



The Daily

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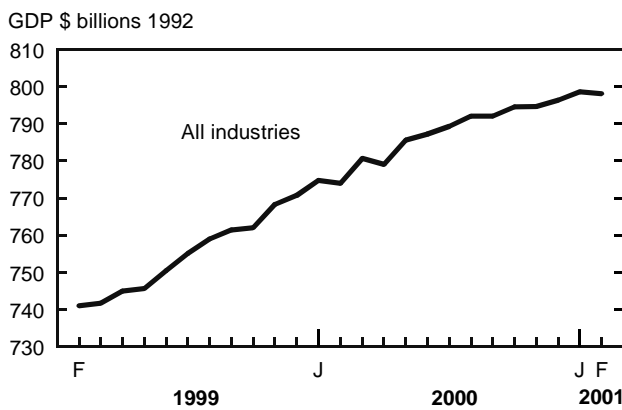
MAJOR RELEASES

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry

February 2001

Gross domestic product (GDP) slipped 0.1% in February, led by a sharp drop in the production of telecommunication equipment, after January's 0.3% gain.

Weak electronics manufacturing led economy lower



The intensification of weakening in electronic goods production led to the fifth and largest drop in manufacturing output in six months. Production of automotive products also fell again, although the decline was the smallest since major producers first began scaling back their operations in the second half of 2000.

Wholesaling and retailing activity receded in February, as weaker sales of computers and automotive products weighed on these industries. The reduced pace of production and distribution of goods translated into slower business at transportation concerns, while a drop in stock market volumes led to lower output in the finance industries.

These declines were partly offset by a rebound in demand for utilities' natural gas and electricity, as temperatures turned cooler following a milder-than-normal January. Construction industry output also increased, as did the provision of communication services.

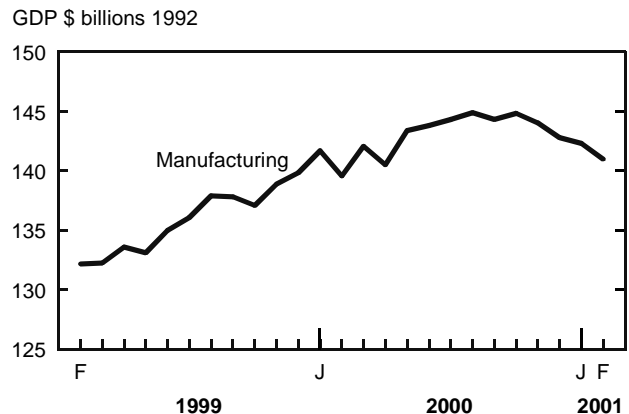
Note to readers

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

Plummeting electronics production pushed manufacturing lower

Total manufacturing output fell 0.9% in February, reverting to levels not seen since April 2000. Sharply weaker demand for electronic products was the major cause, although producers of primary metal, furniture and automotive products saw declines as well. Excluding the electrical and electronic products industry, output in the rest of manufacturing actually increased 0.3% in February. Overall, the output of 12 of 22 industries, representing almost three-fifths of total manufacturing output, declined in February. Strength in manufacturing came from makers of chemical, wood and fabricated metal products.

Manufacturing output declined again



Production of electrical and electronic products plummeted 9.1% in February, the biggest monthly decline since gross domestic product for this industry was first compiled in 1961. Major customers, primarily from the United States, continued to curtail spending, sparking significant production cutbacks and layoffs by key Canadian producers. February's weakness was

most pronounced among makers of telecommunications equipment (-23.1%), but manufacturers of electronic components and parts (-15.4%) and fibre optic equipment (-14.9%) were also caught in the downdraft. Only makers of computers and peripherals held their ground, the level of output in this industry increasing slightly from January levels. Overall, production levels of electrical and electronic goods in February were 15.7% off the peak reached last October, the industry's recent retrenchment having erased the better part of 2000's stellar expansion.

Manufacturers of motor vehicles and parts again curtailed production in February. But the declines, of 0.1% and 0.3% respectively, were together the smallest since the industry began scaling back production in the fall of 2000. While exports and imports of completed automobiles continued to drop in February, imports of parts rose for the first time in six months.

