



INFOMAT

A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, April 10, 1992

APR 10 1992

OVERVIEW

■ New Motor Vehicle Sales Swinging Around

Sales of new motor vehicles fell 4.7% in February after a 7.5% increase in January and a 0.7% decrease in December.

■ New Housing Prices Dip Slightly

The New Housing Price Index for Canada stood at 133.5 in February, down 0.1% from the level posted in January.

■ Fall of Help-wanted Index Accelerates

The Help-wanted Index for Canada continued to decrease in March, falling three points to 62. During the first quarter of 1992, the index dropped by 10 points.

■ Aggregate Wages and Salaries Decline

In January, seasonally adjusted wages and salaries fell for the first time in four months, down 0.3% to \$28.9 billion.

■ Canada's External Liabilities: Twice as High as its Assets

Canada's external liabilities totalled \$490 billion at the end of 1991, against external assets of \$220 billion.

■ Year-over-year Increase in CPI Expected to be 1.7%

For March, the Short-term Expectations Survey mean forecast of the year-over-year increase in the CPI is 1.7%.

Note to our subscribers: the next INFOMAT issue will be published on April 24, 1992.

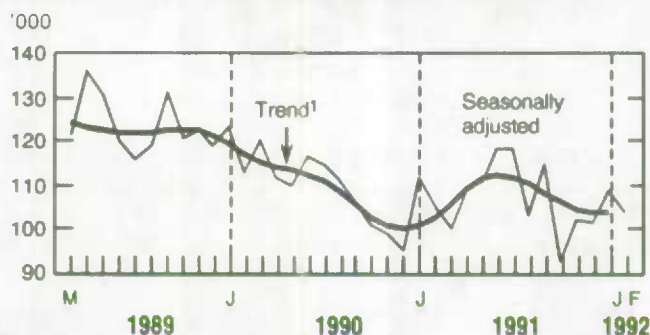
New Motor Vehicle Sales Swinging Around

Seasonally adjusted new motor vehicle sales totalled 103,000 units in February, a 4.7% decrease from January's revised figure of 108,000 units. This decline contrasted with the increase in sales recorded a month earlier but was in line with the underlying downward trend. Compared with February 1991, sales were 1.5% lower.

February's decline was attributable to weaker sales of passenger cars while commercial vehicles rose moderately. Passenger car sales fell 7.3% to a level of 67,000 units after a rise of 8.8% in January. Sales of North American-built cars were 8.6% lower in February and totalled 44,000 units while sales of imported passenger cars were down 4.7% and amounted to 23,000 units. This represents the second decline in a row for imported cars. Commercial vehicle sales were up 0.6% to 36,000 units in February following a rise of 4.9% in January.

For further information, order *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (catalogue number 63-007) or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3559.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Canada, in Units



¹ The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

New Housing Prices Dip Slightly

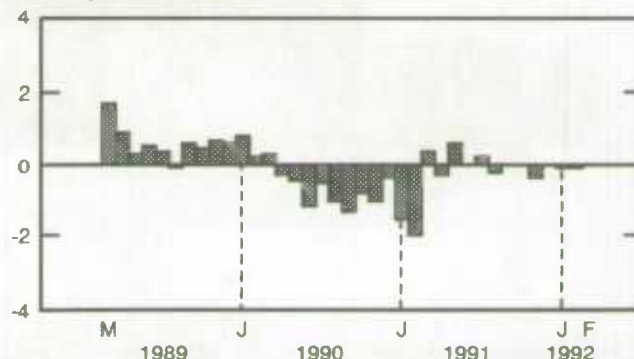
The New Housing Price Index for Canada (1986=100) has shown virtually no change over the last six months. In February, the index stood at 133.5, down 0.1% for the second straight month. On a year-over-year basis, the index remained unchanged from February 1991. This lack of movement mainly reflected offsetting impacts of decreases such as in Toronto (-3.5%), compared to increases in Vancouver (+9.1%) and Victoria (+5.1%).

