



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, December 2002** 3
Canada's annual trade surplus with the rest of the world fell to its lowest level in three years in 2002 as merchandise exports declined and imports rose. For the year as a whole, Canadian companies exported \$410.7 billion in goods, down 1.0% from 2001, and they imported \$356.1 billion worth, a 1.6% increase.

- **Retail trade, December 2002 and annual 2002** 7
Consumer spending in retail stores edged up 0.2% in December to \$25.9 billion. For 2002, retail sales reached \$306.4 billion, up 6.0% from 2001.

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Canadian economic observer: online edition now available

February 2003

The February 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 January and presents a feature article on developments in the labour market in 2002. 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.

Starting today, the *Canadian economic observer* is going online with a new electronic version. All online texts, tables and graphs will also be available in the paper version, still published monthly.

The February 2003 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Vol. 16, no. 2 (11-010-XIB, \$17/\$170; 11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. Visit the *Canadian economic observer's* page on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, then click on 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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NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

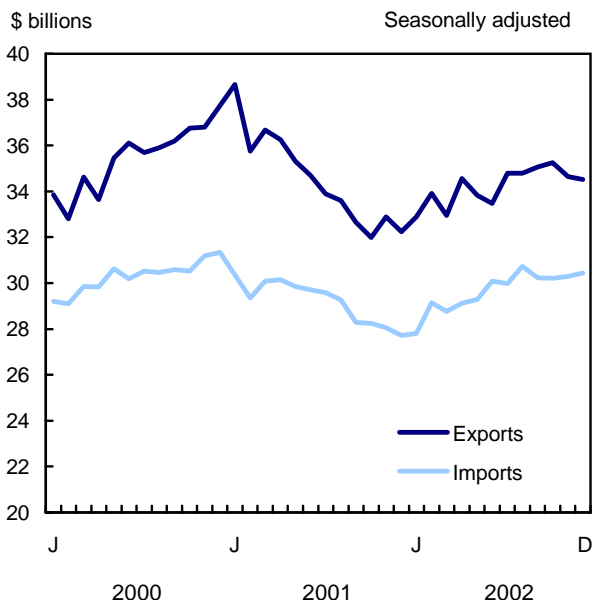
December 2002

Canada's annual trade surplus with the rest of the world fell to its lowest level in three years in 2002, as merchandise exports for the year as a whole declined and imports rose.

Canadian companies exported \$410.7 billion in goods, down 1.0% from 2001, the second year of declines from the record high in 2000. They imported \$356.1 billion worth, a 1.6% increase. As a result, the nation's trade surplus fell by more than \$9.4 billion to nearly \$54.6 billion, the lowest level since 1999.

Exports of automotive products rose 4.5% to just under \$97.1 billion. They accounted for 24% of total exports in 2002, up from 22% the year before. Automotive products incurred 2002's largest increase in imports, rising 12.3% to \$81.4 billion. They represented 23% of all imports, up from 21% in 2001.

Exports and imports



Exports of energy products, particularly natural gas and electricity, fell 7.9% to \$50.4 billion, after posting a

Note to readers

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

Statistics Canada will begin releasing monthly International Merchandise Trade data approximately one week earlier, beginning March 12 with the January 2003 reference month. This information will continue to be made available at the same time as the US trade statistics released by the United States Bureau of the Census.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter.

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, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors. Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

record high in 2001. Although Canada's trade surplus in energy dropped by more than \$3.0 billion to \$34.0 billion, it was still the largest surplus by trade sector in 2002.

Forestry products, one of Canada's strongest contributors to the trade surplus, declined \$2.9 billion to \$33.5 billion in 2002. To maintain export volumes, lumber producers slashed prices to compete in foreign markets.

