



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

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MAJOR RELEASES

● **Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2002**

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Merchandise exports increased for only the third time in 11 months in January, and they did it with a vengeance, surging more than \$1 billion over December. This pushed the merchandise trade surplus to its highest since last May.

(continued on page 2)

Standard geographical classification

2001

The manual *Standard geographical classification (SGC) 2001*, available today, is a classification of names and codes representing geographical areas of Canada. It is used for collecting and disseminating data by geographical area.

The 2001 SGC replaces the *Standard geographical classification 1996* as the official classification for geographical areas from the 2001 Census and other Statistics Canada surveys.

These geographical areas include the 13 provinces and territories, 288 census divisions (counties) and 5,600 census subdivisions (municipalities), which form the three-tiered hierarchy of the SGC. Also included are 27 census metropolitan areas, 113 census agglomerations and 76 economic regions.

The 2001 SGC is organized into two volumes. Volume I, *The Classification*, contains tables of SGC units with their names and codes, tables of related standard areas, an alphabetical index of place names, and lists of changes that have affected names and codes of municipalities since January 2, 1996. Volume I, designed as a reference and coding manual, is also available on Statistics Canada's Web site at (www.statcan.ca). From the *Statistical methods* page, choose *Standard classifications*, then *Geography*.

Volume II, *Reference maps*, shows the locations and boundaries of the geographical areas in the classification. These maps help clients relate statistical data to the corresponding geographical areas. The maps are also available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *2001 Census* page, choose *Reference maps*, then *National and Provincial*.

The manual *Standard geographical classification (SGC) 2001*, Volume 1 (12-571-XPB, \$99) is now available. Volume II (12-572-XPB, \$99) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information contact Richard Fortin (613-951-3445; fax: 613-951-8578; standards@statcan.ca), Standards Division.



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MAJOR RELEASES

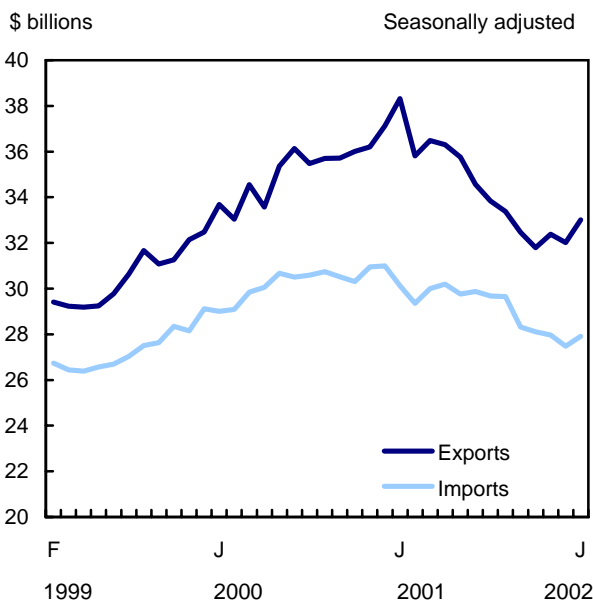
Canadian international merchandise trade

January 2002

Merchandise exports increased for only the third time in 11 months in January, and they did it with a vengeance, surging more than \$1 billion over December.

Companies exported \$33.0 billion in goods in January, up from \$32.0 billion in December. This gain, led by exports of aircraft, industrial machinery and natural gas, was the largest monthly increase in exports since January 2001.

Exports and imports



Merchandise exports grew 3.1% in January; this was almost double the pace of imports, which rose 1.6% from December to \$27.9 billion, halting six months of decline. The strong exports pushed the nation's trade surplus up more than \$500 million to \$5.1 billion in January, its highest since May 2001.

The growth in merchandise exports to the United States and the European Union far outweighed declines to Japan and other nations. Canadian companies sent nearly \$28.0 billion in goods to the United States in January, up 4.4% from December, and they imported \$20.4 billion worth, up 1.6%.

