



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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For release at 10:00 a.m.

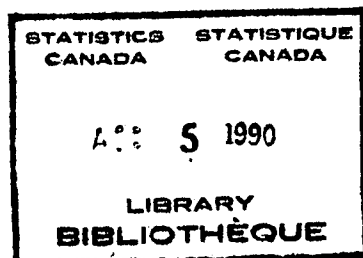
## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Composite Leading Indicator, January 1990** 2  
Growth in the leading indicator weakened in January.
- **Wholesale Trade, January 1990** 4  
Wholesale merchants' sales totaled \$14.4 billion in January 1990, virtually unchanged (-0.4%) from a year earlier.

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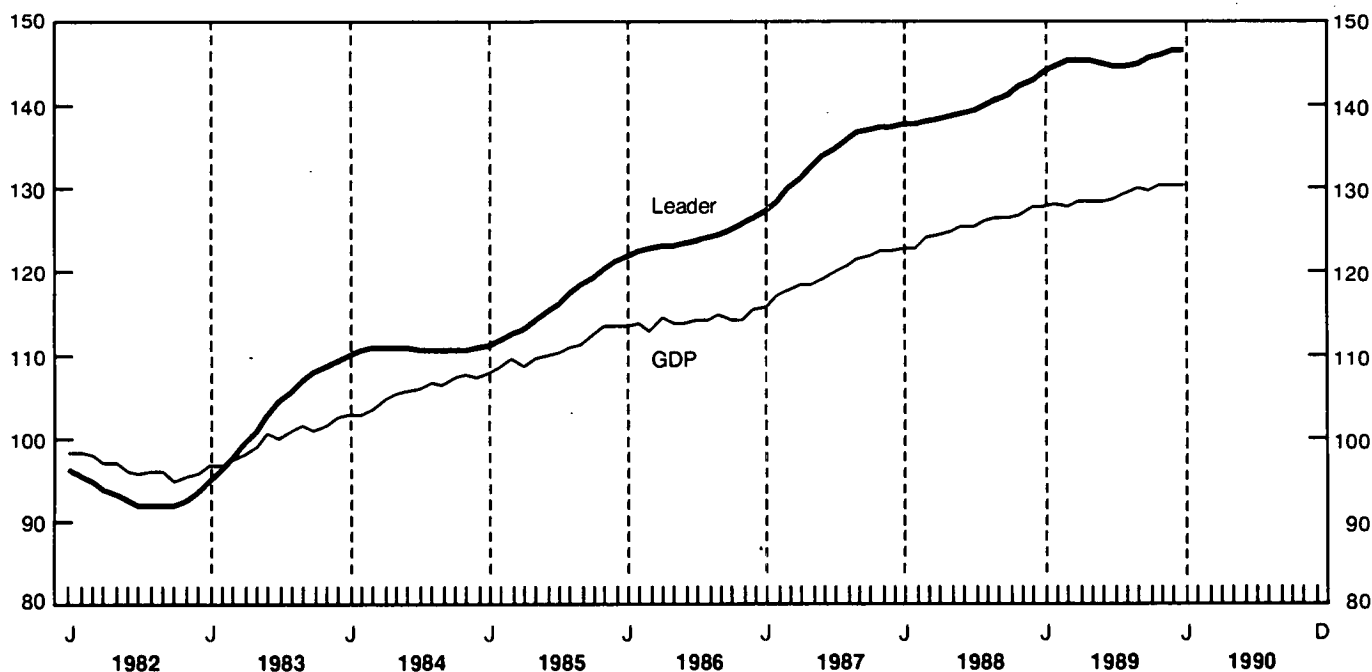
## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 7



## MAJOR RELEASES

### Composite Leading Indicator and GDP

1981 = 100



### Composite Leading Indicator

January 1990

The growth of the Canadian leading indicator slowed in January, due to the slump in orders and shipments in the auto industry. Cutbacks in the auto industry reduced the growth in the overall index from 0.3% to 0.1%. Four of the 10 components posted declines, two more than in December. Growth in the other components reflected gains in final demand, notably housing. Auto sales in January were boosted by rebates, and auto production rebounded in February from its steep one-month decline.

