

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 17, 1989

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- A surge in automotive products trade resulted in an increase in international merchandise trade in January 1989.

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- Sales of natural gas in Canada increased 4.1% over the level reported the previous January.

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Major Releases

Consumer Price Index

February 1989

National Highlights

The All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada increased by 0.7% between January and February to reach a level of 147.8 (1981 = 100). Six of the seven major component indexes increased in February, while the Transportation index remained unchanged. Clothing (2.3%), Housing (0.5%), Food (0.8%) and Recreation, and Reading and Education (1.2%) each had a large impact on the latest increase.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the All-items index rose by 0.5%, up from the increase of 0.4% for January.

The year-over-year increase in the CPI between February 1988 and February 1989 was 4.6%, up from the 4.3% reported for January and 4.0% reported for December. The compound annual rate of increase, based on the seasonally adjusted index levels over the latest three-month period (November to February) was 5.0%, up from the increase of 4.5% reported for the three-month period ending in January.

Food

The Food index rose by 0.8% in February, following an increase of 1.2% in January. The latest rise resulted from advances of 1.0% in the index for Food Purchased from Stores and 0.3% in the index for Food Purchased from Restaurants.

The index for Food Purchased from Stores rose, primarily as a result of a 13.3% increase in the Fresh Vegetables index, as price gains of 31.5% for cucumbers and 49.5% for tomatoes were recorded. A cold spell in some winter growing regions in the United States affected available supplies. Smaller increases for sugar and coffee also contributed to the overall rise, while fresh fruit prices, which declined slightly, provided a small dampening influence.

Over the 12-month period, February 1988 to February 1989, the Food index rose by 4.0%, up from the increase of 3.0% reported in January. The latest increase included a rise of 3.6% in the index for Food Purchased from Stores and an advance of 5.4% in the index for Food Purchased from Restaurants.

All-items excluding Food

On a month-to-month basis, the All-items excluding Food index advanced 0.7% in February, up from an increase of 0.3% observed in January. All of the major components rose, with the exception of the Transportation index which remained unchanged.

The Clothing index rose 2.3% between January and February, with the end of post-Christmas sales and some increases on new stock. The Women's Wear index increased 3.0%, while the Men's Wear index advanced 1.7%.

The Housing index rose 0.5% in February, largely due to increases within the Shelter component. These included gains of 0.9% for Mortgage Interest Cost, 0.4% for Rent, 2.1% for Water, 2.2% for Fuel Oil and 0.7% for Traveller Accommodation. The increase in the Water index resulted from a 10.5% gain in Toronto. The rise in the Fuel Oil index was concentrated in Quebec, while the advance in the Traveller Accommodation index was centered in the Maritime provinces. The Household Operation (0.6%) and the Furniture and Equipment (0.4%) indexes each rose.

The Recreation, Reading and Education index advanced 1.2% in February, due to increases of 1.4% for Recreation and 1.3% for Reading Materials. Recreation rose largely as a result of a 9.1% seasonal increase in the index for Travel Tours. A 4.2% rise in the price of magazines was responsible for the increase in reading costs.

The Health and Personal Care index rose 0.7%, largely due to a 1.7% increase in both the index for Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Products and the index for Hair Washing, Cutting and Styling Services. Price increases for served alcoholic beverages were largely responsible for the 0.4% increase in the Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages index.

Over the 12-month period, February 1988 to February 1989, the All-items excluding Food index advanced by 4.8%, up from the increase of 4.6% registered in January.

(continued on next page)

The Consumer Price Index and Major Components (Not Seasonally Adjusted), Canada
(1981 = 100)

	Indexes			Percentage change Feb. 1989 from	
	Feb. 1989	Jan. 1989	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1989	Feb. 1988
All-items	147.8	146.8	141.3	0.7	4.6
Food	139.2	138.1	133.9	0.8	4.0
All-items excluding food	150.3	149.3	143.4	0.7	4.8
Housing	148.8	148.1	141.8	0.5	4.9
Clothing	134.9	131.9	128.6	2.3	4.9
Transportation	145.4	145.4	140.5	0.0	3.5
Health and personal care	149.4	148.4	142.9	0.7	4.5
Recreation, reading and education	148.5	146.7	141.6	1.2	4.9
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	203.8	202.9	192.0	0.4	6.1
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1981	67.7	68.1	70.8		
All-items Consumer Prices Index converted to 1971 = 100	350.1				

