

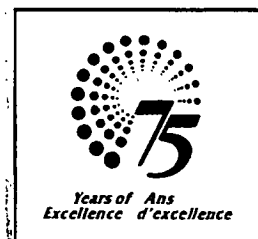
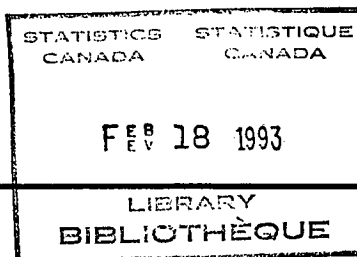


# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, February 18, 1993

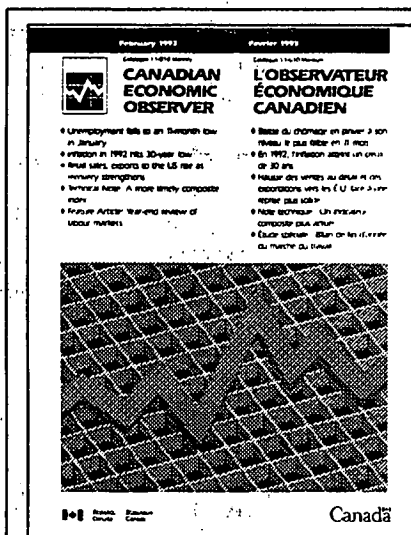
For release at 8:30 a.m.



## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, December 1992** 3  
In December, Canada's merchandise trade surplus remained stable at \$1 billion.
- **Sales of Natural Gas, December 1992** 6  
Sales of natural gas including direct sales in Canada during December 1992 totalled 6 572 million cubic metres, a 4.0% increase over the December 1991 level.

(continued on page 2)



## Canadian Economic Observer

February 1993

The February issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, presents a monthly summary of the economy, major economic events in January, a technical note on the new composite index and a feature article on developments in the labour markets in 1992. 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. See "How to Order Publications". For more information, call Philip Cross (613-951-9162), Current Analysis Section.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS – Continued

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

December 1992

Seasonally adjusted exports grew by \$212 million in December to reach \$14.0 billion. Contributing most to the overall increase were larger exports of automotive products (\$260 million) and machinery and equipment excluding aircraft and other transportation equipment (\$109 million). Partially offsetting those increases were declines in exports of energy (-\$57 million) and forestry (-\$21 million) products.

Seasonally adjusted imports increased by \$215 million to reach \$13.0 billion in December, a record level. Most of the increase came from automotive products (\$235 million), but imports also increased for industrial goods other than precious metals (\$74 million) and agricultural and fishing products (\$70 million).

With exports and imports increasing by virtually the same amount, the merchandise trade surplus remained stable at \$1.0 billion in December.

#### Trends

Seasonally adjusted series have been further smoothed using moving averages, to give a clearer picture of the underlying trends in trade.

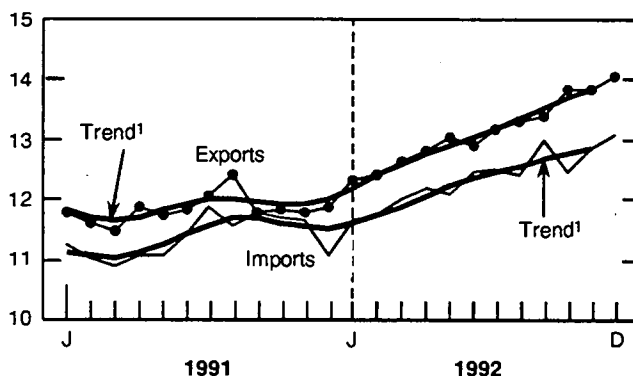
Exports, on an upward trend for over a year, were more than 15% above their level of December 1991. Increases were noted for all sectors except agricultural products. Among the more stable commodities, forestry products rose to a level some 23% higher than December 1991. During the same period, industrial and agricultural machinery exports increased 10% and exports of other machinery and equipment increased 25%. Industrial goods other than precious metals rose 11% above December 1991. Miscellaneous consumer goods continued their upward trend, increasing by almost 2% this month. More importantly, over the last few months, their growth rate has accelerated.

Among the more volatile commodity groupings, automotive products were particularly strong, up more than 2.0% this month, and up 16% since December 1991. Exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment grew by 10% over the same period. Agricultural and fishing products declined for the fourth month in a row. Wheat exports dropped by 17.0% (down 21.0% since last December). Energy exports increased marginally this month (0.2%).

