

OVERVIEW

In March, the Raw Materials Price Index rose 1.0% to a level of 101.8, after a 2.8% jump in February.

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Month	Services (%)	Goods (%)
Mar 1990	99.5	100.8
Jun 1990	99.5	100.3
Sep 1990	99.8	100.3
Dec 1990	99.5	99.5
Mar 1991	99.8	97.5
Jun 1991	99.5	95.0
Sep 1991	100.3	93.5
Dec 1991	100.3	95.5
Mar 1992	100.0	96.5
Jun 1992	100.3	95.5
Sep 1992	100.5	94.0
Dec 1992	100.8	93.8

... Marginal Advance in Gross Domestic Product

Following a 1.3% advance in January, transportation and storage output dropped 0.7% in February. Widespread losses were led by water transport, down 4.0%, and truck transport, down 1.4%. After a flat December, wholesale trade slipped 0.1% in January and declined 0.2% in February. Wholesalers of motor vehicles and food led the losses. Community, business and personal services dropped 0.1% to continue a downward trend that left output 4.1% below April 1991.

In the goods producing industries, cutbacks in construction (-1.4%) were partly offset by gains in mining (1.0%), manufacturing (0.1%) and utilities (0.2%). Agriculture (-0.6) and forestry (-0.9%) contributed to the losses, while fishing (0.4%) output rose marginally.

For further information, order *Gross Domestic Product by Industry* (Catalogue number 15-001) or contact *Industry Measures and Analysis Division* at (613) 951-9164. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 8.)

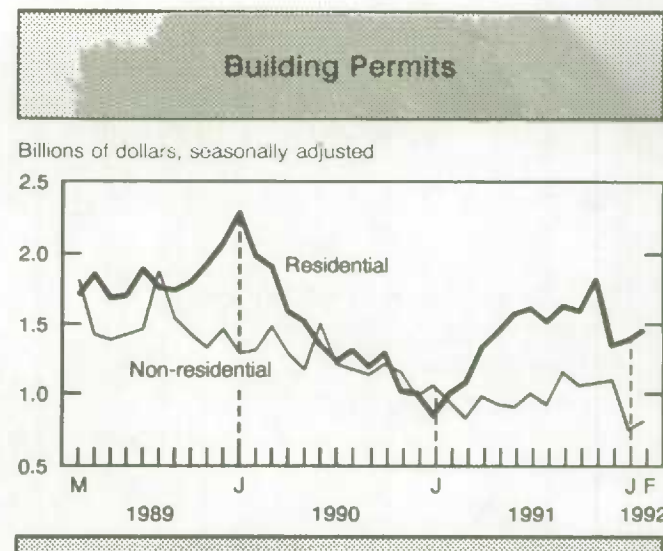
Construction Activity Picks Up

After recording a 15.9% plunge in December and a further drop of 12.8% in January, the seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued in Canada rose 6.2% in February to \$2,243 million. Both the residential and non-residential sectors contributed to this increase.

The value of residential building permits increased 6.0% in February to \$1,444 million, the second consecutive monthly rise. The value of the multi-family dwelling sector advanced 7.7% to \$500 million and the value of the single-family dwelling sector was up 5.2% to \$944 million. Ontario recorded the largest gain in the value of residential building permits, up 21.6%, which followed an 8.9% rise in January. The Atlantic provinces and British Columbia reported losses, down 22.5% and 11.0%, respectively.

Advance estimates for March indicate that the value of residential building permits issued in Canada increased to \$1,524 million, up 5.3% from the revised value for February (\$1,447 million). The addition of data due to the advance estimate for March results in the revision of seasonally adjusted figures for previous months, including February.

In the non-residential sector, the value of building permits increased 6.4% to a level of \$799 million, after dropping 31.1% in January. All three components of the non-residential sector recorded gains in February. The value of industrial projects



jumped 27.4% to \$139 million, while commercial projects advanced 3.0% to \$432 million and institutional projects were up 2.7% to \$229 million. These increases followed declines of 44.1%, 6.1% and 50.4%, respectively.