Of the 20 cities included in the Canada composite index, seven recorded declines, eight advanced and five remained unchanged. The largest monthly decreases in new housing prices were recorded in Toronto (-1.6%) and in Kitchener-Waterloo (-0.9%), while the largest monthly increase was posted in Vancouver (2.0%).

The New Housing Price Index reflects the contractor's selling price, excluding the Goods and Services Tax (GST) while the analytical index follows more closely the purchaser's price. This index takes into consideration the GST, although it has not been adjusted for all possible costs, e.g. legal fees. In February, the analytical index stood at 139.3, down 0.1% from the level posted in January.

New Housing Price Index

% change, previous month



The House Only Index slipped 0.2% in February to 124.4 and the Land Only Index edged up 0.1% to 160.6.

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

Fall of Help-wanted Index Accelerates

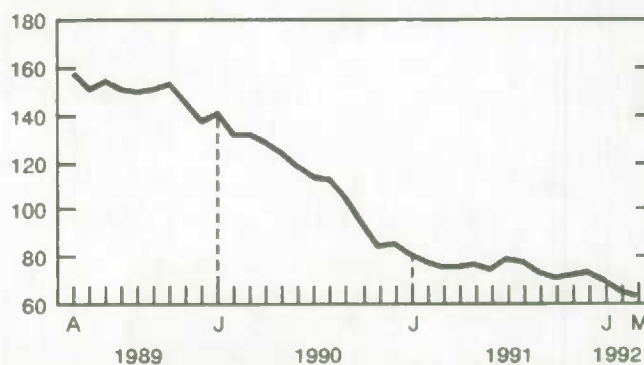
In March, the seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada (1981=100), which serves as an indicator of the demand for labour, fell three points to 62. After reaching a peak of 157 in April 1989, the index started a decline which accelerated in 1990. In 1991, the index fell eight points between January and December, from 80 to 72. The index declined further in the first quarter of 1992, losing ten points, from 72 to 62.

Help-wanted indexes dropped in three of the five regions, increased in one and remained unchanged in one. In March, Ontario recorded the steepest decrease at 10%. The index fell to 55, its lowest level in over eight years. The British Columbia index plunged 9% to 67, offsetting the 9% increase registered in February. At 87, the index for the Atlantic provinces was down 3%, following a drop of 18% the previous month.

After no change in February, the Prairie provinces recorded a gain of 7% to 49 and Québec's index remained unchanged at 74.

Help-wanted Index, Canada

1981 = 100



Compared with March 1991, the Help-wanted Index was lower in all regions, with declines ranging from 24% in both Ontario and the Atlantic provinces, to 4% in Québec.

For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4045.

Aggregate Wages and Salaries Decline

Following a 0.4% increase in December, seasonally adjusted wages and salaries fell 0.3% in January to \$28.9 billion. This represents the first decrease in four months. However, on a year-over-year basis, wages and salaries increased by 1.9% between January 1991 and January 1992.

After three months of strong gains, wages and salaries decreased by 1.3% in federal administration. They fell by 1.1% in both transportation, communications and other utilities and in finance, insurance and real estate, after posting similar increases in December. Wages and salaries for

Wages and Salaries, January 1992

Seasonally Adjusted

Province	Wages and Salaries (millions of \$)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	28,853	-0.3	1.9
Newfoundland	388	-1.4	2.1
Prince Edward Island	88	1.3	0.9
Nova Scotia	722	0.2	0.3
New Brunswick	582	0.9	2.5
Quebec	6,495	-0.1	0.8
Ontario	12,400	-0.4	1.5
Manitoba	950	0.3	2.2
Saskatchewan	727	-0.6	2.7
Alberta	2,806	-0.4	3.0
British Columbia	3,536	-0.6	5.1