#### Merchandise Trade

Seasonally Adjusted  
Balance of Payments Basis

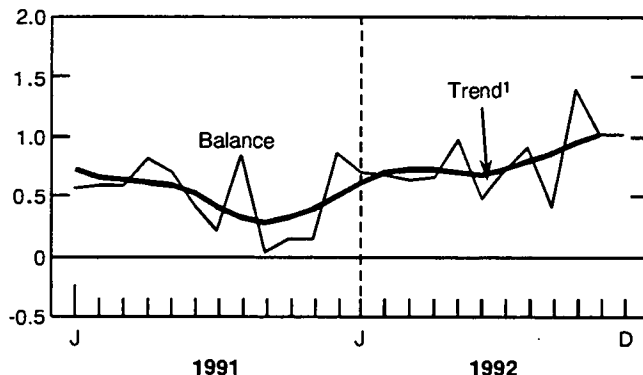
Billions of dollars



#### 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.

The trend in imports increased once again, this time by almost 1%, bringing imports 12% higher than December 1991. Among the more stable commodity groupings, increases continued for agricultural products (almost 2%), industrial goods other than precious metals (about 1%) and miscellaneous consumer goods (0.5%). Agricultural imports were 14% above their December 1991 level. Forestry products fell for the first time in almost a year, but only very slightly. Imports of machinery and

equipment other than aircraft and other transportation equipment declined marginally as well; despite these latest declines, their level remained 11% above the year-earlier period.

Except for a decline in energy products (-2.0%), imports increased in all of the more volatile product groupings. Imports of automotive products increased 2.0% this month and 13.0% since December 1991. Aircraft and other transportation equipment increased 2.6%, but imports of precious metals fell 2.5%.

#### Annual Perspective - 1992

Total exports for 1992 reached a record \$157.5 billion, 11% higher than 1991, the largest year-over-year change since 1984. Most of this growth came from the automotive products and machinery and equipment sectors, where exports increased by \$5.4 billion and \$3.0 billion, respectively. Imports totalled \$148.1 billion, an increase of 9% from 1991. This gain was driven chiefly by imports of machinery and equipment (+\$3.3 billion), industrial goods and materials (+\$2.7 billion) and automotive products (+\$2.6 billion).

With exports expanding faster than imports, the trade balance advanced to \$9.5 billion in 1992, a \$3.7 billion increase over 1991.

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

Current account data, which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, trade in services and capital account movements, are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001, \$27.50/\$110).

For further information on international trade statistics, *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 December 1992 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of March, or contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Client Services Section, International Trade Division. □

**Merchandise Trade of Canada (Seasonally Adjusted, Balance of Payments Basis)**

(\$ millions)

	Exports				Imports			
	December 1992	November 1992	October 1992	December 1991	December 1992	November 1992	October 1992	December 1991
United States	11,307	10,887	10,715	8,999	9,345	9,336	8,850	7,465
Other Trading Areas	2,739	2,947	3,122	2,864	3,698	3,492	3,584	3,551
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,046</b>	<b>13,834</b>	<b>13,837</b>	<b>11,862</b>	<b>13,043</b>	<b>12,828</b>	<b>12,434</b>	<b>11,016</b>
Agricultural and Fishing Products	1,133	1,128	1,217	1,170	912	842	836	754
Energy Products	1,348	1,405	1,355	1,268	490	594	491	565
Forestry Products	1,981	2,002	1,942	1,568	114	122	122	96
Industrial Goods and Materials	2,559	2,635	2,583	2,349	2,391	2,298	2,251	1,909
Machinery and Equipment	2,841	2,732	2,925	2,286	3,988	3,983	3,845	3,379
Automotive Products	3,582	3,322	3,192	2,760	3,151	2,916	2,853	2,516
Other Consumer Goods	372	331	346	283	1,602	1,664	1,634	1,420
Special Transactions Trade	268	317	321	214	334	354	350	307

**Merchandise Trade of Canada, Monthly Variation of the Trend**

(Percentage Change)

	Exports				Imports			
	November 1992	October 1992	September 1992	November 1991	November 1992	October 1992	September 1992	November 1991
Agricultural and Fishing Products	-3.8	-3.7	-2.3	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.9	-0.1
Energy Products	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.9	-2.0	-2.4	-2.5	-0.5
Forestry Products	3.2	3.7	3.6	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.6	-0.2
Industrial Goods and Materials	1.0	1.2	1.3	-0.5	0.8	1.0	1.3	-0.7
Machinery and Equipment	1.7	2.0	2.0	-0.8	0.1	0.2	0.3	-0.5
Automotive Products	2.2	1.9	1.4	-1.2	1.9	1.7	1.4	-1.6
Other Consumer Goods	1.7	1.5	1.4	2.2	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.7
Special Transactions Trade	0.3	1.1	2.0	-1.0	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.1