The Prairies (134.9%) and Ontario (12.3%) were the only regions to report increases in the value of non-residential building permits in February.

For further information, order *Building Permits* (catalogue number 64-001) or contact *Investment and Capital Stock Division* at (613) 951-2025.

Number of UI Beneficiaries Relatively Stable

In February, the seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits was 1,109,000, up 0.9% from the revised January level of 1,100,000. The number of beneficiaries in February 1992 was 5.4% below the level of February 1991.

Benefit payments amounted to \$1,201 million, 2.5% less than a month earlier but up 1.0% from February 1991. The number of benefit weeks fell 2.6% to 4.8 million, following a 6.0% rise in January.

(continued on page 3)

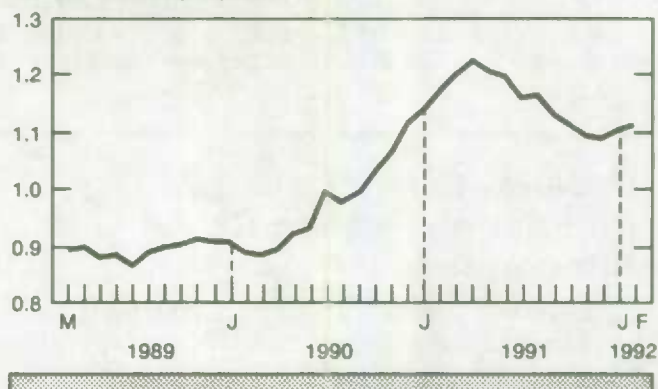
... Number of UI Beneficiaries Relatively Stable

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits, February 1992 Seasonally Adjusted

Province/Territory	Total (000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	1,109	0.9	-5.4
Newfoundland	67	4.4	-2.6
Prince Edward Island	13	0.4	7.9
Nova Scotia	52	1.9	0.8
New Brunswick	59	0.4	3.5
Quebec	360	-0.5	-5.6
Ontario	295	1.5	-9.7
Manitoba	30	-0.8	-7.5
Saskatchewan	25	0.2	0.0
Alberta	77	1.3	4.3
British Columbia	124	-0.7	-8.9
Yukon	1	-9.0	-9.3
Northwest Territories	2	3.2	14.4

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits

Millions, seasonally adjusted



For further information, order *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (catalogue number 73-001) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4045.

Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Slows

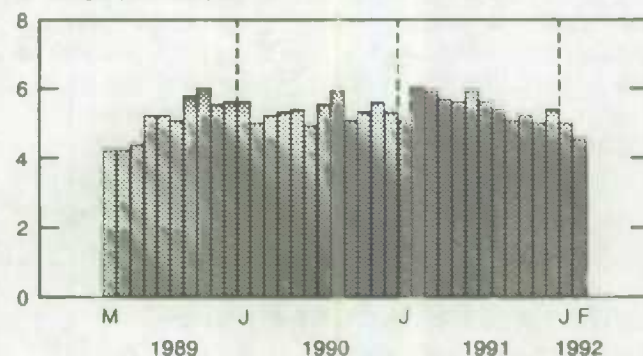
Average weekly earnings in Canadian industries slipped 0.1% in February to \$552.23, a second decline in four months. The year-over-year increase decelerated for the third straight month, from 5.4% in December to 5.0% in January and to 4.5% in February, the lowest rate of growth since May 1989.

Average Weekly Earnings, February 1992 Unadjusted Data

Province/Territory	Industrial Aggregate (dollars)	Year-over-year % change
Canada	552.23	4.5
Newfoundland	519.23	3.2
Prince Edward Island	428.88	-1.5
Nova Scotia	492.44	3.6
New Brunswick	495.49	2.0
Quebec	538.62	3.3
Ontario	577.33	4.7
Manitoba	488.15	3.1
Saskatchewan	483.26	5.9
Alberta	554.72	4.8
British Columbia	560.17	7.1
Yukon	674.40	7.2
Northwest Territories	761.18	3.4

Average Weekly Earnings

% change, previous year



The year-over-year growth in earnings of goods-producing industries was 3.9%, reaching a level of \$677.89. Increased earnings in manufacturing (5.2%) and in mines, quarries and oil wells (4.0%) were partially offset by declines in forestry (-0.5%) and construction (-0.1%) industries.

