

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canada's international investment position, 1999** 2
 Canada's net liability to foreign residents decreased to \$300 billion in 1999, resuming the declining trend that began in 1995. In 1999, Canada reduced its external liabilities for the first time since the Second World War, and increased only marginally its external assets.
 - **National balance sheet accounts, 1999** 5
 In 1999, national net worth grew 5.5% to \$3.0 trillion, the fastest pace in 10 years.
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OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance, January 2000	8
Employment, earnings and hours, January 2000	9
Production and disposition of tobacco products, February 2000	11
National Population Health Survey	11
Cereals and oilseeds review, January 2000	12
Stocks of frozen meat products, March 2000	12
Air travel between Canada and the United States, and within Canada, 1998	12
Small area retail trade estimates database, 1997	12
Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending March 14, 2000	12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 14



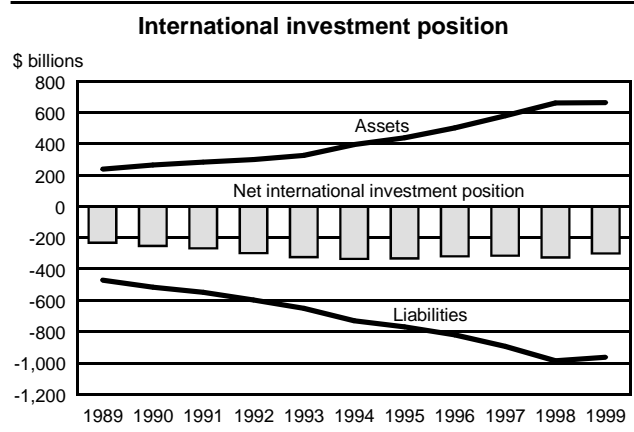
MAJOR RELEASES

Canada's international investment position 1999

Canada's net liability to foreign residents — the difference between its external assets and external liabilities — declined in 1999 for the fourth time in the past five years.

At the end of the year, net foreign liability was \$300 billion, down 7.9% from \$326 billion at the end of 1998. External assets totalled \$664 billion at the end of 1999, while external liabilities were \$964 billion.

In 1999, net foreign liabilities were equivalent to 32% of gross domestic product, the lowest ratio since 1977 (31%).



External liabilities declined for the first time in 60 years

Canada's external liabilities declined in 1999 for the first time in 60 years, falling 2.2% to \$964 billion. Foreign residents reduced substantially their holdings of Canadian debt securities and bank deposits, but continued to add to their direct investment in Canada.

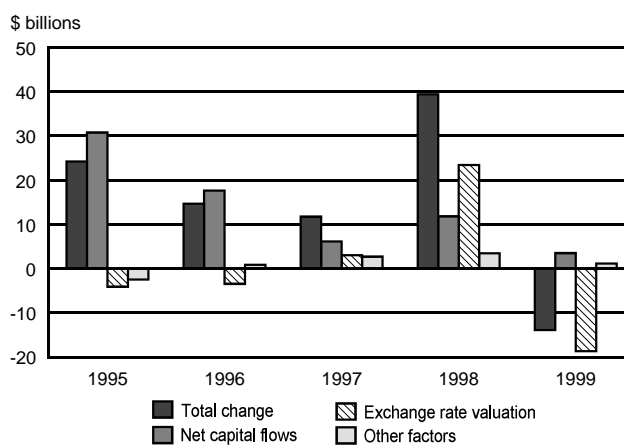
First decrease in foreign holdings of Canadian bonds since the 1950s

Foreign residents reduced their holdings of Canadian debt securities by about \$29 billion, of which almost \$15 billion was in Canadian money market funds and almost \$14 billion was in Canadian bonds. This was the first time since the 1950s that foreigners reduced their holdings of Canadian bonds. However

these holdings, worth \$393 billion, still accounted for 41% of foreign investment in Canada at the end of 1999.

The decrease was entirely composed of bonds issued by the provincial governments and their enterprises. However, foreigners continued to add to their holdings of Canadian corporate bonds. As the latter were largely denominated in foreign currencies, their impact expressed as Canadian value was dampened by the appreciating Canadian dollar.

