

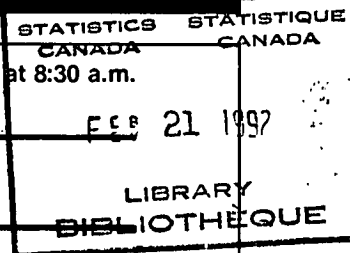


# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, February 21, 1992

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**NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS**



## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer Price Index, January 1992**  
In January, the CPI year-to-year increase was 1.6%, down from the 3.8% increase reported in December.
- **Retail Trade, December 1991**  
Seasonally adjusted, total retail sales fell 0.5% in December, 1.3% in the fourth quarter and approximately 2.2% annually (after removing the federal sales tax from the 1990 data).
- **Construction Union Wage Rate Index, January 1992**  
The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index (1986 = 100) for construction trades rose by 0.1% from December's revised level of 127.2.

(Continued on page 2)



### Travel-log: Canada's Major Overseas Tourism Markets Winter 1992

The Winter issue of *Travel-log*, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter is now available.

This issue features a review of Canada's major overseas tourism markets to the end of 1991.

#### Highlights

- Traditional tourism markets have slowed, while new ones have emerged at rapid rates.
- When it comes to tourism spending in Canada, the Japanese are the leaders.
- More overseas residents are entering Canada via the United States than directly from overseas countries.
- Summer travel is popular, but winter travel is growing in popularity.

The Winter 1992 issue of *Travel-log: Canada's Major Overseas Tourism Markets* (87-003, \$10.50/\$42) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Lise Beaulieu-Caron (613-951-1673), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.



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Canada

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## MAJOR RELEASES – Concluded

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- **Resource and Caseload Statistics for Legal Aid in Canada, 1990-91** 14  
Canada's legal aid plans spent \$412.1 million in 1990-91. Between 1989-1991, total spending increased by 14% on a constant dollar basis.
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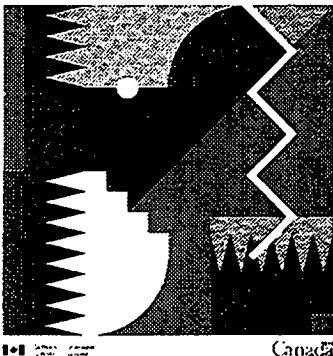
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 **Statistics Canada**  
**Annual Report**  
**1990-91**



### Statistics Canada Annual Report 1990-91

Statistics Canada has released its 1990-91 *Annual Report*, tabled in the House of Commons on February 21, 1992.

The report highlights the many Agency projects completed in the year. For example, new measures on the productivity of Canadian industries and on prices were developed. As well, important surveys, such as the Retail Commodity Survey, were redesigned and three new surveys on health were conducted.

The report also features its traditional highlights of the year, with a full complement of photos, charts, and information on the various elements of Statistics Canada.

The 1990-91 *Annual Report* (11-201) is available free of charge. See "How to Order Publications".

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Consumer Price Index

January 1992

#### National Highlights

##### All-items

January 1992 marked the first month when the effects of the change from FST to GST and the tax changes in Quebec were no longer a factor in explaining the large year-over-year increases recorded from January to June 1991 and the somewhat more moderate increases from July to December. Between January 1991 and January 1992, the year-over-year increase in the CPI was 1.6%, down from the 3.8% December rise and continuing a downward trend that became evident in the latter part of 1991.

On a month-to-month basis, the All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Canada (1986=100) increased 0.5% between December 1991 and January 1992 to a level of 127.0. The latest change followed a decline of 0.5% registered in December. In January, six of the major component indexes posted increases ranging from 0.3% in the Housing index to 0.8% in the Food index and 0.9% in the Transportation index. At the same time the index for Recreation, Reading and Education fell 1.1%.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the All-items index moved up by 0.1% in January 1992 compared to no change in December and a rise of 0.2% in November 1991.

The compound annual rate of increase, based on the seasonally adjusted index levels over the latest three-month period, after no change in December, rose 1.3% in January as a result of a low October level.

##### Food

The food index, which weakened noticeably in the latter half of 1991, rose 0.8% in January. The latest change resulted from increases of 1.2% and 0.3% in the indexes for Food Purchased from Stores and Food Purchased from Restaurants, respectively.

A large part of the 1.2% rise in the index for Food Purchased from Stores resulted from higher prices for fresh produce, which rose mainly because of greater dependence on imported sources, reflecting normal changes in seasonal supplies. The Fresh Vegetables index rose as a result of price increases for tomatoes and cucumbers, offset partially by declines in lettuce prices. Some fresh fruit prices, especially for apples

and bananas, rose while those for oranges fell. Some additional pressures resulted from higher prices for chicken, turkey and carbonated beverages. Some moderate offsetting effects were associated with lower prices for beef and selected bakery products.

Over the 12-month period of January 1991 to January 1992, the Food index declined 1.0%, the result of a drop of 2.5% in Food Purchased from Stores and an increase of 2.4% for Food Purchased from Restaurants. The latest drop in the Food Purchased from Stores index marked the fourth month in a row in which annual declines were registered. The moderate rise in the Restaurants component contrasts with its annual rise of 10.9% for the past year, as a result of the sharp rise observed in January 1991 following the introduction of the GST.

##### All-items Excluding Food

On a month-to-month basis, the all-items excluding Food index climbed by 0.4% in January following a drop of 0.4% in December. Advances in Transportation (0.9%), Housing (0.3%) and in Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages (0.8%) accounted for most of the latest increase. Some proportion of the overall rise was moderated by a decline of 1.1% in the Recreation, Reading and Education index.

