



IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, July 19, 1991

OVERVIEW

■ Sharp Declines in Imports and Exports

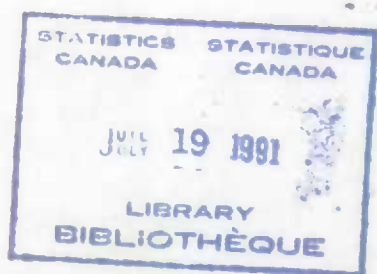
Total merchandise imports plunged 6.2% in May to the lowest level recorded since July 1988, and following two monthly increases, exports were down 3.5%.

■ Manufacturing Shipments Maintain Rising Trend

In May, Canadian manufacturers' shipments rose 0.9% to \$23.3 billion, the third consecutive monthly increase following declines in the four previous months.

■ Number of Foreign Visitors Continues to Fall

The seasonally adjusted number of foreign visits of one or more nights to Canada declined 0.8% in May, moderating from drops of 1.8% in April and 1.9% in March.



Sharp Declines in Imports and Exports

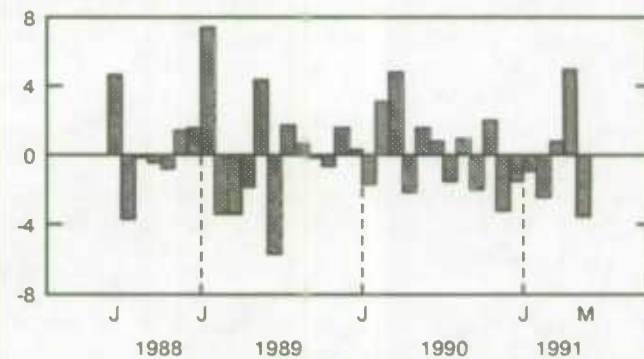
Imports were down 6.2% in May to \$10.4 billion, the lowest monthly total since July 1988. The drop was largely due to across-the-board decreases within the machinery and equipment sector, which registered an overall loss of 12.7%, and the industrial goods and materials sector, which posted a 7.6% decline. Both of these sectors had registered import gains in April. Following a 7.7% increase in April, imports of automotive products increased 3.7%, to partially offset the overall decline.

Total merchandise exports fell 3.5% in May to a level of \$11.6 billion, following two monthly increases. The largest contributor to the decrease was the machinery and equipment sector in which exports plunged 16.1% to \$2.2 billion, the lowest monthly level since October 1989. Exports in the energy products sector also registered a major

(continued on page 2)

Exports

% change, previous month



Statistics
Canada

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Canada

Canada

... Sharp Declines in Imports and Exports

decrease. The 7.8% fall reflected lower exports of crude petroleum and other energy products as exports of natural gas went up. A 2.9% increase in the automotive products sector moderated the overall drop in exports. This third consecutive monthly increase brought the level to \$2.7 billion, the highest since October 1990.

The trade balance was up \$266 million to \$1.2 billion, the highest level since June 1990. A \$1.5 billion surplus with the United States contrasted with deficits with all other major trading partners.

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 6.)

Manufacturing Shipments Maintain Rising Trend

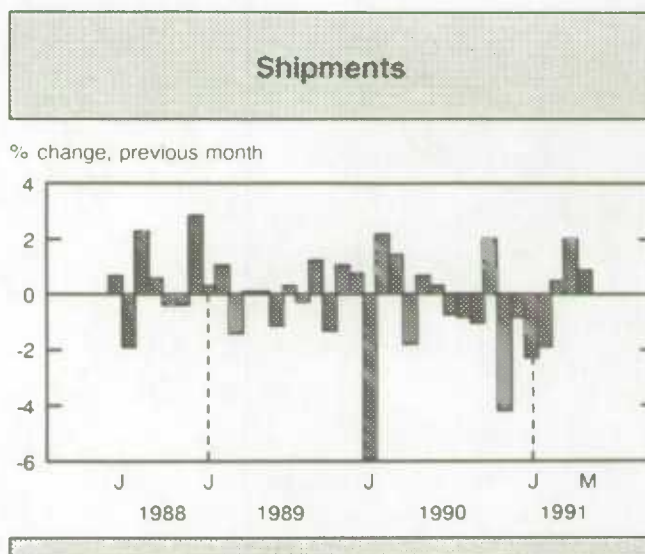
In May, Canadian manufacturers' shipments rose 0.9% to \$23.3 billion, the third consecutive monthly increase following declines in the four previous months. Only nine of the 22 major groups posted advances, in contrast with April when the increase was broadly based. The motor vehicle and wood industries accounted for most of the overall gain in shipments, the former posting the third straight increase (6.1%) following four monthly declines. Shipments in the wood industry were up 7.7%, the fourth straight monthly gain.

