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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

RELEASE DATES: May 2002

MAJOR RELEASES

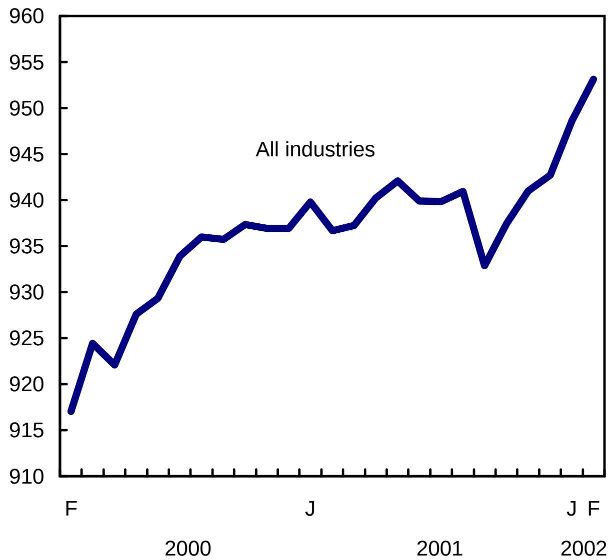
Gross domestic product by industry

February 2002

Gross domestic product (GDP) advanced a further 0.5% in February, following a sizeable 0.6% increase in January. These were the largest back-to-back monthly increases since the end of 1999.

Economic turnaround continues

GDP $ billions 1997



Most areas of the economy reported gains in February, but the manufacturing sector provided the single largest push. Although demand eased for consumer goods and services, increased demand for new and existing housing generated higher output in many industries. This happened not just in house construction but also in production of glass, asphalt, paint and other construction materials. The forestry sector and wood product manufacturers expanded output significantly, as they benefited from both a strong domestic housing market and the removal of duties on softwood lumber exports to the United States. (However, new duties will take effect in May). Consumers took a bit of a breather in February; retail sales edged down slightly. However, sales by motor vehicle dealers remained 17% above those of February 2001.

The manufacturing sector posted a second consecutive output gain (+2.3%) in February, although output was still 3.7% short of its August 2000 peak. The advance in manufacturing was widespread, although close to one-third of this rise was attributable to the motor vehicle assembly and parts fabrication industries. Producers of paper, chemical, wood, computer and electrical products all reported significant gains in February. This climb in manufacturing production led to higher activity in electricity generation, natural gas distribution, and truck and rail transportation services.

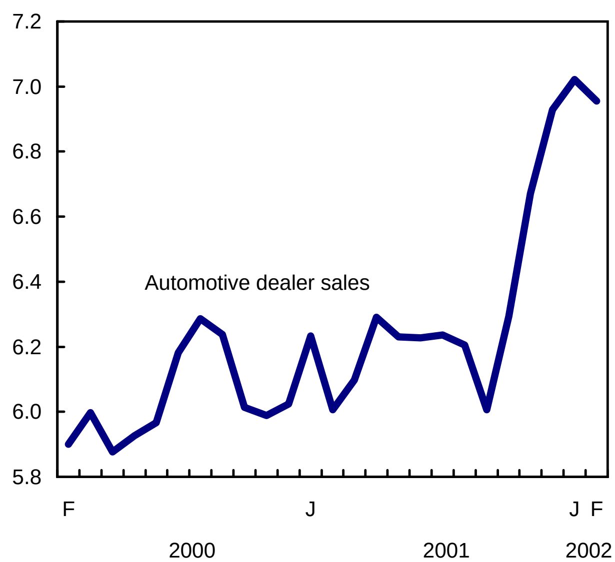
> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The **gross domestic product of an industry** is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other industries into outputs. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates and valued at 1997 prices.*

Retailing activity backs off

Retailing declined slipped 0.6% in February, but only after four strong monthly advances. Activity remained 6% higher than in February 2001. The dip in retailing was widespread — almost all store types reported declines. Those store types that raised output in February reported only marginally higher sales.

