

OVERVIEW

Manufacturing shipments declined by 0.3% in February, following sharper decreases in the previous three months. Unfilled orders fell 1.4%, the seventh straight drop.

Substantial decreases for exports and imports in February were consistent with the recession in Canada and the United States.

In February, the number of foreign travellers on trips of one or more nights to Canada rose 3.3%, after a 2.4% drop in January. This continues the modest upward trend started in the last months of 1990.

The Farm Product Price Index rose by 0.7% in February, after maintaining a downward trend since July 1990. Both the crops and the livestock and animal products indexes rose.

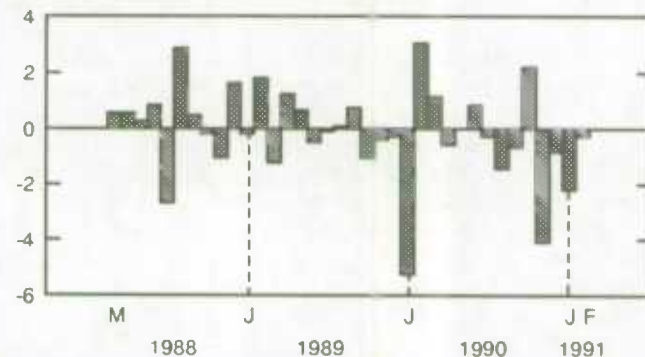
June 4 • Count Yourself In!

In February, shipments declined by 0.3% to \$23.1 billion. This followed sharper decreases in the previous three months. Decreases in the transportation equipment and paper and allied product industries were partly offset by increases in wood and fabricated metal industries.

The inventories to shipments ratio remained at 1.59, much above the low of 1.49 in July.

(continued on page 2)

% change, previous month



... Shipments and Unfilled Orders Continue to Decline

A 1.2% drop for new orders contributed to a cumulative decline of 7.3% from October.

For further information, order *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (catalogue number 31-001) or contact *Industry Division* at (613) 951-9832. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 5).

International Trade Reflects Recession

Total merchandise exports dropped by 5.2% to \$11.1 billion in February. The largest decline occurred in the automotive products sector. As a result of temporary plant shutdowns in February, car exports fell by 31.5% to \$759 million, their lowest level since September 1983. Crude petroleum exports also fell substantially (-37.7%) as a result of lower prices.

Imports dropped by 8.7% to \$10.5 billion. Car imports plunged by 46.3%, almost offsetting the increases registered in December and January. This confirms that January figures were

abnormally high as a result of the introduction of the GST and the elimination of the FST. Imports of parts decreased by 8.8%, primarily due to plant shutdowns in February.

With imports declining more than exports, the merchandise trade surplus for February was almost \$400 million higher than in January, reaching \$626 million.

For further information, order *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (catalogue number 65-001P) or contact *International Trade Division* at (613) 951-9647. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 5).

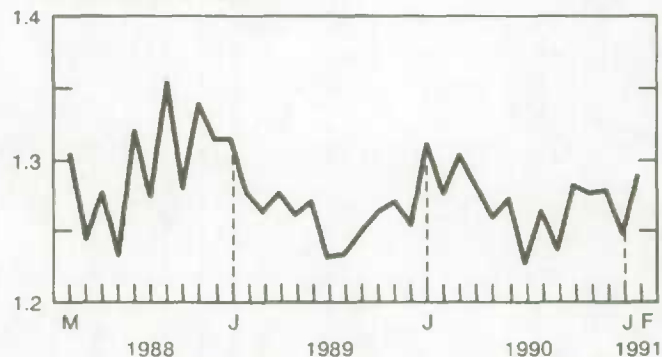
Number of Foreign Visitors Maintains Modest Rising Trend

In February, the number of foreign travellers on trips of one or more nights to Canada rose 3.3%, after a 2.4% drop in January. This continues the modest upward trend started in the last months of 1990. Trips by residents of the United States increased by 3.3%, after two monthly declines. The number of visitors from countries other than the United States rose by 3.4%, a second strong increase in three months.

Overnight international trips by Canadian residents were slightly below the previous month (-0.1%). The last three consecutive monthly declines have contributed to reverse the upward trend in the number of visitors started in the beginning of 1987. Trips to countries other than the United States registered a second straight sharp plunge (-10.4%), while the number of Canadians travelling to the United States rose 1.7%, after two monthly declines.

Foreign Visitors

Millions, seasonally adjusted



For further information, order *International Travel - Advance Information* (catalogue number 66-001P) or contact *Education, Culture and Tourism Division* at (613) 951-8933.

