



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 2, 1991

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## MAJOR RELEASES

- Composite Leading Indicator, January 1991**  
 The decline in the leading indicator accelerated to 1.0% in January from 0.7% in December, the twelfth straight monthly drop. 2
- Retail Trade, January 1991**  
 Seasonally adjusted, retail sales decreased 7.6% in January. More than half of the decline resulted from the replacement of the Federal Sales Tax by the Goods and Services Tax. 4

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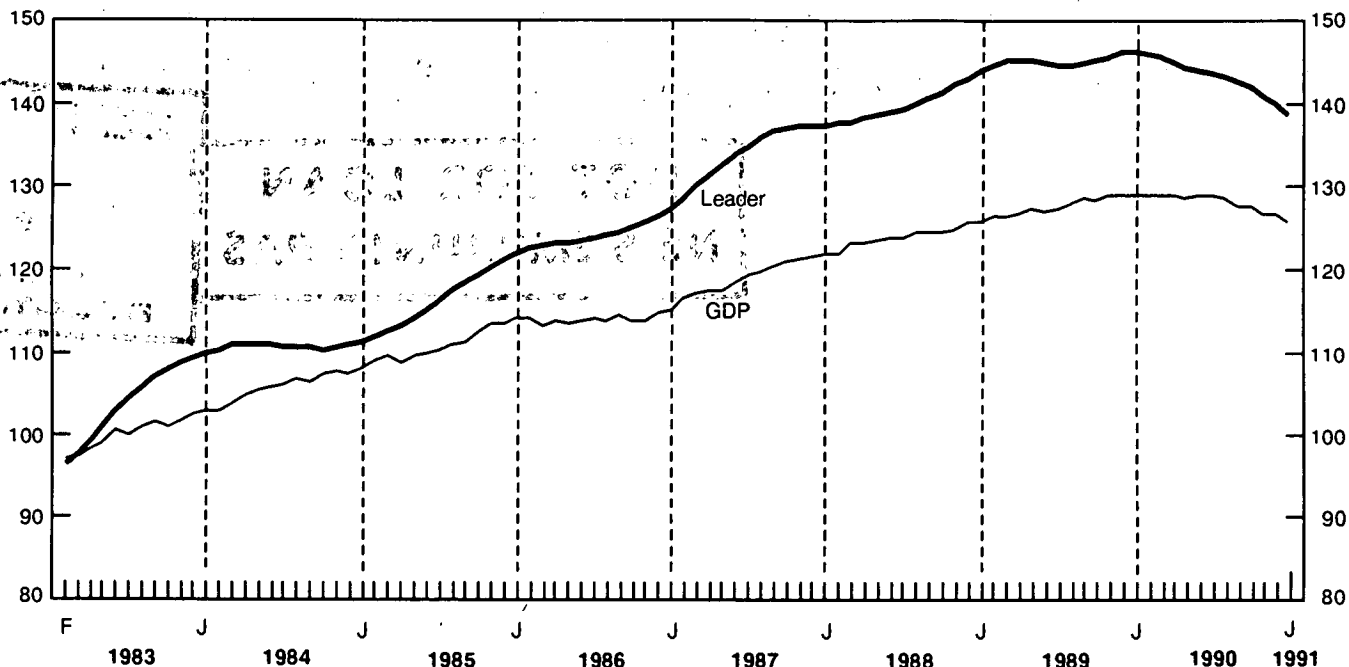
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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Composite Leading Indicator and GDP

1981 = 100



### Composite Leading Indicator

January 1991

The decline in the leading indicator accelerated to 1.0% in January from 0.7% in December. This was the twelfth straight monthly drop. All of the 10 components were down in January, including those spending components which firmed in December prior to the implementation of the Goods and Service Tax (GST). Demand for manufactured goods fell at a faster rate, partly due to pronounced weakness in domestic spending on housing and durable goods, while export demand remained sluggish. The unsmoothed version of the index recorded a 2.8% drop, comparable to the record decline of 3.1% posted at the worst point of the 1981-82 recession, although the effect of the GST probably overstated the underlying weakness of the economy in January.