As a result, the trade surplus with the United States rose \$852.0 million to \$7.6 billion. The merchandise

Note to readers

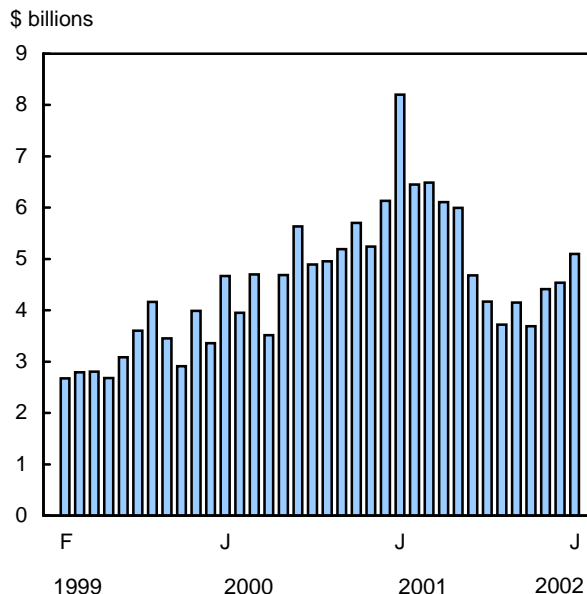
Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

Revisions

Generally, merchandise trade data are continually revised for each month of the current year. 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 as well as seasonal adjustment factors. Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

trade deficit with all other nations deteriorated by more than a quarter of a billion dollars to just over \$2.5 billion in January.

Trade balance



Despite the billion-dollar surge, January's exports were still 13.9% short of those in January 2001.

Record high exports in aircraft industry

The major factor in the big gain was exports of machinery and equipment, which increased 10.8% in January to \$8.7 billion. Exports of aircraft, engines and

parts jumped more than one-third from December to a record \$2.2 billion. Exports of television, telecommunications and related equipment were up 2.9% to \$953.8 million, the third straight monthly advance. Since October, exports in this sub-sector have risen 17.1%.

Buyer incentive plans targeting auto dealer inventory continued on a reduced scale in both the United States and Canada. Despite record retail sales in January, exports of automotive products fell 3.3% from December to \$7.5 billion in the wake of various auto plant shutdowns for several weeks. Exports of passenger autos fell 10.0% to just over \$3.5 billion, motor vehicle parts rebounded 5.6% to \$2.4 billion, and the trucks and other motor vehicles sub-sector rose slightly to just over \$1.5 billion.

Exports of industrial goods and materials rose 1.1% in January to \$5.5 billion. In the past five years, gains in this sector have been driven by a steady increase in exports of chemicals, plastics and fertilizers.

Energy product exports increased 7.2% to \$3.0 billion in January, the second straight monthly increase. This was due mainly to strong exports of natural gas to the United States, which rose 37.2% to \$1.4 billion. Since peaking in January 2001, natural gas exports had fallen in nearly every month to less than one-third the value by December, as prices returned to levels seen in the early months of 2000.

Crude petroleum exports fell 14.1% from December to \$884.7 million in January, or slightly more than half the record high posted in January 2001. Exports of petroleum and coal products fell for a second straight month, down 8.2% to \$578.8 million. These exports have been declining since April 2001, except for an increase in November.

Exports of forestry products picked up in January, rising 0.8% from December to just over \$3.0 billion. Exports of lumber and sawmill products rose 4.3% to \$1.5 billion, the second increase in a row, following a string of declines since July. The 19.3% countervailing duties imposed in August expired in mid-December, giving Canadian softwood lumber producers a temporary reprieve. Lumber exports rose 1.2% to \$935.5 million in January.

Exports of newsprint and other paper and paperboard fell 5.6% to \$1.0 billion in January, the third straight monthly decline. Newsprint prices and volumes were down due to current poor economic conditions, significant amounts of production downtime and a decline in consumption by daily newspapers. Newsprint prices have fallen significantly in less than a year.

Agricultural and fish product exports decreased 2.2% to \$2.6 billion in January, the

result of a 20.5% drop in wheat exports to just under \$309 million. Wheat prices rose as production fell in 2001 due to drought conditions in wheat-growing provinces.