In the service-producing industries, earnings grew by 5.0% between February 1991 and February 1992, to \$517.28. Community, business and personal services (5.7%), finance, insurance and real estate (4.7%) and transportation, communication and other utilities (4.3%) contributed to this rise.

(continued on page 4)

... Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Slows

In February, employees paid by the hour in the goods-producing industries worked on average 37.9 hours per week, compared to 37.5 in February 1991, and earned on average \$16.29 per hour. In service-producing industries, hourly-paid employees worked on average 27.2 hours per week and earned \$12.66.

Deceleration of Canada's Population Growth Rate Interrupted

Canada's population reached 27,296,859 last June, according to the results of the 1991 Census. This represents an increase of 7.9% over the 1986-1991 period, up from 4.0% between 1981 and 1986, reversing the downward trend in the rate of growth noted throughout the last 40 years.

Two of the 10 provinces and the territories exceeded the national five-year growth rate. British Columbia led the way with a growth rate of 13.8%, more than double the 5.1% rate recorded during the 1981-1986 period. Ontario was close behind with an increase of 10.8% compared to 5.5% noted between 1981 and 1986.

The Yukon, which holds the country's smallest population total, had a growth rate of 18.3% for the 1986-1991 period, a significant increase compared to the 1.5% rate posted during the previous five-year period. While not as high as the 14.2% population increase registered by the 1986 Census, the growth rate of the Northwest Territories continued to be higher than the national five-year growth rate.

Saskatchewan was the only province with a population drop, declining from an all-time high of

Four provinces and the Yukon recorded year-over-year growth rates exceeding the national average. Prince Edward Island registered a decline. (See accompanying table.)

For further information, order *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (catalogue number 72-002), or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4090.

Population Growth in Canada - 1991

Province/Territory	1991 Population	% Change	
		1981- 1986	1986- 1991
Canada	27,296,859	4.0	7.9
Newfoundland	568,474	0.1	--
Prince Edward Island	129,765	3.4	2.5
Nova Scotia	899,942	3.0	3.1
New Brunswick	723,900	1.9	2.0
Quebec	6,895,963	1.5	5.6
Ontario	10,084,885	5.5	10.8
Manitoba	1,091,942	3.6	2.7
Saskatchewan	988,928	4.3	-2.0
Alberta	2,545,553	5.7	7.6
British Columbia	3,282,061	5.1	13.8
Yukon	27,797	1.5	18.3
Northwest Territories	57,649	14.2	10.4

slightly over one million in 1986 to below one million in 1991. Newfoundland's population hardly changed from what it was in both 1981 and 1986.

For further information, order *A National Overview* (catalogue number 93-301) or *Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions* (catalogue number 93-304).

Industrial Product Prices Register Moderate Advance

In March, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) was up 0.3% from February's revised level of 108.0, to 108.3. This advance followed a 0.7% rise in February and no change in January. However, compared to March 1991, the IPPI fell 1.4%, a smaller decline than the 2.4% year-over-year decrease recorded in February.

A 1.0% rise in the value of the U.S. dollar had an upward effect on prices of exports denominated in U.S. currency. Price increases were widespread but leading the gains were the indexes for autos, trucks and other transport equipment and lumber, sawmill and other wood products.

Of the 21 major groups of products, prices increased in 11, fell in six and remained unchanged in four. The autos, trucks and other transportation

equipment index rose for the fourth straight month, this time by 0.6%. Higher prices for softwood lumber and ties (2.7%) and softwood veneer and plywood (3.2%) pushed the lumber, sawmill and other wood products index up 1.2% in March. This represents the fifth consecutive monthly increase for the index.

