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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index,** February 2002 — 3
  Consumers paid 1.5% more in February for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index basket than they did in February 2001.

- **Retail trade,** January 2002 — 6
  Retailers enjoyed a fourth consecutive month of increases; sales advanced 1.1% in January from December to $25.3 billion.

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Canadian economic observer

March 2002

The March issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in February and presents a feature article on the output of information and communications technologies. A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The March 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Volume 15, number 3 (11-010-XPB, $23/$227) is now available. Visit the *Canadian economic observer's* page on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions,* and on that page see the banner ad for *Canadian economic observer*.

For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group.

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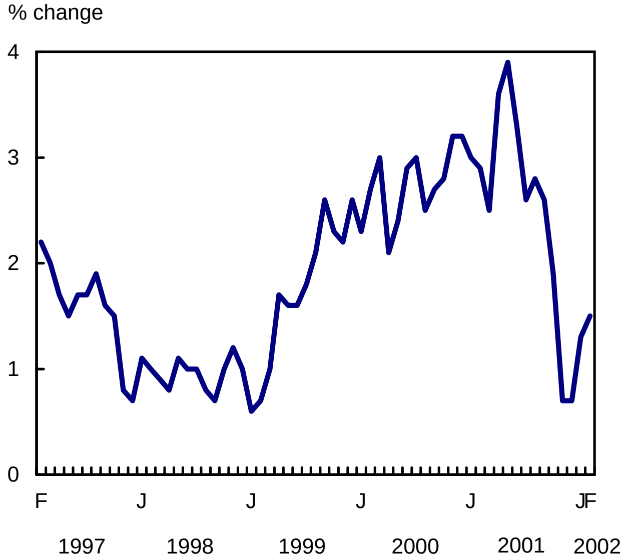
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

February 2002

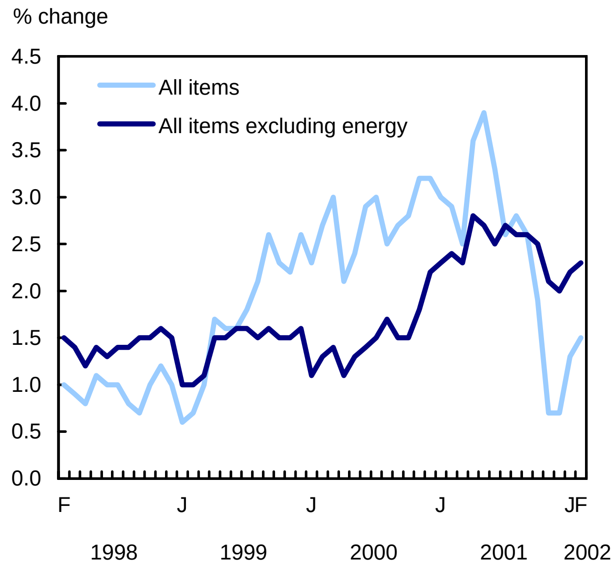
Consumers paid 1.5% more in February for the goods and services in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket than they did in February 2001. This 12-month rise in the index (1992=100) is comparable with January's (+1.3%). February's index (116.9) was still below the peak of 117.5 reached in June 2001. This indicates that consumer prices were, overall, lower in February than in June 2001. The All-items excluding energy index rose 2.3% in February compared with February 2001.

Percentage change in the Consumer Price Index from the same month of the previous year



Rising prices for food, tobacco products and electricity were among the factors that contributed to the All-items index's 12-month increase in February. Food prices rose 4.3%, driven mainly by the price of restaurant meals, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit. The 24.6% increase in cigarette prices was primarily due to tax hikes. February's electricity index increased 16.2% from February 2001. Two-thirds of this rise can be explained by a $200 credit given by the Government of British Columbia in February 2001 that reduced the average electricity bill for that month to zero.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



Lower gasoline (-15.4%) and fuel oil prices (-23.4%) had an important braking effect on the February index. These declines are explained in large part by the price of oil, which was down about $12 per barrel from February 2001. Lower traveller accommodation prices, due largely to the economic slowdown, also helped curb the CPI increase.

