



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Industrial Product Price Index, March 2000**

The pace of growth in yearly industrial product prices slowed in March for the first time since October 1999. The Industrial Product Price Index rose 5.5% in March compared with a year earlier, decelerating slightly from February's growth of 5.9%.

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- **Raw Materials Price Index, March 2000**

Manufacturers paid 33.1% more for raw materials in March than they did in the same month last year. Crude oil prices were by far the major contributor, as prices more than doubled since March 1999.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial Product Price Index

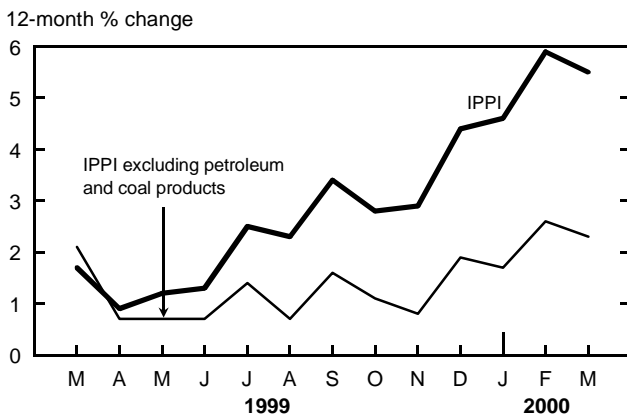
March 2000 (preliminary)

The pace of growth in yearly industrial product prices slowed in March for the first time since October 1999. The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) rose 5.5% in March compared with a year earlier, decelerating slightly from February's growth of 5.9%.

The index in March was 126.6 (1992=100), up from 125.8 in February.

Once again, petroleum prices were the key to the gains. Rising prices for products related to primary metals, paper, meat and chemicals also contributed to the increase. While growth continued in March, it eased for the petroleum and coal products category as well as the total IPPI excluding petroleum and coal. Lower motor vehicle prices partly offset these increases.

Petroleum product prices push up IPPI



On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.6% in March compared with February, reflecting widespread gains. The gains, led by the petroleum products industry, were accompanied by stronger prices for paper and paper products, motor vehicles, meat products and primary metal products. In contrast, lumber prices weakened slightly.

Refined petroleum prices still on rise

Prices for the refined petroleum industry continued to rise in March, climbing a further 3.0%. This was prompted in part by fears that supplies may tighten as demand picks up at the onset of the summer driving

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. IPPI data is not seasonally adjusted and has a six-month revision period.

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%.

season. At the end of March, however, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreed to raise production to ease prices and boost inventories.

In the spring of 1999, OPEC members pledged to cut production in an effort to restore prices. In response, prices for the refined petroleum industry have been escalating since; they are 68.1% higher than a year ago.

In the past year, the upward trend in petroleum product prices has had a substantial impact on the overall IPPI. If petroleum and coal products had been excluded from the March data, the year-over-year increase would have been 2.3%, less than half the actual increase of 5.5%.

On a monthly basis, excluding petroleum and coal products from the IPPI would have reduced the March increase for the total IPPI from 0.6% to 0.4%.

Continued growth for nickel prices

Rising nickel product prices led the primary metal product category, whose prices advanced 0.3% in March from February.

Robust demand from stainless steel producers, coupled with potentially disappointing Australian nickel output, contributed to a 7.0% jump in nickel product prices in March over February. Nickel product prices, which have been rising steadily since last July, are close to twice what they were a year earlier.

Tempering the monthly increase in nickel prices were weaker prices compared with February for aluminum products (-1.0%) and primary copper products (-2.0%). However, compared with March 1999, both aluminum products (+19.0%) and primary copper products (+24.8%) were up.

Prices for most of the primary metal sector have been strengthening throughout most of the past year; they were up 11.9% from March 1999.

Widespread increases for paper and paper product prices

Paper and paper product prices advanced a further 1.3% in March from February, the result of widespread increases that also left prices 8.7% higher than in March 1999.

Pulp prices edged up a further 0.8% in March, continuing the recovery that began a year earlier. While pulp prices were 28.6% higher in March than they were a year ago, they remained 29.7% below their peak in November 1995.