Goods and Services

The Goods index rose by 0.8% in February, following an increase of 0.5% in January. The Services index advanced by 0.5%, slightly greater than the 0.4% observed the month before. Over the 12-month period, February 1988 to February 1989, the Goods index increased by 3.9% (3.3% in January) while the Services index advanced by 5.3% (5.4% in January).

City Highlights

Between January and February, changes in the All-items index for cities for which CPIs are published varied from increases of 0.2% in Edmonton to 0.9% in Quebec City. In Edmonton, lower than national increases were observed for the Housing, Food and Recreation indexes and the Transportation index declined. Greater than national increases for five of the seven major components led to the above average result for Quebec City.

Between February 1988 and February 1989, increases in the All-items index for cities varied from 2.2% in Calgary to 6.5% in Toronto.

Main Contributors to Monthly Changes in the All-Items Index, by City

St. John's

The All-items index advanced 0.8%, mainly due to increases in the Clothing and Housing components.

Within Clothing, higher prices were observed for women's and men's wear. The Housing component advanced due to higher prices for household furnishings and equipment as well as increased charges for rented accommodation and higher mortgage interest costs. Other notable advances were observed in the prices of beer purchased from stores and personal care supplies. The Food index fell slightly, reflecting lower prices for poultry, milk, bakery products and fresh fruit. Since February 1988, the All-items index has risen 2.7%.

Charlottetown/Summerside

The 0.4% rise in the All-items index was mainly due to higher clothing prices and increased charges for alcoholic beverages (most notably for beer). The Housing index rose marginally with advances in rental charges, mortgage interest costs and traveller accommodation charges exerting a major upward impact. These charges were only partially offset by lower prices for furniture and household equipment. Food prices fell on average, reflecting lower prices for beef, pork, chicken, prepared meats, bakery products and fresh fruit. Recreational charges also declined slightly. From February 1988 to February 1989, the All-items index advanced 2.8%.

(continued on next page)

Halifax

Among the main contributors to the 0.3% rise in the All-items index were higher clothing prices (especially for women's wear), increased charges for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises and higher charges for rented and owned accommodation. Traveller accommodation charges also advanced. Partly offsetting these advances were declines in the costs of household textiles, long-distance telephone calls and certain recreational expenses. The Food index also declined, reflecting lower prices for beef, pork and fresh fruit. Between February 1988 and February 1989, the All-items index rose 3.7%.

Saint John

Higher clothing prices, particularly for women's wear, and increased housing charges (most notably for household furnishings and equipment, traveller accommodation and mortgage interest costs) explained most of the 0.3% rise in the All-items index. Higher prices for cigarettes and for beer purchased from stores also exerted a notable upward impact. The Food index declined overall, due to lower prices for beef, cured and prepared meats, dairy products, cereal and bakery products, fresh fruit, sugar and coffee. Since February 1988, the All-items index has risen 3.6%.

Quebec City

The All-items index rose 0.9%, with most of the upward impact originating in the Food, Housing and Clothing indexes. Within Food, higher prices were observed for beef, pork, poultry, bakery products, fresh vegetables and soft drinks. The Housing index advanced due to higher prices for household furnishings and equipment, increased rented accommodation charges, higher mortgage interest costs and increased fuel oil prices. The rise in the Clothing index largely reflected higher prices for women's wear. Advances were also noted in the costs of packaged holiday trips and in gasoline prices. From February 1988 to February 1989, the All-items index rose 3.4%.

Montreal

Higher clothing prices (most notably for women's wear) and increased food prices (especially for chicken and fresh vegetables) explained a large part

of the 0.8% rise in the All-items index. Higher prices for fuel oil and for household furnishings and equipment were observed, as were higher mortgage interest costs and increased charges for rented accommodation. Charges for packaged holiday trips also advanced. Since February 1988, the All-items index has risen 4.1%.