Monthly rise stronger than January's

The CPI rose 0.6% in February from January, after advancing 0.3% in January. February's gain was due primarily to higher prices for women's clothing, travel tours, traveller accommodation, gasoline and fresh vegetables. Lower fresh fruit prices and mortgage interest costs mitigated these increases.

The index for women's clothing rose 4.6% in February as many items returned to regular price after specials in January. The price increases in this sector were especially strong in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta.

The price of travel tours jumped 10.9% in February from January. This monthly increase is of the same order of magnitude as those seen in February each year since 1998.

The price of traveller accommodation rose 5.3%. Quebec registered the strongest rise (+10.6%), as the Québec Winter Carnival was in full swing.

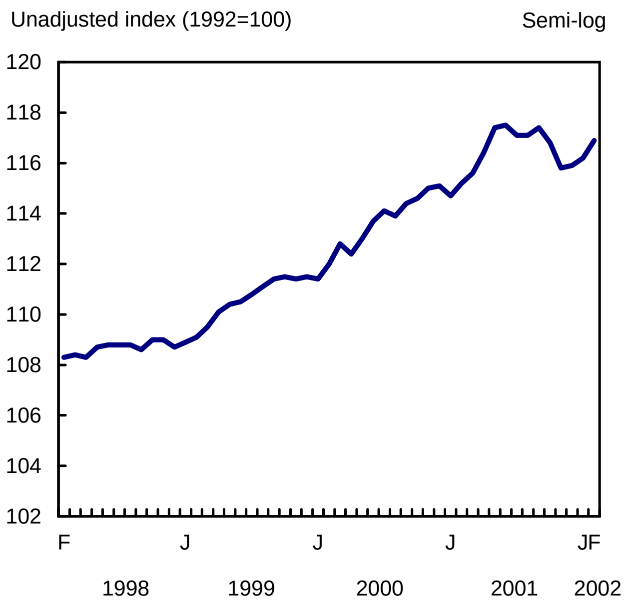
Consumers paid 1.4% more for gasoline in February than in January, compared with January's 2.5% rise.

Price increases ranged from 0.1% in Prince Edward Island to 4.5% in Alberta. Prices fell in Saskatchewan (-3.4%), New Brunswick (-1.2%) and Whitehorse (-2.2%).

The price of fresh vegetables continued to rise in February (+4.1%). Bad weather in the United States and in Mexico partly explains these increases. Broccoli, for example, was almost double its normal price for this time of the year. Lower tomato prices (-8.5%), partly the result of more favourable temperatures in Florida, slowed the increase in the fresh vegetable index.

Fresh fruit prices decreased 4.3% in February. Greater availability and diversified supply sources helped push down certain prices.

Consumer Price Index



The index for mortgage interest cost decreased 0.5%. Although prices for new houses rose in most cities, the effect of dropping interest rates more than offset these price increases. Note that only a portion of mortgages, new and renewed mortgages, are affected by the interest rates reported in the latest month. The rest of the mortgages used in the index's calculation are affected by prior months' interest rates.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001, 326-0003, 326-0004, and 326-0010.

Available at 7 am on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*).

The February 2002 issue of *The Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XIB, $8/$77; 62-001-XPB, $11/$103) is now available. See *How to order products*.

March's Consumer Price Index will be released on April 23.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Louise Chaîné (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539) or Joanne Moreau (613-951-7130), Prices Division. □

Consumer Price Index and its major components
(1992=100)

	February 2002	January 2002	February 2001	January to February 2002	February 2001 to February 2002
	Unadjusted				
				% change	
All-items	**116.9**	**116.2**	**115.2**	**0.6**	**1.5**
Food	120.6	120.0	115.6	0.5	4.3
Shelter	113.1	113.0	110.8	0.1	2.1
Household operations and furnishings	113.1	112.9	111.0	0.2	1.9
Clothing and footwear	105.4	102.3	106.5	3.0	-1.0
Transportation	127.5	126.9	131.5	0.5	-3.0
Health and personal care	114.8	114.3	113.6	0.4	1.1
Recreation, education and reading	124.1	122.3	122.9	1.5	1.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	112.9	112.2	99.4	0.6	13.6
All-items (1986=100)	149.7				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1992	85.5	86.1	86.8		
Special aggregates					
Goods	113.7	112.8	112.7	0.8	0.9
Services	120.7	120.2	118.1	0.4	2.2
All-items excluding food and energy	115.4	114.7	113.4	0.6	1.8
Energy	122.4	121.8	129.9	0.5	-5.8
All-items excluding the eight most volatile components[1]	118.6	117.8	116.0	0.7	2.2