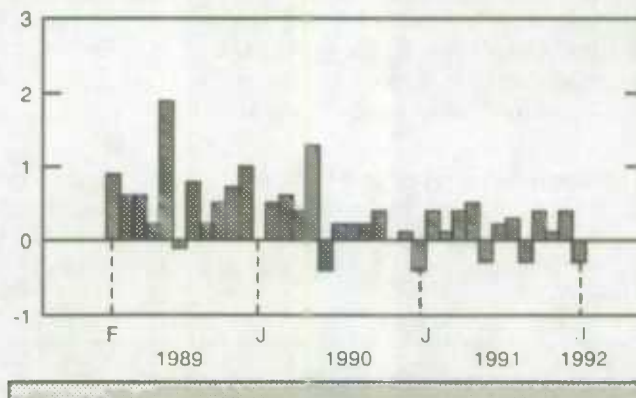
Canada's External Liabilities: Twice as High as its Assets

Highlights from the publication *Canada's International Investment Position* include:

- According to preliminary estimates for 1991, Canada's external liabilities totalled \$490 billion, against external assets of \$220 billion. The \$31 billion increase in liabilities from 1990 was more than twice that of the assets (\$14 billion).
- Canada's net liability (based on book value) totalled \$270 billion. This represents an increase of 7% over 1990, slightly lower than the 9% growth recorded in each of the preceding two years.
- Canada's net liability with non-residents was equivalent to 40% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), slightly above the previous high of 38% recorded in 1986 (higher relative levels were registered in the mid-1960s).
- Canada's largest net creditor is the United States with a net position of \$105 billion. Canada's liability to the U.S. amounted to \$220 billion, against assets of \$115 billion at the end

Wages and Salaries

% change, previous month



commercial and personal services fell 0.7% in January after a 0.6% gain in December. Similarly, they were down 0.7% in manufacturing industries following a 0.5% rise.

Partially offsetting these declines were higher wages and salaries in forestry, up 2.1%, after recording a 2.5% decline in December. Construction and provincial administration both advanced by 1.5% in January.

For further information, order *Estimates of Labour Income* (catalogue number 72-005) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4050.

of 1991. Canada's second largest net creditor is Japan, with a net liability of \$59 billion. Assets in and liabilities to Japan amounted to \$4 billion and \$62 billion, respectively.

- Among external liabilities, non-residents purchased a record amount of Canadian bonds in 1991, bringing their holdings to \$202 billion by the end of the year. This represents over one-third of all Canadian bonds outstanding.
- Foreign direct investment in Canada, at \$130 billion, constituted the second largest form of investment in Canada after bonds. This was a net \$5 billion addition over 1990, largely financed by capital from abroad.
- External assets were led by Canadian direct investment abroad, which amounted to \$93 billion at the end of 1991. Direct investment is largely in the U.S. (60%), although the United States' share has been decreasing in favour of European Community countries (20%), especially the United Kingdom.

For further information, order the 1991 issue of *Canada's International Investment Position* (catalogue number 67-202), or contact Balance of Payments Division at (613) 951-1871.

Year-over-year Increase in CPI Expected to be 1.7%

Since April 1990, Statistics Canada has been canvassing a small number of economists for their monthly forecasts of the year-over-year change in the Consumer Price Index, the unemployment rate and merchandise exports and imports. On average, 24 economists have participated in the survey.

For March, the Short-term Expectations Survey mean forecast of the year-over-year increase in the CPI is 1.7%. The minimum and maximum values are 1.4% and 2.0%, respectively. The mean forecast for February was 1.8%, very close to the actual value of 1.7%.

The unemployment rate is expected to be between 10.4% and 10.8% in March, with a mean forecast of 10.6%. In February, the mean forecast underestimated the outcome by 0.2.

The survey showed \$12.0 billion as the mean forecast for merchandise exports in February, with minimum and maximum values of \$11.5 billion and \$12.5 billion. For imports, the forecast for the same period is \$11.2 billion with minimum and maximum values of \$10.9 billion and \$11.5 billion, respectively.

