

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 19, 1988

APR 19 1988

LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE

## Major Releases

### Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, February 1988

2

- Canada's international trade surplus totalled \$1.3 billion – the highest posted since April 1987.

### Sales of Natural Gas, February 1988

7

- Sales of natural gas in Canada climbed 12.9% from the year-earlier level.

## Data Availability Announcements

Export and Import Price Indexes, February 1988

8

Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products, April 1, 1988

8

## Publications Released

9

### 1986 Census of Canada: Official Language and Home Language

1986 Census data on official language and home language will be released April 20. Further information can be obtained on or after release date by contacting any of the regional reference centres listed in *The Daily*.

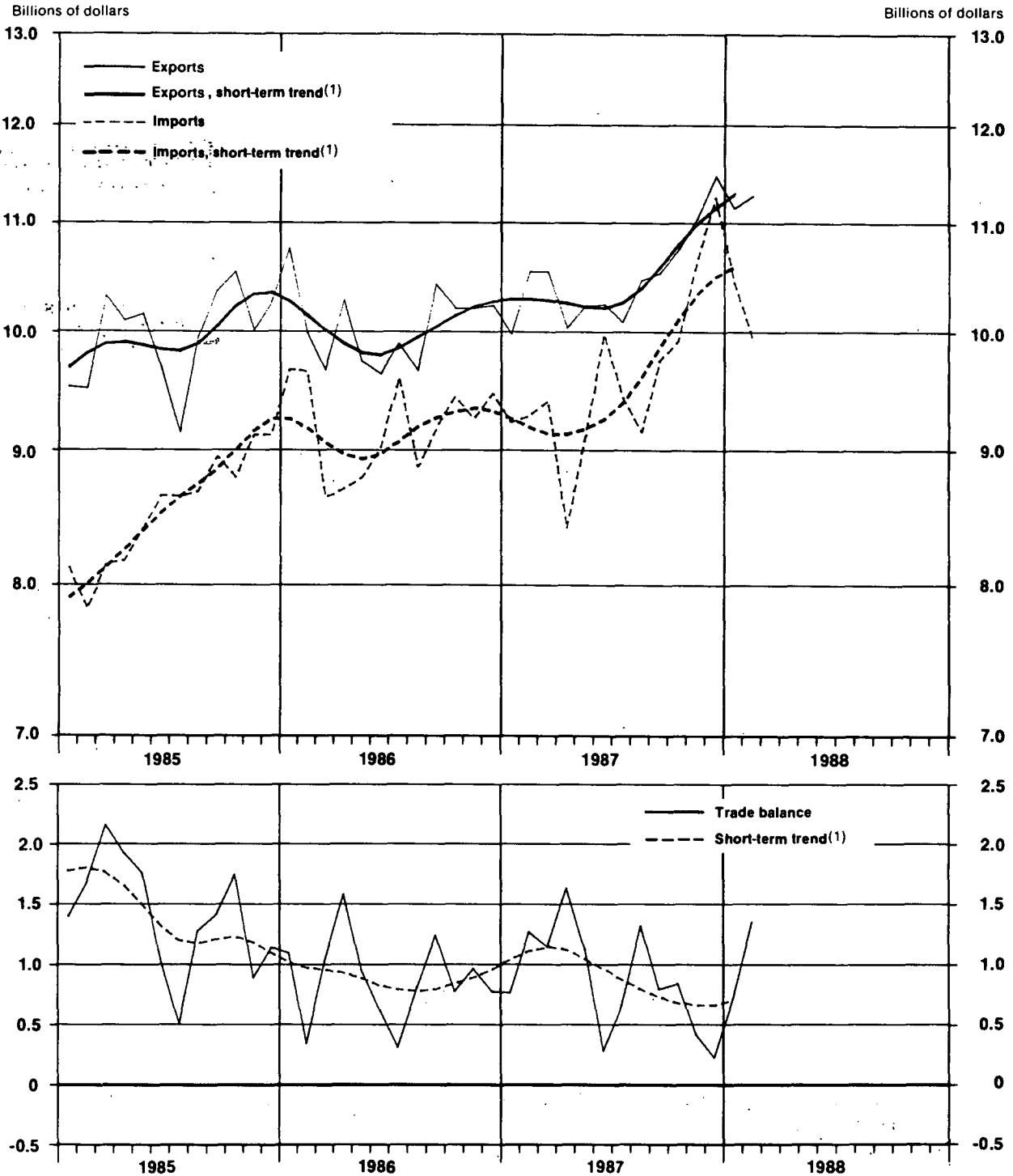


Statistics Canada  
Statistique Canada

Canada

## Major Releases

### Imports, Exports, and Trade Balance, All Countries, Seasonally Adjusted Balance of Payments Basis



(1) The short-term trend gives a clearer picture of the direction and rate of change of trade by averaging the substantial monthly fluctuations which frequently occur in trade. The trend for the last month is not shown in the charts above since it frequently changes significantly with the addition of succeeding months of data.

## Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

February 1988

### Month-to-month Overview

Preliminary statistics on Canada's international merchandise trade for February 1988, adjusted for seasonal fluctuations, indicate an increase of \$638 million in Canada's surplus with all its trading partners compared to January 1988. The balance for February 1988 was \$1.3 billion compared to \$703 million in January 1988, and was the highest level since April 1987. Increases in exports, while imports decreased, triggered this second consecutive rise in the balance. The trade surplus with the United States alone grew by \$392 million to \$1.7 billion.

Exports totalled \$11.3 billion in February. The 1.0% increase was mainly due to strong growth in exports of precious metals to Japan and automotive products to the United States.

Imports, for their part, decreased 4.9% in February to \$9.9 billion following a 7.1% drop in January. The main cause of this decline was a decrease in imports of motor vehicle parts as well as aircraft.

