



IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, November 15, 1991

OVERVIEW

■ Motor Vehicle Sales Rebound

Sales of new motor vehicles rebounded posting a strong gain of 13.4% in September. Passenger car sales increased by 11.9% while commercial vehicle sales climbed by 16.5%.

■ Unemployment Rate Edges Up

The unemployment rate edged up by 0.1 percentage points to a level of 10.3 in October, following a drop of 0.4 points in September.

■ Total Government Employment Increasing

Total government employment (excluding government business enterprises) averaged 1.3 million employees in the second quarter, an increase of 1.8% from the same period last year.

■ New Housing Prices Unchanged from August

The New Housing Price Index for Canada stood at 134.4 in September, unchanged from August.

■ Farm Product Prices Continue to Decline

The Farm Product Price Index fell to 92.4 in September, a 2.0% drop from the revised August level of 94.3. Both the crops and the livestock and animal products indexes posted decreases.

■ More Canadians Own Leisure and Time-Saving Equipment

In 1991, a video cassette recorder could be found in 7 out of 10 homes and almost three-quarters of Canadian homes were equipped with a microwave oven.

Motor Vehicle Sales Rebound

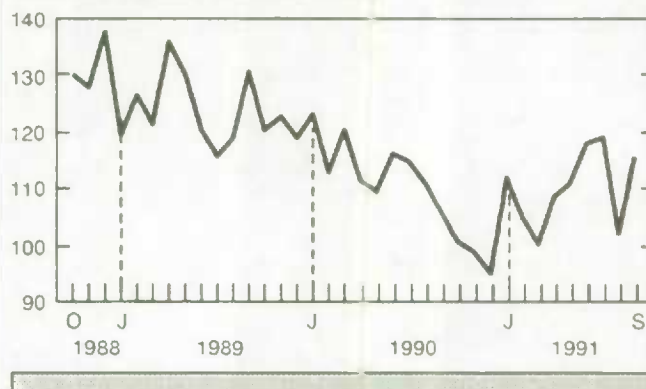
Seasonally adjusted sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 116,000 units in September, a sharp rise of 13.4% over the revised August figure. This represents the largest increase since January. In spite of this, new motor vehicle sales declined slightly by 0.3% in the third quarter of 1991, compared to an advance of 6.7% in the second quarter.

In September, higher sales were posted for both passenger cars and commercial vehicles. Passenger car sales increased by 11.9% to a level of 78,000 units following a 14.7% drop in August. Commercial vehicle sales increased 16.5% to 38,000 units after recording two straight monthly declines.

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Sales of New Motor Vehicles

Seasonally adjusted, thousands of units



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... Motor Vehicle Sales Rebound

Sales of North American-built cars jumped 14.9% to reach 51,000 units and sales of imported passenger cars advanced 6.5% to 26,000 units. Both categories had posted decreases in August.

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

Unemployment Rate Edges Up

The results of the October labour force survey show little change in overall labour market conditions. The unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage points to 10.3 in October, following a drop of 0.4 points in September. Employment rose by 24,000, while 34,000 entered the labour force.

Increases in the unemployment rate for adults were only partly offset by a decrease in the rate for youths. The unemployment rate for persons 25 and over edged up 0.1 percentage points to 9.0 while the rate for persons between 15 and 24 years old fell 0.4 percentage points to 16.0. For youths, unemployment declined for the third consecutive month. Provincially, the unemployment rate decreased in two of the 10 provinces, with the largest fall registered in Quebec. Prince Edward Island posted the most significant rise in the rate, followed by New Brunswick and Ontario.

Employment was up 0.2% in October. The gains were concentrated mostly among women, with increases in both part-time (1.6%) and full-time (0.5%) employment. The rate for men rose 0.4% for full-time employment but fell 3.3% for part-time. Employment increased in Quebec (15,000), British Columbia (11,000) and Nova Scotia (4,000). It showed little or no change in the other provinces.

For further information, order *The Labour Force* (catalogue number 71-001) or contact Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-4720. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 6.)

