

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, February 18, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

---

## MAJOR RELEASES

---

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, December 1999** 3  
Canada's annual trade balance with the rest of the world reached almost \$34 billion in 1999, its highest level since 1996, as exports during the year grew at almost twice the pace of imports. However, in December alone, imports increased at a faster pace than exports, reducing the monthly trade balance.

(continued on following page)

### Labour force historical review on CD-ROM

1999

The 1999 *Labour force historical review on CD-ROM* is an easy-to-use tool that lets you discover labour market patterns or trends in seconds. This annual product is a comprehensive database of Labour Force Survey estimates, containing thousands of cross-classified data series and spanning over two decades from 1976 to 1999. Monthly and annual average series are available on a wide range of subjects, including labour force status by demographic, education and family characteristics, trends in the labour markets of metropolitan cities, economic regions, industry and occupation estimates and much more.

This year's CD includes the new, revised estimates released earlier this month (February 1 in *The Daily* and in CANSIM). This revision reflects population counts based on the 1996 Census and a new method of estimation, resulting in more efficient estimates of month-to-month change as well as improving the quality of monthly level estimates. All Labour Force Survey historical estimates have been revised back to 1976.

The 1999 *Labour Force Historical Review on CD-ROM* (71F0004XCB, \$195) is now available. LAN and bulk prices are available upon request. To order this edition, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or order via e-mail at [order@statcan.ca](mailto:order@statcan.ca).

For more information about the product, contact Marc Lévesque (613-951-2793), or refer to Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)).



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

---

## **OTHER RELEASES**

---

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Export and import price indexes, December 1999                        | 6 |
| Crushing statistics, January 2000                                     | 6 |
| Construction Union Wage Rate Index, January 2000                      | 6 |
| Small for-hire and owner operators of motor carriers of freight, 1997 | 6 |
| Selected financial indexes, January 2000                              | 7 |

---

## **PUBLICATIONS RELEASED**

---

8

---

## **REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES**

---

9

---

## **RELEASE DATES: February 21 to 25**

---

10

---

## MAJOR RELEASES

### Canadian international merchandise trade

December 1999

Canada's annual trade balance with the rest of the world reached almost \$34 billion in 1999, its highest level since 1996, as exports during the year grew at almost twice the pace of imports.

For 1999 as a whole, Canada exported \$360.6 billion in goods, up 11.9% from the previous year. The increased domestic capacity in the automotive industry and high demand for Canadian-built models in the United States explained half of this annual growth. The second biggest contributor was television and telecommunications equipment. Imports rose 7.7% to \$326.7 billion.

The resulting trade balance was the third highest on record, behind the levels of \$42 billion in 1996 and \$36 billion in 1995.

However, in December alone, imports increased at a faster pace than exports, reducing the monthly trade balance to \$2.7 billion, compared with a revised \$3.2 billion in November.

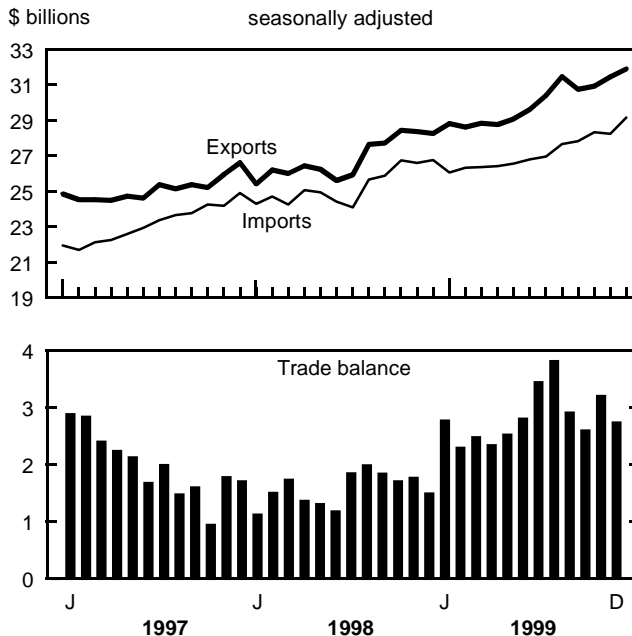
Exports went up 1.4% to \$31.9 billion in December, the third consecutive monthly increase. This was mainly the result of robust sales of trucks, automobiles, plastics and crude oil to the United States, as well as forestry product exports to Asia. The increase was tempered somewhat as exports of nuclear and aeronautic technology returned to more normal levels.

