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A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, August 7, 1992

OVERVIEW

Demand for Workers Recovering

The Help-wanted Index (1981 = 100) advanced four points to 67 in July.

Slow But Steady Growth for Leading Indicator

In May, the composite leading index rose 0.1% for the fifth consecutive month.

Wages and Salaries Show Gain

Wages and salaries grew by 2.4% between May 1991 and May 1992.

Real Gross Domestic Product Takes a Step Down

Real gross domestic product at factor cost declined 0.1% in May following four consecutive monthly gains.

All Regions Intend Increased Construction Activity

Following a downturn in April, the seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued across Canada in May increased 19.4%.

Mixed Optimism Among Canadian Manufacturers

The balance of manufacturers' expectations for the quarter beginning in July shows improvement. However, concern remains high for current levels of unfilled orders.

Also included in this issue is information on federal expenditures in support of education and training and the short-term expectations survey.

STATISTICS STATISTIQUE CANADA CANADA

Demand for Workers Recovering

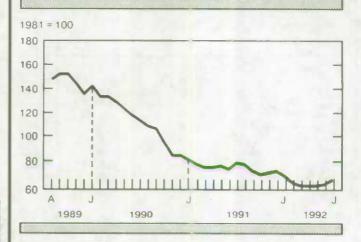
The Help-wanted Index (1981 = 100) advanced four points in July to 67. The index serves as an early indicator of demand for workers by monitoring changes in the number of help-wanted advertisements published in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is recovering from an eight-year low recorded from March to May 1992.

From June to July, small decreases occurred in the Atlantic provinces (down from 92 to 90) and in the Prairie provinces (down from 43 to 42). Increases were recorded in Québec (up 14% to 80), Ontario (up 9% to 64) and British Columbia (up 1% to 70).

Year-to-year in July, demand for workers was down in all regions, falling 19% in the Prairie provinces, 17% in the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia, 14% in Ontario, and 7% in Québec. Nationally, the index was 14% lower than it was a year earlier.

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

Help-wanted Index, Canada



Slow But Steady Growth for Leading Indicator

In May, the composite leading indicator rose 0.1% for the fifth consecutive month. Housing and exports continued to account for most of the growth, while demand for durable goods and services weakened. Of the 10 leading indicators, four were up and four declined.

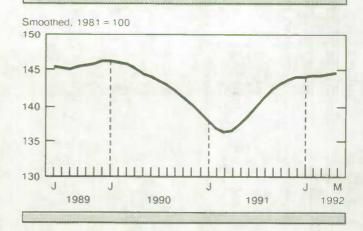
The housing index, which gained 1.3% for a third consecutive monthly increase, propelled growth in household demand and led to increases in furniture and appliance sales (0.4%). However, sales of other durable goods recorded an eighth straight drop, down 0.3% in May, as auto sales remained weak.

Demand for business and personal services continued to slide at an average rate of 0.7% in each of the past three months.

In manufacturing, new orders for durable goods fell 0.7% in May, the largest drop since February, with only three of the nine components recording increases. The ratio of shipments to inventories was unchanged: manufacturing shipments fell at the same rate as inventories.

In the financial markets, the TSE300 stock price index fell for the third straight month. The money supply grew 0.1%, after posting 0.4% and 0.5% growth in the two previous months.

Composite Leading Indicator



The U.S. leading indicator continued to pick up in May, confirming the steady gains in Canadian exports.

For further information, order Canadian Economic Observer (catalogue number 11-010) or contact Current Economic Analysis Division at (613)951-3627. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 9.)

Wages and Salaries Show Gain

Following a 0.3% increase in April, seasonally adjusted aggregate wages and salaries in May were \$28.9 billion, up 0.6% from the revised April figure of \$28.7 billion. May's level represented an increase of 2.4% from that of the same period last year.