1 *Excluded from the All-items CPI are the following eight volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, please consult the Bank of Canada Web site: (http://www.bankofcanada.ca/inflation).*

Consumer Price Index by province, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
(1992=100)

	February 2002	January 2002	February 2001	January to February 2002	February 2001 to February 2002
	Unadjusted				
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	114.2	113.8	114.5	0.4	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	113.7	113.4	113.2	0.3	0.4
Nova Scotia	116.4	115.8	115.5	0.5	0.8
New Brunswick	115.0	114.7	113.8	0.3	1.1
Quebec	114.2	113.3	112.4	0.8	1.6
Ontario	118.2	117.3	116.6	0.8	1.4
Manitoba	120.6	120.6	120.5	0.0	0.1
Saskatchewan	120.8	120.9	118.9	-0.1	1.6
Alberta	120.7	120.1	118.8	0.5	1.6
British Columbia	115.9	115.4	112.6	0.4	2.9
Whitehorse	115.2	115.2	116.0	0.0	-0.7
Yellowknife	114.2	113.8	112.2	0.4	1.8

■

Retail trade

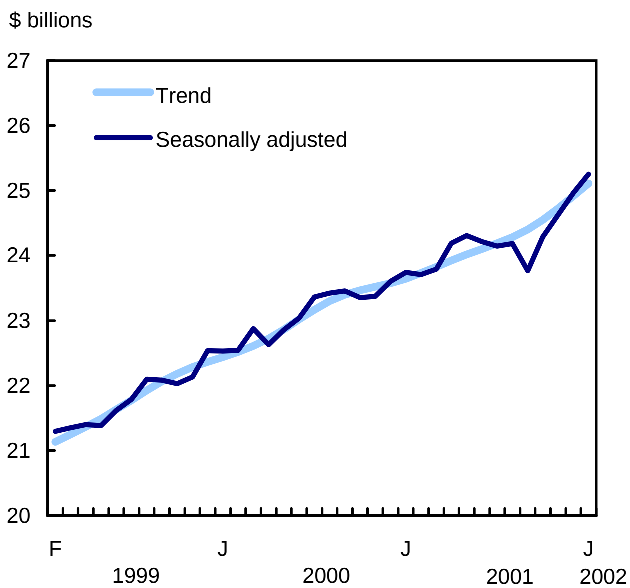
January 2002

Retail sales advanced 1.1% in January from December to $25.3 billion, the fourth consecutive monthly increase. In January, sales went up more than 1.0% in general merchandise stores, drug stores, stores in the automotive sector and those classified in other retail (particularly liquor stores).

Retailers saw sales advances of 1.4% in both December and November, following a 2.2% jump in October. Retail sales have jumped 6.3% since September, when they were hurt by the events of September 11.

Retail sales from November to January were significantly higher than the essentially flat sales reported since April 2001. Prior to that month, sales had generally been advancing since the summer of 1998, slowed by a pause in the second half of 2000.