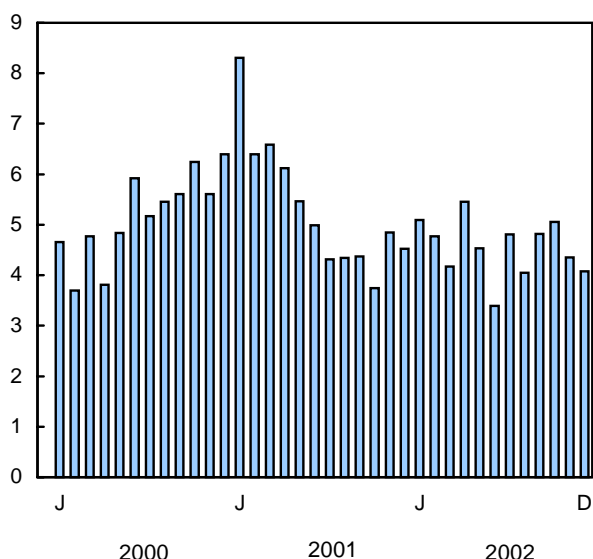
Canada's trade deficit in machinery and equipment has narrowed in recent years. After posting deficits of \$15.0 billion in 2000 and \$12.7 billion in 2001, the deficit in this sector fell to \$11.1 billion in 2002.

In the agriculture sector, grain exports suffered as a result of last year's severe drought on the Prairies. Wheat exports were 19.7% lower at \$3.1 billion, canola exports fell by almost a quarter to \$971 million, and barley exports were half of their normal levels at \$194 million.

Trade with the United States declined slightly in both respects last year. Exports south of the border fell 0.7%, but imports were virtually unchanged (-0.1%). Consequently, the annual trade surplus with the United States dropped by almost \$2.2 billion to \$93.7 billion. Nevertheless, the United States still accounted for 85% of all Canada's exports and 72% of all imports.

Trade balance

\$ billions

**December: Auto sector main factor in trade surplus slump**

On a monthly basis, exports fell 0.3% in December to \$34.5 billion, while imports rose 0.5% to \$30.4 billion.

As a result, Canada's trade balance with the rest of the world fell from a revised \$4.3 billion in November to \$4.1 billion in December. The automotive sector contributed the lion's share of this decline, as imports rose strongly and exports fell to their lowest level in more than four years.

Canadian companies sent \$29.3 billion in goods to the United States in December, down 0.5%. Imports from south of the border dropped 3.6% to \$21.0 billion. The trade surplus with the United States rose by \$633 million to \$8.3 billion.

Imports from all other major trading regions posted double-digit increases in December. This pushed up Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States from \$3.4 billion in November to \$4.3 billion in December.

Fourth straight monthly decline in exports of automotive products

Exports of automotive products fell 5.8% to \$7.4 billion in December. This was the fourth straight monthly decline and put December's level 14.4% below the high for 2002 in August. The monthly trade surplus in auto products, which normally ranges from \$1.1 billion

to \$1.8 billion, fell below \$200 million in December, the lowest level since July 1995. This occurred in the wake of a surge in imported vehicles from the Far East, combined with extended Christmas season shutdowns in Canadian auto assembly plants.

Exports of passenger automobiles declined for the fifth month in a row, as American demand continued to soften and manufacturers struggled to realign production with inventory levels. Passenger auto exports fell 9.5% to \$3.5 billion, a 29.3% decline since July. Exports of motor vehicle parts fell 0.8% to \$2.4 billion, as downtime increased at US assembly plants.

Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles declined 4.6% to \$1.5 billion. This followed a short-term increase in demand in the United States for trucks purchased before new, tougher emission standards took effect on October 1, 2002.

Forestry products exports bounced back from two consecutive monthly declines with a 2.9% increase in December to \$3.0 billion. Newsprint and other paperboard exports grew 7.3% to \$1.1 billion. Producers have actively curtailed newsprint output for the last two years, as they react to a slump in print advertising that has kept downward pressure on newsprint demand and prices.

Canada's lumber exports rose 1.9% to \$851 million in December as construction of new homes in the United States shot unexpectedly to a 16-year high in December. The number of housing starts surged 5.0% from the previous month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.8 million homes, the highest figure since June 1986, according to the US Commerce Department.

In the machinery and equipment sector, exports fell 2.5% to \$7.7 billion. The decline was driven by aircraft, telecommunication and office machines. Lay-offs and slow sales in the aircraft and other transportation equipment sector led to a 14.1% decline in exports to \$1.6 billion. Exports of telecommunications equipment fell 6.6% to \$1.0 billion, coupled with an 8.0% drop in office machines and equipment to half a billion dollars.

Exports of energy products increased 2.0% to \$5.2 billion. Natural gas exports to the United States jumped 4.4%, as volumes increased and prices fell slightly. Crude petroleum exports rose 8.3% to \$2.0 billion.

