

I·N·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, February 28, 1992

OVERVIEW

Canada's Travel Account Posts Record Deficit in 1991

In 1991, Canada's travel account reached a record deficit of \$7.1 billion, up 3.3% from a year earlier.

Unemployment Insurance Payments Skyrocket in 1991

Unemployment insurance benefits paid in 1991 totalled \$17.7 billion, up 34.2% from 1990

Lower Crude Oil Prices Push
Down RMPI

The Raw Materials Price Index fell 2.4% in January, mainly due to a large drop in the prices of mineral fuels.

Industrial Product Prices Increase Marginally

After no change in December, the Industrial Product Price Index crept up 0.1% to a level of 101.7 in January, posting the first increase in 12 months.

Year-over-year Increase in CPI Hits 20-year Low

The year-over-year increase in the Consumer Price Index stood at 1.6% in January, the lowest increase since March 1971.

Foreign Investment in Canadian Securities Almost Doubled in 1991 In 1991, non-residents invested \$30 billion in

In 1991, non-residents invested \$30 billion in Canadian securities, almost double the amount invested in 1990.

Retail Sales Continue to Fluctuate Following a 1.1% increase in November, seasonally adjusted retail sales fell 0.5% to \$14.8 billion in December.

This issue also includes information on wholesale trade, department store sales and on food expenditures.

Canada's Travel Account Posts Record Deficit in 1991

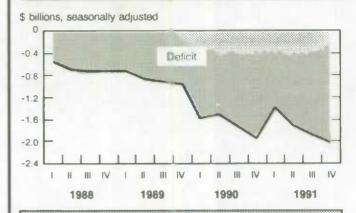
Adjusted for seasonal variations, Canada's travel account recorded a deficit of \$2.0 billion during the fourth quarter of 1991, the highest quarterly deficit ever attained in current dollars. Combined with the results registered in the first three quarters of the year, preliminary estimates indicate that Canada's travel account posted a record deficit of \$7.1 billion in 1991.

Both total payments and total receipts reached record levels in 1991. Expenditures by Canadian residents in the United States were up by 11.4% to a record level of \$10,100 million while travel payments to all other countries dropped 9.9% to \$4.700 million.

At \$4,518 million, receipts from the United States were up 3.4% and receipts from all other countries rose 4.7% to \$3,212 million.

For further information, order Travel Between Canada and Other Countries (catalogue number 66-001) or contact Education, Culture and Tourism Division at (613) 951-8933.

Travel Account Balance



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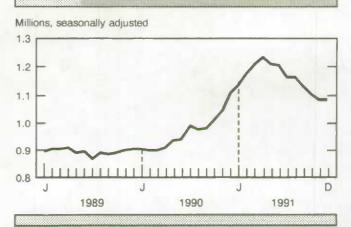
Unemployment Insurance Payments Skyrocket in 1991

Unemployment insurance benefits paid in 1991 totalled \$17.7 billion, up 34.2% from 1990. In 1990, an increase of 14.4% had been recorded over 1989. Contributing to this advance was a higher number of weeks of benefits paid in 1991, up 25.3% to 71.5 million while the average weekly payment increased 5.5% to \$243.91. Since January 1991, 3.9 million claims for unemployment insurance benefits were received, up 4.9% from the previous year.

The number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits totalled 1.1 million in December, up 0.4% from the level posted in November. Benefit payments totalled \$1,584 million, 1.1% less than a month earlier but up 27.4% from December 1990.

In December, the number of beneficiaries increased 13.1% in the Yukon, 3.7% in British Columbia, 2.6% in the Northwest Territories, 2.1% in Ontario and 1.0% in Alberta. The number declined 2.7% in Newfoundland, 1.7% in Manitoba, 1.1% in Prince Edward Island and 1.0% in Saskatchewan. There was little or no change in the other provinces.

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits



For further information, order Unemployment Insurance Statistics (catalogue number 73-001) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4045.

Lower Crude Oil Prices Push Down RMPI

In January, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1986=100) fell 2.4% to a level of 98.6, the second consecutive monthly drop. The decline was mainly due to a large drop in prices of mineral fuels. Excluding mineral fuels, the RMPI advanced for the second straight month, up 0.7%.