Retail sales up for a fourth straight month



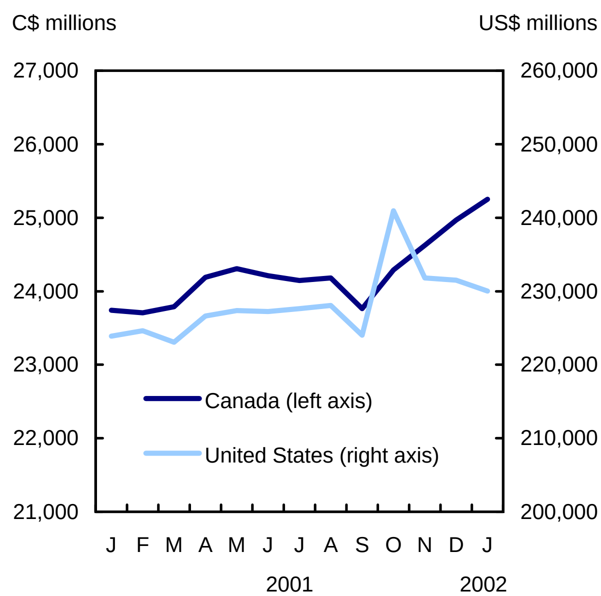
In constant dollars, retail sales rose the same 1.1% in January. Higher prices for gasoline at the pump and fresh vegetables cancelled the effects of lower prices for clothing and footwear.

Post-September 11 retail sales

Canadian and US retail sales evolved quite differently after September 11. Both countries reported similar declines in September (-1.7% in Canada and -1.8% in the United States). Subsequently, Americans increased their spending in retail stores 7.6% in October, responding to a patriotic call to resume their normal lives and to continue shopping. Several auto manufacturers in the United States launched aggressive incentives in October, resulting in a 23.9% jump in auto sales. However, US retail sales have been lacklustre since that time, falling 3.8% in November and then continuing to be essentially flat. US retail sales rose only 2.7% from September to January, while Canadian retail sales climbed 6.3% during the same period.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. In the Canada–US section, sales by building material dealers and non-store retailers were excluded from the US total retail sales in order to make a more direct comparison between these countries. Retail sales estimates for February will be released on April 23.*

Retail sales in Canada and the United States



Good start in 2002 for general merchandisers

After remaining essentially flat for most of 2001, sales in the general merchandise sector advanced strongly in December (+1.7%) and January (+2.2%). Higher department store sales in both months were behind the gains seen in the sector. Department store sales, supported in part by recent store openings, rose 2.6% in December and 4.1% in January. These gains added considerable strength to the advancing sales reported by these stores since the spring of 2000. Sales by other general merchandise stores (-0.4% in January) have been moving downward since the fall of 2000.

Drug stores posted healthy sales results in January (+2.1%), after a strong annual increase in 2001 (+7.2%). With a fourth consecutive monthly gain, drug stores continued the strong sales observed since the spring of 2000.

The automotive sector posted its fourth consecutive monthly sales advance with a 1.8% increase in January. Within this sector, higher gasoline prices led to a 4.9% sales gain by gasoline service stations. Despite January's increase, sales in gasoline service stations have been generally falling since the start of 2001, after a period of strong advances that began in early 1999. Automotive parts, accessories and services stores posted a 1.7% sales increase in January, ending two months of decline.

Motor and recreational vehicle dealers posted a 1.1% sales increase in January, their fourth consecutive monthly sales gain. After the 3.1% decline in September, sales by these dealers jumped 14.8% over the following four months. The motor and recreational vehicle dealers category includes not only new car dealers, but also dealers of used cars, motor homes and snowmobiles. New car dealers rely on sales of new cars for approximately 60% of their revenues; the rest comes from sales of used cars, parts and labour.

Consumers reduced spending in clothing stores in January (-0.6%) after increasing it in the previous three months. January's decline came mostly from lower prices of clothing and footwear during the month (-1.4%), as many items were still on sale from the holiday season. Increases reported in the last three months of 2001 reversed the downward sales movement seen from April to September.

All but two provinces post higher retail sales

All provinces posted strong sales gains in January, except Quebec (-1.2%) and British Columbia (0.0%). Retail sales advances ranged from 1.4% in Saskatchewan to 5.0% in Newfoundland and Labrador. In the four-month period following September 2001, retailers in all provinces other than Quebec and British Columbia posted sales advances above 5.0%.

January's weaker sales results in Quebec and British Columbia ended three consecutive months of robust gains.

