



# IN·F·O·M·A·T

## A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, September 11, 1992

### OVERVIEW

#### ■ New Housing Prices Increase Marginally

The New Housing Price Index for Canada (1986=100) stood at 134.7 in July, up 0.1% from the level posted in June.

#### ■ Sales of New Motor Vehicles Rebound

Seasonally adjusted sales of all new motor vehicles rose 4.9% in July after two months of declining sales. This increase was attributable to stronger sales of both passenger cars and trucks.

#### ■ Little Change in Labour Market Conditions

In August, the unemployment rate stayed at 11.6% for the third consecutive month as both employment and unemployment increased marginally.

#### ■ Wages and Salaries Show Marginal Gain

Following a 0.5% increase in the previous month, seasonally adjusted aggregate wages and salaries edged up 0.1% in June to \$28.9 billion.

#### ■ Farm Product Prices Decline

The Farm Product Price Index for Canada was down 1.3% in July, maintaining the low levels last seen for the 1979-1980 crop year.

### New Housing Prices Increase Marginally

The New Housing Price Index for Canada (1986=100) continues to show little change. In July the index edged up 0.1% to 134.7, returning to the same level recorded a year ago.

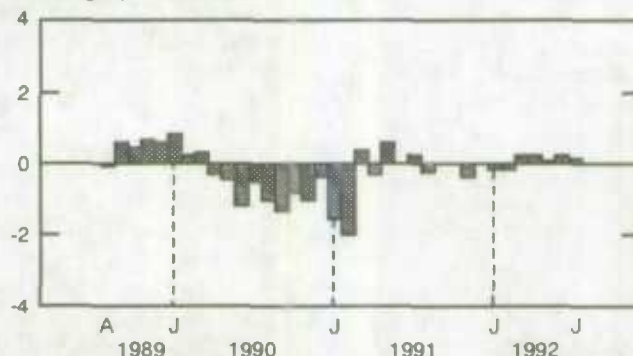
Of the 20 cities included in the Canada composite index, six registered increases, six declined and eight remained unchanged. Vancouver recorded the largest monthly increase in new housing prices, increasing 1.7%, while St. Catharines-Niagara showed the largest decline (-0.8%).

The House Only Index slipped 0.2% to 124.6 while the Land Only Index advanced 1.3% to 165.3.

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

#### New Housing Price Index

% change, previous month



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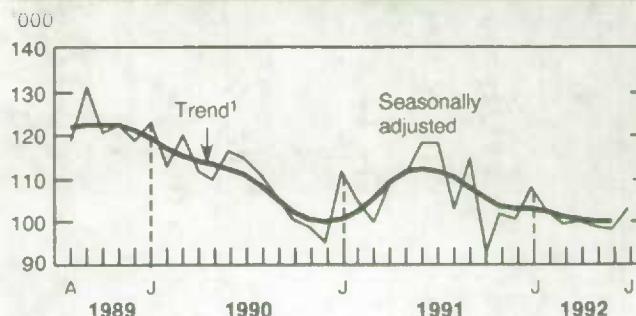
## Sales of New Motor Vehicles Rebound

Seasonally adjusted sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 103,000 units in July, a 4.9% increase that represented the first gain in three months. However, in comparison with July 1991, sales were 13.0% lower in July 1992.

July's increase was attributable to stronger sales of both passenger cars and trucks. Total car sales increased for the first time in three months, climbing 5.5% to a level of 68,000 units and truck sales totalled 35,000 units, up 3.9% from the previous month. This represents the third advance in as many months for sales of commercial vehicles. The rate of growth has accelerated from 0.2% in May to 0.5% in June and to 3.9% in July but, on a year-over-year basis, sales were 6.6% lower than in July 1991.

After no change in June, sales of North-American built passenger cars were up 7.6% to a level of 44,000 units and imported car sales advanced 1.8% to 24,000 units.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles,  
Canada, in Units



<sup>1</sup> The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.

For further information, order *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (catalogue number 63-007) or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-9824.

## Little Change in Labour Market Conditions

In August, the unemployment rate remained at 11.6% for the third consecutive month. Even though employment increased by 11,000, the level of unemployment advanced marginally (by 1,000) because the labour force grew by 12,000.

Results from the labour force survey show that the increase in jobs was concentrated among women. Full-time employment declined among adult men while an increase in part-time employment was largely among young women aged 15 to 24.

In the services-producing sector, employment in community, business and personal services rose for the fourth consecutive month, this time by 27,000, bringing the total increase since April to 94,000. Employment in the goods-producing sector fell by 23,000, altogether a loss of 68,000 jobs for July and August. Manufacturing contributed largely to the loss in August, with a decline of 27,000 jobs.

