



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, April 16, 1993
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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MAJOR RELEASE

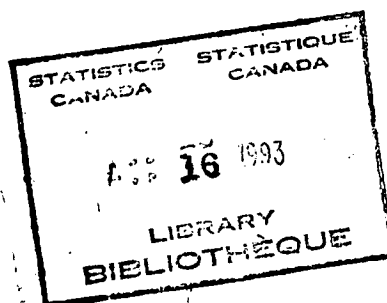
- **Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, February 1993** 2
In February, Canada's merchandise trade surplus fell to \$1.1 billion from \$2.0 billion in January. Despite February's decline, the short-term trend continued to rise.

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MAJOR RELEASE

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

February 1993

Seasonally adjusted exports declined by \$225 million in February to \$14.4 billion. Exports of most commodity groups decreased, the most notable being industrial goods (-\$258 million), forestry products (-\$73 million) and aircraft and other transportation equipment (-\$50 million).

Seasonally adjusted imports more than recovered from January's decline, climbing by \$626 million to \$13.3 billion. Virtually all of the increase in imports came from machinery and equipment (\$296 million) and automotive products (\$264 million).

The decline in exports combined with the large increase in imports caused the merchandise trade surplus to fall by \$850 million to \$1.1 billion in February from \$2.0 billion in January.

Trends

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

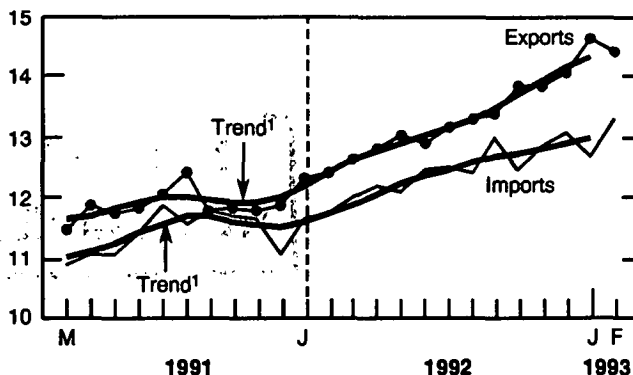
The export trend increased for the 15th consecutive month, rising by over 1% during the latest period to some 18% above its level of 12 months ago. Continuing the pattern recorded in the last several months, exports of the more stable commodities increased. Forestry products exports rose for the eighth month in a row, this time by close to 2%. A slight increase in exports of industrial goods other than precious metals was due to offsetting movements: increased exports of metals and alloys (1.5%) and chemicals and plastics (close to 2%) were moderated by decreased exports of metal ores (-4%) and other industrial goods, which fell marginally for the second month in a row. Within the machinery and equipment sector (excluding aircraft and other transportation equipment), continued increases generated levels much higher than a year before. Miscellaneous consumer goods continued to grow, with this month's increase of almost 2% contributing to an increase of 28% over the last year.

Movements were more varied among the more volatile commodity groupings. Automotive products grew by a further 3.5% this month. Exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment, which have been increasing since last August, grew an additional 4%

Merchandise Trade

Seasonally Adjusted
Balance of Payments Basis

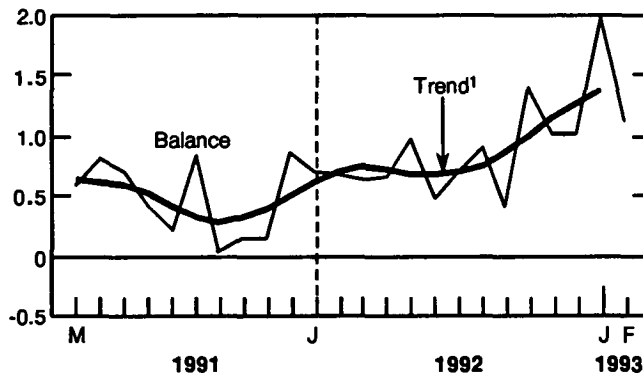
Billions of dollars



Merchandise Trade Balance

Seasonally Adjusted
Balance of Payments Basis

Billions of dollars



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

this month. Precious metals were down for the second consecutive month, but still stood 21% higher than in January 1992. Exports of agricultural products declined for the sixth month in a row, again as a result of falling wheat exports, which dropped by a further 15% to almost half their level of last January. Energy exports fell for the third straight month, but were still more than 11% higher than a year earlier.

On a trend basis, imports increased for the 13th consecutive month and stood 12% higher than in January 1992. Within the stable component, steady increases throughout all of 1992 for agricultural products, industrial goods other than precious metals and forestry products have contributed to an overall growth in each category of around 15% since January 1992. After sustained increases beginning in January 1991, imports of consumer goods declined for the third consecutive month, but current levels were still about 10% higher than they were last January.

As with last month, most commodities within the more volatile import component continued to show upward movement. Imports of automotive products have been increasing for over a year, and the latest increase of 1.5% brought them to 16% above their January 1992 level. Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment increased by just under 2% in the latest month. Energy imports were up over 3%.