The indicators of household demand registered sharp declines again after the GST took effect. The housing index fell from -2.6% in December to -3.8%, nearly matching the largest declines recorded last summer. Both housing starts and house sales fell sharply. These drops, together with sharply higher prices in January, led to the largest monthly drop in furniture and appliance sales since October 1981. The trend for sales of other durable goods remained negative as labour market conditions weakened. The rate of decline in services employment was steady at 0.5%.

The weakness in new orders for durable goods continued to gather speed in January, notably for autos and construction materials. The 3.2% drop was the largest in over 10 years. Shipments also continued to fall more rapidly than inventories, leading to another drop in the ratio of shipments to stocks of finished goods. The average workweek decreased 0.3% for the fourth straight month.

The Toronto Stock Exchange index fell steadily, while the real money supply was down marginally.

The rate of decline of the U.S. leading index eased from 0.8% in December to 0.7% in January. These rates of decline are slightly less than those recorded during the depths of the 1981-82 recession. The manufacturing indicators continued to lead the declines, notably in the auto industry where U.S. sales remained weak into March.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For further information on this release, or future release dates, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Analysis Section.

For more information on the economy, order the April issue of the *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220), available the week of April 15-19. See "How to Order Publications".

### Canadian Leading Indicators

	Percentage Change			Level	
	November	December	January	December	January
<b>Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)</b>					
Smoothed	-0.7	-0.7	-1.0	139.8	138.4
Unsmoothed	-1.4	0.2	-2.8	137.9	134.0
<b>Retail Trade</b>					
Furniture and appliance sales	-0.5	1.1	-1.8	1,050 <sup>4</sup>	1,031 <sup>4</sup>
Other durable goods	-1.1	-1.3	-0.9	3,589 <sup>4</sup>	3,558 <sup>4</sup>
House Spending Index <sup>1</sup>	-3.3	-2.6	-3.8	106.7	102.6
<b>Manufacturing</b>					
New orders - durable	-1.7	-2.5	-3.2	9,406 <sup>4</sup>	9,109 <sup>4</sup>
Shipments to inventory ratio (finished goods) <sup>2</sup>	0.00	-0.02	-0.01	1.42	1.41
Average workweek (hours)	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	38.0	37.9
Business and personal services employment (thousands)	-0.4	-0.5	-0.5	1,770	1,762
United States composite leading index (1967 = 100)	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7	189.9	188.5
TSE300 stock price index (1975 = 1000)	-2.3	-1.4	-0.6	3,211	3,193
Money supply (M1) (\$ 1981) <sup>3</sup>	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	23,946 <sup>4</sup>	23,913 <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.

## Retail Trade

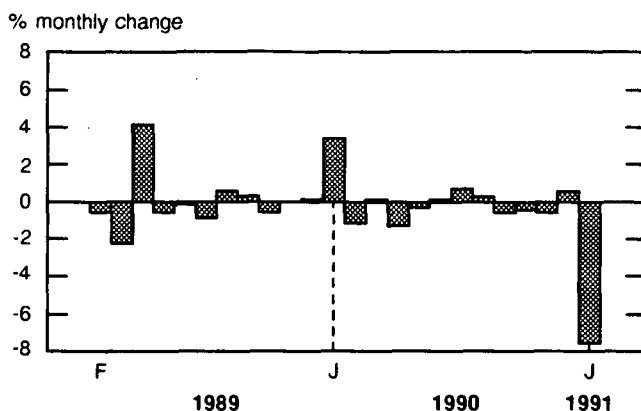
January 1991

### Highlights

#### Seasonally Adjusted Sales

- Preliminary estimates indicate that retail sales fell 7.6% in January to \$14.7 billion. Removing the effect of the change in indirect taxes, total retail sales declined about 3.5%.

#### Retail Sales, Canada, Seasonally Adjusted



- All trade groups, except drugs and patent medicine stores (1.2%), reported lower sales in January. The six trade groups related to apparel and furniture, appliances and furnishings reported unusually large declines in January following higher than average increases in December.
- In order of dollar impact, the overall decline was primarily due to decreases by household furniture and appliance stores (-35.5%), general merchandise stores (-11.9%) and motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers (-3.5%). Household furniture and appliance stores increased 15.6% in December and 0.1% in November. The decline by general merchandise stores follows a 3.8% rise in December while motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers' sales fell for the seventh consecutive month.

