

The Daily

Statistics Canada

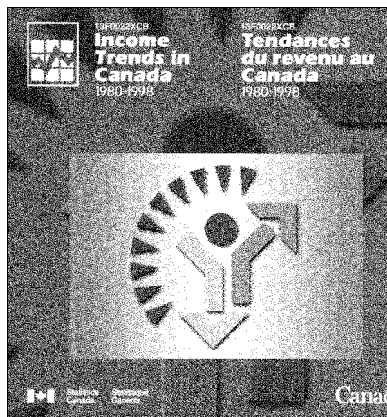
Wednesday, February 21, 2001

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, year 2000 and December 2000** 3
Canada registered a record international merchandise trade surplus of \$54.5 billion in 2000, as exports to its largest trading partner, the United States, rose at more than twice the pace of imports.
- **Private and public investment, 2001 intentions** 6
Private and public investment, including housing, is expected to increase by 1.7% in 2001 (compared with 5.0% in 2000), bringing total capital investment to \$183.1 billion.

(continued on page 2)



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NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

Year 2000 and December 2000

Canada registered a record international merchandise trade surplus of \$54.5 billion in 2000, as exports to its largest trading partner, the United States, rose at more than twice the pace of imports.

Canadian companies exported a total of \$417.7 billion worth of goods to the world in 2000, up 15.8% from 1999. At the same time, their imports rose 11.1% to \$363.2 billion.

About 86% of Canada's exports flowed to the United States in 2000, while 74% of imports came north from the United States. Exports to the United States rose 16.2% in 2000, while imports from there were up just 7.3%.

The \$54.5 billion trade surplus was far higher than the previous record of \$42.4 billion set in 1996. In 2000, the trade surplus with the United States alone was \$92.1 billion, compared with \$60.1 billion in 1999. This means that the deficit with countries other than United States was \$37.6 billion.

Note to readers

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

the wake of 3.7% growth in exports and a 0.4% decline in imports. The surplus was \$485 million higher than the previous record, set in October 2000.

Energy, high tech exports soared in 2000

On an annual basis, overall exports rose in 2000 on the strength of huge increases in shipments of energy products and machinery and equipment, primarily high tech and telecommunications equipment. Canada also imported substantially more energy products in 2000.

Exports of energy products soared 76.8% in 2000 to more than \$52.5 billion. Shipments of crude oil and natural gas, all to the United States, accounted for 74% of this increase, and electricity the remainder.

Companies exported a record \$105.6 billion worth of machinery and equipment, up 22.8% from 1999. Exports of telecommunications equipment were nearly 60% higher than in 1999. On the other hand, exports of automotive products remained essentially flat at \$96.3 billion. Imports of automotive products were up just 2.0%.

The largest increase in imports, 65.8%, was for energy products, which reached \$17.8 billion. Imports of machinery and equipment hit \$122.7 billion, a 13.5% increase.

Record exports of natural gas, electricity in December

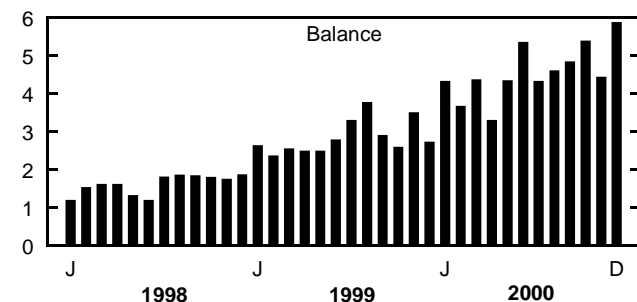
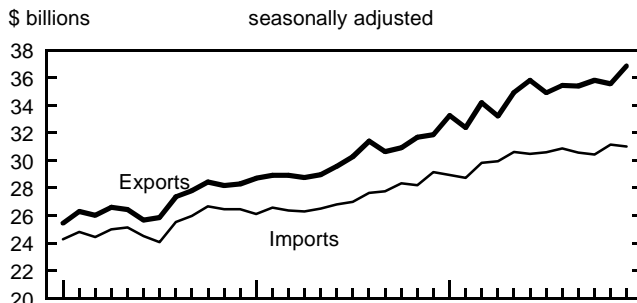
On a monthly basis, record shipments of natural gas and electricity were behind a 3.7% increase in exports in December, which hit \$36.8 billion.

