



# The Daily

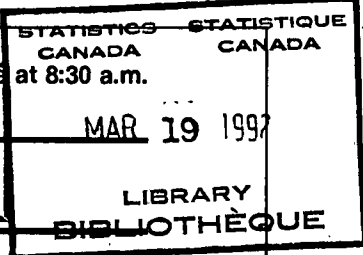
Statistics Canada

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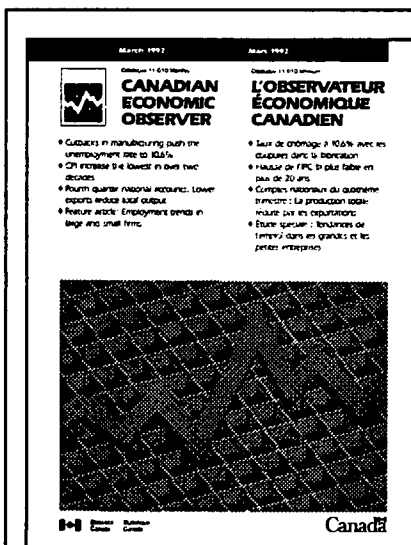
MAJOR RELEASES

NOT FOR LOAN  
NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS



- **Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, January 1992** 3  
The merchandise trade surplus rose to \$1.1 billion in January as exports increased by more than imports.
- **Sales of Natural Gas, January 1992** 5  
Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during January 1992 totalled 6 829 million cubic metres, a 6.1% decrease from the level recorded the previous year.
- **Construction Union Wage Rate Index, February 1992** 6  
The Canada Total Union Wage Rate Index (1986 = 100) for construction trades remained unchanged from January's revised level of 127.3.

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## Canadian Economic Observer March 1992

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

This edition contains a monthly summary of the economy, major economic events in February, and a feature article on recent trends in firm size and employment. A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and major industrial nations.

*Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) can now be ordered from Publication Sales (613-951-7277).

For more information, call Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Analysis Section.



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

January 1992

Following decreases of about \$100 million in both November and December, total exports were up \$621 million in January 1992, reaching \$12.2 billion, their highest level since last August.

Much of the upward movement stemmed from increased exports of those commodities which tend to display erratic month-to-month behaviour. Automotive products, for instance, were up \$216 million, aircraft and other transportation equipment rose \$193 million, and agricultural and fishing products were up \$93 million. Among the more stable commodities, increases were noted for forestry products and industrial goods. Moderating the overall increase in exports were declines for energy products, machinery and equipment excluding aircraft, and for miscellaneous consumer goods. Exports to most major trading partners increased in January, the largest being a \$390 million hike in exports to the United States.

Imports rose \$173 million to \$11.1 billion. The increase in imports came mostly from those commodities which exhibit relatively stable monthly movements. All three major components of the industrial goods and materials grouping rose in January. Import levels were also higher for forestry products, machinery and equipment excluding aircraft, and miscellaneous consumer goods. Aircraft and other transportation equipment, as well as automotive products, both of which are considered more volatile, increased slightly in January. In contrast, agricultural and fishing products declined, as did energy products. Imports were up from all trading partners with the exception of the European Economic Community. Increases of about \$50 million each were recorded for the remaining countries, including the United States (\$52 million).

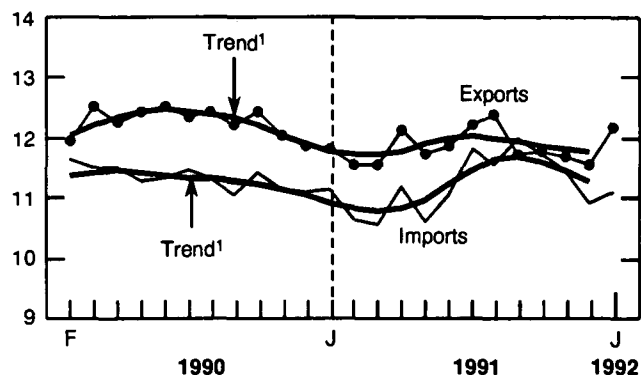
The stronger rise in exports compared to imports generated an increase in the trade balance from \$636 million to \$1.1 billion, the largest trade surplus since May 1991. The trade balance has been rising since October, but until this month, the increases had been primarily due to declining imports.