Ottawa

Higher clothing prices and increased recreational charges were among the main contributors to the 0.5% rise in the All-items index. Rented and owned accommodation charges also advanced, the latter reflecting increased mortgage interest costs and higher prices for new houses. Fuel oil prices and traveller accommodation charges were up as well. Food prices rose on average, as higher prices for fresh produce, soft drinks and dairy products more than offset lower prices for beef and bakery products. Prices for beer and liquor served in licensed premises advanced as well. Since February 1988, the All-items index rose 4.9%.

Toronto

The All-items index rose 0.8%. Among the main contributors were higher recreational charges, increased clothing prices and higher shelter costs (particularly for rent, mortgage interest, water and fuel oil). Food prices also had a considerable upward influence, particularly for beef, dairy products and fresh produce. Between February 1988 and February 1989, the All-items index advanced 6.5%.

Thunder Bay

The 0.6% rise in the All-items index mainly reflected higher clothing prices and increased recreational expenses. The Housing index also advanced, largely due to higher shelter costs. Higher prices for cigarettes and for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises were also observed. The Food index rose marginally as higher prices for beef, poultry, eggs and fresh vegetables more than offset lower prices for pork, cured meats, fresh fruit and soft drinks. Since February 1988, the All-items index has risen 4.7%.

(continued on next page)

Winnipeg

Advances in the Clothing and Housing indexes explained most of the 0.4% rise in the All-items index. The rise in the Clothing component was mainly the result of higher prices for men's and women's wear, while the Housing component advanced due to increased shelter charges and higher prices for household furnishings and equipment. Increased recreational charges and higher prices for beer purchased from stores also contributed to the upward movement. The Food index fell marginally, reflecting lower prices for pork, cereal products, fresh fruit and soft drinks. From February 1988 to February 1989, the All-items index advanced 5.3%.

Regina

Advances in clothing and gasoline prices accounted for a large part of the 0.6% rise in the All-items index. The Housing index fell slightly, as lower furniture prices more than offset increased shelter costs. The Food index exerted a notable downward pressure, as prices for pork, fresh fruit and soft drinks declined. From February 1988 to February 1989, the All-items index advanced 3.5%.

Saskatoon

The 0.7% rise in the All-items index was largely the result of higher prices for gasoline and clothing. Advances were also noted in the costs of medicinal and pharmaceutical products, personal care supplies and recreational and reading expenses. Shelter charges were also up. The Food index declined overall, reflecting lower prices for pork, eggs, cereal products and soft drinks. Since February 1988, the All-items index has risen 3.0%.

Edmonton

Higher food prices (most notably for fresh vegetables) and increased shelter charges (especially for rented accommodation) explained a large part of the 0.2% rise in the All-items index. Higher clothing prices also exerted a considerable upward effect, as did advances in household operating expenses. Charges for recreational expenses were also up. A considerable proportion of the upward pressure was offset by declines in the prices of gasoline and furniture. Since February 1988, the All-items index rose 3.0%.

Calgary

The All-items index rose 0.8%. Among the main contributors were higher prices for food (especially for fresh vegetables) clothing and gasoline. Advances in shelter charges and household furnishings costs also accounted for a considerable part of the upward movement. Higher prices for alcoholic beverages were noted as well. Between February 1988 and February 1989, the All-items index rose 2.2%.

Vancouver

Increased shelter charges (especially for owned accommodation) combined with higher expenses relating to household operation and increased costs for household furnishings and equipment accounted for a major part of the 0.5% rise in the All-items index. Higher prices for clothing and alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises were also observed. The Food index rose marginally, as higher prices for fresh vegetables, pork, coffee and soft drinks were partially offset by price declines for chicken and dairy products. Since February 1988, the All-items index has risen 4.3%.

Victoria

Advances in the Food, Housing and Clothing indexes explained most of the 0.5% rise in the All-items index. Within Food, higher prices were noted for beef, pork, fresh produce, soft drinks and restaurant meals. The rise in the Housing index reflected higher prices for new houses, increased rented accommodation charges and higher prices for household equipment. The Clothing index increased largely as a result of higher prices for women's wear. Partly offsetting these advances were lower prices for home-entertainment equipment, fuel oil and personal care supplies. Since February 1988, the All-items index advanced 4.0%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1922-1940.

