



IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, October 2, 1992

OVERVIEW

■ Growth of Real Gross Domestic Product Unchanged in July

Real gross domestic product at factor cost was unchanged in July as growth recorded in services output was completely offset by a steep decrease in goods production.

■ UI Beneficiaries: Across-the-Board Increases

In July, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits increased in all provinces and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. At the national level, the number was up by 4.4% from June.

■ Construction Activity Declines Further

After a drop of 2.0% in June, the seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued in Canada continued to fall in July, down 6.9% to \$2,188 million. All regions except British Columbia reported declines.

■ IPPI Continues to Increase Marginally

After advancing 0.2% in July, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) notched up by 0.1% in August to 109.2.

■ Raw Materials Register Steep Price Cuts

The Raw Materials Price Index (1986=100) fell 1.5% in August to 107.8, interrupting a six-month upward trend, as lower prices were registered in four of the seven major groups of products.

Growth of Real Gross Domestic Product Unchanged in July

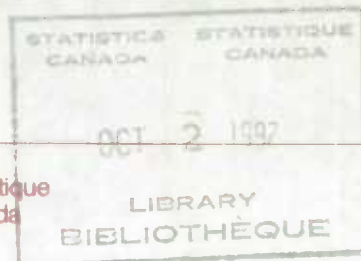
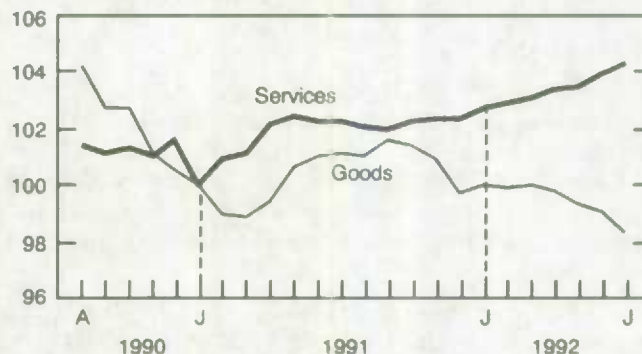
Real gross domestic product at factor cost was unchanged in July after a 0.1% gain in June and a 0.1% decrease in May. Widespread gains boosted services output but a fall in goods production to a level lower than its recent trough in March 1991 completely offset the increase.

Services output advanced 0.4%, its seventh straight monthly gain. Transportation and storage services output rebounded, increasing 1.6% in July after dropping in May and June. Finance, insurance and real estate output increased for the third month in a row, this time by 0.4%, and wholesalers posted a 1.0% rise. Output for communications rose 1.1% after increasing marginally in June, and that for community, business and personal services increased 0.3% following no change in June. Retail trade edged down 0.2%, led by lower sales by service station operators and by retailers of automobile parts.

(continued on page 2)

Gross Domestic Product Output by Sector

Index (January 1990 = 100)



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Canada

... Growth of Real Gross Domestic Product Unchanged in July

Goods production recorded its largest decrease since March 1991, falling 0.7% as six of the seven major goods producers recorded lower output. A 0.7% drop in manufacturing accounted for most of the decline, while a 2.1% gain in forestry partly offset losses elsewhere in the goods sector.

Manufacturers of transportation equipment cut production by 3.2% and manufacturers of motor vehicle parts slashed output by 7.2% as several temporary plant closures were reported. Producers of primary metals reduced output by 2.6% and the output of paper and allied products industries

dropped 1.7%. Following three consecutive monthly increases, output of the beverage industry fell 3.5% as producers of soft drinks reduced production 10.8%.

Construction output fell 0.7%, its fourth consecutive decline and agriculture production was down 2.4%. After dropping in May and June, mining output declined a further 0.4% in July.

For further information, order Gross Domestic Product by Industry (catalogue number 15-001) or contact Industry Measures and Analysis Division at (613) 951-9145. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 7.)

U.I. Beneficiaries: Across-the-Board Increases

The seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits rose by 4.4% in July to 1.2 million persons, resuming the five-month upward trend interrupted in June. In comparison with the previous year, the number of beneficiaries was 2.0% above the level of July 1991.

The number of UI beneficiaries rose in all provinces and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Percentage increases exceeding the national average occurred in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Québec.

Total benefit payments rose by 2.9% and reached \$1.3 billion, but payments fell 0.1% compared to July 1991. After a decrease of 0.2% in June, the number of benefit weeks advanced 2.3% in July to 5.1 million.