Factors explaining the change in Canadian bonds



Growth in foreign direct investment in Canada outpaced Canadian direct investment abroad

For the first time since 1992, foreign direct investment in Canada advanced at a stronger pace than Canadian direct investment abroad.

In 1999, foreign direct investment in Canada increased almost 9.5% to \$240 billion. Canadian direct investment abroad increased 4.5% to \$257 billion, despite an 8% reduction in valuation due to currency appreciation.

The growth in Canada's direct investment liability came from both large takeovers originating in the United States and strong retained earnings. These factors combined to bring the U.S. share of total direct investment to 72%, up from 65% in 1993.

Growth in Canadian direct investment abroad, dampened by a stronger Canadian dollar, was more diversified. Fifty-two percent of direct investment abroad was in the United States at the end of 1999, and the remainder was geographically dispersed.

Portfolio investment abroad now one-quarter of external assets

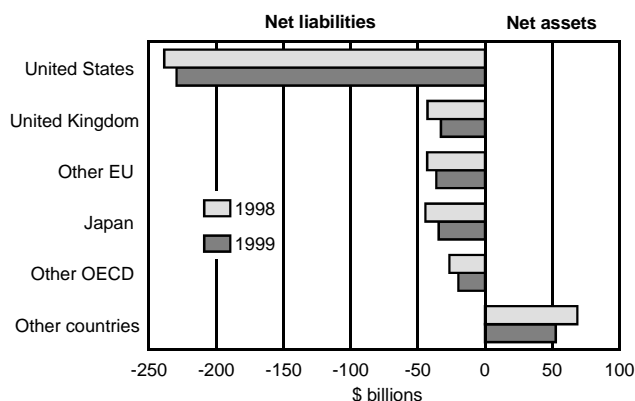
The value of portfolio investment abroad by Canadian residents, largely through pension and mutual funds, now represents one-quarter of Canada's external assets, up from 15% a decade ago. Canadian portfolio investment abroad increased 14% to \$164 billion at the end of 1999.

This increase, the result of large capital flows into foreign stocks, more than offset the negative-valuation impact of the appreciating Canadian dollar.

U.S. share of Canada's net liabilities still increases

American investors have been increasing their share of Canada's net liabilities for eight straight years. The U.S. share went from a record low of 34% in 1991 to 76% at the end of 1999. European Union countries are Canada's second-largest creditors (23%).

International investment position, by geographical area



Available on CANSIM: matrices 4180-4190, 4194, and 4195.

Canada's international investment position, 1999 (67-202-XIB, \$39) is now available. See *How to order publications*. The paper version (67-202-XPB, \$52) will be available shortly.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division. □

Canada's international investment position at year-end

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	billions of dollars					
Assets						
Canadian direct investment abroad	146.3	161.2	180.6	209.7	246.3	257.4
Portfolio investment						
Foreign bonds	18.3	18.8	21.3	27.8	34.8	36.4
Foreign stocks	62.2	65.4	79.1	90.4	109.2	127.3
Other investment						
Loans	30.8	43.2	49.1	71.3	60.6	56.1
Allowances	-12.0	-11.8	-11.4	-10.3	-10.8	-10.8
Deposits	73.1	80.6	99.0	102.0	118.2	100.0
Official international reserves	17.5	20.8	28.2	25.7	35.9	41.5
Other assets	58.0	59.0	55.2	63.3	65.8	55.8
Total assets	394.3	437.2	501.2	580.0	660.0	663.7
Liabilities						
Foreign direct investment in Canada	154.6	168.2	180.4	197.9	219.2	240.0
Portfolio investment						
Canadian bonds	316.9	341.0	355.7	367.4	406.8	393.0
Canadian stocks	30.9	37.1	47.3	51.4	63.5	72.2
Canadian money market	47.5	46.5	40.6	42.6	45.1	30.3
Other investment						
Loans	44.7	48.8	51.3	50.7	53.3	57.5
Deposits	117.9	109.3	126.8	165.4	180.7	149.7
Other liabilities	17.6	18.3	17.3	18.7	17.7	21.3
Total liabilities	730.0	769.2	819.4	894.0	986.3	964.0
Net international investment position	-335.6	-332.0	-318.2	-314.0	-326.3	-300.3