### Short-term Trend (excludes latest month)

#### Exports

The short-term trend for exports continued to rise for a seventh straight month in January 1988, posting a gain of 0.6% from the previous month's figure. This growth rate, however, was down from the 1.7% average monthly growth rate calculated for the months of July through December of 1987. Among the largest advances were those in passenger automobiles, precious metals and "other equipment and tools". This marked the fourth straight month for which the short-term trend rise for exports of passenger automobiles was over 5%. The largest decreases in the trend were for exports of lumber, motor vehicle parts and "other inedible end products". The crude petroleum trend dropped 8.3%, the sixth straight decline.

### Note to Users

With the introduction of the January 1988 trade statistics:

- Collection and compilation of import and export data are henceforth based on the **Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System**. Users should therefore interpret the month-to-month movements in commodity data with caution.
- Revisions to imports for the previous month are greater than usual but these revisions should be much smaller for subsequent months.
- Recording of imports is henceforth based on the date the merchandise is released by customs, instead of the customs-stamp date.
- The import and export totals in Table 1 of this release are presented on both a customs and a balance of payments basis.
- The customs-basis import data used to derive the balance of payments data are presented on a consignment basis, as before.
- For the short-term trend, a 13-month weighted moving average method is now used instead of a shorter term trend as calculated before.
- Raw and seasonally adjusted data for the previous periods reflect the above changes, where applicable.

For more details, please refer to the text and tables.

### Imports

The short-term trend for imports reversed in January 1988, posting a drop of 1.6% after four consecutive gains between September and December 1987. The most significant decreases in January were for imports of motor vehicle parts, passenger automobiles and petroleum and coal products. The trends for imports of crude materials and food also posted marked decreases from the previous month. The largest increases were recorded for imports of agricultural machinery, "other equipment and tools" and aircraft.

(continued on page 4)

## Commodity Highlights

### Exports

The \$121 million increase in exports in February was mainly the result of a rise in exports of precious metals (+\$140 million), iron ores (+\$89 million) and passenger automobiles (+\$56 million). With the exception of the drop in January, total exports have recorded monthly increases since August 1987. Increased exports of precious metals was in large part the result of a sizeable increase in exports of these products to Japan. Canadian wheat exports posted a level of \$421 million, the highest since September 1984. Total automotive product exports increased \$113 million in February, rising to \$3.0 billion, or 26% of the total value of Canadian exports. The largest declines were in exports of coal (-\$80 million), copper ores (-\$40 million) and other fabricated materials (-\$30 million).

