



IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, April 12, 1991

OVERVIEW

■ Employment Unchanged

In March, employment remained virtually the same while more people joined the labour force. This pushed the unemployment rate up 0.3 points to 10.5, the highest since May 1985.

■ New Motor Vehicle Sales Drop

After a large increase in January, sales of all new motor vehicles fell 5.6% in February, the seventh decline in eight months.

■ New Housing Price Index: Drop Accelerates

In February, the New Housing Price Index for Canada fell 2.3%, the sharpest drop since the index started declining in April 1990.

■ Wages and Salaries Decline

The seasonally adjusted estimate of wages and salaries fell 0.4% in January, a second consecutive monthly drop.

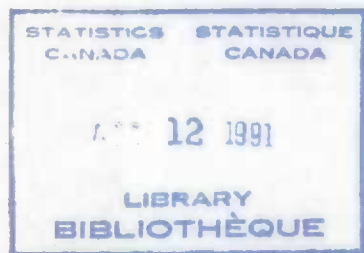
Employment Unchanged

After five consecutive declines, employment remained virtually flat in March, as a result of offsetting changes. Employment dropped 1.8% for young men and 0.7% for young women. For adult men, employment was virtually unchanged, while for women, it rose by 0.7%. Gains in full-time employment were largely offset by declines in part-time employment.

Unemployment went up by 3.0%, as a result of increased participation in the labour force. Nearly three-quarters of the increased unemployment was among women. The unemployment rate for Canada rose 0.3 percentage points to 10.5%, the highest since May 1985. The rate for men was 11.0% while for women, it was 9.9%.

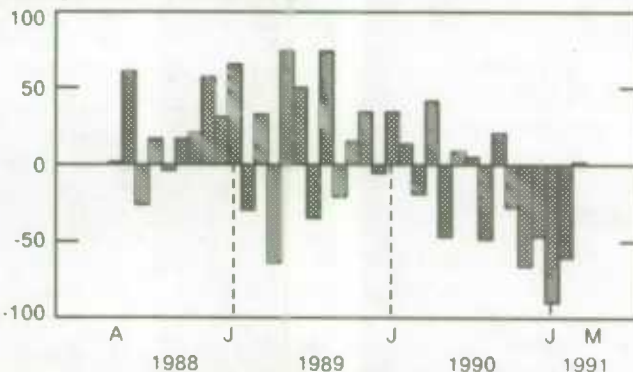
The March issue of The Labour Force (catalogue number 71-001) includes an article comparing the first twelve months of the current recession with the first twelve months of the 1981-1982 recession. For further information, contact Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-4720.

(continued on page 2)



Employment

Change, previous month ('000)



Statistics Canada
Statistique Canada

Canada

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Labour Force Survey Results for March 1991

	Labour Force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	Rate (%)
Canada	13,733	0.3	12,291	--	1,442	10.5
Newfoundland	246	-0.4	201	-0.5	45	18.3
Prince Edward Island	63	--	52	--	11	17.4
Nova Scotia	421	-1.2	373	-1.3	48	11.4
New Brunswick	326	-1.2	285	-2.4	41	12.6
Québec	3,404	0.5	2,980	0.1	424	12.5
Ontario	5,269	0.7	4,749	0.3	520	9.9
Manitoba	540	-0.2	492	-0.6	48	8.9
Saskatchewan	485	--	450	0.4	35	7.2
Alberta	1,349	0.4	1,245	0.3	104	7.7
British Columbia	1,634	0.2	1,467	-0.1	167	10.2

New Motor Vehicle Sales Drop

After a large increase in January which was linked to fleet sales, new motor vehicle sales fell 5.6% to 105,000 units in February, the seventh decline in eight months.

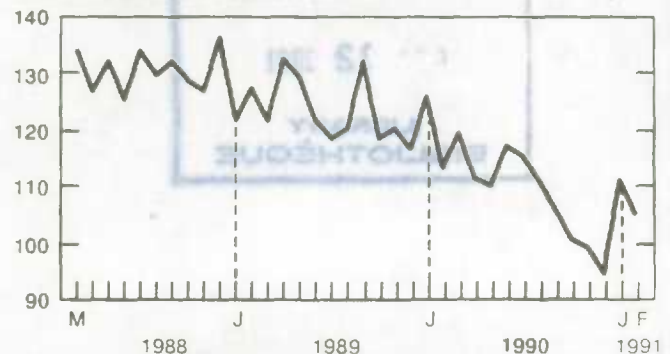
Passenger car sales decreased by 7.1% as a result of large opposing movements. Sales of North American passenger cars decreased by 17.7%, after a sharp gain in January. Sales of imported cars recorded a gain of 21.3%, following a decline in January.