After starting off the year on a weak note, newsprint prices rebounded in March (+0.4%), supported by stronger export prices. In contrast, newsprint prices tumbled 11.2% on a yearly basis, reflecting sluggish prices in both the export and domestic markets.

Strong demand helped bring about a 1.5% increase in paper product prices in March compared with February. This marks the 15th consecutive monthly increase; prices were 7.4% higher than in March 1999.

Exchange rate effect

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.

Between February and March, the U.S. dollar gained ground, pushing up IPPI prices that are

quoted in U.S. dollars. If the exchange rate had not changed from February to March, the index would have advanced 0.5% instead of 0.6%.

The U.S. dollar was worth less than a year earlier, moderating the increase in the IPPI. If the exchange rate had been the same in March 1999 as in March 2000, the IPPI would have risen 6.6%.

International 12-month price changes

	Month	Change %
Manufacturers' prices		
Canada	March	5.5
United States	March	5.3
Japan (domestic wholesale prices)	February	-0.1
United Kingdom (domestic manufacturing output prices)	March	1.8
Italy	February	4.6
Germany	February	2.4
France (including food and energy)	February	10.7

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1870-1878.

The March 2000 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available in May. 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	March 1999	Feb. 2000 ^r	March 2000 ^p	March 1999 to March 2000	Feb. to March 2000
					% change	
Industrial product price index (IPPI)	100.00	120.0	125.8	126.6	5.5	0.6
Intermediate goods¹	59.28	118.7	127.3	128.1	7.9	0.6
First-stage intermediate goods ²	7.91	113.8	138.2	138.6	21.8	0.3
Second-stage intermediate goods ³	51.37	119.5	125.7	126.4	5.8	0.6
Finished goods⁴	40.72	122.0	123.6	124.4	2.0	0.6
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	113.6	115.7	115.9	2.0	0.2
Capital equipment	10.21	127.0	124.6	125.0	-1.6	0.3
All other finished goods	20.13	123.7	127.2	128.4	3.8	0.9
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	116.8	123.1	124.2	6.3	0.9
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	111.2	109.4	109.9	-1.2	0.5
Beverages	2.12	115.7	118.4	118.4	2.3	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	135.6	140.6	140.7	3.8	0.1
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	112.8	116.9	117.6	4.3	0.6
Textile products	1.82	109.0	108.7	108.8	-0.2	0.1
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	110.2	110.2	110.2	0.0	0.0
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	144.6	147.3	147.0	1.7	-0.2
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	115.5	118.5	118.5	2.6	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.65	126.2	135.4	137.2	8.7	1.3
Printing and publishing	3.05	134.1	136.7	137.6	2.6	0.7
Primary metal products	7.58	116.3	129.7	130.1	11.9	0.3
Metal fabricated products	4.11	122.9	125.0	125.1	1.8	0.1
Machinery and equipment	4.08	115.1	115.8	116.0	0.8	0.2
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	134.7	130.2	130.9	-2.8	0.5
Electrical and communications products	6.03	107.7	104.6	104.8	-2.7	0.2
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	113.8	117.2	117.3	3.1	0.1
Petroleum and coal products ⁵	6.01	93.0	151.5	156.1	67.8	3.0
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	113.2	119.8	119.8	5.8	0.0
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	118.8	120.6	120.5	1.4	-0.1
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	112.4	126.3	123.5	9.9	-2.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.

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

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

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

⁵ This index is estimated for the current month.

Raw Materials Price Index

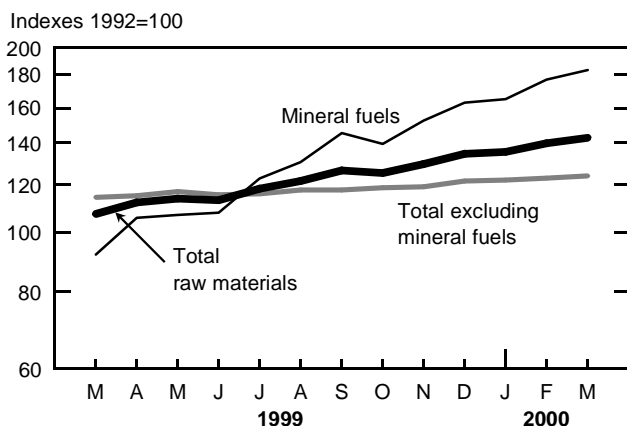
March 2000 (preliminary)

The rate of growth in the price of raw materials eased slightly in March. Manufacturers paid 33.1% more for raw materials in March than they did in the same month last year. This was down slightly from the year-over-year increase of 37.3% recorded in February.

