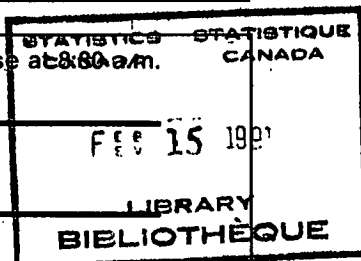


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, February 15, 1991

For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, December 1990** 2
Overall, merchandise trade was virtually unchanged in December.
- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, December 1990** 3
Shipments were down 0.3% in December, following a sharp decrease in November, and unfilled orders declined 0.8%, the fifth consecutive decline.
- **Non-residential Building Construction Price Index, Fourth Quarter 1990** 6
A further decline of 0.4% in the non-residential building construction price index was posted in the fourth quarter.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Export and Import Price Indexes, December 1990 7
- Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics, July 1990 7
- Federal Government Assets and Liabilities, March 31, 1990 7
- Business Services, 1986-1988 7

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 8

MAJOR RELEASE DATES: February 18-22, 1991 9

**NOT FOR LOAN
NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS**



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

MAJOR RELEASES

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

December 1990

In the aggregate, there was not much movement in either exports or imports in December, although large offsetting changes from November took place for selected commodities.

Exports fell by \$51 million. Notable decreases were posted for automotive products (-\$115 million), industrial goods and materials (-\$112 million) and forestry products (-\$101 million). Energy products fell slightly in December, largely as a result of lower crude petroleum prices. Moderating these declines was a \$221 million increase in wheat exports.

Imports rose by \$27 million in December. Commodities which showed an increase included machinery and equipment, forestry products and other consumer goods. Imports of cars rose by \$205 million, but this increase was more than offset by decreased imports of parts, down \$352 million.

December's trade surplus of \$1.1 billion was \$78 million lower than the November surplus. The annual surplus for 1990 was \$10.8 billion, up from \$6.9 billion in 1989.

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

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).

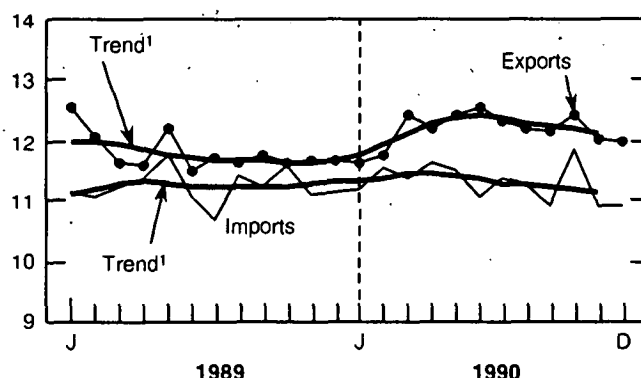
For further information on international trade statistics (detailed tables, charts and a more complete analysis) order *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$10/\$100), now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on statistics, concepts and definitions, order the December 1990 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182), available the first week of March 1991, or contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Marlene Sterpan (613-951-1711) (for analysis information), or