In Quebec, retail sales were down in all sectors in January, except for a small increase in the automotive sector. The robust sales gains seen at the end of 2001 reversed the previous five-month period of declining sales. Prior to the spring of 2001, retail sales in Quebec have generally been increasing since the summer of 1998.

Lower January sales by British Columbia retailers in the clothing, furniture and automotive sectors were offset by increases in the other retail sectors. Retailers in British Columbia saw continually rising sales since the end of 1998.

Related indicators for February

Total employment remained flat in February after the 0.5% surge in January. The number of new motor vehicles sold in February was also unchanged from January, according to preliminary results from the auto industry. After an exceptional 17.8% jump in January, housing starts fell 12.3% in February. Nevertheless, these economic indicators remained at historically high levels.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0001 to 080-0005.

The January 2002 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, $16/$155) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (1 877 421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; *paul.gratton@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. □

Retail sales

	January 2001	October 2001r	November 2001r	December 2001r	January 2002p	December 2001 to January 2002	January 2001 to January 2002
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Food	**5,134**	**5,388**	**5,367**	**5,429**	**5,415**	**-0.2**	**5.5**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,749	4,980	4,962	5,013	4,995	-0.4	5.2
All other food stores	385	408	405	415	420	1.1	9.0
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,166**	**1,228**	**1,243**	**1,254**	**1,280**	**2.1**	**9.8**
Clothing	**1,315**	**1,345**	**1,348**	**1,367**	**1,360**	**-0.6**	**3.4**
Shoe stores	143	150	153	159	160	0.7	11.4
Men's clothing stores	128	118	117	117	120	2.7	-6.5
Women's clothing stores	403	397	397	399	394	-1.3	-2.1
Other clothing stores	641	680	681	693	686	-1.0	7.0
Furniture	**1,340**	**1,389**	**1,428**	**1,493**	**1,499**	**0.4**	**11.8**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,083	1,124	1,148	1,206	1,192	-1.1	10.1
Household furnishings stores	258	266	280	287	306	6.8	18.8
Automotive	**9,533**	**9,623**	**9,893**	**10,018**	**10,197**	**1.8**	**7.0**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,252	6,452	6,824	7,036	7,112	1.1	13.7
Gasoline service stations	1,967	1,763	1,665	1,590	1,668	4.9	-15.2
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,315	1,409	1,404	1,393	1,417	1.7	7.8
General merchandise stores	**2,712**	**2,708**	**2,694**	**2,739**	**2,800**	**2.2**	**3.2**
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,539**	**2,607**	**2,654**	**2,666**	**2,702**	**1.3**	**6.4**
Other semi-durable goods stores	720	746	782	788	787	-0.1	9.4
Other durable goods stores	646	637	635	647	649	0.3	0.5
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,173	1,224	1,237	1,231	1,266	2.8	7.9
Total, retail sales	**23,740**	**24,288**	**24,626**	**24,966**	**25,251**	**1.1**	**6.4**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**17,488**	**17,836**	**17,801**	**17,931**	**18,140**	**1.2**	**3.7**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	382	424	422	411	431	5.0	12.9
Prince Edward Island	105	108	109	108	111	2.5	5.4
Nova Scotia	726	738	749	752	765	1.7	5.4
New Brunswick	596	599	605	606	618	1.9	3.7
Quebec	5,385	5,503	5,560	5,714	5,647	-1.2	4.9
Ontario	9,109	9,155	9,320	9,449	9,632	1.9	5.7
Manitoba	806	847	863	847	872	3.0	8.2
Saskatchewan	692	711	714	726	736	1.4	6.3
Alberta	2,797	2,937	2,975	2,988	3,066	2.6	9.6
British Columbia	3,065	3,181	3,220	3,277	3,279	0.0	7.0
Yukon	27	32	35	34	37	7.8	35.3
Northwest Territories	35	37	38	37	40	8.2	15.8
Nunavut	16	16	16	16	17	0.2	5.8