Ontario recorded the most pronounced drop in employment (-10,000), but a smaller decline than in July (-23,000). Employment fell by 3,000 in Newfoundland and by 2,000 in Saskatchewan. These declines were offset by gains of 10,000 in British Columbia, 4,000 in Alberta and 3,000 in Québec.

In August, unemployment fell by 17,000 among adult women, and rose by 13,000 among adult men. Unemployment fell by 7,000 in Nova Scotia, by 4,000 in both Québec and Newfoundland, and by 2,000 in Manitoba. The drops in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia can be attributed to declines in the participation rate, which fell by 1.7 and by 1.0, respectively. In Ontario, unemployment rose by 20,000.

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.)

(continued on page 3)





### ... Wages and Salaries Show Marginal Gain

Newfoundland (0.9%), Ontario (0.6%) and the Yukon and Northwest Territories (1.0%) reported advances. Declines were noted in the remaining provinces, except New Brunswick where wages and salaries remained unchanged.

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

## Farm Product Prices Decline

The Farm Product Price Index for Canada (1986=100) stood at 95.2 in July, down 1.3% from the revised June level of 96.5. Despite the increases in recent months, the index remains at low levels not seen since 1980, due mainly to low initial prices for wheat and barley set by the Canadian Wheat Board.

The crops index was down 0.7% to 88.9. Decreases in the oilseeds and the cereals indexes, down 3.5% and 0.9% respectively, more than offset a 7.5% increase in the potatoes index.

The livestock and animal products index fell 1.7% to 99.1 in July, with decreases in the cattle and calves and hogs indexes and increases in the poultry, eggs and dairy products indexes. The hogs index declined 5.0% in July and remained 11.1% below the level seen a year earlier. The cattle and calves index fell for the second month in a row, this time by 3.3%.

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 July 1992

	Crops		Livestock and Animal Products	
	% change from		% change from	
	June 1992	July 1991	June 1992	July 1991
Canada	-0.7	-10.3	-1.7	-1.9
Newfoundland	3.2	9.6	1.6	-0.9
Prince Edward Island	-13.3	-18.5	12.2	18.9
Nova Scotia	-0.1	3.0	1.6	-1.0
New Brunswick	-1.8	-5.6	1.1	-2.7
Québec	-0.5	4.4	-1.0	2.7
Ontario	-1.4	0.5	-5.6	-6.1
Manitoba	-0.4	-13.4	-1.1	-3.2
Saskatchewan	-0.7	-20.0	0.9	-5.6
Alberta	-0.4	-13.4	0.4	-0.1
British Columbia	6.1	1.6	1.4	0.8

## NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



### Canada's International Transactions in Services - 1990 and 1991

Latest details on Canada's international transactions in services are now available in this annual publication. Services comprise international travel, business services, transportation, government services and other services.

This publication is a unique source of information on Canada's international trade in services. Trade offices, analysts and consultants, embassies and consulates, along with academic researchers can find invaluable data on Canada's performance in the exchange of transborder services in this publication.

At the national level, as many as 16 categories of business services are cross-classified by affiliation as well as by broad geographic area, country of control and by industry sector.

New this year are up to 15 categories of business services by province of activity. These categories largely represent national data allocated according to the province in which activity is estimated to take place. Total business services for some 30 countries and world areas are also shown.

*Canada's International Transactions in Services, 1990 and 1991* (catalogue number 67-203) is now available. For further information, contact Hugh Henderson (613-951-9049), Balance of Payments Division.

# PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM SEPTEMBER 4 TO 10, 1992

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Field Crop Reporting Series No. 6: August Estimates of Production of Principal Field Crops, Canada	1992	22-002	12/80	14/96	16/112
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS</b>					
Canada's International Transactions in Services	1990 and 1991	67-203	32	38	45
<b>INDUSTRY</b>					
Asphalt Roofing	July 1992	45-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Cement	July 1992	44-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Footwear Statistics	July 1992	33-002	5/50	6/60	7/70
Gypsum Products	July 1992	44-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins	July 1992	46-002	5.60/56	6.70/67	7.80/78
Metal Mines	1990	26-223	26	31	36
Production and Shipments of Blow-Moulded Plastic Bottles	Quarter Ended June 30, 1992	47-006	6.75/27	8/32	9.50/38
Retail Trade	June 1992	63-005	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Rigid Insulating Board	July 1992	36-002	5/50	6/60	7/70
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances	July 1992	43-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>					
Imports by Commodity	June 1992	65-007	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
Imports by Country	January-June 1992	65-006	82.75/331	99.25/397	115.75/463
<b>INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK</b>					
Building Permits	June 1992	64-001	22.10/221	26.50/265	30.90/309
Private and Public Investment in Canada	Revised Intentions 1992	61-206	30	36	42
<b>LABOUR</b>					
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	June 1992	73-001	14.70/147	17.60/176	20.60/206
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>					
Railway Operating Statistics	May 1992	52-003	10.50/105	12.60/126	14.70/147
Road Motor Vehicles, Fuel Sales	1991	53-218	17	20	24