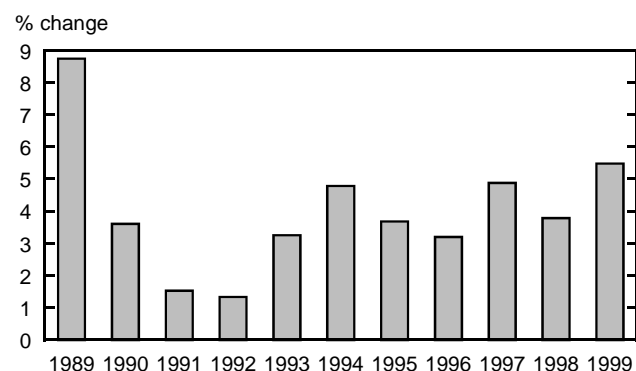


National balance sheet accounts

1999

National net worth rose 5.5% in 1999, reaching \$3.0 trillion or \$96,800 per capita. This was the strongest growth rate recorded in 10 years, and resulted from an increase in national wealth and a sharp decline in Canada's net foreign liability — what we owe to non-residents less what they owe to us.

National net worth



National wealth grew faster

National wealth advanced at a faster pace than in 1998 to a record \$3.3 trillion, in keeping with the stronger domestic economic activity in 1999. Growth resulted from greater expenditure flows and higher values for tangible assets, such as houses, automobiles, land, business inventories and fixed capital.

The change in wealth was broadly based in that all assets grew, although at different rates. The increase in residential property (+5.0%) reflected stronger markets for both new homes and resale homes in 1999. Growth in durable goods (+6.8%) resulted from strong consumer spending on big-ticket items, especially automobiles and household goods.

The growth in the other components of wealth was more subdued. Only business machinery and equipment and agricultural land grew more slowly than in 1998.

National wealth grew 5.1% in the personal sector, 3.7% in the corporate sector and 1.7% in the government sector.

Debt continued to accumulate, but at a slower pace

On the financial side of the ledger, total credit market debt (short-term paper, loans, mortgages and bonds) grew at a slower pace in 1999. This was due to

Note to readers

The national balance sheet accounts are statements of the balance sheets of all of the various sectors of the economy. They consist of the non-financial assets owned in the various sectors of the economy and of financial claims outstanding. **National wealth** is the sum of non-financial, or tangible assets — produced assets, land surrounding structures and agricultural land — in all sectors of the economy. **National net worth** is wealth less what is owed to non-residents (Canada's net international investment position, or net foreign liability); alternatively, it is the sum of the net worth of persons, corporations and governments.

This release incorporates a major conceptual change, giving rise to revisions from 1961 to 1999. Government liabilities and personal sector financial assets have been revised substantially upward, reflecting a more complete and consistent treatment of accumulated pension saving. Federal and provincial government non-autonomous employer-sponsored pension plans are now treated as government liabilities. This conceptual change will also be reflected in both the Income and expenditure accounts and the Financial flow accounts in the May 31 release of the first-quarter National accounts (including annual revisions).

A measure of national wealth that includes selected natural resources is also available (CANSIM matrix 798). However, these data only run to 1997, and are not discussed in this release. For further information on natural resources, please see Econnections (16-505-GPE).

both reduced overall demand for borrowed funds and lower values of debt denominated in foreign currency, reflecting the pronounced appreciation in the Canadian dollar by year-end.

Government net debt declined

Federal government net debt edged down for a third consecutive year, in tandem with the surpluses recorded since 1997. While credit market debt grew marginally in 1999, this was more than offset by an increase in financial assets, principally liquid assets and investment in government enterprises.

The net debt of the other levels of government also fell slightly, reflecting growing provincial-level surpluses and a declining deficit at the local government level. The increase in the provincial government credit market was moderated by the lower value of foreign currency-denominated liabilities.

For the fourth year in a row, overall government-sector net debt grew at a slower pace than did gross domestic product.