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

Retail sales

	January 2001	December 2001r	January 2002p	January 2001 to January 2002
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Food	**4,779**	**5,896**	**5,191**	**8.6**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,450	5,384	4,823	8.4
All other food stores	329	512	368	11.8
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,133**	**1,526**	**1,252**	**10.6**
Clothing	**958**	**2,242**	**1,006**	**5.0**
Shoe stores	108	208	121	12.9
Men's clothing stores	99	230	97	-2.4
Women's clothing stores	289	636	288	-0.5
Other clothing stores	462	1,168	500	8.2
Furniture	**1,121**	**2,152**	**1,269**	**13.2**
Household furniture and appliance stores	914	1,804	1,022	11.7
Household furnishings stores	207	348	247	19.5
Automotive	**7,975**	**8,958**	**8,593**	**7.8**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,070	5,910	5,874	15.9
Gasoline service stations	1,798	1,545	1,515	-15.7
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,106	1,504	1,203	8.8
General merchandise stores	**1,991**	**4,570**	**2,080**	**4.5**
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**1,931**	**4,075**	**2,098**	**8.7**
Other semi-durable goods stores	529	1,192	572	8.1
Other durable goods stores	516	1,202	531	3.0
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	886	1,681	995	12.3
Total, retail sales	**19,887**	**29,419**	**21,489**	**8.1**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**14,816**	**23,509**	**15,614**	**5.4**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	295	471	336	13.9
Prince Edward Island	82	127	88	7.4
Nova Scotia	601	895	649	7.9
New Brunswick	475	710	504	6.1
Quebec	4,416	6,291	4,726	7.0
Ontario	7,617	11,409	8,179	7.4
Manitoba	684	1,015	750	9.6
Saskatchewan	600	864	649	8.0
Alberta	2,392	3,607	2,651	10.8
British Columbia	2,658	3,930	2,878	8.2
Yukon	21	38	29	37.5
Northwest Territories	29	43	35	20.4
Nunavut	13	19	14	7.0

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

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OTHER RELEASES

Natural gas sales

January 2002 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 8 151 million cubic metres in January, down 0.3% from January 2001. Warmer-than-normal weather throughout most of Canada resulted in lower sales to the residential (-8.5%) and commercial (-7.2%) sectors. The gain in sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) was due to higher demand for natural gas by electric utilities.

Natural gas sales

	Jan. 2002^{p}	Jan. 2001	Jan. 2001 to Jan. 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	**8 151 146**	**8 174 676**	**-0.3**
Residential	2 108 920	2 304 290	-8.5
Commercial	1 484 103	1 599 551	-7.2
Industrial	1 781 447	1 767 445	
			6.7
Direct	2 776 676	2 503 390	

^{p} *Preliminary figures.*

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

The January 2002 issue of *Natural gas transportation and distribution* (55-002-XIB, $13/$125) will be available in May. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact John Svab (613-951-7382; *john.svab@statcan.ca*) or Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; *tom.lewis@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Youth court statistics

2000/01

The caseload involving young people aged 12 to 17 in youth courts continues to decline, the result of a substantial decrease in cases involving property crime, according to the Youth Court Survey.

Youth courts heard 99,590 cases in the fiscal year 2000/01, down 10% from 1996/97. During this period, the number of cases involving property crimes declined 23% to 40,023 and those involving violent crimes declined 6% to 21,760.

Property crime accounted for 40% of all cases before youth courts, and violent crime accounted for 22%. About one-half of these violent crime cases consisted of common assaults, which include pushing, slapping, punching and face-to-face verbal threats. Other *Criminal Code* offences accounted for 18% and *Young Offenders Act* offences accounted for 12% of all cases.

Drug offences made up 6,967 cases, an increase of 30% from 1996/97, although they represented only 7% of the total caseload in 2000/01.

Case rates for youth courts were highest in Western Canada. Courts in Saskatchewan recorded a rate of 946 cases for every 10,000 youths, followed by Manitoba (667) and Alberta (632). All were substantially higher than the national average of 403. The lowest case rates were in Prince Edward Island (170), Quebec (182) and British Columbia (304).

Youths aged 16 and 17 accounted for larger proportions of cases in youth court — 51% in 2000/01. Those aged 15 accounted for 22%, and those aged 12 to 14, 25%.