Industrial goods, energy lead jump in imports

Imports declined in automotive products and machinery and equipment, the nation's two largest import sectors. However, increases in all other sectors more than offset the decline.

The main contributor to January's rise in imports was Canada's third largest import sector, industrial goods and materials, in which imports jumped 8.1% to \$5.5 billion on strong growth in all sub-sectors. Metals and metal ores rose 27.3% to \$1.3 billion; chemicals and plastics were up 6.0% to \$2.1 billion; and other industrial goods and materials rose 0.7% to \$2.1 billion.

Mid-winter plant shutdowns in the United States resulted in a 6.2% decline in the import of passenger autos and chassis to \$1.8 billion in January. Imports of motor vehicle parts slipped 0.9% to \$3.3 billion, as Canadian and American auto manufacturers struggled to consolidate excess manufacturing capacity. The drop in parts, which account for more than half of Canada's automotive imports, was largely responsible for a 0.8% decline in imports of automotive products to just under \$6.0 billion. Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles rose 11.5% to \$940.7 million, helped by mild winter weather, which gave importers of motorcycles an early start.

Imports in Canada's largest import sector, machinery and equipment, fell 2.6% to \$8.4 billion in January. Within this sector, imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment declined 24.1% to just under \$1 billion. Office machines and equipment imports rose 1.2% to \$1.4 billion, erasing December's decline. Other communication and related equipment, which includes telecommunications equipment and semi-conductors, edged up 0.5% to \$1.3 billion, the second straight monthly increase.

The industrial and agricultural machinery sector also edged up 0.4% to \$2.2 billion, with a 9.9% increase in imports of agricultural machinery and 14.7% increase in drilling and mining machinery. These were partially offset by a large 18.5% decline in metalworking machinery, which represented a return to normal levels after an unusually strong December.

Energy product volume increased import values 21.3% to \$1.4 billion due to higher refinery activity and higher demand for aircraft fuel. Crude petroleum imports rose 24.5% to \$898.0 million. Imports of other energy products, such as coal for electricity generation, increased 15.6% to \$470.4 million.

Available on CANSIM: tables 226-0001, 226-0002, 227-0001, 227-0002, 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly 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.

An annual review of 2001 will be included in the International Trade Division's annual publications *Exports, merchandise trade* (65-202-XPB, \$258) and *Imports, merchandise trade* (65-203-XPB, \$258), which will be available in June.

For more information on the publications, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (613-951-9647; 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division. □