Wages and Salaries, May 1992 Seasonally Adjusted

Alberta

British Columbia

Province Wages and % change, % change, Salaries previous previous (millions of \$) month year Canada 28,892 2.4 0.6 Newfoundland 376 -2.8-2.1Prince Edward Island 91 1.0 3.1 Nova Scotia 723 -0.21.3 New Brunswick 579 -0.42.6 Quebec 6,537 0.5 1.7 Ontario 12.145 0.6 1.3 Manitoba 939 -0.32.4 3.4 Saskatchewan 729 -0.4

2,916

3.656

Wages and Salaries

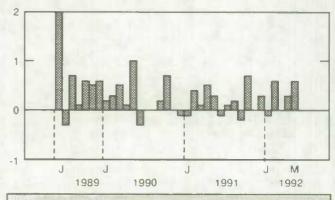
% change, previous month

3.2

4.2

0.7

1.3



(continued on page 3)

... Wages and Salaries Show Gain

Of the 14 industry groups, 11 registered increased aggregate wages and salaries in May. Among them were construction (2.8%), health and welfare services (1.1%), finance, insurance and real estate (0.8%) and education and related services (0.6%). Wages and salaries rose for the second consecutive month in manufacturing (0.7%), mines, quarries and oil wells (0.6%), trade (0.9%), commercial and personal services (0.8%) and forestry (1.0%).

The federal administration and other government grouping continued to see declining wages and salaries, down 2.1% in May following a 1.5% drop in April.

Wages and salaries rose in five of the 10 provinces, and fell in five others.

For further information, order Estimates of Labour Income (catalogue number 72-005) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4051.

Real Gross Domestic Product Takes a Step Down

Real gross domestic product at factor cost declined 0.1% in May following four consecutive monthly gains. Goods production dropped 0.5% following a marginal gain in April, but services output gained 0.1%, its fifth consecutive monthly increase.

Manufacturing, mining and utilities accounted for most of the downturn in goods-producing industries. Increased output in agriculture and logging industries partly offset these decreases.

Within manufacturing, refined petroleum and coal products dropped 6.1%, wood products fell 2.2% and output of transportation equipment fell 1.8%. For the petroleum and coal products industry, the latest monthly drop was the largest since May 1989. Declines in exports and lower sales by service stations accompanied shutdowns for maintenance work to produce the slump. Transportation output fell as motor vehicle assemblers slashed output by 8.5%, in response to weak North American sales. Higher output of aircraft and railroad rolling stock partly offset these losses. In the wood products industry, despite May's drop, production was still 6.3% above its recent trough in January 1991.

Mining output fell 1.1%, mainly because of curtailed coal production resulting from labour disputes in British Columbia. Gold production was also down as prices for gold remained weak.

In contrast to gains in the previous four months, utility output fell 0.6%, led by a drop of 2.9% in gas distribution. Lower output of electric power also contributed to the loss.

The downturn in the goods-producing industries was offset by a 0.1% gain in service industries. This gain followed advances of 0.3% in March and 0.2% in April. In the business services sector, finance, insurance and real estate advanced 0.4% as activity by investment companies and stock exchanges

Gross Domestic Product Output by Sector

Index (January 1990 = 100)



picked up. Community, business and personal services rose 0.5%. Wholesale trade advanced 0.7%, following a marginal increase in April, as five of 11 trade groups recorded higher sales.

The gains in business services were mitigated by declines within other parts of the sector. Transportation and storage dropped 1.3%; retailers suffered a 0.8% drop following a comparable increase in April, with 13 out of 18 store types recording lower sales; and reversing the previous month's result, communications output fell 0.8%. Canada Post accounted for most of the loss, followed by telecommunications carriers, whose output fell due to a drop in long-distance calling.

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 9.)

