

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 2, 1990

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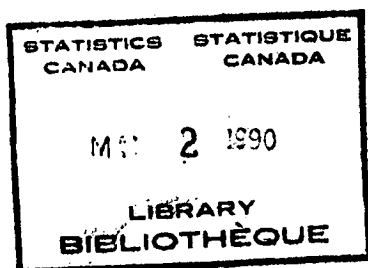
## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Wholesale Trade, February 1990** 2  
Wholesale merchants' sales totalled \$14.5 billion in February 1990, an increase of 0.8% over a year earlier.
- **Building Permits, February 1990** 4  
The preliminary value of building permits issued in Canada was \$3,169.7 million in February, down 9.9% from \$3,516.4 million in January.

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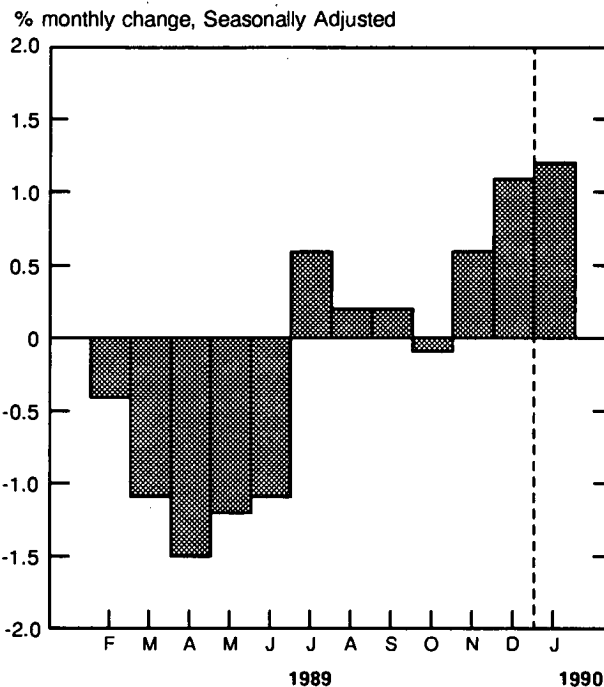
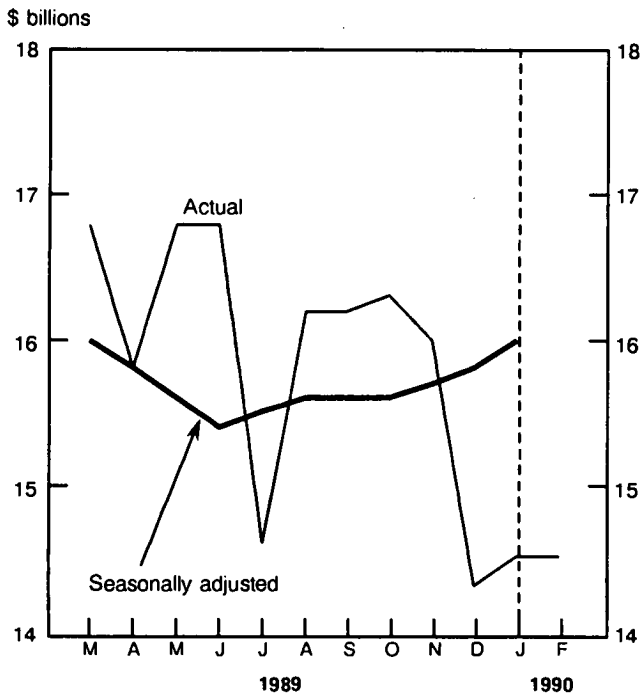
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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Wholesale Merchants Sales



### Wholesale Trade

February 1990

#### Highlights

##### Unadjusted

- In February, wholesale merchants' sales were \$14.5 billion, an increase of 0.8% over the same month a year earlier. Four of the nine trade groups recorded increases, which were large enough to more than offset the losses of the other five trade groups.
- The most significant differences in terms of overall sales came from wholesalers of food,

beverages, drug and tobacco products, up 7.7% over February 1989 sales. In contrast, the sales of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies were down 10.5%.

- Four provinces posted sales increases, ranging from 14.7% for British Columbia to 3.4% for Quebec.

##### Year-to-date

- In the first two months of 1990, cumulative sales were estimated at \$28.9 billion, 0.3% higher than the value for the corresponding period in 1989.

### Seasonally Adjusted - January 1990

- Wholesale merchants' sales on a seasonally adjusted basis were up 1.2% over the previous month, to \$16.0 billion in January 1990.
- Six of the nine trade groups registered higher sales than in December 1989. The strongest growth in terms of overall sales came from wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies (+2.6%), followed by food, beverage, drug and tobacco products (+1.1%). Lower sales were recorded by farm machinery, equipment and supplies (-2.8%), motor vehicles, parts and accessories (-0.7%) and lumber and building materials (-0.1%).

- Regionally, growth was led by the Yukon and Northwest Territories (+4.3%), followed by Quebec (+2.3%). Declines were registered in only two provinces, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan, both down 1.1%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 648 and 649.