The auto industry's attempts to eliminate excess inventory, paralleled by similar efforts in the United States, seemed to be bearing fruit, as stocks on dealers' lots in both countries showed signs of falling back to more manageable levels. Auto sales in the United States, the market for about 9 in 10 Canadian-built motor vehicles, proved surprisingly resilient, prompting U.S. producers to raise output in February and March, after significant declines in the four previous months.

January's advance by producers of primary metal products proved to be short-lived, as February production plunged back to December's low levels. Mills making primary steel curtailed output the most, as shipments destined for automotive parts-making plants were cut back. Moderately higher output at other non-ferrous smelting and refining facilities provided a partial offset.

Output of furniture fell 3.4% in February, the second decline in three months. The outsourcing of production by some producers to manufacturers outside Canada was a factor in the industry's weak performance. However, annual growth in this industry has been in the double digits in three of the last four years.

A buoyant pharmaceuticals industry continued to shore up the chemical products sector, accounting for almost half of the sector's 3.6% advance. The sector was also buttressed by growth in agricultural chemicals, where producers were accumulating inventory, and by producers of soaps and cleaning compounds.

Underpinned by continued strong residential construction, production of wood products grew 1.2% in February. Despite a 10-year low in lumber prices, gains were led by a 1.3% increase at sawmills, which saw production levels approach those last seen in

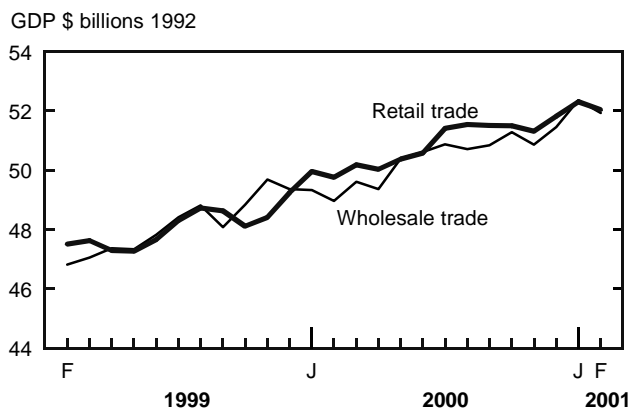
May 2000. Lumber exports edged down 0.3%, after a strong January. Particleboard and waferboard output reached record levels.

However, output in the paper and allied product industries fell 1.1%, the third decline in four months, due to a decrease in the output of converted paper and paperboard products. Exports of pulp, newsprint, converted paper and paperboard all tumbled in February. Pulp prices fell, as pulp producers' inventories have now swelled over the past eight months. Pulp shipments stood at their lowest level since January 1999, while newsprint shipments have fallen in four of the preceding five months.

Narrowly based declines in wholesaling and retailing activity

Weaker demand for computer and automotive products weighed on wholesalers, leading to a 0.8% decline in activity in February, after back-to-back gains in December and January. Wholesalers had benefited from renewed demand for computers and software that had paralleled a year-end burst in imports of these goods. However, sales of most other goods increased in February, notably food, pharmaceutical products, tobacco, building materials and farm machinery.

Retailers, wholesalers both saw slower business



Retailing activity decreased 0.5% in February, as auto sales fell back to December levels after a spurt in January. Excluding auto dealers, the retailing sector actually edged up slightly in February. Strong sales by grocery store chains and stores that specialize in auto parts were mostly offset by lower sales in men's clothing stores and department stores.

Transportation services followed goods production lower

Output in the transportation and storage industry fell 1.1% in February, reflecting lower production, distribution and international trade of goods. Sea-going freight was particularly affected, as trade with countries outside North America fell sharply in the month. Rail carriers also reported a slower month; declines in railcar loadings of wheat and automobiles were particularly pronounced.

Utilities bounced back from weather-induced low

Output of utilities rose by a substantial 2.7% in February, as winter reasserted itself in most parts of the country after an unusually warm January, whetting consumer and industry heating needs. Electric power facilities generated 2.9% growth, while gas distribution utilities advanced 4.0%.

Shelter and business needs continued to spur construction industry

The buildup in construction activity continued; output grew 0.5% in February. It was the sixth increase in eight months for residential builders, restoring levels of activity to peaks reached in early 2000. Housing markets in Canada and the United States are thought to have benefited from the unwinding of 2000's interest rate increases, a development that in turn has stimulated various supplying industries such as fabricated metals, cement, concrete and wood products.

