



IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

STATISTICS CANADA / STATISTIQUE CANADA

Friday, July 27, 1990

OVERVIEW

JUL 27 1990

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■ Shipments Virtually Unchanged

Manufacturers' shipments edged up slightly (0.1%) in May following a decline of 1% in April.

■ Consumer Price Index Decelerates

In June, the Consumer Price Index increased 4.3% on a yearly basis, continuing the deceleration started in January.

■ Retail Sales Down

Retail sales decreased 1.0% in May to \$16.1 billion. This was their second consecutive decline.

■ Department Store Sales Decrease

In May, seasonally adjusted department store sales were down 2.4% from the previous month's level, contributing to a modest decline since January.

■ Wholesale Sales Decline

In April, seasonally adjusted wholesale merchants' sales were down 1.8% from March. This was their second consecutive decline.

■ Number of Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries Rises

In May, the seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits increased 4.3%, to a level that it had not reached since early 1987.

Shipments Virtually Unchanged

Seasonally adjusted Canadian manufacturers' shipments edged up 0.1% in May. Cumulative shipments for the first five months of the year, however, were 2.9% below the value for the corresponding period in 1989.

An increase in shipments of the transportation equipment sector (8.8%), which may be linked to the possibility of a strike in that sector, offset a 1.7% decline in other manufacturing industries.

Inventory levels decreased by 0.6%, the third consecutive decline as manufacturers appear to keep them under tight control.

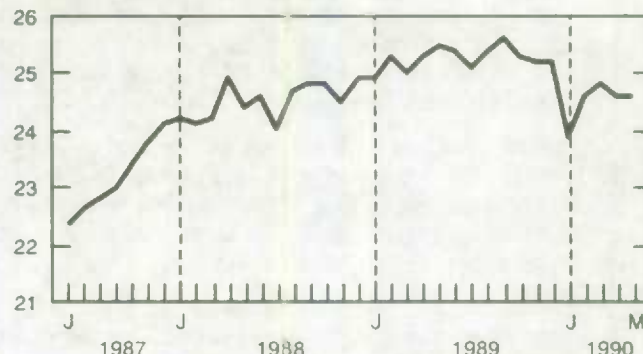
The inventories to shipments ratio decreased slightly to 1.54. It had reached a three-year high of 1.60 in January.

Unfilled orders were up 0.1% in May. This followed declines in the previous six months which added up to 9.9%.

(continued on page 2)

Manufacturers' Shipments

Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



... Shipments Virtually Unchanged

New orders were up 1.2% over April. This was their second increase in a row and they reached a level above the value of shipments for the first time since October.

For further information, order *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (catalogue number 31-001) or contact *Industry Division* at (613) 951-9497.

Consumer Price Index Decelerates

In June, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 4.3% from the previous year. The year-over-year increase of the index has been declining every month since January.

Most components of the price index recorded modest declines of their yearly rates of increase. The yearly increase in the food component, however, which had gone down from 5.0% in March to 3.4% in May was up again to 4.1%. The advance in food was partly offset by a sharp deceleration in the transpor-

tation index. At a yearly rate of increase of 3.7%, the transportation component has been slowing steadily since February, when it was rising at a rate of 7%.

The CPI rose faster than the national average in Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria, continuing the trend of recent months. In St John's, Saint John, Quebec City and Montreal, the index increased more slowly than in the rest of the country.

For further information, order *Consumer Price Index* (catalogue number 62-001) or contact the *Prices Division* at (613) 951-9606.

Retail Sales Down

Retail sales decreased 1.0% in May to \$16.1 billion. This was the second consecutive decline.

The decrease was broadly based, with 11 of the 16 trade groups registering declines. Sales of general merchandise stores declined 3.1%, after variations adding up to little change in the last four months. Supermarkets and grocery stores posted a decline of 1.2%, the second in three months. Sales of automotive parts, accessories and services declined for the third month in a row.

Gasoline service station sales advanced 1.0% after a 1.4% decline. Sales of recreational and motor vehicles, whose wide variations had set the tone for total retail sales in the previous year, were virtually unchanged. Excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers, retail sales decreased 1.3% after an increase of 0.1%.

For further information, order *Retail Trade* (catalogue number 63-005) or contact *Industry Division* at (613) 951-3552.