Crude oil prices were by far the major contributor in March, as prices more than doubled (+109.7%) since March 1999. If mineral fuels (almost all of which is crude oil) were excluded, the year-over-year increase in raw materials prices would have been 8.4%. This increase, excluding mineral fuels, was the largest since August 1995.

The Raw Materials Price Index stood at 142.7 in March (1992=100), up from the revised February figure of 139.9.

Crude oil prices still up in March



Prices also increased during the past 12 months for hogs, copper and nickel concentrates, aluminum materials, cattle and logs. These were partly offset by lower prices for grains, canola, unrefined sugar and lead concentrates.

On a monthly basis, prices for raw materials increased 2.0% in March compared with February. Again, higher crude oil prices were mainly responsible. If mineral fuels, almost all of which is crude oil, were excluded, raw material prices would have risen 0.9%.

Crude oil prices rose 3.9% from February to March. Prices also increased in March compared with February for wood, cattle, hogs, oilseeds, grains and nickel concentrates. These were partly offset by lower prices for some non-ferrous metals, raw tobacco, iron and steel scrap, and fish.

Note to readers

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. These indexes are not seasonally adjusted and are subject to a six-month revision policy.

Many of these prices are set in the world marketplace. Also, unlike the Industrial Product Price Index (also not seasonally adjusted), the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

Crude oil prices up again in March

Mineral fuel prices were virtually twice as high in March 2000 as they were in March 1999 (+99.9%). This was mainly noted in the higher prices for crude oil, which more than doubled (+109.7%), and natural gas (+11.8%).

On a month-to-month basis, mineral fuel prices increased 3.7% in March from February. Crude oil prices rose 3.9% during the month.

The two major inputs into gasoline prices are taxes and crude oil costs. According to the Consumer Price Index, gasoline prices were up 38.0% this March compared with March 1999. This was the highest 12-month change in retail gasoline prices since December 1981.

Nickel prices continue to rise

Non-ferrous metal prices weakened in March, declining 1.2% from February. Lower prices were noted for aluminum materials, copper concentrates and precious metals. These were partly offset by higher prices for nickel concentrates (+6.7%) and zinc concentrates.

Compared with March 1999, non-ferrous metal prices were up 18.6%. Higher prices for aluminum materials (+33.2%), nickel concentrates (+98.4%) and copper concentrates (+25.0%) were somewhat offset by lower prices for precious metals, lead and radioactive concentrates.

All the factors that had contributed to nickel's previous price increases remain in place. Stainless steel production is still booming. Two-thirds of all nickel production is used in the manufacturing of stainless steel. Two factors which may have an impact on future nickel supplies are the mothballing of the Voisey's Bay mine in Labrador and ongoing technical problems in Australia's nickel mines.

Nickel concentrate prices in March were more than twice as high as prices in March 1999. However, the historic nickel index high in February 1989 was more than 50% higher than in March 2000.

Lead concentrate prices have declined 26.2% over the last 12 months. The overabundant supply has led to the decline in lead prices. Currently, recycling facilities that use scrapped lead-acid batteries account for more than half of the world production of lead. As well, recent lead production from China and the release of lead from U.S. stockpiles have added to a global surplus.

Hog prices keep increasing

Animals and animal product prices increased 1.3% in March over the previous month. Higher prices for cattle and hogs were somewhat offset by lower prices for fish.

Compared with 12 months earlier, animal and animal product prices were up 11.4%. Higher prices for hogs (+57.5%), cattle (+9.4%) and unprocessed fluid milk (+5.1%) were marginally offset by lower prices for sheep and lambs (-7.1%).

Hog prices keep increasing due to lower hog slaughters and increasing demand. Prices have been on an upswing since falling to Depression levels in December 1998. Since then, hog prices have more than tripled.

Oilseed prices strengthen

On a month-to-month basis, vegetable product prices were up 1.1% in March. Higher prices for canola (+5.7%), soybeans (+7.2%) and grains (+1.8%) were partly offset by lower prices for raw tobacco and natural rubber.

