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Prairie Update

ECONOMIC INDICATOR REPORT

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NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS



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1990

June

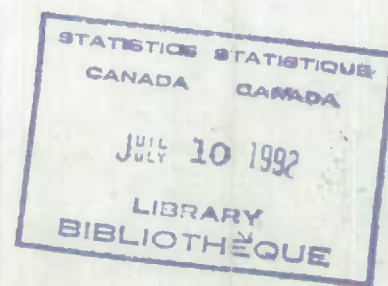
• *Regional Offices*



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S T A T I S T I C S C A N A D A

P R A I R I E U P D A T E

Economic Indicator Report

June 1990

Statistics Canada
Edmonton Office
Advisory Services
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Edmonton, AB
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Source: Statistics Canada. Prepared using CANSIM (Statistics
Canada's computerized Data Bank).

(Aussi Disponible en Francais)

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PRAIRIE UPDATE

ALBERTA

Alberta's labour force remained relatively constant over the past month with only minor changes in the unemployment figures for Edmonton and Calgary. On a provincial level, employment increased by 21,000 persons, resulting in a .6% drop in the unemployment rate.

Average weekly earnings in Alberta have increased by 4.2% over the past twelve months, slightly behind the Alberta all-items C.P.I. which has increased by 5.1%. The New Housing Price Index has risen 19.19% in Edmonton and 16.7% in Calgary over the past year. Alberta manufacturing shipments are up 7.0% through the first quarter of 1990, and retail sales are up by 12.0%.

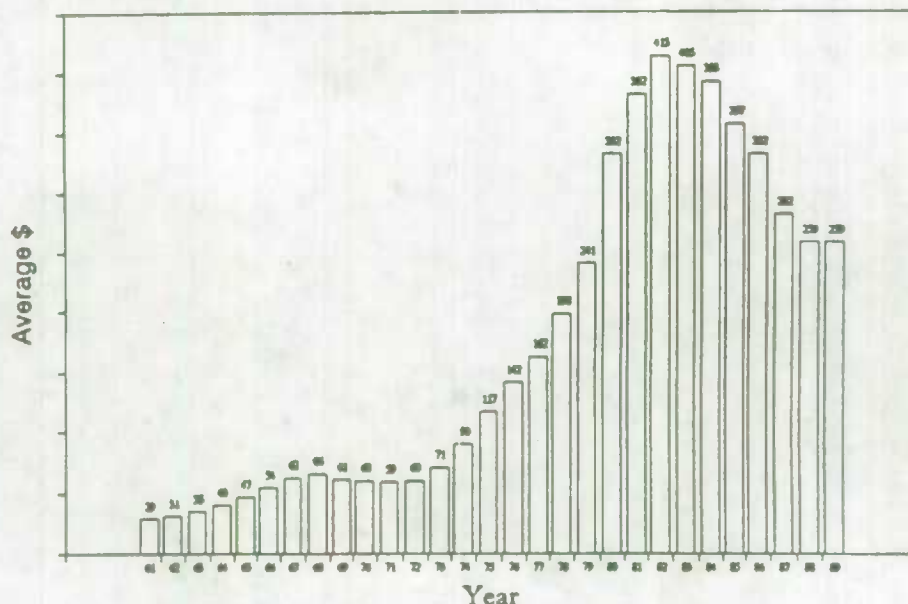
The Alberta housing boom of the first quarter is reflected in a 124.6% rise in residential building permits, while non-residential permits are up only by 45%. The residential values are matched by a 120% increase in housing starts through the first quarter for Alberta communities with 10,000+ in population.

The residential building situation in the Northwest Territories is far different than Alberta's with residential permits up by only 7.3%.

SASKATCHEWAN

The average value of an acre of farm land in Saskatchewan in 1989 was \$259.00, the same as in 1988 and a considerable decrease from a high of \$413.00 in 1982.