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

Current account data that 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, order *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$10/\$100), which 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, order the February 1993 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182), available the first week of May, 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			
	February 1993	January 1993	December 1992	February 1992	February 1993	January 1993	December 1992	February 1992
United States	11,742	11,440	11,307	9,532	9,536	9,193	9,345	8,224
Other Trading Areas	2,657	3,183	2,739	2,852	3,746	3,464	3,698	3,490
Total	14,399	14,624	14,046	12,384	13,282	12,657	13,043	11,714
Agricultural and Fishing Products	1,206	1,148	1,133	1,338	860	862	912	754
Energy Products	1,336	1,339	1,348	1,172	620	633	490	459
Forestry Products	2,022	2,094	1,981	1,685	132	127	114	111
Industrial Goods and Materials	2,465	2,724	2,559	2,226	2,440	2,411	2,391	2,098
Machinery and Equipment	2,952	2,989	2,841	2,446	4,054	3,758	3,988	3,615
Automotive Products	3,818	3,679	3,582	2,997	3,147	2,883	3,151	2,705
Other Consumer Goods	361	368	372	304	1,635	1,602	1,602	1,534
Special Transactions Trade	271	319	268	247	345	328	334	362

Merchandise Trade of Canada, Monthly Variation of the Trend

(percentage change)

	Exports				Imports			
	January 1993	December 1992	November 1992	January 1992	January 1993	December 1992	November 1992	January 1992
Agricultural and Fishing Products	-1.3	-2.3	-3.7	3.3	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.4
Energy Products	-0.8	-0.7	-0.4	-0.6	3.3	2.6	0.9	-3.6
Forestry Products	1.8	2.5	3.6	2.6	1.5	1.3	1.0	0.9
Industrial Goods and Materials	0.0	0.4	0.9	0.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	2.2
Machinery and Equipment	1.6	2.0	2.4	1.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	0.2
Automotive Products	3.5	3.7	3.6	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.0
Other Consumer Goods	1.8	2.0	2.0	3.5	-0.3	-0.3	-0.0	1.2
Special Transactions Trade	-1.5	-1.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.7	-0.6	-0.2	2.1

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import Price Indexes

February 1993

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 February 1993 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Customs-based current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to February 1993 on a 1986 = 100 basis. 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 February 1993 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of May 1993. 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 Ending April 10, 1993

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel primary forms production for the week ending April 10, 1993 totalled 290 208 tonnes, a 0.9% increase from the preceding week's total of 287 729 tonnes and up 3.5% from the year-earlier 280 273 tonnes. The cumulative total at April 10, 1993 was 3 886 192 tonnes, a 2.3% increase from 3 799 278 tonnes for the same period in 1992.

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

Unemployment Insurance Statistics - Number of Contributors and their Contributions

1991

Data on the number who made unemployment insurance contributions and the amount of their contributions are now available for 1991. Data are also available on insurable earnings and work earnings.

Highlights

- In 1991, 13.1 million persons contributed to unemployment insurance, down 2.2% from 1990. Between 1990 and 1991, the number of male contributors decreased 2.6% to 7.0 million and the number of female contributors decreased 1.6% to 6.1 million.
- Employee contributions to unemployment insurance in 1991 amounted to \$6,300 million, an increase of 15.6% from 1990 – the result of a premium increase in July 1991 to \$2.80 for each \$100 of insurable earnings (up from \$2.25/\$100 in 1990). In 1991, males contributed \$3,801 million and females contributed \$2,499 million.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5718-5719 and 5729-5730.

The data will be published in the 1993 edition of *Annual Supplement to Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-202S, \$38), which will be available in June.

For more information, contact Carole Lacroix (613-951-4039) or André Picard (613-951-4045), Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087). ■

Electric Lamps

First Quarter 1993

Data on manufacturers' imports, production and inventories of electric lamps for the first quarter of 1993 are now available.

For more detailed information, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables - Monthly, February 1993.

Catalogue number 32-011

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

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, February 1993.

Catalogue number 65-001P

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

Canada's International Transactions in Securities, January 1993.

Catalogue number 67-002

(Canada: \$15.80/\$158; United States: US\$19/
US\$190; Other Countries: US\$22.10/US\$221).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.



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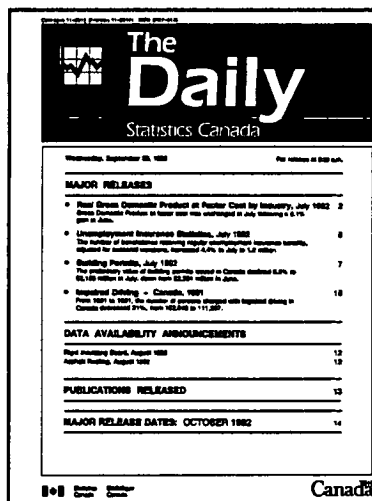
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The Daily, April 16, 1993

MAJOR RELEASE DATES

Week of April 20-23
(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
April		
19	Department Store Sales - Advance Release	March 1993
19	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	February 1993
19	Sales of Natural Gas	February 1993
20	Building Permits	February 1993
21	Consumer Price Index	March 1993
22	Retail Trade	February 1993
22	Canada's International Transactions In Securities	February 1993
23	Wholesale Trade	February 1993



Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

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

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