Compared with March 1999, vegetable product prices were down 6.0%. Lower prices for canola (-22.8%), grains (-4.3%) and unrefined sugar (-14.9%) were mainly responsible.

March's increase in canola prices marks the first significant price increase in 12 months. Indications that canola acreage will decline in 2000 may have caused some concern about future supply.

Grain prices were strong across the board in March compared with February. Persistent dry weather in the

U.S. Midwest and stronger-than-expected export sales of wheat helped to increase March grain prices.

Wood prices up

Wood prices were up 2.0% in March. This was due to higher prices for logs and pulpwood. Compared with March 1999, log prices have increased 8.7%, whereas pulpwood prices declined 0.9% over the same period.

Log prices have been trending upwards since October 1998, increasing 15.6% since that time. Pulpwood prices have declined over the same period, dropping 4.9%. The Canada-U.S. five-year softwood lumber agreement expires in less than a year. According to published reports, Canada accounts for 95% of the imported volume of lumber into the United States and also has an overall share of about 34% of the total U.S. lumber market.

Iron and steel scrap prices down again

Iron and steel scrap prices were down again in March (-0.9%). This marked the second consecutive monthly decline, after being up for nine successive months. Over that nine-month period, iron and steel scrap prices increased 24.1%.

However, non-ferrous metal scrap continued to edge up in March. Compared with March 1999, aluminum and alloy scrap prices have increased 31.4% and copper and copper alloy scrap 16.5%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1879.

The March 2000 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available in May. 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, Prices Division (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca). □

Raw Materials Price Indexes
(1992=100)

	Relative importance	March 1999	Feb. 2000 ^r	March 2000 ^p	March 1999 to March 2000	Feb. to March 2000
					% change	
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	100.00	107.2	139.9	142.7	33.1	2.0
Mineral fuels	31.47	92.1	177.5	184.1	99.9	3.7
Vegetable products	9.41	119.2	110.9	112.1	-6.0	1.1
Animals and animal products	24.41	107.1	117.8	119.3	11.4	1.3
Wood	14.88	134.1	140.2	143.0	6.6	2.0
Ferrous materials	3.17	114.6	122.9	122.6	7.0	-0.2
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	100.8	120.9	119.5	18.6	-1.2
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	117.4	119.6	119.6	1.9	0.0
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	68.53	114.1	122.6	123.7	8.4	0.9

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



OTHER RELEASES

Short-term Expectations Survey

March 2000 to June 2000

Results for the monthly Short-term Expectations Survey of economic forecasters are now available. Responses were obtained between April 19 and April 27.

The rate of inflation is expected to hold steady in the short term. The mean forecast for the year-over-year change in the Consumer Price Index was 2.7% for April and May, declining slightly to 2.6% for June. Actual inflation, meanwhile, was slightly higher than previously expected. The average forecast for March was 2.6% compared with the actual rate of 3.0%.

At the time of the survey, forecasters were predicting the monthly growth rate in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for February would be 0.3% followed by 0.4% for March and April. In February, GDP declined slightly by 0.4%.

The survey results suggest that the surplus for international trade will hover very close to the actual value of \$3.9 billion observed for February. Mean forecasts were \$4.0 billion for March and May, and \$3.9 billion for April.

No change was expected in the unemployment rate, which stood at 6.8% for March. On average, the forecasters were expecting this rate to hold steady through to June. Similarly the participation rate is expected to hold steady at 65.8% in April, then move up slightly to 65.9% through May and June.

The next release of results from the Short-term Expectations Survey will be on August 2.