Merchandise Trade

Seasonally Adjusted
Balance of Payments Basis

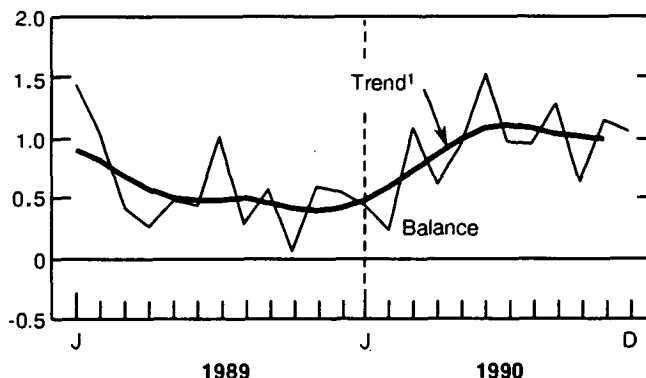
Billions of dollars



Merchandise Trade Balance

Seasonally Adjusted
Balance of Payments Basis

Billions of dollars

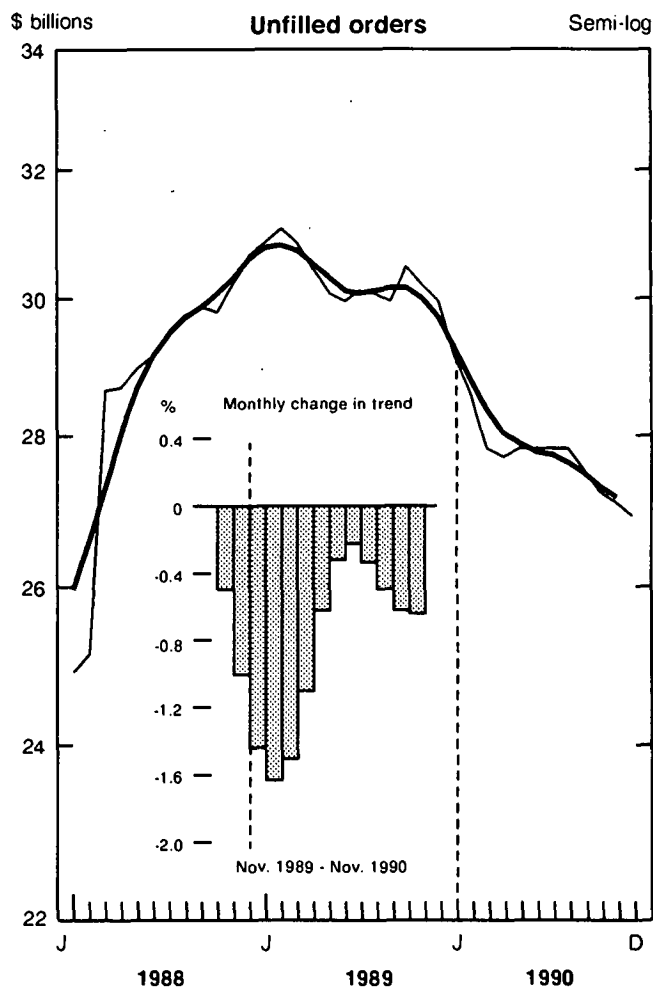
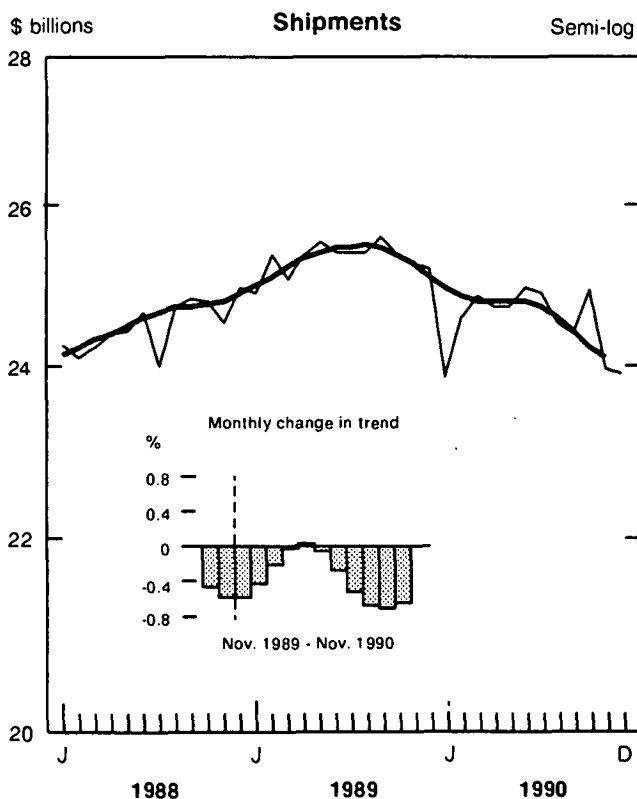
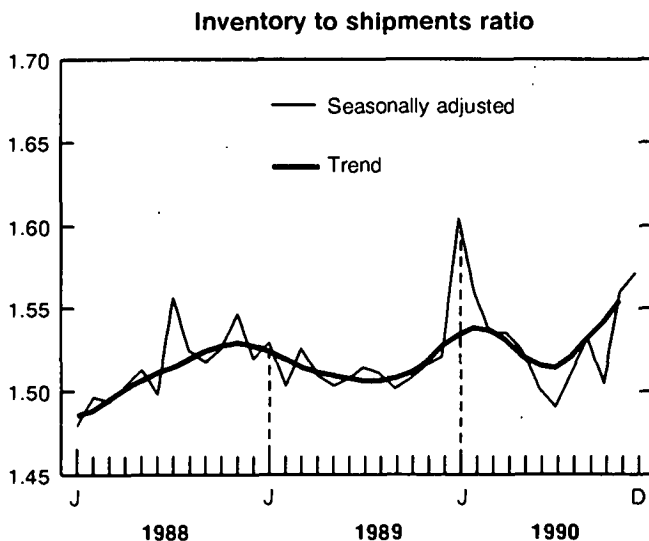
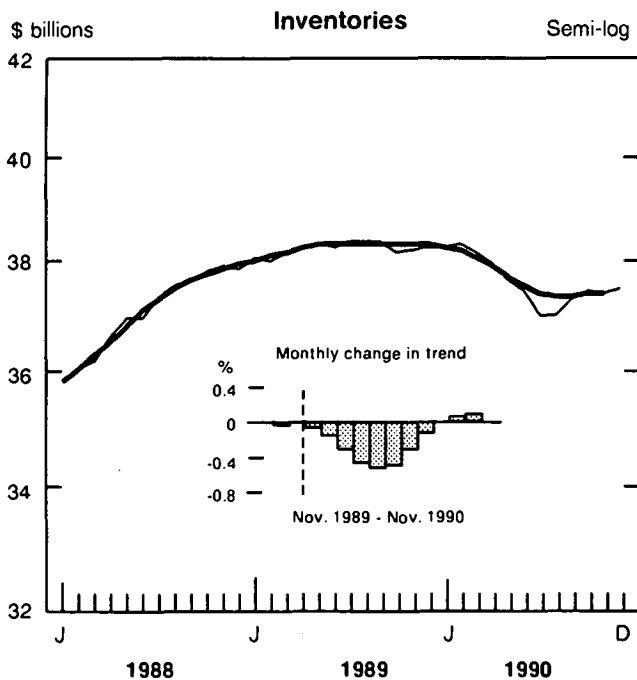