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Labour Force Survey Results for October 1991

	Labour Force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	Rate (%)
Canada	13,810	0.2	12,390	0.2	1,420	10.3
Newfoundland	243	0.8	199	0.5	44	18.1
Prince Edward Island	64	1.6	52	-1.9	11	18.1
Nova Scotia	424	1.0	371	1.1	53	12.5
New Brunswick	329	0.6	285	0.0	44	13.4
Quebec	3,396	-0.1	3,003	0.5	393	11.6
Ontario	5,291	0.4	4,781	0.0	510	9.6
Manitoba	544	-0.4	493	-0.4	51	9.4
Saskatchewan	480	0.0	444	0.0	36	7.5
Alberta	1,365	0.4	1,254	0.3	111	8.1
British Columbia	1,677	0.8	1,513	0.7	164	9.8

Total Government Employment Increasing

In the second quarter of 1991, total government employment (excluding government business enterprises) averaged 1.3 million employees, an increase of 1.8% from the same period in 1990. Total government employment accounted for 10.1% of all employment in Canada.

The federal government employed 399,900 people, an advance of 4.4% over the second quarter of 1990. This represents 3.2% of total Canadian employment and 31.8% of all government employment. Temporary employment, one-time hiring of 16,600 casual employees for Statistics Canada's 1991 Census of the Population, accounted for a large part of the increase. Without the casual employees, permanent employment in the federal government was up 0.2%, largely due to the hiring of employees at Revenue Canada for the operation of the GST.

Local governments employed 350,800 people in the second quarter of 1991, an increase of 2.1% from the same period last year. This employment accounts for 2.8% of the country's and 27.9% of the government's total employment.

Provincial and territorial government employment averaged 507,600, a year-over-year decrease of 0.5%. This component accounts for 4.1% of the total employment in Canada and 40.3% of all government employment.

Federal government business enterprise employment averaged 151,800 employees, a 3.3% drop from last year that can be largely attributed to downsizing and layoffs at CN Rail and the Canada Post Corporation. Provincial and territorial enterprises employed an average of 152,500 people in the second quarter, a 4.4% year-over-year decrease reflecting the privatization of Alberta Government Telephones in October 1990.

For further information, contact Public Institutions Division at (613) 951-0661.

New Housing Prices Unchanged from August

The New Housing Price Index (1986=100) for Canada stood at 134.4 in September, unchanged from August. Out of the 20 cities included in the Canada composite index, only four registered declines, six advanced and 10 remained unchanged.

The index for Sudbury-Thunder Bay posted the largest drop (-0.9%), followed closely by Hamilton (-0.8%). Montreal, Ottawa-Hull, St. Catharines-Niagara, and Victoria all recorded monthly increases of 0.3%.

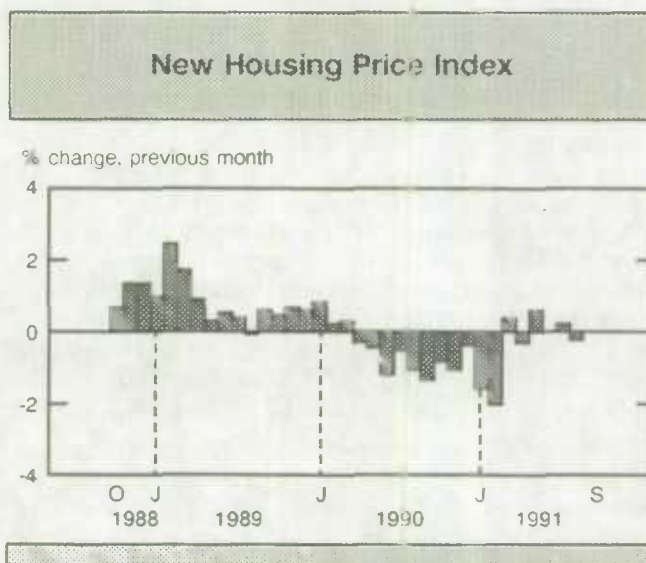
The estimated House Only and Land Only Indexes remained unchanged in September (125.5 and 160.9, respectively). The index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices now stands 4.9% lower than the year-earlier level. Toronto was mainly responsible for the downward movement.

For further information contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9607.

Farm Product Prices Continue to Decline

In September, the Farm Product Price Index for Canada (1986=100) stood at 92.4, down 2.0% from the revised August level. Both the crops and the livestock and animal products indexes posted decreases.

The crops index fell 2.5% to a level of 79.1, reflecting a decrease in potato prices, oilseeds and cereals. As the newly-harvested crop of potatoes



became available their prices posted a sharp drop of 23.7%, the largest month-to-month change since July 1988. Drops in the prices of canola and flaxseed were mainly responsible for the 2.6% fall in the oilseeds index. At 95.0, the index fell to its lowest level since October 1987.