Sales of trucks, vans and buses fell slightly (-1.8%), the sixth drop in seven months.

For further information, order New Motor Vehicle Sales (catalogue number 63-007) or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3552.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles

Seasonally adjusted, thousands of units



New Housing Price Index: Drop Accelerates

In February, the New Housing Price Index for Canada fell 2.3%, the sharpest drop since the index started declining in April 1990.

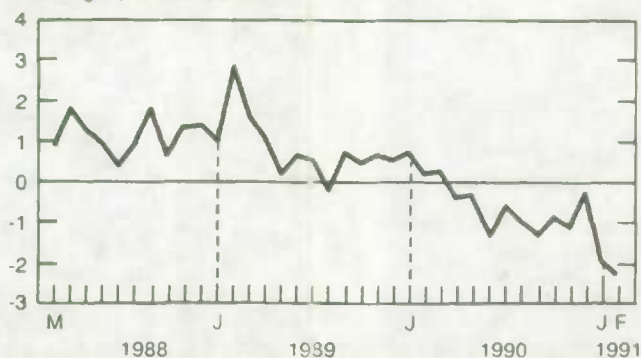
However, the weakness was concentrated in fewer cities than in previous months. Out of 20 cities for which indexes are compiled, only seven posted decreases and two showed no change.

The index for Toronto, which accounts for over one-third of the total index weight for Canada, dropped by 5.0%, a sharper decrease than the 3.9% recorded in January and the average monthly declines of 1.0% in the previous 12 months. In Vancouver, the decrease was 2.8%, having averaged 1.0% in the previous four months. In Kitchener-Waterloo, the index decreased 1.1%, the tenth consecutive decline. The index for St. Catharines and Niagara declined by 1.0%, the sixth drop in eight months.

All other cities for which indexes are compiled posted changes of 1.0% or less.

New Housing Price Index

% change, previous month



For Canada, the land only index fell at a faster rate (-2.7%) than the house only index (-2.1%), for the first time since both started declining earlier this year.

For further information, order *Construction Price Statistics* (catalogue number 62-007) or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9607.

Wages and Salaries Decline

In January, wages and salaries posted a second consecutive monthly drop (-0.4%), after a month of no change. The January decline was widespread and affected eight of the 14 industry groups.

Wages and salaries in construction fell 1.5%, contributing to a cumulative decline of 7.7% from the April 1990 peak. Transportation, communication and other utilities registered a drop of 1.2% after two months of little change. Trade posted a third consecutive decrease (-1.4%) and commercial and personal services registered a decline of 1.0%, the first in six months.

These decreases more than offset gains in federal administration and other government offices, and in provincial and local administration.

Manitoba and British Columbia were the only provinces to show changes of more than 1.0% (see accompanying table).

Wages and Salaries

January 1991

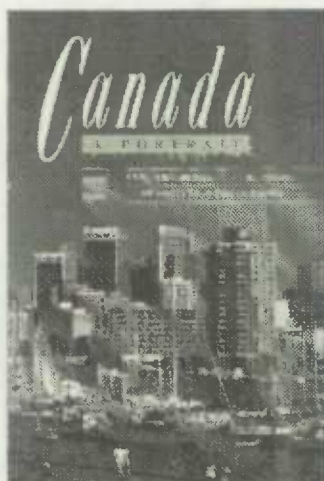
Province	Wages and Salaries (\$ millions)	% change, previous month	% change previous year
Canada	28,497	-0.4	2.8
Newfoundland	382	--	1.9
Prince Edward Island	86	0.8	4.7
Nova Scotia	717	-1.0	3.0
New Brunswick	559	1.0	4.1
Quebec	6,505	-0.3	2.8
Ontario	12,358	-0.4	2.3
Manitoba	933	-1.2	-1.2
Saskatchewan	720	0.4	0.4
Alberta	2,760	0.5	0.5
British Columbia	3,375	-1.2	4.2

For further information, order *Estimates of Labour Income* (catalogue number 72-005) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4049 (FAX: 951-4087).