Sixty percent of youth court cases resulted in guilty findings in 2000/01. Probation was the most serious sentence ordered in 48% of cases with guilty findings. A custody sentence (open or secure) was ordered about one-third of the time.

In 2000/01, repeat young offenders (those with at least one prior conviction) were involved in 21% of cases with convictions.

Available on CANSIM: tables 252-0005 to 252-0012.

The *Juristat Youth court statistics, 2000/01,* Vol. 22, no. 3 (85-002-XIE, $8/$70; 85-002-XPE, $10/$93) 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 the Client Services Unit (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. □

Cases heard in youth court by major crime category

Offence category	1996/97	1999/2000	2000/01	1999/2000 to 2000/01	1996/97 to 2000/01
	Number			% change	
Total cases	**110,065**	**102,061**	**99,590**	**-2**	**-10**
Violent crimes	23,044	22,937	21,760	-5	-6
Property crimes	51,767	41,122	40,023	-3	-23
Other Criminal Code offences	18,285	18,718	18,264	-2	0
Drug-related offences	5,353	5,394	6,967	29	30
Young Offenders Act offences	11,335	13,763	12,447	-10	10
Other federal statute offences	281	127	129	2	-54

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Steel primary forms

Week ending March 16, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 16 totalled 322 292 metric tonnes, up 5.8% from 304 652 tonnes a week earlier and up 10.4% from 291 887 tonnes in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 3 333 185 tonnes, a 11.7% increase compared with 2 985 188 in the same period of 2001.

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 Misbah Subhani (613-951-4924; *misbah.subhani@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Survey of Knowledge Management Practices

2001

The first results from the pilot Survey on Knowledge Management Practices conducted in the fall of 2001 as part of an international initiative headed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development are available today.

This survey sampled firms in five sub-sectors of the North American Industrial Classification System: forestry and logging; chemical manufacturing; transportation equipment manufacturing; machinery, equipment and supplies wholesaler–distributors; and management, scientific and technical consulting services. The questionnaire was mailed to 407 firms, of which 348, or 86%, responded. These firms represent an estimated 5,245 enterprises in these five sub-sectors.

According to the data, a majority of firms in these five sub-sectors were managing some aspect of their knowledge. Nine out of 10 used at least 1 of 23 business practices related to knowledge management, which involves any systematic activity related to the capture and sharing of knowledge by the organization.

Service industries had the highest average number of practices in use. These industries depend greatly on marketing the application of their workers' knowledge.

On average, firms in all five sub-sectors used 11 knowledge management practices. This ranged from a high of 14 used by firms in management, technical and scientific consulting services to 10 used by firms that were machinery and equipment supplies wholesaler–distributors.

Findings suggest that firms are employing knowledge management practices strategically to improve their competitive performance and productivity. One-half the firms in the five sub-sectors reported that the critical reason they used knowledge management practices was to improve their firm's competitive advantage. About 30% of firms said they used such practices to increase efficiency by using knowledge to improve production processes. About 23% reported that their aim was to train workers to meet strategic objectives of the firm, and another 23%, to integrate knowledge within the firm.

Knowledge sharing, creation, generation and maintenance are perceived as important to a firm's productivity. Almost 9 out of 10 firms reported that the most effective result of using knowledge management practices was improving worker skills and knowledge. The second most effective result was increased worker efficiency and/or productivity.

Firms viewed the loss of key personnel as the main trigger for implementing more knowledge management practices, followed by loss of market share.

The Knowledge Management Practices Survey database is now available. More information will be contained in the report *Are we managing our knowledge? Results from the pilot Knowledge Management Practices Survey*, which 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 Louise Earl (613-951-2880; *louise.earl@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Public sector employment

Fourth quarter 2001 (preliminary)

Estimates of public sector employment and aggregate public sector wages and salaries for the fourth quarter are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 183-0002 to 183-0004.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Sauvé (613-951-8306; *robert.sauve@statcan.ca*), Public Institutions Division. ■

Self-employment among college and university graduates

1982 to 1997

This research paper documents patterns of self-employment among four groups of post-secondary graduates (college, bachelor's, master's, doctorate) in the five years immediately following their graduation.