A major part of the 0.9% rise in the Transportation index was due to higher prices for gasoline (3.1%) and to increases in automobile insurance premiums (3.6%). After three months of continuous price declines, the latest rise in gasoline prices was due to tax increases in Ontario (1.7 cents per litre), Quebec (0.5 cents per litre) and British Columbia (0.94 cents per litre) and to the end of "price-wars" in Saskatchewan. Automobile insurance premiums rose mainly in the provinces of Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. Smaller upward effects on the Transportation index came with a rise in automobile registration fees (Newfoundland, Quebec and British Columbia) and an increase in renewal charges for drivers' permits in New Brunswick. Bus fares for travelling within the city were adjusted upwards in Quebec as a result of smaller subsidies from the provincial government. Smaller fare increases were also observed in other provinces due to increased operating costs. A drop in automobile prices and in air fares partly offset the increases noted above. The former resulted from greater manufacturers' rebates, mostly on North American models, and the latter from seasonally lower ticket prices to selected southern and European destinations.

The Housing index rose 0.3% in January following a decline of 0.2% in December. Most of the increase in the latest month was associated with a 4.0% average rise in electricity rates, a large part of which occurred in Ontario. Water rates rose across Canada by an average of 5.5%. Higher natural gas prices were reported mostly in the Prairies and British Columbia. Smaller upward pressures also resulted from higher postal rates, higher prices of selected paper products and household textiles, and from increased rental accommodation charges. The overall increase was dampened by a drop in mortgage interest costs and in prices of new homes, fuel oil, detergent and soap.

Much of the 0.8% increase in the Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages index was caused by a 1.2% rise in cigarette prices, due largely to a rise of taxes in Quebec (from 5.76 cents to 6.88 cents per cigarette). The Alcoholic Beverages index rose 0.4% in reaction to tax increases in Quebec, increased beer prices in Alberta, and to higher wine prices in Nova Scotia.

The rise of 0.4% in the Clothing index and 0.5% in the Health and Personal Care index contributed moderately to the overall rise in the All-items excluding Food index. The Clothing index was influenced mainly by higher prices for Men's Wear, up 2.0% on average, as the Women's Wear index fell by

0.4%. In the Men's Wear category, higher prices were observed for suits, dress shirts, sweaters and footwear because of a return to regular prices. In the Health and Personal Care index, most of the increase resulted from a 1.0% rise in the prices of several types of personal care supplies. Prices of prescribed medicines rose 0.8%, largely due to increases reported in Quebec and Manitoba.

The drop of 1.1% in the Recreation, Reading and Education index resulted from lower quotations on packaged holiday tours in January compared to their levels in March 1991, when these same packages were last surveyed. January is considered a low season for travel to most southern holiday destinations. The decline was slowed to a small extent by a 5.1% average rise in cablevision charges.

Over the 12-month period of January 1991 to January 1992, the All-items excluding Food index increased by 2.1%, down from the 4.1% advance observed the month before.

#### All-items excluding Food and Energy

In January, the All-items excluding Food and Energy index rose 0.2%, in contrast to a decline of 0.3% in December. Over the 12-month period of January 1991 to January 1992, the index increased 2.9%, down sharply from the 5.0% advance noted in December.

#### The Consumer Price Index and Major Components (Not Seasonally Adjusted), Canada (1986 = 100)

	Indexes			Percentage change January 1992 from	
	January 1992	December 1991	January 1991	December 1991	January 1991
<b>All-items</b>	<b>127.0</b>	<b>126.4</b>	<b>125.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Food	119.7	118.7	120.9	0.8	-1.0
Housing	125.9	125.5	124.0	0.3	1.5
Clothing	127.6	127.1	124.4	0.4	2.6
Transportation	120.4	119.3	122.6	0.9	-1.8
Health and personal care	129.4	128.8	127.6	0.5	1.4
Recreation, reading and education	130.6	132.1	128.0	-1.1	2.0
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	166.6	165.2	143.9	0.8	15.8
All-items excluding food	128.6	128.1	126.0	0.4	2.1
All-items excluding food and energy	129.1	128.9	125.5	0.2	2.9
Goods	123.0	122.0	122.2	0.8	0.7
Services	131.8	131.6	128.5	0.2	2.6
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1986	78.7	79.1	80.0		
All-items (1981 = 100)	168.1				

## Goods and Services

The Goods index climbed by 0.8% in January compared to a decline of 0.8% reported in December. Much of the latest increase resulted from an advance of 1.4% in the Non-Durable Goods index (largely due to higher prices for food and energy components). The Semi-Durable Goods index rose 0.4%, while the dampening impact resulted from a decline of 0.4% in the Durable Goods index. In the past year, the Durable Goods index has fallen eight times. The Services index rose 0.2% in January, also following a decline of 0.2% in December. Between January 1991 and January 1992, the Goods Index registered an increase of 0.7% and the Services index a rise of 2.6%. These followed increases of 2.7% and 5.0% observed in the Goods and in the Services index, respectively, between December 1990 and December 1991.

## City Highlights

Between December 1991 and January 1992, changes in the All-items indexes for cities for which CPIs are published varied from a decline of 0.2% in Saint John to an increase of 1.1% in Vancouver. In Saint John, significant declines were reported in the indexes for Clothing, Transportation and Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages. In Vancouver, noticeably higher than average increases were noted in the indexes for Transportation and Food. Between January 1991 and January 1992, changes in city CPIs ranged from no change in Saskatoon to 2.6% in Montreal.