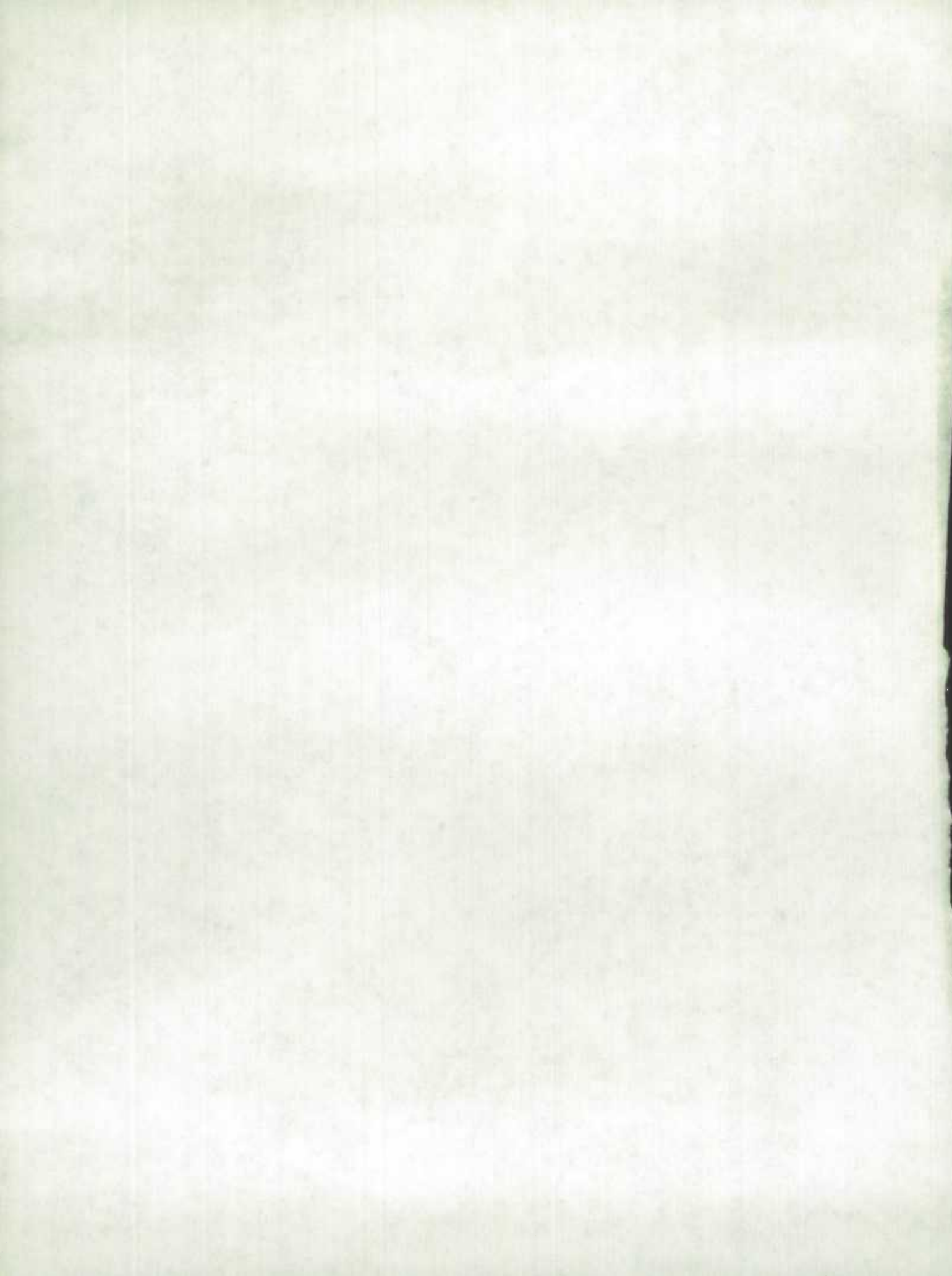
Average farm land prices are shown in the graph below:



MANITOBA

In May, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Manitoba rose by 0.9 percentage points from the previous month. The unadjusted participation rate rose to 68.9%, the highest level since August 1989, and reflects the yearly influx of students into the labour force. Employment in the province reached 516,000, up 15,000 from last May. Employment growth has been concentrated in the service sector with an increase of 28,000 jobs, while the goods producing sector has dropped 13,000 jobs.

The Consumer Price Index in Winnipeg rose by 4.3% in May, down from the 4.8% increase recorded in April. Advances in the index were lead by price increases in bus fares, gasoline, tobacco products and dairy and bakery products, while declines in the price of automotive vehicles and the cost of vegetables helped dampen the advance.