## Sales of Natural Gas

December 1992 (Preliminary Data)

### Highlights

- Sales of natural gas including direct sales in Canada during December 1992 totalled 6 572 million cubic metres, a 4.0% increase over the December 1991 level.
- On the basis of rate structure information, sales in December 1992 were as follows (the percentage changes from December 1991 are in brackets): residential sales, 2 093 million cubic metres (+11.1%); commercial sales, 1 634 million cubic metres (+8.5%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 2 845 million cubic metres (-2.8%).
- Weather has a significant impact on residential sales of natural gas. The increase in residential sales in December 1992 was primarily due to colder than normal weather conditions in Western Canada.

- From January to December 1992, sales of natural gas amounted to 56 213 million cubic metres, a 2.8% increase over the same period in 1991.
- On the basis of rate structure information, year-to-date sales were as follows (the percentage changes from 1991 are in brackets): residential sales, 14 208 million cubic metres (+4.1%); commercial sales, 11 346 million cubic metres (+0.8%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 30 659 million cubic metres (+3.0%).

The December 1992 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$12.70/\$127) will be available the third week of March. 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

December 1992

	Rate structure					
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct <sup>1</sup>	Total	
	(thousands of cubic metres)					
Quebec	69 894	170 079	322 226	3 307	565 506	
Ontario	893 722	612 470	807 386	217 134	2 530 712	
Manitoba	121 314	102 442	58 125	575	282 456	
Saskatchewan	157 356	93 782	4 509	229 694	485 341	
Alberta	577 207	437 519	864 833	—	1 879 559	
British Columbia	273 909	217 312	148 252	188 577	828 050	
<b>December 1992 – Canada</b>	<b>2 093 402</b>	<b>1 633 604</b>	<b>2 205 331</b>	<b>639 287</b>	<b>6 571 624</b>	
December 1991 – Canada	1 884 194	1 505 947	2 407 818	519 518	6 317 477	
% change	11.1	8.5	-2.8		4.0	
<b>Year-to-date Canada 1992</b>	<b>14 207 486</b>	<b>11 346 408</b>	<b>24 368 731</b>	<b>6 290 364</b>	<b>56 212 989</b>	
Year-to-date Canada 1991	13 645 892	11 258 630	24 957 972	4 808 437	54 670 931	
% change	4.1	0.8	3.0		2.8	
<b>Degree Days<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Que.</b>	<b>Ont.</b>	<b>Man.</b>	<b>Sask.</b>	<b>Alta.</b>	<b>B.C.</b>
December 1992	688	546	1 071	1 116	951	1 055
December 1991	785	574	896	900	698	387

<sup>1</sup> Represents direct sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

<sup>2</sup> A unit measuring the extent to which the outdoor mean temperature (the average of the maximum and minimum) falls below 18 degrees celsius. One degree day is counted for each degree below 18 degrees celsius for each calendar day. A high value indicates a cold month and a low value a warm month.

- Nil or zero.

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

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Export and Import Price Indexes

December 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 December 1992 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Customs-based current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1986=100) are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to December 1992. 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 December 1992 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division. ■

### Steel Primary Forms

Week Ended February 13, 1993

Preliminary estimates show that Canadian steel primary forms production for the week ended February 13, 1993 totalled 277 021 tonnes, a 6.3% increase from the preceding week's total of 260 617 tonnes but down 1.0% from the year-earlier 279 824 tonnes. The cumulative total at February 13, 1993 was 1 665 407 tonnes, a 4.8% increase from 1 589 144 tonnes for the same period in 1992.

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

### Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending February 7, 1993

#### Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the seven-day period totalled 4.6 million tonnes, a decrease of 0.9% from the same period last year.
- Piggyback traffic increased 2.7% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 4.4% during the same period.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded as of February 7, 1993 decreased 9.9% from the previous year.

**Note:** Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic. All 1992 figures and 1993 cumulative data have been revised.

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

### Tobacco Products

January 1993

Canadian tobacco product firms produced 4.01 billion cigarettes in January 1993, a 10.8% increase from the 3.62<sup>r</sup> (revised) billion cigarettes manufactured during the same period in 1992.

