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Figure 1 is a bar chart showing the monthly variation of the difference between observed and predicted precipitation (mm) for the period 1990-1993. The y-axis ranges from -4 to 4 mm. The x-axis shows months from February 1990 to January 1993. Bars are shaded for negative differences and unshaded for positive differences. Vertical dashed lines mark the start of 1991, 1992, and 1993.

... New Housing Prices Continue to Edge Down

time in six months, by 0.8% in January. In Toronto, new housing prices fell for the seventh month in a row, this time by 0.1%.

The index for Regina showed the largest increase, rising by 0.7% after no change in December. The index for Winnipeg rose by 0.6% following no change in five of the previous six months and the index for Sudbury recorded its first increase in seven months, advancing by 0.5%.

Job Prospects Brighter in February

In February, the seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada (1991=100) advanced by four points to a 14-month high of 92. After reaching a peak of 217 in February 1989, the revised Help-wanted Index generally decreased until March 1992 when it reached 83. Between March and November, it fluctuated around this level, then increased four points to 88 in December. After no change in January, it rose another four points in February, to 92.

Aggregate Wages and Salaries Post Modest Increase

Seasonally adjusted wages and salaries, which account for roughly 90% of labour income, totalled \$29.2 billion in December, up 0.4% from November. This brought the amount paid out in wages and salaries for 1992 to \$345.3 billion, up 2.0% from 1991. In 1991, the increase in wages and salaries was 2.2%. These growth rates were the smallest in 30 years.

Of the 14 industry groups, 10 registered growth in wages and salaries in December. The largest increase occurred in mines, quarries and oil wells, rising by 1.5% after a 0.6% decrease in November. In transportation, communications and other utilities, wages and salaries were up by 1.4% following a marginal increase in November. Wages and salaries advanced for the fourth straight month in federal administration and other government offices, this time by 1.4%. Notable gains were also made in forestry (1.3%), commercial and personal services (1.1%), manufacturing (0.5%) and finance, insurance and real estate (0.5%).

Wages and salaries fell by 2.0% for local administration, the first drop in five months. Wages and salaries in the three remaining industry groups showed little change.

The House Only Index recorded a second consecutive monthly decrease of 0.2%. At 124.2, the index was 0.3% below its year-earlier level. The Land Only Index remained unchanged at 166.1 but was 3.6% higher than a year earlier.

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

The index rose in Ontario to 91 from 84, in the Prairie provinces to 87 from 82 and in Québec to 93 from 89. The index remained unchanged in the Atlantic provinces and in British Columbia, at 93 and 88, respectively.

Job prospects were encouraging when compared with the same month a year earlier when the index was 88 for Canada. The index was above last year's level in all regions except in British Columbia where it was down by one point.

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

Wages and Salaries, December 1992 Seasonally Adjusted

Province	Wages and Salaries (millions of \$)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	29,209	0.4	2.5
Newfoundland	393	1.5	-0.1
Prince Edward Island	94	0.6	6.6
Nova Scotia	713	-1.0	0.3
New Brunswick	589	1.4	3.0
Québec	6,625	0.4	2.7
Ontario	12,340	0.4	2.3
Manitoba	962	1.1	2.3
Saskatchewan	731	0.4	-0.3
Alberta	2,907	0.5	2.8
British Columbia	3,707	0.6	4.0
Yukon and Northwest Territories	168	0.8	0.5

The Yukon and Northwest Territories and all provinces except Nova Scotia reported a rise in wages and salaries. Wages and salaries in Nova Scotia decreased for the third straight month, by 1.0% in December.

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

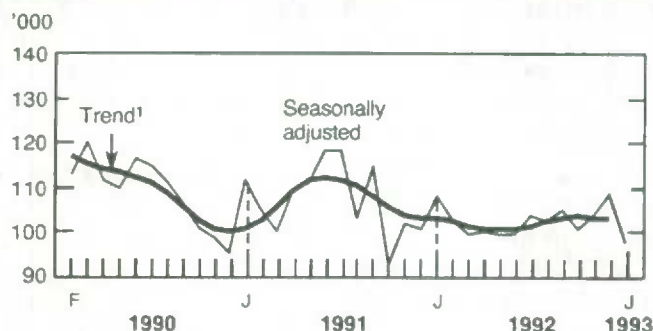
New Motor Vehicle Sales Drop Sharply in January

Sales of new motor vehicles dropped 10.1% in January to a seasonally adjusted level of 97,000 units. This decrease contrasts with the surge in sales in November and December and brought sales to their lowest level since October 1991. Lower sales were registered in January for both passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

Sales of passenger cars fell by 5.0% to 64,000 units after two consecutive months of higher sales. The decrease was based on a drop of 7.0% in sales of North American-built passenger cars and a decline of 0.9% in sales of imported cars. This was the fourth straight monthly decline for imported passenger cars, which brought sales for January to 21,000 units, their lowest level since September 1984.