Work on non-residential building projects also continued to expand; gains in recent months largely offset a slump in early 2000. Increased activity was reported on commercial, industrial and institutional projects.

Other industries

The communications industry, which saw output rise 1.2% in February, was buoyed by increased use of long distance and cellular services. Mining sector output rose 0.7%, largely due to a strong month in the oilpatch, as high prices continued to support expanded production. A drop in stock market volumes had a slowing influence on the finance industries, leading to a 0.4% drop in this group's output. Restaurant services fell somewhat after an unusually busy start to the year.

Forthcoming annual revision of monthly GDP by industry

The next annual revision of monthly GDP by industry estimates, scheduled for release on September 28, will include major classification and conceptual changes. The most important of these are: the replacement of the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification with the 1997 North American Industrial Classification System; a change in valuation from factor cost to basic prices; the capitalization of computer software; and rebasing from 1992 to 1997 prices, i.e., updating the price structure used to derive constant dollar GDP.

In the interim, the following table shows the impact on economic growth of a *synthetic* rebasing of GDP by industry from 1992 to 1997 prices. More details will be released in *The Daily* in early May.

GDP by industry: Impact on economic growth of a synthetic rebasing

	1992 base year	1997 base year	Difference
	% change		
1999	4.3	4.2	-0.2
2000	4.5	4.2	-0.2
First quarter 1999	1.1	1.0	-0.1
Second quarter 1999	1.0	0.9	0.0
Third quarter 1999	1.5	1.5	0.0
Fourth quarter 1999	1.1	1.1	0.0
First quarter 2000	1.2	1.2	-0.1
Second quarter 2000	1.0	0.9	-0.1
Third quarter 2000	0.9	0.8	-0.1
Fourth quarter 2000	0.5	0.5	-0.1
October 2000	0.3	0.3	0.0
November 2000	0.0	0.0	0.0
December 2000	0.2	0.2	-0.1
January 2001	0.3	0.3	0.0
February 2001	-0.1	-0.1	0.0

Available on CANSIM: tables 3790004-3790006 and matrices 4677-4681.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as in CANSIM, but in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The February 2001 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001-XIE, \$11/\$110) is scheduled for release in May. 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

	September 2000 ^r	October 2000 ^r	November 2000 ^r	December 2000 ^r	January 2001 ^r	February 2001 ^p	January 2001 to February 2001	February 2001	February 2000 to February 2001
Seasonally adjusted									
	month-to-month % change					\$ change ¹	\$ level ¹	% change	
All industries	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	-0.1	-493	798,059	3.1
Goods-producing industries	-0.5	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	0.0	-51	257,249	1.4
Agricultural and related services	-0.9	-0.9	0.6	0.3	-0.8	-0.1	-18	12,652	-3.0
Fishing and trapping	-1.0	2.8	-3.6	3.6	-5.1	-2.1	-14	641	-14.6
Logging and forestry	-5.5	-4.3	-4.7	-3.2	4.5	4.5	188	4,410	-7.1
Mining (including milling), quarrying and oil wells	-0.6	1.1	0.8	0.1	1.4	0.7	192	28,245	4.3
Manufacturing	-0.4	0.4	-0.6	-0.9	-0.3	-0.9	-1,319	140,983	1.0
Construction	0.3	-0.3	0.8	0.5	1.3	0.5	222	43,497	3.5
Other utilities	-0.7	-0.2	0.8	1.8	-3.5	2.7	698	26,821	1.3
Services-producing industries	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.5	-0.1	-442	540,810	4.0
Transportation and storage	-0.3	-0.2	0.3	1.4	0.3	-1.1	-427	37,140	3.6
Communications	-0.1	0.7	1.3	0.4	0.6	1.2	386	31,611	9.7
Wholesale trade	0.3	0.9	-0.8	1.2	1.8	-0.8	-434	51,917	6.0
Retail trade	-0.1	0.0	-0.4	1.0	0.9	-0.5	-261	52,031	4.6
Finance and insurance	0.2	0.8	-0.7	0.7	-0.1	-0.4	-164	44,079	1.3
Real estate operators and insurance agents	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.6	0.3	219	84,274	3.0
Business services	0.8	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	105	51,686	8.0
Government services	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	78	48,427	4.3
Educational services	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	25	41,241	1.4
Health and social services	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-44	46,411	0.1
Accommodation, food and beverage services	1.3	0.0	0.7	0.2	1.0	-0.3	-68	21,731	5.7
Other services	0.0	0.4	0.4	-0.1	-0.3	0.5	143	30,262	1.9
Other aggregations									
Industrial production	-0.5	0.4	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.2	-429	196,049	1.5
Non-durable manufacturing	0.0	0.1	1.3	-0.5	0.0	0.7	400	58,557	3.9
Durable manufacturing	-0.7	0.5	-1.8	-1.1	-0.6	-2.0	-1,719	82,426	-0.9
Business sector	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.3	-0.1	-582	667,506	3.3
Non-business sector	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	89	130,553	2.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Millions of dollars at annual rate.



Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

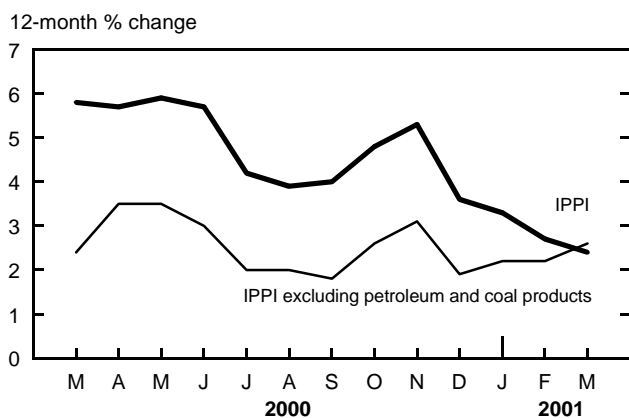
March 2001

The year-over-year increase in prices for both raw materials and goods produced by manufacturers continued to slow in March, as costs of energy had much less of an impact.

Manufacturers' prices, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), grew 2.4% from March 2000 to March 2001, continuing the slowdown in price growth that started last December.

This reduced momentum reflected in part the declining growth in petroleum product prices. For the first time since 1999, petroleum product prices had a downward influence on the annual increase. Had petroleum and coal products been excluded, the IPPI would have actually advanced 2.6% instead of 2.4%.

Petroleum product prices dampen IPPI growth



Motor vehicle and paper and paper product prices provided the greatest upward price pressure on the composite annual change but this was partly offset by falling lumber prices.

On a month-to-month basis, industrial prices gained 0.5% in March, matching February's rate. Prices for motor vehicles, paper and paper products provided most of the upward price pressure, more than offsetting declines for petroleum and coal products.

Manufacturers paid 1.1% more for their raw materials in March 2001 than in March 2000, down from February's year-over-year rate of increase of 5.1%.

As with the IPPI, energy prices dampened the increase in the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)

Note to readers

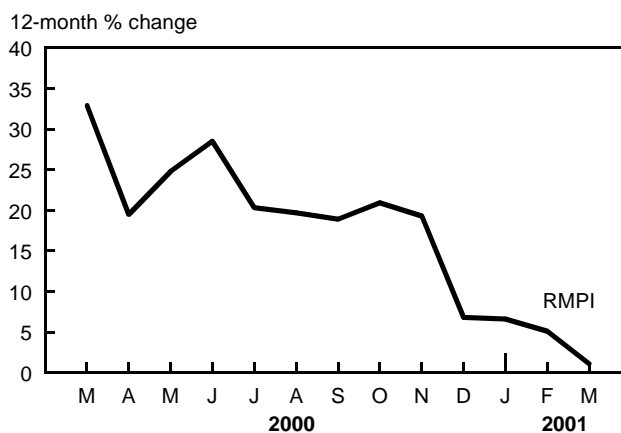
The IPPI reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its U.S. counterpart affects the IPPI.

The RMPI reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.

in March. If mineral fuels were excluded, the year-over-year RMPI would have advanced 3.5% rather than 1.1%. Metal prices also pushed down the RMPI. The decline was more than offset by higher animal and vegetable product prices.