The indicators related to housing demand continued to be the most vigorous in January. The house spending index rose 2.0%, with housing starts supplanting house sales as the source of growth. Furniture and appliance sales continued to expand in tandem. Growth in housing continued to be led by Western Canada, where income gains recently have

been the strongest. Auto sales rebounded, stimulated by rebates, and this contributed to a fourth straight monthly gain in sales of durable goods (which fell through most of 1989). Personal services contributed most to the acceleration in employment in personal and business services.

The indicators for manufacturing softened in January, largely due to cutbacks in the auto industry. New orders fell 1.5%, but excluding the drop in autos they would have risen 0.2% due to strength in business investment. The auto industry also accounted for all of the drop in the ratio of shipments to stocks of finished goods. The average workweek was little changed, despite the largest decline in the unsmoothed version since mid-1987.

The leading indicator for the United States recorded a second consecutive marginal gain, following a brief period of decline. After a pickup in orders late in 1989, building permits rose sharply in January, a leading indicator of residential construction

in the next few months. Final demand in the U.S. began the year on a strong note, and this was reflected in the sharp increase in Canadian exports in January.

The financial market indicators both weakened in January, with the real money supply down 0.2% and the Toronto stock market off by 0.6%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For further information on this release, or about the next release dates, contact F. Roy-Mayrand (613-951-3627), International and Financial Economics Division.

For more information on the economy, order the April issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$21/\$210), available the week of April 16-20. See "How to Order Publications".

### Canadian Leading Indicators

	Percentage Change			Level	
	November 1989	December 1989	January 1990	December 1989	January 1990
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)					
Smoothed	0.3	0.3	0.1	146.2	146.3
Unsmoothed	0.1	-0.2	-1.2	146.8	145.1
Retail Trade					
Furniture and appliance sales	0.4	0.2	0.6	1,104 <sup>4</sup>	1,110 <sup>4</sup>
Other durable goods sales	0.3	0.5	1.1	3,848 <sup>4</sup>	3,892 <sup>4</sup>
House Spending index <sup>1</sup>	2.0	2.2	2.0	146.0	149.0
Manufacturing					
New orders - durable	0.7	-0.2	-1.5	10,410 <sup>4</sup>	10,256 <sup>4</sup>
Shipment to inventory ratio - (finished goods) <sup>2</sup>	0.00	0.00	-0.02	1.48	1.46
Average workweek (hours)	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.6	38.6
Business and personal service employment (thousands)	0.3	0.3	0.5	1,729	1,737
United States Composite Leading Index (1967 = 100)	0.0	0.1	0.1	193.4	193.6
TSE300 Stock Price Index (1975 = 1000)	0.8	0.5	-0.6	3,967	3,945
Money Supply (M1) (\$1981) <sup>3</sup>	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	25,838 <sup>4</sup>	25,880 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (MLS).

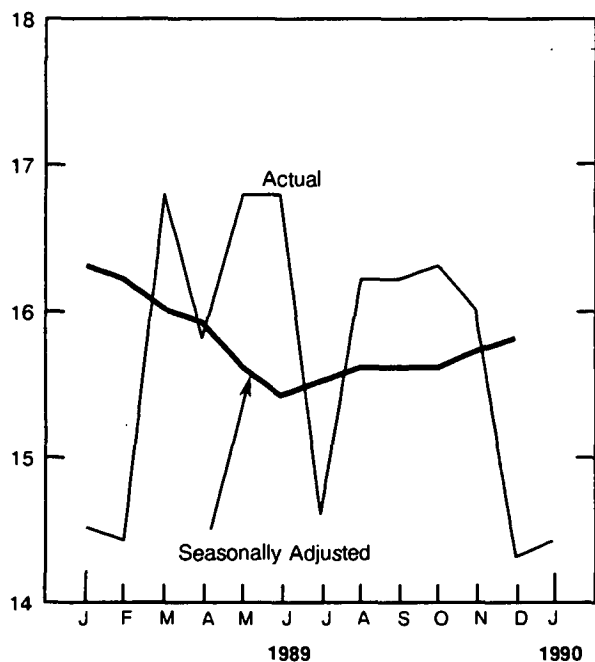
<sup>2</sup> Difference from previous month.