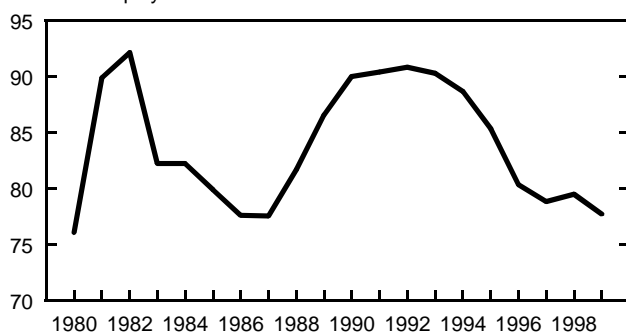
Corporate balance sheets strengthened further

Substantially improved corporate profits in 1999 and rising stock prices for most of the year helped corporations continue to restructure their balance sheets.

Among non-financial private corporations, the shrinking of the debt-to-equity ratio resumed. Factors behind this development in 1999 include: the size of share issues, strongly higher undistributed earnings, lower demand for borrowed funds and the positive impact of the turnaround in the exchange rate on foreign currency-denominated debt. In aggregate, this leverage ratio has been in decline for a number of years.

Corporate debt

as a % of equity



Note: Credit market debt of non-financial private corporations.

Household net worth advanced, despite higher debt levels

The higher level of household purchases in 1999 resulted in borrowing activity, which pushed the ratio of consumer credit and mortgage debt to personal disposable income to a new high of 99.3%.

Nevertheless, personal sector net worth grew faster than last year (+5.0%), as the increase in assets was more than four times that of liabilities. Although personal saving weakened somewhat, gains in the value of household assets in 1999 led the increase in net worth.

Net foreign debt declined sharply

Canadians continued to invest abroad in 1999, though at a slower pace than in 1998. Holdings of foreign marketable stocks and bonds, direct investment

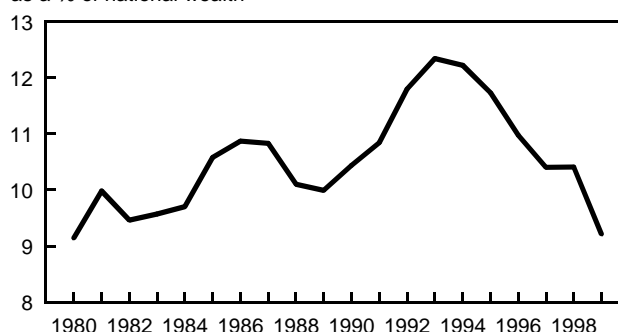
assets and reserve assets all rose over the course of the year.

However, foreign claims on the Canadian economy actually fell in 1999. Significant drops in non-resident holdings of both Canadian debt securities and deposit liabilities at Canadian banks more than offset greater direct investment in Canada and changes in other accounts.

As a result, net indebtedness to non-residents fell sharply (-7.9%) in 1999, and continued its downward slide relative to national wealth.

Net foreign debt

as a % of national wealth



Source: International investment position.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 700, 727, 745-747, 751, 753-777, 779-785, 787-795 and 798.

An analytical document (13-214-PPB, \$50), including tables from 1996 to 1999 and numerous charts, is now available. Balance sheet data are also available on diskette (13-214-XDB, \$60). To purchase any of these products or to obtain more information about them, call the client services officer (613-951-3640), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Patrick O'Hagan (613-951-1798) or Charles Wright (613-951-9044), Balance of Payments and Financial Flows Division. □

National net worth

	1984	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1997 to 1998	1998 to 1999
	\$ billions							% change	
National wealth	1,592.3	2,746.3	2,831.3	2,897.7	3,019.4	3,134.2	3,262.0	3.8	4.1
- Net foreign debt	154.4	335.6	332.0	318.2	314.0	326.3	300.3	3.9	-7.9
= National net worth	1,437.9	2,410.7	2,499.3	2,579.4	2,705.3	2,807.9	2,961.6	3.8	5.5
	\$							% change	
National net worth per capita	55,900	82,600	84,700	86,500	89,800	92,500	96,800	3.0	4.6



OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

January 2000 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians who received regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in January decreased by 3.6% to 471,690. This marks the fourth consecutive monthly decline. Led by Yukon (-7.3%) and Ontario (-6.7%), most provinces and territories reported a monthly decrease.