Sales of commercial vehicles plunged 18.4% to 33,000 units, after rising for two months.

New Motor Vehicle Sales,
Canada, in Units



¹ 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.

Turnaround in Planned Construction Activity

After a 6.6% drop in November, the value of building permits issued in Canada rose by 19.6% in December to a seasonally adjusted level of \$2,533 million. Even so, the year's total, at \$26,958 million, was 5.3% below the value of building permits issued in 1991 and the lowest total since 1986.

In December, a 12.1% rise in the value of residential building permits more than offset a 6.1%

decrease in November. At \$1,547 million, the value was 16.2% above its year-earlier level, the first year-over-year increase since June 1992. The value of building permits climbed 14.6% to \$1,172 million in the single-family dwelling sector and 5.2% to \$375 million in the multi-family dwelling sector.

Ontario (38.4%), Québec (14.0%) and British Columbia (2.5%) reported gains in planned residential construction while the Prairies (-14.4%) and the Atlantic provinces (-4.1%) showed drops.

(continued on page 4)

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES: BUILDING PERMITS

Building Permits, December 1992

Unadjusted Data

Province/Territory	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	(\$ millions)	% change, previous year	(\$ millions)	% change, previous year	(\$ millions)	% change, previous year
Canada	1,742.6	10.1	877.2	17.6	865.4	3.4
Newfoundland	9.0	21.0	6.3	41.4	2.7	-9.4
Prince Edward Island	9.8	-0.8	2.2	327.7	7.5	-19.3
Nova Scotia	21.8	2.1	14.8	22.3	6.9	-24.6
New Brunswick	11.1	-10.3	5.8	-19.4	5.3	2.5
Québec	289.5	-11.0	135.1	-9.7	154.4	-12.1
Ontario	707.5	3.8	308.0	16.6	399.5	-4.3
Manitoba	28.6	-1.3	7.8	-18.0	20.8	7.0
Saskatchewan	10.7	-39.0	5.6	86.9	5.1	-64.9
Alberta	142.1	2.2	92.1	14.5	50.0	-14.7
British Columbia	510.7	51.3	298.2	39.6	212.5	71.4
Yukon	0.9	13.3	0.6	-19.0	0.3	256.7
Northwest Territories	0.8	62.7	0.7	94.2	0.1	-4.3

... Turnaround in Planned Construction Activity

In the non-residential sector, the value of building permits skyrocketed, increasing by 33.7% to \$986 million. However, the value of non-residential building permits was still 9.5% below the December 1991 figure, the sixth consecutive month to have a year-over-year decrease.

All three components of the non-residential sector were on the rise: institutional projects jumped 73.0% to \$459 million, industrial projects rose 18.0% to \$144 million and commercial projects were up 9.4% to \$383 million.

All regions reported increases in total planned non-residential construction in December, ranging from 3.1% in the Prairies to 60.8% in Québec.

Advance Estimate for January 1993

An advance estimate suggests that the value of residential building permits issued in Canada fell by 7.3% in January to \$1,411 million.

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

Industrial Capacity Utilization Rate Increases

Canada's non-farm goods-producing industries operated at 78.0% of capacity during the fourth quarter of 1992, up 0.8% from the level recorded in the third quarter. This marks the second straight quarterly increase and a return to the level posted in the fourth quarter of 1991. A comparison of utilization rates posted since the second quarter of 1981 shows that the rate of 78.0% is slightly below the 80.7% average for the period.

The utilization rate in the logging and forestry industries rose 4.5% as residential construction and exports of wood products remained strong. However, because of reduced construction activity in the non-residential sector, capacity utilization in the construction industry fell by 3.7%. This was the fifth consecutive quarterly decline for the construction component.

After four successive quarterly declines, increased levels of electric power generation in the fourth quarter boosted the electric power and gas distribution systems' production to 81.0% of their capacity. Capacity utilization in the mining, quarrying and oil wells industries decreased by 2.8% following four consecutive quarterly increases as lower outputs of gold, coal, and crude petroleum and natural gas were posted.