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM APRIL 5 TO 10, 1991

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
AGRICULTURE					
The Dairy Review	January 1991	23-001	12.20/122	14.60/146	17.10/171
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM					
Film and Video	1988-89	87-204	22	26	31
Television Viewing	1989	87-208	26	31	36
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
Income After Tax, Distributions by Size in Canada	1989	13-210	25	30	35
INDUSTRY					
Asphalt Roofing	February 1991	45-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Canada's Mineral Production	Preliminary estimates 1990	26-202	22	26	31
Coal and Coke Statistics	January 1991	45-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Electric Lamps (Light bulbs and tubes)	February 1991	43-009	5/50	6/60	7/70
Gypsum Products	February 1991	44-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Pack of Processed Peas	1990	32-235	13	16	18
Primary Iron and Steel	January 1991	41-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder	February 1991	32-024	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances	February 1991	43-010	5/50	6/60	7/70
Rigid Insulating Board (Wood Fibre Products)	February 1991	36-002	5/50	6/60	7/70
Special Trade Contractors, The Construction Industry	1987	64-210	27	32	38
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products	January 1991	41-006	5/50	6/60	7/70
The Sugar Situation	February 1991	32-013	5/50	6/60	7/70
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Summary of Canadian International Trade	January 1991	65-001	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK					
Capacity Utilization Rates in Canadian Manufacturing Industries	Fourth Quarter 1990	31-003	11/44	13.25/53	15.50/62
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS					
Gross Domestic Product by Industry	January 1991	15-001	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Indicators of Science and Technology, Mobility of Scientists, Engineers and Technologists	1990	88-002	18/72	21.50/86	25.25/101
Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics	November 1990	63-011	6.10/61	7.30/73	8.50/85
TRANSPORTATION					
Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports	July-September 1988 and 1989	51-005	30.50/122	36.50/146	42.75/171
Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics	December 1990	53-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
Road Motor Vehicles Registrations	1989	53-219	17	20	24

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Canada: A Portrait

1991

Canada: A Portrait, released this week by Statistics Canada, marks its 60th anniversary with the 1991 edition.

This colourful book contains an updated exploration of the land and climate of Canada, as well as an expanded look at the environment. Also included for the first time is a list of associated publications from Statistics Canada for readers who want to pursue particular topics in detail. Contents are drawn from over 60 contributors, all specialists in their fields. The book features more than 200 colour photographs from some of the nation's leading photographers.

For further information, order *Canada: A Portrait* (catalogue number 11-403E).



Television Viewing

A new Statistics Canada publication reveals interesting facts concerning the television viewing habits of Canadians. Here are a few of the publication's highlights:

- In 1989, Canadians watched an average of 23.4 hours of television per week. This continues a very slight downward trend from a high of 24.3 hours in 1984.
- Residents of Quebec reported the highest average viewing levels (25.7 hours per week) and Newfoundlanders reported the second highest (25.5 hours). Residents of British Columbia reported the lowest viewing levels (21.6 hours per week).
- Children and teens watched more foreign programming than adults. For anglophones the level was slightly more than 10% higher, while for francophones, it was over a third higher.

For further information, order *Television Viewing* (catalogue number 87-208) or contact Education, Culture and Tourism Division at (613) 951-1565.

Indicators of Science and Technology, 1990

Mobility of Scientists, Engineers and Technologists in Canada

Statistics Canada has just released a report that analyses the mobility of scientists, engineers and technologists, according to data from the 1986 Census. Here are some of the highlights of the publication:

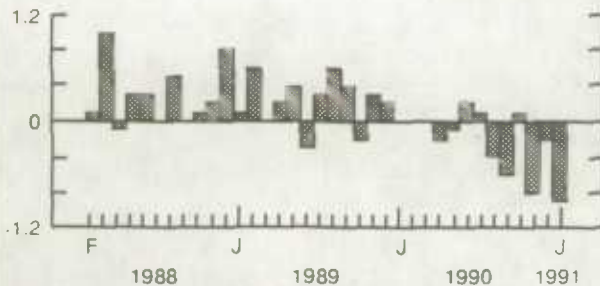
- Ontario has the highest share (40%) of scientists, engineers and technologists in Canada, and Quebec employs 24% of this kind of workers.
- The most dynamic industries in terms of employment of scientists, engineers and technologists are the Ontario manufacturing industry and the primary industries of the Prairie region.
- About 68% of scientists, engineers and technologists in Canada are men. One-third of such workers are men between 25 and 34 years of age with a bachelor's degree or university diploma.