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES: BUILDING PERMITS

Building Permits, May 1992

Unadjusted Data

Province/Territory	To	otal	Residential		Non-r	Non-residential	
	(\$ millions)	% change, previous year	(\$ millions)	% change, previous year	(\$ millions)	% change, previous year	
Canada	2,857.4	-5.5	1,879.5	-3.1	977.8	-9.7	
Newfoundland	34.4	-12.4	24.2	-20.4	10.2	14.8	
Prince Edward Island	11.8	-34.6	9.9	20.6	1.9	-81.0	
Nova Scotia	64.8	9.7	49.3	2.2	15.6	43.3	
New Brunswick	70.7	23.0	45.9	21.7	24.8	25.5	
Quebec	625.1	-7.5	434.6	-1.8	190.5	-18.4	
Ontario	964.1	-20.3	660.9	-16.9	303.2	-26.8	
Manitoba	65.6	49.0	43.5	34.1	22.1	91.0	
Saskatchewan	30.7	14.3	16.8	55.0	13.9	-13.3	
Alberta	272.9	2.9	191.2	22.9	81.7	-25.4	
British Columbia	699.2	13.4	395.2	5.7	304.0	25.3	
Yukon	6.5	17.7	5.1	62.5	1.4	-41.4	
Northwest Territories	11.5	88.0	2.8	8.9	8.7	146.9	

All Regions Intend Increased Construction Activity

Following a 13.7% downturn in April, the seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued across Canada in May increased to \$2,429 million, up 19.4%. Compared to the same period last year, building permits issued in May were 3.8% higher. The total for the period January-May 1992 was 8.3% higher than the total recorded between January-May 1991.

The value of residential building permits was up 12.3% in May. Growth in the multi-family dwelling sector was strong at 23.2%. The balance, taken up by the single-family dwelling sector, was achieved at a rate of increase of 8.0%.

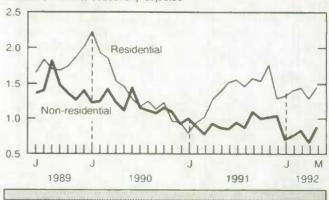
All regions reported increases of at least 9.4% in the value of residential building permits issued in May. For the second consecutive month, the Atlantic region reported a monthly increase in excess of 25% (26.4% in April and 25.5% in May).

Advance estimates for June indicate that the value of residential building permits issued in Canada declined to \$1,449 million, down 1.8% from the revised value for May of \$1,475 million. The revision to May's seasonally adjusted figure is due to the inclusion of additional data for June's advance estimate.

The value of non-residential building permits issued in May jumped 32.9%. This rate of increase in the value of non-residential building permits

Building Permits

Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



represented a four-year high. All three components of the non-residential sector were on the rise: commercial projects jumped 38.1%, institutional projects increased 33.2%, and industrial projects were up by 14.2%.

In the non-residential sector as well, all regions reported increases, ranging from 22.7% in the Prairies to 44.1% in Québec.

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

Mixed Optimism Among Canadian Manufacturers

According to a survey conducted in July, the seasonally adjusted balance of Canadian manufacturers' opinions on their expected volumes of production for the third quarter, new orders, and finished products inventories improved relative to the situation in April. However, concern remained high for levels of unfilled orders. In all four areas, outlooks were improved from where they stood in July 1991.

After three quarters with negative balances, the balance of opinion about the expected volume of production over the next three months climbed 10 points and reached +8. This balance was made up by 32% of manufacturers responding that they expected higher volumes of production, minus 24% who indicated that they expected lower volumes of production.

Canadian manufacturers' balance of opinion regarding new orders improved slightly compared to the last survey in April, but remained negative, as it has done since the second quarter of 1989. The proportion who reported that orders received were about the same fell 18 percentage points, to 47%. Those who stated that orders received were on the rise made up 22% (an increase of 11 points). However, another 31% (up seven points from April's figure) noted that new orders were declining. The improvement in manufacturers' opinion on new orders was mainly due to increased orders received in the paper and allied products industries and in the wood industries.

Business Conditions Survey July 1992

	1991		1992		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Balance of opinion* on:					
Production	3	-1	-12	-2	8
New orders	-14	-8	-20	-13	-9
Unfilled orders	-50	-30	-51	-27	-30
Inventories	-25	-18	-31	-30	-17

The balance between the proportion of positive responses, such as higher volumes of production and negative responses, such as lower volumes of production.

The balance of opinion concerning the backlog of unfilled orders took a downward step of three points in July after a significant improvement in April. Of those surveyed, the percentage reporting lower than normal backlogs remained just about constant at 40%, but only 10% had higher than normal backlogs, a four-point drop. The transportation equipment industry accounted for most of the decrease.