## Main Contributors to Monthly Changes in the All-items Index, By City

### St. John's

The All-items index rose 0.5% with most of the upward impact originating in the Food and Housing components. Within Food, higher prices were recorded for chicken, fresh fruit, beef, bakery products, dairy products and pork. The rise in the Housing index reflected increased charges for electricity, homeowners' maintenance and repairs and household textiles. Charges for basic telephone services advanced (long-distance charges declined) as did postal rates. Further upward pressure resulted from price increases for personal care supplies, cablevision services and newspapers. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 0.8%.

### Charlottetown/Summerside

The All-items index fell by a marginal 0.1%. Lower clothing prices were mainly responsible for the decline. A fall in the Transportation index also contributed a notable downward impact, and was largely due to lower prices for new cars and decreased air fares offset, partly, by an increase in gasoline prices. The Housing index fell slightly, reflecting decreased charges for long-distance telephone calls, electricity and owned accommodation. Considerable upward pressure was exerted by a rise in the Food index, due mainly to higher prices for fresh produce, soft drinks, prepared meats and chicken. Advances in cablevision charges and newspaper prices also had a notable upward influence. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 0.8%.

### Halifax

The All-items index remained unchanged overall, as advances in four of the major component indexes were offset by declines in the remaining three. Higher food prices, particularly for fresh produce, soft drinks, poultry, dairy products and eggs exerted the greatest upward impact. The Housing index advanced slightly, reflecting increased charges for postage, basic telephone services, child care and household textiles. Further upward pressure resulted from increased charges for cablevision services and from higher prices for alcoholic beverages. Offsetting these advances were lower prices for clothing, automotive vehicles, air fares and personal care supplies. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 0.3%.

### Saint John

Lower transportation charges, reflecting declines in automotive vehicle prices, vehicle registration fees, taxi fares and air fares, were among the main contributors to the 0.2% fall in the All-items index. Lower clothing prices also exerted a major downward influence. Moderating these declines were higher overall food prices (particularly for fresh produce, restaurant meals and soft drinks) and increased housing charges. The rise in the latter was due to increased charges for owned accommodation, water, postal services and household furnishings. Cablevision charges were up as well. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 0.9%.

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### Quebec City

Increased transportation charges, reflecting advances in gasoline prices, vehicle registration fees, and local bus fares, accounted for a large part of the 0.9% rise in the All-items index. Higher food prices, particularly for fresh produce, exerted a notable upward impact, as did increased prices for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages (tax increase). Higher clothing prices were recorded as well. The Housing index rose marginally, while price declines for packaged holiday trips had a slight moderating effect. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 2.3%.

### Montreal

The All-items index rose 0.8%. A rise in the Transportation index, reflecting advances in gasoline prices, vehicle registration fees, local bus fares, and new car prices, had a major upward impact. Further upward pressure came from price increases for cigarettes and alcoholic beverages, due to tax increases. Higher overall food prices were recorded, particularly for fresh produce. Clothing prices also advanced, while charges for packaged holiday trips declined. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 2.6%.

### Ottawa

The 0.3% rise in the All-items index reflected advances in five of the seven major component indexes. The greatest upward impact originated in the Housing index, resulting from increased electricity charges. Advances in rented and owned accommodation charges, increased postage rates and higher prices for household furnishings were also noted. Price increases for clothing, food and personal care supplies added further upward pressure. The Transportation index also advanced, reflecting higher prices for gasoline (tax increase) and increased fares for both local and inter-city bus travel. Lower prices for packaged holiday trips and cigarettes had a moderating effect. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.7%.

### Toronto

The All-items index rose by a marginal 0.1%. Increased charges for electricity, water and postage were recorded, along with higher overall food prices, particularly for soft drinks, fresh produce and turkey. Price increases for men's and boys' wear and increased charges for personal care supplies also exerted a considerable upward influence. Price

declines for packaged holiday trips had a notable moderating effect, as did a fall in the Transportation index. The latter reflected declines in automotive vehicle prices, vehicle insurance premiums and air fares, offset partly by higher prices for gasoline (tax increase) and increased fares for local transit. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.0%.

### Thunder Bay

Higher overall food prices, most notably for fresh vegetables, restaurant meals, soft drinks and pork, and increased charges for electricity accounted for a large part of the 0.6% rise in the All-items index. Other notable price increases were recorded for men's and women's wear, household furnishings, postage and cablevision services. A fall in the Transportation index had a notable dampening effect, and resulted from declines in new car prices and air fares, which were only partly offset by advances in gasoline prices (tax increase) and inter-city bus fares. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 2.1%.

### Winnipeg

No overall change was recorded in the All-items index, as advances in four of the major component indexes were offset by declines in the remaining three. Higher prices for men's and women's wear, and increased charges for basic telephone services, water, natural gas and postage were the major sources of upward pressure. Higher overall food prices were observed, along with increased prices for personal care supplies and prescribed medicines. Offsetting these advances were lower transportation charges, most notably for gasoline, automotive vehicles, inter-city bus fares and air fares. Lower prices for packaged holiday trips also exerted a major downward effect. Cigarette prices declined as well. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.1%.

### Regina

The 0.3% rise in the All-items index reflected higher overall food prices (most notably for fresh produce, soft drinks and restaurant meals), increased transportation charges, and higher prices for men's and women's wear. The rise in Transportation was mainly due to higher gasoline prices (end of "price wars"), offset partially by lower prices for automotive vehicles. Other notable price increases were observed for medicinal and pharmaceutical products, personal care supplies, recreational equipment,

cablevision services and newspapers. The Housing index fell slightly, as decreased charges for owned accommodation and household furnishings more than offset increased charges for water and postal services. Charges for packaged holiday trips declined as well. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.0%.