Motor vehicle sales dip

$ billions 1997



In 2001, the number of North American-built vehicles sold in Canada fell 3.3%, to below 1997 levels, but sales of overseas imports were up almost 130% compared with 1997. Sales of new motor vehicles rose 4.0% in 2001, accounting for two-thirds of motor vehicle sales. Used vehicle sales, which accounted for the remainder, grew 6.3%. Growth in car sales over the past few years has been mostly attributable to either offshore imports or used vehicles.

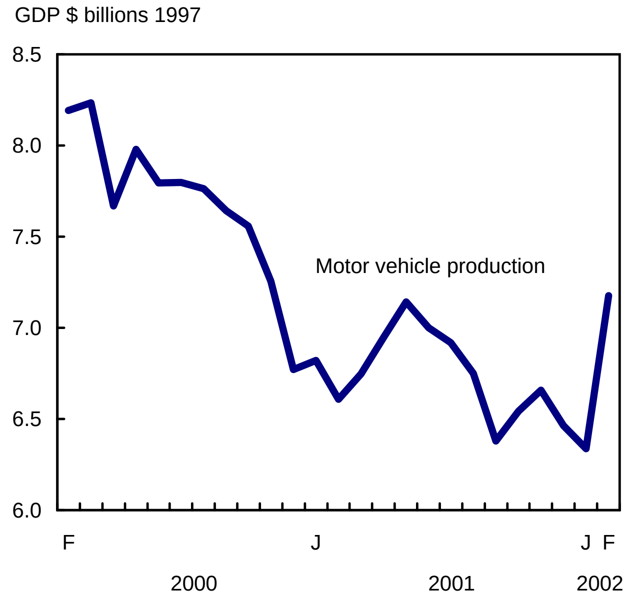
This situation changed dramatically in the fourth quarter of 2001, when North American motor vehicle manufacturers introduced substantial financing incentives. These incentives made the purchase of a new vehicle an attractive option — the price of new vehicles declined for a third consecutive quarter and the fourth time in five quarters. The price of leased vehicles fell more rapidly than that of purchased vehicles. Sales of North American models rose a sizeable 5.7% in the fourth quarter of 2001 and these high sales continued into 2002.

Retail sales of motor vehicles edged down 0.7% in February, ending a string of record car sales increases; however, sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers remained 17% above those of February 2001. Motor vehicle and parts wholesaling jumped a further 1.6%, after surging 6.5% in January, accounting for much of the wholesale sector's strength in February.

Motor vehicle production takes off

Production of motor vehicles surged 13.2% in February; since June 2001, manufacturers have been gearing back production to bring down inventories. Motor vehicle sales in the United States — the destination for about 87% of Canada's auto production — were weaker than their record fourth quarter level, but remained quite high. Exports of cars and trucks roared ahead 18% in February. Motor vehicle parts fabricators stepped up production 2.5%, following a similar increase in January.

Car production surges



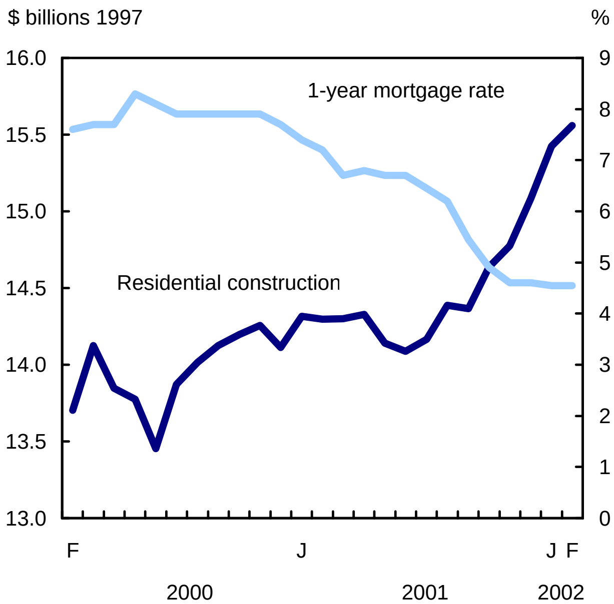
Housing market sizzling

Residential construction rose 0.9% in February, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. Improved consumer confidence, encouraged by historically low interest rates and large employment gains, helped drive home buyers to purchase new homes in record numbers. The rise in residential construction was due mainly to an increase in single-family dwellings as opposed to multiple-dwelling units.