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

#### Merchandise Trade

Seasonally Adjusted  
Balance of Payments Basis

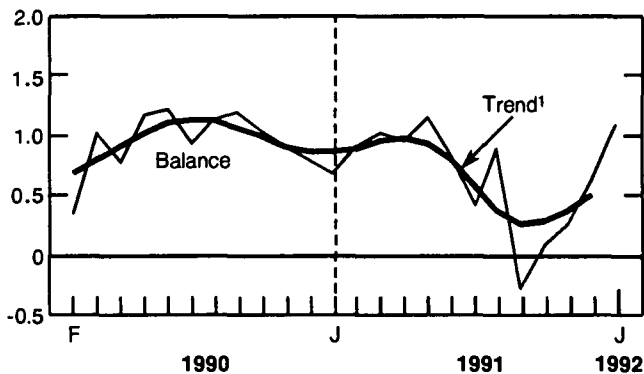
Billions of dollars



#### Merchandise Trade Balance

Seasonally Adjusted  
Balance of Payments Basis

Billions of dollars



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

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

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For further information on international trade statistics (detailed tables, charts and a more complete analysis), *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$10/\$100) is now available. For more timely receipt of the data, a fax service is available on the morning of release (10-002, \$250). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on statistics, concepts and definitions, the January 1992 issue of

*Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of April, or contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Marlene Sterparn (613-951-1711) (for analysis information), or Denis Pilon (613-951-4808) (for price index information), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division. ■

## Sales of Natural Gas

January 1992 (Preliminary Data)

Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during January 1992 totalled 6 829 million cubic metres, a 6.1% decrease from the level recorded the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in January 1992 were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from January 1991 in brackets: residential sales, 2 125 million cubic metres (-11.5%);

commercial sales, 1 682 million cubic metres (-12.5%); and industrial sales (including direct sales), 3 022 million cubic metres (+ 2.6%).

The January 1992 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 1992

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
	(thousands of cubic metres)				
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	98 785	232 673	348 425	3 416	683 299
Ontario	1 114 545	753 637	942 157	186 396	2 996 735
Manitoba	118 260	91 605	45 261	515	255 641
Saskatchewan	132 902	92 181	5 140	149 576	379 799
Alberta	425 203	333 669	1 022 983	-	1 781 855
British Columbia	235 752	178 020	146 401	171 609	731 782
<b>January 1992 - Canada</b>	<b>2 125 447</b>	<b>1 681 785</b>	<b>2 510 367</b>	<b>511 512</b>	<b>6 829 111</b>
January 1991 - Canada	2 402 675	1 922 908	2 569 721	376 931	7 272 235
% change	-11.5	-12.5	2.6		-6.1

Note: Revised figures will be available in *Gas Utilities* (Catalogue 55-002) and on CANSIM.

- Nil or zero

## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

February 1992

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

The accompanying table shows wage rates for bricklayers, plasterers and cement finishers for selected cities.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 2033 to 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 Rates<sup>1</sup>

February 1992

	Trades					
	Bricklayer		Plasterer		Cement Finisher	
	B	B + S	B	B + S	B	B + S
	(in dollars)					
St. John's	18.06	21.40	18.06	21.40	18.06	21.40
Halifax	21.40	24.64	17.66	19.23	17.50	18.91
Saint John	19.00	23.15	19.00	23.15	18.01	21.75
Montreal	22.02	26.61	21.20	25.70	20.70	25.14
Ottawa	24.94	29.50	22.25	26.87	22.25	26.87
Toronto	26.13	31.74	23.55	29.09	23.55	29.09
Thunder Bay	24.20	29.56	21.43	26.75	21.45	26.75
Winnipeg	20.35	23.19	20.35	22.72	18.05	19.39
Regina	..	..	..	..	..	..
Edmonton	19.75	23.57	21.45	24.59	21.44	24.83
Vancouver	23.59	30.05	25.16	29.74	21.69	28.13

<sup>1</sup> Rates are available for other trades and other cities.