In the last several years, most provinces have shown a downward trend in the number of regular beneficiaries. Alberta is an exception. After increases from January 1998 to mid-1999, it has now recorded eight consecutive monthly declines, reducing the number of beneficiaries by one-third over this period. At the Canada level, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits in January 2000 was 8.6% lower than a year earlier.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Jan. 2000 ^P	Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000	Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2000
	seasonally adjusted		
	% change		
Canada	471,690	-3.6	-8.6
Newfoundland	34,400	0.6	3.2
Prince Edward Island	7,830	-3.1	-7.2
Nova Scotia	28,460	0.9	2.3
New Brunswick	31,810	-3.4	-3.9
Quebec	169,210	-1.7	-3.7
Ontario	92,570	-6.7	-16.8
Manitoba	13,150	1.5	-6.3
Saskatchewan	11,210	1.7	-10.0
Alberta	27,530	-4.1	-23.6
British Columbia	53,820	-5.1	-15.9
Yukon	890	-7.3	-16.8
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	1,160	-3.3	-2.5
	unadjusted		
Northwest Territories	1,030	1.0	..
Nunavut	290	11.5	..

^P Preliminary figures.

.. Figures not available.

The amount paid out as regular benefits decreased by 8.0% from December 1999 to January 2000 to \$599.6 million while the number of claims filed for EI decreased by 14.1% to 200,990.

Note: The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who were receiving EI benefits for the week containing the 15th of the month. The regular

benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month. These different reference periods must be considered when comparisons are done between the series. The *Employment Insurance Act* allows each province or administrative region of Human Resource Development Canada to have certain autonomy in the application of administrative procedures regarding renewal claims. Data users must take into consideration that movements in levels from month to month may be affected by different administrative procedures regarding renewal claims from one province or region to another.

Annual data on the number of employees who made employment insurance contributions and the amount of their contributions are now available for 1998.

Also, the yearly adjustment for the Christmas period to the Regular Weeks Paid, Regular Benefits Paid and Claims Received data series has been completed. No actual revisions to the data resulted from this year's adjustment.

Employment Insurance statistics

	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1999	Jan. 2000	Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000	Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2000
	seasonally adjusted				
	% change				
Regular beneficiaries	516,350	489,220 ^P	471,690 ^P	-3.6	-8.6
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	671.3	651.9	599.6	-8.0	-10.7
Claims received ('000)	233.5	234.1	201.0	-14.1	-13.9
	unadjusted				
	% change				
All beneficiaries ('000)	898.6	713.8 ^P	838.8 ^P	17.5	-6.7
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	701.5	523.6 ^P	646.3 ^P	23.4	-7.9
Claims received ('000)	302.8	284.6	301.4	5.9	-0.5
Payments (\$ millions)	1,169.4	989.1	1,184.3	19.7	1.3
	Year-to-date (January to January)				
		1999	2000	1999 to 2000	% change
Claims received ('000)		302.8	301.4		-0.5
Payments (\$ millions)		1,169.4	1,184.3		1.3

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: All beneficiaries includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717, 5735 and 5736.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Robert Keay (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Employment, earnings and hours

January 2000 (preliminary)

In January, average weekly earnings for all employees edged up \$1.60 compared with December 1999 and stood at \$618.85. Over the last 12 months, average weekly earnings increased by 2.0%. This pace of growth remains slightly below the annual increase of the Consumer Price Index, which was 2.3% in January.

Hourly paid and salaried employees received small increases in average weekly earnings in January (0.6% and 0.3% respectively). Average weekly earnings for salaried employees were up 3.2% over the past 12 months, while those for hourly rated employees were up 2.3% due to a 1.4% gain in average hourly earnings and a 1.0% increase in paid hours.

Average hours paid to hourly rated employees increased by 0.2 hours in January to 31.6 hours per week, due mostly to an increase in overtime hours. Average hourly earnings for hourly rated employees were up \$0.04 to \$15.58.

