



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, December 19, 1991

For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, October 1991** 3  
Increased exports and reduced imports caused the trade balance to change to a surplus of \$69 million in October from a deficit of \$286 million in September.
- **Sales of Natural Gas, October 1991** 4  
Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during October 1991 totalled 4 373 million cubic metres, a 6.7% increase over the level recorded the previous year.

(continued on page 2)

### Focus on Culture

Winter 1991

The Winter issue of *Focus on Culture* contains articles on television viewing, performing arts companies and the forthcoming report of the National Advisory Committee on Culture Statistics.

#### Highlights

- In 1989, Canadians watched an average of 23.4 hours of television per week, down from 24.3 hours in 1984. The time spent watching material played back on a VCR (including rented videotapes) is included in the viewing data.
- For both sexes, it is the younger adults, especially in the 18 to 24 age group, who demonstrated the greatest drop in television viewing. In this age group, women's average viewing decreased two hours per week while men reported a drop of one and a half hours.
- The \$3.4 million deficit of performing arts companies in 1988-89 was nine times greater than in the previous year and represented the largest deficit since 1985-86.
- Total corporate support for performing arts companies reached \$22 million in 1988-89, up \$2.7 million from the previous year.

The Winter 1991 issue (Volume 3, Number 4) of *Focus on Culture* (87-004, \$6.25/\$25) is now available. See "How to Order Publications." For more information contact Iain McKellar (613-951-9038), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.



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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

October 1991

Seasonally adjusted exports showed hardly any change (up \$31 million to \$11.7 billion) in October 1991 after plummeting by almost \$750 million in September. Increases totalling \$235 million were recorded almost entirely by those commodity groupings that tend to experience wide month-to-month fluctuations: special transactions, which include low value shipments not classified by nature of merchandise, contributed \$115 million, automotive products \$99 million and energy products \$21 million. On the downward side, exports of aircraft and miscellaneous transportation equipment, a grouping of commodities noted for sharp monthly swings, were down \$39 million. As well, forestry products were down \$79 million, industrial goods and materials declined by \$70 million and other consumer goods were down by \$4 million.

Seasonally adjusted imports dropped by \$324 million to \$11.6 billion in October 1991. As in the case of exports, the net fall was the product of sharp movements in both directions. Among the contributors to upward changes were energy products (up \$131 million), special transactions (\$63 million) and aircraft and miscellaneous transportation equipment (\$45 million). The downward movement was dominated by a fall of \$335 million in imports of automotive products: all components of the automotive products grouping were down, by more than \$200 million in the case of motor vehicle parts. Agricultural products were down by \$69 million, industrial and agricultural machinery by \$33 million, and industrial goods and materials by \$44 million.

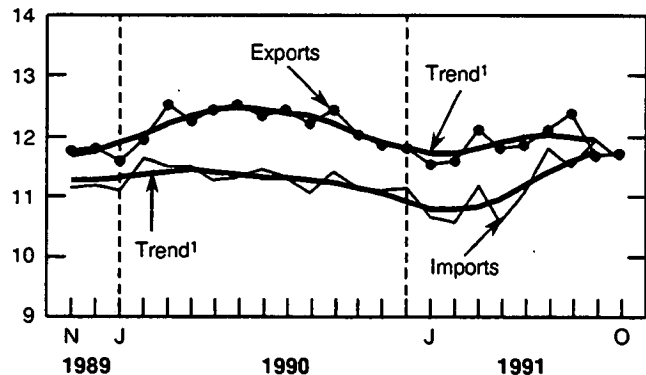
The joint movement of exports and imports was sufficient to bring the trade balance from a September deficit of \$286 million into a small surplus of \$69 million. A declining trend in the trade balance seems unmistakable, but perhaps not quite as steep as suggested by last month's figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3620-3629, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718, 3719, 3887-3913.

#### Merchandise Trade

Seasonally Adjusted  
 Balance of Payments Basis

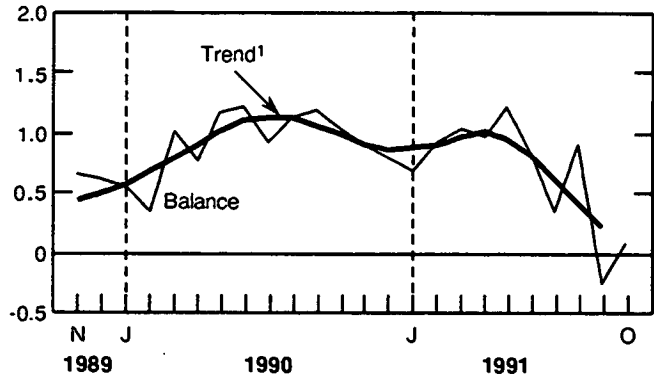
Billions of dollars



#### Merchandise Trade Balance

Seasonally Adjusted  
 Balance of Payments Basis

Billions of dollars



<sup>1</sup> The short-term trend represents a weighted average of the data.

Current account data, which incorporate merchandise trade statistics as well as data concerning trade in services and capital account movements, are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001, \$27.50/\$110).

For further information on international trade statistics (detailed tables, charts and a more complete analysis) order *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$10/\$100), now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on statistics, concepts and definitions, order the October 1991 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182), available the first week of January 1992, or contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Marlene Sterpan (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)  
October 1991

Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during October 1991 totalled 4 373 million cubic metres, a 6.7% increase over the level recorded the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in October 1991 were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from October 1990 in brackets: residential sales, 948 million cubic metres (+9.6%); commercial sales, 790 million cubic metres (+9.2%) and industrial sales (including direct sales), 2 635 million cubic metres (+5.1%).