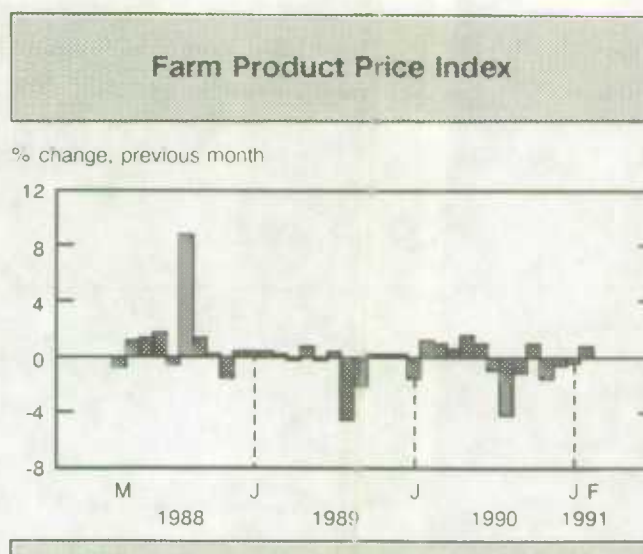
Farm Product Price Index Edges Up

The Farm Product Price Index rose by 0.7% in February, after maintaining a downward trend since July 1990.

The crops index was up 0.8%. The cereal component increased by 1.1% due to higher prices for wheat, barley and corn in most provinces. Potato prices rose by 5.4%, the second increase following eight monthly decreases. The oilseeds component fell 0.3% to its lowest level since December 1987.

The livestock and animal products index increased by 0.7%. The hogs component rose 8.4% after following a downward trend since June 1990. The cattle component declined 1.4%.

For further information, order *Farm Product Price Index* (catalogue number 62-003) or contact Agriculture Division at (613) 951-2436.



PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

The Farm Product Price Index February 1991

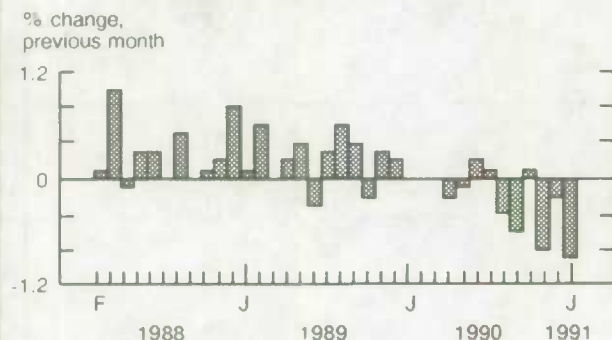
	Crops		Livestock and animal products	
	% change from January 1991	% change from February 1990	% change from January 1991	% change from February 1990
Canada	0.8	-13.0	0.7	3.4
Newfoundland	-3.7	-1.6	-0.1	3.0
Prince Edward Island	-3.3	-25.2	2.6	6.9
Nova Scotia	0.7	5.5	0.9	3.9
New Brunswick	2.5	-27.9	1.8	-0.3
Quebec	5.9	-8.4	1.6	5.9
Ontario	1.7	-2.8	-0.5	2.2
Manitoba	1.1	-18.4	0.6	4.4
Saskatchewan	0.4	-17.2	0.2	4.3
Alberta	-0.4	-14.2	1.5	2.5
British Columbia	-1.6	-2.8	0.6	2.0

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM APRIL 12 TO 18, 1991

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
AGRICULTURE					
Cereals and Oilseeds Review	January 1991	22-007	13.80/138	16.60/166	19.30/193
Farm Product Price Index	February 1991	62-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS					
Canada's International Transactions in Securities	January 1991	67-002	15.80/158	19/190	22.10/221
DEMOGRAPHY					
Quarterly Demographic Statistics	October - December 1990	91-002	7.50/30	9/36	10.50/42
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
The Labour Force	March 1991	71-001	17.90/179	21.50/215	25.10/251
INDUSTRY					
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production	December 1990	26-006	10/100	12/120	14/140
Construction Type Plywood	February 1991	35-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Department Store Monthly Sales, Including Concessions, by Province and Metropolitan Area	January 1991	63-004	2.70/27	3.20/32	3.80/38
Electric Power Statistics	January 1991	57-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Electrical Trade Contractors, The Construction Industry	1987	64-205	22	26	31
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries	February 1991	43-005	5/50	6/60	7/70
Footwear Statistics	February 1991	33-002	5/50	6/60	7/70
Gas Utilities	December 1990	55-002	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins	February 1991	46-002	5.60/56	6.70/67	7.80/78
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks	March 1991	32-001	2.70/27	3.20/32	3.80/38
Oils and Fats	February 1991	32-006	5/50	6/60	7/70
Particleboard, Waferboard and Fibreboard	February 1991	36-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing	February 1991	41-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics	February 1991	25-001	6.10/61	7.30/73	8.50/85
Oil Pipe Line Transport	January 1991	55-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances	February 1991	43-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Steel Wire and Specific Wire Products	February 1991	41-006	5/50	6/60	7/70
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Imports by Commodity	January 1991	65-007	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade	February 1991	65-001P	10/100	12/120	14/140
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK					
Building Permits	January 1991	64-001	22.10/221	26.50/265	30.90/309
LABOUR					
Trusteed Pension Funds, Financial Statistics	1989	74-201	39	47	55
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	January 1991	73-001	14.70/147	17.60/176	20.60/206
PRICES					
Industry Price Indexes, User's Guide	1991	62-558	40	48	56
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Telephone Statistics	January 1991	56-002	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116

