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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Wholesale Trade, January 1992** 2
Wholesale merchants' sales increased for the third consecutive month (+0.1%).
- **Department Store Sales and Stocks, January 1992** 5
Seasonally adjusted, department store sales totalled \$1,041 million in January, a 4.0% decrease from December 1991.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Wholesale Trade

January 1992

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

- Preliminary estimates indicate that wholesale merchants' sales were \$15.2 billion in January, up slightly (0.1%) from the previous month. This represented the third consecutive sales increase; however, it was at a slower rate than in recent months.
- While six of the nine trade groups reported higher sales in January, the three groups reporting lower sales limited the overall increase. Leading the gains were strong sales by suppliers of lumber and building materials, up 9.0% from December. Following two months of higher sales, wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies reported a 4.1% drop. This group traditionally accounts for approximately one-fifth of total sales.
- Regionally, in terms of dollar impact, the most notable sales increases were recorded in Alberta (+6.3%), Nova Scotia (+6.2%) and New Brunswick (+8.8%). Elsewhere, the largest sales decline was recorded in Quebec (-2.0%).

Note to Users

When comparing January 1992 with January 1991 data, readers are reminded that the January 1991 figures were unusually low because of the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax.

Seasonally Adjusted Inventories

- In January, wholesale merchants' inventories were \$24.4 billion, up 0.6% from the previous month.
- The inventories-to-sales ratio at the end of January was 1.60:1, up slightly from the 1.59:1 recorded the month before.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 649 (sales, seasonally adjusted), 648 (sales, not seasonally adjusted), 61 (inventories, seasonally adjusted) and 59 (inventories, not seasonally adjusted).

The January issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$14.40/\$144) will be available the second week of April. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact Larry Murphy (613-951-9683) or Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540), Industry Division. □

Chart 1

Wholesale Merchants' Sales

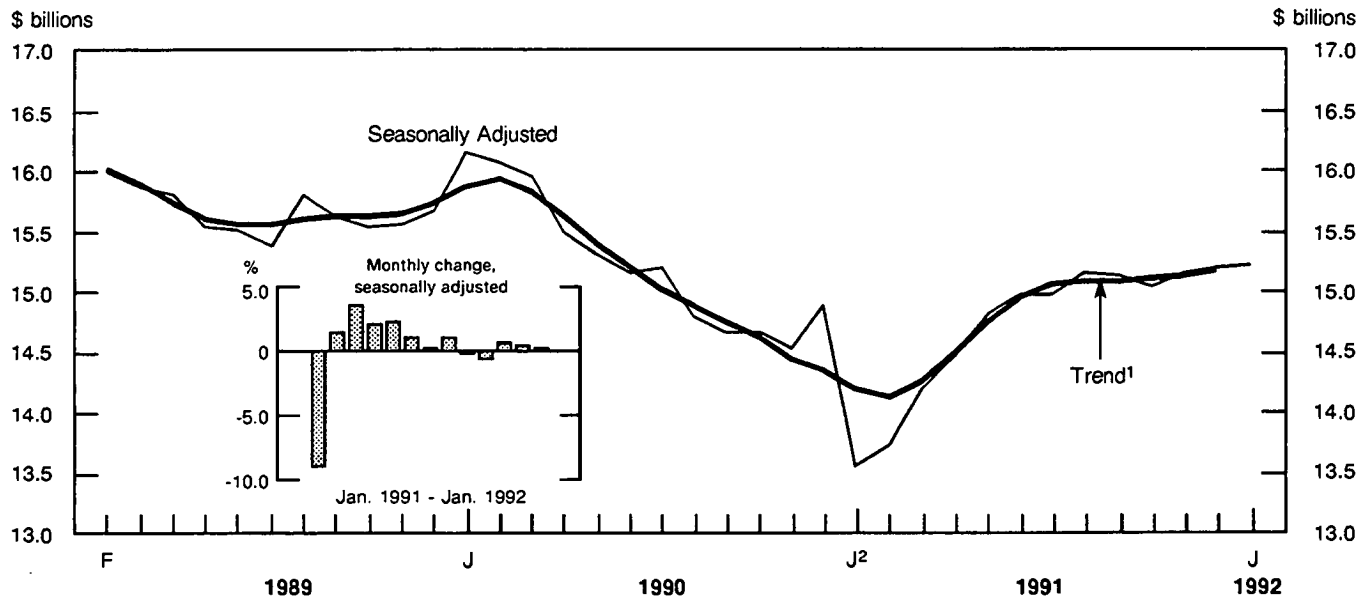
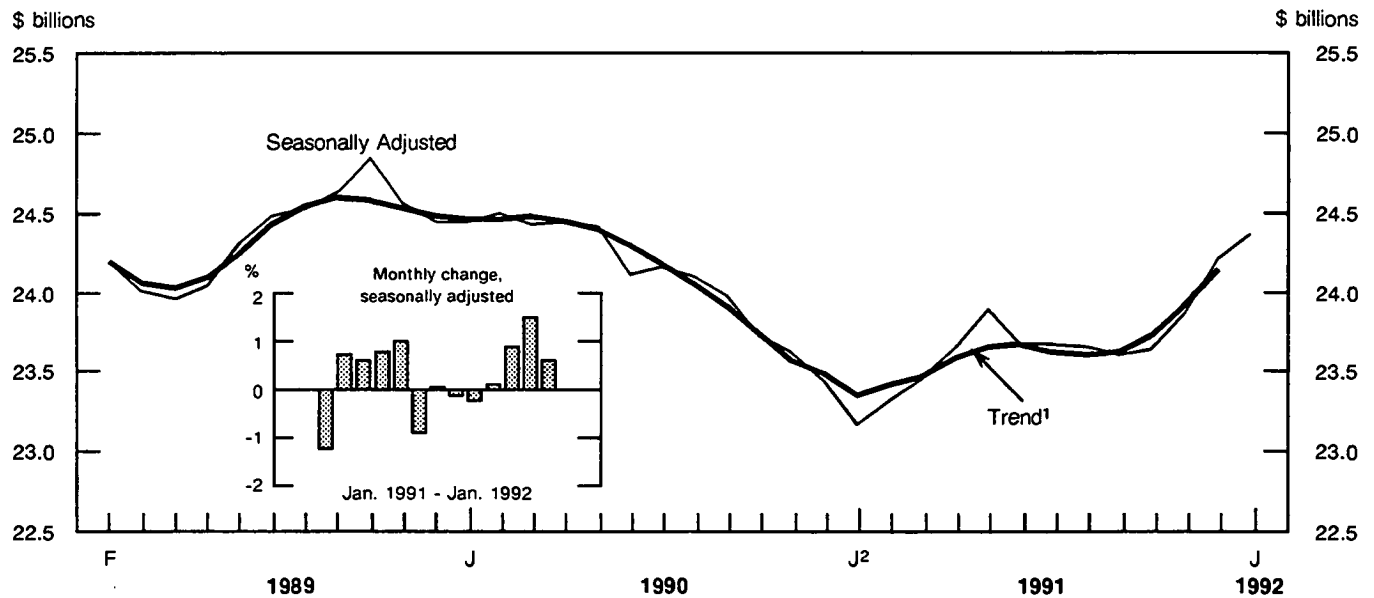