	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for Previous Period	Percent Change from Last Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago
LABOUR FORCE ('000)						
Canada.....	90-May	13757.	13471.	2.1	13604.	1.1
Manitoba.....	90-May	555.	546.	1.6	542.	2.4
Winnipeg.....	90-May	343.	341.	0.6	337.	1.8
Saskatchewan.....	90-May	491.	474.	3.6	488.	0.6
Regina.....	90-May	98.	95.	3.2	96.	2.1
Saskatoon.....	90-May	97.	92.	5.4	96.	1.0
Alberta.....	90-May	1328.	1313.	1.1	1326.	0.2
Edmonton.....	90-May	404.	397.	1.8	402.	0.5
Calgary.....	90-May	388.	389.	-0.3	398.	-2.5
EMPLOYED ('000)						
Canada.....	90-May	12717.	12428.	2.3	12577.	1.1
Manitoba.....	90-May	516.	507.	1.8	501.	3.0
Winnipeg.....	90-May	316.	316.	0.0	308.	2.6
Saskatchewan.....	90-May	457.	438.	4.3	452.	1.1
Regina.....	90-May	91.	87.	4.6	88.	3.4
Saskatoon.....	90-May	87.	84.	3.6	85.	2.4
Alberta.....	90-May	1240.	1219.	1.7	1236.	0.3
Edmonton.....	90-May	371.	365.	1.6	371.	0.0
Calgary.....	90-May	362.	362.	0.0	372.	-2.7
UNEMPLOYED ('000)						
Canada.....	90-May	1040.	1043.	-0.3	1027.	1.3
Manitoba.....	90-May	39.	39.	0.0	41.	-4.9
Winnipeg.....	90-May	27.	25.	8.0	29.	-6.9
Saskatchewan.....	90-May	33.	36.	-8.3	36.	-8.3
Regina.....	90-May	7.	8.	-12.5	8.	-12.5
Saskatoon.....	90-May	9.	9.	0.0	11.	-18.2
Alberta.....	90-May	88.	94.	-6.4	89.	-1.1
Edmonton.....	90-May	33.	32.	3.1	31.	6.5
Calgary.....	90-May	25.	27.	-7.4	26.	-3.8
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)						
Canada.....	90-May	7.6	7.7		7.5	
Manitoba.....	90-May	7.1	7.1		7.5	
Winnipeg.....	90-May	7.8	7.3		8.5	
Saskatchewan.....	90-May	6.8	7.6		7.4	
Regina.....	90-May	7.2	8.4		8.3	
Saskatoon.....	90-May	9.5	9.4		11.4	
Alberta.....	90-May	6.6	7.2		6.7	
Edmonton.....	90-May	8.2	8.0		7.6	
Calgary.....	90-May	6.5	6.9		6.5	
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)						
(Seasonally Adjusted)						
Canada.....	90-May	7.6	7.2		7.6	
Manitoba.....	90-May	7.3	6.4		8.0	
Saskatchewan.....	90-May	6.8	6.6		7.5	
Alberta.....	90-May	6.9	6.5		6.9	

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for Previous Period	Percent Change from Last Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago
PARTICIPATION RATE (%)						
Canada.....	90-May	67.5	66.1		67.7	
Manitoba.....	90-May	68.9	67.8		67.5	
Winnipeg.....	90-May	69.5	69.1		68.5	
Saskatchewan.....	90-May	67.8	65.5		66.9	
Regina.....	90-May	70.1	68.0		69.4	
Saskatoon.....	90-May	69.5	66.6		69.0	
Alberta.....	90-May	72.5	71.8		73.5	
Edmonton.....	90-May	72.5	71.4		73.3	
Calgary.....	90-May	73.7	74.2		77.5	

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
(All Employees, incl.
overtime)

INDUSTRIAL AGGREGATE (\$)

Canada.....	90-Mar	501.23	498.64	0.52	478.03	4.85
Manitoba.....	90-Mar	458.58	453.61	1.10	437.37	4.85
Saskatchewan.....	90-Mar	432.59	433.23	-0.15	420.51	2.87
Alberta.....	90-Mar	498.91	497.39	0.31	478.70	4.22

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

ALL-ITEMS (1981=100)