### Imports

Imports decreased by \$517 in February; this was \$291 million less than the decrease registered in the previous month. The greatest decreases were posted in imports of motor vehicle parts (-\$355 million), aircraft (-\$220 million) and crude petroleum (-\$53 million). The drop in imports of crude petroleum brought their level to \$261 million, the lowest in the last nine months. Imports of passenger automobiles, on the other hand, rose by \$323 million to \$1.1 billion in February, reversing the downward trend recorded in the previous three months. Considerable gains were also recorded for imports of office machines and equipment (+\$43 million), beverages (+\$21 million) and other industrial machinery (+\$21 million). Food imports, which had fallen \$79 million in January, recovered in February, with an increase of \$19 million - \$11 million of which was for sugar and \$6 million for fish.

## Trading Partner Highlights

### Exports

Exports to the United States were down slightly in February, dropping \$14 million to \$8.3 billion. Declines were also posted for exports to the United Kingdom (-\$48 million) and "Other EEC Countries" (-\$28 million). However, increases were recorded for exports to "Other Countries" (+\$178 million), Japan (+\$29 million) and "Other OECD Countries" (+\$4 million).

### Imports

Imports from the United States decreased by \$405 million between January and February, to \$6.7 billion, the lowest level in the past six months. Other decreases were recorded for imports from "Other EEC Countries" (-\$137 million), "Other OECD Countries" (-\$95 million) and "Other Countries" (-\$20 million). Imports from Japan and the United Kingdom rose \$85 million and \$55 million respectively.

(see tables on pages 5 and 6)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3651, 3685-3713, 3718, 3719 and 3887-3913.

The February 1988 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$16.50/\$165) will be available the first week of May. For summary information, available the day of release, order the *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$5.50/\$55). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Jean-Pierre Simard (613-951-1711) (for analysis information) or John Butterill (613-951-4808) (for price-index information), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division.

**Table 1**  
**Merchandise Trade of Canada**  
February 1988

	Customs Basis				Balance of Payment Basis				Period-to-period change <sup>2</sup>		
	Exports <sup>1</sup>	Imports	Exports <sup>1</sup>	Imports	Exports <sup>1</sup>	Imports	Balance	Exports <sup>1</sup>	Imports	Balance	
	raw	raw	raw	raw	S.A. <sup>3</sup>	S.A. <sup>3</sup>	S.A. <sup>3</sup>	S.A. <sup>3</sup>	S.A. <sup>3</sup>	S.A. <sup>3</sup>	
				</							

<sup>1</sup> Exports = Domestic Exports + Re-exports.

<sup>2</sup> Year-to-year, quarter-to-quarter, month-to-month.

<sup>3</sup> Seasonally Adjusted.

Note: - Due to truncation, monthly data may not add up to quarterly data and quarterly data may not add up to annual data.  
- The 1986 and 1987 figures do not include the final revisions.

**Table 2**  
**Merchandise Trade by Principal Trading Areas**  
February 1988  
Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis

			Period-to-period change				Year-to-date	Change over previous year	
	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.			
	\$ millions		%	%	\$ millions		\$ millions	%	\$ millions
<b>Exports to:<sup>1</sup></b>									
United States	8,362.7	8,348.8	-3.2	-0.1	-281.6	-13.8	16,711.6	6.2	978.0
United Kingdom	316.7	269.1	20.2	-15.0	53.3	-47.6	585.9	11.0	58.3
Japan	662.8	691.6	-5.2	4.3	-36.7	28.7	1,354.4	34.8	349.6
EEC '86 excl. UK	547.6	519.3	0.8	-5.1	4.4	-28.3	1,067.0	4.0	41.5
Other OECD '86	243.4	247.7	-20.7	1.7	-63.7	4.2	491.2	28.7	109.7
Other Countries	1,001.2	1,179.3	1.2	17.7	12.3	178.1	2,180.6	19.0	349.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,134.8</b>	<b>11,256.1</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-311.9</b>	<b>121.3</b>	<b>22,390.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>1,887.0</b>
<b>Imports from:<sup>1</sup></b>									
United States	7,074.1	6,668.7	-12.0	-5.7	-968.9	-405.4	13,742.9	8.0	1,023.3
United Kingdom	387.4	442.5	-13.8	14.2	-62.2	55.0	829.9	27.9	181.4
Japan	638.4	723.7	-4.2	13.3	-28.6	85.2	1,362.2	5.9	76.9
EEC '86 excl. UK	1,026.8	889.8	9.9	-13.3	93.1	-137.0	1,916.7	23.6	366.9
Other OECD '86	326.2	231.6	29.3	-28.9	74.0	-94.5	557.8	13.7	67.3
Other Countries	977.7	957.3	9.4	-2.0	84.4	-20.3	1,935.1	7.7	138.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,431.0</b>	<b>9,913.7</b>	<b>-7.1</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>-808.1</b>	<b>-517.2</b>	<b>20,344.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,854.4</b>
<b>Balance with:</b>									
United States	1,288.5	1,680.1			687.2	391.5	2,968.7		-45.3
United Kingdom	-70.6	-173.3			115.5	-102.6	-244.0		-123.0
Japan	24.3	-32.1			-8.0	-56.4	-7.7		272.7
EEC '86 excl. UK	-479.1	-370.5			-88.6	108.6	-849.6		-325.4
Other OECD '86	-82.7	16.1			-137.7	98.8	-66.5		42.3
Other Countries	23.4	222.0			-72.0	198.5	245.4		211.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>703.8</b>	<b>1,342.3</b>			<b>498.2</b>	<b>638.5</b>	<b>2,046.1</b>		<b>32.5</b>

<sup>1</sup> Exports to other OECD countries and imports from the United Kingdom, other OECD countries and other countries do not have seasonality. Consequently, they are not seasonally adjusted.

Note: - Portugal and Spain are included in the EEC '86.

- Imports from U.S. (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), compiled according to the origin of the goods, amounted to \$6,812.7 million in February 1988. This represents the starting figure from which the Canada/United States reconciliation takes place.

## Sales of Natural Gas

February 1988

Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during February 1988 totalled 6 189.9 million cubic metres, a 12.9% increase from the level recorded the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in February 1988 were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from February 1987 in brackets: residential sales, 1 932.8 million cubic metres (+12.1%); commercial sales, 1 599.0 million cubic metres (+12.4%) and industrial sales (including direct sales) 2 658.1 million cubic metres (+13.7%).

Year-to-date figures for the first two months of 1988 indicate that sales of natural gas in Canada amounted to 12 707.8 million cubic metres, a 12.8% increase from the level recorded during the same period in 1987.

On the basis of rate structure information, year-to-date sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from the corresponding period in 1987 in brackets: residential sales, 4 032.5 million cubic metres (+13.6%); commercial sales, 3 310.2 million cubic metres (+13.9) and industrial sales (including direct sales) 5 365.1 million cubic metres (+11.5%).

The February 1988 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$11.50/\$115) will be available the third week of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

## Sales of Natural Gas

February 1988

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
	(thousands of cubic metres)				
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	100 992	181 972	293 263	6 396	582 623
Ontario	985 868	720 512	914 622	194 726	2 815 728
Manitoba	119 308	110 867	55 138	-	285 313
Saskatchewan	124 073	100 899	48 000	40 000	312 972
Alberta	415 038	334 067	894 398	-	1 643 503
British Columbia	187 557	150 671	142 938	68 588	549 754
<b>February 1988 - Canada</b>	<b>1 932 836</b>	<b>1 598 988</b>	<b>2 348 359</b>	<b>309 710</b>	<b>6 189 893</b>
February 1987 - Canada	1 724 612	1 422 093	2 198 703	138 551	5 483 959
% change	12.1	12.4	13.7		12.9
<b>Year to date 1988 - Canada</b>	<b>4 032 513</b>	<b>3 310 214</b>	<b>4 745 699</b>	<b>619 420</b>	<b>12 707 846</b>
Year to date 1987 - Canada	3 548 483	2 906 019	4 543 830	269 349	11 267 681
% change	13.6	13.9	11.5		12.8

- Nil.