Merchandise trade

	December 2001 ^r	January 2002	December 2001 to January 2002	January 2001 to January 2002	2000	2001	2000 to 2001
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	26,803	27,975	4.4	-15.1	359,552	351,086	-2.4
Japan	730	707	-3.2	-19.5	10,311	9,363	-9.2
European Union	1,665	1,833	10.1	-3.7	22,109	21,908	-0.9
Other OECD countries ¹	937	826	-11.8	-9.0	10,173	10,296	1.2
All other countries	1,878	1,673	-10.9	-0.4	20,415	20,459	0.2
Total	32,014	33,014	3.1	-13.9	422,557	413,111	-2.2
Imports							
United States	20,039	20,359	1.6	-5.9	267,675	255,085	-4.7
Japan	898	841	-6.3	-5.3	11,713	10,586	-9.6
European Union	2,919	2,674	-8.4	-14.4	33,427	35,041	4.8
Other OECD countries ¹	1,423	1,528	7.4	-6.7	18,948	18,610	-1.8
All other countries	2,195	2,514	14.5	-11.2	31,518	31,179	-1.1
Total	27,474	27,916	1.6	-7.3	363,281	350,503	-3.5
Balance							
United States	6,764	7,616	...	...	91,877	96,001	...
Japan	-168	-134	...	...	-1,402	-1,223	...
European Union	-1,254	-841	...	...	-11,318	-13,133	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-486	-702	...	...	-8,775	-8,314	...
All other countries	-317	-841	...	...	-11,103	-10,720	...
Total	4,539	5,098	...	...	59,276	62,608	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,658	2,599	-2.2	6.9	27,366	30,810	12.6
Energy products	2,836	3,040	7.2	-58.7	52,929	55,309	4.5
Forestry products	2,994	3,017	0.8	-11.4	41,757	38,631	-7.5
Industrial goods and materials	5,443	5,503	1.1	-3.6	65,917	66,269	0.5
Machinery and equipment	7,872	8,720	10.8	-5.8	106,884	98,809	-7.6
Automotive products	7,707	7,452	-3.3	-1.5	97,941	92,723	-5.3
Other consumer goods	1,357	1,504	10.8	15.1	14,805	15,797	6.7
Special transactions trade ²	640	654	2.2	-7.9	7,978	8,107	1.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	506	526	4.0	-10.1	6,981	6,655	-4.7
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,695	1,775	4.7	6.9	18,567	20,359	9.7
Energy products	1,128	1,368	21.3	-24.4	17,864	17,712	-0.9
Forestry products	226	249	10.2	-2.4	3,064	2,889	-5.7
Industrial goods and materials	5,121	5,535	8.1	-6.8	70,471	68,452	-2.9
Machinery and equipment	8,577	8,352	-2.6	-19.3	122,677	112,422	-8.4
Automotive products	6,033	5,982	-0.8	7.0	77,402	72,541	-6.3
Other consumer goods	3,584	3,592	0.2	2.6	40,088	42,919	7.1
Special transactions trade ²	567	555	-2.1	8.6	6,622	6,845	3.4
Other balance of payments adjustments	542	508	-6.3	-0.8	6,527	6,365	-2.5

^r Revised figures.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

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

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

OTHER RELEASES

Travel between Canada and other countries January 2002

The total number of trips Canadians took abroad increased for the third consecutive month in January but travel to Canada declined, according to preliminary data on international travel.

An estimated 3.8 million travellers arrived in Canada in January, down 0.6% from December. The number of trips by residents of overseas countries fell 4.1%, compared with a marginal 0.2% decline in the number of American travellers. (Unless otherwise specified, the data are seasonally adjusted.)

Canadians made 3.4 million international trips in January, up 5.9% from December. Canadian travel to the United States jumped 6.9%, fuelled primarily by same-day car trips. However, travel to overseas nations declined 2.0%. These data cover both same-day and overnight trips.

Americans took 1.3 million overnight trips to Canada, down 4.2% from December. While overnight car trips dropped 7.3%, the number of plane trips rose a slight 0.7%. Although overnight car trips had returned to pre-September 11 levels in December, January's level was 1.7% below August's.

For their part, Canadians took 1,048,000 overnight trips south of the border, up 2.3%. Overnight car travel rose 2.7%, and air travel 2.9%. These gains were partly offset by a 2.7% decline in overnight travel by other modes of transport.

Americans took almost 2.0 million same-day car trips to Canada in January, up 2.2% from December, the third consecutive monthly rise and the third increase

since August. Canadians made nearly 1.9 million such trips to the United States, 6.2% more than in December, again the third straight monthly rise and the third increase since August.

Canadians took 366,000 overnight trips to overseas countries in January, down 2.0% from December. In the same period, the number of trips by overseas residents to Canada fell to 324,000, a 3.5% decrease from December. While overnight travel by overseas residents had returned to pre-September 11 levels in December, travel in January was down 3.6% from August.