Following a 2.4% advance in February, the primary metal products index rose 0.7% in March, mainly attributable to a 4.7% increase in prices for aluminum products. Higher prices for fresh or frozen beef and veal (0.8%), fresh or frozen turkeys (3.4%) and primary fish products (0.5%) pushed the meat, fish and dairy products index up 0.4%. This increase follows a 1.4% rise in February.

For further information, order *Industry Price Indexes* (catalogue number 62-011), or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9607.

Raw Material Prices Continue to Rise

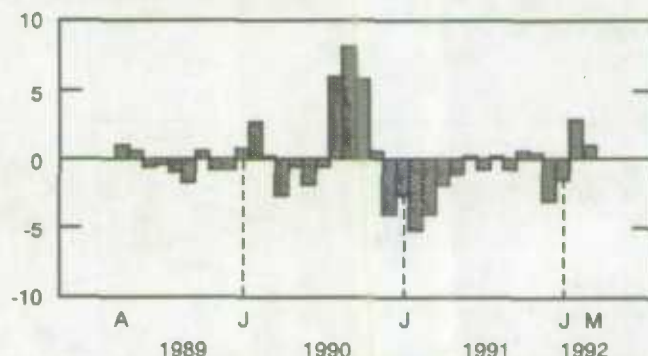
The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1986=100) increased 1.0% in March to 101.8, a smaller gain than the 2.8% rise recorded in February. Six of the seven RMPI components were up but the overall increase was mainly attributable to the mineral fuels and wood indexes. However, compared to March 1991, the RMPI fell 4.2%, the 13th consecutive month to have a year-over-year decline, as four of the seven components of the total index recorded declines.

The mineral fuels price index, which accounts for roughly one-third of the RMPI, climbed 2.0% as a result of higher prices for crude oil (2.1%). This represents the second consecutive monthly increase for the index. Higher prices for logs and bolts (1.2%) and softwood pulpwood (2.1%) pushed the wood index up 1.4% in March. This increase followed a 2.3% rise in February and no change in January.

The non-ferrous metals index advanced for the third consecutive month, this time by 0.5%, as prices of aluminum materials jumped 4.5% and prices of zinc concentrates rose 2.5%.

Raw Materials Price Index

% change, previous month



Moderating the overall increase, the animal products index, which accounts for one-quarter of the RMPI, fell 0.4% in March as an increase in prices for cattle for slaughter (1.9%) was offset by a decrease in prices for hogs (-5.5%). The decline of the animal products index followed three consecutive monthly increases.

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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM APRIL 24 TO APRIL 30, 1992

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
AGRICULTURE					
Field Crop Reporting Series No. 3 – Stocks of Canadian Grain at March 31, 1992		22-002	12/80	14/96	16/112
CENSUS					
A National Overview : Population and Dwelling Counts	1991 Census	93-301	20	24	28
Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions – Population and Dwelling Counts	1991 Census	93-304	50	60	70
CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS					
Canadian Economic Observer	April 1992	11-010	22/220	26/260	31/310
DEMOGRAPHY					
Marriage and Conjugal Life in Canada		91-534E	38	46	53
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM					
Education Statistics Bulletin: Financial Statistics of Canadian Universities	1989-90	81-002	4.90/49	5.90/59	6.90/69
Education Statistics Bulletin – Trends in Private School Enrolment	1960-61 to 1990-91	81-002	4.90/49	5.90/59	6.90/69
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE					
Financial and Taxation Statistics for Enterprises	1989	61-219P	48	58	67
INDUSTRY					
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables	February 1992	32-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers	March 1992	36-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production	December 1991	26-006	10/100	12/120	14/140
Energy Statistics Handbook	April 1992	57-601	300	360	420
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation	March 1992	44-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Pack of Apple and Apple Products	1990	32-241	13	16	18
The Sugar Situation	March 1992	32-013	5/50	6/60	7/70
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Imports by Commodity	February 1992	65-007	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
PRICES					
Industry Price Indexes	February 1992	62-011	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
SERVICES, SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY					
Business Services	1987-1989	63-232	30	36	42
Telephone Statistics	February 1992	56-002	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

1991 Census of Canada: Population and Dwelling Counts

The Daily released the first in a series of 10 special issues that are dedicated to data derived from the June 1991 Census.