The livestock and animal products index declined 1.8% in September. Lower hog and poultry prices more than offset higher cattle and egg prices. The hogs index dropped 11.6%, the third straight

(continued on page 4)

... Farm Product Prices Continue to Decline

monthly decline. Possibly, the expectation that pork production in the U.S. would increase in 1991 and 1992 contributed to the drop. The poultry index fell 4.8% to a level of 97.5 as lower feed prices have been reflected in the cost-of-production formulas.

Provincially, the crops index fell in all 10 provinces, with the largest decreases posted in Prince Edward Island (-19.0%) and New Brunswick (-17.4%). For the livestock and animal products index, only Alberta registered an increase (1.9%).

For further information, order Farm Product Price Index (catalogue number 62-003) or contact Agriculture Division at (613) 951-2441.

The Farm Product Price Index

September, 1991

	Crops		Livestock and Animal Products	
	% change from		% change from	
	Aug. 1991	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1991	Sept. 1990
Canada	-2.5	-20.3	-1.8	-4.2
Newfoundland	-9.7	6.3	-1.8	-3.6
Prince Edward Island	-19.0	-0.5	-3.7	-7.7
Nova Scotia	-3.2	11.5	-2.0	-3.7
New Brunswick	-17.4	-11.3	-2.7	-3.3
Quebec	-4.3	-7.1	-2.6	-5.7
Ontario	-2.0	-6.6	-3.2	-4.0
Manitoba	-2.4	-27.5	-2.4	-4.1
Saskatchewan	-1.4	-32.5	-1.0	-2.5
Alberta	-0.6	-26.3	1.9	-3.6
British Columbia	-2.2	12.0	-1.5	-4.1

More Canadians Own Leisure and Time-Saving Equipment

Canadians continue to buy leisure and time-saving equipment. In 1991, a video cassette recorder could be found in 68.6% of homes compared to 66.3% in 1990, while multiple VCR ownership rose to 7.5% from 5.7%. A new consumer favourite, the compact disc (CD) player, could be found in 20.9% of homes, a large jump from 15.4% in 1990 and from 11.6% two years ago. The home computer is another product gaining in popularity: 18.6% of households now have a computer compared to 16.3% in 1990.

Almost three-quarters (73.5%) of Canadian homes are equipped with a microwave oven, an increase from 68.2% in 1990. The proportion of homes with a built-in dishwasher increased to 34.1% from 31.7% in 1990. Over the same time period, similar increases occurred for gas barbecues (48.1% from 45.9%), and for central air conditioning (15.6% from 13.8%).

The use of various home heating fuels has seen moderate changes over the last three years. The slight increases in the use of piped gas (44.2% of households in 1991) and electricity (33.5%) as principal heating methods are at the expense of oil (16.9%).

The proportion of households occupying single-detached dwellings (57.0%), single attached (8.5%), apartments (32.1%) and mobile homes (2.3%) has remained virtually unchanged since 1986.

For further information, order Household Facilities and Equipment (catalogue number 64-202) or contact Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-9778.

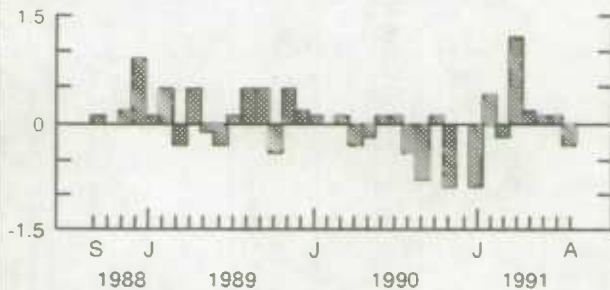
PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM NOVEMBER 8 TO 14, 1991