Department Store Sales Decrease

At \$1.1 billion, seasonally adjusted department store sales were down 2.4% from April. In the last five months, department store sales have fluctuated markedly but, on average, registered a modest decline. Gains in February and April did not fully offset declines in other months.

Stocks reached \$4.8 billion at the end of May, a decline of 0.6% from the previous month following a 1.5% increase. Since January, they have registered a cumulative increase of 1.3% but have not yet reached their level of October.

The ratio of stocks to sales stood at 4.15, a slight increase from the average ratio of 4.07 observed in the three previous months.

For further information, order *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (catalogue number 63-002) or contact *Industry Division* at (613) 951-3552.

Department Store Sales

Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Wholesale Sales Decline

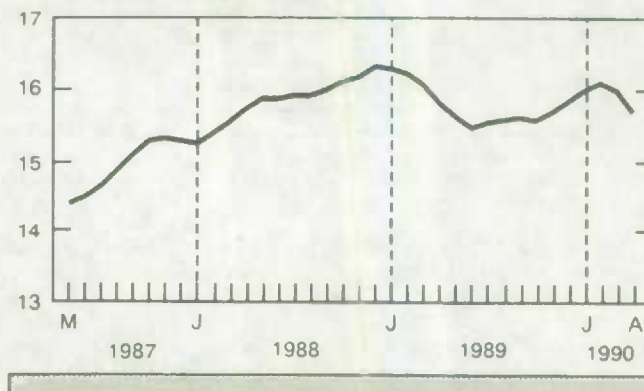
In April, seasonally adjusted wholesale merchant's sales were down 1.8% from March. This second consecutive decline was broadly based: eight of the nine trade groups posted lower sales in March.

Declines registered by three groupings of wholesalers made the largest contributions to the decrease in total sales. Sales of non-farm machinery and equipment posted a decline (2.8%) for the second month in a row. Sales of food, beverages, drugs and tobacco products were down 1.3% after two months of marginal changes. Wholesalers of other products (farm and forest products; industrial, household and agricultural chemicals; paper products...) registered a decline of 1.5%, which together with the decline in March, partially offset an increase noted in February.

Sales by merchants of apparel and dry goods increased slightly (0.1%), slowing markedly from the average increase of 2.5% in the three previous months.

Wholesale Trade

Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



For further information, order *Wholesale Trade* (catalogue number 63-008) or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3589.

Number of Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries Rises

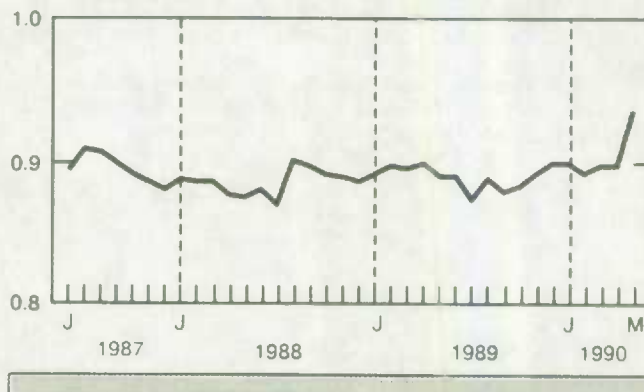
In May, the seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits increased 4.3% to reach 935,000. In the previous twelve months, the number of beneficiaries had oscillated within a narrow range of 878,000 to 899,000.

Total benefit payments remained virtually unchanged for a second consecutive month, decelerating from larger increases in February and March. The number of benefit weeks increased 2.9% after much smaller increases in the previous two months.

For further information order *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (catalogue 73-001) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4044.

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits

Millions, seasonally adjusted



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JULY 20 TO 26

AGRICULTURE

Farm Product Price Index, May 1990. Catalogue number 62-003 (Canada: \$7.10/\$71.00; United States: US\$8.50/\$US85.00; Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99.00).

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM

Salaries and Salary Scales of Full-Time Teaching Staff at Canadian Universities, 1989-90 Supplementary. Catalogue number 81-258S (Canada: \$22.00; United States: US\$26.00; Other Countries: US\$31.00).

Touriscope - International Travel, May 1990. Catalogue number 66-001P (Canada: \$6.10/\$61.00; United States: US\$7.30/US\$73.00; Other Countries: US\$8.50/US\$85.00).

Travel-log - Gone Away On a "Getaway", Summer issue, 1990. Catalogue number 87-003 (Canada: \$10.50/\$42.00; United States: US\$12.50/US\$50.00; Other Countries: US\$14.75/US\$59.00).