Canada.....	90-May	157.2	156.4	0.5	150.5	4.5
Manitoba.....	90-May	154.5	153.9	0.4	148.2	4.3
Saskatchewan.....	90-May	152.4	152.3	0.1	146.8	3.8
Alberta.....	90-May	149.4	148.8	0.4	142.1	5.1
Winnipeg.....	90-May	154.5	153.9	0.4	148.2	4.3
Regina.....	90-May	151.9	151.8	0.1	146.6	3.6
Saskatoon.....	90-May	152.8	152.6	0.1	147.0	3.9
Edmonton.....	90-May	149.7	148.9	0.5	143.4	4.4
Calgary.....	90-May	149.0	148.6	0.3	140.7	5.9

FOOD

Canada.....	90-May	145.6	145.2	0.3	140.7	3.5
Winnipeg.....	90-May	139.6	139.1	0.4	132.6	5.3
Regina.....	90-May	137.9	137.8	0.1	133.6	3.2
Saskatoon.....	90-May	137.5	137.3	0.1	132.5	3.8
Edmonton.....	90-May	143.2	142.7	0.4	141.3	1.3
Calgary.....	90-May	139.6	140.8	-0.9	131.6	6.1

NEW HOUSING PRICE INDEX

(1981=100)

Canada.....	90-Mar	154.0	153.7	0.2	147.1	4.7
Winnipeg.....	90-Mar	137.6	136.2	1.0	135.1	1.9
Regina.....	90-Mar	122.6	122.5	0.1	119.7	2.4
Saskatoon.....	90-Mar	113.7	113.7	0.0	112.8	0.8
Edmonton.....	90-Mar	117.7	114.3	3.0	98.8	19.1
Calgary.....	90-Mar	124.5	121.3	2.6	106.7	16.7

NOTE TO USERS

Converting to 1986=100 Time Base

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) series will be converted from its existing 1981=100 time base to a 1986=100 time base. This is in keeping with a Statistics Canada decision to convert all economic series to a common 1986=100 time base.

The converted CPI series on the 1986=100 base will appear for the first time with the release of the June CPI on July 20, 1990.

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago	Total Year to date	%CHG, YTD over same period last yr.
MANUFACTURING SHIPMENTS (\$'000)						
Canada.....	90-Mar	26198123.	26446011.	-0.9	71791563.	-2.9
Manitoba.....	90-Mar	631105.	619135.	1.9	1751052.	0.5
Saskatchewan.....	90-Mar	296841.	342600.	-13.4	844047.	-0.7
Alberta.....	90-Mar	1638968.	1542658.	6.2	4576638.	7.0
RETAIL SALES (millions \$)						
Department Store						
Type Merchandise (Raw)						
All Stores						
Canada.....	90-Mar	5135.	4788.	7.2	13905.	6.4
Manitoba.....	90-Mar	178.	169.	5.3	479.	7.2
Saskatchewan.....	90-Mar	154.	151.	2.0	432.	3.8
Alberta.....	90-Mar	582.	526.	10.6	1592.	12.0
RETAIL SALES (millions \$)						
Canada, Total, All Stores(Raw).....	90-Mar	16271.	15276.	6.5	43099.	6.4
Supermarkets and Grocery stores....	90-Mar	3609.	3437.	5.0	9940.	5.6
All other food stores.....	90-Mar	288.	280.	2.9	799.	5.3
Drugs and medicine.....	90-Mar	758.	699.	8.4	2194.	9.2
Men's clothing stores.....	90-Mar	151.	146.	3.4	398.	5.0
Women's clothing stores.....	90-Mar	331.	275.	20.4	830.	13.7
Other clothing stores.....	90-Mar	352.	326.	8.0	881.	4.8
Household furnitures and appl.....	90-Mar	725.	716.	1.3	2068.	3.8
Recreational and motor veh.....	90-Mar	4213.	3998.	5.4	10163.	4.9
Gasoline service stations.....	90-Mar	1169.	1059.	10.4	3290.	9.5
General merchandise stores.....	90-Mar	1536.	1470.	4.5	3995.	4.9
Manitoba, Total, All Stores.....	90-Mar	560.	525.	6.7	1521.	8.4
Saskatchewan, Total, All Stores.....	90-Mar	501.	499.	0.4	1379.	2.4
Alberta, Total, All Stores.....	90-Mar	1635.	1551.	5.4	4410.	8.3
BUILDING PERMITS (\$'000)						
Manitoba-Total.....	90-Mar	73260.	51916.	41.1	143254.	5.2
Man Residential Total.....	90-Mar	34095.	30425.	12.1	76175.	9.2
Man Non-Residential Total.....	90-Mar	39165.	21491.	82.2	67079.	1.1
Winnipeg.....	90-Mar	59390.	43689.	35.9	118843.	2.9
Saskatchewan-Total.....	90-Mar	19380.	20508.	-5.5	111478.	100.7
Sask Residential Total.....	90-Mar	9447.	10964.	-13.8	23165.	-4.2
Sask Non-Residential Total.....	90-Mar	9933.	9544.	4.1	88313.	181.5
Regina.....	90-Mar	5373.	5072.	5.9	16767.	3.1
Saskatoon.....	90-Mar	4469.	6847.	-34.7	75640.	232.2
Alberta-Total.....	90-Mar	375439.	204055.	84.0	844262.	84.8
Alta Residential Total.....	90-Mar	242331.	108518.	123.3	513191.	124.6
Alta Non-Residential Total.....	90-Mar	133108.	95537.	39.3	331071.	45.0
Edmonton.....	90-Mar	149322.	45137.	230.8	308685.	132.4
Calgary.....	90-Mar	151116.	125534.	20.4	382599.	56.2