Rising imports from Europe and Asia offset declines from the United States

Increases in imports, mainly from European and Asian trading partners, offset declines of imports from the United States.

Imports of automotive products climbed 7.0% in December to a record \$7.2 billion. Strong domestic sales of cars built in Japan, Mexico and South Korea continued to boost the import of passenger autos. They rose 21.6% to \$2.8 billion, which was 49.1% higher than December 2001.

Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles, which include ATVs and snowmobiles, increased a more modest 6.6% to \$1.1 billion, surpassing October's record level.

Imports of motor vehicle parts destined for Canadian auto assembly plants fell 2.4% to \$3.4 billion, the fifth straight monthly decline. During this five-month period, imports of vehicle parts dropped 15.6%.

Imports in the largest sector, machinery and equipment, fell 3.5% to \$8.8 billion. Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment fell slightly to \$1.3 billion, but imports of aircraft, engines and parts rose 2.3% to just under \$1 billion. Imports of other machinery, which includes high-tech equipment, fell 5.0% to \$3.9 billion.

Lower prices and reduced volume contributed to a 4.3% decline in imported energy products, which fell to \$1.5 billion. Energy prices had increased strongly in the second quarter of 2002 followed by a moderating of the rate of increase in the third and fourth quarters.

Imports of consumer goods fell slightly to \$4.0 billion after record levels in October and November. Increased imports of apparel and footwear failed to offset declines in pharmaceuticals, house furnishings, printed matter and photographic goods.

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

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The publication *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) will be available soon. It 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).

Merchandise trade data are available by fax on the morning of release.

An annual review of 2001 is 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 are now available.

For more information, 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

| | November 2002 ^r | December 2002 | November to December 2002 | December 2001 to December 2002 | January to December 2001 | January to December 2002 | January–December 2001 to January–December 2002 |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Seasonally adjusted, \$ current | | | | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | % change | | \$ millions | | % |
| Principal trading partners | | | | | | | |
| Exports | | | | | | | |
| United States | 29,448 | 29,288 | -0.5 | 7.1 | 350,907 | 348,384 | -0.7 |
| Japan | 870 | 870 | 0.0 | 26.1 | 9,481 | 9,707 | 2.4 |
| European Union | 1,740 | 1,708 | -1.8 | 10.1 | 22,301 | 21,210 | -4.9 |
| Other OECD countries ¹ | 1,053 | 839 | -20.3 | -7.3 | 10,925 | 11,026 | 0.9 |
| All other countries | 1,523 | 1,821 | 19.6 | 4.8 | 21,024 | 20,358 | -3.2 |
| Total | 34,634 | 34,527 | -0.3 | 7.1 | 414,638 | 410,687 | -1.0 |
| Imports | | | | | | | |
| United States | 21,749 | 20,956 | -3.6 | 3.4 | 255,027 | 254,688 | -0.1 |
| Japan | 992 | 1,141 | 15.0 | 30.7 | 10,586 | 11,737 | 10.9 |
| European Union | 2,898 | 3,358 | 15.9 | 15.0 | 35,089 | 36,144 | 3.0 |
| Other OECD countries ¹ | 1,581 | 1,786 | 13.0 | 27.8 | 18,626 | 19,480 | 4.6 |
| All other countries | 3,065 | 3,206 | 4.6 | 41.9 | 31,294 | 34,059 | 8.8 |
| Total | 30,286 | 30,447 | 0.5 | 9.9 | 350,622 | 356,109 | 1.6 |
| Balance | | | | | | | |
| United States | 7,699 | 8,332 | ... | ... | 95,880 | 93,696 | ... |
| Japan | -122 | -271 | ... | ... | -1,105 | -2,030 | ... |
| European Union | -1,158 | -1,650 | ... | ... | -12,788 | -14,934 | ... |
| Other OECD countries ¹ | -528 | -947 | ... | ... | -7,701 | -8,454 | ... |
| All other countries | -1,542 | -1,385 | ... | ... | -10,270 | -13,701 | ... |
| Total | 4,349 | 4,079 | ... | ... | 64,016 | 54,578 | ... |
| Principal commodity groupings | | | | | | | |
| Exports | | | | | | | |
| Agricultural and fishing products | 2,476 | 2,557 | 3.3 | -1.8 | 30,883 | 30,541 | -1.1 |
| Energy products | 5,083 | 5,186 | 2.0 | 76.0 | 54,744 | 50,421 | -7.9 |
| Forestry products | 2,979 | 3,066 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 39,307 | 36,650 | -6.8 |
| Industrial goods and materials | 5,629 | 5,921 | 5.2 | 10.2 | 66,797 | 69,435 | 3.9 |
| Machinery and equipment | 7,916 | 7,715 | -2.5 | -1.9 | 99,733 | 94,718 | -5.0 |
| Automotive products | 7,881 | 7,422 | -5.8 | -6.2 | 92,858 | 97,083 | 4.5 |
| Other consumer goods | 1,457 | 1,461 | 0.3 | 6.3 | 15,972 | 17,342 | 8.6 |
| Special transactions trade ² | 660 | 639 | -3.2 | -3.0 | 8,121 | 7,910 | -2.6 |
| Other balance of payments adjustments | 553 | 559 | 1.1 | 11.1 | 6,219 | 6,592 | 6.0 |
| Imports | | | | | | | |
| Agricultural and fishing products | 1,823 | 1,832 | 0.5 | 7.8 | 20,357 | 21,778 | 7.0 |
| Energy products | 1,536 | 1,470 | -4.3 | 27.1 | 17,752 | 16,458 | -7.3 |
| Forestry products | 264 | 259 | -1.9 | 12.6 | 2,886 | 3,134 | 8.6 |
| Industrial goods and materials | 5,695 | 5,848 | 2.7 | 14.0 | 68,456 | 68,828 | 0.5 |
| Machinery and equipment | 9,147 | 8,823 | -3.5 | 1.7 | 112,422 | 105,784 | -5.9 |
| Automotive products | 6,763 | 7,239 | 7.0 | 18.9 | 72,546 | 81,445 | 12.3 |
| Other consumer goods | 4,014 | 3,984 | -0.7 | 10.2 | 42,926 | 46,416 | 8.1 |
| Special transactions trade ² | 493 | 441 | -10.5 | -21.8 | 6,843 | 5,875 | -14.1 |
| Other balance of payments adjustments | 549 | 551 | 0.4 | -0.2 | 6,430 | 6,391 | -0.6 |