Exports of energy products reached a record \$6.4 billion in December, up 40.7% from November. Exports of natural gas almost doubled from November (+92.7%) to \$3.3 billion in the wake of skyrocketing prices and strong demand in the United States.

Preliminary data show that in volume, Canada exported around 1.6 million or 19.6% more cubic metres of natural gas than in November, as new pipelines went on line to move natural gas to the United States.

Heavy demand for Canadian electricity continued in California in December. Exports of electricity were

Exports, imports and trade balance



On a monthly basis, Canada closed out the year in December with a record trade surplus of \$5.8 billion, in

up 16.2% to \$602 million. After two months of declines, exports of crude petroleum rose 4.9% in December to \$1.6 billion.

Exports of machinery and equipment reached a record \$9.7 billion, up 8.2% over November. Shipments of telecommunication equipment, particularly optical fibre components, finished the year up 19.2% to \$2.5 billion. Manufacturers of electronic hardware components exported a record \$955 million in office machines and equipment in December, up 4.8%. Exports of complete aircraft, aircraft engines and parts rose 20.4% to \$1.5 billion.

Automobile exports fell 12.0% to \$7.2 billion, as production slowed. This was about \$1.7 billion less than the January 2000 level. Exports of passenger autos and chassis were down 17.1% to \$3.9 billion, while shipments of trucks declined 7.2% to \$1.3 billion. Motor vehicle parts exports declined for a sixth consecutive month to \$12.0 billion, about \$500 million less than the record high in June 2000.

Imports finished the year with slight decline

Canadian companies finished the year with a marginal 0.4% decline in imports to \$31.0 billion. A slight increase in imports of automotive products was not enough to offset sharp declines in imports of industrial goods and materials.

Imports of automotive products rose 1.4% to \$5.9 billion in December on the strength of an 8.1% increase in incoming shipments of passenger autos and chassis, as well as a 4.1% increase in truck imports. On the other hand, imports of motor vehicle parts declined 2.3% to \$3.5 billion, the fourth straight monthly decrease. Production of automobiles and trucks slowed during the last quarter of 2000, reducing the need for imported parts.

Imports of office machines and equipment were up 4.8% in December to \$1.7 billion, as demand for portable computers and computer parts remained strong. Communications equipment finished the year with a marginal 0.1% increase over November, but on a yearly basis, imports were up 29.4% over 1999.

Imports of industrial goods and material declined 3.3% in December to \$5.9 billion. Metal ores

such as copper and zinc declined 29.3% to \$228 million. Imports of steel bars, rods and plate fell 11.5% to \$315 million.

After reaching a record high in November, imports of chemical and plastic products declined 5.2% to \$2.1 billion. Organic chemicals, such as gasoline additives and active agents used in various medications, were the main contributors, falling 17.2 %.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are regularly revised for each month of the current year and annual data are revised once a year for the previous four years. 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, 3685-3713, 3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.

This release summarizes the merchandise trade data to be published soon in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188). 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-XIB, \$29/\$93; 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order products*.

Merchandise trade data are available 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, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. □