For more information, for a set of tables, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684; fax: 613-951-1572; jamie.brunet@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

Short-term Expectations Survey

	Average forecasts					Actual figures	
	Feb.	March	April	May	June	Feb.	March
	% yearly growth						
Consumer Price Index							
Initial forecast	2.2	2.4	1.9	2.4	2.6	2.7	3.0
First revision	2.5	2.1	2.5	2.7	..	..	..
Second revision	2.3	2.6	2.7	..	..	..	..
	% monthly growth, seasonally adjusted, constant \$1992						
Gross domestic product							
Initial forecast	0.3	0.3	0.4	..	..	-0.4	..
First revision	0.3	0.4	..	..	..	..	..
Second revision	0.3	..	..	..	..	..	..
	\$ billion						
Exports							
Initial forecast	31.6	31.6	33.5	33.1	..	32.3	..
First revision	32.0	33.6	33.0	..	..	..	..
Second revision	33.3	32.9	..	..	..	..	..
Imports							
Initial forecast	28.3	29.3	29.0	29.1	..	28.4	..
First revision	29.0	28.9	29.1	..	..	..	..
Second revision	28.7	28.9	..	..	..	..	..
Balance							
Initial forecast	3.3	2.3	4.5	4.0	..	3.9	..
First revision	3.0	4.7	3.9	..	..	..	..
Second revision	4.6	4.0	..	..	..	..	..
	seasonally adjusted %						
Unemployment rate							
Initial forecast	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8
First revision	7.0	6.8	6.8	6.8	..	..	..
Second revision	6.8	6.8	6.8	..	..	..	..
Labour force participation rate							
Initial forecast	65.6	65.6	65.7	66.0	65.9	65.8	65.9
First revision	65.6	65.7	65.9	65.9	..	..	..
Second revision	65.7	65.8	65.8	..	..	..	..

.. Figures not available.

Hog inventories

April 1, 2000

The number of hogs on Canadian farms declined slightly during the first three months of 2000, and hog inventories were down marginally from a year ago.

Farmers reported 12.2 million head of hogs as of April 1 2000, down 0.6% from January 1, and 0.3% lower than on April 1, 1999.

Over the last six months, hog inventories have remained relatively stable despite the fact that many small farms have gone out of hog production. Feed grain costs have remained low, market prices have been improving, and processing capacities have increased in

Canada, making conditions favorable for raising hogs. Some farm consolidation and herd expansion continues.

While hog numbers in most provinces dipped slightly during the first quarter, inventories on Saskatchewan farms edged up. Nationally, hog farrowings, or birth intentions, for the second quarter of 2000 are 1.1% lower than the first quarter.

The driving force for the pork industry continues to be demand from export markets. Domestic hog slaughter for the first quarter of 2000 was up 1.5% over the fourth quarter of 1999. Slaughter was also 3.7% higher than during the first quarter a year ago, as processing plants have since increased their slaughter capacities. Live hog exports fell 11.3% from the fourth quarter and were 4.2% lower than in the first quarter of 1999.

Recent studies by non-government organizations have suggested that Canada and the United States are the two main hog producing countries in the world with the least number of factors limiting hog production expansion. Even though there is a sizable difference in their total inventories, the Canadian hog industry has expanded modestly this past year while U.S. hog inventories have contracted.

Hog inventories

	Total inventories million head	Total hogs % change (year to year)	Breeding inventory	Market hogs
Canada ¹	12.2	-0.3	2.0	-0.6
United States ²	58.1	-3.4	-4.8	-3.2

¹ At April 1, 2000 (annual change compared with April 1, 1999).

² At March 1, 2000 (annual change compared with March 1, 1999).

Note: Data for this release came from the April Hog Survey, a telephone survey of 2,500 farmers who were asked to report the number of hogs they had on their farm as of April 1, 2000.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9500-9510.

Data will be available in the *Livestock statistics update* (23-603-UPE, \$45/\$149), which will be available in May. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Plourde, Agriculture Division (613-951-8716; robert.plourde@statcan.ca).

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

February 2000 (preliminary)

February sales by the group of large retailers totalled \$4.9 billion, up 7.9% from February 1999. Changes in 1999 to the composition of the group of

large retailers affects year-over-year sales comparisons. This is especially true in the food sector, where several supermarket chains have been restructured.

Data in this release have not been adjusted for seasonality or for changes owing to differences in the number or significance of shopping days in each month. For example, in February 2000 there were 29 shopping days, but in February 1999 there were just 28.

Sales were up in February in all the major product lines sold by the group of large retailers. The largest percentage year-over-year sales increases were for hardware and lawn and garden products as well as other goods and services; both were up 15.9%.