After having risen in April for the first time in eight months, unfilled orders declined 1.8% in May to \$24.7 billion. Most of the decrease was attributable to the transportation equipment industry which registered a 2.3% drop, also following its first rise in eight months. New orders fell 2.3%, after registering a sharp 4.8% increase in April, their largest gain since March 1988.

Inventory levels decreased 0.9% in May to \$36.3 billion, the fifth consecutive monthly decline. The fall was mainly attributable to the refined petroleum and coal products industry, which registered a fifth consecutive decrease, and to the chemical products and primary metals industries, both of which recorded lower inventory levels for the second straight month. These decreases were partly offset by an increase in the transportation equipment industry.

The inventories to shipments ratio decreased from 1.59 in April to 1.56 in May, the third consecutive decline.

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 6.)



Manufacturers' Shipments, May 1991

Unadjusted Data

Province	Total	
	\$ millions	% change previous year
Canada	25,106	-6.6
Newfoundland	114	-3.1
Prince Edward Island	66	23.5
Nova Scotia	489	0.6
New Brunswick	517	-2.4
Quebec	5,946	-8.3
Ontario	13,315	-6.9
Manitoba	533	-18.4
Saskatchewan	346	-3.4
Alberta	1,691	2.2
British Columbia	2,085	-6.6

Number of Foreign Visitors Continues to Fall

In May, the seasonally adjusted number of foreign visits of one or more nights to Canada declined 0.8%, moderating from declines of 1.8% in April and 1.9% in March. These decreases have reversed the modest upward trend in foreign travel to Canada noted since the second half of 1990. Following much larger declines in April and March, overnight trips by residents of the United States edged down 0.3% in May. The number of visitors from other countries also registered a third monthly decline. The 3.0% loss from last month was more than twice the decrease posted in April, but still smaller than the 4.7% drop in March.

The number of overnight trips abroad by Canadian residents fell 1.2% in May, following three consecutive monthly increases. Trips to countries other than the United States were down 2.1%, after having registered increases in April and March. Following three straight monthly increases, the number of Canadians travelling to the United States also fell (-1.1%).

Same-day travel (unadjusted for seasonal variation) to the United States by Canadian residents was 19.6% higher than its year-earlier

Foreign Visitors

Millions, seasonally adjusted



level while the number of same-day trips to Canada by residents of the United States registered a year-over-year decrease of 2.8%.

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

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, May 1991

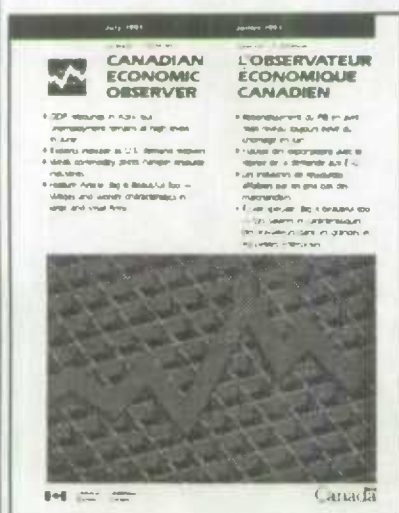
Unadjusted data

	Total Trips to Canada				Total Trips by Canadian Residents			
	by US residents		by residents of other countries		to the US		to other countries	
	(thousands)	% change, previous year	(thousands)	% change, previous year	(thousands)	% change, previous year	(thousands)	% change, previous year
Canada	2,903.2	-1.4	296.3	-1.3	6,825.9	18.1	192.9	-15.2
Newfoundland	0.7	29.1	1.1	-17.3	1.0	2.0	1.9	-16.9
Prince Edward Island	0.0	-100.0	0.0	-100.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0
Nova Scotia	12.3	5.3	2.8	29.0	7.7	7.8	3.0	-27.9
New Brunswick	187.8	-10.0	0.4	14.2	1,003.9	23.6	0.0	57.7
Quebec	239.1	-2.0	51.4	7.8	802.3	29.1	43.5	13.2
Ontario	1,975.3	-0.3	169.5	-4.7	3,004.0	21.1	105.7	-19.5
Manitoba	52.0	-4.8	0.7	24.1	165.1	17.6	0.6	92.3
Saskatchewan	11.8	-15.2	0.1	-17.5	79.5	43.2	0.0	-100.0
Alberta	32.9	-4.4	9.8	-2.0	88.9	22.8	9.0	-8.6
British Columbia	380.0	-1.1	59.8	0.0	1,667.6	5.3	29.2	-1.4
Yukon	11.2	-0.6	0.7	36.0	5.8	-5.1	0.0	0.0