The hot housing market also continued to boost output in the real estate agent and brokerage industry. Record-breaking sales of existing housing increased the service output of this industry a further 1.7% in February. Furniture retailers and wholesalers saw higher activity in recent months, as homeowners furnished these new living spaces. Furniture makers, in turn, expanded output a further 3.1% in February.

The recent strength in new home building had positive consequences for many of the industries in the manufacturing sector that feed house construction. Producers of coated paper, asphalt, paint, glass, cement, gypsum, architectural and structural metal and electric lighting products increased output in February. Manufacturers of wood products and the forestry industry both raised output substantially — the result of a strong domestic housing market and the removal of duties on exports to the United States.

Low interest rates boost new home construction



Other industries

One of the few areas of weakness in February was the education sector, where a three-week strike by Alberta teachers left output down 1.2% from January. Industries in the travel-related sector did not fare well in February. Output in air transportation was flat, and travel agencies, restaurants and hotels reported lower activity. The arts and entertainment sector suffered a setback as spectator sports were weakened by a shutdown of the National Hockey League for 10 days during the Winter Olympics. Lower levels of metal and non-metallic mining offset higher production and exploration of oil and gas, resulting in a 0.4% reduction in the mining sector.

Available on CANSIM: tables 379-0017 to 379-0022.

The February 2002 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 Jo Ann MacMillan (613-951-7248; *joann.macmillan@statcan.ca*), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. □

Gross domestic product by industry at basic prices, 1997 constant dollars

	September 2001[r]	October 2001[r]	November 2001[r]	December 2001[r]	January 2002[r]	February 2002[p]	January to February 2002	February 2002	February 2001 to February 2002
	Seasonally adjusted								
	Month-to-month % change						$ change[1]	$ level[1]	% change
All Industries	**-0.9**	**0.5**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**0.6**	**0.5**	**4,521**	**953,112**	**1.8**
Goods-producing industries	**-1.9**	**0.2**	**-0.1**	**-0.6**	**1.3**	**1.5**	**4,475**	**299,787**	**-0.7**
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	-0.3	-0.8	-0.8	-0.6	-1.8	2.4	481	20,478	-8.8
Mining and oil and gas extraction	-2.8	-0.7	-0.5	-1.7	2.4	-0.4	-148	35,804	-3.2
Utilities	-2.8	2.4	-0.5	-0.3	0.3	1.1	308	27,443	-3.0
Construction	0.0	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.3	159	51,383	3.4
Manufacturing	-2.3	0.1	0.1	-0.8	1.8	2.3	3,675	164,679	0.2
Services-producing industries	**-0.4**	**0.6**	**0.6**	**0.5**	**0.3**	**0.0**	**46**	**653,325**	**2.9**
Wholesale trade	-1.8	0.6	1.1	0.5	2.3	0.2	135	58,292	4.8
Retail trade	-2.3	2.8	2.1	1.7	1.1	-0.6	-333	53,666	5.8
Transportation and warehousing	-2.4	0.0	0.5	-0.2	0.3	0.7	305	42,655	-3.7
Information and cultural industries	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.1	-0.4	0.5	221	45,792	8.0
Finance, insurance and real estate	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.2	290	187,709	3.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.0	0.5	195	40,697	0.7
Administrative and waste management services	-0.5	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.1	31	20,883	3.8
Education services	-0.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.2	0.2	-1.2	-500	42,862	-0.9
Health care and social assistance	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	100	54,509	2.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	-0.3	0.5	1.1	0.7	1.7	-5.7	-520	8,584	-3.0
Accommodation and food services	-4.0	1.7	1.2	2.0	-1.5	-0.3	-65	22,277	-1.4
Other services (except public administration)	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.1	22	21,227	2.3
Public administration	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	165	54,172	4.0
Other aggregations									
Industrial production	-2.4	0.3	-0.1	-0.9	1.7	1.7	3,835	227,926	-0.8
Non-durable manufacturing industries	-2.2	1.8	0.0	-1.3	1.5	1.5	995	67,965	0.5
Durable manufacturing industries	-2.4	-1.0	0.1	-0.4	2.1	2.9	2,680	96,714	-0.1
Business sector industries	-1.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.7	0.6	5,001	808,588	1.8
Non-business sector industries	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.3	-480	144,524	1.5
Information and communication technology (ICT) sector	-1.5	-1.3	0.5	1.2	0.5	1.1	619	59,568	-0.7