¹ The short-term trend represents a weighted average of the data.

Denis Pilon (613-951-4808) (for price index information), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division.

NOT FOR
2
CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Manufacturers' Inventories, Shipments and Unfilled Orders, December 1990



Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

December 1990

Seasonally Adjusted

Shipments declined 0.3% in December following a sharp decrease in November and unfilled orders declined 0.8%, the fifth monthly decrease in a row. Inventories were up 0.4% in December.

The short-term trend for shipments has declined at a constant rate of 0.7% a month for the last three periods and has been on a downward path for 14 months, apart from a short pause in April and May 1990. The unfilled orders trend was down 0.6% a month for the last two periods and has been declining for 21 months, apart from two small increases in August and September 1989.

The inventories trend has increased slightly during the last three months after having been flat or declining for the previous 14 months. As a result of the recent slight increases in the inventory trend and declines in the shipments trend, the trend for the inventory to shipments ratio has edged up from 1.51 in July 1990 to 1.55 in November.

Highlights

- Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian manufacturers' **shipments** were \$23.9 billion in December, a decrease of 0.3% from the previous month. Decreases in the transportation equipment (-2.4%) and the wood industries (-6.8%) were partly offset by an increase in the electrical and electronic products industry (8.0%).
- **Inventories** (owned) increased 0.4% to \$37.5 billion. A major increase in the refined petroleum and coal products industry (8.3%) and an increase in the chemical products industry (2.2%) were partly offset by decreases for fabricated metal products, electrical and electronic products, and wood industries. The trend for inventories increased slightly during the last two periods.
- The **inventories-to-shipments ratio** increased from 1.56 in November to 1.57 in December.
- **Unfilled orders** decreased by 0.8% to a level of \$26.9 billion. This was the fifth decrease in a row. A decrease in the transportation equipment

industry accounted for most of the decline. Monthly decreases in the trend have gone from -0.2% in July 1990 to -0.6% a month in both October and November.

Unfilled orders are the stock of orders which will generate future shipments, assuming that orders are not cancelled.

New orders are defined as the sum of shipments for the current month (i.e. orders received this month and shipped within the same month) plus the change in unfilled orders.

- **New orders** decreased 0.6% to a level of \$23.7 billion in December 1990. Decreases in the trend have averaged 0.8% a month for the last three periods.

The Year 1990

- Shipments decreased 3.0% in 1990 to \$294.2 billion. This contrasts with a 3.0% increase in 1989. Average monthly inventory owned was kept in check, with a decrease of 1.6% compared to a 3.2% increase in 1989.
- Major groups which experienced the largest decreases in shipments for 1990 compared to 1989, in order of dollar impact, were primary metals (-15.1%), paper products (-8.3%), transportation equipment (-3.3%) and wood (-7.5%). (The primary metals and paper products industries were affected by strikes.) Only four of the major groups experienced increases: these were refined petroleum and coal products (14.2%), food (4.2%), tobacco products (4.6%) and other manufacturing (3.4%).
- The average level of unfilled orders dropped 8.3% in 1990, in contrast to an increase of 5.5% in 1989.
- On a provincial basis, decreases in shipments in 1990, in order of dollar impact, occurred in Ontario (-4.5%), Quebec (-3.1%), British Columbia (-5.1%), Manitoba (-1.7%), and Newfoundland (-4.9%). Increases in shipments for 1990 were posted in Alberta (7.2%), Nova Scotia (6.9%), Saskatchewan (6.3%), New Brunswick (2.2%), and Prince Edward Island (16.3%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.

For more information, please consult the December 1990 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001, \$17.30/\$173), available shortly.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. For further information, please contact Bob Traversy

(613-951-9497) or the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section (613-951-9832), Industry Division.

Note: The appendix in the March 1990 issue of catalogue 31-001 contains estimated values of shipments, inventories and orders revised back to January 1987.

Shipments, Inventories and Orders in all Manufacturing Industries

December, 1990

Period	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted			
	Shipments	Inventories	Unfilled orders	New orders	Shipments	Inventories	Unfilled orders	New orders
\$ millions								
December 1989	22,926	37,681	29,095	22,431	25,161	38,255	29,927	24,911
January 1990	22,546	38,406	29,103	22,555	23,856	38,237	29,139	23,068
February 1990	23,117	38,944	28,861	22,875	24,564	38,316	28,619	24,044
March 1990	26,276	38,646	28,374	25,789	24,844	38,135	27,803	24,028
April 1990	24,452	38,456	28,210	24,288	24,706	37,926	27,687	24,590
May 1990	26,795	37,878	28,404	26,989	24,706	37,642	27,826	24,845
June 1990	26,465	37,333	27,869	25,931	24,940	37,438	27,807	24,920
July 1990	22,702	36,745	27,833	22,665	24,859	37,014	27,802	24,854
August 1990	24,326	36,918	27,861	24,354	24,516	37,021	27,788	24,502
September 1990	24,775	36,964	27,350	24,264	24,352	37,312	27,520	24,084
October 1990	26,716	37,067	26,930	26,296	24,900	37,443	27,224	24,604
November 1990	24,465	37,023	26,745	24,281	23,944	37,362	27,086	23,807
December 1990	21,597	36,889	26,194	21,047	23,872	37,500	26,869	23,655