### **Saskatoon**

The 0.1% rise in the All-items index was largely due to higher prices for men's and women's wear, personal care supplies, food (notably fresh vegetables, soft drinks and cereal products) and cigarettes. Price increases for cablevision services and newspapers were also recorded, but were offset by lower prices for packaged holiday trips. The Transportation index fell overall, as lower prices for automotive vehicles more than offset advances in gasoline prices and local transit fares. The Housing index declined slightly, reflecting decreased owned accommodation charges and lower prices for household furnishings. The All-items index stood at the same level that it was in January 1991.

### **Edmonton**

Higher food prices, most notably for fresh vegetables and soft drinks, and increased transportation costs, particularly for gasoline, vehicle insurance, and local and inter-city bus fares, explained a large part of the 0.6% rise in the All-items index. Increased charges for piped gas, water, postage and household furnishings were also recorded. Further price increases were registered for personal care supplies, medicinal and pharmaceutical products, cablevision services and beer purchased from stores. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.2%.

### **Calgary**

Advances in the Housing and Food indexes were mainly responsible for the 0.2% rise in the All-items index. Within Housing, increased charges for piped gas, water, and postal services were observed. The rise in the Food index was largely due to higher prices for fresh vegetables, soft drinks, dairy products, cured and prepared meats, turkey and pork. Price increases for personal care supplies, cablevision services and beer purchased from stores were recorded as well. A decline in the Transportation index had a strong moderating effect, as lower prices for gasoline, automotive vehicles and air travel were noted. Prices for packaged holiday trips and

cigarettes also declined. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.0%.

### **Vancouver**

A sharp rise in the Transportation index explained most of the 1.1% rise in the All-items index. Higher premiums for vehicle insurance and a rise in gasoline prices accounted for most of this advance. Higher food prices, most notably for fresh vegetables, restaurant meals, soft drinks, poultry and dairy products also contributed a considerable upward influence. Further upward pressure was exerted by the Housing index, and reflected increased charges for piped gas, water, electricity and postage. Prices for clothing and packaged holiday trips declined. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 2.0%.

### **Victoria**

Higher transportation charges, most notably for vehicle insurance premiums and registration fees, and increased food prices, particularly for fresh produce, soft drinks and poultry, explained most of the 0.6% rise in the All-items index. The Housing index remained unchanged as increased charges for rent, electricity and postage were offset by decreased charges for owned accommodation. The overall advance was moderated by price declines for clothing and packaged holiday trips. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.3%.

### **Whitehorse**

No overall change was recorded in the All-items index, as a number of offsetting price movements took place. Among those factors contributing an upward impact were higher shelter charges, particularly for water, rented accommodation and fuel oil, and increased prices for postage and household textiles. A rise in the Food index, reflecting higher prices for soft drinks, dairy products, restaurant meals, fresh fruit, sugar and eggs, also had a notable upward impact. Offsetting these advances were lower prices for clothing, automotive vehicles and packaged holiday trips. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.3%.

### **Yellowknife**

Increased housing charges, most notably for electricity, household textiles, rented accommodation and postage, accounted for a large part of the 0.3% rise in the All-items index. Higher prices for clothing,

personal care supplies and food (the latter reflecting price increases for fresh fruit, dairy products, restaurant meals, poultry and cured meats) also exerted a considerable upward impact. The Transportation index fell, as lower prices for new cars more than offset price increases for gasoline and drivers' licences. Charges for packaged holiday trips declined as well. Since January 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.7%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2201-2230.

The January 1992 issue of *Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$9.30/\$93) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

### Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.<sup>1</sup>

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and Personal care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
<b>St. John's</b>								
January 1992 index	120.6	113.6	117.8	125.5	116.3	126.3	129.3	139.9
% change from December 1991	0.5	1.7	0.5	-0.6	-0.1	0.7	0.3	-0.1
% change from January 1991	0.8	-3.2	0.3	6.2	-3.7	2.4	2.3	12.6
<b>Charlottetown/Summerside</b>								
January 1992 index	125.7	123.3	119.8	117.8	116.7	132.4	131.0	186.6
% change from December 1991	-0.1	1.1	-0.1	-3.5	-0.5	-0.2	1.1	0.1
% change from January 1991	0.8	-0.1	-0.6	-0.8	-3.2	1.5	2.2	18.0
<b>Halifax</b>								
January 1992 index	125.2	128.5	119.3	120.9	116.8	126.7	127.1	172.3
% change from December 1991	0.0	1.4	0.1	-3.5	-0.4	-0.3	0.2	0.3
% change from January 1991	0.3	-0.7	-0.3	1.2	-3.3	-0.5	2.7	9.5
<b>Saint John</b>								
January 1992 index	124.6	122.7	120.3	121.6	117.5	126.6	125.4	181.4
% change from December 1991	-0.2	0.8	0.4	-3.2	-1.3	0.0	0.3	-0.4
% change from January 1991	0.9	-0.7	0.2	1.5	-2.7	0.6	1.1	17.7
<b>Quebec City</b>								
January 1992 index	126.5	117.2	125.9	133.2	116.2	130.0	132.5	166.4
% change from December 1991	0.9	1.2	0.2	1.0	3.1	0.0	-1.6	3.0
% change from January 1991	2.3	-0.8	2.1	2.9	-1.1	1.3	4.9	17.1
<b>Montreal</b>								
January 1992 index	128.5	119.5	128.5	133.3	117.8	130.5	135.9	170.6
% change from December 1991	0.8	1.2	0.1	1.1	2.0	0.5	-1.7	3.3
% change from January 1991	2.6	-1.0	2.2	3.0	-1.1	1.7	5.1	19.6
<b>Ottawa</b>								
January 1992 index	126.7	118.4	125.7	127.6	122.2	134.3	130.7	161.8
% change from December 1991	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.2	1.2	-1.4	-0.3
% change from January 1991	1.7	-0.5	2.0	2.7	-1.4	1.7	1.8	14.3
<b>Toronto</b>								
January 1992 index	128.7	120.6	130.3	127.2	121.5	134.1	131.4	161.4
% change from December 1991	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.9	-0.5	0.4	-1.6	-0.1
% change from January 1991	1.0	-2.7	0.9	1.9	-1.0	2.1	1.6	15.6