For further information contact Diane Lachapelle at (613) 951-0568.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM APRIL 3 TO 9, 1992

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
AGRICULTURE					
1991 Census of Agriculture Products and Services	1991	92-303		No Charge	
Cereals and Oilseeds Review	January 1992	22-007	13.80/138	16.60/166	19.30/193
The Dairy Review	January 1992	23-001	12.20/122	14.60/146	17.10/171
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS					
Canada's International Transactions in Securities	January 1992	67-002	15.80/158	19/190	22.10/221
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM					
Focus on Culture, Vol. 4, no. 1	Spring 1992	87-004	6.25/25	7.50/30	8.75/35
Teachers in Universities	1988-89	81-241	27	32	38
Touriscope: International Travel	October-December 1991	66-001	38.50/144	46.25/185	54/216
Universities: Enrolment and Degrees	1990	81-204	27	32	38
INDUSTRY					
Asphalt Roofing	February 1992	45-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables	January 1992	32-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Cement	February 1992	44-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Coal and Coke Statistics	January 1992	45-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Coal Mines	1990	26-206	10/100	12/120	14/140
Department Store Sales and Stocks	September 1991	63-002	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Electric Power Statistics	January 1992	57-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Footwear Statistics	February 1992	33-002	5/50	6/60	7/70
Furniture and Fixtures Industries	1989	35-251	35	42	49
Gypsum Products	February 1992	44-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins	February 1992	46-002	5.60/56	6.70/67	7.80/78
New Motor Vehicle Sales	September 1991	63-007	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Oil Pipe Line Transport	January 1992	55-001	10/100	12/120	14/140

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED - Concluded

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
INDUSTRY – Concluded					
Paper and Allied Products Industries	1989	36-250	35	42	49
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder	February 1992	32-024	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia	January 1992	35-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
Products Shipped by Canadian Manufacturers	1988	31-211	60	72	84
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics	February 1992	25-001	6.10/61	7.30/73	8.50/85
Retail Trade	January 1992	63-005	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Rigid Insulating Board	February 1992	36-002	5/50	6/60	7/70
Wholesale Trade	January 1992	63-008	14/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS					
Gross Domestic Product by Industry	January 1992	15-001	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Exports by Commodity	January 1992	65-004	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
Imports by Commodity	January 1992	65-007	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
Summary of Canadian International Trade	January 1992	65-001	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK					
Private and Public Investment in Canada	Intentions 1992	61-205	30	36	42
LABOUR					
Guide to Labour Force Survey Data		71-528	45	54	63
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	January 1992	73-001	14.70/147	17.60/176	20.60/206
PRICES					
Consumer Prices and Price Indexes	October-December 1991	62-010	18/72	21.50/86	25.25/101

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

1991 Census of Agriculture Products and Services



1991 Census of Agriculture Products and Services

The first 1991 Census of Agriculture publication, *1991 Census of Agriculture Products and Services*, is now available.

This publication provides full details of all 1991 Census of Agriculture products and services, including prices and ordering information. This publication also contains information on Census of Agriculture terms, geography and history.

The 1991 Census of Agriculture Products and Services (catalogue number 92-303, free) is now available and can be ordered from Publication Sales (613) 951-7277. For more information, call Lynda Kemp, User Services and Marketing Unit, Census of Agriculture (613-951-8711 or call toll-free 1-800-465-1991).

Guide to Labour Force Survey Data



Guide to Labour Force Survey Data

Gain a better understanding of the unemployment rate and other labour market indicators from the new *Guide to Labour Force Survey Data*. This publication discusses relevant concepts and terminology and explores the survey questionnaire on an item-by-item basis. It also briefly covers methodology and collection procedures and provides a summary of the available data outputs.

A useful addition to this improved publication is a new labour force survey dictionary that provides detailed definitions of survey terms and variables.

The Guide to Labour Force Survey Data (catalogue number 71-528) is now available and can be ordered from Publication Sales (613) 951-7277.

Focus on Culture

The Spring 1992 issue of *Focus on Culture* includes articles about periodical and book publishing in Canada, government spending on culture, a new survey of the cultural labour force in Canada and newly released publications.