The percentage of manufacturers who thought their level of finished products inventories was about right rose five points to 69%. The proportion of manufacturers who thought their finished product inventories were too high was 24% and only 7% thought they were too low. Although the balance remained negative, it was the highest it has been since it posted an equivalent -17 in the last quarter of 1989.

For further information, contact Industry Division at (613)951-3507.

Education and Training Spending Increases in 1991-92

Federal spending in support of education and training reached an estimated \$7.7 billion in 1991-92. This was an increase of 8.3% over the previous year, compared to the 6.1% increase in overall government spending (excluding debt charges).

During the period 1982-83 to 1991-92, federal government spending in support of education and training increased by an average annual rate of 6.7%, while total spending increased by 5.2%.

After reaching a high of 7.3% in 1985-86, the proportion of the federal budget dedicated to education and training declined to 6.7% in 1991-92 (6.6% in 1990-91).

For further information, contact Education, Culture and Tourism Division at (613) 951-1668.

June Exports Forecast to Remain Unchanged

First conducted in April 1990, the short-term expectations survey canvasses a group of about 23 economists every month for their forecasts of key economic indicators. This month the participants provided their forecasts for four indicators.

The yearly increase in the Consumer Price Index for July was forecast at a mean of 1.2% (minimum 0.9%, maximum 1.7%). In June, the mean forecast overestimated the outcome of 1.1% by 0.2 percentage points.

The mean forecast for the unemployment rate for July was 11.5% (minimum 11.0%, maximum 11.7%). The survey respondents underestimated the

unemployment rate for June by 0.5 percentage points.

June merchandise exports were forecast to be \$12.9 billion (minimum \$12.6 billion, maximum \$13.2 billion). Merchandise imports were forecast at \$11.9 billion (minimum \$11.5 billion, maximum \$12.2 billion). The mean forecast for May exports matched the outcome (also matched for April exports), while imports were overestimated by \$0.5 billion.

Gross Domestic Product was forecast to have increased 0.2% in May. Statistics Canada announced on July 31 that the preliminary estimate for May's change in GDP was -0.1%.

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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JULY 31 TO AUGUST 6, 1992

		Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
Division/title	Period		Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
				9	SUS
AGRICULTURE					
Agricultural Profile of Alberta - Part 1 Agricultural Profile of Alberta - Part 1	1991	95-382	30	36	42
(Electronic Product) Agricultural Profile of British Columbia –	1991	95-382D	60	85	110
Part 1 Agricultural Profile of British Columbia –	1991	95-393	39	47	55
Part 1 (Electronic Product) Agricultural Profile of Canada – Part 1	1991	95-393D	78	103	128
(Electronic Product)	1991	95-350D	68	93	118
Agricultural Profile of Manitoba - Part 1 Agricultural Profile of Manitoba - Part 1	1991	95-363	39	47	55
(Electronic Product) Agricultural Profile of New Brunswick –	1991	95-363D	78	103	128
Part 1 Agricultural Profile of New Brunswick –	1991	95-323	30	36	4:
Part 1 (Electronic Product) Agricultural Profile of Newfoundland –	1991	95-323D	60	85	110
Part 1 Agricultural Profile of Newfoundland –	1991	95-306	30	36	4:
Part 1 (Electronic Product)	1991	95-306D	60	85	11:
Agricultural Profile of Nova Scotia – Part 1	1991	95-317	30	36	4:
Agricultural Profile of Nova Scotia – Part 1 (Electronic Product)	1991	95-317D	60	85	110
Agricultural Profile of Ontario - Part 1 Agricultural Profile of Ontario - Part 1	1991	95-356	39	47	58
(Electronic Product) Agricultural Profile of Prince Edward	1991	95-356D	78	103	128
Island - Part 1 Agricultural Profile of Prince Edward	1991	95-310	30	36	4:
Island - Part 1 (Electronic Product)	1991	95-310D	60	85	110
Agricultural Profile of Québec - Part 1 Agricultural Profile of Québec - Part 1	1991	95-335	47	56	66
(Electronic Product) Agricultural Profile of Saskatchewan –	1991	95-335D	94	119	14
Part 1 Agricultural Profile of Saskatchewan –	1991	95-370	39	47	58
Part 1 (Electronic Product) Cereals and Oilseeds Review	1991 May 1992	95-370D 22-007	78 13.80/138	103 16,60/166	19.30/193
Cereals and Ollseeds Review	May 1992	22-007	13.80/138	16.60/166	19.30/19