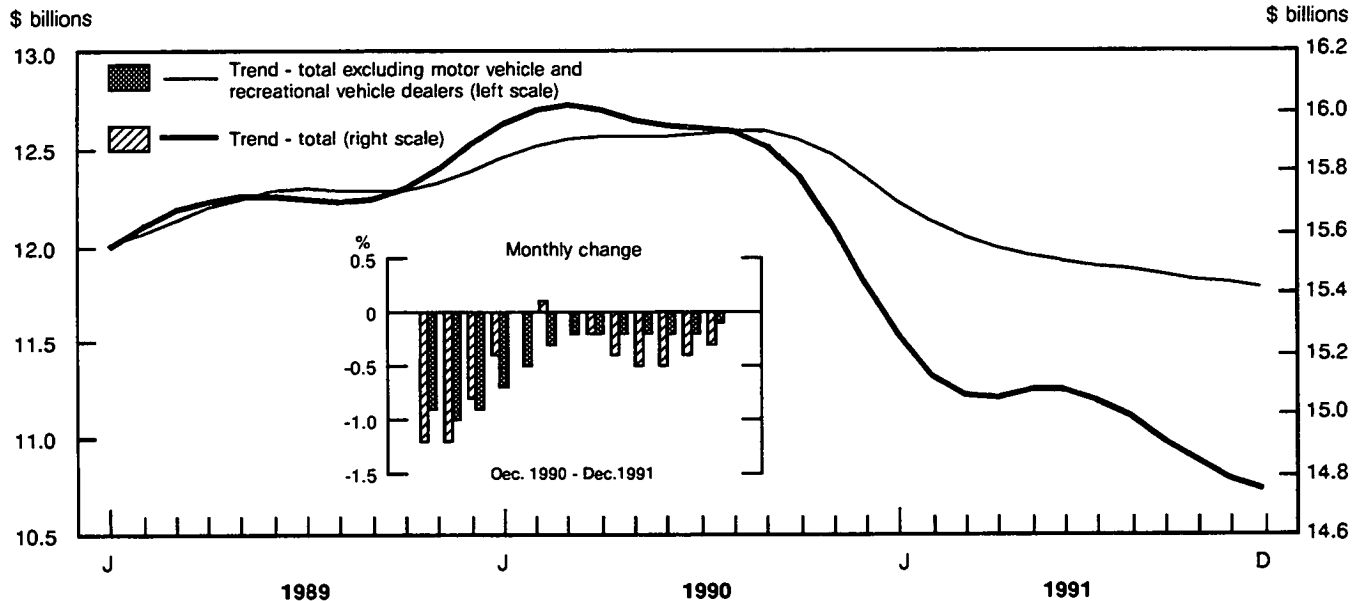
# Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres – Concluded

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.<sup>1</sup>

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and Personal care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
<b>Thunder Bay</b>								
January 1992 index	125.8	118.4	123.4	128.3	121.6	125.0	129.2	170.3
% change from December 1991	0.6	2.0	0.9	2.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.9	-0.1
% change from January 1991	2.1	0.8	2.6	3.8	-2.8	0.9	1.6	17.8
<b>Winnipeg</b>								
January 1992 index	125.7	122.7	123.5	128.1	118.8	128.2	129.5	161.3
% change from December 1991	0.0	0.4	0.4	2.2	-1.5	0.6	-1.4	-0.2
% change from January 1991	1.1	-0.2	3.2	3.6	-5.4	0.8	0.8	10.9
<b>Regina</b>								
January 1992 index	125.3	125.1	117.3	126.6	125.1	139.4	128.9	159.6
% change from December 1991	0.3	0.8	-0.1	1.0	0.7	0.3	-0.4	-0.1
% change from January 1991	1.0	-0.2	0.9	3.5	-2.6	0.4	2.1	12.2
<b>Saskatoon</b>								
January 1992 index	124.5	124.3	118.0	125.6	119.8	150.7	126.9	150.3
% change from December 1991	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.9	-0.3	0.8	-0.2	0.3
% change from January 1991	0.0	-0.5	0.3	3.5	-6.6	0.8	1.2	9.3
<b>Edmonton</b>								
January 1992 index	125.4	119.2	122.0	124.9	119.5	127.8	130.3	177.9
% change from December 1991	0.6	1.6	0.4	-0.2	0.8	1.3	-0.5	0.3
% change from January 1991	1.2	-0.4	2.3	3.1	-4.6	3.5	1.8	15.4
<b>Calgary</b>								
January 1992 index	125.2	120.3	121.7	126.1	116.2	124.9	129.9	176.7
% change from December 1991	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.0	-1.3	0.7	-0.2	-0.2
% change from January 1991	1.0	0.4	1.9	3.0	-5.3	-0.5	1.6	12.9
<b>Vancouver</b>								
January 1992 index	125.4	124.2	119.4	121.9	129.0	123.0	129.1	155.6
% change from December 1991	1.1	1.2	0.2	-0.9	5.0	0.0	-0.2	0.3
% change from January 1991	2.0	1.6	0.8	3.4	0.7	1.2	1.8	11.0
<b>Victoria</b>								
January 1992 index	124.6	123.2	117.8	122.8	127.8	121.9	129.6	156.7
% change from December 1991	0.6	0.7	0.0	-1.0	2.8	0.2	-0.3	0.1
% change from January 1991	1.3	1.7	0.3	4.0	-1.0	1.6	-0.2	10.7

<sup>1</sup> For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 23 of the July-September 1991 issue of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, \$17.25/\$69.00).