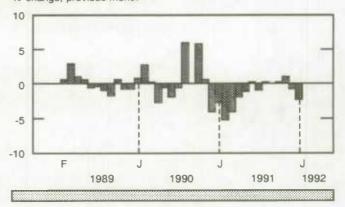
The mineral fuels index, which accounts for roughly one-third of the RMPI index, dropped 8.9% as a result of lower prices for crude oil (-9.7%), which fell throughout 1991. On a year-over-year basis, the mineral fuels index was down 32.2% from January 1991, due primarily to a 34.0% decrease in crude oil prices.

Prices of wheat, raw tobacco and corn increased in January, pushing the vegetable products index up 1.4%. The increases were partly offset by a 4.0% drop in unrefined sugar prices.

Higher prices for hogs and cattle for slaughter pushed the animal products index up 1.0%, the second increase in a row. Following a decrease in December the non-ferrous metals index was up 0.2% due to a 5.2% jump in the prices of aluminum materials and a 3.9% gain in the prices of nickel concentrates.

Raw Materials Price Index

% change, previous month



For further information contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9607.

Industrial Product Prices Increase Marginally

After no change in December, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) crept up 0.1% to a level of 101.7 in January, posting the first increase in 12 months. Of the 21 major groups of products, prices advanced in 11, remained unchanged in one and fell in nine.

Increases in the indexes for paper products and lumber, sawmill and other wood products were partially offset by price decreases for petroleum and coal products and meat, fish and dairy products. A 1.2% increase in the value of the U.S. dollar also had an upward effect on prices of exports denominated in U.S. currency. The autos, trucks and other transport equipment index was mainly affected by this increase and registered a 0.6% gain, the second increase in a row.

Higher prices for softwood lumber and ties as well as veneer and plywood pushed the lumber, sawmill and other wood products index up 1.1% in January. The paper products index posted its first increase since September 1990, up 0.9%. Although prices for pulp increased by 3.6% in January, they were still 22.8% below their level of 12 months ago. Also recording its first increase since September 1990, the primary metal products index gained 0.4% due mainly to higher prices for aluminum products.

The index for petroleum and coal products recorded a 1.6% fall in January due to lower prices for gasoline, fuel oil and other refined petroleum products. Lower prices for fresh or frozen pork pushed the meat, fish and dairy products index down 0.6%.

For further information, order Industry Price Indexes (catalogue number 62-011), or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9607.

Year-over-year Increase in CPI Hits 20-year Low

The year-over-year advance in the Consumer Price Index was 1.6% in January, down sharply from the 3.8% December rise and continuing a downward trend which became evident in the latter part of 1991. January 1992 marked the first month when the effects of the change from the Federal Sales Tax to the Goods and Services Tax, and the tax changes in Quebec were no longer factors in explaining year-over-year increases.

Between December 1991 and January 1992, the all-items CPI increased by 0.5% to a level of 127.0, offsetting the decline of 0.5% recorded in December. Of the seven major components, six registered advances ranging from 0.3% in the housing index to 0.9% in the transportation index.

Most of the 0.9% rise in the transportation index was attributable to higher prices for gasoline (3.1%)

and increases in automobile insurance premiums (3.6%). The food index, which weakened in the latter half of 1991, rose 0.8% in January due to increases of 1.2% and 0.3% in the indexes for food purchased from stores and food purchased from restaurants, respectively.

Higher cigarette prices, due largely to a rise of taxes in Quebec, were mainly responsible for the 0.8% increase in the tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index. The housing index rose 0.3% in January following a 0.2% decline in December. Most of the increase was associated with a 4.0% rise in electricity rates, a large part of which occurred in Ontario.

For further information, order Consumer Price Index (catalogue number 62-001), or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9606. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 9.)

