



The Daily

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, February 2003**

Merchandise exports fell 1.6% to just under \$34.6 billion, while imports remained unchanged at \$30.0 billion in February. Canada's trade surplus with the rest of the world dropped by half a billion dollars to \$4.6 billion in February, the third decline in the past four months.

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- **Investment in non-residential building construction, first quarter 2003**

Businesses and governments spent a record amount of more than \$6.4 billion in the first quarter of 2003, up 1.0% from the fourth quarter of 2002. The driving force behind this advance was an exceptional level of investment in institutional projects.

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NEW PRODUCTS



MAJOR RELEASES

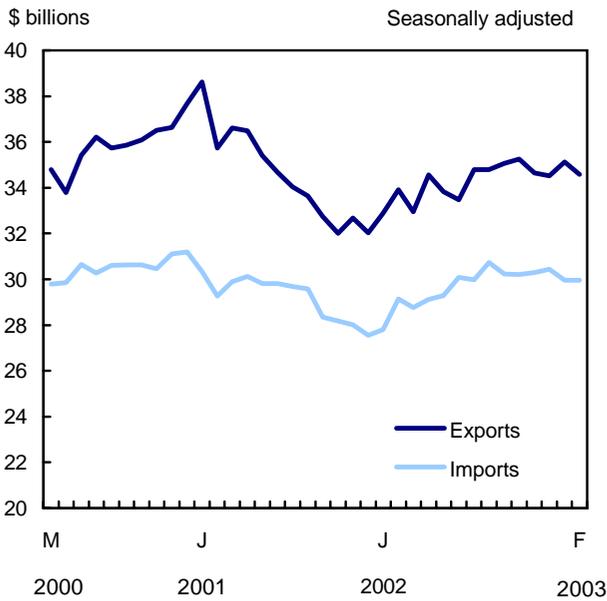
Canadian international merchandise trade

February 2003

Merchandise exports fell 1.6% to just under \$34.6 billion, while imports remained unchanged at \$30.0 billion in February. Canada's trade surplus with the rest of the world dropped by half a billion dollars to \$4.6 billion in February, the third decline in the past four months.

Exports to the United States, which accounted for 84% of the total in February, fell 0.9% to \$29.1 billion, while exports to the European Union (6% of the total) fell 11.6% to \$2.0 billion.

Exports and imports



Imports from the United States remained unchanged from January. A decline in imports from the EU fully offset increases from all other trading partners.

The trade surplus with the United States fell by a quarter billion dollars to \$7.8 billion. Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States increased from \$2.9 billion in January to \$3.2 billion in February.

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 began 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 Census Bureau.

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.

Aircraft provide the main drag in February's decline in exports

Machinery and equipment exports fell 7.7% to \$7.5 billion. The decrease was driven by a 23.9% drop in aircraft, engines and parts to \$1.3 billion, the result of lower demand in the United States for smaller passenger and corporate aircraft. Industrial and agricultural machinery exports decreased 7.0% to \$1.6 billion, while "other" machinery and equipment exports, including telecommunications equipment, office machines and heavy equipment and tools fell 2.5% to \$4.2 billion.

Exports of automotive products rose 1.7% to \$7.7 billion in February, the first back-to-back monthly increase in six months. Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles bounced back with a 10.9% increase to \$1.5 billion. The rebound in February was the first in five months. Passenger automobile exports declined slightly to \$3.6 billion. Passenger auto exports have fallen in six of the last seven months, as consumer demand, especially in the United States, continued to soften and manufacturers allowed inventories to fall. Exports of motor vehicle parts decreased marginally to \$2.6 billion. The value of parts destined for US assembly plants eased in February; non-US parts exports picked up, partly offsetting the decline.

Exports of energy products increased 1.8% to \$5.8 billion, the sixth monthly rise in a row. This

was mainly the result of a surge in natural gas exports to the United States, which increased by one-fifth to \$2.8 billion in February, one and a half times higher than in February 2002. The export price index for natural gas jumped 16.4%, and volumes increased 2.8% as colder-than-normal weather continued its grip on eastern North America. Petroleum and coal products exports reached a new high level, \$1.0 billion. Crude petroleum exports fell 18.8% to \$1.6 billion.