Manufacturing industries operated at 77.6% of capacity during the fourth quarter, up 3.2% from the previous quarter. This rate compares favourably

Industrial Capacity Utilization Rates

Industries	QIV 1992	QIII 1992	QIV 1991	Quarterly % Change	
				QIV/ QIII 1992	QIV 1992/ 1991
Non-farm Goods-producing	78.0	77.4	78.0	0.8	0.0
Logging and Forestry	86.6	82.9	75.8	4.5	14.2
Mining, Quarrying & Oil Wells	86.2	88.7	85.9	-2.8	0.3
Manufacturing	77.6	75.2	73.5	3.2	5.6
Durable Goods	76.9	74.0	71.5	3.9	7.6
Non-durable Goods	78.3	76.7	75.9	2.1	3.2
Construction	72.1	74.9	84.4	-3.7	-14.6
Electric Power and Gas Distribution Systems	81.0	80.6	83.8	0.5	-3.3

with the rate posted for the same period a year earlier (73.5%). Capacity utilization increased in 16 of 22 industry groups, led by the paper and allied products (8.6%), wood (7.9%), primary metal (7.2%) and transportation equipment (4.6%) industries. Manufacturing production rose mainly because of strong merchandise exports in the quarter.

For further information, contact Investment and Capital Stock Division at (613) 951-9685.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM MARCH 5 TO 11, 1993

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
AGRICULTURE					
Cereals and Oilseeds Review	December 1992	22-007	13.80/138	16.60/166	19.30/193
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM					
Travel-log: Tourism Statistics – An Overview	Winter 1993	87-003	10.50/42	12.50/50	14.75/59
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
Homeowner Repair and Renovation Expenditure in Canada	1991	62-201	26	31	36
Household Facilities by Income and Other Characteristics	1992	13-218	35	42	49
INDUSTRY					
Canada's Mineral Production Estimates	1992 Preliminary	26-202	22	26	31
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables - Monthly	December 1992	32-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production	November 1992	26-006	10/100	12/120	14/140
Electric Power Statistics	December 1992	57-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries	January 1993	43-005	5/50	6/60	7/70
Gypsum Products	January 1993	44-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins	January 1993	46-002	5.60/56	6.70/67	7.80/78
New Motor Vehicle Sales	November 1992	63-007	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Oil Pipeline Transport	December 1992	55-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Oils and Fats	January 1993	32-006	5/50	6/60	7/70
Retail Trade	December 1992	63-005	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances	January 1993	43-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products	January 1993	41-006	5/50	6/60	7/70
Wholesale Trade	December 1992	63-008	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Imports by Commodity	December 1992	65-007	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK					
Building Permits	December 1992	64-001	22.10/221	26.50/265	30.90/309
LABOUR					
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	December 1992	73-001	14.70/147	17.60/176	20.60/206
LIBRARY SERVICES					
Statistics Canada Catalogue	1993	11-204E	13.95	17	20
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Telephone Statistics	December 1992	56-002	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116
TRANSPORTATION					
Railway Carloadings	January 1993	52-001	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116
Railway Operating Statistics	November 1992	52-003	10.50/105	12.60/126	14.70/147

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Statistics Canada
Catalogue
1993



Statistics Canada Catalogue

Simplify your search for data with the *Statistics Canada Catalogue 1993*. The new edition contains a complete guide to finding and using data, along with suggestions on reading tables, using classification manuals, and ordering products. The 1993 catalogue has added thumb tabs to make finding its various sections simpler and faster – to make your job easier!

A number of new print publications have been added to the catalogue, along with their cover illustrations. A variety of new maps and electronic products and services have also been included in the Electronic Products and Services section, to inform you about the full range of material available from the Agency.

For easy access to over 900 *Statistics Canada products and services*, order the *Statistics Canada Catalogue 1993* (catalogue number 11-204E, \$13.95). For further information, contact Fay Hjartarson (613-951-0953), Library Services.

Travel-log

The Winter 1993 issue of *Travel-log*, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter, is now available.

The feature article this quarter is "Tourism Statistics: An Overview." This issue includes a look at the results of the Canadian Travel Survey for the second quarter of 1992. It also features an analysis of the performance of the Travel Price Index in the third quarter of 1992.

The Winter 1993, Vol. 12, No. 1 issue of *Travel-log* (catalogue number 87-003, \$10.50/\$42) is now available. For further information on this release, call Lise Beaulieu-Caron (613-951-1673), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.



Homeowner
Repair and
Renovation
Expenditure
in Canada
1991

Depenses sur les
réparations et
renovations effectuées
par les propriétaires
de logements au Canada
1991



Homeowner Repair and Renovation Expenditure in Canada – 1991

Homeowner Repair and Renovation Expenditure in Canada 1991 offers a look at the \$11.5 billion worth of repairs and renovations done annually by homeowners. This includes repairs and maintenance, additions, renovations and installations of equipment and fixtures. These expenditures averaged \$1,816 per homeowner household, a decrease of 11% from 1990.