Year-to-date figures for 1991 indicate that sales of natural gas amounted to 43 098 million cubic metres, a 0.3% increase over the level recorded during the same period in 1990.

On the basis of rate structure information, year-to-date sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from 1990 in brackets: residential sales, 10 310 million cubic metres (+1.5); commercial sales, 8 569 million cubic metres (+1.5%) and industrial sales (including direct sales), 24 219 million cubic metres (-0.6%).

Based on the sum of the latest 12 months (November 1990 to October 1991), total natural gas sales (including direct sales) posted a 0.2% decrease from the previous period (November 1989 to October 1990).

The October 1991 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$12.70/\$127) will be available the third week of January. 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 - Preliminary Data

October 1991

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
	(thousands of cubic metres)				
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	24 435	75 451	286 604	2 287	388 777
Ontario	347 482	268 060	648 464	177 485	1 441 491
Manitoba	61 635	55 254	37 629	555	155 073
Saskatchewan	94 793	56 207	3 000	149 530	303 530
Alberta	294 074	235 675	1 049 447	-	1 579 196
British Columbia	126 119	99 019	174 046	106 013	505 197
<b>October 1991 - Canada</b>	<b>948 538</b>	<b>789 666</b>	<b>2 199 190</b>	<b>435 870</b>	<b>4 373 264</b>
October 1990 - Canada	865 781	723 238	2 176 852	331 290	4 097 161
% change	9.6	9.2	5.1		6.7
<b>Year-to-date Canada 1991</b>	<b>10 310 004</b>	<b>8 569 232</b>	<b>20 412 738</b>	<b>3 806 377</b>	<b>43 098 351</b>
Year-to-date Canada 1990	10 158 126	8 446 398	21 108 831	3 255 959	42 969 314
% change	1.5	1.5	-0.6		0.3
<b>Sum of November 1990 - October 1991</b>	<b>13 667 219</b>	<b>11 323 417</b>	<b>25 087 806</b>	<b>4 522 377</b>	<b>54 600 819</b>
Sum of November 1989 - October 1990	13 509 270	11 176 131	25 952 075	4 087 665	54 725 141
% change	1.2	1.3	-1.4		-0.2

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

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Export and Import Price Indexes

October 1991

Current and fixed weighted export and import price indexes, on a balance of payments basis, are now available on a 1986=100 basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to October 1991 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 1986 to October 1991 on a 1986=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 3620-3629, 3651, 3658.**

The October 1991 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of January 1992. See "How to Order Publications". For further information on this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division. ■

### Provincial Government Enterprise Finance

1989 Actual

In 1989, provincial government business enterprises earned an after-tax profit of \$5,251 million, up \$114 million (2%) over the previous year. Among this group of enterprises, electric power utilities, and lottery corporations reported profits of \$1,708 million and \$1,382 million, respectively.

Total income reached \$43,721 million, an increase of \$2,897 million (or 7%) over 1988. Sales of "goods and services" and "investment income" remained the largest sources of income. Sales of goods and services were \$36,033 million, up 5% while investment income grew by 23% in 1989 to reach \$6,583 million.

The debt of provincial government business enterprises stood at \$148,055 million at the end of 1989, up \$7,945 million (6%) over the previous year.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3267 (income and expense by industry), 3268 (assets and liabilities by industry) 3269 (income and expense by province) 3270 (assets and liabilities by province).**

For more information on this release, please contact Richard Sauriol (613-951-1829) or Jeannine D'Angelo (613-951-1834) Economic Statistics Section, Public Institutions Division.

Data are also available through special tabulation. For more information or general inquiries on Public Institutions Division's products or services contact Donald Dubreuil, Data Dissemination Co-ordinator (613-951-0767). ■

### Local Government Long-term Debt

November 1991

Estimates of the accumulated long-term debt of local governments in Canada, except Ontario, at the end of November 1991 are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Marlene Vollmer (613-951-1830), Public Institutions Division.

For more information, or general inquiries on Public Institutions Division's products or services, contact Jim Doré (613-951-0767). ■



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Electric Power Statistics, Volume III, 1990.**

**Catalogue number 57-206**

(Canada: \$27; United States: US\$32;

Other Countries: US\$38).

**Consumer Price Index, November 1991.**

**Catalogue number 62-001**

(Canada: \$9.30/93; United States: US\$11.20/US\$112;

Other Countries: US\$13/US\$130).

**Available Friday, Dec.20 at 7 a.m..**

**Farm Input Price Index, Third Quarter 1991.**

**Catalogue number 62-004**

(Canada: \$12.25/\$49; United States: US\$14.75/

US\$59; Other Countries: US\$17.25/US\$69).

**Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, October 1991.**

**Catalogue number 65-001P**

(Canada: \$10; United States: US\$12;

Other Countries: US\$14).

**Exports by Country, January-September 1991.**

**Catalogue number 65-003**

(Canada: \$82.75/\$331; United States: US\$99.25/

US\$397; Other Countries: US\$115.75/US\$463).

**Employment, Earnings and Hours,**

**September 1991.**

**Catalogue number 72-002**

(Canada: \$38.50/\$385; United States: US\$46.20/

US\$462; Other Countries: US\$53.90/US\$539).

**Focus on Culture, Winter 1991.**

**Catalogue number 87-004**

(Canada: \$6.25/\$25; United States: US\$7.50/US\$30;

Other Countries: US\$8.75/US\$35).

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The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.



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### How to Order Publications

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

*A national toll-free telephone order service is 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.*