For further information, order Unemployment Insurance Statistics (catalogue number 73-001) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4039.

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits July 1992

Province/Territory	Total (000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Seasonally Adjusted			
Canada	1,183	4.4	2.0
Newfoundland	72	2.5	-3.3
Prince Edward Island	13	4.3	4.7
Nova Scotia	54	2.7	-1.0
New Brunswick	59	1.4	-0.4
Québec	378	6.2	3.6
Ontario	337	1.6	3.7
Manitoba	30	3.3	-6.8
Saskatchewan	26	9.1	8.4
Alberta	79	3.4	4.1
British Columbia	129	6.3	-4.1
Yukon	2	3.4	-5.5
Northwest Territories	2	2.7	21.4

Construction Activity Declines Further

Following a 2.0% drop in June, the seasonally adjusted value of building permits issued in Canada continued to decline, falling 6.9% in July to \$2,188 million. All regions except British Columbia reported declines. On a year-over-year basis, the value of building permits was 15.6% lower than in July 1991.

After recording a 2.4% decrease in June, the value of residential building permits fell a further 4.7% in July to a level of \$1,373 million. Building permits decreased 5.8% in the single-family

Advance Estimate for August

An advance estimate for August, which includes revisions to data for previous months including July, suggests that the value of residential building permits was up 3.5%.

dwelling sector and 1.8% in the multi-family dwelling sector. The value of residential building permits fell 14.8% in Ontario, 9.7% in Québec and 3.5% in the Atlantic provinces but was up 15.2% in British Columbia and 1.0% in the Prairies.

(continued on page 3)

... Construction Activity Declines Further

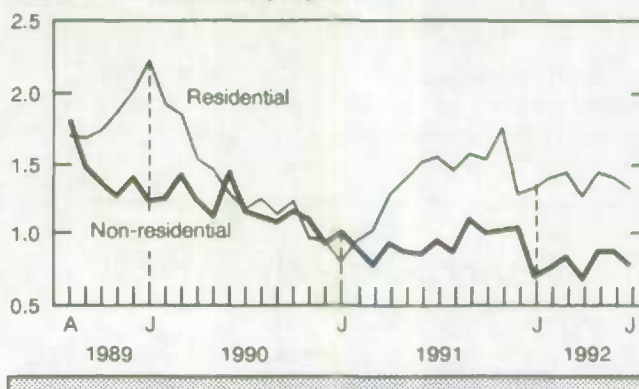
The value of non-residential permits plunged 10.5% in July to \$815 million. The downturn was accounted for by a 34.4% drop in the institutional sector and a 9.1% decrease in the industrial sector, while building permits increased 6.1% in the commercial projects sector.

The only regions to post increases in non-residential construction permits were British Columbia, up 22.7%, and the Atlantic provinces, up 3.1%. British Columbia showed particularly strong readings in the industrial project sector (+91.0%) and in the commercial sector (+57.5%), while the Atlantic region showed a 48.3% rise in the commercial projects sector.

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

Building Permits

Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES: BUILDING PERMITS

Building Permits, July 1992

Unadjusted Data

Province/Territory	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	(\$ millions)	% change, previous year	(\$ millions)	% change, previous year	(\$ millions)	% change, previous year
Canada	2,378.6	-15.6	1,527.1	-12.4	851.5	-20.7
Newfoundland	25.2	-10.1	17.0	-19.4	8.3	17.6
Prince Edward Island	29.1	87.9	8.6	8.8	20.5	169.6
Nova Scotia	77.9	27.7	54.1	13.0	23.8	80.9
New Brunswick	40.6	-13.2	28.7	-3.3	11.9	-30.5
Québec	354.7	-23.0	217.8	-20.1	136.8	-27.2
Ontario	843.9	-36.2	565.4	-32.2	278.5	-43.1
Manitoba	56.0	-4.6	36.5	22.3	19.5	-32.4
Saskatchewan	39.0	56.9	15.9	83.1	23.2	42.9
Alberta	272.2	9.0	160.9	6.3	111.3	13.2
British Columbia	626.4	21.6	412.8	24.8	213.6	15.8
Yukon	9.6	-64.1	7.5	46.1	2.1	-90.3
Northwest Territories	4.0	-49.2	2.0	-62.5	2.0	-21.8

IPPI Continues to Increase Marginally

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) edged up to a level of 109.2 in August. This represents the fourth advance in as many months but the rate of growth has decelerated, from 0.5% in May to 0.3% in June to 0.2% in July and to 0.1% in August. In comparison with August 1991, the IPPI was 1.5% higher in August 1992, extending for the third straight month the series of year-over-year increases.