Order the February 1989 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$8.50/\$85).

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.¹

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and Personal Care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
St. John's								
Feb. 1989 index	140.9	125.7	140.0	138.6	139.4	146.4	146.2	193.1
% change from Jan. 1989	0.8	-0.1	0.5	4.1	0.0	1.7	0.6	1.5
% change from February 1988	2.7	2.6	1.7	3.6	2.0	3.9	4.4	4.5
Charlottetown/Summerside								
Feb. 1989 index	138.4	129.4	133.3	126.8	134.2	153.5	153.2	207.3
% change from Jan. 1989	0.4	-0.8	0.1	4.9	0.0	0.3	-0.3	1.7
% change from February 1988	2.8	3.0	1.1	3.2	1.5	5.7	4.2	8.5
Halifax								
Feb. 1989 index	144.7	134.0	143.7	128.6	141.9	156.2	155.2	206.2
% change from Jan. 1989	0.3	-0.3	0.4	2.5	0.0	0.8	-0.3	1.3
% change from February 1988	3.7	7.5	2.8	2.5	2.4	4.6	4.0	4.1
Saint John								
Feb. 1989 index	144.7	135.5	146.1	129.1	139.7	143.8	153.5	212.7
% change from Jan. 1989	0.3	-1.3	0.5	2.5	0.0	-0.1	0.2	1.7
% change from February 1988	3.6	2.7	2.5	3.2	3.8	3.2	4.6	10.1
Quebec City								
Feb. 1989 index	147.8	142.3	150.7	134.4	142.5	151.0	136.5	199.6
% change from Jan. 1989	0.9	1.1	0.7	2.5	0.2	0.1	1.4	0.3
% change from February 1988	3.4	4.9	3.2	3.5	1.1	4.2	3.4	3.0
Montreal								
Feb. 1989 index	149.7	143.6	153.1	133.2	148.4	149.4	142.7	199.3
% change from Jan. 1989	0.8	1.5	0.5	2.5	-0.1	0.9	1.6	0.0
% change from February 1988	4.1	5.3	4.7	3.9	2.3	4.3	3.9	2.2
Ottawa								
Feb. 1989 index	148.7	134.7	152.0	136.5	151.0	153.9	147.6	201.2
% change from Jan. 1989	0.5	0.4	0.1	2.2	-0.1	0.1	2.2	0.8
% change from February 1988	4.9	5.3	4.2	5.0	4.5	6.5	4.6	8.3
Toronto								
Feb. 1989 index	155.0	144.6	160.6	140.9	151.1	154.3	151.3	204.1
% change from Jan. 1989	0.8	1.0	0.5	2.2	0.1	1.0	2.0	0.2
% change from February 1988	6.5	4.7	8.1	6.7	4.4	5.8	6.1	8.7
Thunder Bay								
Feb. 1989 index	146.7	135.9	145.4	134.4	149.8	149.6	148.6	197.5
% change from Jan. 1989	0.6	0.2	0.3	2.8	-0.1	0.4	1.9	0.5
% change from February 1988	4.7	3.6	4.2	5.5	4.8	3.7	6.4	8.5
Winnipeg								
Feb. 1989 index	146.1	131.5	147.4	134.9	142.9	146.5	154.2	220.2
% change from Jan. 1989	0.4	-0.1	0.5	2.7	-0.1	0.0	0.5	1.0
% change from February 1988	5.3	3.9	4.3	5.1	9.0	6.9	5.5	5.1