Strong performances in the automotive, construction and computer industries stimulated imports in those sectors, helping to boost imports 3.2% to \$29.2 billion in December. In particular, imports of semi-conductors, measuring instruments, computer parts, automotive hardware and Italian ceramics rose sharply.

#### Note to readers

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

#### Exports, imports and trade balance



#### Truck exports were up in December

Record auto sales in the United States helped drive up Canadian truck exports, which rose 6.8% in December to end up 20.6% higher than in December 1998. More modest gains were posted by exports of automobiles (+1.9%) and auto parts (+0.1%) in December.

Strong exports of minerals, gold, plastic and semi-finished iron products pushed the entire industrial goods sector up 2.7%. Japan's economic recovery coincided with an increased demand for copper, while the strong U.S. economy buoyed Canadian exports of semi-finished iron products and plastics south of the border.

Forestry product exports rose for the fourth consecutive month. Higher pulp exports to Japan were volume-driven, in conjunction with a slight price recovery. Virtually all of the increase in lumber exports went to Japan.

Energy exports also rose. After two consecutive monthly declines, exports of petroleum and coal products recovered. Although prices had some impact, the increase in crude oil exports was also volume-driven due to stockpiling by U.S. refineries in the event of Y2K problems. Natural gas exports continued their downward trend, falling 21.1% between September and December 1999. However, in December, natural gas exports were 30.9% above their level a year earlier, mainly due to higher prices.

Extremely low aircraft exports in December, as well as a decline in exports of nuclear technology following last month's steep increase, helped drive down machinery and equipment exports by 2.7% compared with November. However, strong exports of telecommunications equipment partially reduced that decline.

### **All import sectors were up, with the exception of energy**

Despite a marked 2.3% increase in December to \$9.5 billion, imports of machinery and equipment were about \$200 million below October levels. Strong imports of computer parts, semi-conductors and control instruments were reduced by a sharp drop in aircraft imports. With the near completion of Canadian airline fleet renewals, entries of new aircraft from Europe were down.

Imports of automotive products were up slightly, due chiefly to the 7.5% increase in imports of parts. Although automobile imports dropped 9.4% in December, they were still more than 9% higher than a year earlier, as Canada recorded its second best year for car sales. Truck imports increased 18.4% during the same period, and truck sales posted the highest gains in the industry.

Imports of automotive hardware, plastic and inorganic products as well as Italian ceramics drove up imports in the industrial goods sector.

After dropping sharply last month, imports of agriculture and fishing products rose 3.0% in December. Higher coffee imports were mainly the result of price increases caused by inclement weather in Brazil. Millennium celebrations also resulted in higher imports of fresh fruits and vegetables as well as alcohol.

Energy imports remained virtually unchanged in December. The increase in crude oil imports was completely offset by the sharp drop in jet fuel and coal imports. Imports of jet fuel fell solely because of the extremely high level imported last month. Coal imports declined, as aluminium plants did not import any coal in December.

### **Revisions**

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. 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 seasonal adjustments. Consult the appropriate CANSIM matrices for revised data.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685-3699, 3701-3711, 3713, 3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.**

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188 or 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141). The publication 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-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order publications*.

Readers may obtain merchandise trade data on a more timely basis by fax on the morning of release.