Of the 21 major groups of products, prices increased in 11, fell in three and remained unchanged in seven. The paper products index advanced for the fifth straight month, by 0.9% in August. In response to price increases for domestic vehicles, the autos, trucks and other transportation equipment index rose 0.3% after no change in July. Higher prices for softwood lumber (0.9%) pushed the lumber, sawmill and other wood products index up 0.8% in August. This increase follows declines in June and July totalling 0.9%.

(continued on page 4)

... IPPI Continues to Increase Marginally

With a decline of 0.6%, the chemical products index recorded a significant decrease in August, followed by the petroleum and coal products index, which fell 0.8%. For the petroleum and coal products index, this was the first drop since March.

During the past 12 months the beverage price index, which is made up of six primary commodity indices, has shown virtually no movement due to the

opposing movements of its two main components. Soft drink prices have declined in response to competitive pressures while producers' prices for alcoholic beverages have increased.

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

Raw Materials Register Steep Price Cuts

After six monthly increases extending from February to July, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1986=100) fell 1.5% in August to a level of 107.8. Four of the seven RMPI components posted declines while two increased and one remained unchanged. However, compared to August 1991, the RMPI rose 5.1%, the fourth straight month to have a year-over-year increase.

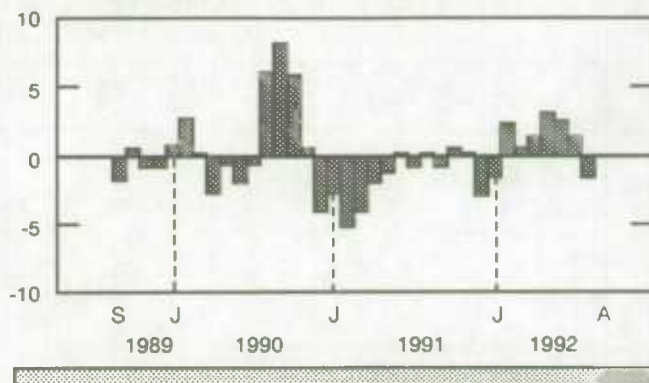
In August, a 3.3% cut in crude oil prices, the first decline in six months, pushed the mineral fuels index down 3.1%. But on a year-over-year basis, prices for crude oils were up 8.1% from August 1991, contributing to a 7.8% rise in the mineral fuels index.

The vegetable products index, which accounts for 10% of the RMPI, recorded its third consecutive monthly decrease. The decline has accelerated: from -0.3% in June to -1.6% in July and to -3.2% in August. In spite of this, prices were 0.2% above the year-earlier level.

The non-ferrous metals index posted its first decline in four months, dropping 1.7% in August, and the animal products index, which accounts for one-quarter of the RMPI, was down 0.4%, its third straight monthly decrease.

Raw Materials Price Index

% change, previous month



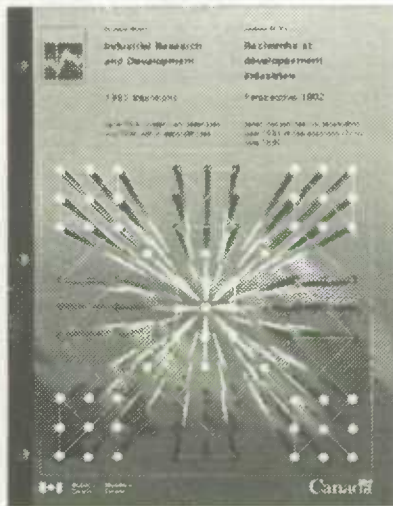
The only major component that posted a price increase in August was wood products, advancing for the ninth month in a row, this time by 0.4%.