r Revised figures.
p Preliminary figures.
1 Millions of dollars at annual rate.

■

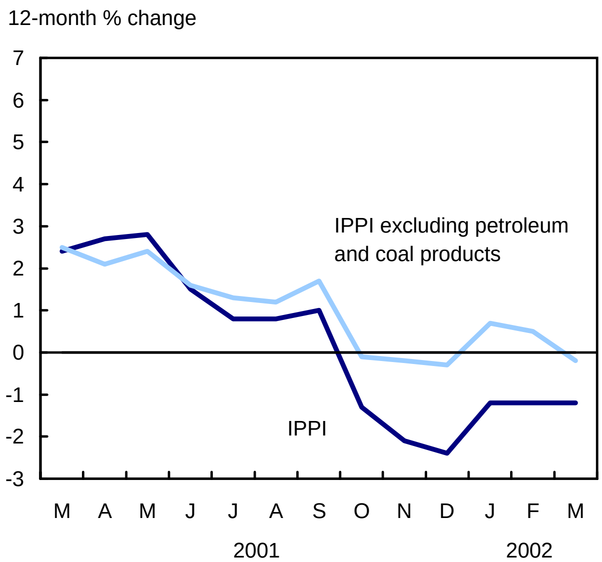
Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

March 2002

Manufacturers' prices, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), fell 1.2% in March compared with March 2001, their sixth consecutive decline. This was identical to the year-over-year drops seen in February and January.

On an annual basis, petroleum and coal product prices fell 14.9%, the ninth successive month that the year-over-year change was negative. If petroleum and coal product prices had been excluded, the IPPI would have fallen 0.2% instead of 1.2%.

Petroleum product prices continue to influence IPPI



Price decreases for pulp and paper products, chemical products and primary metal products also contributed to the annual decline in manufacturers' prices. This decline was partly offset by higher prices for lumber products and motor vehicles.

On a month-to-month basis, industrial prices were up 0.6% in March from February, after advancing 0.4% in February from January. Rising prices for petroleum, lumber and primary metal products were the major contributors to this increase.

Note to readers

The ***Industrial Product Price Index (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, 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 US counterpart affects the IPPI.

The ***Raw Materials Price Index (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.*

Manufacturers paid 7.0% less for their raw materials than they did in March 2001, the eighth consecutive period of annual decline. Mineral fuels (-10.1%) were responsible for most of the retreat in the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI). Wood products, animal products and non-ferrous metals also lost ground.

If mineral fuels had been excluded, the RMPI would have declined 4.5%. These decreases were partly offset by higher prices for vegetable products and ferrous materials.