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres - Concluded

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.¹

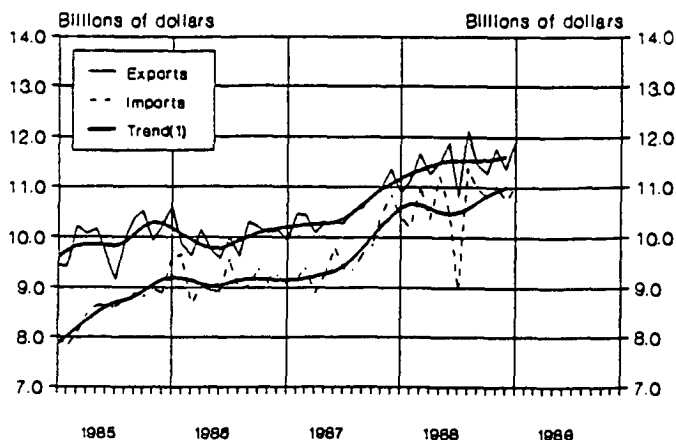
	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and Personal Care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
Regina								
Feb. 1989 index	143.8	130.2	145.5	130.3	137.0	169.7	149.9	195.8
% change from Jan. 1989	0.6	-0.8	-0.1	2.3	2.6	-0.8	0.3	0.1
% change from February 1988	3.5	4.2	2.9	3.4	3.2	2.3	3.8	4.0
Saskatoon								
Feb. 1989 index	144.9	131.0	146.1	134.4	136.7	178.1	150.2	189.8
% change from Jan. 1989	0.7	-0.6	0.1	2.3	2.4	1.4	0.4	0.1
% change from February 1988	3.0	2.9	3.1	3.7	1.3	3.8	3.4	3.4
Edmonton								
Feb. 1989 index	139.8	139.4	130.0	131.6	138.5	147.9	147.8	218.7
% change from Jan. 1989	0.2	0.6	0.2	1.9	-0.9	0.9	0.5	0.5
% change from February 1988	3.0	3.4	2.8	3.5	2.3	3.2	4.5	2.9
Calgary								
Feb. 1989 index	137.6	128.8	129.6	128.3	138.6	152.3	146.1	213.8
% change from Jan. 1989	0.8	1.1	0.4	1.9	1.1	0.7	0.0	1.0
% change from February 1988	2.2	-3.3	3.0	3.9	3.1	3.0	3.6	3.8
Vancouver								
Feb. 1989 index	141.5	136.9	133.4	132.1	147.5	139.6	154.9	193.8
% change from Jan. 1989	0.5	0.1	0.8	1.9	-0.1	-0.4	0.3	0.8
% change from February 1988	4.3	3.3	3.2	4.3	5.6	3.5	5.1	8.0
Victoria²								
Feb. 1989 index	113.2	115.0	106.0	114.0	112.7	114.7	120.9	140.1
% change from Jan. 1989	0.5	0.8	0.5	2.2	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.1
% change from February 1988	4.0	4.7	2.5	4.5	4.9	6.5	3.3	7.5

¹ For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 23 of the July-September 1988 issue of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, \$16.50/\$66).

² December 1984 = 100.

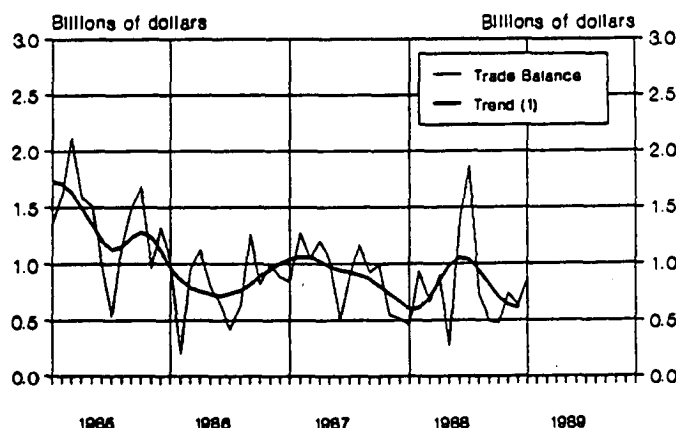
IMPORTS, EXPORTS, ALL COUNTRIES

(Seasonally Adjusted)
Balance of Payments Basis



TRADE BALANCE, ALL COUNTRIES

(Seasonally Adjusted)
Balance of Payment Basis



(1) The short-term trend represents a weighted average of the data.