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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 1

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
				\$US	
AGRICULTURE					
Agricultural Financial Statistics	1990	21-205	35	42	49
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION					
Selected Marriage Statistics	1921-1990	82-552	40	48	56
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS					
Juristat Service Bulletin: Impaired Driving – Canada, Vol. 12, No. 17	1991	85-002	3.60/90	4.30/108	5/126
INDUSTRY					
Annual Retail Trade	1989	63-223	22	26	31
Construction Type Plywood	July 1992	35-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers	August 1992	36-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Department Store Monthly Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area	June 1992	63-004	2.70/27	3.20/32	3.80/38
Department Store Sales and Stocks	March 1992	63-002	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation	August 1992	44-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
New Motor Vehicle Sales	November 1991	63-007	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies	July 1992	35-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia	July 1992	35-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
The Sugar Situation	August 1992	32-013	5/50	6/60	7/70
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS					
Gross Domestic Product by Industry	June 1992	15-001	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
PRICES					
Construction Price Statistics	Second Quarter 1992	62-007	18/72	21.50/86	25.25/101
Industry Prices Indexes	July 1992	62-011	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Industrial Research and Development	1992 Intentions	88-202	44	53	62
Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics	July 1992	63-011	6.10/61	7.30/73	8.50/85
Service Industries Bulletin: Leisure and Personal Services, Vol. 4, No. 5	Preliminary Estimates 1990	63-015	7.20/43	8.65/52	10/60
Science Statistics Service Bulletin: Estimation of Research and Development Expenditures in the Higher Education Sector, Vol. 16, No. 7	1990-1991	88-001	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
TRANSPORTATION					
Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin, Vol. 24, No. 9	September 1992	51-004	9.30/93	11.20/112	13/130
Railway Operating Statistics	June 1992	52-003	10.50/105	12.60/126	14.70/147

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Industrial Research and Development

Industry spending intentions for 1992, if realized, will be more than twice the amount spent on research and development (R&D) in 1983. This year, Canadian firms plan to spend more than \$5.2 billion on research and development, an increase of 1.6% over 1991. This increase is comparable to the 1.5% experienced in 1991, but lower than the 6.9% achieved in 1990. Industrial R&D represents 53% of all R&D performed in Canada.

Industrial Research and Development, 1992 Intentions presents statistical information for the years 1963 to 1992. Among the topics covered are current and capital expenditures on research and development, energy R&D expenditures by area of technology, R&D expenditure as a percentage of company sales, sources of funds for intramural R&D, personnel engaged in R&D, and foreign payments made and received for technological services. Most historical tables are presented for 1988 to 1992 and disaggregated by 46 industrial groupings, size of R&D program, employment size, sales size, country of control, and by province.

Industrial Research and Development, 1992 Intentions (with 1991 preliminary estimates and 1990 actual expenditures) (Catalogue number 88-202) is now available. For more information on this release, contact Michel Boucher (613-951-7683), Services, Science and Technology Division.

The New Postal Code Conversion File

This digital file links the six-character postal code to Statistics Canada's standard geographical areas (such as census subdivisions and federal electoral districts) for which census data and other statistics are produced. This linkage is useful in applications such as demographic studies, market research and geocoding projects.

The file now contains a complete list of postal codes up to December 31, 1991. It is the first postal code conversion file (PCCF) to be linked to 1991 Census geographic areas, including census tracts and enumeration areas. The file for Canada contains over 700,000 postal code records.

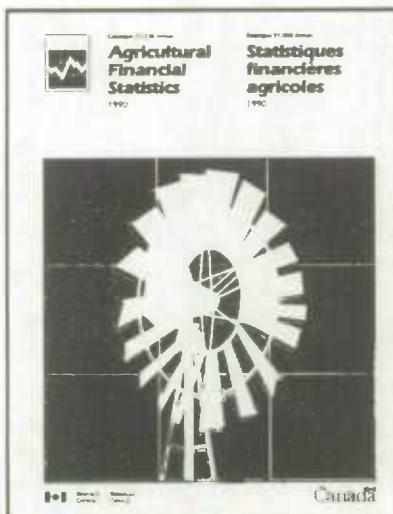
For the first time, a separate set of "Names" files is included, listing the names of standard geographical areas and their postal codes. This reduces the size of the PCCF by 64%, while maintaining the ability to use both geographic names and codes.

Another new addition is the "Single Postal Code Indicator" field, useful when a given postal code is assigned to multiple standard geographic areas, indicating which area is most representative of the postal code.

For each postal code, 29 information fields are supplied. These include the postal code's birthdate, delivery mode type, its associated standard geographic codes and community name as well as its coordinates in both latitude-longitude and Universal Transverse Mercator projections.

Individual standard files are available on tape or diskette, by province, territory or all of Canada at prices ranging from \$120 to \$19,000. Prices for custom-defined areas will be estimated based on the size of the request; the base price is \$0.03 per record plus \$350 for processing.