^r Revised figures.

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

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

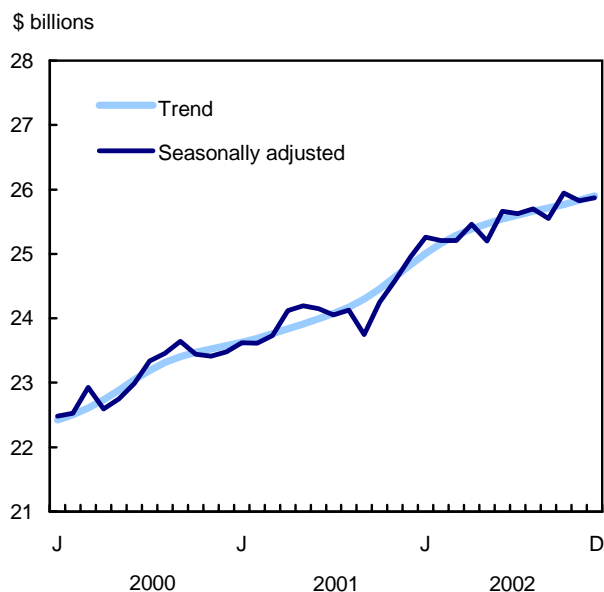
... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

Retail trade

December 2002 and annual 2002 (preliminary)

Consumer spending in retail stores edged up 0.2% in December to \$25.9 billion, after falling 0.5% in November. December's sales were particularly strong for furniture stores and auto dealers, while food stores posted moderate gains. All other retailers experienced declining sales in December.

Lacklustre December, but strong year for retail sales



Retailers sold \$306.4 billion worth of goods and services in 2002, an increase of 6.0% from 2001, when sales rose 4.4%. Growth in retail sales was sporadic over the course of 2002. However, retailers managed to post their second largest annual sales increase in five years, thanks to the strong gains observed from October 2001 to January 2002. Prior to the sharp decline of September 2001, retail sales had remained essentially flat since April of that year.