Period	Seasonally Adjusted									
	Shipments		Inventories		Inventory to shipments ratio		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend
	Month to month % change				Ratio		Month to month % change			
December 1989	-0.3	-0.6	0.1	0.0	1.52	1.53	-0.8	-1.0	0.0	-1.3
January 1990	-5.2	-0.6	0.0	0.0	1.60	1.53	-2.6	-1.4	-7.4	-1.1
February 1990	3.0	-0.4	0.2	-0.2	1.56	1.54	-1.8	-1.6	4.2	-0.6
March 1990	1.1	-0.2	-0.5	-0.3	1.53	1.54	-2.9	-1.5	-0.1	0.1
April 1990	-0.6	0.0	-0.5	-0.5	1.54	1.53	-0.4	-1.1	2.3	0.5
May 1990	0.0	0.0	-0.7	-0.5	1.52	1.52	0.5	-0.6	1.0	0.7
June 1990	0.9	-0.1	-0.5	-0.5	1.50	1.51	-0.1	-0.3	0.3	0.4
July 1990	-0.3	-0.3	-1.1	-0.3	1.49	1.51	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1
August 1990	-1.4	-0.5	0.0	-0.1	1.51	1.52	-0.1	-0.3	-1.4	-0.6
September 1990	-0.7	-0.7	0.8	0.0	1.53	1.53	-1.0	-0.5	-1.7	-0.8
October 1990	2.3	-0.7	0.4	0.1	1.50	1.54	-1.1	-0.6	2.2	-0.8
November 1990	-3.8	-0.7	-0.2	0.1	1.56	1.55	-0.5	-0.6	-3.2	-0.8
December 1990	-0.3	*	0.4	*	1.57	*	-0.8	*	-0.6	*

* The short-term trend represents a weighted average of the data.

Non-residential Building Construction Price Indexes

Fourth Quarter 1990 (1986 = 100)

The non-residential building construction price index for Canada fell 0.4% to 125.3 in the fourth quarter of 1990, continuing the decline begun in the third quarter of 1990.

Of the cities surveyed, two showed increases in the fourth quarter, Edmonton (0.4%, to a level of 124.2) and Ottawa (0.7%, 126.6), two showed no change from the third quarter, Halifax (0.0%, 112.4) and Montreal (0.0%, 118.0), while three showed decreases, Toronto (-0.6%, 129.7), Calgary (-0.2%, 123.0) and Vancouver (-0.5%, 119.6).

Respondents to the survey reported uncertainty about the effects of the GST, and the general economic climate probably contributed to some belt-tightening for new projects and their prices.

Special Note: Prices for building construction work-in-place, commencing in the first quarter of 1991, will be collected excluding the GST. Provincial sales tax will be included as before.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2042 and 2043.

The fourth quarter 1990 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$18/\$72) will be available in March. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, please contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division.

Non-residential Building Construction Price Indexes

Fourth Quarter 1990
(1986 = 100)

	Seven Cities and Composite Indexes							
	Halifax	Montreal	Ottawa	Toronto	Calgary	Edmonton	Vancouver	Composite
Quarterly Indexes								
1989								
Fourth Quarter	110.0	116.8	121.4	129.3	120.1	120.9	119.8	124.3
1990								
First Quarter	111.0	117.3	123.0	130.3	122.1	122.9	122.1	125.4
Second Quarter	112.7	119.3	124.8	132.8	123.2	124.0	122.9	127.5
Third Quarter	112.4	118.0	125.7	130.5	123.2	123.7	120.2	125.8
Fourth Quarter	112.4	118.0	126.6	129.7	123.0	124.2	119.6	125.3
Percentage Change								
Second/First Quarter 1990	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.7
Third/Second Quarter 1990	-0.3	-1.1	0.7	-1.7	0.0	-0.2	-2.2	-1.3
Fourth/Third Quarter 1990	0.0	0.0	0.7	-0.6	-0.2	0.4	-0.5	-0.4
Fourth Quarter 1990/1989	2.2	1.0	4.3	0.3	2.4	2.7	-0.2	0.8

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import Price Indexes

December 1990

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 December 1990 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 December 1990 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 and 3685.