For further information, order *Indicators of Science and Technology, 1990: Mobility of Scientists, Engineers and Technologists in Canada* (catalogue number 88-002, vol. 2, no 1) or contact Services, Science, and Technology Division at (613) 951-5429.

CURRENT TRENDS

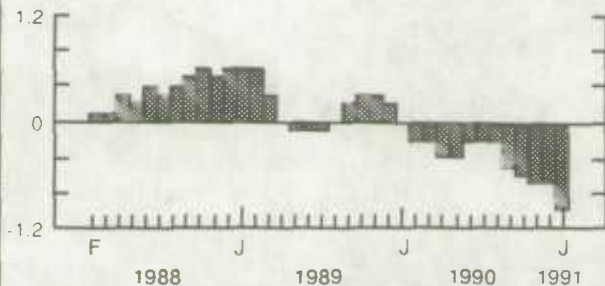
Gross Domestic Product

% change,
previous month



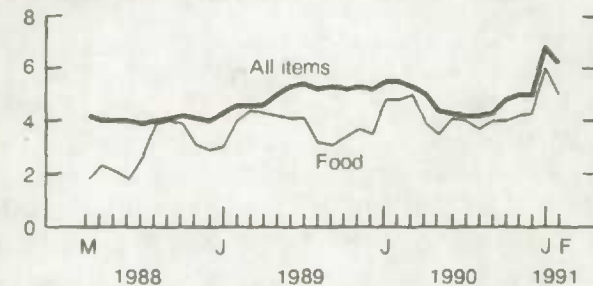
Composite Leading Indicator

% change,
previous month



Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



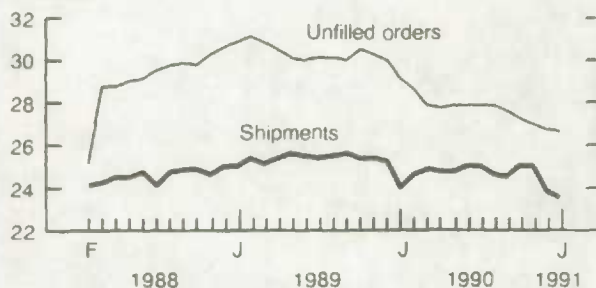
Unemployment Rate

%



Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



Note: 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, 1986)	January	498	-0.9%	-2.8%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	January	138.4	-1.0%	-5.2%
Profits of Industrial Corporations (\$ billion)	3rd Q	5.2	13.6%	-29.5%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	January	14.7	7.6%	-10.0%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	February*	104.7	-5.6%	-7.3%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	March*	12.3	0.0%	-2.4%
Unemployment Rate (%)	March*	10.5	0.3	3.3
Participation Rate (%)	March*	66.5	0.1	-0.2
Labour Income (\$ billion)	January*	31.8	-0.1%	3.1%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	January	526.02	0.6%	5.0%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	January	11.6	-2.9%	0.1%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	January	11.5	5.0%	2.4%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	January	0.2	-0.9	-0.3
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	January	23.4	-1.5%	-2.1%
New Orders (\$ billion)	January	23.2	-1.2%	0.5%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	January	26.5	-0.7%	-9.0%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	January	1.58	0.00	-0.02
Capacity Utilization (%)	4th Quarter	74	-3.6	-7.8
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	February	125.0	0.0%	6.2%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	February	110.8	-0.3%	1.2%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	February	110.3	-3.5%	1.4%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	February*	130.3	-2.3%	-11.0%

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

* New this week.

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A Weekly Review

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Statistics Canada.

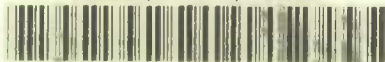
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