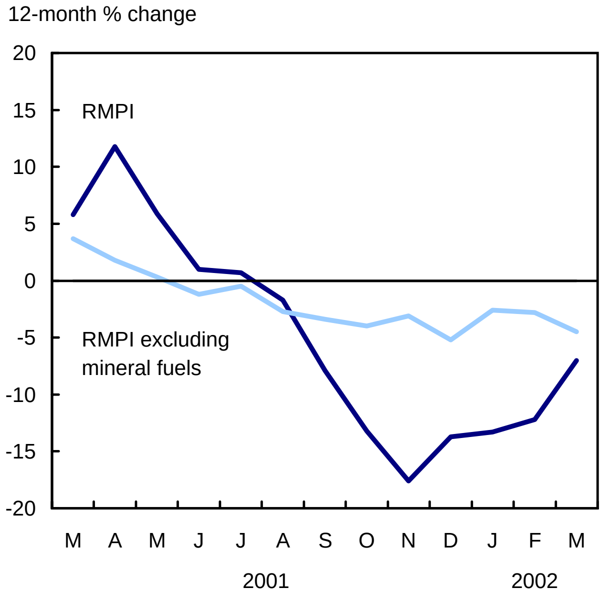
On a monthly basis, raw materials prices were up 5.5% in March from February. Higher prices for mineral fuels and non-ferrous metals were the major contributors to this increase. Lower prices for animal products slightly offset this monthly gain.

The IPPI (1997=100) stood at 107.2 in March, up from a revised 106.6 in February. The RMPI (1997=100) rose to 111.0 in March from a revised 105.2 in February.

Prices continue to increase for crude oil and lumber

In the RMPI, crude oil prices grew 18.2% in March from February, due partly to production cuts by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and increased demand. This gain was also reflected in the IPPI, where petroleum and coal product prices were up 7.3% from February.

Crude oil prices continue to influence RMPI growth



Lumber and other wood product prices increased 3.7% in March from February. Higher prices for softwood lumber were the major factor behind this monthly increase, which was partly the result of higher demand and increased construction activity due to unseasonably warm weather.

Exchange rate impact pushes up prices on an annual basis

From February to March, the value of the US dollar weakened slightly against the Canadian dollar, but this had no real impact on the prices of commodities that are quoted in US dollars. If the exchange rate had remained unchanged, the IPPI would have advanced 0.7% instead of 0.6%.

However, on a 12-month basis, the influence of the dollar was stronger. The IPPI was down 1.2% in March compared with March 2001, but without the exchange rate effect the IPPI would have decreased 1.7%.

Motor vehicle prices still influence finished goods

Rising prices for motor vehicles pushed up year-over-year prices for finished goods. Prices for machinery and equipment, tobacco products and electrical and telecommunications products also contributed to the 0.8% increase from March 2001.

On a monthly basis, prices for finished goods were up 0.4% in March from February. Higher prices for petroleum products were slightly offset by lower prices for motor vehicles.

"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 by companies, government agencies or governments. Much of the remainder is bought by consumers.

Prices for input goods continue to decline

Producers of intermediate goods received 2.6% less for their goods in March than they did in March 2001. Lower prices for petroleum products, pulp and paper products and chemical products were slightly offset by higher prices for lumber products and motor vehicles.

Prices for input goods were up 0.7% from February. Higher prices for petroleum products and lumber products were the major contributors. Lower prices for pulp and paper products partly offset this increase.

"Intermediate goods," sometimes referred to as "input goods," are those that are generally bought by manufacturers to be further used in the production process — that is, to make other goods.

Available on CANSIM: tables 329-0038 to 329-0049 and 330-0006.

The March 2002 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 Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375; *danielle.gouin@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. □

Industrial Product Price Index

(1997=100)