Merchandise trade

	November 2000 ^r	December 2000	November to December 2000	December 1999 to December 2000	January to December 1999	January to December 2000	Jan.–Dec. 1999 to Jan.–Dec. 2000
seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	30,984	31,876	2.9	17.0	309,395	359,630	16.2
Japan	868	824	-5.1	7.9	9,219	9,921	7.6
European Union	1,545	1,896	22.7	17.3	18,230	21,006	15.2
Other OECD countries ¹	609	682	12.0	-6.3	7,160	8,159	14.0
All other countries	1,541	1,572	2.0	4.1	16,602	18,942	14.1
Total	35,548	36,849	3.7	15.7	360,609	417,657	15.8
Imports							
United States	22,678	22,631	-0.2	3.3	249,324	267,579	7.3
Japan	939	1,017	8.3	1.8	10,593	11,717	10.6
European Union	3,039	3,055	0.5	17.0	28,431	33,572	18.1
Other OECD countries ¹	1,680	1,614	-3.9	25.2	13,253	18,924	42.8
All other countries	2,801	2,684	-4.2	13.7	25,216	31,373	24.4
Total	31,136	31,001	-0.4	6.3	326,818	363,162	11.1
Balance							
United States	8,306	9,245	...	...	60,071	92,051	...
Japan	-71	-193	...	...	-1,374	-1,796	...
European Union	-1,494	-1,159	...	...	-10,201	-12,566	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-1,071	-932	...	...	-6,093	-10,765	...
All other countries	-1,260	-1,112	...	...	-8,614	-12,431	...
Total	4,412	5,848	...	...	33,791	54,495	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,321	2,371	2.2	6.2	25,568	27,575	7.8
Energy products	4,549	6,402	40.7	123.5	29,721	52,539	76.8
Forestry products	3,433	3,230	-5.9	-6.7	39,116	41,379	5.8
Industrial goods and materials	5,500	5,322	-3.2	4.0	57,431	64,611	12.5
Machinery and equipment	8,979	9,711	8.2	28.3	85,984	105,573	22.8
Automotive products	8,218	7,232	-12.0	-12.8	95,493	96,298	0.8
Other consumer goods	1,295	1,284	-0.8	12.0	13,469	14,668	8.9
Special transactions trade ²	672	669	-0.4	6.0	7,348	7,979	8.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	580	628	8.3	15.7	6,474	7,032	8.6
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,621	1,572	-3.0	5.1	17,645	18,568	5.2
Energy products	1,724	1,670	-3.1	34.6	10,709	17,753	65.8
Forestry products	263	261	-0.8	7.4	2,741	3,064	11.8
Industrial goods and materials	6,128	5,926	-3.3	3.7	62,132	70,460	13.4
Machinery and equipment	10,689	10,692	0.0	13.8	108,168	122,740	13.5
Automotive products	6,111	6,199	1.4	-6.0	75,917	77,406	2.0
Other consumer goods	3,524	3,522	-0.1	7.1	36,955	40,079	8.5
Special transactions trade ²	545	586	7.5	-11.2	6,325	6,500	2.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	531	573	7.9	6.7	6,234	6,593	5.8

^r Revised figures.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

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

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

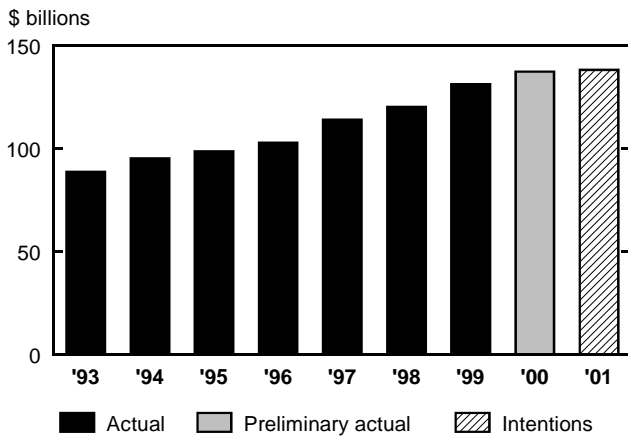
Private and public investment

2001 intentions

Private and public investment, including housing, is expected to increase by 1.7% in 2001 (compared with 5.0% in 2000), bringing total capital investment to \$183.1 billion. Housing investment is expected to increase for the sixth year in a row to \$45.0 billion, up 5.4%, while investment in plant and equipment is expected to be \$138.0 billion, a slight rise of 0.6% from 2000.

The levelling off of plant and equipment investment is partly the result of the completion of large capital projects over the last few years. After seven consecutive annual increases and high capacity utilization rates, spending appears to be slowing. Investment in machinery and equipment is expected to decline 2.5% to \$70.3 billion in 2001, while non-residential construction is expected to rise 4.0% to \$67.7 billion.

Plant and equipment spending slows



Plant and equipment spending intentions for 2001 are almost unchanged, despite continued increases in spending by the oil and gas industries, support activities for transportation, and telecommunications. Offsetting this increase is a decline in pipeline construction as well as lower investment in primary metal and wood products manufacturing.

Investment in high tech equipment still rising

Spending on equipment such as computers, broadcasting, telecommunications and other information and communications technologies is expected to claim a large proportion of the investment in machinery and

Note to readers

Investment intentions are based on a sample survey of 27,000 businesses, governments and institutions. The survey, conducted from October 2000 to the end of January 2001, had a 77% response rate, which covers 82% of the designed sample weight. The coefficient of variation, which measures the precision of the estimated data, is 1.8% at the Canada level. Data in this release are calendarized and in current dollars.

equipment in 2001. Respondents to the survey reported that 32% of their spending in 2001 would be devoted to high tech equipment, up from 30% in 2000. This concentration on high tech equipment is most evident in the information and cultural industries, where 76% of spending is earmarked for information technology, and in the professional, scientific and technical services industries, where just over 90% will be devoted to information technology.