Within the hardware and lawn and garden products category, sales of lawn and garden furniture and equipment rose 44.6%, benefiting from a 60.4% year-over-year increase in sales of outdoor power equipment. In comparison, hardware sales rose 10.0%.

In February, the two largest product lines within the other goods and services category were tobacco products and supplies (with sales of \$150.7 million), and automotive fuels, oils and additives (\$102.2 million). Both these commodity groups posted significant year-over-year sales increases in February. Sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives, affected by higher petroleum prices, rose 47.1%. Sales of tobacco products and supplies were up 12.4% over February 1999.

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	Jan. 1999	Jan. 2000 ^r	Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2000	Feb. 1999	Feb. 2000 ^p	Feb. 1999 to Feb. 2000
	unadjusted					
	\$ millions	% change		\$ millions	% change	
Commodities						
Food and beverages	2,077	1,970	-5.2	1,824	1,906	4.5
Clothing, footwear and accessories	783	800	2.2	769	800	4.1
Home furnishings and electronics	672	754	12.2	600	673	12.1
Health and personal care products	392	433	10.2	381	424	11.5
Housewares	255	261	2.3	217	234	7.7
Sporting and leisure goods	182	199	9.0	167	188	12.0
Hardware and lawn and garden products	153	138	-9.5	120	139	15.9
All other goods and services	512	545	6.3	444	515	15.9
Total	5,027	5,100	1.4	4,523	4,880	7.9

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

The home furnishings and electronics category continued to tally strong year-over-year sales growth — 12.1% in February. Sales of home electronics for the group of large retailers rose 19.8%, while appliances

were up 9.3%, and household furniture sales increased by 7.6%.

Sporting and leisure goods posted a 12.0% year-over-year sales increase in February. Sales of sporting goods alone were up 21.5%, because of higher sales of ski equipment (+42.4%) and team sports gear (+33.3%). Sales of leisure goods, which include items such as toys, CDs, books, magazines and craft supplies, rose 8.1% compared with February 1999.

Compared with the same month in 1999, February sales by the food stores belonging to the group of large retailers were up 3.9%, department store sales rose 4.5% and sales for the remaining stores within the group advanced 15.1%. Food stores accounted for 42.2% of the group's sales in February, while department stores accounted for 21.2%.

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

Production and disposition of tobacco products

March 2000

Production of cigarettes increased in March, but sales dropped substantially after a strong performance the month before. The surplus of production over sales boosted inventories.

In March, 4.0 billion cigarettes were produced, 7% more than in February but 9% fewer than in March 1999. The year-to-date production of 11.4 billion cigarettes was 13% less than in the same period in 1999.

March shipments fell to 3.3 billion cigarettes, 17% less than in February and 9% less than in March 1999. Cigarette shipments for the year up to the end of March, at 10 billion, were 5% less than for the same period in 1999.

Inventories grew by 21% to 5.0 billion cigarettes by the end of March; this was still 19% lower than closing inventories at the same time a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The March 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 or data quality of this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Red meat consumption

1999

Canadians consumed, on average, more pork and beef in 1999 than in 1998. Record pork and beef supplies in 1999 supported both record levels of meat exports and increases in domestic per capita consumption. Pork consumption at 27.4 kg per person increased 1.5% from 1998, while beef consumption, at 31.0 kg, was 1.3 % higher than in 1998 and slightly above the 1997 level.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1175-1179 and 1182-1183.

Red meat consumption statistics for 1999 are now available. Data will be available in the *Livestock statistics update* (23-603-UPE, \$45/\$149), which will be published in May. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Robert Plourde, Agriculture Division (613-951-8716; robert.plourde@statcan.ca). ■

Production and value of wildlife pelts

1997 (revised) and 1998 (preliminary)

Data on the production and value of wildlife pelts in 1997 and 1998 are now available. Data are tabulated by province and territory, including Nunavut from 1992 to 1998.

Data for 1998 by species for Canada and Ontario are unavailable at this time.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5692-5699, 9511-9516 and 9544.

These data will be available in *Livestock statistics updates* (23-603-UPE, \$45/\$149), which will be published in May. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251), Agriculture Division. ■

Food services and drinking places industry
1997

Data are now available for the food services and drinking places industry for 1997.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Daphne Bennett (613-951-3429; benndap@statcan.ca), Services Industry Division. ■

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