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

## Merchandise trade

|   | Nov.<br>1999 <sup>r</sup> | Dec.<br>1999 | Nov.<br>to<br>Dec.<br>1999 | Dec.<br>to<br>Dec.<br>1999 | Jan.<br>to<br>Dec.<br>1998 | Jan.<br>to<br>Dec.<br>1999 | Jan.-Dec.<br>1998<br>to<br>Jan.-Dec.<br>1999 |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| seasonally adjusted, \$ current         |                           |              |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |
|   | \$ millions               |              | % change                   |                            | \$ millions                |                            | % change                                     |
| <b>Principal trading partners</b>       |                           |              |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |
| <b>Exports</b>                          |                           |              |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |
| United States                           | 26,940                    | 27,287       | 1.3                        | 13.3                       | 269,496                    | 309,665                    | 14.9   |
| Japan                                   | 776                       | 749          | -3.5                       | -3.7                       | 9,513                      | 9,211                      | -3.2   |
| European Union                          | 1,618                     | 1,597        | -1.3                       | 8.0                        | 17,796                     | 18,205                     | 2.3  |
| Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>       | 672                       | 758          | 12.8                       | 19.0                       | 7,511                      | 7,155                      | -4.7   |
| All other countries                     | 1,440                     | 1,501        | 4.2                        | 17.7                       | 17,943                     | 16,364                     | -8.8   |
| Total                                   | 31,446                    | 31,893       | 1.4                        | 12.9                       | 322,262                    | 360,599                    | 11.9   |
| <b>Imports</b>                          |                           |              |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |
| United States                           | 21,140                    | 21,877       | 3.5                        | 4.8                        | 233,635                    | 249,174                    | 6.7  |
| Japan                                   | 981                       | 1,002        | 2.1                        | 28.5                       | 9,651                      | 10,593                     | 9.8  |
| European Union                          | 2,625                     | 2,670        | 1.7                        | 17.9                       | 25,448                     | 28,523                     | 12.1   |
| Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>       | 1,239                     | 1,266        | 2.2                        | 33.4                       | 11,369                     | 13,209                     | 16.2   |
| All other countries                     | 2,255                     | 2,337        | 3.6                        | 23.3                       | 23,298                     | 25,168                     | 8.0  |
| Total                                   | 28,239                    | 29,151       | 3.2                        | 8.9                        | 303,402                    | 326,661                    | 7.7  |
| <b>Balance</b>                          |                           |              |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |
| United States                           | 5,800                     | 5,410        | ...                        | ...                        | 35,861                     | 60,491                     | ...  |
| Japan                                   | -205                      | -253         | ...                        | ...                        | -138                       | -1,382                     | ...  |
| European Union                          | -1,007                    | -1,073       | ...                        | ...                        | -7,652                     | -10,318                    | ...  |
| Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>       | -567                      | -508         | ...                        | ...                        | -3,858                     | -6,054                     | ...  |
| All other countries                     | -815                      | -836         | ...                        | ...                        | -5,355                     | -8,804                     | ...  |
| Total                                   | 3,207                     | 2,742        | ...                        | ...                        | 18,860                     | 33,938                     | ...  |
| <b>Principal commodity groupings</b>    |                           |              |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |
| <b>Exports</b>                          |                           |              |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |
| Agricultural and fishing products       | 2,173                     | 2,202        | 1.3                        | 4.3                        | 25,142                     | 25,613                     | 1.9  |
| Energy products                         | 2,930                     | 3,030        | 3.4                        | 75.1                       | 23,902                     | 30,310                     | 26.8   |
| Forestry products                       | 3,318                     | 3,432        | 3.4                        | 11.9                       | 35,172                     | 38,902                     | 10.6   |
| Industrial goods and materials          | 4,990                     | 5,125        | 2.7                        | 10.4                       | 57,453                     | 56,942                     | -0.9   |
| Machinery and equipment                 | 7,588                     | 7,385        | -2.7                       | 10.2                       | 78,823                     | 84,960                     | 7.8  |
| Automotive products                     | 8,096                     | 8,286        | 2.3                        | 5.7                        | 77,417                     | 96,143                     | 24.2   |
| Other consumer goods                    | 1,129                     | 1,153        | 2.1                        | 7.2                        | 12,426                     | 13,591                     | 9.4  |
| Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup> | 697                       | 708          | 1.6                        | 23.3                       | 5,564                      | 7,883                      | 41.7   |
| Other balance-of-payments adjustments   | 525                       | 571          | 8.8                        | 12.2                       | 6,366                      | 6,257                      | -1.7   |
| <b>Imports</b>                          |                           |              |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |
| Agricultural and fishing products       | 1,455                     | 1,499        | 3.0                        | 0.3                        | 17,262                     | 17,637                     | 2.2  |
| Energy products                         | 1,196                     | 1,192        | -0.3                       | 93.8                       | 8,679                      | 10,647                     | 22.7   |
| Forestry products                       | 237                       | 237          | 0.0                        | 5.3                        | 2,499                      | 2,741                      | 9.7  |
| Industrial goods and materials          | 5,447                     | 5,720        | 5.0                        | 11.7                       | 60,286                     | 62,142                     | 3.1  |
| Machinery and equipment                 | 9,250                     | 9,462        | 2.3                        | 4.9                        | 101,303                    | 108,231                    | 6.8  |
| Automotive products                     | 6,475                     | 6,620        | 2.2                        | 7.4                        | 66,762                     | 75,902                     | 13.7   |
| Other consumer goods                    | 3,150                     | 3,288        | 4.4                        | 4.4                        | 34,575                     | 36,963                     | 6.9  |
| Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup> | 513                       | 594          | 15.8                       | 22.5                       | 6,297                      | 6,217                      | -1.3   |
| Other balance-of-payments adjustments   | 517                       | 539          | 4.3                        | 10.0                       | 5,736                      | 6,181                      | 7.8  |