Note: Revised figures will be available in the "Gas Utilities" publication (Catalogue 55-002) as well as on CANSIM.

---

## Data Availability Announcements

---

### Export and Import Price Indexes

February 1988

Current and fixed weighted export and import price indexes, on a (1981=100) balance of payments basis, are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to February 1988 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3633, 3635, 3636, 3638.

Customs based current and fixed weighted U.S. price indexes are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to February 1988 on a 1981=100 basis. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 "All Countries" and "U.S. Only" SITC section indexes.

The February 1988 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (H.S. Based) (65-001, \$16.50/\$165) will be available the first week of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact John Butterill (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division.

### Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products

April 1, 1988

Preliminary cold storage of frozen poultry products at April 1, 1988 and revised figures for March 1, 1988 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

The February 1988 issue of *Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry* (23-003, \$11/\$110) is scheduled for release May 3. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Robert Koroluk (613-951-2549), Agriculture Division.

**The  
Daily**

### Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

Catalogue 11-001E. Price: Canada \$100/year; other countries \$125/year

Published by the Communications Division (Director - Douglas Newson)  
Statistics Canada, 3-O, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-951-1116)

Editor: Deanna Jamieson (613-951-1198)

Published under the authority of the Minister of Supply and Services Canada. Statistics Canada should be credited when reproducing or quoting any part of this document. Extracts from this publication may be reproduced for individual use without permission provided the source is fully acknowledged. However, reproduction of this publication in whole or in part for purposes of resale or redistribution requires written permission from the Publishing Services Group, Permissions Officer, Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9.



---

## Publications Released

---

**Changes to Municipal Boundaries, Status and Names, 1986. Catalogue number 12-201**  
(Canada: \$24; Other Countries: \$25).

**Index to the Inventory of Statistics Canada Questionnaires on Microfiche, 1987. Catalogue number 12-205S**  
(Canada: \$20; Other Countries: \$21).

**Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder, January 1988. Catalogue number 32-024**  
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

**Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, December 1987. Catalogue number 43-003**  
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55)

**Cement, January 1988. Catalogue number 44-001**  
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

**Asphalt Roofing, January 1988. Catalogue number 45-001**  
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

**Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, December 1987. Catalogue number 46-002**  
(Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

**Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, January 1988. Catalogue number 46-002**  
(Canada: \$5/\$50; Other Countries: \$6/\$60).

**Production and Sales of Phonograph Records and Pre-recorded Tapes in Canada, January 1988. Catalogue number 47-004**  
(Canada: \$4.50/\$45; Other Countries: \$5.50/\$55).

**Merchandising Inventories, November 1987. Catalogue number 63-014**  
(Canada: \$13/\$130; Other Countries: \$14/\$140).

**Summary of Canadian International Trade (H.S. Based), January 1988. Catalogue number 65-001**  
(Canada: \$16.50/\$165; Other Countries: \$17.50/\$175).

**Security Transactions with Non-residents, January 1988. Catalogue number 67-002**  
(Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries: \$16/\$160).

**Provincial and Territorial Government Employment, April-June 1987. Catalogue number 72-007**  
(Canada: \$16.50/\$66; Other Countries: \$17.50/\$70).

**Community Colleges and Related Institutions: Postsecondary Enrolment and Graduates, 1985. Catalogue number 81-222**  
(Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$26).

---

### How to Order Publications

*Statistics Canada publications may be purchased by mail order from Publication Sales, Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or phone 613-951-7276.*

*Please enclose cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publications and provide full information on publications required (catalogue number, title, issue).*

*Publications may also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Sturgeon Falls, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, or from authorized bookstore agents or other booksellers.*

*A national toll-free telephone order service is now in operation at Statistics Canada. The toll-free line (1-800-267-6677) can be used by Canadian customers for the ordering of Statistics Canada products and services.*

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010497264