



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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For release at 8:30 a.m. MAR 20 1991

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, January 1991** 2
The merchandise trade surplus fell to \$166 million in January.
- **Sales of Natural Gas, January 1991** 3
Sales of of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during January totalled 7 287.5 million cubic metres, a 6.7% increase from the previous year.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import Price Indexes, January 1991	4
Railway Carloadings, Seven-day Period Ending March 7, 1991	4
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January 1991	4
Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns, December 1990	4
Input-Output Tables, 1986 and 1987	4

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

5

Canadian Economic Observer March 1991

The March issue of the *Canadian Economic Observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, is now available.

The March issue contains a monthly summary of the economy, major economic events in February, a review of the fourth quarter and 1990 preliminary National Accounts, and a feature article on discretionary income. A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and major industrial nations.

The *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) can now be ordered from Publication Sales (613-951-7277). For more information, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162), Current Analysis Section.



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MAJOR RELEASES

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

January 1991

Total merchandise exports decreased by \$352 million in January. The automotive products sector continued to decline as overall exports of cars, trucks and parts fell by \$244 million, reflective of weakened demand and lower production in the United States. Energy products also decreased in January, mainly due to lower crude petroleum prices.

Imports rose by \$546 million. The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the elimination of the Federal Sales Tax appear to have had a strong effect on imports. The net effect of the tax change was to lower prices for automotive products and machinery and equipment, generating an upsurge in imports of these commodities. On the other hand, imports of consumer goods were relatively flat, which is consistent with increased prices resulting from the application of the GST.

The drop in exports and the rise in imports reduced the merchandise trade surplus in January to \$166 million, down significantly from the \$1.0 billion registered in December 1990. This was the lowest surplus since October 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 on trade in services and capital account movements, are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001).

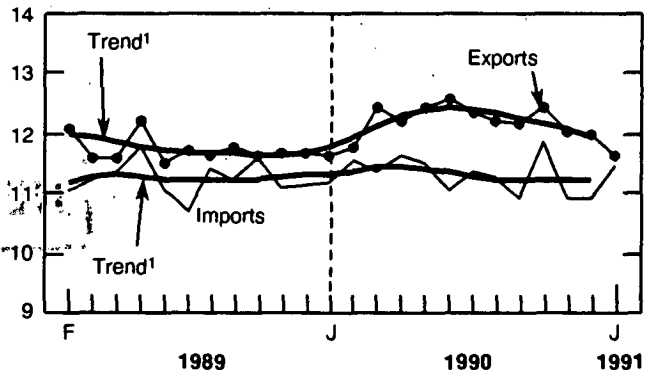
For further information on international trade statistics (detailed tables, charts and a more complete analysis), order *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$10/\$100), now available. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Merchandise Trade

Seasonally Adjusted
Balance of Payments Basis

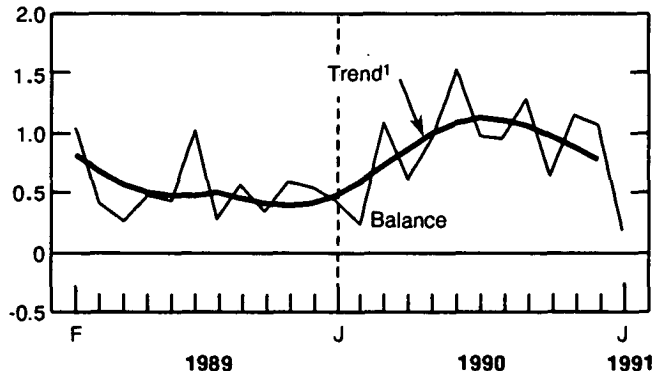
Billions of dollars



Merchandise Trade Balance

Seasonally Adjusted
Balance of Payments Basis

Billions of dollars



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

Sales of Natural Gas

January 1991 (Preliminary Data)

Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during January 1991 totalled 7 287.5 million cubic metres, a 6.7% increase from the level recorded the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in January 1991 were broken down as follows (percentage changes from January 1990 in brackets): residential sales, 2 376.6 million cubic metres (+9.5%); commercial sales, 1 918.2 million cubic metres (+9.2%) and industrial sales (including direct sales), 2 992.6 million cubic metres (+3.2%).