In constant dollars, retail sales advanced 0.6% in December, following a 1.0% decline in November. In 2002, sales by retailers in constant dollars rose 5.1%, after advancing at a slower pace in 2001 (+2.6%).

Furniture stores and auto dealers had a busy Christmas

For a second consecutive year, furniture stores led other retailers in sales growth in December. Furniture stores enjoyed their fifth consecutive monthly sales gain in December (+2.8%) and their strongest of the last twelve months.

Note to readers

Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. At the end of every calendar year, seasonally adjusted monthly figures are revised to equal the sum of the unadjusted estimates. Revised seasonally adjusted figures are presented this month for September to November 2002. The complete revision of seasonally adjusted data for 2002 will be released in April. All annual comparisons in this release use the sum of unadjusted monthly estimates. As usual, the rest of the analysis is based on seasonally adjusted estimates.

Attractive incentive programs offered by auto manufacturers in December led to a 1.2% sales gain by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, following their 2.3% sales decline in November. Despite some turbulence in the last three months of the year and essentially flat sales since April 2002, motor and recreational vehicle dealers had a strong year in 2002.

Food retailers continued to enjoy steady growth in December (+0.5%). All other retailers suffered from lower holiday spending by consumers.

Boom year for big ticket items and drug sales

In 2002, furniture stores (+11.4%) enjoyed their best year in sales growth since 1987. Furthermore, 2002 was the sixth consecutive year in which consumers increased spending in furniture stores by at least 8.0% annually. Housing starts, which posted their highest activity level since 1989, provided a great deal of stimulus to furniture store sales in 2002. Furniture stores generate about 40% of their total sales from household appliances and furniture, and approximately 30% from sales of home electronics.

Retail sales by sector

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2001 to 2002 |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | \$ millions | | % change |
| Furniture | 16,364 | 18,229 | 11.4 |
| Drug | 14,416 | 15,577 | 8.1 |
| Automotive | 115,524 | 123,317 | 6.7 |
| Total, all stores | 289,130 | 306,366 | 6.0 |
| Food | 63,652 | 66,807 | 5.0 |
| Other | 31,012 | 32,467 | 4.7 |
| General merchandise | 32,294 | 33,771 | 4.6 |
| Clothing | 15,868 | 16,197 | 2.1 |

Drug stores were a top annual sales performer for a second consecutive year in 2002. Sales jumped 8.1% in 2002, after advancing 6.8% in 2001. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs, as well as vitamins and herbal remedies, account for about two-thirds of all sales in drug stores. Drug stores have shown strong sales growth since the spring of 2000.

Retailers in the automotive sector posted a 6.7% sales increase in 2002. Generous incentives stimulated consumer demand for new cars, leading to a 7.9% sales gain by motor and recreational vehicles dealers in 2002. This was their largest annual growth rate since 1997 (+13.1%). Sales by motor and recreational vehicles dealers plateaued in 2002, after a period of exceptional growth from October 2001 to January 2002.

Gasoline service stations posted a 3.6% sales increase in 2002, after a disappointing year in 2001 (+0.2%). Although the average price for gasoline at the pump declined slightly in 2002, higher volumes helped to boost the value of sales.

In 2002, food retailers experienced their largest annual sales gain (+5.0%) since 1987. A significant portion of this increase was induced by higher prices for cigarettes and food products.

General merchandisers reported moderate sales growth (+4.6%) in 2002, partly reflecting lower prices for clothing. Within this sector, sales by department stores (+5.8%) grew at about twice the rate shown by other general merchandise stores (+2.9%). Following a period of rapid growth in the fall of 2001, sales by general merchandisers have been advancing slowly since the start of 2002.

During a year of falling prices, clothing stores managed to post a 2.1% sales gain in 2002, the weakest annual growth rate since 1996. However, sales were up 5.3% in 2002 when adjusted for price changes.

Consumers increased spending in stores of the "other" clothing category (+4.5%) and in shoe stores (+1.3%). Stores in the "other" clothing category sell a variety of women's, men's and children's clothing. Sales remained unchanged in women's clothing stores in 2002, and fell 3.7% in men's clothing stores. This was the fourth consecutive year of falling sales in men's clothing stores. Sales in the clothing sector have been volatile in 2002, partly because of extreme weather in the spring and summer.