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

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

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

---

## OTHER RELEASES

---

### Export and import price indexes

December 1999

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1992=100) on a balance-of-payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to December 1999 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1992=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to December 1999. 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 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.**

The December 1999 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188 or 65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

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

### Crushing statistics

January 2000

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 273 365 metric tonnes of canola in January, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 112 791 tonnes while meal production amounted to 170 061 tonnes.

In the first six months of the 1999-2000 crop year, the canola crush volume was 1 531 428 tonnes, down 12% from the crush quantity of 1 737 950 tonnes in the same six months of 1998-99.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.**

The January 2000 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be released in April. See *How to order publications*.

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

### Construction Union Wage Rate Index

January 2000

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) remained unchanged in January from December at 114.8 (1992=100). The composite index increased 2.3% compared with January 1999.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 9922-9927.**

The first quarter 2000 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June. See *How to order publications*.

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

### Small for-hire and owner operators of motor carriers of freight

1997

There were an estimated 7,745 Canada-based small for-hire carriers (with annual revenues between \$30,000 and \$1 million) in 1997. Overall operating revenues totalled \$2.01 billion, exceeding the \$1.80 billion in expenses incurred in small for-hire trucking operations during the year.

On a per carrier basis, total estimated revenues were virtually unchanged at \$260,000 between 1996 and 1997. Although these carriers represent almost 80% of the total number of Canada-based for-hire carriers, their revenues account for only about 12%

---

of the total operating revenues of the entire for-hire trucking industry (estimated at \$16 billion in 1997).

These survey results also encompass 40,200 owner-operators working for for-hire and private carriers. Operating revenues generated by owner-operators increased 10% over 1996 to \$5.8 billion while operating expenses totalled \$5.1 billion. On a per carrier basis, operating expenses incurred by owner-operators have been increasing at an average annual rate of 11% between 1994 and 1997.