Slower annual growth rate for raw materials prices



On a monthly basis, declining mineral fuel prices were the driving force behind a 2.1% drop in the RMPI from February to March. Most of the upward price pressure stemmed from animal product prices.

The IPPI (1992=100) stood at 130.1 in March, up from a revised 129.4 in February. The RMPI (1992=100) fell to 144.0 in March from its revised level of 147.1 in February.

Exchange rate effect pushed up prices

The U.S. dollar continued to gain value in March, pushing up prices of commodities quoted in U.S. dollars, notably automobiles, lumber, pulp and newsprint.

If the effect of the exchange rate were removed, the IPPI would have remained unchanged between February and March rather than increasing 0.5%.

The impact of the exchange rate was even more apparent on a 12-month basis. The IPPI rose 2.4% between March 2000 and March 2001, but without the exchange rate effect the rise would have been only 0.7%.

Crude oil price dropped

Crude oil prices fell 8.0% in March on expectations that U.S. inventories would be adequate to satisfy the demand stemming from the slowing U.S. economy. For the first time in more than two years, prices dropped on a 12-month basis (-5.7%).

Similarly, petroleum and coal product prices also fell between February and March (-2.7%) but remained 2.3% above March 2000 levels.

Motor vehicle prices were central to gains in finished goods prices

In March, motor vehicle prices were central to gains for both annual and monthly finished goods prices. Along with prices for paper and paper products and electrical products, they helped bring about a 0.7% increase from February.

On a year-over-year basis, motor vehicle prices combined with meat, paper and tobacco product prices helped bring about a 3.5% rise compared to March 2000.

"Finished goods" are those generally purchased for the purpose of either consumption or investment. Most of the foods and feeds category ends up in the hands of consumers. Most capital goods are equipment and machinery generally bought as investment by companies, government agencies, or governments. Much of the remainder is bought by consumers.

Paper, lumber and chemical product prices boosted monthly input good prices

Monthly paper, lumber and chemical product prices boosted the intermediate goods category in March, leaving prices 0.5% higher than in February and 1.8% above March 2000 levels.

"Intermediate goods," sometimes referred to as "input goods," are goods that are generally bought by other manufacturers to be further used in the production process (i.e., to make other goods)

Available on CANSIM: tables 3290001-3290012 and 3300001 and matrices 1870-1878 and 1879.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as in CANSIM, but in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The March 2001 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$22/\$217) will be available in May. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Jennifer Withington (613-951-9603; withjen@statcan.ca), Prices Division. □

Industrial product price indexes
(1992=100)

	Relative importance	March 2000	February 2001 ^r	March 2001 ^p	March 2000 to March 2001	February to March 2001
					% change	
Industrial product price index	100.00	127.0	129.4	130.1	2.4	0.5
Intermediate goods¹	59.28	128.5	130.1	130.8	1.8	0.5
First-stage intermediate goods ²	7.91	139.6	146.2	147.1	5.4	0.6
Second-stage intermediate goods ³	51.37	126.8	127.7	128.3	1.2	0.5
Finished goods⁴	40.72	124.7	128.2	129.1	3.5	0.7
Finished foods and feeds	10.38	116.5	118.1	118.7	1.9	0.5
Capital equipment	10.21	125.0	128.9	130.2	4.2	1.0
All other finished goods	20.13	128.7	133.0	133.8	4.0	0.6
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.27	124.4	126.7	128.4	3.2	1.3
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.72	110.2	112.2	112.1	1.7	-0.1
Beverages	2.12	120.0	122.5	122.7	2.3	0.2
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.72	140.6	151.7	151.7	7.9	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.01	117.8	119.7	119.8	1.7	0.1
Textile products	1.82	107.1	108.7	108.8	1.6	0.1
Knitted products and clothing	1.93	110.2	110.4	110.6	0.4	0.2
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	5.20	145.8	125.8	128.0	-12.2	1.7
Furniture and fixtures	1.46	118.6	119.9	119.9	1.1	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.65	137.4	149.8	151.9	10.6	1.4
Printing and publishing	3.05	137.9	141.6	142.3	3.2	0.5
Primary metal products	7.58	131.0	124.8	125.0	-4.6	0.2
Metal fabricated products	4.11	125.7	125.3	125.5	-0.2	0.2
Machinery and equipment	4.08	116.0	116.2	116.4	0.3	0.2
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	18.76	130.9	136.8	139.0	6.2	1.6
Electrical and communications products	6.03	104.4	105.6	106.2	1.7	0.6
Non-metallic mineral products	2.12	118.3	121.3	121.8	3.0	0.4
Petroleum and coal products ⁵	6.01	159.7	168.0	163.4	2.3	-2.7
Chemicals and chemical products	7.60	120.9	128.7	130.1	7.6	1.1
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.45	120.6	119.8	120.5	-0.1	0.6
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.31	123.4	121.4	121.0	-1.9	-0.3