Excellent year for territories and Prairie provinces

Retailers in the territories and Prairie provinces outperformed their counterparts in the rest of the country in 2002. Retail sales skyrocketed in the Northwest Territories (+16.6%) and jumped 9.7% in Yukon and 7.7% in Nunavut.

Retail sales advances in the Prairie provinces were led by Alberta (+7.9%), followed closely by Saskatchewan (+7.2%) and Manitoba (+6.9%). Consumer spending in the furniture and automotive sectors rose by at least 9.0% in each of these provinces in 2002. Retail sales have slowed down since the start

of 2002 in the Prairie provinces, following a period of rapid growth that began in the spring of 1999.

Retail sales by province and territory

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2001 to 2002 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | \$ millions | | % change |
| Northwest Territories | 434 | 506 | 16.6 |
| Yukon | 363 | 399 | 9.7 |
| Alberta | 34,602 | 37,344 | 7.9 |
| Nunavut | 193 | 208 | 7.7 |
| Saskatchewan | 8,395 | 8,995 | 7.2 |
| Manitoba | 9,937 | 10,626 | 6.9 |
| Quebec | 66,036 | 70,070 | 6.1 |
| Canada | 289,130 | 306,366 | 6.0 |
| British Columbia | 37,979 | 40,154 | 5.7 |
| Ontario | 109,194 | 115,169 | 5.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 8,703 | 9,173 | 5.4 |
| Prince Edward Island | 1,281 | 1,323 | 3.3 |
| New Brunswick | 7,070 | 7,298 | 3.2 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 4,943 | 5,100 | 3.2 |

Quebec retailers posted a 6.1% sales increase in 2002, their best performance in three years. Furniture stores (+11.5%) were Quebec's leading retail sector in 2002, followed by stores in the automotive (+7.7%) and general merchandise (+7.0%) sectors. Despite a strong year, retail sales in Quebec have remained essentially flat since June 2002, after a period of solid gains that began in the fall of 2001.

Retailers in British Columbia (+5.7%) and Ontario (+5.5%) posted sales increases below the national average in 2002. Although clothing and general merchandise stores showed the weakest sales growth, furniture stores and drug stores posted sizeable gains in both provinces. Retail sales in British Columbia have generally been advancing since the start of 1999. In Ontario, retail sales gains were modest for most of 2002, compared with a period of strong growth from October 2001 to January 2002. Prior to October 2001, Ontario's retailers posted essentially flat sales for about a year.

In 2002, consumer spending in retail stores remained relatively weak in each of the four Atlantic provinces. Although retail sales growth doubled in Nova Scotia (+5.4%) in 2002, the 3.2% sales gain in Newfoundland and Labrador was three times weaker than in 2001. Retail sales in Prince Edward Island (+3.3%) and New Brunswick (+3.2%) continued at about the same pace as in the previous year.

Related indicators for January

Total employment remained unchanged in January, after an exceptional year in 2002. Growth in job creation reached 3.7% in 2002, the largest rate of increase

since 1987. After an outstanding year in 2002, housing starts and the number of new motor vehicles sold fell sharply in January 2003. Housing starts grew at a rate of about 26.0% in 2002 and the number of new motor vehicles sold during the year was 8.5% higher than in 2001.

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

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2406.

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

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or 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