Forestry products exports fell 1.1% to \$2.9 billion, with export prices rising marginally, while volumes declined in lumber and sawmill products. New housing starts in the United States slumped 11% in February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.6 million units, according to the US Commerce Department. This is the largest monthly drop in housing starts since January 1994 and the lowest level of starts in the United States since April 2002. February's drop in housing is attributed to harsh winter weather and homebuyer worries about terrorism and war.

Consumer goods exports rose 2.0% to \$1.6 billion in February, a record high. The third consecutive monthly increase resulted from strong demand for medical supplies and medicines. Consumer goods exports have risen steadily over the past 10 years, nearly doubling every five years.

Industrial goods and materials fell 2.1% to \$5.6 billion because of slower export activity in three of four sub-sectors. Only metals and alloys posted a modest gain of 1.6%, on the strength of a 24.7% jump in exports of precious metals and alloys to \$406 million.

Agricultural and fishing products exports fell a slight 0.7% to \$2.5 billion, with meat and meat preparations and live animal exports accounting for most of the decline. Although exports of canola and wheat bounced back, those of wheat and barley were approximately half of their levels from February 2002.

Increases in energy and auto imports offset declines in all other sectors

Canadian imports were unchanged in February, as decreases in imports from the European Union offset increased imports from all other non-US trading partners. Imports from the United States remained static.

Automotive products imports increased 3.0% to \$6.9 billion in February. Imports of passenger autos increased 7.5% to \$2.3 billion, 20.2% higher than February 2002. Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles increased 2.9% to \$1.2 billion; this was the third record-setting level in a row, the result of strong demand for two- to five-ton vehicles. Motor vehicle parts imports destined for Canadian auto assembly plants increased slightly to \$3.5 billion, the second consecutive increase following five months of decline.

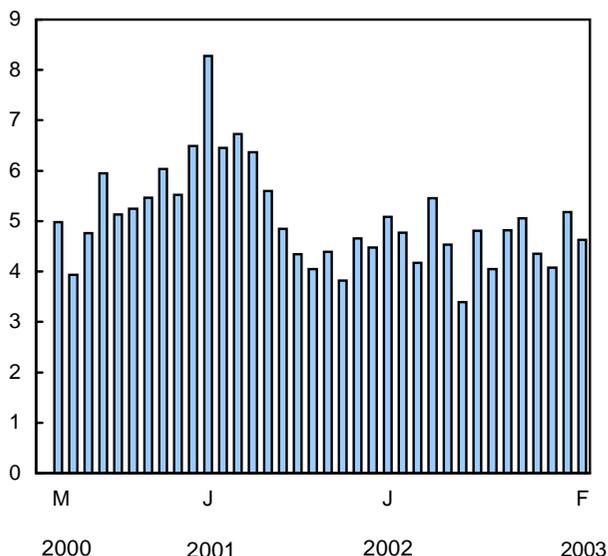
Imports in the largest sector, machinery and equipment, fell 1.9% to \$8.5 billion. Industrial and agricultural machinery imports fell 0.6% to \$2.3 billion, the third monthly decline for a total drop of 5.5%. Imports of "other" machinery, which includes high-tech equipment, increased 1.8% to \$3.8 billion. Aircraft and other transportation equipment imports dropped 13.5% to \$1.1 billion. Imports of aircraft, engines and parts fell 18.6% to under three-quarters of a billion dollars, the lowest level since May 2002. Other transportation equipment imports also declined, down 3.4% to \$428 million, returning to normal import values following a stronger-than-usual January.

Cold weather and tensions in oil-producing countries contributed to a 6.7% increase in imported energy products, which rose to \$1.7 billion. In spite of a 5.6% increase in the crude petroleum import price index in February, a drop in import volume resulted in a 9.4% decline in the value of imported crude petroleum to \$1.1 billion.