	Relative importance	March 2001	February 2002[r]	March 2002[p]	March 2001 to March 2002	February to March 2002
					% change	
Industrial product price index	**100.00**	**108.5**	**106.6**	**107.2**	**-1.2**	**0.6**
Intermediate goods[1]	**60.14**	**106.5**	**103.0**	**103.7**	**-2.6**	**0.7**
First-stage intermediate goods[2]	7.71	112.9	99.5	100.2	-11.2	0.7
Second-stage intermediate goods[3]	52.43	105.5	103.6	104.3	-1.1	0.7
Finished goods[4]	**39.86**	**111.5**	**111.9**	**112.4**	**0.8**	**0.4**
Finished foods and feeds	8.50	106.3	106.9	107.2	0.8	0.3
Capital equipment	11.73	110.8	112.5	112.5	1.5	0.0
All other finished goods	19.63	114.1	113.8	114.6	0.4	0.7
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	5.78	107.9	107.0	107.2	-0.6	0.2
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	5.99	97.4	99.3	99.8	2.5	0.5
Beverages	1.57	110.7	112.4	113.1	2.2	0.6
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.63	120.2	132.8	132.8	10.5	0.0
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.30	106.2	104.9	104.7	-1.4	-0.2
Textile products	1.58	100.5	100.1	100.2	-0.3	0.1
Knitted products and clothing	1.51	103.1	103.5	103.5	0.4	0.0
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	6.30	90.4	96.7	100.3	11.0	3.7
Furniture and fixtures	1.59	106.0	107.2	107.2	1.1	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.23	122.1	106.9	105.3	-13.8	-1.5
Printing and publishing	1.70	112.0	113.6	113.5	1.3	-0.1
Primary metal products	7.80	97.4	94.2	95.7	-1.7	1.6
Metal fabricated products	4.11	104.8	104.8	104.9	0.1	0.1
Machinery and equipment	5.48	105.8	106.6	106.6	0.8	0.0
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	22.16	113.9	116.1	115.9	1.8	-0.2
Electrical and communications products	5.77	100.1	100.8	100.7	0.6	-0.1
Non-metallic mineral products	1.98	107.3	108.1	108.1	0.7	0.0
Petroleum and coal products[5]	5.68	138.0	109.4	117.4	-14.9	7.3
Chemicals and chemical products	7.07	109.9	106.4	106.2	-3.4	-0.2
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.40	105.3	106.8	106.6	1.2	-0.2
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.38	86.5	90.2	91.4	5.7	1.3

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 Index
(1997=100)

	Relative importance	March 2001	February 2002[r]	March 2002[p]	March 2001 to March 2002	February to March 2002
					% change	
Raw materials price index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**119.3**	**105.2**	**111.0**	**-7.0**	**5.5**
Mineral fuels	35.16	167.0	132.8	150.2	-10.1	13.1
Vegetable products	10.28	82.2	89.6	89.7	9.1	0.1
Animals and animal products	20.30	115.3	109.5	109.0	-5.5	-0.5
Wood	15.60	93.0	79.7	79.9	-14.1	0.3
Ferrous materials	3.36	86.7	89.7	90.2	4.0	0.6
Non-ferrous metals	12.93	87.7	81.1	83.2	-5.1	2.6
Non-metallic minerals	2.38	109.0	109.0	109.1	0.1	0.1
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**64.84**	**97.3**	**92.5**	**92.9**	**-4.5**	**0.4**

[r] *Revised figures.*
[p] *Preliminary figures.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales and stocks
March 2002

For the second consecutive month, consumers cut back on their spending in department stores in March, causing sales to fall to $1.74 billion (seasonally adjusted), down 0.4% from February.

Despite declines in March and February, department store sales have maintained the upward movement that began in the spring of 2000. Previously, they had been declining since September 1999, following a period of increases that lasted more than a year.

Department store sales in the first quarter were 4.8% higher than in the fourth quarter of 2001. This is the largest quarter-over-quarter advance since the third quarter of 1999 (+6.1%).

Department store sales, unadjusted for seasonality, were 8.4% higher in March than in March 2001. Sales (unadjusted) were up in every province. Nova Scotia posted the largest year-over-year increase (+24.3%). New Brunswick, Quebec and the group formed by Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island followed with gains of at least 10.0% each.