The Consumer Price Inde	ex, Percentage Chan	ge, Januar	y 1992/1991*		
Province/territory	All-items	Food	Transportation	All items excluding Food and Energy	Housing
Canada	1.6	-1.0	-1.8	2.9	1.5
Newfoundland	0.8	-3.1	·3.7 -3.2	3.7	0.1
Prince Edward Island Nova Scotia	0.8	-0.1 -1.1	-3.5	2.0	-0.5
New Brunswick	0.8	-1.0	-2.5	2.9	-0.2
Quebec	2.4	-1.0	-1.3	4.0	2.2
Ontario	1.2	-2.1	-1.5	2.3	1.3
Manitoba	1.1	.0.2	-5.4	2.7	3.1
Saskatchewan	0.5	-0.3	-4.6	1.8	0.6
Alberta	1.1	0.0	-5.1	2.8	2.2 0.8
British Columbia	1.8	1.5	0.6	2,6	2.2
Yukon Northwest Territories	1.3 1.7	0.7	-3.4 -2.0	2.0	1.2

Foreign Investment in Canadian Securities Almost Doubles

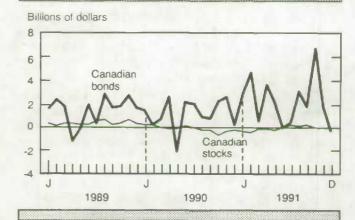
In December, non-residents invested \$1.1 billion in Canadian securities, well below the massive monthly average of \$4.3 billion of the previous four months. But for 1991 as a whole, non-residents invested \$30 billion in Canadian securities, up from \$17 billion in 1990.

New bond sales to non-residents fell to \$1.8 billion in December, the lowest monthly level in 1991. New issues were evenly split between the federal government and the provinces and their enterprises. Retirements of foreign-held Canadian bonds more than doubled to \$3.6 billion, mainly due to retiring federal and provincial bond issues. Net investment in outstanding Canadian bonds increased to \$1.4 billion, in contrast with the previous month which saw non-residents reduce their holdings by \$0.6 billion.

For 1991 as a whole, non-residents invested only a net \$0.6 billion in outstanding Canadian bonds, down sharply from the large annual investments prevailing since 1984, but they more than made up by purchasing record amounts of new issues (\$45 billion). This brought total foreign net purchases of Canadian bonds for the year to \$27 billion, surpassing the 1986 record by \$4 billion.

Net foreign investment in Canadian stocks increased by \$13 million in December following two months of small net selling. Overseas investors were net buyers of \$106 million of Canadian stocks while U.S. residents continued to be net sellers (\$93 million). Non-residents continued to invest heavily in the Canadian money market, purchasing a net \$1.5 billion, divided between Government of Canada

Security Transactions



paper (\$0.6 billion), provincial government paper (\$0.7 billion) and federal enterprises commercial paper (\$0.2 billion).

Investment by Canadian residents in foreign securities increased by \$0.6 billion in December. A net investment of \$0.4 billion in stocks was split evenly between U.S. and overseas stocks, bringing the purchases for the year to \$4.8 billion compared to \$1.1 billion in 1990. Residents purchased \$0.2 billion of foreign bonds, an amount similar to November.

For further information, order Canada's International Transactions in Securities (catalogue number 67-002) or contact Balance of Payments Division at (613) 951-1864.

Retail Sales Continue to Fluctuate

Seasonally adjusted retail sales fell 0.5% to \$14.8 billion in December. This decrease followed a 1.1% rise in November and a 1.8% decline in October. Total retail sales dropped 1.3% in the last quarter of 1991 compared to a fall of 0.7% in the third quarter and a gain of 1.9% in the second quarter of 1991.

As in November, half of the 16 trade groups posted declines in December. The most significant loss, in order of dollar value, was attributed to "other" retail stores (-5.9%). The drop in sales followed a decrease of 0.4% in November and an increase of 3.0% in October. A loss reported by drug and patent medicine stores (-3.9%) followed four consecutive monthly gains. Motor vehicle and

recreational vehicle dealers recorded a 1.5% decrease in sales in December after posting a 4.9% increase the previous month.

Partly offsetting these declines were gains by women's clothing stores (6.7%), which posted their second straight monthly increase, and general merchandise stores (1.2%). This represented the third consecutive monthly increase for general merchandise stores.

Half of the provinces posted sales decreases ranging from -1.1% in Newfoundland and New Brunswick to -0.1% in Ontario while notable gains were recorded in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Sales fell in the Yukon and in the Northwest Territories.