## Retail Sales Trends<sup>1</sup> - Canada



<sup>1</sup> Trends represent smoothed seasonally adjusted data.

## Retail Trade

December 1991

### Highlights

#### Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Sales in Current Dollars

- Preliminary estimates indicate that retail sales fell 0.5% in December to \$14.8 billion, partly offsetting the gain of 1.1% in November. Excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales declined 0.3% in December following an increase of 0.2% in November and a decrease of 0.3% in October.
- The December decline was primarily attributable, in order of dollar impact, to declines reported by all other retail stores (-5.9%), motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers (-1.5%) and drug and patent medicine stores (-3.9%). Partly offsetting these decreases were gains by women's clothing stores (+6.7%) and general merchandise stores (+1.2%).

#### Note to Users

Retail sales estimates exclude the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Prior to January 1991, sales data included 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 levels.

- The drop in sales reported by all other retail stores in December followed a decline of 0.4% in November and an increase of 3.0% in October. The decrease for drug and patent medicine stores in December followed four consecutive monthly gains; and sales of women's clothing stores advanced in December following a gain in November. General merchandise stores recorded higher sales in December for the third consecutive month.

- Half of the provinces posted sales decreases in December, ranging from -1.1% in Newfoundland and New Brunswick to -0.1% in Ontario. Notable gains were registered in Saskatchewan (+1.8%) and British Columbia (+1.5%). Sales fell in the Yukon (-2.1%) and in the Northwest Territories (-1.7%).

#### **Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Sales in Current Dollars**

- Total retail sales fell 1.3% in the last quarter of 1991, due mainly to weak October sales. This compares to a decrease of 0.7% in the third quarter and a gain of 1.9% in the second quarter.

#### **Trends**

- As illustrated in the chart, after declining sharply from March 1990 to March 1991 and rising slightly between April and June, the trend for total retail trade has been decreasing. Retail sales excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers also have a declining trend but a slower rate of decline.

#### **Annual Sales 1991 (Preliminary Estimates)**

- Total seasonally adjusted estimates for 1991, at \$179.3 billion, declined approximately 2.2% (after removing federal sales tax from the 1990 data). This is a continuation of a declining trend following annual changes of +1.8% in 1990 and +4.2% in 1989.

**Available on CANSIM:** matrices 2399 (seasonally adjusted), 2400 (not seasonally adjusted), 2398 (department store type merchandise totals for the provinces and territories), and 2299, 2401-2417 (quarterly trade group estimates for Canada, the provinces and territories).

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

For more detailed information on this release, contact Maurice Massaad (613-951-9682) or Sonia Demers (613-951-3551), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

**Retail Sales, by Trade Group and by Region**  
December 1991

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted						
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec./	Dec.
	1990	1991 <sup>r</sup>	1991 <sup>p</sup>	1991/ 1990 <sup>*</sup>	1990	1991 <sup>r</sup>	1991 <sup>r</sup>	1991 <sup>r</sup>	1991 <sup>p</sup>	Nov. 1991	1991/ 1990 <sup>*</sup>
	millions of \$			%	millions of \$					%	%
Canada											
Supermarkets and grocery stores	3,789	3,661	3,667	-3.2	3,553	3,584	3,574	3,574	3,586	0.3	0.9
All other food stores	379	283	358	-5.6	312	298	292	297	299	0.9	-4.0
Drug and patent medicine stores	919	805	958	4.3	730	752	761	803	772	-3.9	5.8
Shoe stores	217	149	176	-18.8	156	129	122	121	127	4.8	-18.8
Men's clothing stores	346	179	277	-20.0	175	141	131	131	142	8.3	-18.5
Women's clothing stores	507	347	501	-1.2	334	310	304	316	338	6.7	0.9
Other clothing stores	589	373	531	-9.9	351	312	306	308	311	0.9	-11.4
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,073	708	829	-22.7	809	616	600	616	611	-0.9	-24.5
Household furnishings stores	275	200	216	-21.6	222	181	185	176	175	-0.2	-21.1
Motor vehicle and recrea- tional vehicle dealers	2,435	2,850	2,436	-	3,081	3,146	2,919	3,061	3,013	-1.5	-2.2
Gasoline service stations	1,355	1,102	1,092	-19.4	1,325	1,146	1,129	1,090	1,065	-2.3	-19.6
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,069	968	933	-12.7	1,001	873	891	872	867	-0.6	-13.4
General merchandise stores	3,105	2,229	2,885	-7.1	1,860	1,712	1,715	1,731	1,752	1.2	-5.8
Other semi-durable goods stores	884	535	770	-12.9	567	502	496	504	499	-1.1	-12.0
Other durable goods stores	904	430	829	-8.3	458	427	411	407	420	3.3	-8.3
All other retail stores	1,324	912	1,210	-8.6	867	849	874	871	819	-5.9	-5.5
Total, all stores	19,169	15,733	17,667	-7.8	15,803	14,978	14,711	14,878	14,797	-0.5	-6.4
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	16,735	12,883	15,232	-9.0	12,721	11,832	11,792	11,818	11,784	-0.3	-7.4
Department store type merchandise	8,818	5,956	7,972	-9.6	5,663	5,083	5,031	5,114	5,146	0.6	-9.1
Regions											
Newfoundland	364	317	356	-2.3	297	288	283	292	289	-1.1	-2.8
Prince Edward Island	82	63	72	-12.2	69	60	59	60	60	0.1	-12.4
Nova Scotia	643	516	581	-9.6	523	483	476	478	476	-0.2	-8.8
New Brunswick	496	410	449	-9.6	411	379	375	379	375	-1.1	-8.8
Quebec	4,461	3,776	4,071	-8.7	3,952	3,677	3,622	3,671	3,638	-0.9	-7.9
Ontario	7,361	5,916	6,690	-9.1	5,934	5,540	5,407	5,456	5,448	-0.1	-8.2
Manitoba	669	550	624	-6.8	554	510	500	512	515	0.5	-7.0
Saskatchewan	555	469	518	-6.7	468	447	421	431	438	1.8	-6.2
Alberta	2,019	1,637	1,876	-7.1	1,668	1,612	1,519	1,556	1,566	0.7	-6.1
British Columbia	2,463	2,033	2,379	-3.4	2,034	2,034	1,972	1,966	1,995	1.5	-1.9
Yukon	17	15	16	-5.6	15	14	14	15	15	-2.1	-4.0
Northwest Territories	39	32	36	-6.6	31	29	30	30	30	-1.7	-4.2