#### Note to Users: Changes to January Data

Retail sales estimates exclude the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Sales data prior to January 1991 include the Federal Sales Tax (FST). Due to this change in indirect taxes, data for 1991 are not strictly comparable with those of previous years. For users interested in deriving comparable data, an estimate of the amount of FST included in retail sales for 1990 is available for Canada. The reliability of this estimate does not permit adjustments at the provincial or trade group level. The changes noted in the release for individual trade groups and provinces should be used with caution as they are not adjusted for this change in indirect taxes.

- All provinces reported lower sales in January, ranging from -12.6% in Prince Edward Island to -4.8% in Manitoba. Together, the Yukon and Northwest Territories recorded a decline of -2.6%.

Revised monthly retail trade estimates by trade group for Canada and provincial/territorial totals are now available for 1981 to 1990. Data for 1990 will be in the January 1991 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005). Data for previous years are available on CANSIM or on request from the Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Quarterly estimates of retail trade by trade group for provinces and territories are also being released in the January issue of *Retail Trade*. Data for the period from the first quarter of 1989 to the fourth quarter of 1990 are available.

**Available on CANSIM:** matrices 2399 (seasonally adjusted), 2400 (not seasonally adjusted) and 2398 (department store type merchandise totals for the provinces and territories).

The January 1991 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the second week of April. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Lina DiPietro (613-951-3551) or Roger Laplante (613-951-3552), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

## Retail Sales, by Trade Group and by Region

January 1991

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted						
	Jan. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Jan. 1991 <sup>P</sup>	Jan. 1991/ Jan. 1990 <sup>*</sup>	Jan. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Oct. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Dec. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Jan. 1991 <sup>P</sup>	Jan. 1991/ Dec. 1990 <sup>*</sup>	Jan. 1991/ 1990 <sup>*</sup>
	millions of \$			%	millions of \$					%	%
<b>Canada</b>											
Supermarkets and grocery stores	3,229.9	3,789.4	3,362.0	4.1	3,498.2	3,572.0	3,565.7	3,553.7	3,531.0	-0.6	0.9
All other food stores	285.2	379.2	261.8	-8.2	337.5	317.3	316.7	311.1	299.0	-3.9	-11.4
Drug and patent medicine stores	704.1	918.6	721.8	2.5	730.0	765.6	751.4	729.8	738.3	1.2	1.1
Shoe stores	122.6	217.2	94.0	-23.3	164.4	145.7	144.9	161.5	124.1	-23.2	-24.5
Men's clothing stores	124.1	346.4	96.0	-22.7	172.2	170.8	169.4	177.1	129.6	-26.8	-24.7
Women's clothing stores	268.5	507.2	199.9	-25.6	354.0	316.2	315.7	334.9	256.8	-23.3	-27.5
Other clothing stores	244.9	588.8	222.5	-9.1	324.2	332.9	334.3	350.1	291.3	-16.8	-10.1
Household furniture and appliance stores	665.1	1,072.6	465.4	-30.0	740.0	693.1	693.7	802.1	517.6	-35.5	-30.1
Household furnishings stores	174.4	275.3	116.6	-33.1	223.3	204.8	200.8	222.4	148.2	-33.4	-33.7
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	2,945.1	2,434.9	2,312.4	-21.5	3,786.8	3,248.0	3,212.8	3,108.7	2,999.2	-3.5	-20.8
Gasoline service stations	1,087.7	1,354.5	1,217.1	11.9	1,206.4	1,378.8	1,373.6	1,348.8	1,340.0	-0.7	11.1
Automotive parts, accessories and services	863.9	1,069.4	787.7	-8.8	1,044.3	1,017.4	1,026.5	1,010.4	945.0	-6.5	-9.5
General merchandise stores	1,257.4	3,105.3	1,194.3	-5.0	1,759.9	1,803.9	1,796.2	1,864.1	1,642.5	-11.9	-6.7
Other semi-durable goods stores	422.0	883.6	363.9	-13.8	584.8	568.4	561.1	565.7	503.3	-11.0	-13.9
Other durable goods stores	349.5	903.5	294.9	-15.6	457.0	459.9	448.4	460.1	382.0	-17.0	-16.4
All other retail stores	624.3	1,323.9	576.0	-7.7	892.8	873.8	874.3	865.2	806.2	-6.8	-9.7
<b>Total, all stores</b>	<b>13,368.9</b>	<b>19,169.9</b>	<b>12,286.0</b>	<b>-8.1</b>	<b>16,275.9</b>	<b>15,868.5</b>	<b>15,785.5</b>	<b>15,865.8</b>	<b>14,654.1</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>-10.0</b>
<b>Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>10,423.7</b>	<b>16,734.9</b>	<b>9,973.7</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>12,489.1</b>	<b>12,620.6</b>	<b>12,572.6</b>	<b>12,757.1</b>	<b>11,654.9</b>	<b>-8.6</b>	<b>-6.7</b>
Department store type merchandise	4,332.7	8,818.5	3,769.2	-13.0	5,509.9	5,461.2	5,415.8	5,668.1	4,733.7	-16.5	-14.1
<b>Regions</b>											
Newfoundland	223.8	363.9	223.2	-0.3	286.2	295.6	301.8	298.0	281.1	-5.7	-1.8
Prince Edward Island	51.9	81.8	47.3	-8.8	66.7	65.0	68.2	68.8	60.2	-12.6	-9.9
Nova Scotia	408.9	642.6	392.0	-4.1	503.7	508.7	515.4	523.3	473.7	-9.5	-6.0
New Brunswick	324.0	496.3	317.7	-1.9	400.9	407.7	417.1	413.0	390.0	-5.6	-2.7
Quebec	3,238.9	4,461.3	2,916.3	-10.0	4,036.6	3,955.8	3,934.7	3,958.9	3,565.7	-9.9	-11.7
Ontario	5,071.5	7,361.5	4,572.5	-9.8	6,108.0	5,860.6	5,835.7	5,951.8	5,436.6	-8.7	-11.0
Manitoba	456.8	668.9	440.7	-3.5	552.2	542.6	547.2	553.0	526.4	-4.8	-4.7
Saskatchewan	400.0	555.3	371.8	-7.0	476.5	469.3	474.3	469.7	438.4	-6.7	-8.0
Alberta	1,396.1	2,019.5	1,335.4	-4.3	1,655.4	1,657.5	1,638.1	1,672.1	1,562.6	-6.5	-5.6
British Columbia	1,757.6	2,462.7	1,632.8	-7.1	2,064.1	2,043.3	2,010.0	2,033.8	1,892.6	-6.9	-8.3
Yukon and Northwest Territories	39.4	56.2	36.4	-7.7	49.3	46.8	48.7	46.4	45.2	-2.6	-8.4
Yukon	12.9	17.4	11.4	-11.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northwest Territories	26.5	38.8	24.9	-5.8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