INDUSTRY

Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables - Monthly, April 1990. Catalogue number 32-011 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers, June 1990. Catalogue number 36-006 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Electric Lamps (Light Bulbs and Tubes), June 1990. Catalogue number 43-009 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet, Quarter Ended June 1990. Catalogue number 47-005 (Canada: \$4.75/\$19.00; United States: US\$5.75/US\$23.00; Other Countries: US\$6.75/US\$27.00).

Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, June 1990. Catalogue number 32-001 (Canada: \$2.70/\$27.00; United States: US\$3.20/US\$32.00; Other Countries: US\$3.80/US\$38.00).

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, May 1990. Catalogue number 31-001 (Canada: \$17.30/\$173.00; United States: US\$20.80/US\$208.00; Other Countries: US\$24.20/US\$242.00).

Primary Iron and Steel, May 1990. Catalogue number 41-001 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

INDUSTRY - Concluded

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, June 1990. Catalogue number 32-022 (Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: \$6.00/\$60.00; Other Countries: \$7.00/\$70.00).

INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE

Financial Institutions - Financial Statistics, First Quarter 1990. Catalogue number 61-006 (Canada: \$44.00/\$176.00; United States: US\$52.75/US\$211.00; Other Countries: US\$61.50/US\$246.00).

INTEGRATION AND WEALTH ACCOUNTS

Canadian Economic Observer, July 1990. Catalogue number 11-010 (Canada: \$22.00/\$220.00; United States: US\$26.00/US\$260.00; Other Countries: US\$31.00/US\$310.00).

Canadian Economic Observer - Historical Statistical Supplement, 1989/90. Catalogue number 11-210 (Canada: \$27.00; United States: US\$32.00; Other Countries: US\$38.00).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based), May 1990. Catalogue number 65-007 (Canada: \$55.10/\$551.00; United States: US\$66.10/US\$661.00; Other Countries: US\$77.10/US\$771.00).

JUSTICE

Juristat - Drug Possession in Canada, July 1990. Catalogue number 85-002 (Canada: \$3.90/\$38.00; United States: US\$4.70/US\$94.00; Other Countries: US\$5.45/US\$109.00).

PRICES

The Consumer Price Index, June 1990. Catalogue number 62-001 (Canada: \$9.30/\$93.00; United States: US\$11.20/US\$112.00; Other Countries: US\$13.00/US\$130.00).

SERVICES

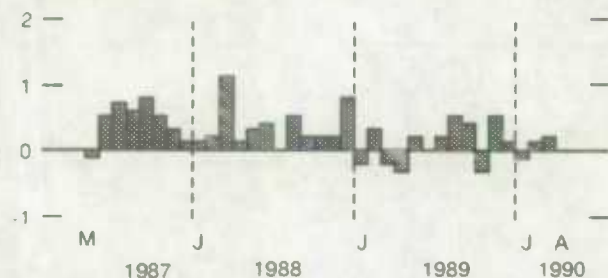
Cable Television, 1989. Catalogue number 56-205 (Canada: \$26.00; United States: US\$31.00; Other Countries: US\$36.00).

Service Industry Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 2, The Scientific and Technical Services Industry, 1987. Catalogue number 63-015 (Canada: \$7.20/\$43.00; United States: US\$8.65/US\$52.00; Other Countries: US\$10.00/US\$60.00).