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

January 1991

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
(thousands of cubic metres)					
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	99 694	213 943	321 522	3 691	638 850
Ontario	1 134 845	785 300	938 220	141 877	3 000 242
Manitoba	118 604	124 214	57 046	690	300 554
Saskatchewan	155 100	124 400	15 059	123 242	417 801
Alberta	569 704	435 272	1 084 170	-	2 089 146
British Columbia	298 697	235 059	175 443	131 678	840 877
January 1991 - Canada	2 376 644	1 918 188	2 591 460	401 178	7 287 470
January 1990 - Canada	2 170 024	1 757 334	2 452 037	448 588	6 827 983
% change	9.5	9.2	3.2		6.7

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

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import Price Indexes

January 1991

Current and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes, on a balance of payments basis, are now available (1986 = 100). Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to January 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 January 1991 (1986 = 100). 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, 3685.

The January 1991 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) 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. ■

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending March 7, 1991

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the week totalled 4.3 million tonnes, a decrease of 7.9% from the same period last year.
- Piggyback traffic decreased 15.4% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded also decreased 9.2% during the same period.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year is 2.5% lower than that loaded in the previous year.

Note: Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic. All 1990 figures have been revised.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia

January 1991

Sawmills in British Columbia produced 2 272 700 cubic metres of lumber and ties in January 1991, a decrease of 24.7% from the 3 019 000 cubic metres produced in January 1990.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 53 (series 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2).

The January 1991 issue of *Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia* (35-003, \$7.10/\$71) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Jock Dobie (604-666-2671), Pacific Region, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3C9. ■

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns

December 1990

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,431 million for December 1990, a decrease of 3.2% from \$1,478 million reported for the same period a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.

The December 1990 issue of *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$6.10/\$61) will be available in three weeks. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact William Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services, Science and Technology Division. ■

Input-Output Tables

1986 and 1987

The Input-Output tables are published today in *The Input-Output Structure of the Canadian Economy, 1987* (15-201, \$60) which henceforth will include data both in current and constant prices. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information, contact Yusef Siddiqi (613-951-8909), Input-Output Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian Economic Observer, March 1991.
Catalogue number 11-010
(Canada: \$22.00/\$220.00; United States: US\$26.00/
US\$260.00; Other Countries: US\$31.00/US\$310.00).

The Input-Output Structure of the Canadian Economy, 1987.
Catalogue number 15-201
(Canada: \$60.00; United States: US\$72.00; Other Countries: US\$84.00).

Livestock Report, January 1, 1991.
Catalogue number 23-008
(Canada: \$16.50/\$66.00; United States: US\$19.75/
US\$79.00; Other Countries: US\$23.00/US\$92.00).

Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, February 1991.
Catalogue number 32-001
(Canada: \$2.70/\$27.00; United States: US\$3.20/
US\$32.00; Other Countries: US\$3.80/US\$38.00).

Oils and Fats, January 1991.
Catalogue number 32-006
(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/
US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Construction Type Plywood, January 1991.
Catalogue number 35-001
(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/
US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Particleboard, Waferboard and Fibreboard, January 1991.
Catalogue number 36-003
(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/
US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing, January 1991.
Catalogue number 41-011
(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/
US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Production and Shipments of Blow-moulded Plastic Bottles, Quarter Ended December 31, 1990.
Catalogue number 47-006
(Canada: \$6.75/\$27.00; United States: US\$8.00/
US\$32.00; Other Countries: US\$9.50/US\$38.00).

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics, October 1990.
Catalogue number 53-003
(Canada: \$7.10/\$71.00; United States: US\$8.50/
US\$85.00; Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99.00).

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, January 1991.
Catalogue number 65-001P
(Canada: \$10.00/\$100.00; United States: US\$12.00/
US\$120.00; Other Countries: US\$14.00/US\$140.00).

Touriscope - International Travel - Advance Information, January 1991.
Catalogue number 66-001P
(Canada: \$6.10/\$61.00; United States: US\$7.30/
US\$73.00; Other Countries: US\$8.50/US\$85.00).

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.

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