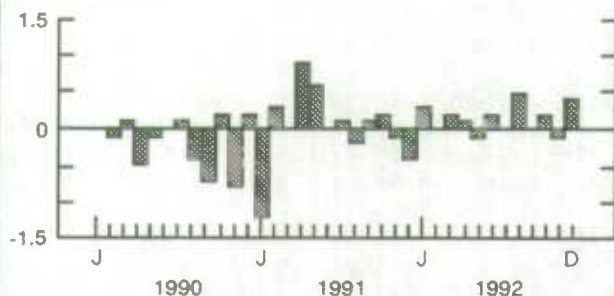
Data covering the 10 provinces are presented by province, size of area of residence, type of dwelling, value of dwelling, age of household head, household income, age of the dwelling and length of occupancy.

Homeowner Repair and Renovation Expenditure in Canada, 1991 (catalogue number 62-201, \$26) is now available. For further information, contact Réjean Lasnier (613-951-4643) or fax (613-951-3012), Family Expenditure Surveys Section, Household Surveys Division.

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

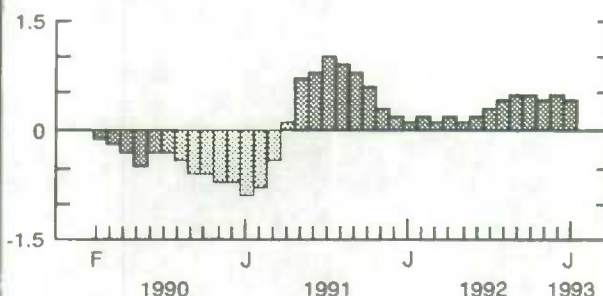
% change,
previous month



After a marginal decline in November, gross domestic product at factor cost rebounded, increasing by 0.4% in December.

Composite Leading Indicator

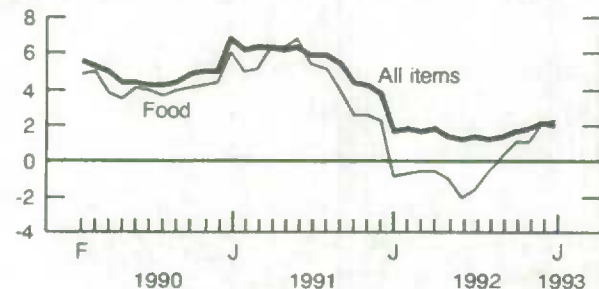
% change,
previous month



The growth of the composite leading indicator was 0.4% in January, in line with the revised monthly gains of 0.4% or 0.5% recorded since October.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



The year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI rose to 2.0% in January. The food index rose by 2.2%, its largest increase since December 1991.

Unemployment Rate

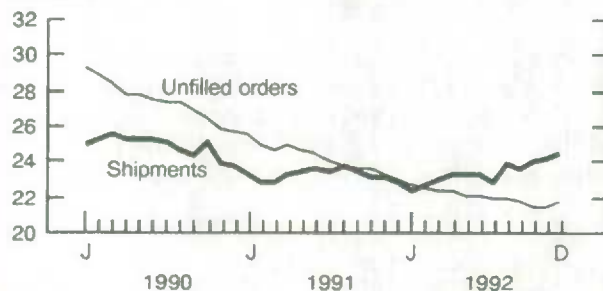
%



In January, the unemployment rate fell to 11.0% from 11.5% in December.

Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments increased by 1.3% in December to \$24.4 billion. The level of unfilled orders increased 1.2%, the first rise in four months.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



The seasonally adjusted value of merchandise exports rose by 1.5% in December to \$14.0 billion and imports grew by 1.7%, to \$13.0 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)	December	506.0	0.4%	1.7%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	January	148.8	0.4%	3.7%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	4th Quarter	8.6	-18.9%	-12.8%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	December	15.7	0.0%	3.5%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	January*	97.1	-10.1%	-9.7%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	January	12.3	0.1%	0.3%
Unemployment Rate (%)	January	11.0	-0.5	0.5
Participation Rate (%)	January	65.2	-0.3	-0.5
Labour Income (\$ billion)	December*	32.9	0.4%	2.9%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	December	557.89	0.3%	3.2%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	December	14.0	1.5%	18.4%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	December	13.0	1.7%	18.4%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	December	1.0	0.0	0.16
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	December	24.4	1.3%	7.4%
New Orders (\$ billion)	December	24.6	2.5%	10.0%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	December	21.6	1.2%	-5.8%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	December	1.40	-0.01	-0.12
Capacity Utilization (%)	4th Quarter*	77.6	2.4	4.1
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	January	129.6	0.4%	2.0%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	January	111.4	0.4%	3.9%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	December	110.2	-0.2%	10.6%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	January*	134.5	-0.1%	0.6%

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

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