\* Percentage changes contained in this table are not adjusted for the change in indirect taxes. Caution should be exercised in their use.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figure.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figure.

- Amount too small to be expressed.

## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

January 1992

The Canada Total Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for construction trades (1986 = 100) rose 0.1% in January 1992 from December's revised level of 127.2. On a year-over-year basis, the composite index increased by 6.0% from 120.1 to 127.3.

On a monthly basis, the largest increases occurred in Quebec City, Chicoutimi and Montreal (0.4%), and Calgary (0.3%). These increases reflected the implementation of new collective agreements.

On a year-to-year basis, the largest increase was observed for Calgary (8.2%), while the cities of Montreal, Quebec City and Chicoutimi registered an average increase of 7.2%, followed by Victoria (7.1%) and Toronto (6.6%). The remaining cities registered increases ranging from 3.7% to 6.1%, while St. John's showed no change.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 2033-2038.**

The first quarter 1992 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$18/\$72) will be available in June. See "How to Order Publications".

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

## Construction Union Wage Rate Indexes, Basic Rate plus Supplements

January 1992  
(1986 = 100)

	January 1992	December 1991	January 1991	% change	
				January 1992/ December 1991	January 1992/ January 1991
<b>Canada</b>	<b>127.3</b>	<b>127.2</b>	<b>120.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>
St. John's	119.6	119.6	119.6	-	-
Halifax	120.2	120.2	115.5	-	4.1
Saint John	130.8	130.8	124.1	-	5.4
Quebec City	133.0	132.5	124.1	0.4	7.2
Chicoutimi	133.0	132.5	124.1	0.4	7.2
Montreal	133.1	132.6	124.1	0.4	7.3
Ottawa	134.0	134.0	126.4	-	6.0
Toronto	137.0	137.0	128.5	-	6.6
Hamilton	130.7	130.7	124.2	-	5.2
St. Catharines	134.0	134.0	126.9	-	5.6
Kitchener	129.2	129.2	124.6	-	3.7
London	133.0	133.0	125.6	-	5.9
Windsor	133.5	133.5	126.0	-	6.0
Sudbury	134.2	134.2	126.5	-	6.1
Thunder Bay	134.0	134.0	126.4	-	6.0
Winnipeg	119.7	119.7	114.2	-	4.8
Calgary	119.3	119.0	110.3	0.3	8.2
Edmonton	113.2	113.2	108.3	-	4.5
Vancouver	123.9	123.9	116.8	-	6.1
Victoria	124.2	124.2	116.0	-	7.1

- Nil or zero.

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## Resource and Caseload Statistics for Legal Aid in Canada

1990-91

### Highlights

- Canada's legal aid plans spent \$412.1 million in 1990-91. Between 1989-1991, total spending increased by 14% on a constant dollar basis.
- Legal aid services are funded by three main sources: governments (81%), contributions of the legal profession (11%), clients (3%) and other miscellaneous sources (5%). The 1990-91 breakdown of the government source was as follows: the provincial and territorial governments (57%), the Department of Justice Canada (25%), and Health and Welfare Canada (18%) through the Canada Assistance Plan.
- Privately retained lawyers and staff lawyers assist recipients of legal aid in Canada. Taken together, these lawyers comprised 29% of the total bar member count in 1990-91 (excluding New Brunswick and Nova Scotia).
- Payments made to private law firms totalled \$248.2 million or 60% of the total legal aid budget in 1990-91 (excluding the Northwest Territories). This proportion has remained relatively constant since 1981-82.
- The total number of approved applications reached 635,530 in 1990-91 (excluding Newfoundland). For Canada as a whole, 51% of the total approved applications were civil, while the remaining percentage was criminal. The highest proportion of approved applications that dealt with civil matters was reported in Quebec (59%). The highest proportion of approved applications that dealt with criminal matters was reported in the Northwest Territories (85%).

Resource and caseload statistics for legal aid in Canada for the fiscal year 1990-91 are available as of February 21, 1992, by contacting the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Information and Client Services (613-951-9023), FAX: (613-951-6615). ■

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Husband-Wife Family Data

1989

Data on husband-wife families are now available for 26 Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) in Canada. This marks the first time that this information has been compiled for CMAs.