## CURRENT TRENDS

### Gross Domestic Product

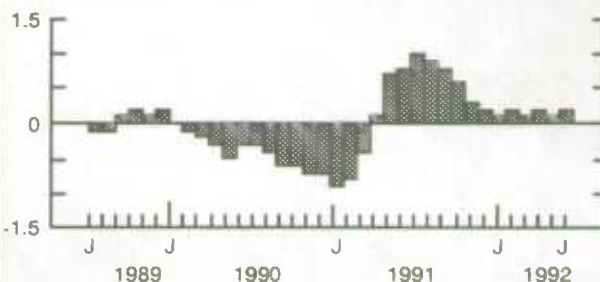
% change,  
previous month



Gross domestic product at factor cost crawled up 0.2% in June, following a marginal decline in May and a flat April.

### Composite Leading Indicator

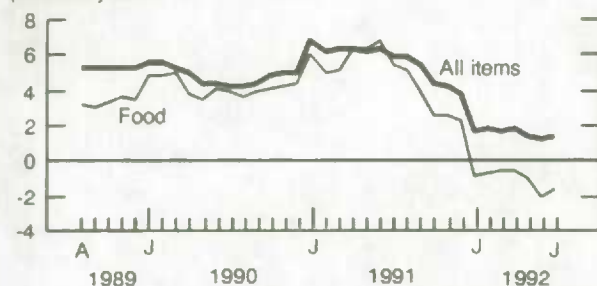
% change,  
previous month



The composite leading indicator rose by 0.2% in June following revised monthly gains of 0.1% and 0.2% since January.

### Consumer Price Index

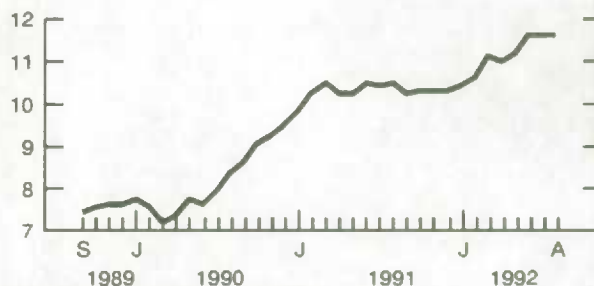
% change,  
previous year



In July, the year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI stood at 1.3%. The food index declined by 1.7%, marking the seventh straight month to have a year-over-year decrease.

### Unemployment Rate

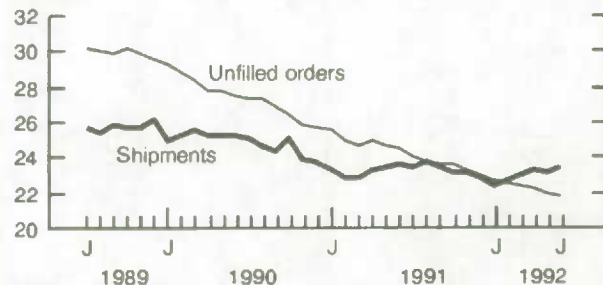
%



The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August stayed at 11.6% for the third consecutive month.

### Manufacturing

Billions  
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments increased 1.0% in June to \$23.3 billion. Unfilled orders fell by 0.3% to \$21.7 billion, an eighth consecutive decrease.

### Merchandise Trade

Billions  
of dollars



In June, exports fell for the first time in seven months, down 1.5% to a level of \$12.7 billion. Imports rose by 2.7% to \$12.3 billion.

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

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	June	501.9	0.2%	0.5%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	June	145.2	0.2%	4.8%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	2nd Quarter	9.7	-8.5%	-17.8%
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	June	15.3	1.0%	-0.1%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	July*	102.9	4.9%	-13.0%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	August*	12.2	0.1%	-1.0%
Unemployment Rate (%)	August*	11.6	0.0	1.1
Participation Rate (%)	August*	65.5	-0.1	-0.8
Labour Income (\$ billion)	June*	32.4	0.1%	2.8%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	June	549.08	0.0%	3.2%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	June	12.7	-1.5%	7.4%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	June	12.3	2.7%	8.1%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	June	0.35	-0.52	-0.05
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	June	23.3	1.0%	-0.8%
New Orders (\$ billion)	June	23.3	2.6%	-0.4%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	June	21.7	-0.3%	-11.0%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	June	1.46	-0.02	-0.07
Capacity Utilization (%)	1st Quarter	69.8	-0.5	-0.4
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	July	128.4	0.2%	1.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	July	108.9	0.1%	0.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	July	109.5	1.8%	6.9%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	July*	134.7	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

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