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

January 1989

Highlights

- Canadian exports totalled \$11.9 billion in January 1989, an increase of over \$0.5 billion from the December level.
- Imports totalled \$11.0 billion, up \$312 million from the previous month.
- Canada's trade surplus rose \$241 million in January, to total \$882 million.
- The revised short-term trend for exports continued to be up for the fourth straight month in December, while the trend for imports posted its sixth consecutive increase.
- In January the automotive products sector was the largest contributor to the increase in international merchandise trade.

- Exports of forestry products declined sharply in January, falling more than \$100 million from the December level.
- Exports to the United States increased \$314 million, to \$8.8 billion, while imports from the U.S. were up \$252 million, to total \$7.7 billion.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3633-3642, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718, 3719, 3887-3913.

The January 1989 issue of *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (H.S. Based) (65-001P, \$5.50/\$55) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Sales of Natural Gas

(Preliminary Data)
January 1989

Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada totalled 6 783.8 million cubic metres in January 1989, a 4.1% increase from the level recorded the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from a year earlier in brackets: residential sales, 2 061.2 million cubic metres (-1.8%); commercial sales, 1 733.1 million cubic metres (+1.3%); industrial sales (including direct sales), 2 989.5 million cubic metres (+10.4%).

The January 1989 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$12.10/\$121) will be available the third week of April. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Sales of Natural Gas

(Preliminary Data)
January 1989

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
	thousands of cubic metres				
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	109 942	211 254	332 114	6 665	659 975
Ontario	994 727	734 724	909 638	216 867	2 855 956
Manitoba	127 994	115 060	47 303	3 672	294 029
Saskatchewan	140 257	115 836	40 552	60 217	356 862
Alberta	461 581	374 332	1 062 986	-	1 898 899
British Columbia	226 693	181 872	153 413	156 121	718 099
January 1989 – Canada	2 061 194	1 733 078	2 546 006	443 542	6 783 820
January 1988 – Canada	2 099 677	1 711 226	2 397 340	309 710	6 517 953
% change	-1.8	1.3	10.4		4.1

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

Data Availability Announcements

Export and Import Price Indexes

January 1989

Current and fixed weighted export and import price indexes, on a balance of payments basis, are now available on a 1981=100 basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to January 1989 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Customs based current and fixed weighted U.S. price indexes are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1981 to January 1989 on a 1981=100 basis. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 "All Countries" and "U.S. only" SITC section indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3633-3642; 3651, 3685.

The January 1989 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (H.S. Based) (65-001, \$16.50/\$165) will be available the first week of April. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division.

Grain Marketing Situation Report

February 1989

The situation report for February is now available. This report presents up-to-date information on the Canadian and world grain supply and market situation.

For further information on this release, contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856), Agriculture Division.

Animal and Poultry Feeds

December 1988

Data on animal and poultry feeds for the second half of 1988 are now available.

The publication *Shipments of Animal and Poultry Feeds - Semi-Annual* (32-004, \$6/\$12) will be released at a later date.

For further information, contact Brian Preston (613-951-3511), Industry Division.

Soft Drinks

February 1989

Data on soft drinks for February 1989 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 196.

The publication *Monthly Production of Soft Drinks* (32-001, \$2.50/\$25) will be released at a later date.

For further information contact Brian Preston (613-951-3511), Industry Division.

Publications Released

Farm Input Price Index, Fourth Quarter 1988.
Catalogue number 62-004
(Canada: \$11.25/\$45; Other Countries: \$12.25/\$49).

Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based), December 1988.
Catalogue number 65-007
(Canada: \$50/\$500; Other Countries: \$60/\$600).

Profiles - Canada's Older Workers: A Profile of their Labour Market Experience, 1986.
Catalogue number 71-208
(Canada: \$10; Other Countries: \$11).

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The Daily, March 17, 1989

Major Release Dates

Week of March 20 - 24

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
March		
20	Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing	Fourth Quarter 1988
21	Building Permits	January 1989
21	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Industries	January 1989
22-23	Department Store Sales and Stocks	January 1989
23	Wholesale Trade	January 1989
23	Security Transactions with Non-residents	January 1989
23-28	Retail Trade	January 1989