Department store sales including concessions

	Mar. 2001	Mar. 2002	Mar. 2001 to Mar. 2002	Jan. to Mar. 2002	Jan.–Mar. 2001 to Jan.–Mar. 2002
	Not seasonally adjusted				
	$ millions		% change	$ millions	% change
Canada	**1,374.6**	**1,489.6**	**8.4**	**3,923.4**	**9.5**
Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island[1]	31.1	34.7	11.5	89.3	22.8
Nova Scotia	38.8	48.3	24.3	117.4	21.2
New Brunswick	30.4	34.4	13.3	85.4	10.9
Quebec	244.3	275.8	12.9	725.8	13.7
Ontario	582.4	622.3	6.9	1,658.8	8.3
Manitoba	57.5	59.7	3.8	156.1	5.0
Saskatchewan	49.1	51.9	5.8	138.3	7.7
Alberta	171.9	186.0	8.2	487.9	9.3
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut[1]	169.1	176.5	4.4	464.4	5.3

1 *For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Labrador and, Prince Edward Island are combined as are data for British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.*

Department store sales (unadjusted) grew four times as fast in non-urban areas than in large urban centres in the first quarter compared with the first quarter of 2001. Quarterly sales, on a year-over-year basis, jumped 16.5% in non-urban areas, and 3.7% in large urban centres. The stronger sales growth in the non-urban areas can be explained, at least partly, by more new stores opening in these areas than in large urban centres. Over this period, the average number of stores rose from 398 to 410 in the non-urban regions and from 331 to 334 in the large urban centres. The survey's definition of large urban centres includes the census metropolitan areas of Halifax–Dartmouth, Québec, Montréal, Ottawa–Gatineau, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver.

Available on CANSIM: tables 076-0001 to 076-0003.

For general information or to obtain data, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; *clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills
February 2002

Sawmills produced 5 903 thousand cubic metres of lumber in February, up a slight 1.0% from 5 844.1 thousand cubic metres in January.

Year-to-date production to the end of February amounted to 11 748.2 thousand cubic metres, down 4.6% from 12 319.7 thousand cubic metres in the same period of 2001.

Lumber shipments totalled 5 634.8 thousand cubic metres in February, down 3.0% from January. This is partly the result of a 13.5% drop in Canadian housing starts in February from January.

Although shipments were down, closing inventories for sawmills rose 3.9% in February from January to 8 652.0 thousand cubic metres.

Canadian lumber exports, mainly to the US market, rose 9.8% in February from January, reaching 4 080.7 thousand cubic metres. This increase is largely explained by the 2.8% advance in US housing starts in February from January and the cancellation of countervailing duties imposed on exports in mid-December. A final decision on countervailing duties is expected at the end of May.

The strong demand for lumber from the US residential construction sector, along with high consumer confidence, pushed lumber prices in February up 4.8% from January and up 17.2% from February 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

The February 2002 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills*, Vol. 56, no. 2 (35-003-XIB, $9/$86) 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 Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; *simales@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Sawmills and planing mills, February 2002, Vol. 56, no. 2
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB ($9/$86).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

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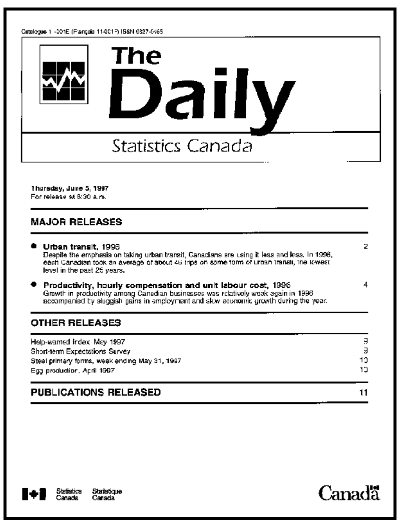
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  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation 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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6	**Building permits**	March 2002
6	**Working smarter: The skill bias of computer technologies**	
7	**Grain stocks**	March 31, 2002
8	**Canadian Community Health Survey: Obesity**	2000–2001
9	**Help-wanted Index**	April 2002
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