



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 30, 2001
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- **Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, January 2001** 2
Gross domestic product rose 0.3% in January, the same pace as in December. Strength in wholesale and retail trade, construction and increased activity in the oilpatch was partly offset by continued weakness in the manufacturing sector and lower demand for energy.

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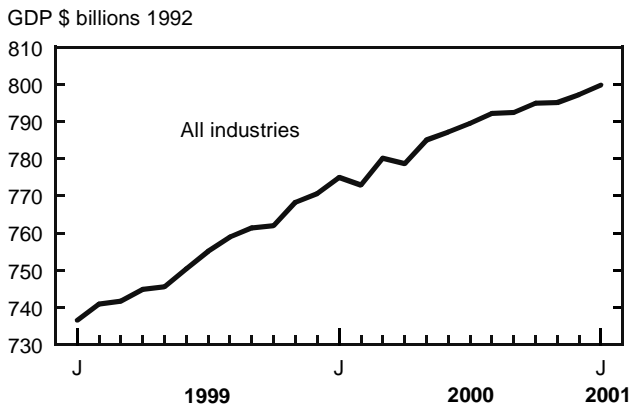
MAJOR RELEASES

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry

January 2001

Gross domestic product rose 0.3% in January, the same pace as in December. Strength in wholesale and retail trade, construction and increased activity in the oilpatch was partly offset by continued weakness in the manufacturing sector and lower demand for energy.

Economic growth continued, matching December pace



Most sectors of the economy made gains in January. Wholesaling and retailing activity advanced; there were broad-based increases in the retail sector, while computers were chiefly responsible for the strength in wholesaling. Oil and gas exploration activity continued to buoy the mining sector. The construction industry was busy; housing starts increased to their highest level since 1994.

Warmer weather and record natural gas prices helped reduce demand for utilities' output. Conservation efforts, plant shutdowns and switches to alternative fuels resulted in a significant decline for the gas distribution industry.

Further declines in the production of telecommunications equipment and automotive products held the reins on the manufacturing sector. However, a majority of the industry groups in the manufacturing sector reported gains in January after receding in December.

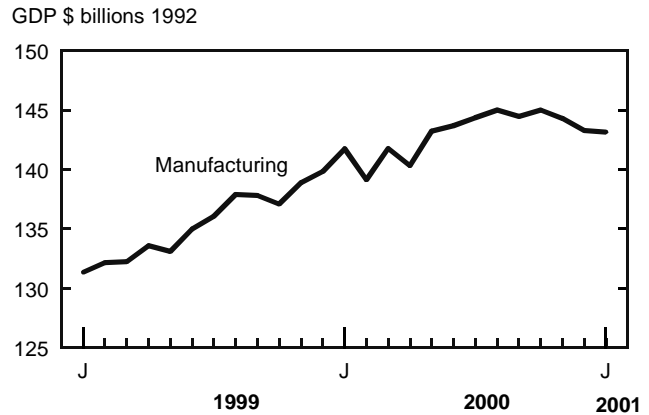
Note to readers

The gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other producers into outputs. Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1992 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

Manufacturing growth stalled by lower output of autos, electronic equipment

Manufacturing output edged down 0.1% in January, as weak demand for electronics and automotive products continued to plague this sector of the economy. There were also declines in the clothing, textile and plastic product industries. However, rising levels of production in the machinery, primary metal and chemical industries partly offset these declines. Overall, 15 of 22 major industry groups, accounting for 62.4% of total manufacturing production, raised output in January.

Fourth decline in five months for manufacturers



Production of electrical and electronic equipment continued to sag in January, the second decline since October 2000. Production of telecommunications equipment fell 9.6% and output of electronic parts and components dropped 9.4%. Of the large electronic goods-producing industries, only producers of computers and peripherals managed to advance. Nevertheless, overall output of electrical and electronic products was 17.6% higher than in January 2000.

During 2000, new orders continued to come in, albeit at a slower pace than previously, resulting in the lowest backlog of orders in many years.