Information obtained from tax returns is presented in 10 separate tables, showing details on the composition of families, the age of family members, income ranges and sources of income, and the wife's contribution to family income.

For more detailed information on this release, please contact the Small Area and Administrative Data Division (613-951-9720) or the nearest Regional Reference Centre of Statistics Canada. ■

### Registered Nurses

1991

Data on registered nurses for 1991 are now available. Demographic and employment information includes such variables as age, sex, basic and highest level of nursing education, type of employer, primary area of responsibility, and position of employment as well as full-time or part-time status.

**Note:** Employment information for Quebec is not included as the data were not available.

For additional information, contact Nelson Nault (613-951-2990), Canadian Centre for Health Information. ■

### Deliveries of Major Grains

December 1991

Producer deliveries of major grains by prairie farmers showed an increase from December 1990, except in the cases of durum wheat, rye, and flaxseed – where marketings decreased. Deliveries for December 1990 and December 1991 were as follows (in thousand tonnes):

	1990	1991
• Wheat (excluding durum)	1 791.1	2 198.9
• Durum wheat	201.1	180.9
• <b>Total wheat</b>	<b>1 992.2</b>	<b>2 379.8</b>
• Oats	39.9	41.1
• Barley	353.8	402.0
• Rye	18.0	12.4
• Flaxseed	33.3	16.4
• Canola	135.0	181.2
• <b>Total</b>	<b>2 572.2</b>	<b>3 032.9</b>

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 976-981.**

The December 1991 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007, \$13.80/\$138) is scheduled for release in March. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information on this release, contact Alain Y. Bertrand (613-951-3859), Agriculture Division. ■

### Steel Primary Forms

Week Ending February 15, 1992

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel primary forms production for the week ending February 15, 1992, totalled 279 824 tonnes, a decrease of 2.8% from the preceding week's total of 287 985 tonnes but up 3.4% from the year-earlier level of 270 669 tonnes. The cumulative total in 1992 was 1 709 454 tonnes, an increase of 1.4% from 1 685 013 tonnes for the same period in 1991.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division. ■

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## **Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns**

December 1991

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,341 million for December 1991, a decrease of 5.9% from the \$1,426 million reported for the same period last year.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.**

The December 1991 issue of *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$6.10/\$61) will be available in approximately three weeks. See "How to Order Publications"

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

## **Selected Financial Indexes**

January 1992

January 1992 figures are now available for the Selected Financial Indexes.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 2031.**

The first quarter 1992 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$18/\$72) will be available in June. See "How to Order Publications".

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

## **Corporation Taxation Statistics**

1989 Preliminary Data

Preliminary 1989 data for the provincial allocation of taxable income by industry are now available.

For more information, please contact Paula Helmer (613-951-9852), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Statistics Canada Annual Report, 1990-1991.**

**Catalogue number 11-201**

No Charge.

**Production and Stocks of Tea, Coffee and Cocoa,**

Quarter Ended December 1991.

**Catalogue number 32-025**

(Canada: \$6.75/\$27; United States: US\$8/US\$32;

Other Countries: US\$9.50/US\$38).

**Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, January 1992.**

**Catalogue number 32-001**

(Canada: \$2.70/\$27; United States: US\$3.20/US\$32;

Other Countries: US\$3.80/US\$38).

**Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products,**  
January 1992.

**Catalogue number 32-022**

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60; Other  
Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

**Electric Lamps, January 1992.**

**Catalogue number 43-009**

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60;

Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

**Consumer Price Index, January 1992.**

**Catalogue number 62-001**

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

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

**Available from 7:00 a.m. on Friday, February 21,  
1992.**

**Travel-log: Canada's Major Overseas Tourism  
Markets, Winter 1992.**

**Catalogue number 87-003**

(Canada: \$10.50/\$42; United States: US\$12.50/

US\$50; Other Countries: US\$13/US\$130).

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## MAJOR RELEASE DATES

**Week of February 24-28**  
(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
<b>February</b>		
24	Department Store Sales and Stocks	December 1991
24	Wholesale Trade	December 1991
25	Canada's International Transactions in Securities	December 1991
26	Industrial Product Price Index	January 1992
26	Raw Materials Price Index	January 1992
26	Unemployment Insurance Statistics	December 1991
27	Private and Public Investment in Canada	Intentions 1992
27	Employment, Earnings and Hours	December 1991
27	Quarterly Financial Statistics of Enterprises	Fourth Quarter 1991
27	International Travel Account	Fourth Quarter 1991
28	Income and Expenditure Accounts (Gross Domestic Product)	Fourth Quarter 1991
28	Balance of International Payments	Fourth Quarter 1991
28	Financial Flow Accounts	Fourth Quarter 1991
28	Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry	December 1991

**The  
Daily**

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

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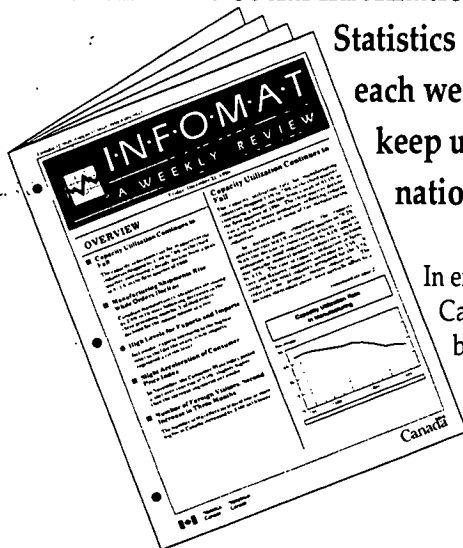


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