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED - Concluded

Division/title			Frice: Issue/Subscription		
	Period	Catalogue Number	Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
				\$US	
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND					
TOURISM					
Education Statistics Bulletin: Financial					
Statistics of Community Colleges,					
Vocational Schools and Paramedical					
Training in Hospitals, Vol. 14, No. 3	1989-1990	81-002	4.90/49	5.90/59	6.90/69
Education Statistics Bulletin: Federal					
Expenditures in Support of	1000 00 . 1001 00	01.000	4.00110	T 00.00	
Education and Training, Vol. 14, No. 4	1982-83 to 1991-92	81-002	4.90/49	5.90/59	6.90/69
INDUSTRY					
Asphalt Roofing	June 1992	45-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Consumption of Containers and Other			0,00	0,00	****
Packaging Supplies by the Manufacturing					
Industries	1989	31-212	26	31	36
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas	April 1992	26-006	10/100	12/120	14/140
Factoriy Sales of Electric Storage					
Batteries Gas Utilities	June 1992	43-005	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production and Inventories of Process	February 1992	55-002	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powders	June 1992	32-024	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production of Selected Biscuits	January-June 1992	32-024	6.75/13.50	8.10/16.20	9.45/18.90
Wholesale Trade	May 1992	63-008	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Exports by Commodity	May 1992	65-004	55.10/551	66.F0/661	77.10/771
Imports by Commodity	May 1992	65-007	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Science Statistics Service Bulletin: The					
Provincial Distribution of R&D in					
Canada, Vol. 16, No. 5	1979 to 1990	88-001	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
STANDARDS					
Guide to Statistics Canada's Programs	1001	10 5555	0.4		
and Products Index to Statistics Canada Surveys and	1991	12-575E	85	102	119
Questionnaires	1991	12-205	26	31	36
questionianes	1331	12-200	40	31	30
TRANSPORTATION					
Rail in Canada	1990	52-216	45	54	63
Surface and Marine Transport Service					
Bulletin, Vol. 8, No. 5:		50-002	9.40/75	11.25/90	13.15/105
- International and Domestic Preliminary	1001				
Shipping Statistics	1991				
- Motor Carrier Freight Quarterly Survey: Large Carriers	First Quarter, 1992				
ourvey, Large Carriers	First Quarter, 1992				

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



New Products from the 1991 Census of Agriculture

Several products from the 1991 Census of Agriculture are now available in both print and electronic formats.

Agricultural Profiles - Part 1 (10 provincial publications) present basic counts and totals from the 1991 Census of Agriculture at the province, census agricultural region and census division levels. This information and data at the national level are also available in electronic format.

Unpublished small area data for each province are now available in electronic format. Each product contains basic counts and totals for all 1991 Census of Agriculture variables at the province, census division and census consolidated subdivision levels.

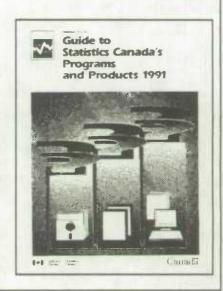
To order, contact any Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. For further information, contact Lynda Kemp, Census of Agriculture (613) 951-8711 or toll-free 1-800-465-1991.

Guide to Statistics Canada's Programs and Products

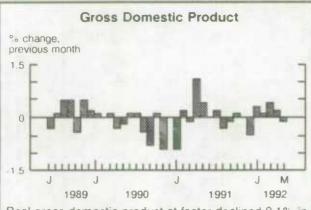
The new Guide to Statistics Canada's Programs and Products 1991, describes the Agency's survey activities and statistical programs and their products, drawing upon information that is maintained in a data base described as the Statistical Data Documentation System.

The information provided in this publication gives an indication of the nature and content of the different surveys and statistical programs, including their frequency and coverage, the main topics covered and the availability of the data produced. An alphabetical index allows users to acquaint themselves with the range of information available and to identify the survey or statistical program through which it is collected or compiled.