Canadian periodicals saw signs of the recession in 1989-90, when circulation dropped for the first time since 1984-85; total annual circulation of all Canadian periodicals declined 6% to 522 million copies. In 1989-90, circulation revenue decreased 3% in constant dollars over the previous year.

Total government spending on culture grew about 15% in constant dollars between 1985-86 and 1989-90. Governments at all levels spent \$5.7 billion on culture in 1989-90. The federal government contributed slightly more than half or \$2.9 billion, while provincial and municipal governments spent \$1.7 and \$1.1 billion, respectively.

According to a new study, the 1981-82 recession had a mild and short-lived impact on Canadian book publishing. The industry even grew at a faster rate than the overall economy, due to the impetus of the strong growth of exclusive agency sales.

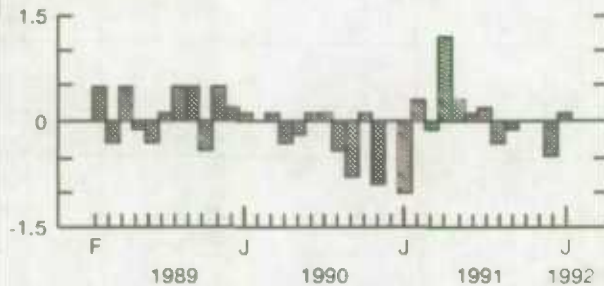
Sponsored by Employment and Immigration Canada, Statistics Canada will conduct the first cross-occupational look at Canadian artists and cultural workers. The Cultural Labour Force Project will integrate the information requirements of the various cultural communities. The Canadian Conference of the Arts, the Department of Communications, and the Canada Council are participating in the project.

The Spring issue of Focus on Culture, Vol. 4, No. 1 (catalogue number 87-004) is now available. For more information, contact Renée Langlois (613-951-1571), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

% change,
previous month



Real gross domestic product at factor cost edged up 0.1% in January after a 0.5% drop in December and a flat November.

Composite Leading Indicator

% change,
previous month



Following nine months of expansion, the composite leading indicator remained unchanged in January.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



In February, the year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI stood at 1.7% while the food index declined 0.8%.

Unemployment Rate

%



In February, the unemployment rate advanced 0.2 percentage points to a seven-year high of 10.6.

Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments fell 2.4% to \$21.9 billion in January, the fifth straight monthly decline. Unfilled orders fell 1.3% to \$22.9 billion, the ninth decrease in a row.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



Exports increased by 5.4% to \$12.2 billion in January and imports rose by 1.6% to \$11.1 billion.

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



1010088316

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
GENERAL				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	January	502	0.1%	1.3%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	January	144.7	0.0%	4.6%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	4th Quarter	10.3	-18.0%	-29.0%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	January	15.0	0.0%	2.8%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	February*	103.3	-4.7%	-1.5%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	February	12.3	-0.1%	-0.1%
Unemployment Rate (%)	February	10.6	0.2	1.4
Participation Rate (%)	February	65.6	-0.1	-1.2
Labour Income (\$ billion)	January*	32.4	0.1%	2.6%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	January	553.47	0.4%	5.2%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	January	12.2	5.4%	3.3%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	January	11.1	1.6%	-0.2%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	January	1.1	0.45	0.41
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	January	21.9	-2.4%	-4.3%
New Orders (\$ billion)	January	21.6	-2.4%	-5.5%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	January	22.9	-1.3%	-11.1%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	January	1.55	-0.03	-0.08
Capacity Utilization (%)	4th Quarter	70.2	-1.5	-2.5
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	February	127.1	0.1%	1.7%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	February	108.2	0.8%	-2.2%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	February	100.8	1.7%	-9.1%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	February*	133.5	-0.1%	0.0%

*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: Louise Larouche (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. Canadian customers please remember to add 7% GST. 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 by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, 1992. 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 from Chief, Author Services, Publications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.