Chart 2

Wholesale Merchants' Inventories



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

² Prior to 1991, data includes indirect taxes.

Wholesale Merchants' Sales, by Trade Group and Region
 January 1992

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991 ^r	Jan. 1992 ^p	Jan. 1992/ 1991	Jan. 1991	Oct. 1991 ^r	Nov. 1991 ^r	Dec. 1991 ^r	Jan. 1992 ^p	Jan. 1992/ Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992/ 1991
	millions of \$				%	millions of \$				%	%
Canada											
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,277	3,830	3,669	12.0	3,506	3,845	3,881	3,887	3,925	1.0	11.9
Apparel and dry goods	252	214	316	25.1	284	376	384	365	369	1.1	30.0
Household goods	405	511	451	11.3	476	549	553	519	547	5.5	15.0
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,399	1,376	1,410	0.8	1,637	1,735	1,702	1,687	1,679	-0.5	2.6
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	880	891	997	13.3	926	1,071	1,078	1,071	1,095	2.2	18.2
Lumber and building materials	863	915	982	13.8	1,185	1,366	1,390	1,271	1,386	9.0	16.9
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	169	275	218	29.5	251	306	301	321	333	3.6	32.6
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,826	3,690	3,220	14.0	2,922	3,336	3,394	3,556	3,411	-4.1	16.7
Other products	2,091	2,422	2,175	4.0	2,343	2,455	2,459	2,525	2,473	-2.1	5.5
Total, all trades	12,162	14,126	13,439	10.5	13,531	15,040	15,142	15,202	15,218	0.1	12.5
Regions											
Newfoundland	133	163	145	9.2	149	165	168	170	165	-3.2	10.8
Prince Edward Island	26	39	37	38.7	29	38	39	38	41	7.6	41.3
Nova Scotia	260	319	289	11.1	311	361	367	335	356	6.2	14.5
New Brunswick	196	215	205	4.8	224	242	247	223	242	8.8	8.1
Quebec	3,102	3,376	3,241	4.5	3,396	3,727	3,744	3,716	3,642	-2.0	7.2
Ontario	5,020	5,914	5,684	13.2	5,567	6,197	6,271	6,380	6,356	-0.4	14.2
Manitoba	368	442	423	14.8	421	502	511	493	498	1.0	18.3
Saskatchewan	370	452	399	7.7	417	496	498	490	482	-1.6	15.8
Alberta	1,174	1,310	1,277	8.8	1,352	1,387	1,376	1,379	1,466	6.3	8.4
British Columbia	1,501	1,881	1,723	14.8	1,651	1,906	1,903	1,958	1,950	-0.4	18.1
Yukon and Northwest Territories	12	17	17	43.5	14	18	19	20	21	4.2	47.4

^r Revised figure.^p Preliminary figure.