(Continued on page 5)

Total 1991 retail sales amounted to \$179.3 billion, down 2.2% from 1990 after removing federal sales tax from the 1990 data. This is a continuation of a declining trend following annual increases of 1.8% in 1990 and 4.2% in 1989.

For further information, order Retail Trade (catalogue number 63-005), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3551.

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Retail and Wholesale Trade, December 1991 Seasonally adjusted

	Retail Sales		Wholesale Sales		
	\$ millions	% change from previous month	\$ millions	% change from previous month	
Canada	14,800	-0.5	15,200	0.6	
Newfoundland	289	-1.1	172	2.1	
Prince Edward Island	60	0.1	37	-3.9	
Nova Scotia	476	-0.2	322	-12.4	
New Brunswick	375	-1.1	222	-9.4	
Quebec	3,638	-0.9	3,743	-0.3	
Ontario	5,448	-0.1	6,375	1.9	
Manitoba	515	0.5	491	-3.5	
Saskatchewan	438	1.8	492	-1.3	
Alberta	1,566	0.7	1,357	-0.3	
British Columbia	1,995	1.5	1,979	3.8	
Yukon	15	-2.1	20	4.5	
Northwest Territories	30	-1.7	20	4.0	

Stronger Computer Sales Push Up Wholesale Merchants' Sales

Seasonally adjusted wholesale merchants' sales totalled \$15.2 billion in December, up 0.6% from the November revised figure. However, this second consecutive monthly increase, which was mainly attributable to stronger computer sales, was not widespread. The territories and three of the 10 provinces posted modest sales increases. Out of the nine trade groups, only three reported higher sales compared to seven in November.

For the second month in a row, wholesalers of machinery, equipment and supplies recorded the largest gain (in dollar terms), up 6.0%. Suppliers of other products, which include farm and paper products, agricultural supplies, industrial and household chemicals, posted a 2.3% increase and sales of farm machinery, equipment and supplies advanced by 1.4%.

Total 1991 sales amounted to \$176.3 billion, down 3.6% from 1990. However, after removing the effect of the change in indirect taxes, there was a year-over-year increase of approximately 1.0%.

In December, wholesale merchants' inventories were \$24.2 billion, 1.3% higher than those of the previous month.

Note to users

Data collected and published for 1991 exclude provincial sales taxes and the Goods and Services Tax. Prior to January 1991, data included the Federal Sales Tax except for wholesalers which were licensed. Due to this change in indirect taxes, data for 1991 are not comparable with those of previous years.

For further information, order Wholesale Trade (catalogue number 63-008), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3540.

Department Store Sales Increase

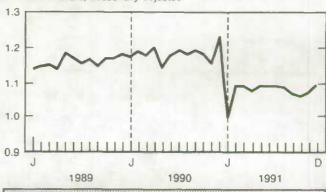
Seasonally adjusted department store sales (including concessions) totalled \$1,091 million in December, up 2.2% from the previous month's figure of \$1,068 million. This increase returned sales to early 1991 levels but December 1991 sales remained 10.0% below December 1990 levels. After removing the federal sales tax content from the 1990 data, total 1991 sales were \$12.9 billion, down 5.6% from 1990.

In December, increases were recorded in 19 of the 40 major commodity lines and two groups remained unchanged. The largest gain was posted in the floor coverings category, up 33.0%. Other increases include: furniture (8.0%), appliances (6.8%), women's and misses' footwear (6.3) and millinery (6.0%).

Stocks reached \$5.3 billion at the end of December, an increase of 1.6% from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, department store stocks were 6.9% higher than in December 1990.

Department Store Sales

Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



For further information, order Department Store Sales and Stocks (catalogue number 63-002), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3559.

Food Spending Patterns Change

The survey of food expenditure for 1990 was conducted monthly throughout the year in 17 major Canadian cities representing approximately half of all households. Results are based on information provided by nearly 4,800 households.

Highlights of the survey include:

- For every dollar spent on food, 31.2 cents were spent at restaurants compared to 29.5 cents in 1986, with lunch being the most popular meal taken at restaurants. Table-service restaurants had the largest share both in terms of dollars spent and number of meals taken, with 62% and 45%, respectively.
- Significant changes occurred in the share of food purchased from stores between 1986 and 1990: beef fell from 9.5% to 8.2% while poultry increased from 4.5% to 5.0% and fish advanced from 2.8% to 3.4%; dairy products dropped from 16.0% to 14.0%; fresh vegetables rose from 6.9% to 7.5% and non-alcoholic beverages increased from 3.8% to 4.2%.