According to data from the National Graduates Survey, rates of self-employment were relatively stable for the first three cohorts of graduates covered in this report — those who finished their programs in 1982, 1986 and 1990.

For these graduates, at all levels taken together, self-employment rates two years after graduation ranged from 6.5% to 7.8% for men, and from 3.2% to 5.2% for women.

Five years after graduation, the range had increased to between 9.9% and 11.1% among men, and between 5.3% and 6.7% among women.

The rates showed no discernible trend across these first three cohorts of graduates, including those who entered the labour market in the midst of the prolonged recession in the first part of the 1990s.

For the most recent graduates, however — those who finished in 1995 — the incidence of self-employment generally rose, although unevenly and not in all cases. By 1997, self-employment rates ranged from 6.9% to 12.0% for men, and from 5.2% to 13.3% for women.

Self-employment rates were generally higher for male graduates than females. The greater and more uniform increases for the 1995 cohort were, however, among women. Furthermore, the gender pattern reverses at the doctorate level. Among 1995 doctoral graduates, for example, 13.3% of women were self-employed in 1997, almost double the percentage of men with doctorates (6.9%). In contrast, of the 1995 master's graduates surveyed, 12.0% of men and 9.7% of women were self-employed in 1997.

Analysis of factors such as employment rates, earnings levels, job satisfaction, and the job–education skill match suggests that self-employment status is generally associated with enhanced labour market outcomes rather than a limited availability of regular paid positions.

For example, although the results are mixed, self-employed graduates tended to report higher earnings, closer job–education job matches, and greater work satisfaction than did paid workers.

Similarly, graduates who moved into self-employment from paid positions in the two to five years following graduation were more likely to show improvements in these outcome measures. The fact that individuals are drawn towards self-employment as employment rates improve over their early post-graduation careers provides further evidence of this.

In short, the evidence supports the "pull" rather than the "push" hypothesis. That is, individuals appear to be drawn towards self-employment by the opportunities this status offers rather than pushed into it due to an absence of other options.

The research paper *Setting up shop: Self-employment amongst Canadian college and university graduates,* no. 183 (11F0019MIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free),* then *Social conditions*. It is also available from Human Resources Development Canada on the Applied Research Branch's Web page (*www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/arb*).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ross Finnie (613-951-3962; *ref@qsilver.queensu.ca*), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Early labour market outcomes of recent Canadian University graduates by discipline: A longitudinal, cross-cohort analysis
Catalogue number 11F0019MIE02164
(free).

Setting up shop: Self-employment amongst Canadian college and university graduates
Catalogue number 11F0019MIE02183
(free).

Canadian economic observer, Vol. 15, no. 3, March 2002
Catalogue number 11-010-XPB ($23/$227).

Wholesale trade, Vol. 65, no. 1, January 2002
Catalogue number 63-008-XIB ($14/$140).

Publicly available data resources in the nonprofit sector in Canada, 1998
Catalogue number 75F0048MIE02001
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Voluntary organizations in Ontario in the 1990s, 1999 revised 2000
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Juristat: Youth court statistics, 2000/01, Vol. 22, no. 3
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE ($8/$70).

Juristat: Youth court statistics, 2000/01, Vol. 22, no. 3
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All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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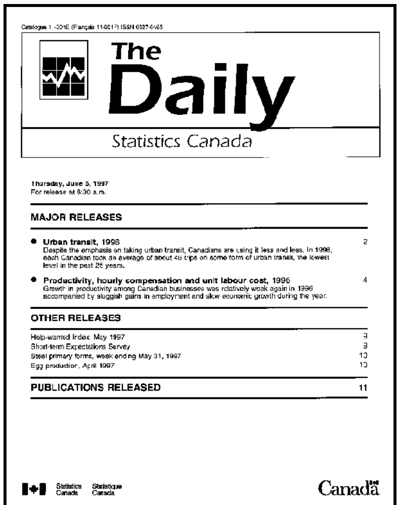
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- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 45 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca)
Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), madeleine.simard@statcan.ca