<sup>r</sup> Revised.<sup>P</sup> Preliminary.<sup>\*</sup> Percentage changes contained in this table are not adjusted for the change in indirect taxes. Caution should be exercised in their use.

.. Figures not available.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **Agriculture Production Accounts (Value-added) 1981-1989**

Production (Value-Added) Accounts for the Canadian agriculture sector are now available by province from 1981 to 1989.

While other accounts measure the income position of the agriculture industry, the production accounts are intended to provide a better indicator of the flow of income to the agriculture sector. The accounts display the value of production by source, allocation, and distribution.

Sources of value added are divided between sales of agricultural products, sales of non-agricultural products, income from other sources, and own-account production (which consists of income-in-kind plus value of inventory change).

Allocation of value of production includes product expenses, taxes and depreciation, and net value added.

Distribution of net value added consists of non-family wages, rent to non-operators, interest, corporation profits, and unincorporated operator family returns.

Net value added represents incomes earned by factors used in agricultural production. It is derived by totalling sources of income and subtracting product expenses, property taxes, and depreciation.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3380-3390.**

*Agriculture Economic Statistics - Supplement 1* (21-603E, series 91-001, \$21/\$42) will be released in June. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Darwin Donison (613-951-2441) or Mark Elward (613-951-2445), Agriculture Division. ■

### **Asphalt Roofing**

February 1991

Shipments of asphalt shingles totalled 1 162 359 metric bundles in February 1991, a decrease of 43.1% from the 2 042 772<sup>r</sup> (revised) bundles shipped a year earlier.