- Average weekly expenditures varied by household size - from \$62 for one-person households to \$177 for families of five or more persons.
- Households in the lowest 20% of the income range spent an average of \$61 weekly on food while households in the highest income group spent on average \$170 weekly.
- About 79% of food was purchased from supermarkets, virtually the same percentage as in 1986.

For further information, order Family Food Expenditure in Canada, 17 Metropolitan Areas, 1990 (catalogue number 62-554) or contact Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-9781.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM FEBRUARY 21 TO 27

			Price: Issue/Subscription		
Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
				\$US	
Agriculture					
The Dairy Review	December 1991	23-001	12.20/122	14.60/146	17.10/171
Current Economic Analysis					
Canadian Economic Observer	February 1992	11-010	22/220	26/260	31/310
Education, Culture and Tourism					
Travel-log: Canada's Major Overseas					
Tourism Markets	Winter 1992	87-003	10.50/42	12.50/50	13/130
Industry					
Electric Lamps	January 1992	43-009	5/50	6/60	7/70
Market Research Handbook Monthly Production of Soft Drinks	1992	63-224	94	3.20/32	132
Pack of Canned Tomatoes and	January 1992	32-001	2.70/27	3.20/32	3.80/38
Tomato Products	1991	32-237	13	16	18
Production and Disposition					
of Tobacco Products	January 1992	32-022	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production and Stocks of Tea, Coffee and Cocoa	Quarter Ended December 1991	32-025	6.75/27	8/32	9.50/38
Quarterly Shipments of	Quarter Ended	02-020	0.10/21	0/02	9.00/30
Household Furniture Products	December 1991	35-007	6.75/27	8/32	9.50/38
Shipments of Plastic Film and	Quarter Ended				
Bags Manufactured from Resin	December 1991	47-007	6.75/27	8/32	9.50/38
Labour					
Employment, Earnings and Hours	November 1991	72-002	38.50/385	46.20/462	53.90/539
Prices					
The Consumer Price Index	January 1992	62-001	9.30/93	11.20/112	13/130
Statistics Canada					
Annual Report	1990-91	11-201		No charge	

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Statistics Canada Annual Report

Statistics Canada has released its 1990-91 Annual Report, tabled in the House of Commons on February 21, 1992.

The report highlights the many Agency projects completed in the year. For example, new measures on the productivity of Canadian industries and on prices were developed. As well, important surveys, such as the Retail Commodity Survey, were redesigned and three new surveys on health were conducted.

The report also features its traditional highlights of the year, with a full complement of photos, charts, and information on the various elements of Statistics Canada.

The 1990-91 Annual Report (11-201) is available free of charge and can be ordered from Publication Sales (613) 951-7277.

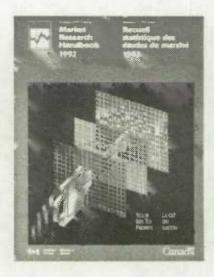
Market Research Handbook

The 1992 Market Research Handbook is a complete source of information on Canadian consumer and industrial markets.

In addition to providing a demographic overview of Canada's provinces and territories, this edition has been extensively updated to offer comprehensive profiles of 45 urban centres across the country. The most recent data have been added on international trade, personal income and expenditures, the merchandising and services sectors, industry price indexes, the labour force, and other information essential to developing sound marketing and expansion strategies. In addition, for the first time, the *Handbook* contains information on the growth and sales of chain stores in shopping centres, as well as statistics on detailed commodities sold through retail outlets.

With over 600 pages, the 1992 Market Research Handbook contains over 200 statistical tables and more than 50 charts and graphs. Footnotes accompany most data tables and refer to other Statistics Canada sources for more detailed data.

The 1992 Market Research Handbook (63-224, \$94) is now available. For additional information contact Gerald Snyder, Small Business and Special Surveys Division (613-951-3561).





Travel-log: Canada's Major Overseas Tourism Markets

The Winter issue of Travel-log, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter is now available.