| | December 2001 | September 2002 ^r | October 2002 ^r | November 2002 ^r | December 2002 ^p | November to December 2002 | December 2001 to December 2002 |
|---|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Seasonally adjusted | | | | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | | | % change | |
| Food | 5,413 | 5,621 | 5,684 | 5,682 | 5,708 | 0.5 | 5.4 |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores | 4,999 | 5,217 | 5,287 | 5,274 | 5,295 | 0.4 | 5.9 |
| All other food stores | 414 | 404 | 398 | 408 | 413 | 1.2 | -0.2 |
| Drug and patent medicine stores | 1,249 | 1,302 | 1,307 | 1,317 | 1,313 | -0.3 | 5.1 |
| Clothing | 1,367 | 1,316 | 1,375 | 1,357 | 1,333 | -1.8 | -2.5 |
| Shoe stores | 159 | 144 | 154 | 151 | 146 | -3.4 | -8.2 |
| Men's clothing stores | 116 | 110 | 111 | 108 | 105 | -2.7 | -8.8 |
| Women's clothing stores | 400 | 389 | 397 | 386 | 385 | -0.2 | -3.5 |
| Other clothing stores | 693 | 674 | 712 | 712 | 697 | -2.2 | 0.5 |
| Furniture | 1,488 | 1,532 | 1,541 | 1,558 | 1,601 | 2.8 | 7.6 |
| Household furniture and appliance stores | 1,210 | 1,228 | 1,234 | 1,251 | 1,279 | 2.3 | 5.7 |
| Household furnishings stores | 278 | 304 | 307 | 307 | 321 | 4.6 | 15.4 |
| Automotive | 10,017 | 10,270 | 10,475 | 10,342 | 10,368 | 0.2 | 3.5 |
| Motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 7,001 | 6,826 | 6,948 | 6,787 | 6,868 | 1.2 | -1.9 |
| Gasoline service stations | 1,620 | 1,997 | 2,057 | 2,089 | 2,059 | -1.4 | 27.1 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services | 1,396 | 1,447 | 1,470 | 1,467 | 1,440 | -1.8 | 3.2 |
| General merchandise stores | 2,737 | 2,780 | 2,823 | 2,826 | 2,821 | -0.2 | 3.0 |
| Retail stores not elsewhere classified | 2,673 | 2,727 | 2,736 | 2,741 | 2,724 | -0.6 | 1.9 |
| Other semi-durable goods stores | 793 | 790 | 803 | 796 | 791 | -0.6 | -0.2 |
| Other durable goods stores | 648 | 663 | 667 | 672 | 664 | -1.1 | 2.5 |
| All other retail stores not elsewhere classified | 1,232 | 1,275 | 1,266 | 1,273 | 1,268 | -0.4 | 2.9 |
| Total, retail sales | 24,946 | 25,549 | 25,943 | 25,823 | 25,868 | 0.2 | 3.7 |
| Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 17,945 | 18,723 | 18,995 | 19,036 | 18,999 | -0.2 | 5.9 |
| Provinces and territories | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 414 | 438 | 424 | 423 | 437 | 3.3 | 5.5 |
| Prince Edward Island | 108 | 110 | 112 | 111 | 111 | 0.3 | 2.6 |
| Nova Scotia | 744 | 770 | 773 | 763 | 774 | 1.4 | 4.1 |
| New Brunswick | 603 | 607 | 607 | 597 | 611 | 2.3 | 1.4 |
| Quebec | 5,711 | 5,857 | 5,950 | 5,884 | 5,881 | -0.1 | 3.0 |
| Ontario | 9,426 | 9,594 | 9,770 | 9,716 | 9,778 | 0.6 | 3.7 |
| Manitoba | 847 | 878 | 892 | 886 | 895 | 1.0 | 5.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 724 | 742 | 763 | 760 | 769 | 1.1 | 6.2 |
| Alberta | 3,008 | 3,114 | 3,171 | 3,173 | 3,136 | -1.2 | 4.3 |
| British Columbia | 3,273 | 3,343 | 3,387 | 3,412 | 3,380 | -0.9 | 3.3 |
| Yukon | 34 | 33 | 34 | 33 | 33 | -1.2 | -2.7 |
| Northwest Territories | 38 | 43 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 0.8 | 18.8 |
| Nunavut | 16 | 18 | 17 | 19 | 19 | -2.9 | 12.9 |