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago	Total Year to date	%CHG, YTD over same period last yr.
HOUSING STARTS (#)						
Canada (centres 10,000+).....	90-Apr	16133.	17392.	-7.2	52337.	-1.2
Manitoba (centres 10,000+).....	90-Apr	195.	222.	-12.2	766.	0.0
Winnipeg.....	90-Apr	192.	213.	-9.9	749.	-0.1
Saskatchewan (centres 10,000+)..	90-Apr	143.	231.	-38.1	307.	-33.1
Regina.....	89-Dec	19.	22.	-13.6	597.	-41.4
Saskatoon.....	89-Dec	23.	32.	-28.1	488.	-65.8
Alberta (centres 10,000+).....	90-Apr	2110.	834.	153.0	5929.	119.4
Edmonton.....	89-Dec	407.	287.	41.8	4817.	16.5
Calgary.....	89-Dec	470.	311.	51.1	6228.	63.9
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION (MWH)						
TOTAL ENERGY GENERATION						
Manitoba.....	90-Mar	1630172.	1621414.	0.5	5136162.	6.5
Saskatchewan.....	90-Mar	1153892.	1233547.	-6.5	3615925.	-4.1
Alberta.....	90-Mar	3617816.	3689523.	-1.9	11065731.	0.2
TOTAL HYDRO GENERATION						
Manitoba.....	90-Mar	1576822.	1579825.	-0.2	4880592.	6.2
Saskatchewan.....	90-Mar	356545.	166057.	114.7	980294.	57.4
Alberta.....	90-Mar	117691.	88837.	32.5	358256.	31.5

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for Previous Period	Percent Change from Last Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago
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AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS (All Employees, incl. overtime)

INDUSTRIAL AGGREGATE (\$)

Northwest Territories.....	90-Mar	677.27	668.32	1.34	654.25	3.52
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

ALL-ITEMS (March 1982=100)

Yellowknife.....	90-May	146.7	145.3	1.0	141.4	3.7
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FOOD

Yellowknife.....	90-May	134.1	131.2	2.2	134.1	0.0
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	Reference Period	Data for Reference Period	Data for same Per. last Year	% Change from same Per. a Year ago	Total Year to date	%CHG, YTD over same period last yr.
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RETAIL SALES (millions \$)

Department Store

Type Merchandise (Raw)

All stores

Northwest Territories.....	90-Mar	16.	14.	14.3	42.	7.7
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RETAIL SALES (millions \$)(Raw)

Northwest Territories

Total, All Stores.....	90-Mar	26.	23.	13.0	71.	12.7
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BUILDING PERMITS (\$'000)

Northwest Territories-Total....	90-Mar	487.	2691.	-81.9	3681.	-11.8
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N.W.T. Residential Total....	90-Mar	273.	470.	-41.9	1389.	7.8
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N.W.T. Non-Residential Total	90-Mar	214.	2221.	-90.4	2292.	-20.6
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ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION (MWH)