Although consumer goods imports posted their third consecutive monthly decline, falling marginally to \$3.9 billion, they were just below the record levels set in October and November 2002. Increases in imports of apparel, footwear, house furnishings and televisions failed to offset declines in pharmaceuticals, photographic goods, printed matter, and watches, sporting goods and toys.

Trade balance

\$ billions



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 February 2003 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) will be available soon. The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade

statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93; 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order products*.

Merchandise trade data are available by fax or in PDF format on the morning of release.

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

□

Merchandise trade

	January 2003 ^r	February 2003	January to February 2003	February 2002 to February 2003	January to February 2002	January to February 2003	January-February 2002 to January-February 2003
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	29,325	29,061	-0.9	2.6	56,331	58,386	3.6
Japan	912	914	0.2	22.5	1,458	1,826	25.2
European Union	2,259	1,997	-11.6	-10.4	4,013	4,256	6.1
Other OECD countries ¹	809	727	-10.1	-22.3	1,765	1,536	-13.0
All other countries	1,826	1,884	3.2	13.2	3,240	3,710	14.5
Total	35,131	34,582	-1.6	2.0	66,807	69,713	4.3
Imports							
United States	21,261	21,261	0.0	1.8	41,340	42,522	2.9
Japan	901	929	3.1	-2.6	1,731	1,830	5.7
European Union	3,172	3,025	-4.6	3.0	5,531	6,197	12.0
Other OECD countries ¹	1,693	1,743	3.0	11.4	3,047	3,436	12.8
All other countries	2,923	3,000	2.6	7.2	5,298	5,923	11.8
Total	29,951	29,956	0.0	2.8	56,948	59,907	5.2
Balance							
United States	8,064	7,800	...	...	14,991	15,864	...
Japan	11	-15	...	...	-273	-4	...
European Union	-913	-1,028	...	...	-1,518	-1,941	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-884	-1,016	...	...	-1,282	-1,900	...
All other countries	-1,097	-1,116	...	...	-2,058	-2,213	...
Total	5,181	4,625	...	...	9,859	9,806	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,486	2,468	-0.7	-7.6	5,243	4,954	-5.5
Energy products	5,652	5,755	1.8	78.8	6,383	11,407	78.7
Forestry products	2,910	2,877	-1.1	-9.3	6,241	5,787	-7.3
Industrial goods and materials	5,697	5,579	-2.1	-6.4	11,557	11,276	-2.4
Machinery and equipment	8,127	7,503	-7.7	-6.0	16,376	15,630	-4.6
Automotive products	7,552	7,679	1.7	-7.0	15,689	15,231	-2.9
Other consumer goods	1,550	1,581	2.0	11.3	2,917	3,131	7.3
Special transactions trade ²	650	636	-2.2	-8.0	1,364	1,286	-5.7
Other balance of payments adjustments	508	504	-0.8	-5.6	1,038	1,012	-2.5
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,866	1,850	-0.9	2.3	3,587	3,716	3.6
Energy products	1,560	1,664	6.7	50.2	2,297	3,224	40.4
Forestry products	267	261	-2.2	3.2	503	528	5.0
Industrial goods and materials	5,945	5,825	-2.0	-0.7	11,447	11,770	2.8
Machinery and equipment	8,638	8,475	-1.9	-3.3	17,107	17,113	0.0
Automotive products	6,712	6,912	3.0	6.8	12,501	13,624	9.0
Other consumer goods	3,967	3,936	-0.8	3.6	7,426	7,903	6.4
Special transactions trade ²	453	494	9.1	-6.6	1,022	947	-7.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	543	539	-0.7	-0.2	1,057	1,082	2.4

^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.