Despite some strength in consumer demand from the United States, Canadian auto producers tapped the brakes again in January. Output of motor vehicles and auto parts curtailed production for the fifth consecutive month, by 2.3% and 1.9% respectively, as producers struggled to pare back excess inventories. Motor vehicle production was down 18.8% from January 2000, while parts production was 11.3% lower. Although no single parts manufacturing industry escaped cutbacks, makers of stampings, vehicle steering components and wheel assemblies fared the worst, while producers of plastic, fabric and other miscellaneous parts held up quite well.

Production of chemical products rose 1.6% in January, the sixth increase since April 2000. The industry was once again supported by the expansion of pharmaceuticals production, which saw a burst of growth in the latter half of 2000, resulting in a level of output about 25% higher than a year ago. Producers of synthetic resins and dyes, agricultural chemicals and cosmetic products also made sizeable gains.

Several industries that manufacture construction-related goods increased output in January. These included makers of concrete and ready-mix products, asphalt roofing materials and most wood products. Wood product producers also benefited from a strong export market, as building demand from the United States generally remained resilient. Primary steel production increased sharply, as output was hampered in December by plant shutdowns. The slowdown in auto production was one of the main factors behind the December slump.

Good month for construction activity

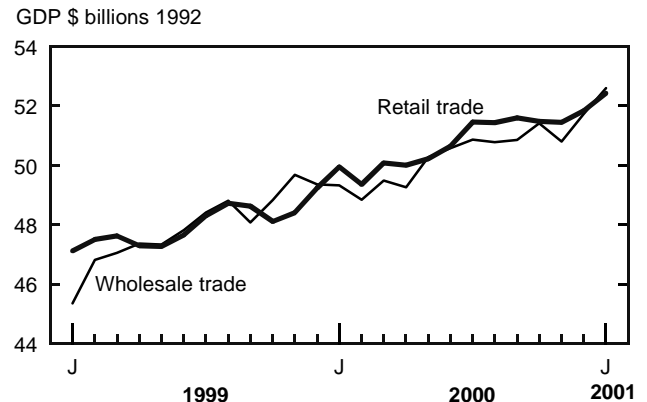
All sectors of the construction industry reported greater activity in January, leading to a 1.0% increase in this industry. The largest gains were in home-building and industrial plant construction; work on engineering projects also advanced. A double-digit gain in housing starts in January still left residential construction activity short of its previous peak reached in March 2000, as the majority of the gains were attributable to lower-cost multiple housing units. Overall output was buttressed by favourable weather, after an unusually harsh December.

Surging computer sales pushed wholesaling higher

Wholesaling activity rose 1.7% in January, the fourth increase since August 2000. This followed a solid December increase of 1.8%. As in December, higher computer sales were mostly responsible for the healthy gain in output. After a string of declines, imports of these

goods surged in December and January. Wholesaling of automotive products also rose from December levels, although activity remained roughly where it was at the beginning of 2000.

Wholesaling and retailing continued to advance



Broad-based advances in auto and department store sales buoyed retailers

Retail sales advanced 1.1%, principally on rising motor vehicle dealer and department store sales. Auto dealerships were busier in January, a welcome change from the lacklustre traffic of the previous three months. However, sales of new and used vehicles as well as other services in January were still below the previous peak reached last September. New store openings helped lift department store sales to a new record level. Furniture and clothing stores also reported increased activity. The most significant drop was in grocery stores, which saw the first sizeable decline in eight months.

Oil patch spurt lifted mining sector

Mining activity rose 1.5% in January, as a rebound in the drilling and rigging industry and continued growth in crude petroleum and natural gas extraction pushed output higher. Production from metal and non-metal mines also advanced, owing to sharply higher extraction of uranium and a burst in salt mining. Salt mine producers ramped up production, as a harsh winter in the Great Lakes region increased road salt consumption to the point of wiping out the entire season's inventories.

Milder weather took wind out of utilities' sails

The return to more seasonable weather in January caused distributors of electricity and natural gas

to reduce output from December's peak. Overall output fell 3.3%, a decline more sharply felt by the heating-oriented gas distribution companies. Natural gas distribution was also hampered by large industrial users, who curtailed consumption as natural gas prices reached record levels. Some industrial users shut down temporarily, whereas others switched to alternative fuels.

