581	4.4

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Local government finance: Assets and liabilities

December 31, 1997

At December 31, 1997, the net debt (defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets) of local governments reached \$20.5 billion, down \$0.5 billion (-2.4%) over December 31, 1996. The financial assets stood at \$35.0 billion, while total liabilities reached \$55.5 billion.

These statistics are based on the actual data released in the local governments annual reports as well as provincial governments' reports dated December 31, 1997, and converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because of differing policies and structures. The FMS adjusts data from governments' Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. In other words, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements. A reconciliation statement of the two presentations is available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3198 and 3241-3253.

Data are available through custom and special tabulation. For more information on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767; jo-anne.thibault@statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact A.J. Gareau (613-951-1826) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division.

Cereals and oilseeds review

November 1999

Data from the November issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses. This month features a new table on special crop prices.

The December situation report, an overview of current market conditions, both domestic and international, is also included in the November issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; les.macartney@statcan.ca) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856; karen.gray@statcan.ca), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division.

Electric power selling price indexes

September to December 1999

Electric power selling price indexes (1992=100) for September to December 1999 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1880.

The December 1999 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available at the end of February. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality for this release, contact Louise Chainé (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539), Client Service Unit, Prices Division. ■

Innovation in business service industries

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Data on innovation in computer services, consulting engineering services and other scientific and technical service industries are now available. These data provide information on the rates of product and process innovation and organizational change.

To order data, contact Yvonne Tremblay (613-951-2596). To enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Daood Hamdani (613-951-3490; daood.hamdani@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

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Infomat - A weekly review, January 28, 2000
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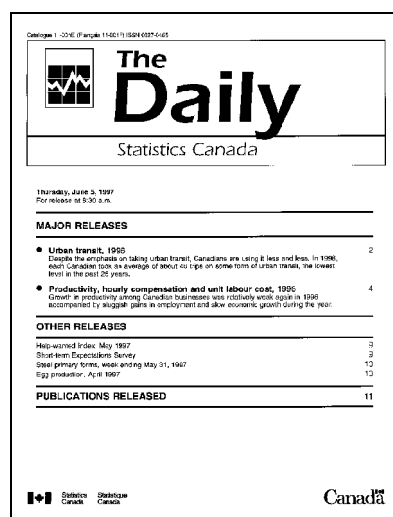
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The Daily, January 28, 2000

RELEASE DATES: JANUARY 31 TO FEBRUARY 4

January 31 to February 4
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
31	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	November 1999
1	An overview of the 1999 labour market	1999
1	Business Conditions Survey: Manufacturing industries	January 2000
2	Field crop reporting series: December 31 grain stocks	1999
2	Help-wanted Index	January 1999
3	Estimates of Labour Income	November 1999
4	Labour Force Survey	January 2000
4	Building permits	December 1999