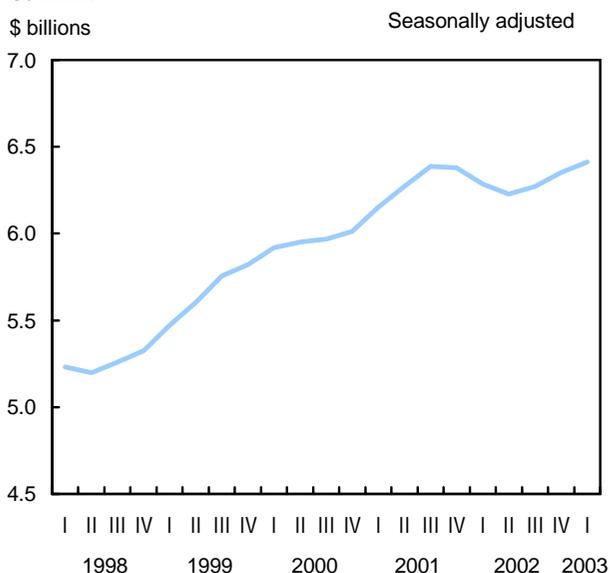


Investment in non-residential building construction

First quarter 2003

Businesses and governments spent a record amount of more than \$6.4 billion in the first quarter of 2003, up 1.0% from the fourth quarter of 2002. The driving force behind this advance was an exceptional level of investment in institutional projects.

Non-residential building investment reaches a new summit



Investment in institutional construction projects increased for an eleventh consecutive quarter, advancing 8.3% from the fourth quarter of 2002 to a new record of \$2.3 billion. Investment in the construction of commercial buildings declined 1.0% to \$3.0 billion. Lastly, investment in the industrial building sector fell 6.7% to \$1.1 billion.

At the provincial level, Ontario continued a growth spurt that began in the first quarter of 2002. Investment in that province reached a record level of \$2.8 billion, up 8.2% from the fourth quarter of 2002. Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nunavut also saw increased investment in non-residential construction in the first quarter. Quebec experienced the largest decline (-5.6% to \$1.5 billion).

Non-residential investment increased in 15 of the 28 census metropolitan areas. Montréal registered the largest decrease (-6.1% to \$845 million), while Toronto posted the largest gain (+13.5% to \$850 million).

Note to readers

This release presents seasonally adjusted data (unless otherwise stated), which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction. This series is based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions.

Work put in place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put in place patterns differ according to the value of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of some hundred thousand dollars.

Additional data from the Survey of Private and Public Investment are used to create this investment series. Investment in non-residential building data is benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

Toronto and, to a lesser extent, London and Hamilton were the main factors in the robust growth in Ontario.

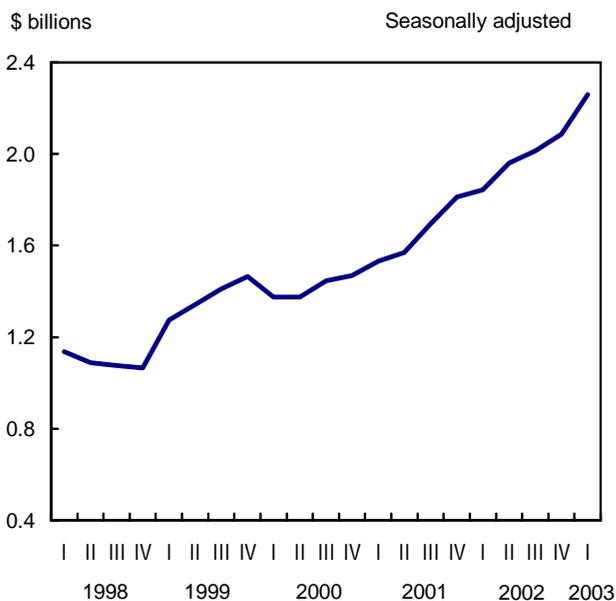
Investment in non-residential building construction