The February 1990 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$14.40/\$144) will be available the second week of May. 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

February 1990

Trade Group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted						
	Feb. 1989	Jan. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Feb. 1990 <sup>p</sup>	Feb. 1990/ 1989	Jan. 1989	Oct. 1989 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1989 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1989 <sup>r</sup>	Jan. 1990 <sup>p</sup>	Jan. 1990/ Dec. 1989	Jan. 1990/ 1989
<b>Canada</b>											
	millions of \$			%	millions of \$				%	%	
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,071	3,338	3,308	7.7	3,460	3,542	3,564	3,593	3,634	1.1	5.0
Apparel and dry goods	469	352	420	-10.4	437	364	363	364	376	3.1	-14.0
Household goods	516	505	514	-0.2	582	539	566	589	598	1.6	2.7
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,610	1,523	1,562	-3.0	1,821	1,760	1,772	1,776	1,763	-0.7	-3.2
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,396	1,263	1,249	-10.5	1,466	1,308	1,328	1,336	1,363	2.0	-7.0
Lumber and building materials	1,170	1,168	1,209	3.3	1,597	1,609	1,626	1,614	1,613	-0.1	1.0
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	261	254	247	-5.4	396	385	375	364	354	-2.8	-10.7
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,671	3,811	3,750	2.2	3,969	3,629	3,630	3,751	3,847	2.6	-3.1
Other products	2,201	2,251	2,222	1.0	2,559	2,444	2,448	2,456	2,482	1.1	-3.0
<b>Total, All Trades</b>	<b>14,364</b>	<b>14,464</b>	<b>14,481</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>16,287</b>	<b>15,580</b>	<b>15,672</b>	<b>15,843</b>	<b>16,029</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-1.6</b>
<b>Regions</b>											
Newfoundland	165	142	142	-13.9	190	167	163	159	157	-1.1	-17.4
Prince Edward Island	38	39	37	-1.6	42	41	41	41	41	1.1	-1.3
Nova Scotia	368	352	352	-4.3	426	400	416	415	418	0.5	-2.0
New Brunswick	262	246	252	-4.0	311	291	283	280	281	0.5	-9.6
Quebec	3,630	3,766	3,754	3.4	4,108	3,891	3,946	4,072	4,164	2.3	1.4
Ontario	6,018	5,662	5,730	-4.8	6,724	6,314	6,265	6,239	6,256	0.3	-7.0
Manitoba	436	459	459	5.2	528	527	518	514	523	1.8	-0.8
Saskatchewan	403	526	460	14.0	505	544	565	577	571	-1.1	13.0
Alberta	1,261	1,254	1,260	-0.1	1,439	1,367	1,370	1,402	1,426	1.7	-0.9
British Columbia	1,761	2,003	2,020	14.7	2,005	2,033	2,096	2,156	2,192	1.7	9.4
Yukon and Northwest Territories	21	15	15	-27.8	20	19	20	20	21	4.3	7.1

<sup>r</sup> Revised figure.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figure.

## Building Permits

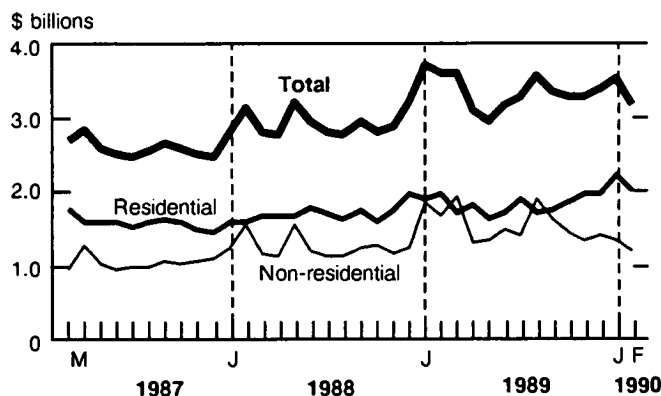
February 1990

### Summary

The preliminary value of building permits issued in Canada was \$3,169.7 million in February, down 9.9% from \$3,516.4 million in January. Both the residential and non-residential sectors were responsible for this drop.

### Value of Building Permits Issued in Canada

Seasonally adjusted



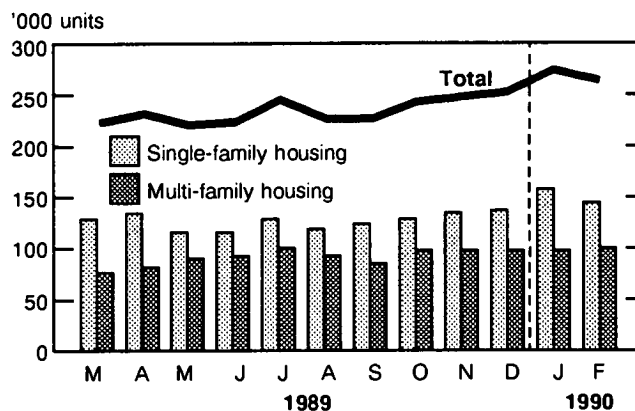
Note: Revised data for January, preliminary data for February.