^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 indexes
(1992=100)

	Relative importance	March 2000	February 2001 ^r	March 2001 ^p	March 2000 to March 2001	February to March 2001
					% change	
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	100.00	142.5	147.1	144.0	1.1	-2.1
Mineral fuels	31.47	184.2	194.2	179.9	-2.3	-7.4
Vegetable products	9.41	112.1	119.3	120.1	7.1	0.7
Animals and animal products	24.41	119.3	125.3	131.0	9.8	4.5
Wood	14.88	141.7	142.1	142.1	0.3	0.0
Ferrous materials	3.17	122.0	109.4	111.7	-8.4	2.1
Non-ferrous metals	13.81	119.1	116.4	115.3	-3.2	-0.9
Non-metallic minerals	2.85	120.3	122.7	123.6	2.7	0.7
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	68.53	123.3	125.5	127.6	3.5	1.7

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Coal and coke statistics

February 2001

Reduced production capacity due to mine closures led to lower coal production in February. Coal production totalled 5 411 kilotonnes, down 10.0% from February 2000. Production in British Columbia (directed mainly to export markets) decreased 7.2% to 2 094 kilotonnes, and in other producing provinces (supplying mainly electric power generating stations) by 11.7% to 3 317 kilotonnes. Year-to-date production was 11 428 kilotonnes, down 5.9% from the same period in 2000.

Exports in February increased 1.8% from February 2000 to 3 095 kilotonnes. Exports to Japan (the largest consumer of Canadian coal) decreased 29.4% to 934 kilotonnes in February, while exports to other markets (especially South America) increased. Year-to-date exports were 5 521 kilotonnes, 1.9% above the same period of 2000.

Coke production was 239 kilotonnes in February, down 7.1% from February 2000.

Available on CANSIM: tables 3030016 and 3030017 and matrix 9.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as in CANSIM, but in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The February 2001 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002-XIB, \$9/\$85) will be available in May. 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

February 2001

Reduced generating capability at hydro plants led to lower net generation of electricity in February. Net generation of electricity decreased to 50 640 gigawatt hours (GWh), down 3.0% from February 2000. The reduced generating capability at hydro plants also led to

a decrease in exports of 22.8% to 3 192 GWh, and an increase in imports from 609 GWh to 2 757 GWh.

Reduced generating capability in Quebec and British Columbia was the main reason for the 7.1% decrease in generation of hydro electricity to 30 649 GWh. To service higher demand due to colder weather than in 2000, thermal conventional generation was up 0.6% to 13 488 GWh. Generation from nuclear sources was up 11.9% to 6 503 GWh because of greater capability in Ontario and New Brunswick.

Year-to-date net generation at the end of February totalled 106 283 GWh, down 2.8% from the same period of 2000. Year-to-date exports totalled 6 605 GWh, down 17.1% from the same period of 2000, whereas year-to-date imports rose 238.5% to 4 370 GWh.

Available on CANSIM: table 1270001 and matrices 3985-3999.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as in CANSIM, but in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The February 2001 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001-XIB, \$9/\$85) will be available in early May. 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. ■

Domestic air travel

Fourth quarter 1999 (preliminary)

Air passenger origin and destination data are now available for the fourth quarter of 1999. The data represent passengers who travelled on scheduled flights within Canada. (Passengers carried by WestJet Airlines, Canada 3000 and Royal Aviation are not included in these statistics.)

The air travel market data are available in electronic (.txt) format. For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Carol Gudz (613-951-0124), Transportation Division. ■

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9	Help-wanted Index	April 2001
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