	First quarter 2002	Fourth quarter 2002	First quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2002 to first quarter 2003
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Total	4,491	4,481	4,642	3.6
Abbotsford	24	32	26	-21.3
Calgary	273	239	218	-9.0
Edmonton	202	202	198	-1.6
Gatineau	43	63	80	26.1
Halifax	34	33	29	-11.7
Hamilton	188	140	162	15.8
Kingston	14	41	46	14.8
Kitchener	146	184	199	7.8
London	134	165	188	13.8
Montréal	986	900	845	-6.1
Oshawa	57	76	93	22.2
Ottawa	349	279	285	1.9
Québec	151	159	154	-3.5
Regina	39	44	45	3.0
Saguenay	32	31	35	10.7
Saint John	19	13	12	-8.5
Saskatoon	66	73	77	5.1
Sherbrooke	28	37	31	-17.4
St. Catharines-Niagara	92	129	129	-0.1
St. John's	45	42	40	-4.9
Sudbury	31	55	55	-1.0
Thunder Bay	29	66	60	-9.1
Toronto	862	749	850	13.5
Trois-Rivières	21	36	35	-4.9
Vancouver	348	355	370	4.3
Victoria	52	52	53	1.3
Windsor	73	106	112	5.6
Winnipeg	76	84	104	23.6

Institutional construction sites hum with activity

The new quarterly peak of \$2.3 billion reflects the steady growth of the institutional construction sector. The construction of educational institutions was the main factor in the increase in this first quarter. Overall, quarterly investment from public institutions in non-residential construction has doubled in the past five years. In the first quarter of 1998, investment in this sector totalled \$1.1 billion.

An active start on institutional building sites



As institutional construction intentions published in the Building Permits Survey are acted upon, investment levels should remain high in the coming quarters.

At the provincial level, Ontario recorded the largest increase, with investment rising 19.6% to \$1.2 billion. This growth was propelled by school, college and university projects, with continuing preparations to accommodate the double cohort when classes start in the fall of 2003. Alberta recorded the largest decline (-14.1% to \$233 million).

Among census metropolitan areas, Toronto registered the largest increase in institutional investment (+30.6% to \$387 million), while Calgary showed the largest drop (-23.8% to \$62 million).

Investment in commercial buildings declines for a seventh consecutive quarter

Investment in commercial construction continued to decline, with a 1.0% drop from the fourth quarter

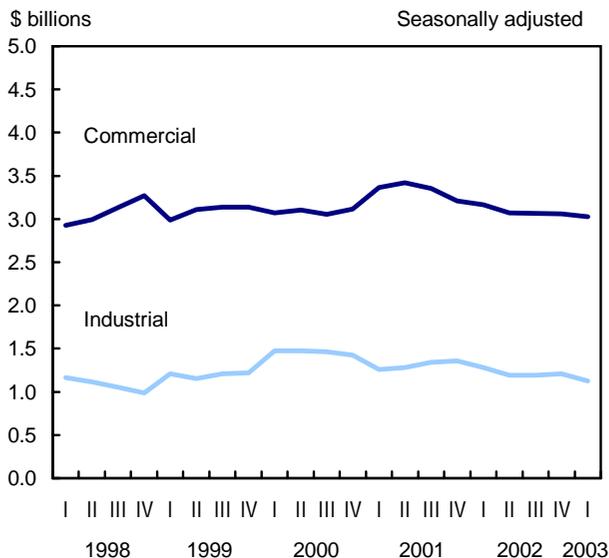
of 2002. The amounts invested in the first quarter of 2003 totalled \$3.0 billion, down 4.2% from the first quarter of 2002. The decrease in investment in office building construction was the main factor behind these results.

British Columbia countered the decrease in commercial investment by posting a gain of 6.2% to \$380 million, its third consecutive quarterly increase. Quebec saw the steepest drop (-9.3% to \$859 million), its second consecutive decrease.

The Montréal census metropolitan area experienced the largest quarterly decrease (-13.6% to \$547 million), mainly a result of the completion of major office building projects. Conversely, investment in Vancouver intensified in the first quarter (+8.3% to \$262 million).

Construction projects that were initiated at the end of 2001, when vacancy rates for commercial buildings were fairly low, will soon be completed. Investors' reluctance to start new projects may be due in part to recent increases in vacancy rates across the main census metropolitan areas.