Wholesale Merchants' Inventories, by Trade Group

January 1992

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991 ^r	Jan. 1992 ^p	Jan. 1992/ 1991	Jan. 1991	Oct. 1991 ^r	Nov. 1991 ^r	Dec. 1991 ^r	Jan. 1992 ^p	Jan. 1992/ Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992/ 1991
	millions of \$		%		millions of \$		%		%		
Canada											
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,482	2,734	2,730	10.0	2,497	2,719	2,755	2,744	2,775	1.1	11.1
Apparel and dry goods	705	753	841	19.3	727	778	777	828	867	4.7	19.4
Household goods	922	1,128	1,119	21.4	922	1,140	1,116	1,128	1,119	-0.8	21.4
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	3,536	3,491	3,591	1.6	3,606	3,448	3,537	3,554	3,617	1.8	0.3
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,696	1,958	1,995	17.7	1,731	2,022	2,063	2,066	2,088	1.1	20.7
Lumber and building materials	2,216	2,150	2,261	2.0	2,308	2,261	2,256	2,269	2,324	2.4	0.7
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,405	1,380	1,382	-1.7	1,423	1,363	1,354	1,390	1,386	-0.3	-2.6
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	6,735	6,966	6,899	2.4	6,887	6,916	7,060	7,181	7,094	-1.2	3.0
Other products	3,030	2,958	3,048	0.6	3,060	2,986	2,932	3,054	3,083	1.0	0.8
Total, all trades	22,728	23,516	23,866	5.0	23,160	23,634	23,850	24,214	24,354	0.6	5.2

^r Revised figure.

^p Preliminary figure.

Department Store Sales and Stocks

January 1992

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Data

- Department store sales (including concessions) totalled \$1,041 million in January 1992, a 4.0% decrease from the previous month's revised total of \$1,084 million.
- The 4.0% decrease for January 1992 was a continuation of the fluctuating sales levels experienced throughout 1991.

- Department store stocks at selling value totalled \$5,326 million at the end of January, an increase of 0.4% from the revised December 1991 value of \$5,302 million.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 112 (series 5 and 6) and 113.

The January 1992 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, \$13/\$130) will be available the third week of June.

For further information, contact Dave Roeske (613-951-3559), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

Department Store Sales, Canada (including concessions)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted				
	Jan. 1991	Dec. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1991	Oct. 1991 ^r	Nov. 1991 ^r	Dec. 1991 ^r	Jan. 1992 ^p
	millions of \$			millions of \$				
Total Sales	676	2,014	689	1,016	1,059	1,067	1,084	1,041
Total Stocks	3,826	4,856	4,443	4,553	5,140	5,204	5,302	5,326
Stock-to-Sales Ratio	5.7	2.4	6.4	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.1

^p Preliminary.

^r Revised.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers

February 1992

Canadian domestic shipments of corrugated boxes and wrappers totalled 152 830 thousand square metres in February 1992, an increase of 1.1% from the 151 145^r (revised) thousand square metres shipped a year earlier.

January to February 1992 domestic shipments totalled 302 017 thousand square metres, a decrease of 0.7% from the 304 205^r thousand square metres for the same period in 1991.

The February 1992 issue of *Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers* (36-004, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

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

Fur Production

1990-91

The value of pelts during the 1990-91 season was \$41,806,190, down 19.9 % from the previous season. Wildlife pelts brought in \$15,183,850 or 36.3% of the total. Fur farm production accounted for \$26,622,340, down from \$30,007,725 the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5692-5699, 9511-9515.

The 1989-1990 issue of *Fur Production* (23-207, \$34) will be available shortly. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information, contact P. Meszaros (613-951-2505), Agriculture Division.



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Exports by Country, January-December 1991.

Catalogue number 65-003

(Canada: \$82.75/\$331; United States:
US\$99.25/US\$397; Other Countries:
US\$115.75/US\$463).

Public Libraries, 1989-90.

Catalogue number 87-205

(Canada: \$30; United States: US\$36; Other
Countries: US\$42).

Performing Arts, 1989-90.

Catalogue number 87-209

(Canada: \$30; United States: US\$36; Other
Countries: US\$42).

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