The Guide to Statistics Canada's Programs and Products, 1991 (catalogue number 12-575E) is now available. For further information, contact Lyn Wilson, Standards Division (613) 951-3449.



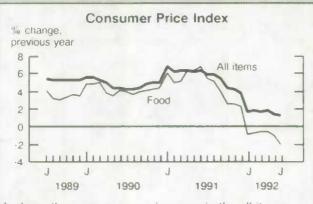
CURRENT TRENDS



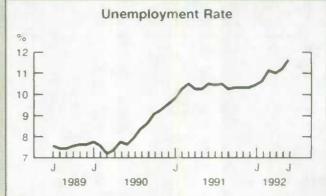
Real gross domestic product at factor declined 0.1% in May after four consecutive monthly gains.



The composite leading indicator posted a fifth straight increase of 0.1% in May.



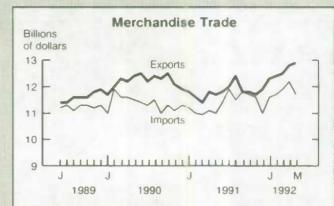
In June, the year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI stood at 1.1%, while the food index declined by 2.2%.



The unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage points in June to 11.6, nearly an eight-year high.



Canadian manufacturers' shipments dropped 0.5% in May to \$23.0 billion. Unfilled orders fell by 2.3% to \$21.7 billion.



In May, the seasonally adjusted value of imports decreased by \$440 million while that of exports rose by \$100 million.

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
GENERAL		+ 12		
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	May*	505.6	-0.1%	0.2%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	May*	144.5	0.1%	5.29
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	1st Quarter	10.4	5.1%	-11.9%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	May	15.1	-0.7%	-1.19
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	May	98.3	-1.1%	-11.4%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	June	12.2	0.2%	-0.9%
Unemployment Rate (%)	June	11.6	0.4	1.1
Participation Rate (%)	June	65.8	0.4	-0.7
Labour Income (\$ billion)	May*	32.4	0.4%	2.99
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	April	545.85	0.4%	3.2%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	May	12.9	0.8%	10.1%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	May	11.7	-3.6%	6.4%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	May	1.2	0.54	0.49
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	May	23.0	-0.5%	-1.6%
New Orders (\$ billion)	May	22.5	-2.4%	-2.3%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	May	21.7	-2.3%	-11.49
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	May	1.49	0.01	-0.07
Capacity Utilization (%)	1st Quarter	69.8	-0.5	-0.4
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	June	128.1	0.2%	1.1%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986=100)	June	108.7	0.0%	0.29
Raw Materials Price Index (1986=100)	June	108.5	2.2%	5.19
New Housing Price Index (1986=100)	May	134.2	0.1%	-0.19

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

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Local calls: 426-5331 Toll free service: 1-800-565-7192 Fax: 1-902-426-9538

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Manitoba

Advisory Services Statistics Canada MacDonald Building Suite 300 344 Edmonton Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3L9

Local calls: 983-4020 Toll free service: 1-800-542-3404 Fax: 1-204-983-7543

Saskatchewan

Statistics Canada Avord Tower, 9th Floor 2002 Victoria Avenue Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 0R7

Local calls: 780-5405 Toll free service: 1-800-667-7164 Fax: 1-306-780-5403

Alberta and the Northwest

Territories
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
8th Floor
Park Square
10001 Bellamy Hill
Edmonton, Alberta
T5.1.386

Local calls: 495-3027 Toll free service: 1-800-282-3907 Fax: 1-403-495-3026

N.W.T. - Call collect (403) 495-3028

Southern Alberta (Calgary)

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
First Street Plaza
Room 401
138-4th Avenue South East
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 4Z6

Local calls: 292-6717 Toll free service: 1-800-472-9708 Fax: 1-403-292-4958

British Columbia, the Yukon and Nortwest Territories

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
3rd Floor
Federal Building, Sinclair Centre
757 West Hastings Street
Suite 440F
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 3C9

Local calls: 666-3691
Toll free service: 1-800-663-1551
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Fax: 1-604-666-4863
Yukon and Atlin, B.C.
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