TOTAL ENERGY GENERATION

Northwest Territories.....	90-Mar	42140.	43562.	-3.3	131280.	2.0
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TOTAL HYDRO GENERATION

Northwest Territories.....	90-Mar	21892.	22421.	-2.4	67252.	-2.4
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PERSPECTIVES

ON LABOUR AND INCOME

Statistics Canada's quarterly for labour and income information

Highlights from the Summer 1990 issue

Measuring Canada's international competitiveness

- *Between 1981 and 1988, growth in unit labour cost in Canadian manufacturing, expressed in U.S. dollars, exceeded that in the United States (3.0% per year versus 0.4%). This faster growth was caused by larger increases in labour cost (3.4% per year versus 0.4%) that were only partially offset by the depreciation of the Canadian dollar.*
- *Canada's productivity growth in manufacturing trailed its major competitors in the '80s. Between 1981 and 1988, the output per hour in Canadian manufacturing rose 2.3% per year, the lowest rate of increase among the seven major OECD countries.*

Male/female earnings gap among university graduates

- *Despite the increasing proportion of women among university graduates employed full-time, their earnings still lag well behind their male counterparts. In 1984, two years after graduation, female graduates employed full-time had earnings averaging \$24,000 -- 88% of the average among men (\$27,000).*
- *By 1987 the ratio of female to male earnings had dropped to 82% with women earning \$31,000 on average compared to \$38,000 for men.*

Work and relative poverty

- *In 1988, one-fifth of low income families had members who worked the equivalent of one full year of full-time employment.*
- *Only 1% of two-parent families with two children under 18 years of age, and who worked the equivalent of two full-time, full-year jobs, fell below the low income cut-offs.*

continued

The gift of time

- *Over one billion hours were "worked" by volunteers during the 12-month period ending October 1987.*
- *Survey results show that the largest number of volunteer jobs involved fundraising (38%), providing information (36%) or organizing, supervising and coordinating activities (35%). About 57% of volunteer jobs were filled by women. Almost one-half of volunteers were aged 25-44 years.*

Dependency ratios: An international comparison

- *During the mid-'60s in Canada, there were 67 dependants per 100 persons aged 15-64 years. Of these, 55 were under the age of 15 and 12 were 65 years and over. By the late '80s the number had dropped to 47 (31 under age 15 and 16 age 65 years and over).*
- *These age-specific dependency ratios in Canada, France and the United States are projected to drop until the year 2010. For other OECD countries the dependency ratios will rise beginning in the 1990s. The elderly are expected to constitute 50% to 63% of the dependent population by the year 2030.*
- *By that year, the projected Canadian dependency ratio will again increase to 66 for every 100 persons aged 15-64 years. Although the ratio will be higher in West Germany (69 per 100), Canada will have experienced the largest percentage increase (38%) over the 50-year period.*

Trading places: Men and women in non-traditional occupations

- *Between 1971 and 1986, more women had moved into male-dominated occupations, becoming lawyers, veterinarians and dispensing opticians. In technical and skilled jobs, there were more female typesetters/compositors and bus drivers.*
- *For men entering non-traditional occupations, growth occurred in clerical positions, teaching and certain types of product fabricating, such as textile workers and electronic equipment assembling.*

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DEFINITIONS

Labour Force - that portion of the civilian non-institutional population 15 years of age and over who, during the reference week were employed or unemployed

Employed - persons who, during the reference week, did any work at all or had a job but were not at work due to: (1) own illness or disability (2) personal or family responsibilities (3) bad weather (4) labour dispute (5) vacation (6) other reason not specified above (excluding persons on layoff and persons whose job attachment was to a job to start at a definite date in the future)

Unemployed - persons who, during the reference week, were without work and were available for work, had been on layoff, or had a new job to start in four weeks or less from the reference week

Unemployment Rate - represents the number of unemployed persons expressed as a per cent of the labour force

Participation Rate - represents the labour force expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over

Employment/Population Ratio - represents the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over

SA (Seasonally Adjusted) - A seasonally adjusted series is one from which seasonal movements have been eliminated. Seasonal movements are defined as those which are caused by regular annual events such as climate, crop cycles, holidays and vacation periods. It should be noted that the seasonally-adjusted series contains irregular as well as longer-term cyclical fluctuations.

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