In January, payroll employment increased for the fifth month in a row. Employers added 27,000 employees to payrolls with significant gains in mining, manufacturing, construction, and retail trade. The strongest employment gains were in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta.

Note: In May 1998 Statistics Canada completed the incorporation of administrative records in the production

of employment, earnings and hours estimates (third phase of the re-design). As a result of this change in methodology, estimates derived from administrative records may show a different pattern than the previous data, which may affect the historical comparability of employment and earnings series.).

Beginning with the January 2001 data, estimates from the Survey on Employment, Payrolls and Hours will be based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. At the same time, the historical series will be revised to reflect the new phase-three levels of employment and earnings derived from administrative records on a NAICS basis. In addition, seasonal factors will be revised, thus improving the historical consistency of seasonally adjusted estimates. For more information on the North American Industry Classification System, consult Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) or contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 4493, 4494, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators will be available in April through standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XPB, \$32/\$320). Annual averages for 1999 are now available through CANSIM and by custom tabulations from Labour Statistics Division. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Jan. 1999	Dec. 1999 ^r	Jan. 2000 ^p	Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000	Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2000
seasonally adjusted					
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	606.62	617.25	618.85	0.3	2.0
Logging and forestry	744.48	800.12	794.46	-0.7	6.7
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	1,091.58	1,127.07	1,110.92	-1.4	1.8
Manufacturing	756.28	764.21	768.70	0.6	1.6
Construction	701.22	706.54	720.36	2.0	2.7
Transportation and storage	742.46	744.11	748.66	0.6	0.8
Communication and other utilities	803.80	816.34	816.13	0.0	1.5
Wholesale trade	661.63	664.71	663.27	-0.2	0.2
Retail trade	370.09	375.26	375.63	0.1	1.5
Finance and insurance	799.40	810.17	818.74	1.1	2.4
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	648.74	639.56	644.49	0.8	-0.7
Business services	696.73	704.92	709.96	0.7	1.9
Education-related services	654.30	669.75	669.28	-0.1	2.3
Health and social services	519.59	527.16	529.08	0.4	1.8
Accommodation, food and beverage services	236.84	238.85	241.15	1.0	1.8
Public administration	730.88	748.87	750.29	0.2	2.7
Miscellaneous services	410.06	414.90	416.31	0.3	1.5
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	533.13	549.18	549.20	0.0	3.0
Prince Edward Island	485.12	480.68	485.91	1.1	0.2
Nova Scotia	505.83	519.01	518.82	0.0	2.6
New Brunswick	523.27	544.80	543.33	-0.3	3.8
Quebec	569.19	576.85	578.06	0.2	1.6
Ontario	647.91	661.59	661.08	-0.1	2.0
Manitoba	543.17	550.46	552.87	0.4	1.8
Saskatchewan	543.13	545.43	551.04	1.0	1.5
Alberta	618.63	632.01	633.76	0.3	2.4
British Columbia	621.53	628.36	634.10	0.9	2.0
Yukon	645.59	710.67	698.84	-1.7	8.2
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	704.31	797.41	808.82	1.4	14.8

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 Standard Industrial Classification)	Nov. 1999	Dec. 1999 ^r	Jan. 2000 ^p	Nov. to Dec. 1999	Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000
seasonally adjusted					
	thousands			% change	
Industrial aggregate	11,954	11,993	12,020	0.3	0.2
Logging and forestry	66	67	68	1.5	1.5
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	140	142	146	1.4	2.8
Manufacturing	1,958	1,972	1,984	0.7	0.6
Construction	535	546	552	2.1	1.1
Transportation and storage	503	510	512	1.4	0.4
Communication and other utilities	390	389	388	-0.3	-0.3
Wholesale trade	783	793	787	1.3	-0.8
Retail trade	1,425	1,435	1,445	0.7	0.7
Finance and insurance	523	526	529	0.6	0.6
Real estate operators and insurance agencies	196	198	197	1.0	-0.5
Business services	898	918	915	2.2	-0.3
Education-related services	925	928	926	0.3	-0.2
Health and social services	1,222	1,222	1,222	0.0	0.0
Accommodation, food and beverage services	857	861	867	0.5	0.7
Public administration	679	679	680	0.0	0.1
Miscellaneous services	713	714	718	0.1	0.6
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	156	156	155	0.0	-0.6
Prince Edward Island	53	54	55	1.9	1.9
Nova Scotia	335	342	339	2.1	-0.9
New Brunswick	270	270	270	0.0	0.0
Quebec	2,829	2,846	2,856	0.6	0.4
Ontario	4,706	4,712	4,723	0.1	0.2
Manitoba	466	470	469	0.9	-0.2
Saskatchewan	357	360	360	0.8	0.0
Alberta	1,244	1,249	1,258	0.4	0.7
British Columbia	1,491	1,498	1,499	0.5	0.1
Yukon	16	16	16	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories and Nunavut	27	27	27	0.0	0.0