Other industries

A 5.4% increase in the insurance and real estate agent industry was led by a burst of home resales after a disappointing December. Logging was up a strong 4.7%, after five consecutive months of decline. A curtailment of activity in the North American equity markets lowered output in the finance sector. Restaurants were busier for

the fifth consecutive month, thanks to healthy domestic demand and an increasing number of tourists.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4677-4681.

The January 2001 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001-XIE, \$11/\$110) is scheduled for release in April. A print-on-demand version is available at a different price. See *How to order products*.

To purchase data, contact Yolande Chantigny (1-800-887-IMAD; imad@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Richard Evans (613-951-9145; evanric@statcan.ca) Industry Measures and Analysis Division □

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, 1992 prices

	August 2000 ^r	September 2000 ^r	October 2000 ^r	November 2000 ^r	December 2000 ^r	January 2001 ^p	December 2000 to January 2001	January 2001	January 2000 to January 2001
seasonally adjusted									
	month-to-month % change						\$ change ¹	\$ level ¹	% change
All industries	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	2,582	799,790	3.2
Goods-producing industries	0.3	-0.4	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	7	258,292	1.0
Agriculture	-0.5	-0.9	-0.8	0.6	0.3	0.3	38	12,809	-2.2
Fishing and trapping	-6.7	-1.0	2.8	-3.6	3.6	-5.1	-35	655	-12.2
Logging and forestry	-5.6	-5.2	-3.3	-4.0	-4.0	4.7	194	4,296	-5.6
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	-0.3	-0.4	1.1	0.8	-0.1	1.5	421	28,033	4.2
Manufacturing	0.4	-0.4	0.4	-0.5	-0.7	-0.1	-141	143,140	1.0
Construction	0.2	0.3	-0.3	0.8	0.5	1.0	436	43,176	1.8
Other utilities	1.5	-0.7	-0.3	0.7	2.1	-3.3	-906	26,183	-0.9
Services-producing industries	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.5	2,575	541,498	4.3
Transportation and storage	0.5	-0.3	-0.3	0.3	1.3	0.0	17	37,383	3.9
Communications	1.2	-0.1	0.7	1.3	0.3	0.8	254	31,255	9.4
Wholesale trade	-0.2	0.1	1.1	-1.2	1.8	1.7	871	52,602	6.6
Retail trade	-0.1	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.8	1.1	596	52,426	4.9
Finance and insurance	1.2	0.2	0.8	-0.7	0.7	-0.1	-40	44,317	3.5
Real estate and insurance agents	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.6	501	84,046	2.9
Business services	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	46	51,522	8.2
Government services	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	117	48,294	4.3
Educational services	0.2	0.0	0.2	-0.2	0.3	0.2	65	41,151	1.2
Health and social services	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.3	0.1	55	46,472	0.2
Accommodation, food and beverage services	0.5	1.4	0.1	0.8	0.6	0.7	162	21,883	8.4
Other services	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	-69	30,147	1.6
Other aggregations									
Industrial production	0.5	-0.4	0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-626	197,356	1.2
Non-durable manufacturing	-0.7	0.0	0.0	1.3	-0.6	0.2	109	58,179	0.8
Durable manufacturing	1.2	-0.6	0.6	-1.7	-0.8	-0.3	-250	84,961	1.1
Business sector	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.4	2,425	669,429	3.4
Non-business sector	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	157	130,361	2.1

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Millions of dollars at annual rate.



OTHER RELEASES

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

February 2001 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 613 000 cubic metres in February, down 0.1% from February 2000. However, when the adjustment is made for the extra business day in February 2000, sales grew 3.5%. Increases were recorded for heavy fuel oil (+137 800 cubic metres or +22.9%), light fuel oils (+15 900 cubic metres, +2.3%) and aviation turbo fuels (+11 600 cubic metres, +2.5%). The advance in heavy fuel oil sales reflects higher use of the product by utilities for electricity generation.