The December 1990 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade (H.S. Based)* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of March 1991. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics

July 1990

In July 1990, a total of 70 Canadian urban transit systems with gross annual total operating revenues of \$500,000 or more (subsidies included) carried 104,473,547 fare passengers, a decrease of 14.9% from the previous month. A comparison with the same period in 1989 showed a decrease of 2.2%. Operating revenues totalled \$87,674,924, down 12.6% from June 1990 but up 6.6% over July 1989.

During the same period, 26 passenger bus carriers earning \$500,000 or more annually from intercity and rural bus operations carried 1,434,563 fare passengers, up 16.1% from the previous month but down 13.9% from the same month last year. Earnings of these carriers totalled \$25,892,919, a 22.2% increase over the June 1990 operating revenues and an increase of 5.6% over July 1989.

All 1989 figures and 1990 cumulative data have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 351 and 352.

The July 1990 issue of *Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics* (53-003, \$7.10/\$71) will be available the fourth week of February. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Transportation Division. ■

Federal Government Assets and Liabilities

March 31, 1990

At March 31, 1990, the financial assets of the federal government reached \$54,044 million, while liabilities stood at \$408,483 million.

The federal government balance sheet (based on the Financial Management System) is now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 3200.

For further information on this release, contact A.J. Gareau (613-951-1826), Public Institutions Division.

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

Business Services

1986-1988

Data on business services for 1986-88 are now available.

The publication *Business Services*, 1986-88 (62-232, \$29) will be released by the end of March 1991.

For information concerning this publication, please contact David Hamdani (613-951-3490), Services, Science and Technology Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production,
October 1990.

Catalogue number 26-006

(Canada: \$10.00/\$100.00; United States:
US\$12.00/US\$120.00; Other Countries:
US\$14.00/US\$140.00).

**Canada's Women: A Profile of their 1987 Labour
Market Experience,** February 1991.

Catalogue number 71-205

(Canada: \$12.00; United States: US\$14.00; Other
Countries: US\$17.00).

**Canada's Men: A Profile of Their 1987 Labour
Market Experience,** February 1991.

Catalogue number 71-206

(Canada: \$12.00; United States: US\$14.00; Other
Countries: US\$17.00).

**Canada's Youth: A Profile of Their 1987 Labour
Market Experience,** February 1991.

Catalogue number 71-207

(Canada: \$12.00; United States: US\$14.00; Other
Countries: US\$17.00).

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
613-951-7277.*

*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,
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.*

**The
Daily**

Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

Catalogue 11-001E. Price: Canada: \$120.00 annually; United States: US\$144.00 annually;
Other Countries: US\$168.00 annually

Published by the Communications Division
Statistics Canada, 3-N, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-951-1116)
Editor: Bonnie Williams (613-951-1103)

Published under the authority of the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology. All rights
reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or
transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or
otherwise without prior written permission of the Minister of Supply and Services Canada.

MAJOR RELEASE DATES

Week of February 18 - 22
(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
<hr/>		
February		
18	Sales of Natural Gas	December 1990
21	Retail Trade	December 1990
21	Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas	November 1990
21	Farm Cash Receipts	January - December 1990
22	The Consumer Price Index	January 1991
22	Wholesale Trade	December 1990
22	International Travel Account	Fourth Quarter 1990

Statistics Canada Library
Bibliothèque Statistique Canada



1010062491