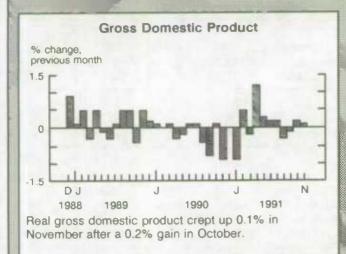
This issue features a review of Canada's major overseas tourism markets to the end of 1991.

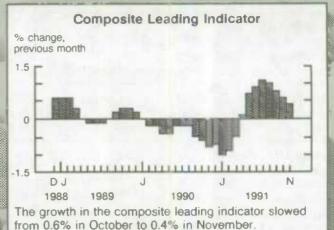
Highlights

- Traditional tourism markets have slowed, while new ones have emerged at rapid rates.
- When it comes to tourism spending in Canada, the Japanese are the leaders.
- More overseas residents are entering Canada via the United States than directly from overseas countries.
- Summer travel is popular, but winter travel is growing in popularity.

The Winter 1992 issue of Travel-log: Canada's Major Overseas Tourism Markets (87-003, \$10.50/\$42) is now available. To order call Publication Sales (613) 951-7277. For further information on this release, contact Lise Beaulieu-Caron (613-951-1673), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

CURRENT TRENDS







In January, the year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI stood at 1.6%, the lowest rate posted since March 1971, while the food index declined 1.0%.



In January, the unemployment rate edged up to 10.4 after remaining at 10.3 for three consecutive months.



Canadian manufacturers' shipments decreased 0.7% to \$22.8 billion in December and unfilled orders fell 0.9% to \$23.6 billion.



A much greater fall in imports than in exports caused Canada's trade balance to rise by \$400 million in December.

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
GENERAL				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	November	506	0.1%	1.2%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	November	144.1	0.4%	2.4%
Profits of Industrial Corporations (\$ billion)	3rd Quarter	13.0	10.0%	-22.2%
DOMESTIC DEMAND		Avair		The late
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	December*	14.8	-0.5%	-6.4%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	December	100.5	-0.7%	6.2%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	January	12.3	-0.1%	-0.5%
Unemployment Rate (%)	January	10.4	0.1	0.6
Participation Rate (%)	January	65.7	-0.1	-0.8
Labour Income (\$ billion)	November	32.6	-0.1%	3.2%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	November	549.15	-0.3%	5.0%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	December	11.5	-1.0%	-2.5%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	December	10.9	-4.5%	-1.4%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	December	0.64	0.40	-0.14
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	December	22.8	-0.7%	-3.0%
New Orders (\$ billion)	December	22.6	-0.8%	-2.9%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	December	23.6	-0.9%	-8.8%
Inventory/Shipments Ratio	December	1.50	0.00	-0.12
Capacity Utilization (%)	3rd Quarter	72.0	1.4	-6.4
PRICES		105.0		4.00
Consumer Price Index (1986=100)	January*	127.0	0.5%	1.6%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986=100)	January*	107.7	0.1%	-3.1%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986=100) New Housing Price Index (1986=100)	January* December	98.6 133.9	-2.4% 0.0%	-15.7% -3.2%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of average weekly earnings and the price indexes.

* New this week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Canadian Composite Leading Indicator, December Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, January Building Permits, December	3	Help-wanted Index, February	5	Labour Force Survey, February	
9 New Motor Vehicle Sales, January Estimates of Labour Income, December	10 Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing, Fourth Quarter Farm Product Price Index, January Department Store Sales by Province and	New Housing Price Index, January	Abortions in Canada, 1990	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, January Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, January	
16	Metropolitan Area, January	18	Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Merchandise Trade, January Sales of Natural Gas, January	The Consumer Price Index, February Field Crop Reporting Series: No. 2 - March Intentions of Principa Field Crop Area, Canada	
23	24	25	26	27	
Retail Trade, January	Wholesale Trade, January Department Store Sales and Stocks, January	Canada's International Transactions in Securities, January Unemployment Insurance Statistics, January		Industrial Product Price Index, February Raw Materials Price Index, February Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, February	
30	31				
Employment, Earnings and Hours, January	Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry, January Building Permits, January				

Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series
may change.

I.N.F.O.M.A.T

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