Diesel fuel oil sales decreased (-91 200 cubic metres, -4.9%) from February 2000, and sales of gasoline also dropped (-64 100 cubic metres, -2.2%). Sales of regular non-leaded gasoline rose 0.1%, and sales of mid- and premium grades dropped 16.2% and 16.3%, respectively.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	Feb. 2000 ^r	Feb. 2001 ^p	Feb. 2000 to Feb. 2001 % change
thousands of cubic metres			
Total, all products	7 621.9	7 613.0	-0.1
Motor gasoline	2 941.4	2 877.3	-2.2
Diesel fuel oil	1 878.0	1 786.8	-4.9
Light fuel oil	702.6	718.5	2.3
Heavy fuel oil	602.8	740.6	22.9
Aviation turbo fuels	458.6	470.2	2.5
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	335.9	356.1	6.0
All other refined products	702.6	663.6	-5.6
<hr/>			
	Jan. 2000 to Feb. 2000 ^r	Jan. 2001 to Feb. 2001 ^p	Jan.–Feb. 2000 to Jan.–Feb. 2001
Total, all products	15 046.4	15 714.8	4.4
Motor gasoline	5 860.2	5 932.2	1.2
Diesel fuel oil	3 648.9	3 656.7	0.2
Light fuel oil	1 434.4	1 560.9	8.8
Heavy fuel oil	1 099.1	1 486.6	35.3
Aviation turbo fuels	907.9	933.7	2.8
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	706.6	766.5	8.5
All other refined products	1 389.5	1 378.2	-0.8

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

¹ Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products were up 668 400 cubic metres, 4.4 % higher than in the same period in 2000. Sales increased for six of the seven major product groups; the largest advances were recorded for heavy fuel oil (+387 500 cubic metres, +35.3%) and light fuel oil (+126 500 cubic metres, +8.8%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368; desjger@statcan.ca or Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; hardele@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Coal and coke statistics

January 2001

Reduced production capacity due to mine closures led to lower coal production in January. Coal production totalled 6 017 kilotonnes, down 1.9% from January 2000. Production in British Columbia (directed mainly to export markets) increased 11.5% to 2 284 kilotonnes, while it dropped in other producing provinces (supplying mainly electric power generating stations) by 8.7% to 3 733 kilotonnes.

Exports in January were 2 427 kilotonnes, up 1.9% from January 2000. Exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) increased 21.8% to 929 kilotonnes.

Coke production in January was 264 kilotonnes, down 3.9% from January 2000.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The January 2001 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XIB, \$9/\$85) will be available in April. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact André Lefebvre (613- 951-3560, andre.lefebvre@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics

January 2001

Reduced generating capability at hydro plants led to lower net generation of electricity in January. Net generation of electricity was 55 651 gigawatt hours (GWh), down 2.7% from January 2000. Reduced generating capability at hydro plants also led to an 11.0% drop in exports to 3 413 GWh, and an increase in imports from 682 GWh to 1 613 GWh.

Reduced generating capability in Ontario and British Columbia was the main reason for the 5.2% decrease in generation of hydro electricity to 33 796 GWh. Thermal conventional generation was down 0.7% to 14 801 GWh. Generation from nuclear sources was up 6.4% to 7 053 GWh.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3985-3999.

The January 2001 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XIB, \$9/\$85) will be available in April. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560; andre.lefebvre@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Employer pension plans (trusteed pension funds)

Third quarter 2000

The market value of the assets of employer-sponsored pension plans was \$610 billion at the end of the third quarter of 2000, up 1.7% from the second quarter. This rate of growth is lower than the 2.9% and 3.3% increases in the first and second quarter, respectively.

Net income, at \$14.4 billion, was very high, up 2.4%. Fund managers engaged in profit-taking from the sale of stocks, and used some of those profits to purchase more bonds. Stocks represented 42.4% of the value of total assets, and bonds 36.3%. The same proportions for the second quarter were 44.3% and 35.0%, respectively.

This publication provides data on the revenues, expenditures and assets of employer-sponsored pension plans as of September 30, 2000. It also contains a time series and analysis relating changes in the data to financial indicators.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5749.