.. Figures not available.

B = Basic rate.

B + S = Basic rate and selected pay supplements: vacation pay, statutory holiday pay, employer's contribution to health and welfare and pension plans.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Export and Import Price Indexes

January 1992

Current and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1986=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to January 1992 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Customs-based current and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1986=100) from January 1986 to January 1992 are also available. 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 January 1992 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. ■

### Oil Pipeline Transport

December 1991

#### Highlights

- In December, net receipts of crude oil and refined petroleum products into Canadian pipelines increased to 15 457 779 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>), up 1.0% from the same period last year. Year-to-date receipts were at 173 526 228 m<sup>3</sup> in December, up 0.4% from 1990.
- Pipeline exports of crude oil increased 16.1% compared to December 1990, while pipeline imports rose 15.4% for the same period. On a cumulative basis, exports in 1991 were up 17.2% from 1990 levels, while imports were up 29.6%.
- Deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries in December 1991 declined 4.8% from 1990, while deliveries of liquid petroleum gases and refined petroleum products decreased 21.9%.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 181.**

The December 1991 issue of *Oil Pipeline Transport* (55-001, \$10/\$100) will be available the third week of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact G. O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

### Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending March 7, 1992

#### Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the period totalled 4.7 million tonnes, an increase of 11.8% over the same period last year.
- Piggyback traffic decreased 10.2% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 4.8% during the same period.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year increased 6.4% from the previous year.

**Note:** Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic. All 1991 figures and 1992 cumulative data have been revised.

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

### Steel Primary Forms

Week Ending March 14, 1992

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel primary forms production for the week ending March 14, 1992, totalled 272 676 tonnes, an increase of 2.9% from the preceding week's total of 265 084 tonnes and up 2.2% from the year-earlier level of 266 691 tonnes. The cumulative total in 1992 was 2 740 236 tonnes, an increase of 0.06% from 2 738 645 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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## Selected Financial Indexes

February 1992

February 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. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Canadian Economic Observer, March 1992.**

**Catalogue number 11-010**

(Canada: \$22/\$220; United States: US\$26/US\$260;  
Other Countries: US\$31/310).

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

**Catalogue number 32-022**

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

**Primary Iron and Steel, January 1992.**

**Catalogue number 41-001**

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

**Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, January  
1992.**

**Catalogue number 41-006**

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

**Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics,  
December 1991.**

**Catalogue number 53-003**

(Canada: \$7.10/\$70; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85;  
Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99).

**Consumer Price Index, February 1992.**

**Catalogue number 62-001**

(Canada: \$9.30/\$93; United States: US\$11.20/\$112;  
Other Countries: US\$13/\$130).

**Available at 7:00 a.m. on March 20, 1992.**

**Industry Price Indexes, January 1992.**

**Catalogue number 62-011**

(Canada: \$18.20/\$182; United States:  
US\$21.80/US\$218; Other Countries:  
US\$25.50/US\$255).

**Preliminary Statement of Canadian International  
Trade, January 1992.**

**Catalogue number 65-001P**

(Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120;  
Other Countries: US\$14/US\$140).

**Government Expenditures on Culture, 1989-90.**

**Catalogue number 87-206**

(Canada: \$17; United States: US\$20;  
Other Countries: US\$24).

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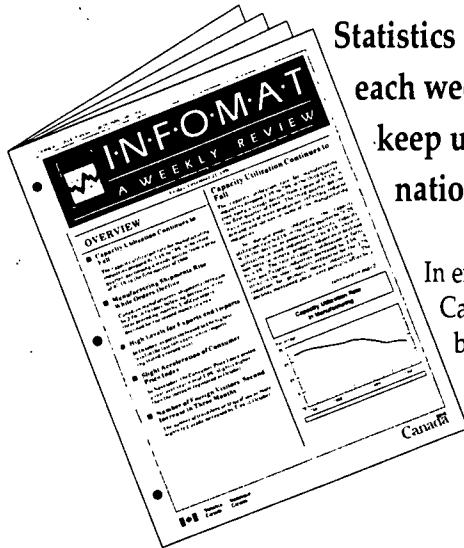
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