Reduced business investment in building construction



Investment in the industrial component relatively weak

Investment in the construction of industrial buildings, consisting mainly of manufacturing plants, declined 6.7% to \$1.1 billion in the first quarter. This decrease represented a 12.0% drop from the first quarter of 2002. Comparable investment levels have not been seen since the fourth quarter of 1998.

Saskatchewan led industrial growth for a second consecutive quarter, with a 6.6% rise to \$43 million in the first quarter. Newfoundland and Labrador, British Columbia and Yukon were the only other provinces and territories to show an increase in industrial investment. Quebec showed the sharpest decrease (-11.8% to \$269 million), a fifth decline in the past six quarters.

Among census metropolitan areas, Toronto experienced the largest increase (+10.6% to \$141 million). Winnipeg saw the largest decrease (-43.2%, for a total of \$13 million), following a record high in the fourth quarter of 2002.

Investment in non-residential building construction

	First quarter 2002	Fourth quarter 2002	First quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2002 to first quarter 2003
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Canada	6,286	6,352	6,414	1.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	96	87	83	-4.0
Prince Edward Island	49	44	36	-18.9
Nova Scotia	124	140	120	-14.5
New Brunswick	107	103	99	-4.1
Quebec	1,560	1,587	1,498	-5.6
Ontario	2,482	2,598	2,810	8.2
Manitoba	160	199	228	14.6
Saskatchewan	210	189	190	0.8
Alberta	823	751	705	-6.1
British Columbia	619	616	608	-1.3
Yukon	10	6	5	-17.4
Northwest Territories	40	23	18	-18.8
Nunavut	7	10	13	24.7

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 5014.

More detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are also available in free tables on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Latest indicators*, then *Construction*.

To order data, contact Patrick Lemire (613-951-6321; patrick.lemire@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Valérie Gaudreault (613-951-1165; valerie.gaudreault@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

New Housing Price Index

February 2003

New house prices continued their climb as the New Housing Price Index (1992=100) rose 0.6% in February. This is up from January, when the index registered a monthly increase of 0.3%. Compared with February 2002, this index of contractors' selling prices increased 5.1%.

A healthy demand for new housing, along with increased costs for skilled labour and building materials, continued to push prices up nationally.

Monthly rises occurred in 14 of the 21 urban centres surveyed, with the largest increases in Québec (+1.5%), Montréal (+1.2%) and Regina (+1.0%). Home-builders in these cities noted higher prices for building materials, labour and land; however, home-builders in Montréal also noted higher development costs.

Rises were also observed in Kitchener–Waterloo (+0.9%), Vancouver (+0.8%) and London (+0.7%). Winnipeg, Edmonton and Victoria all recorded increases of 0.6%, and Toronto registered an increase of 0.5%. In St. John's, Ottawa–Gatineau and Calgary, the index rose 0.4%, and in Sudbury–Thunder Bay, it increased 0.3%.

New Housing Price Indexes

(1992=100)

	Feb. 2003	Feb. 2002 to Feb. 2003	Jan. to Feb. 2003
		% change	
Canada total	113.8	5.1	0.6
House only	119.4	6.6	0.8
Land only	105.8	1.5	0.1
St. John's	108.0	5.0	0.4
Halifax	125.4	3.5	0.0
Charlottetown	108.5	0.7	0.0
Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton	97.5	3.0	-0.1
Québec	116.9	9.5	1.5
Montréal	128.1	10.1	1.2
Ottawa–Gatineau	133.1	6.5	0.4
Toronto	115.8	3.9	0.5
Hamilton	116.9	6.4	0.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	113.8	3.3	-0.3
Kitchener–Waterloo	116.8	5.3	0.9
London	109.8	3.3	0.7
Windsor	107.0	0.0	0.0
Sudbury–Thunder Bay	99.3	1.6	0.3
Winnipeg	125.2	3.7	0.6
Regina	146.3	6.4	1.0
Saskatoon	121.6	1.0	0.0
Calgary	147.1	5.8	0.4
Edmonton	127.7	8.3	0.6
Vancouver	87.7	2.7	0.8
Victoria	77.5	6.5	0.6

Five of the surveyed centres registered no change. Monthly decreases were registered in St. Catharines–Niagara (-0.3%) and Saint John–Moncton–Fredericton (-0.1%), the result of competitive market conditions.