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JULY 12 TO 18, 1991

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS					
Canada's Balance of International Payments	First Quarter 1991	67-001	27.50/110	33/132	38.50/154
Canada's International Transactions in Services	1989 and 1990	67-203	32	38	45
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM					
Touriscope - International Travel	May 1991	66-001P	6.10/61	7.30/73	8.50/85
FINANCIAL FLOWS					
Canadian Economic Observer	July 1991	11-010	22/220	26/260	31/310
Canadian Economic Observer Historical Statistical Supplement	1990-91	11-210	27	32	38
Financial Flow Accounts	First Quarter 1991	13-014	12.50/50	15/60	17.50/70
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
The Labour Force	June 1991	71-001	17.90/179	21.50/215	25.10/251
INDUSTRY					
Asphalt Roofing	May 1991	45-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables Monthly	April 1991	32-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables Monthly	March 1991	32-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Electric Lamps (Light Bulbs and Tubes)	June 1991	43-009	5/50	6/60	7/70
Electric Power Statistics, Volume II	1989	57-202	27	32	38
Department Store Sales and Stocks	December 1990	63-002	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Department Store Sales and Stocks	November 1990	63-002	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Fabricated Metal Products Industries	1988	41-251	35	42	49
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries	May 1991	43-005	5/50	6/60	7/70
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins	May 1991	46-002	5.60/56	6.70/67	7.80/78
Machinery Industries (Except Electrical Machinery)	1988	42-250	35	42	49
New Motor Vehicle Sales	October 1990	63-007	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
New Motor Vehicle Sales	September 1990	63-007	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Particleboard, Waferboard and Fibreboard	May 1991	36-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing	May 1991	41-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics	May 1991	25-001	6.10/61	7.30/73	8.50/85
Refined Petroleum Products	April 1991	45-004	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Retail Trade	April 1991	63-005	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Rigid Insulating Board (Wood Fibre Products)	May 1991	36-002	5/50	6/60	7/70
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances	May 1991	43-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products	May 1991	41-006	5/50	6/60	7/70
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Exports by Commodity	April 1991	65-004	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
Imports by Commodity	April 1991	65-007	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK					
Building Permits	April 1991	64-001	22.10/221	26.50/265	30.90/309
PRICES					
Construction Price Statistics	First Quarter 1991	62-007	18/72	21.50/86	25.25/101
TRANSPORTATION					
Railway Carloadings	May 1991	52-001	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116
Railway Operating Statistics	December 1990	52-003	10.50/105	12.60/126	14.70/147
Railway Operating Statistics	January 1991	52-003	10.50/105	12.60/126	14.70/147

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Canadian Economic Observer, July 1991

Led by a surge in exports to the United States, GDP rebounded in April. Household demand grew modestly, while inventories fell sharply. Labour market conditions softened in June, however, a reminder of lingering weakness in several important sectors of the economy.

This summary of current economic conditions is excerpted from the July issue of the Canadian Economic Observer, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, now available.

This issue also contains a monthly summary of the economy, major economic events in June, the first quarter National Accounts, and a feature article on differences in wages and workers hired by large and small firms. A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and major industrial nations.

For further information, contact Financial Flows Division at (613) 951-3627.

1989 FSA and Rural Postal Code Socio-economic Data

This database provides demographic and income characteristics of taxfilers for areas defined by the postal code. Up to nine tables are available for nearly 7,000 urban FSA's (Forward Sortation Areas) and rural postal codes across Canada.

The tables will prove invaluable to the business sector, analysts, planners, marketers, the academic community; in short, anyone requiring reliable and up-to-date data for small geographical areas.

Highlights

Of the 52 selected cities, the following FSA's had the highest median incomes in 1989:

City	FSA Median	City Median
Winnipeg (R3H)	\$36,700	\$17,300
Toronto (M4T)	\$35,400	\$20,900
Edmonton (T6R)	\$33,700	\$18,900

The lowest median total incomes for FSA's were recorded in:

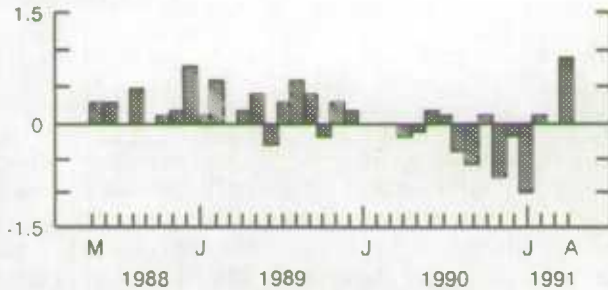
City	FSA Median	City Median
Vancouver (V6A)	\$ 5,900	\$19,800
Winnipeg (R3A)	\$ 6,600	\$17,300
Quebec City (G1K)	\$10,000	\$17,600

For further information, contact the Small Area and Administrative Data Division at (613) 951-9720.