CURRENT TRENDS*

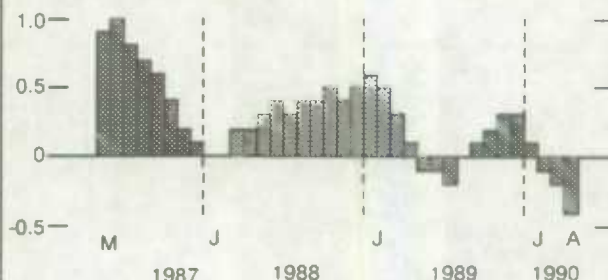
Gross Domestic Product

% change, previous month



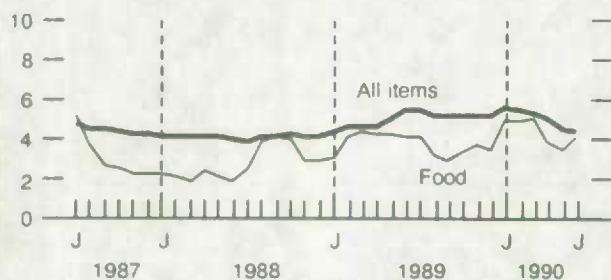
Composite Leading Indicator

% change, previous month

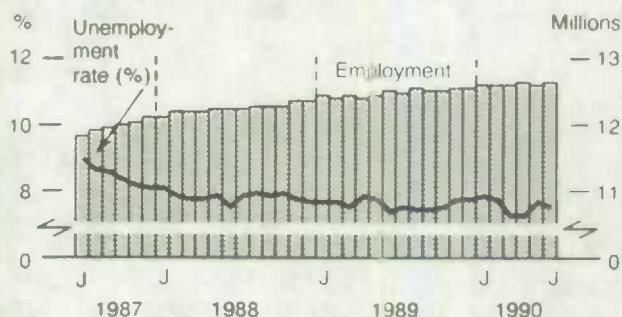


Consumer Price Index

% change, previous year

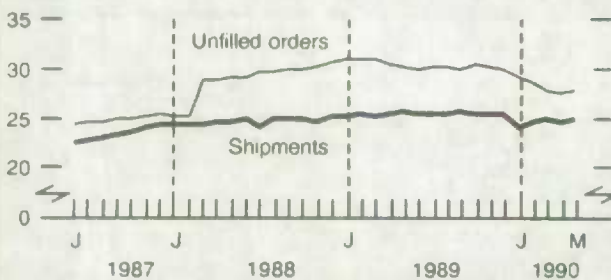


Unemployment Rate and Employment



Manufacturing

Billions of dollars



Merchandise Trade

Billions of dollars, short-term trend



* All series are seasonally adjusted except the consumer price index.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
GENERAL				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1981)	April	416	0.0%	1.6%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	April	144.9	-0.4%	-0.1%
Profits of Industrial Corporations (\$ billion)	1st Q	6.2	-1.5%	-51.6%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	May*	16.3	-1.0%	-0.8%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	May	109	-1.2%	-15.4%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	June	12.6	0.1%	0.9%
Unemployment Rate (%)	June	7.5	-0.1	0.2
Participation Rate (%)	June	66.8	-0.1	-0.2
Labour Income (\$ billion)	April	31.6	0.8%	8.8%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	April	506.02	0.6%	5.2%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	May	12.4	4.8%	0.1%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	May	11.5	-0.1%	-2.3%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	May	1.0	0.6	0.4
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	May*	24.6	0.7%	-3.6%
New Orders (\$ billion)	May*	24.6	1.2%	-2.0%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	May*	27.6	-0.1%	-8.3%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	May*	1.54	-0.1	-0.04
Capacity Utilization (%)	1st Q	80.4	-1.6	-4.1
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1981 = 100)	June*	119.2	0.4%	4.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1981 = 100)	May	131.8	0.3%	0.3%
Raw Materials Price Index (1981 = 100)	May	99.6	-2.0%	-3.5%
New Housing Price Index (1981 = 100)	May	145.6	-0.3%	3.5%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of average weekly earnings and the price indexes.

* New this week.

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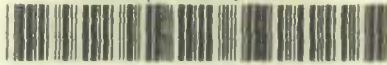
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KEY RELEASE CALENDAR: August 1990*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Composite Leading Indicator, May Business Conditions Survey, July	2	3
6	7	8 Help-Wanted Index, July	9 New Housing Price Index, June Labour Income, May	10 Labour Force Survey, July New Motor Vehicle Sales, June Farm Product Price Index, June
13 International Travel, June	14	15	16	17 Consumer Price Index, July International Trade, June
20 Wholesale Trade, June	21 Retail Trade, June	22	23 Industrial Corporation Financial Statistics, 2nd Quarter Farm Cash Receipts, January-June Survey of Manufacturing, June Department Store Sales and Stocks, June	24 Security Transactions with Non-residents, June International Travel Account, 2nd Quarter
27	28	29 Unemployment Insurance Statistics, June	31 National Income and Expenditure Accounts, 2nd Quarter Balance of Payments, 2nd Quarter Financial Flow Accounts, 2nd Quarter Gross Domestic Product, June Industrial Product Price Index, July Raw Materials Price Index, July Employment, Earnings and Hours, June Building Permits, June	

* Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series may change.

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