<sup>3</sup> Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.

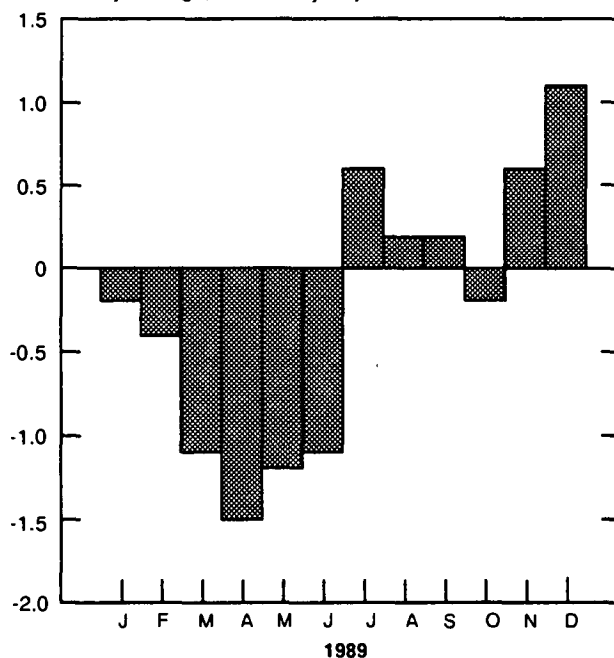
<sup>4</sup> Millions of 1981 dollars.

## Wholesale Merchants' Sales

\$ billions



% Monthly Change, Seasonally Adjusted



## Changes to Wholesale Trade

The monthly Wholesale Trade Survey has been redesigned and the new survey estimates are published for the first time with the January reference month.

Major changes introduced with the new survey include:

- Data on dollar-value levels are now available. Since the May 1981 issue, only month-to-month and year-to-year percentage changes in the levels of sales were published.
- The new survey relies on a new and more up to date list of names and an updated sampling of Canada's wholesale trade businesses.
- Data collection has been regionalized and respondents have the option of replying to the survey by telephone. This has resulted in higher response rates.
- Estimates are now published for nine trade groups for Canada and total wholesale sales for the provinces and territories. Work is progressing to produce estimates of trade groups by province. A decision on publishing this information is not expected before Fall 1990. Estimates of monthly inventories for nine trade groups at the Canada level should also be made available at the same time.
- The introduction of the new survey design and methodology have created erratic month-to-month fluctuations in the seasonally adjusted values for 1989. To circumvent these fluctuations, the seasonally adjusted series have to be smoothed by a three-month moving average. Therefore, the dissemination of the current month seasonally adjusted data are delayed by one month. The need for such smoothing is likely to disappear as more data become available from the new survey.
- Measures of data reliability are now available from the new survey and are included in the publication.
- The new survey is based upon the 1980 version of the Standard Industrial Classification.

## Wholesale Trade

January 1990

### Highlights

#### Unadjusted

- Wholesale merchants sales were \$14.4 billion in January, virtually unchanged (-0.4%) from a year earlier. Increases in five of the nine trade groups were not large enough to offset declines recorded in the remaining four groups.
- The most significant differences in terms of overall sales were posted by wholesalers of lumber and building materials, up 14.9% over January 1989 sales. In contrast, sales of the motor vehicles, parts and accessories group were down 10.0%.
- Regionally, four provinces posted sales increases ranging from Saskatchewan at 17.0% to Alberta at 1.2%.

#### Seasonally Adjusted - December 1989

- Wholesale merchants' sales on a seasonally adjusted basis were up 1.1% over the previous month to \$15.8 billion in December 1989.