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Retail sales

| | December 2001 | November 2002 ^r | December 2002 ^p | December 2001 to December 2002 |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Unadjusted | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | % change |
| Food | 5,881 | 5,688 | 6,015 | 2.3 |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores | 5,371 | 5,293 | 5,507 | 2.5 |
| All other food stores | 509 | 395 | 508 | -0.2 |
| Drug and patent medicine stores | 1,522 | 1,324 | 1,600 | 5.1 |
| Clothing | 2,240 | 1,570 | 2,138 | -4.6 |
| Shoe stores | 208 | 174 | 182 | -12.5 |
| Men's clothing stores | 229 | 134 | 202 | -11.5 |
| Women's clothing stores | 635 | 429 | 597 | -6.0 |
| Other clothing stores | 1,169 | 832 | 1,157 | -1.0 |
| Furniture | 2,145 | 1,739 | 2,325 | 8.4 |
| Household furniture and appliance stores | 1,805 | 1,380 | 1,924 | 6.6 |
| Household furnishings stores | 340 | 359 | 401 | 17.8 |
| Automotive | 8,984 | 9,780 | 9,463 | 5.3 |
| Motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 5,896 | 6,143 | 5,918 | 0.4 |
| Gasoline service stations | 1,583 | 2,014 | 1,991 | 25.8 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services | 1,505 | 1,623 | 1,553 | 3.1 |
| General merchandise stores | 4,567 | 3,403 | 4,590 | 0.5 |
| Retail stores not elsewhere classified | 4,072 | 2,804 | 4,080 | 0.2 |
| Other semi-durable goods stores | 1,190 | 873 | 1,175 | -1.3 |
| Other durable goods stores | 1,201 | 658 | 1,201 | 0.0 |
| All other retail stores not elsewhere classified | 1,681 | 1,273 | 1,704 | 1.3 |
| Total, retail sales | 29,410 | 26,308 | 30,210 | 2.7 |
| Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 23,515 | 20,166 | 24,292 | 3.3 |
| Provinces and territories | | | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 471 | 450 | 502 | 6.5 |
| Prince Edward Island | 128 | 109 | 130 | 1.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 895 | 797 | 923 | 3.2 |
| New Brunswick | 706 | 617 | 712 | 0.8 |
| Quebec | 6,291 | 5,799 | 6,391 | 1.6 |
| Ontario | 11,383 | 10,118 | 11,724 | 3.0 |
| Manitoba | 1013 | 905 | 1058 | 4.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 863 | 773 | 909 | 5.3 |
| Alberta | 3,634 | 3,259 | 3,738 | 2.9 |
| British Columbia | 3,927 | 3,389 | 4,017 | 2.3 |
| Yukon | 38 | 31 | 37 | -2.4 |
| Northwest Territories | 43 | 42 | 49 | 16.2 |
| Nunavut | 19 | 19 | 22 | 13.4 |

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending February 15, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending February 15 totalled 304 368 metric tonnes, up 0.6% from 302 693 tonnes a week earlier but down 4.1% from 317 495 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of February 15 was 1 977 158 tonnes, up 1.3% from 1 951 677 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2131.

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

Export and import price indexes

December 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 December 2002 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to December 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.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

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

Refined petroleum products

December 2002 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for December. Other selected data about these products are also available.

For general information or to order data, 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 Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368; desjger@statcan.ca) or Randall Sheldrick (613-951-4804; shelran@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

December 2002 (preliminary)

In December 2002, the 43 Canadian airports with NAV Canada air traffic control towers reported 302,070 total movements, down of 5% from December 2001. Since May 2002, total aircraft movements in Canada generally exhibited year-over-year decreases in the 5% to 7% range. The decrease in total movements from December 2001 to December 2002 was mostly due to the 13% decline in local movements (flights where the aircraft remains in close proximity to the airport), compared to a decrease of 1% for itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another).

Among the airports recording local movements, Toronto/Buttonville (-42%) and Victoria International (-32%) showed the largest decreases. Among the airports recording itinerant movements, Québec/Jean-Lesage (-17%) and Victoria International (-16%) airports recorded the largest declines, counterbalanced to a large extent by increases at Edmonton International (+13%) and Montréal/Dorval (+12%).

The December issue of *Aircraft movement statistics* (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Transport and warehousing*. Previous issues

are available on Transport Canada's website (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/report/TP1496/tp1496.htm>).

Preliminary statistics for the 56 Canadian airports with NAV Canada flight service stations are also available for December.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Shipments of rolled steel

December 2002

Data on shipments of rolled steel are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0010.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The December 2002 issue of *Primary iron and steel*, Vol. 57, no. 12 (41-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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 dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

December 2002

Data on steel primary forms production are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0010.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The December 2002 issue of *Primary iron and steel*, Vol. 57, no. 12 (41-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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 dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

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Vol. 16, no. 2

Catalogue number 11-010-XPB (\$23/\$227).

Primary iron and steel, December 2002, Vol. 57,
no. 12

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Aircraft movements statistics, December 2002,
Vol. 1, no. 12

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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 six 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 also noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year. | |
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