The third quarter 2000 issue of *Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds* (74-001-XIB, \$14/\$47; 74-001-XPB, \$19/\$62) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information about the current survey results and related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Taxi and limousine service industry

1998 (preliminary)

The taxi and limousine services industry generated operating revenue of \$1,050 million in 1998, a 0.7% increase from \$1,043 million in 1997. However, this small growth was not shared equally within industry sectors; taxi and limousine associations and companies had robust revenue growth, while self-employed drivers saw their revenues decline.

The estimated 1,718 taxi and limousine associations and companies in Canada generated \$335 million in operating revenue in 1998, up 6% from 1997. Their operating margin also increased 17% from \$14 million in 1997 to \$16 million in 1998. By comparison, the estimated 28,477 self-employed taxi and limousine drivers earned \$715 million in 1998, 1% less than in 1997. The operating margin of self-employed drivers also decreased by 9% from \$213 million in 1997 to \$194 million in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 10195-10237.

To obtain data, please contact Robert Larocque, Transportation Division (613-951-2486, larocque@statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Robert Masse, Transportation Division (613-951-0365, massrob@statcan.ca). ■

Pilot survey on financing of small and medium-sized businesses

2000

A brief assessment is available today of the questionnaire and methodology used for a pilot survey on the financing of small and medium-sized enterprises conducted during the summer of 2000.

Statistics Canada plans a full-scale survey as part of a larger program of information collection and analysis; this program is being conducted in partnership with Industry Canada and Finance Canada.

A summary evaluation on what was learned from the pilot survey with recommended changes for the full-scale survey is now available. To obtain the evaluation, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts,

methods or data quality of this release, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684; jamie.brunet@statcan.ca), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. ■

Biotechnology use and development

1999

The first working paper from the *1999 Biotechnology Use and Development Survey* (88F0006XIB01007, free) is now available. The paper describes survey concepts and definitions, and contains tables on biotechnology firm revenues, research and development, imports and exports, human resources and product development.

For additional information or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Chuck McNiven (613-951-1233; chuck.mcniven@statcan.ca) Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Film, Video and Audio-visual Production Survey and Motion Picture Laboratory Operations and Production and Post-production Services Survey 1998

Data for 1998 from the Film, Video and Audio-Visual Production Survey, as well as the Motion Picture Laboratory Operations and Production and Post-Production Services Survey are now available.

To obtain data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michael Pedersen (613-951-3305; michael.pedersen@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

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Catalogue number **11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

Infomat — A weekly review, March 30 2001
Catalogue number **11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, January 2001
Catalogue number **31-001-XIB** (\$15/\$147).

Quarterly telecommunications statistics, Third quarter 2000
Catalogue number **56-002-XIE** (\$21/\$40).

Quarterly estimates of trustee pension funds, Third quarter 2000
Catalogue number **74-001-XIB** (\$14/\$47).

Quarterly estimates of trustee pension funds, Third quarter 2000
Catalogue number **74-001-XPB** (\$19/\$62).

Science statistics, Vol. 25, no. 2
Catalogue number **88-001-XIB** (\$6/\$59).

Biotechnology use and development, 1999
Catalogue number **88F0006XIB01007**
(Free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Thursday, June 5, 1997
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- **Urban Unemployment, 1996** 2
Statistics on the unemployment rate in urban areas. In 1996, each Canadian city or village had an average of 10.1% unemployment rate, the highest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was robust in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth overall.

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RELEASE DATES: APRIL 2001

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
3	Survey of Electronic Commerce and Technology	2000
5	Building permits	February 2001
5	Help-wanted Index	March 2001
6	Labour Force Survey	March 2001
11	New Housing Price Index	February 2001
17	New motor vehicle sales	February 2001
17	Services indicators	Fourth quarter 2000
18	Canadian international merchandise trade	February 2001
18	Travel between Canada and other countries	February 2001
19	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	February 2001
20	Consumer Price Index	March 2001
20	Wholesale trade	February 2001
24	Retail trade	February 2001
24	Field crop reporting series, March intentions of principal field crop areas	2001
25	Composite Index	March 2001
25	Canada's international transactions in securities	February 2001
26	Employment Insurance	February 2001
26	Adult criminal court statistics	1999/2000
26	Health reports	
27	Employment, earnings and hours	February 2001
27	Perspectives on labour and income	
30	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	March 2001
30	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	February 2001