January-to-February 1991 shipments were 2 527 083 bundles, down 41.0% from 4 280 444 bundles shipped during the same period in 1990.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27 to 28).**

The February 1991 issue of *Asphalt Roofing* (45-001, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division. ■

### **Gypsum Products**

February 1991

Manufacturers shipped 12 778 thousand square metres of plain gypsum wallboard in February 1991, down 37.6% from the 20 473 thousand square metres shipped in February 1990, and down 7.2% from the 13 772 thousand square metres shipped in January 1991.

Year-to-date shipments were 26 550 thousand square metres, a decrease of 36.8% from the January-to-February 1990 period.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 39 and 122 (series 11).**

The February 1991 issue of *Gypsum Products* (44-003, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies (Excluding Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island),** January 1991.

**Catalogue number 35-002**

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

**Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia,** January 1991.

**Catalogue number 35-003**

(Canada: \$7.10/\$71.00; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85.00; Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99.00).

**Industry Price Indexes, January 1991.**  
**Catalogue number 62-011**

(Canada: \$18.20/\$182.00; United States: US\$21.80/US\$218.00; Other Countries: US\$25.50/US\$255.00).

**Touriscope - International Travel - National and Provincial Counts, October - December 1990.**

**Catalogue number 66-001**

(Canada: \$38.50/\$154.00; United States: US\$46.25/US\$185.00; Other Countries: US\$54.00/US\$216.00).

**Public Libraries, 1988-89.**

**Catalogue number 87-205**

(Canada: \$30.00; United States: US\$36.00; Other Countries: US\$42.00).

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# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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<b>Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry</b>	January 1991	March 28, 1991
<b>Refined Petroleum Products, Sales</b>	January 1991	March 1, 1991
<b>Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns</b>	December 1990	March 20, 1991
<b>Rigid Insulating Board</b>	January 1991	March 4, 1991
	February 1991	March 22, 1991
<b>Sawmills East of the Rockies</b>	January 1991	March 22, 1991
<b>Sawmills in British Columbia</b>	January 1991	March 20, 1991
<b>Science and Technology, Indicators</b>	1989	March 22, 1991
<b>Selected Financial Indexes</b>	January 1991	March 1, 1991
	February 1991	March 26, 1991
<b>Shipping in Canada</b>	1989	March 12, 1991
<b>Short-term Expectations Survey</b>	February 1991	March 6, 1991
<b>Soft Drinks</b>	February 1991	March 14, 1991
<b>Sound Recording Survey</b>	1989-90	March 26, 1991
<b>StatCan: 1991 CANSIM Disc</b>	1991	March 14, 1991
<b>Statistics Canada Annual Report</b>	1989-90	March 13, 1991
<b>Steel Pipe and Tubing</b>	January 1991	March 11, 1991
<b>Steel Price Indexes, Fabricated Structural</b>	Fourth Quarter 1990	March 1, 1991
<b>Steel Primary Forms</b>	Week Ending March 2, 1991	March 11, 1991
	Week Ending March 9, 1991	March 14, 1991
	Week Ending March 16, 1991	March 21, 1991
	Week Ending March 23, 1991	March 28, 1991
	January 1991	March 13, 1991
<b>Steel, Shipments of Rolled</b>	January 1991	March 18, 1991
<b>Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products</b>	January 1991	March 11, 1991
<b>Sugar Sales</b>	February 1991	March 8, 1991
<b>Surface and Marine Transport Service</b>	1989	March 14, 1991
<b>Telecommunications Statistics</b>	Fourth Quarter 1990	March 5, 1991
<b>Telephone Statistics</b>	January 1991	March 25, 1991
<b>Tobacco Products</b>	February 1991	March 19, 1991

# **Index to Data Releases, March 1991**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Reference Period</b>	<b>Release Date</b>
<b>Transactions in Securities, Canada's International</b>	January 1991	March 25, 1991
<b>Travel Between Canada and Other Countries</b>	January 1991	March 13, 1991
<b>Trusteed Pension Funds</b>	Third Quarter 1990	March 13, 1991
<b>Unemployment Insurance Statistics</b>	January 1991	March 27, 1991
<b>Vending Machine Operators</b>	1989	March 14, 1991
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	January 1991	March 28, 1991

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