Domestic sales in January 1993 totalled 1.99 billion cigarettes, a decrease of 18.8% from the 2.45 billion cigarettes sold in January 1992.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.**

The January 1993 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products* (32-022, \$5/\$50) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

## For-hire Trucking Statistics (commodity origin and destination)

First Half 1991

Preliminary results are available from the For-hire Trucking (commodity origin and destination) Survey for the first half of 1991. The survey measures the inter-city (distances of 25km or more) commodity movements of Canadian-domiciled for-hire carriers.

### Highlights

- Almost 60 million tonnes of commodities were transported within Canada during the first half of 1991, a drop of 18% compared to the first half of 1990.
- The number of domestic shipments dropped by 6%, from 13.9 million in the first half of 1990 to 13.1 million in the first half of 1991.
- Revenue earned from transporting these domestic shipments totalled \$2.39 billion in the first half of 1991, a drop from \$2.46 billion the previous year.
- About 23 billion tonne-kilometres were recorded within Canada, compared to 27 billion tonne-kilometres for the first half of 1990.

Data for the first half of 1991 will appear in *Surface and Marine Transport Service Bulletin*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (50-002, \$9.40/\$75), scheduled for release at the beginning of March.

Annual for-hire trucking (commodity origin and destination) data will be published in *Trucking in Canada*, 1991 (53-222, \$45), scheduled for release at the end of 1993.

For more information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486) or Kathie Davidson (613-951-8779), Transportation Division, fax (613-951-0579). ■

## Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products

February 1, 1993

Preliminary data on the cold storage of frozen poultry products at February 1, 1993 and revised figures for January 1, 1993 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

To order *Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry* (\$115), contact Guy Gervais (613-951-2453).

For more detailed information on this release, contact Jean-Pierre Séguin (613-951-2550), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

## Soft Drinks

January 1993

Data on soft drinks for January 1993 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 196.

*Monthly Production of Soft Drinks* (32-001, \$2.70/\$27) will be released at a later date.

For further information, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

## Pack of Cauliflower

1992

Data on the pack of processed cauliflower for 1992 are now available.

*Pack of Selected Processed Vegetables* (32-240, \$13) will be released at a later date.

For further information, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

## Annual Retail Sales by Province

1990

Results of the Annual Retail Trade Survey for 1990 are now available by province and industry group.

Annual retail sales for 1990 totalled \$196 billion. After accounting for improved coverage of retail outlets and adjusting data for 1989 accordingly, the year-to-year increase was an estimated 2.5%.

For further information, including a reconciliation of the 1989 and 1990 data, please contact Oliver Code (613-951-2849), Industry Division. ■



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Canadian Economic Observer**, February 1993.

**Catalogue number 11-010**

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

**Oils and Fats**, December 1992.

**Catalogue number 32-006**

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

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

**Catalogue number 41-006**

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

**Consumer Price Index**, January 1993.

**Catalogue number 62-001**

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

**Available at 7:00 a.m. on Friday,**  
**February 19, 1993.**

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

**Catalogue number 65-001P**

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

**Touriscope: International Travel - Advance  
Information**, December 1992. Vol. 8, No. 12.

**Catalogue number 66-001P**

(Canada: \$6.10/\$61; United States: US\$7.30/US\$73; Other  
Countries: US\$8.50/US\$85).

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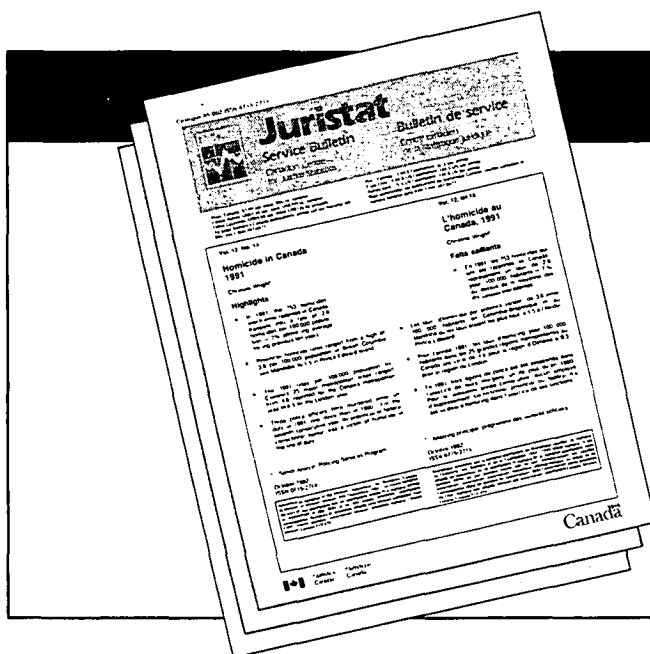
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