Results from the 1998 Small For-hire Carriers and Owner Operators Survey as well as the 1998 Private Carriers Survey are now available. Data from the Annual Motor Carriers of Freight Survey: Small For-hire Carriers and Owner Operators will appear in *Surface and marine transport: Service bulletin* (50-002-XIB, \$10/\$62), which 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 Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; [laroque@statcan.ca](mailto:laroque@statcan.ca)) or Gilles Paré (613-951-2517; fax: 613-951-0579; [paregil@statcan.ca](mailto:paregil@statcan.ca)), Trucking Section, Transportation Division. ■

## Selected financial indexes

January 2000

January figures are now available for selected financial indexes (1992=100) including conventional mortgage rates, prime business lending rates, provincial bond yield averages and exchange rates.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 9928.**

These indexes will appear in the first quarter 2000 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79), which will be available in June. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality for this release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.



---

## REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

---

Statistics Canada's Regional Reference Centres offer a full range of the Agency's products and services. Each reference centre is equipped with a library and sales counter where you can consult or purchase publications, diskettes, CD-ROM discs, microfiche, maps and more.

Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. A telephone inquiry service is available with toll-free access for those located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services—from seminars to consultations—are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

**Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
1741 Brunswick Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Box 11  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3X8  
Local calls: (902) 426-5331  
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-902-426-9538  
E-mail: atlantic.info@statcan.ca

**Quebec and Nunavut**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Tower  
Guy Favreau Complex  
200 René Lévesque Blvd. W.  
Montréal, Québec  
H2Z 1X4  
Local calls: (514) 283-5725  
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-514-283-9350

**National Capital Region**

Statistical Reference Centre (NCR)  
Statistics Canada  
Lobby, R.H. Coats Building  
Holland Avenue  
Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0T6  
Local calls: (613) 951-8116  
Fax: 1-613-951-0581  
E-mail: infostats@statcan.ca

**Ontario**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Arthur Meighen Building  
25 St. Clair Avenue East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4T 1M4  
Local calls: (416) 973-6586  
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-416-973-7475

**Manitoba**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Via Rail Building, Suite 200  
123 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R3C 4V9  
Local calls: (204) 983-4020  
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-204-983-7543  
E-mail: statswpg@solutions.net

**Saskatchewan**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Park Plaza, Suite 440  
2365 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4P 4K1  
Local calls: (306) 780-5405  
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-306-780-5403  
E-mail: statcan@sk.sympatico.ca

**Southern Alberta**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Discovery Place, Room 201  
3553-31 Street N.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2L 2K7  
Local calls: (403) 292-6717  
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-403-292-4958  
E-mail: degagnej@cadvision.com

**Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Park Square  
10001 Bellamy Hill  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 3B6  
Local calls: (780) 495-3027  
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-780-495-5318  
E-mail: ewieall@statcan.ca

**British Columbia and the Yukon**

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Library Square Tower, Suite 600  
300 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6B 6C7  
Local calls: (604) 666-3691  
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-604-666-4863

National toll-free enquiries line (Canada and the United States): 1-800-263-1136  
Toll-free order-only line (Canada and the United States): 1-800-267-6677  
Toll-free fax order line (Canada and the United States): 1-877-287-4369  
Toll-free telecommunications device for the hearing impaired: 1-800-363-7629

---

## RELEASE DATES: FEBRUARY 21 TO 25

---

### February 21 to 25

(Release dates are subject to change.)

---

| Release date | Title   | Reference period    |
|--------------|---|---------------------|
| 21           | Education indicators                              | 1999                |
| 22           | Wholesale trade                                   | December 1999       |
| 22           | Composite Index                                   | January 1999        |
| 23           | Retail trade                                      | December 1999       |
| 23           | Canada's international transactions in securities | December 1999       |
| 23           | Employment Insurance                              | December 1999       |
| 23           | Private and public investment                     | 2000                |
| 24           | Consumer Price Index                              | January 2000        |
| 24           | Farm cash receipts                                | 1999                |
| 25           | Industrial Product Price Index                    | January 2000        |
| 25           | Raw Materials Price Index                         | January 2000        |
| 25           | International travel account                      | fourth quarter 1999 |

---