To order or for more information about the PCCF, please call or write your nearest Statistics Canada's Regional Reference Centre.



Agricultural Financial Statistics - 1990

This new publication provides a detailed picture of the performance of Canadian farms as revealed by the information compiled from tax returns of unincorporated and incorporated farmers. The realization of this publication was made possible by the expansion of the taxation data program as part of the Whole Farm Database, a joint Statistics Canada and Agriculture Canada project.

Agricultural Financial Statistics provides data on such key variables as operating revenues and expenses by province, type of farm and economic class as well as some distributional data on income. Off-farm income is also presented for unincorporated farmers involved in a single operation. This publication provides some historical perspective by displaying data that dates back to 1987 for the non-Prairie provinces.

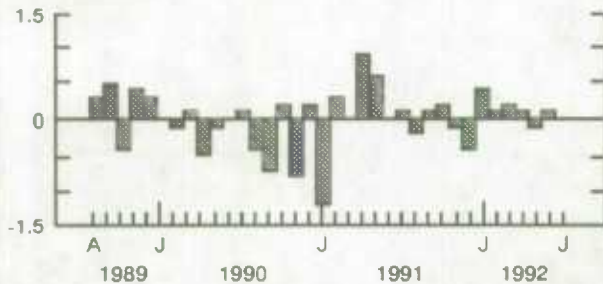
Additional data are also available through custom and special tabulations.

The publication *Agricultural Financial Statistics, 1990* (Catalogue number 21-205) is now available. For more information, call Mario Ménard (613-951-2446) or Lina Di Piéto (613-951-3171), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture Division.

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

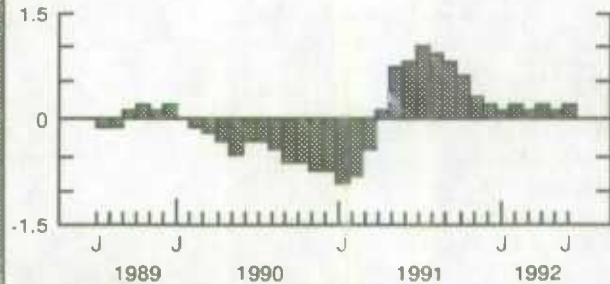
% change,
previous month



Gross domestic product at factor cost was unchanged in July as a 0.4% increase in services output was completely offset by a 0.7% drop in goods production.

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

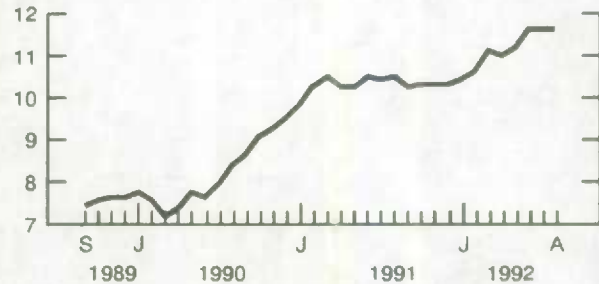
% change,
previous year



The CPI posted a 1.2% increase from August 1991, in line with the increases recorded since January. The food index declined by 0.7%, marking the eighth 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 dropped 2.1% in July to \$22.6 billion and unfilled orders fell by 0.5% to \$22.0 billion.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



In July, exports climbed 3.2% to \$13.1 billion after decreasing 1.2% in June. Imports rose by 1.6% to \$12.5 billion, a second straight monthly increase.

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



1010110750

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
GENERAL				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	July*	501.8	0.0%	0.4%
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%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	July	15.3	-0.2%	0.2%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	July	102.9	4.9%	-13.0%
LABOUR				
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 (\$)	July*	551.05	0.4%	3.3%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	July	13.1	3.2%	9.0%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	July	12.5	1.6%	5.6%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	July	0.62	0.22	0.43
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	July	22.6	-2.1%	-2.7%
New Orders (\$ billion)	July	22.5	-3.1%	-1.5%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	July	22.0	-0.5%	-8.2%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	July	1.50	0.03	-0.03
Capacity Utilization (%)	2nd Quarter	73.4	0.6	0.1
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	August	128.4	0.0%	1.2%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	August*	109.2	0.1%	1.5%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	August*	107.8	-1.5%	5.1%
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

Published by the Communications Division Statistics Canada,
10-N, R.H. Coats Bldg, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613) 951-1187
Editor: Louise Larouche (613) 951-1197

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 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 from Canada and the United States 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.