- Six of the nine trade groups registered higher sales than in November. The strongest growth in terms of overall sales came from wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies (+3.7%), followed by lumber and building materials (+2.4%) and household goods (+4.1%). Lower sales were recorded by other product wholesalers (-0.8%), motor vehicles, parts and accessories (-0.7%) and food, beverage, drug and tobacco wholesalers (-0.1%).
- Quebec (+3.4%) led regional growth, followed by British Columbia (+2.7%) and Alberta (+2.2%). Declines ranged from -6.6% in Newfoundland to -0.5% in Ontario.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 648 and 649.

The January 1990 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$14.40/\$144) will be available in mid-April. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540) or Larry Murphy (613-951-3589), Industry Division.

### Wholesale Merchants Sales, by Trade Group and Region

January, 1990

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted						
	Jan. 1989	Dec. 1989 <sup>r</sup>	Jan. 1990 <sup>p</sup>	Jan. 1990/1989	Dec. 1988	Sept. 1989 <sup>r</sup>	Oct. 1989 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1989 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1989 <sup>p</sup>	Dec./Nov. 1989	Dec. 1989/1988
<b>Canada</b>	millions of \$				millions of \$						
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,151	3,529	3,212	1.9	3,449	3,505	3,525	3,547	3,544	-0.1	2.7
Apparel and dry goods	397	244	353	-11.2	458	388	365	363	364	0.1	-20.6
Household goods	499	566	503	0.6	596	541	541	568	591	4.1	-0.8
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,616	1,446	1,455	-10.0	1,792	1,743	1,756	1,763	1,751	-0.7	-2.3
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,360	1,125	1,292	-5.0	1,432	1,336	1,309	1,330	1,343	1.0	-6.2
Lumber and building materials	1,157	1,211	1,329	14.9	1,623	1,615	1,623	1,655	1,694	2.4	4.4
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	279	308	301	7.9	407	394	389	381	383	0.4	-6.0
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,827	3,608	3,851	0.6	3,986	3,606	3,625	3,624	3,757	3.7	-5.7
Other products	2,219	2,265	2,146	-3.3	2,579	2,471	2,434	2,430	2,410	-0.8	-6.5
<b>Total, all trades</b>	<b>14,506</b>	<b>14,304</b>	<b>14,441</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>16,322</b>	<b>15,599</b>	<b>15,567</b>	<b>15,662</b>	<b>15,838</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
<b>Regions</b>											
Newfoundland	175	140	142	-19.0	183	164	166	160	150	-6.6	-18.2
Prince Edward Island	41	43	37	-8.2	39	40	41	41	40	-1.2	1.9
Nova Scotia	360	427	351	-2.4	425	382	399	415	416	0.2	-2.2
New Brunswick	265	269	242	-8.4	307	286	291	283	278	-1.8	-9.6
Quebec	3,568	3,495	3,786	6.1	4,109	3,879	3,887	3,946	4,079	3.4	-0.7
Ontario	6,148	5,643	5,640	-8.3	6,675	6,335	6,305	6,253	6,220	-0.5	-6.8
Manitoba	458	472	457	-0.2	526	528	525	516	511	-1.1	-2.8
Saskatchewan	445	489	521	17.0	515	537	542	560	569	1.6	10.5
Alberta	1,239	1,339	1,255	1.2	1,455	1,393	1,366	1,369	1,400	2.2	-3.8
British Columbia	1,787	1,972	1,996	11.7	2,061	2,007	2,031	2,092	2,149	2.7	4.3
Yukon and Northwest Territories	21	14	14	-35.1	20	19	19	20	20	-4.3	-3.9

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances

February 1990

Canadian electrical appliance manufacturers produced 69,898 kitchen appliances in February 1990, down 25.4% from the 93,676 appliances produced a year earlier.

Production of home comfort products totalled 33,730 in February 1990, a decrease of 24.0% from the previous year.

Year-to-date production of specified domestic electrical appliances amounted to 148,491. Corresponding data for the same period in 1989 amounted to 187,089 units.

The February 1990 issue of *Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances* (43-003, \$4.70/\$47) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact J.-P. Beauparlant (613-951-3526), Industry Division. ■

### Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins

February 1990

Canadian chemical firms produced 127 740 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in February 1990, an increase of 12.9% over the 113 164 tonnes produced in February 1989.