Oil and gas continue up

An increase of \$1.7 billion is expected in the oil and gas extraction industries, where strong prices and robust drilling activity persist. This 8.3% increase will result in spending of \$21.7 billion.

Investment goes both ways in transportation

The winding down of several pipeline projects across the country has curbed investment by the pipeline industry in 2001. Spending is down 62.1% as a result of these completions and is now just over \$0.8 billion.

At the same time, spending by the support activities for transportation industry, largely on airports, is up 37.5% to \$2.8 billion.

Manufacturing falls back

Manufacturing sector spending on plant and equipment are expected to see their first significant decline since 1992. Large plant completions do not appear to be accompanied by further planned spending. Leading the drop are the primary metals industries, where a 30.1% drop to \$1.9 billion is expected in 2001. A similar situation holds in the wood products industries, where a number of mills are coming into service, resulting in a drop of 31.4%. In total, 12 of 20 manufacturing industries are expecting declines. The largest increase is expected from the computer and electronic products industry, up 7.0% to \$1.7 billion. Only seven other industries expect investment growth.

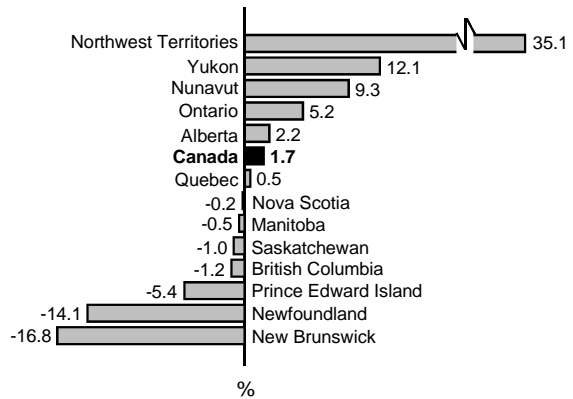
New construction and renovation combine to increase housing

Investment in residential housing is expected to continue upward in 2001, up 5.4% to \$45.0 billion. Renovation is expected to increase 6.0% to \$19.7 billion, the highest level ever. New housing should rise 4.6% compared with 2000. The largest gain is expected in Ontario, 6.4%. Quebec (+6.1%) and Manitoba (+5.7%) are expected to follow.

Several regions expect increases

The Northwest Territories (+35.1%) and Yukon (+12.1%) are expected to lead all other regions in investment percentage growth in 2001. Ontario expects 5.2% growth, while the largest decline is expected in New Brunswick (-16.8%).

Northwest Territories and Yukon expect to outpace other regions in spending growth



Available on CANSIM: matrices 11500-11537.

Private and public investment in Canada, intentions 2001 (61-205-XIB, \$35) will be available shortly. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Shinder (1-877-338-2368; 613-951-2030; shinder@statcan.ca) or Gilbert Paquette (1-800-571-0494; 613-951-9818; gilbert@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations

	Year ¹	Capital expenditures			Preliminary actual 2000 to intentions 2001	Actual 1999 to preliminary actual 2000
		Construction	Machinery and equipment	Total		
		\$ millions					% change
Canada	1999	100,877.5	70,425.4	171,302.9		
	2000	107,786.9	72,117.3	179,904.2		
	2001	112,715.1	70,336.8	183,051.9	1.7	5.0
Newfoundland	1999	2,761.6	740.4	3,501.9		
	2000	2,112.7	1,105.7	3,218.4		
	2001	1,997.9	766.7	2,764.6	-14.1	-8.1
Prince Edward Island	1999	290.7	226.6	517.3		
	2000	319.3	215.0	534.3		
	2001	322.9	182.3	505.2	-5.4	3.3
Nova Scotia	1999	3,393.7	1,595.3	4,989.0		
	2000	2,519.2	1,669.2	4,188.4		
	2001	2,643.6	1,534.4	4,178.1	-0.2	-16.0
New Brunswick	1999	2,465.6	1,316.6	3,782.2		
	2000	2,269.8	1,304.0	3,573.9		
	2001	1,838.3	1,135.8	2,974.1	-16.8	-5.5
Quebec	1999	16,864.3	15,590.2	32,454.5		
	2000	19,065.5	15,531.9	34,597.4		
	2001	20,202.3	14,578.7	34,781.0	0.5	6.6
Ontario	1999	34,145.1	29,459.0	63,604.2		
	2000	35,809.4	29,803.4	65,612.8		
	2001	38,523.5	30,478.8	69,002.4	5.2	3.2
Manitoba	1999	2,853.9	2,304.6	5,158.5		
	2000	2,781.9	2,398.4	5,180.3		
	2001	2,861.1	2,291.7	5,152.8	-0.5	0.4
Saskatchewan	1999	4,056.1	2,443.2	6,499.4		
	2000	4,130.8	2,125.8	6,256.6		
	2001	4,116.3	2,077.8	6,194.1	-1.0	-3.7
Alberta	1999	20,137.2	9,577.6	29,714.8		
	2000	24,046.2	10,689.6	34,735.8		
	2001	25,560.0	9,942.4	35,502.4	2.2	16.9
British Columbia	1999	13,169.8	6,887.0	20,056.7		
	2000	13,978.4	6,993.8	20,972.2		
	2001	13,706.3	7,014.4	20,720.7	-1.2	4.6
Yukon	1999	160.3	109.7	270.0		
	2000	175.0	96.8	271.8		
	2001	210.9	93.8	304.7	12.1	0.7
Northwest Territories	1999	409.7	121.6	531.4		
	2000	416.4	121.2	537.6		
	2001	597.9	128.3	726.2	35.1	1.2
Nunavut	1999	169.4	53.7	223.0		
	2000	162.3	62.5	224.8		
	2001	134.0	111.7	245.7	9.3	0.8

¹ Actual 1999, followed by preliminary actual 2000 and then Intentions 2001.

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations

	1999 actual	2000 preliminary actual	2001 intentions	Preliminary actual 2000 to intentions 2001	1999 actual to preliminary actual 2000
	\$ millions			% change	
Total	171,302.9	179,904.2	183,051.9	1.7	5.0
Plant and equipment	130,181.7	137,206.2	138,033.9	0.6	5.4
Housing	41,121.1	42,698.0	45,018.0	5.4	3.8
North American Industry Classification					
System sectors					
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	4,192.4	4,218.5	4,244.7	0.6	0.6
Mining and oil and gas extraction	18,337.7	23,743.8	25,283.6	6.5	29.5
Utilities	7,556.5	8,241.1	8,966.4	8.8	9.1
Construction	2,750.8	2,912.5	2,988.6	2.6	5.9
Manufacturing	20,230.9	21,263.1	19,756.9	-7.1	5.1
Wholesale trade	2,659.3	2,374.4	2,347.0	-1.2	-10.7
Retail trade	3,725.3	4,276.8	3,823.2	-10.6	14.8
Transportation and warehousing	13,121.2	10,869.0	10,307.1	-5.2	-17.2
Information and cultural industries	9,116.9	9,881.0	10,456.2	5.8	8.4
Finance and insurance	12,673.5	11,633.3	11,548.8	-0.7	-8.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	8,512.3	7,693.2	8,098.6	5.3	-9.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	2,848.6	3,707.6	3,885.3	4.8	30.2
Management of companies and enterprises	191.7	169.0	165.1	-2.3	-11.8
Administrative support, waste management and remediation services	590.9	667.4	669.1	0.3	12.9
Educational services	3,502.2	3,847.4	4,044.6	5.1	9.9
Health care and social assistance	2,959.1	3,590.0	3,572.4	-0.5	21.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	958.1	1,183.9	885.3	-25.2	23.6
Accommodation and food services	1,214.9	1,177.2	1,153.0	-2.1	-3.1
Other services (except public administration)	1,057.7	971.0	906.5	-6.6	-8.2
Public administration	13,981.9	14,785.9	14,931.6	1.0	5.8

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.



OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

December 2000 (preliminary)

An estimated 501,700 Canadians (unadjusted for seasonal trends) received regular Employment Insurance benefits in December, down 7.2% from December 1999. All provinces and territories recorded a decrease in the number of regular beneficiaries compared with December 1999 except Nunavut.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Dec. 1999	Dec. 2000 ^P	Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000	% change
unadjusted for seasonality				
Canada	540,360	501,700		-7.2
Newfoundland	38,160	37,710		-1.2
Prince Edward Island	10,900	10,650		-2.3
Nova Scotia	30,570	30,290		-0.9
New Brunswick	39,090	36,950		-5.5
Quebec	192,720	177,050		-8.1
Ontario	101,560	95,850		-5.6
Manitoba	15,320	13,610		-11.2
Saskatchewan	13,020	12,850		-1.3
Alberta	31,710	26,460		-16.6
British Columbia	64,540	57,820		-10.4
Yukon Territory	1,330	1,260		-5.3
Northwest Territories	1,070	810		-24.3
Nunavut	280	320		14.3

^P Preliminary figures.

Regular benefit payments (adjusted for seasonal trends) were \$592.3 million, down 10.7% from December 1999.

Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada have discovered an underestimation in the calculation of the number of Employment Insurance beneficiaries. This affects the beneficiaries file from January 1997 to April 2000. Consequently, the departments have agreed to correct the underestimation and conduct an historical revision to correct the data series dating back to January 1997.

The preliminary data on the number of beneficiaries, aggregated at the provincial level for November and December, were tabulated by Human Resources Development Canada and provided to Statistics Canada. These preliminary data are unadjusted for seasonal trends.

Note: Users are cautioned against making any analytical comparisons between these data and any monthly or historical data previously released in *The Daily* and on CANSIM.

Employment Insurance statistics

	Dec. 1999	Nov. 2000	Dec. 2000	Nov. to Dec. 2000	Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000
seasonally adjusted					
% change					
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	663.6	614.3 ^P	592.3 ^P	-3.6	-10.7
Claims received ('000)	235.0	221.6 ^P	226.5 ^P	2.2	-3.6
unadjusted for seasonality					
% change					
All beneficiaries ('000)	725.3	602.7 ^P	689.0 ^P	14.3	-5.0
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	540.4	419.4 ^P	501.7 ^P	19.6	-7.2
Claims received ('000)	284.6	287.2	284.3	-1.0	-0.1
Payments (\$ millions)	989.1	872.4	891.9	2.2	-9.8
year-to-date (January to December)					
1999 to 2000					
% change					
Claims received ('000)			2,625.0	2,592.8	-1.2
Payments (\$ millions)			11,830.1	11,154.4	-5.7

^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 5700-5704 and 5707.

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

Natural gas sales

December 2000 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 8 381 million cubic metres in December, up 17.0% over December 1999. Unusually cold weather throughout Canada resulted in higher sales to the residential (+28.0%) and commercial (+33.8%) sectors. Use by the industrial sector (including direct sales) rose 6.9% over December 1999, owing to higher use of natural gas for electricity generation and stronger demand by the chemical industry.

Sales for all of 2000 were up 9.0% over 1999. Sales to the residential (+5.6%) and commercial (+4.0%)

sectors increased largely because of the unseasonably cold weather during the 2000 heating season. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) continued to maintain strong growth, rising 11.4% over the same period in 1999.

Natural gas sales

	Dec. 2000 ^P	Dec. 1999	Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000 % change
	thousands of cubic metres		
Natural gas sales	8 380 517	7 164 647	17.0
Residential	2 340 523	1 829 106	28.0
Commercial	1 667 408	1 245 763	33.8
Industrial	1 887 611	1 909 028	6.9
Direct	2 484 975	2 180 750	
	year-to-date		
	2000 ^P	1999	1999 to 2000 % change
	thousands of cubic metres		
Natural gas sales	72 219 423	66 262 074	9.0
Residential	15 127 386	14 328 947	5.6
Commercial	10 664 505	10 254 256	4.0
Industrial	22 186 606	20 480 275	11.4
Direct	24 240 926	21 198 596	

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

The December 2000 issue of *Natural gas transportation and distribution* (55-002-XIB, \$13/\$125) will be available in March. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567; smalgar@statcan.ca) or Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; talewis@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

December 2000

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 2000 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 2000. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only standard international trade classification 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 2000 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

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), International Trade Division. ■

Food services and drinking places

1998

Data for 1998 for food services and drinking places (NAICS 722) are now available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Daphne Bennett (613-951-3429; daphne.bennett@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

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

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