Two publications accompanied the release of these data. A *National Overview* (catalogue number 93-301) presents 1991 population and dwelling counts for Canada, the provinces and territories, federal electoral districts, census divisions, census metropolitan areas, census agglomerations, as well as counts of the urban and rural population. *Census Divisions and Census Subdivisions* (catalogue number 93-304, \$50; 93-304D - diskette format, \$100) presents 1991 and 1986 population and 1991 dwelling counts, land area and population density for these two types of geographic areas.

Census data on age, sex, marital status, dwellings, households and families will be released in *The Daily* on July 7.



Canadian Economic Observer

The April issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, is now available.

The April issue contains a monthly summary of the economy, major economic and statistical events in March, a technical note on the statistical discrepancy in the balance of payments and a feature article on Canada's position in world trade. A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

Canadian Economic Observer (catalogue number 11-010) is now available. For more information, call Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Analysis Section.

Marriage and Conjugal Life in Canada

The Current Demographic Analysis series was augmented today by its 10th edition, *Marriage and Conjugal Life in Canada*.

The publication's 160 pages describe, from a demographic viewpoint, the history of successive generations of Canadians from the period of New France to the present who have lived in harmony or discord with the institution of marriage. More than 50 tables and over 30 charts trace the changing outlook and behaviour of Canadians past and present.

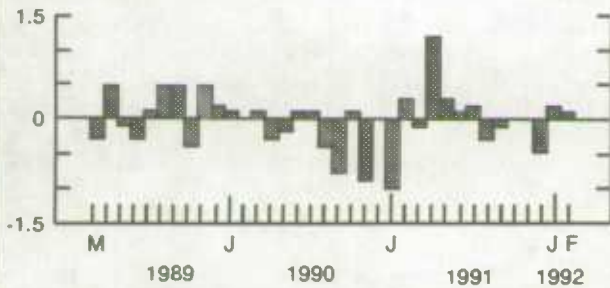
Marriage and Conjugal Life in Canada (catalogue number 91-534E) is now available. For more information, contact Jean Dumas (613-951-2327), Research and Analysis Section, Demography Division.



CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

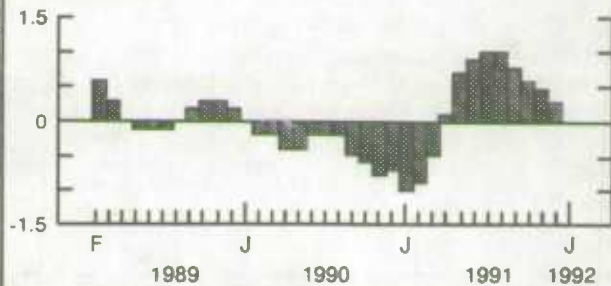
% change,
previous month



Real gross domestic product at factor cost crept up 0.1% in February after a 0.2% gain in January and a 0.5% drop in December.