January-to-February 1990 production totalled 262 476 tonnes, up 10.3% over 238 044 tonnes produced during the same period in 1989.

Data are also available on Canadian production of three other types of synthetic resins and 24 industrial chemicals for February 1990, January 1990 and corresponding cumulative figures.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.**

The February 1990 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins* (46-002, \$5.30/\$53) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Raj Sehdev (613-951-3513), Industry Division. ■

### Electric Power Statistics

January 1990

Net generation of electric energy in Canada in January 1990 decreased to 46 061 gigawatt hours (GWh), down 4.0% from the corresponding month last year. Exports decreased 35.8% to 1 224 GWh, while imports climbed from 661 GWh to 1 707 GWh.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3987-3999.**

The January 1990 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, \$9/\$90) will be available the second week of April. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Dave Madsen (613-951-9823), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

### Steel Primary Forms (Steel Ingots)

Week Ending March 31, 1990

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel primary forms production for the week ending March 31, 1990 totalled 295 903 tonnes, an increase of 1.5% over the preceding week's total of 291 525 tonnes, but down 6.6% from the year-earlier level of 316 716 tonnes.

The cumulative total in 1990 was 3 502 877 tonnes, a decrease of 12.2% from 3 989 182 tonnes for the same period in 1989.

For further information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division. ■

### Pack of Processed Cauliflower

1989

Data on pack of processed cauliflower for 1989 are now available.

The publication *Pack of Processed Cauliflower*, 1989 (32-023, Vol.18, No.20, \$7.40/\$121) will be released at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

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

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Income After Tax, Distributions by Size in Canada, 1988.**

**Catalogue number 13-210**

(Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$30).

**The Dairy Review, January 1990.**

**Catalogue number 23-001**

(Canada: \$11.60/\$116; Other Countries: \$13.90/\$139).

**Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing, Fourth Quarter 1990.**

**Catalogue number 31-003**

(Canada: \$10.50/\$42; Other Countries: \$12.50/\$50).

**Shipments of Animal and Poultry Feeds, Semi-annual Period Ended December 1989.**

**Catalogue number 32-004**

(Canada: \$6.50/\$13; Other Countries: \$8/\$16).

**Rigid Insulating Board (Wood Fibre Products), February 1990.**

**Catalogue number 36-002**

(Canada: \$4.70/\$47; Other Countries: \$5.60/\$56).

**Gypsum Products, February 1990.**

**Catalogue number 44-003**

(Canada: \$4.70/\$47; Other Countries: \$5.60/\$56).

**Asphalt Roofing, February 1990.**

**Catalogue number 45-001**

(Canada: \$4.70/\$47; Other Countries: \$5.60/\$56).

**Refined Petroleum Products, December 1989.**

**Catalogue number 45-004**

(Canada: \$17.30/\$173; Other Countries: \$20.80/\$208).

**Vending Machine Operators, 1988.**

**Catalogue number 63-213**

(Canada: \$21; Other Countries: \$25).

**Computer Service Industry, 1987.**

**Catalogue number 63-222**

(Canada: \$25; Other Countries: \$30).

**Security Transactions with Non-residents, January 1990.**

**Catalogue number 67-002**

(Canada: \$15/\$150; Other Countries: \$18/\$180).

**Labour Force Information, March 1990.**

**Catalogue number 71-001P**

(Canada: \$6/\$60; Other Countries: \$7.20/\$72).

Available Friday, April 6, 1990 at 7 a.m..

**Juristat Service Bulletin, Vol. 10, No. 3, Family Courts in Canada, January 1990.**

**Catalogue number 85-002**

(Canada: \$3.70/\$37; Other Countries: \$4.40/\$44).

**User's Guide to 1986 Census Data on Occupation.**

**Catalogue number 99-109E**

(Canada: \$23; Other Countries: \$24).

**User's Guide to 1986 Census Data on Labour Force Activity.**

**Catalogue number 99-111E**

(Canada: \$23; Other Countries: \$24).

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