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

Production and disposition of tobacco products

February 2000

Cigarette sales rose strongly in February after a slump the month before. Production was relatively low, staying at the same level as the previous month, and inventories declined.

February shipments recovered to 4.0 billion cigarettes, an increase of 35% over January and 25% more than shipments in February 1999.

During February, 3.7 billion cigarettes were produced. Although the level did not change from the month before, it fell 16% below February 1999 production.

Inventories went down by 2% to 4.1 billion cigarettes at the end of February, which was 18% less than closing inventories at the same time a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The February 2000 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products* (32-022-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

National Population Health Survey

Data are now available for the third cycle of the National Population Health Survey (NPHS), 1998-99, household component. Several analytical articles containing detailed findings will be released on March 31, in the winter 1999 edition of *Health reports* (82-003-XPB).

Data are also available for the 1996-97 NPHS for the Northwest Territories (1996-97 boundaries) and Yukon. Estimates can be produced separately for the Northwest Territories (current boundaries) and Nunavut.

To order custom tabulations, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; fax 613-951-0792; hd-ds@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

For more information on the 1998-99 NPHS, household component, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Mario Bédard (613-951-8933; mario.bedard@statcan.ca). To enquire about the NPHS data for the territories, contact Brent Diverty (613-951-4269; brent.diverty@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

January 2000

Data from the January issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, crops, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of 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. ■

Stocks of frozen meat products

March 2000

Total frozen meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of March amounted to 69,287 tonnes, up from 61,241 tonnes last month and 59,306 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9518-9525.

Data for stocks of frozen meat (23-009-XIE) are available free on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) under *Products and services* then *Downloadable publications (free)*.

For more information, call 1-800-216-2299. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality

of this release, contact Jamie Duffy (613-951-6356; duffjam@statcan.ca) or Robert Plourde (613-951-8716), Agriculture Division. ■

Air travel between Canada and the United States, and within Canada

1998 (preliminary)

Air passenger origin and destination data are now available for 1998. The data represent passengers who travelled between Canada and the United States, and within Canada, on scheduled flights provided by major air carriers.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Carol Gudz (613-951-0124), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Small area retail trade estimates database

1997

The 1997 small area retail trade estimates for sales and the number of locations are now available by Standard Industrial Classification codes (SIC 1980) and by postal code.

For urban Canada Post delivery areas, the estimates are available at the Forward Sortation Area level, which are the first three digits of the postal code. For rural areas, estimates are available at the six-digit postal code level.

Within these geographic areas, estimates by type of retailer are available. Data are available at the two- and three-digit level of industrial detail, subject to confidentiality.

To order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Client Services unit (613-951-3549; 1-877-421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending March 14, 2000

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending March 14 2000, increased 17.2% to 5.3 million tonnes compared with the same period of 1999. The number of cars loaded increased 17.0%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 408 000 tonnes, an 8.8% increase from the same period of 1999. The year-to-date figures increased 17.5%.

Total traffic increased 16.6% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 54.5 million tonnes, an increase of 12.8% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

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

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February 2000
Catalogue number 32-022-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Canada's international investment position, 1999
Catalogue number 67-202-XIB
(Canada: \$39).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.



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- **Steel primary forms, year ending May 31, 1997** 12
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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to lstproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, vradtom@statcan.ca)

Head of Official Release: Dan Smythe (613-951-1088), smytdan@statcan.ca

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