Composite Leading Indicator

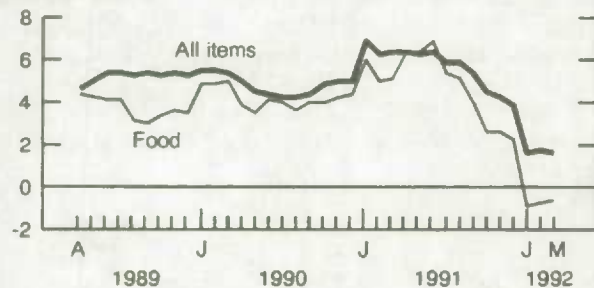
% change,
previous month



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

Consumer Price Index

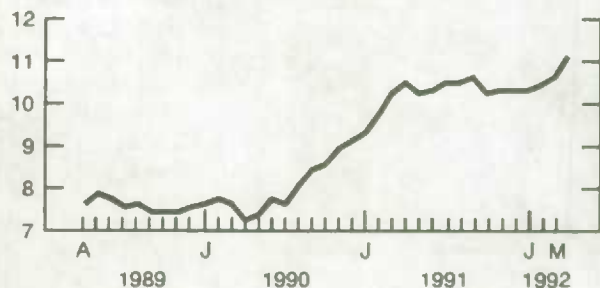
% change,
previous year



In March, the year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI stood at 1.6% while the food index declined for the third straight month, this time by 0.7%.

Unemployment Rate

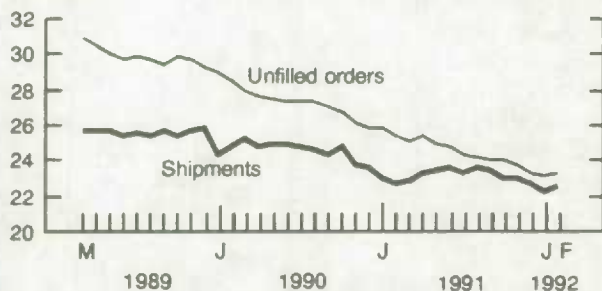
%



In March, the unemployment rate advanced 0.5 percentage points to a seven-year high of 11.1.

Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments rose for the first time in six months, up 1.1% to \$22.4 billion in February. Unfilled orders were up 0.3% to \$23.1 billion, the first increase in 10 months.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



Exports increased by 1.2% to \$12.2 billion in February and imports fell 0.2% to \$11.2 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)	February*	503	0.1%	1.1%
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)	February	15.1	-0.1%	0.5%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	February	103.3	-4.7%	-1.5%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	March	12.2	-0.4%	-0.6%
Unemployment Rate (%)	March	11.1	0.5	0.6
Participation Rate (%)	March	65.6	0.0	-1.0
Labour Income (\$ billion)	January	32.4	0.1%	2.6%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	February*	552.23	-0.1%	4.5%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	February	12.2	1.2%	6.3%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	February	11.2	-0.2%	5.2%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	February	1.1	0.17	0.18
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	February	22.4	1.1%	-0.7%
New Orders (\$ billion)	February	22.5	2.2%	2.0%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	February	23.1	0.3%	-8.4%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	February	1.51	-0.02	-0.13
Capacity Utilization (%)	4th Quarter	70.2	-1.5	-2.5
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	March	127.5	0.3%	1.6%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	March*	108.3	0.3%	-1.4%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	March*	101.8	1.0%	-4.2%
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.



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KEY RELEASE CALENDAR: MAY 1992*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Canadian Composite Leading Indicator, February	5 Business Conditions Survey: Canadian Manufacturing Industries, April Short-term Expectations Survey, April	6 Help-wanted Index, April	7 Estimates of Labour Income, February	8 Labour Force Survey, April Farm Product Price Index, March
11 New Housing Price Index, March	12	13	14 Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area, March	15 New Motor Vehicle Sales, March Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, March Department Store Sales - Advance Report, April
18	19	20 Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Merchandise Trade, March	21 The Consumer Price Index, April Retail Trade, March Sales of Natural Gas, March	22 Wholesale Trade, March
25 Canada's International Transactions in Securities, March	26 Department Store Sales and Stocks, March Employment, Earnings and Hours, March	27 Industrial Product Price Index, April Raw Materials Price Index, April Unemployment Insurance Statistics, March	28 Farm Cash Receipts, Jan.-March Net Farm Income, 1991 Farm Debt Outstanding, December 31, 1991 Farm Capital Value, July 1, 1991	29 Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry, March Building Permits, March Financial Statistics of Enterprises, First Quarter 1992 International Travel Account, First Quarter 1992 Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, April

* Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series may change.

I·N·F·O·R·M·A·T**A Weekly Review**

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