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

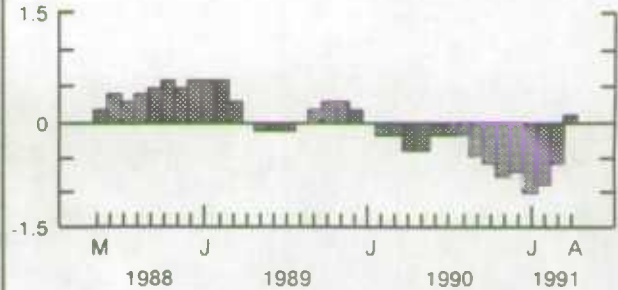
% change,
previous month



Real GDP at factor cost climbed 0.9% in April, the largest increase since March 1988.

Composite Leading Indicator

% change,
previous month



The Composite Leading Indicator rose 0.1% in April, the first advance in 15 months.

Consumer Price Index

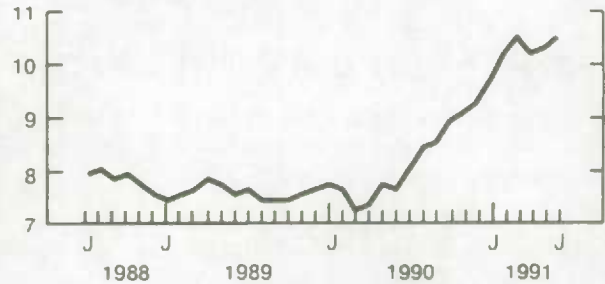
% change,
previous year



In May, the Consumer Price Index year-over-year increase was down 0.1 percentage points to 6.2%.

Unemployment Rate

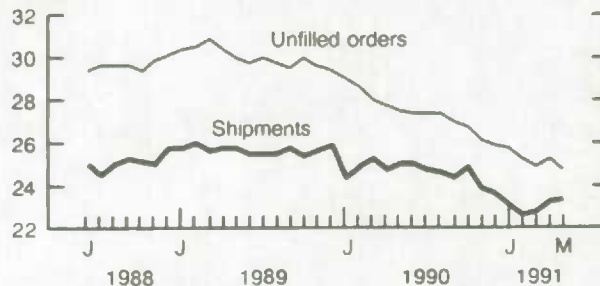
%



In June, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage points to the March level of 10.5%.

Manufacturing

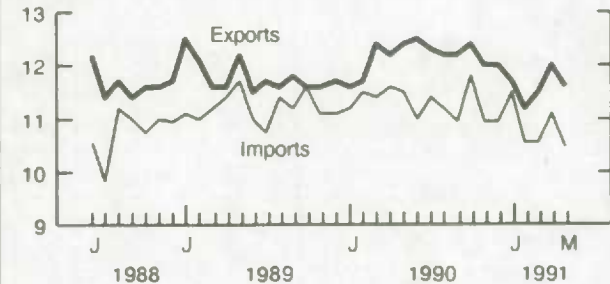
Billions
of dollars



Shipments rose 0.9% in May, the third consecutive increase, while unfilled orders registered a 1.8% decline.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



Total merchandise exports fell 3.5% in May and imports dropped 6.2% to the lowest monthly total since July 1988.

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)	April	502	0.9%	-1.8%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	April	136.5	0.1%	-5.7%
Profits of Industrial Corporations (\$ billion)	1st Quarter	12.3	-15.9%	-28.9%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	April	14.9	0.4%	-6.4%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	May	109.8	2.5%	0.4%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	June	12.4	-0.1%	-2.0%
Unemployment Rate (%)	June	10.5	0.2	2.9
Participation Rate (%)	June	66.6	0.1	-0.3
Labour Income (\$ billion)	April	31.1	0.1%	2.3%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	April	535.06	0.5%	5.7%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	May*	11.6	-3.5%	-7.2%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	May*	10.4	-6.2%	-7.6%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	May*	1.2	0.3	0.05
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	May*	23.3	0.9%	-6.3%
New Orders (\$ billion)	May*	22.8	-2.3%	-7.5%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	May*	24.7	-1.8%	-10.2%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	May*	1.56	-0.03	0.01
Capacity Utilization (%)	1st Quarter	70.5	-4.3	-11.8
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	May	126.1	0.5%	6.2%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	May	108.9	-0.3%	-0.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	May	104.4	-1.1%	-1.1%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	May	131.2	0.8%	-9.9%

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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