On an annual basis, Montréal (+10.1%) led the way with the largest 12-month increase for new homes. Québec was next with an increase of 9.5%, followed by Edmonton (+8.3%). There were no annual decreases in February.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2310.

The first quarter 2003 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in July. See *How to order products*.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rebecca McDougall (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Susan Morris (613-951-2035; [morrissus@statcan.ca](mailto:morrisus@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

Local government finance: Assets and liabilities

December 31, 2000

On December 31, 2000, the net debt (defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets) of local governments fell to \$10.0 billion, a decrease of \$2.5 billion (-20.0%) from December 31, 1999. Financial assets stood at \$48.4 billion, while total liabilities reached \$58.4 billion.

In 1990, the net debt of local governments was \$20.9 billion. It peaked in 1993 at \$23.5 billion, then gradually declined until its 2000 level. The main reason for this decrease was the forgiveness of loans to local governments in Alberta and British Columbia in 1998 and 1999.

Among the provinces, Quebec's local governments had the highest net debt — \$14.8 billion on December 31, 2000, down 2.8% from its peak in 1997. Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut were in a surplus position.

These statistics are based on the actual data released in the annual reports of municipalities and school boards, as well as provincial and territorial governments' reports dated December 31, 2000 and

converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ. The FMS adjusts data from governments' public accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. In other words, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements. A reconciliation statement of the two presentations is available.

Available on CANSIM: table 385-0014 and 385-0017.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1702, 1709 and 1723.

Data are available through custom and special tabulation. For more information on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767; joanne.rice@statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact A.J. Gareau (613-951-1826) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division.

Excess of financial assets over liabilities

	Excess of financial assets over liabilities			Per capita		
	1990	1995	2000	1990	1995	2000
	\$ millions			\$		
Newfoundland and Labrador	-583	-648	-726	-1,007	-1,153	-1,357
Prince Edward Island	-81	-34	-47	-618	-250	-338
Nova Scotia	-432	-205	-326	-473	-220	-346
New Brunswick	-324	-332	-328	-435	-441	-434
Quebec	-13,848	-14,577	-14,763	-1,965	-2,007	-1,994
Ontario	-241	-1,444	2,911	-23	-131	246
Manitoba	-751	-818	-558	-678	-723	-486
Saskatchewan	266	506	730	265	497	717
Alberta	-2,774	-2,114	668	-1,075	-763	219
British Columbia	-2,113	-2,721	2,443	-630	-705	598
Yukon	1	19	21	36	594	700
Northwest Territories	-29	-11	-9	-483	-164	-220
Nunavut	...	...	13	...	...	464
Total	-20,909	-22,379	-9,971	-710	-811	-322

... Figures not applicable.

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending April 5, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending April 5 totalled 309 443 metric tonnes, down 6.4% from 330 546 tonnes a week earlier, but up 6.8% from 289 766 tonnes in the same week of 2002

The year-to-date total as of April 5 was 4 141 676 tonnes, down 3.3% from 4 280 599 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.

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

February 2003

Data on industrial chemicals and synthetic resins for February are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2183.

The February 2003 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins*, Vol. 46, no. 2 (46-002-XIE, \$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 ■

Export and import price indexes

February 2003

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 February 2003 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 February 2003. 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 February 2003 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141) 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. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins,
February 2003, Vol. 46, no. 2
Catalogue number 46-002-XIE (\$5).

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

Different perspectives on the rate of inflation, 1982–2000: The impact of homeownership costs, no. 16
Catalogue number 62F0014MPB (\$5).

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The Daily
Statistics Canada

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

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