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
Agriculture					
Cereals and Oilseeds Review	August 1991	22-007	13.80/138	16.60/166	19.30/193
Livestock Report	October 1991	23-008	16.50/66	19.75/79	23/92
Household Surveys					
Household Facilities and Equipment	1991	64-202	28	34	39
Industry					
Coal and Coke Statistics	August 1991	45-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Electric Power Statistics	August 1991	57-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries	September 1991	43-005	5/50	6/60	7/70
Gas Utilities	July 1991	55-002	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
Production, Sales and Stocks of Major Appliances	September 1991	43-010	5/50	6/60	7/70
Quarterly Report on Energy Supply-Demand in Canada	1991-1	57-003	31.75/127	38/152	44.50/178
Retail Trade	August 1991	63-005	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Shipments of Solid Fuel Burning Heating Products	Quarter Ended September 1991	25-002	4.75/19	5.75/23	6.75/27
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances	September 1991	43-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products	September 1991	41-006	5/50	6/60	7/70
Industrial Organization and Finance					
Quarterly Financial Statistics for Enterprises	Second Quarter 1991	61-008	23/92	27.50/110	32.25/129
Industry Measures and Analysis					
Gross Domestic Product by Industry	August 1991	15-001	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
International Trade					
Exports by Commodity	August 1991	65-004	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
Investment and Capital Stock					
Building Permits	August 1991	64-001	22.10/221	26.50/265	30.90/309
Justice					
Juristat, Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada	Vol. 11, No. 17 1990	85-002	3.60/90	4.30/108	5/126
Labour					
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	August 1991	73-001	14.70/147	17.60/176	20.60/206
Transportation					
Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics	August 1991	53-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
Services, science and technology					
Cable Television	1990	56-205	26	31	36
Telephone Statistics	1990	56-001	8.20/49	9.85/59	11.50/69

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

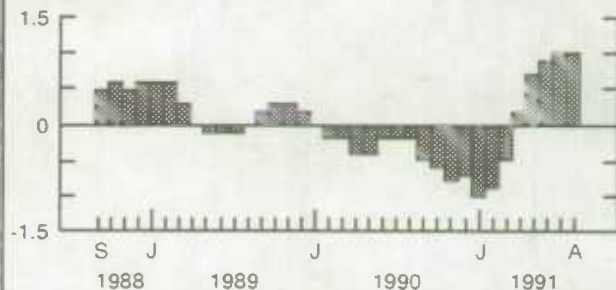
% change,
previous month



GDP at factor cost fell 0.3% in August. Service-producing industries posted a 0.5% decrease but goods-producing industries remained at July's level.

Composite Leading Indicator

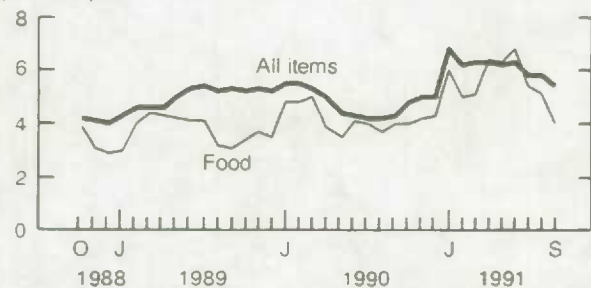
% change,
previous month



The composite leading indicator advanced 1.0% in August, the same rate of growth as in July, and the fifth consecutive monthly increase.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



The all-items CPI fell 0.2% in September, posting the largest month-to-month drop in almost nine years and the food index declined 1.3% between August and September.

Unemployment Rate

%



The unemployment rate edged up by 0.1 percentage points to 10.3 in October, following a drop of 0.4 points in September.

Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Shipments rose 1.2% to \$23.6 billion in August but unfilled orders continued to fall.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



Exports grew to \$12.4 billion in August while imports fell to \$11.3 billion, pushing the trade balance up to \$1.1 billion.

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)	August	503	-0.3%	-0.9%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	August	141.5	1.0%	-1.3%
Profits of Industrial Corporations (\$ billion)	2nd Quarter	11.8	0.0%	-26.7%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	August	14.9	-1.3%	-6.8%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	September*	115.7	13.4%	9.4%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	October*	12.4	0.2%	-1.3%
Unemployment Rate (%)	October*	10.3	0.1	1.4
Participation Rate (%)	October*	66.3	0.1	-0.8
Labour Income (\$ billion)	August	32.5	0.2%	3.8%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	August	546.86	0.5%	5.4%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	August	12.4	2.1%	0.1%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	August	11.3	-3.6%	0.0%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	August	1.1	0.68	0.01
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	August	23.6	1.2%	-3.7%
New Orders (\$ billion)	August	23.4	2.7%	-4.6%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	August	24.0	-0.8%	-12.3%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	August	1.49	-0.03	-0.05
Capacity Utilization (%)	2nd Quarter	71.3	1.2	-5.6
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	September	126.7	-0.2%	5.4%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	September	107.6	-0.2%	-2.4%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	September	102.7	-0.9%	-13.0%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	September*	134.4	0.0%	-4.9%

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

** New this week.*

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