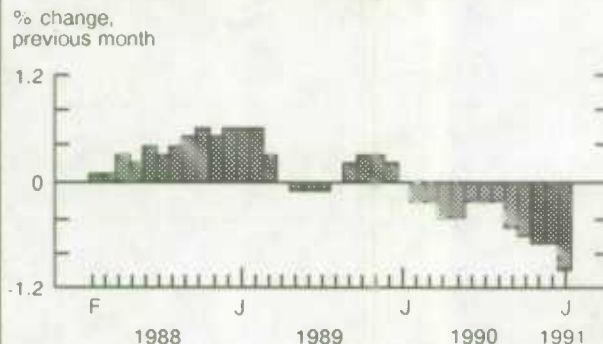
CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product



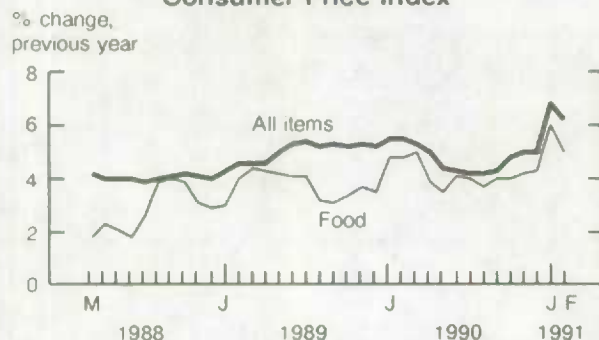
Real Gross Domestic Product at factor cost dropped by 0.9% in January. This was the sharpest monthly drop since the start of the recession.

Composite Leading Indicator



In January, the composite leading indicator fell by 1.0%, the steepest drop since the indicator started declining twelve months ago.

Consumer Price Index



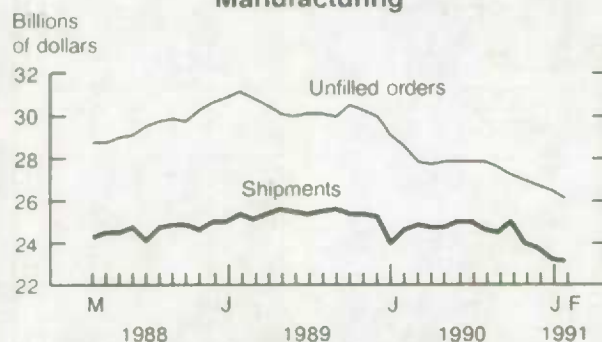
After a large increase in January following the introduction of the Goods and Service Tax, the all-items Consumer Price Index for Canada remained unchanged in February.

Unemployment Rate



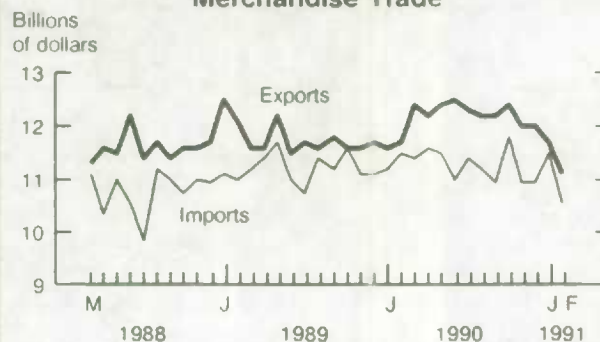
In March, the unemployment rate rose to 10.5%, as a result of increased participation in the labour force.

Manufacturing



Manufacturing shipments declined by 0.3% in February, following sharper decreases in the previous three months. Unfilled orders fell 1.4%, the seventh straight drop.

Merchandise Trade



Substantial decreases for exports and imports in February were consistent with the recession in Canada and the United States.

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted except the consumer price index.



1010065773

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)	February*	11.1	-5.2%	-5.5%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	February*	10.5	-8.7%	-9.2%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	February*	0.6	0.4	0.4
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	February*	23.1	-0.3%	-6.1%
New Orders (\$ billion)	February*	22.7	-1.2%	-5.6%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	February*	26.1	-1.4%	-8.8%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	February*	1.59	0.01	0.03
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.

I·N·F·O·M·A·T

A Weekly Review

Published by the Communications Division
Statistics Canada.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613) 951-1116
Editor: Yves Saint-Pierre (613) 951-1197

R.H. Coats Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Catalogue: 11-002E. Price: Canada: \$2.50 per issue, \$125.00 per year; United States: US\$3.00 per issue, US\$150.00 per year; Other Countries: US\$3.50 per issue, US\$175.00. To subscribe: send money order or cheque payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publication Sales, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6. To order by telephone dial: 1-800-267-6677 within Canada or 613-951-7277 from all other countries.

Published under the authority of the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission of the Minister of Supply and Services Canada.