The majority of Canada's top 12 overseas markets showed losses in same-day and overnight trips to Canada in January. The Netherlands showed the greatest decline (-15.5 %), followed by Hong Kong (-11.1%), and Australia (-8.2%). However, both China (+28.0%) and Israel (+21.2%) posted significant increases. In January, five of Canada's top 12 overseas markets returned to pre-September 11 levels, with increases ranging from 1.5% to 57.1% compared with August.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

The January 2002 issue of *International travel, advance information*, Vol. 18, no. 1 (66-001-PIE, \$6/\$55) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; frances.kremarik@statcan.ca) or Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	December 2001 ^r	January 2002 ^p	December 2001 to January 2002	August 2001 ^r to January 2002	January 2002	January 2001 to January 2002
	Seasonally adjusted				Unadjusted	
	'000		% change		'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad¹	3,207	3,396	5.9	-11.5	2,918	-18.1
to the United States	2,833	3,030	6.9	-11.5	2,424	-18.9
to other countries	374	366	-2.0	-11.3	493	-13.9
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,775	1,885	6.2	-13.8	1,524	-20.1
Total trips, one or more nights	1,398	1,414	1.2	-10.7	1,317	-15.9
United States ²	1,024	1,048	2.3	-10.5	824	-17.0
Car	622	639	2.7	-2.1	410	-7.0
Plane	310	319	2.9	-22.1	372	-25.3
Other modes of transport	92	89	-2.7	-17.5	42	-22.9
Other countries ³	374	366	-2.0	-11.3	493	-13.9
Travel to Canada¹	3,811	3,789	-0.6	-9.4	2,346	-13.5
from the United States	3,460	3,453	-0.2	-10.0	2,179	-13.4
from other countries	351	337	-4.1	-3.0	167	-14.2
Same-day car trips from the United States	1,954	1,996	2.2	-12.8	1,497	-17.2
Total trips, one or more nights	1,695	1,626	-4.1	-3.8	773	-4.5
United States ²	1,359	1,302	-4.2	-3.8	610	-1.6
Car	922	854	-7.3	-1.7	372	5.3
Plane	306	309	0.7	-7.3	197	-8.3
Other modes of transport	131	140	6.2	-8.2	41	-20.8
Other countries ³	336	324	-3.5	-3.6	163	-14.1
Most important overseas markets⁴						
United Kingdom	70	71	1.3	-5.2	33	-12.9
Japan	34	34	-0.9	-9.4	15	-21.9
France	30	30	1.0	1.5	14	-13.9
Germany	30	28	-4.4	-2.0	9	-12.9
South Korea	14	14	2.3	8.9	10	15.7
Australia	14	13	-8.2	-6.5	11	-22.7
Mexico	13	12	-6.9	-12.8	5	-4.7
Israel	8	9	21.2	57.1	5	12.7
Hong Kong	10	9	-11.1	-12.5	6	-44.7
China	7	9	28.0	11.9	6	20.7
Netherlands	11	9	-15.5	-6.9	3	-16.4
Switzerland	9	8	-3.1	9.7	4	-0.5

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

² Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

³ Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

⁴ Includes same-day and one or more night trips.

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

February 2002

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in February compared with January's revised 120.2 (1992=100). The composite index was up 2.0% compared with February 2001.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where

a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

The first quarter 2002 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susie Boyd (613-951-9606; infounit@statcan.ca, fax: 613-951-1539), Prices Division.

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

February 2002

Manufacturers shipped 2 224 639 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in February, down 14.7% from 2 608 569 square metres in January and down 9.8% from 2 464 941 square metres in February 2001.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of February totalled 4 833 208 square metres, a 2.3% decrease from the same period in 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0004.

The February 2002 issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation*, Vol. 54, no. 2 (44-004-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yasmin Sheikh (613-951-2518; sheiyas@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

January 2002

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to January 2002 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to January 2002. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-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: tables 228-0001, 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

The January 2002 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, or methods of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

March 1, 2002 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on March 1 totalled 63 900 metric tonnes, down 7.6% from February 1.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rita Athwal (613-951-5022; rita.athwal@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Standard geographical classification SGC 2001,
Volume 1
Catalogue number 12-571-XPB (\$99).

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation,
Vol. 54, no. 2, February 2002
Catalogue number 44-004-XIB (\$5/\$47).

International travel, advance information, Vol. 18,
no. 1, January 2002
Catalogue number 66-001-PIE (\$6/\$55).

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Statistics Canada

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

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in the number of people taking urban transit. Canadians are riding it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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

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