### Residential Sector

- The preliminary value of residential building permits decreased 9.9% to \$1,991.4 million in February, from \$2,210.9 million in January.
- Losses were registered in both the single-family dwelling sector (-10.1% to \$1,428.9 million) and the multi-family dwelling sector (-9.6% to \$562.5 million).
- The Atlantic region and Quebec were the only regions to report gains in the value of residential building permits in February.
- The number of dwelling units authorized in February totalled 245,664 units at an annual rate (144,732 single detached and 100,932 multiple dwellings), a 4.2% decrease from January.

### Dwelling Units Authorized in Canada

Seasonally adjusted at annual rates



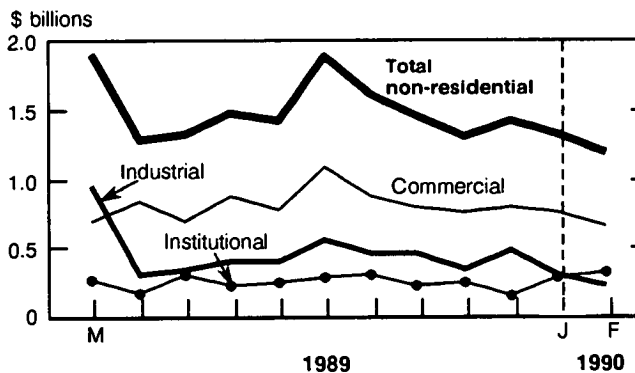
Note: Revised data for January, preliminary data for February.

### Non-residential Sector

- The preliminary value of non-residential building permits totalled \$1,178.3 million in February, down 9.7% from the January level of \$1,305.5 million.

### Value of Non-residential Permits Issued in Canada

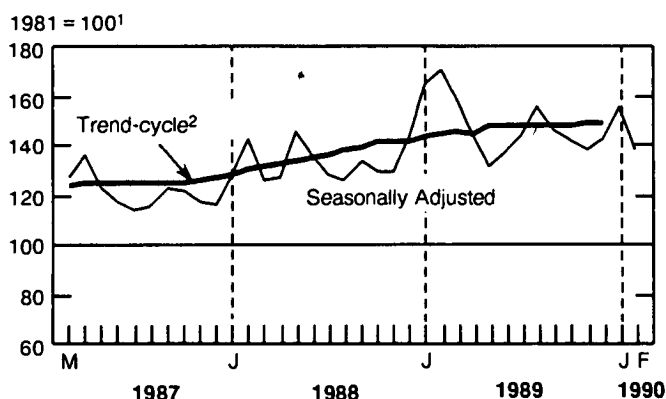
Seasonally adjusted



Note: Revised data for January, preliminary data for February.

- The industrial sector dropped 29.0% in February to \$206.8 million, and the commercial sector was down 12.0% to \$651.7 million. In contrast, the institutional sector jumped 16.9% to \$319.8 million.
- The Atlantic region and British Columbia reported gains in the value of non-residential building permits in February, while all the other regions recorded losses.

### Building Permits Indices



<sup>1</sup> This series is deflated by using the construction input price index which includes cost of material and labor.

<sup>2</sup> The trend-cycle shows the seasonally-adjusted value of Building Permits without irregular influences which can obscure the short-term trend.

### Short-term Trend

- The short-term trend of construction (excluding engineering projects) remained stable in December at 148.0, from a revised level of 147.9 in November.
- The trend index of residential permits increased 1.8% to 172.2 in December, while the non-residential trend index decreased 2.2% to 122.7.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 9-15), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The February 1990 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001,\$22/\$220) is scheduled for release the third week of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For further on this release, contact Pierre Pichette (613-951-2585), or Louise Marmen (613-951-2583) for analysis information, Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENT

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### **Exports by Commodity (H.S. Based)**

February 1990

Commodity-country export trade statistics based on the Harmonized System (H.S.) for February 1990 are now available on microfiche, computer printouts or magnetic tapes in advance of the monthly publication.

**Available on CANSIM (for selected information):  
matrices 3686-3713 and 3719.**

The February 1990 issue of *Exports by Commodity (H.S. Based)* (65-004, \$55.10/\$551) will be available the second week of May 1990. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**The Dairy Review**, February 1990.

**Catalogue number 23-001**

(Canada: \$12.20/\$122; United States: \$14.60/\$146;  
Other Countries: \$17.10/\$171).

**Production, Sales and Stocks of Major  
Appliances**, March 1990.

**Catalogue number 43-010**

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

**Oil Pipeline Transport**, January 1990.

**Catalogue number 55-001**

(Canada: \$9.50/\$95; Other Countries: \$11.40/\$114).

**Telephone Statistics**, February 1990.

**Catalogue number 56-002**

(Canada: \$7.90/\$79; Other Countries: \$9.50/\$95).

**Electric Power Statistics**, Vol. 11 - Annual  
Statistics, 1988.

**Catalogue number 57-202**

(Canada: \$27; United States: \$32; Other Countries:  
\$38).

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

**Catalogue number 67-002**

(Canada: \$15.80/\$158; United States: \$19/\$190;  
Other Countries: \$22.10/\$221).

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**The  
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