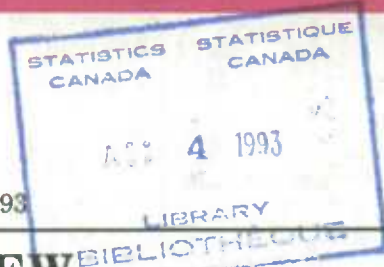




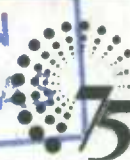
IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW



Friday, April 2, 1993

NOT FOR LOAN
NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS



Years of
Excellence d'excellence

OVERVIEW

■ Economy Continues to Expand

Economic growth continued in January: real gross domestic product at factor cost advanced 0.2% after a gain of 0.4% in December.

■ Number of Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries Decreases

The seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits fell for the third straight month, by 1.0% in January.

■ Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Decelerates

Average weekly earnings of Canadian workers rose 2.6% between January 1992 and January 1993, the lowest year-over-year increase in 10 years. Seasonally adjusted earnings reached a level of \$556.35.

■ Industrial Product Prices Unchanged

In February, the Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100) remained unchanged at January's revised level of 111.7.

■ Price Index for Raw Materials Climbs

The Raw Materials Price Index rose by 2.1% in February, due to a sharp increase in crude oil prices.

Economy Continues to Expand

Following a gain of 0.4% in December, real gross domestic product at factor cost advanced 0.2% in January to \$507 billion at annual rates, the largest two-month increase since May 1991. Goods production rose for the third straight month, this time by 0.6%, and services production edged up by 0.1%.

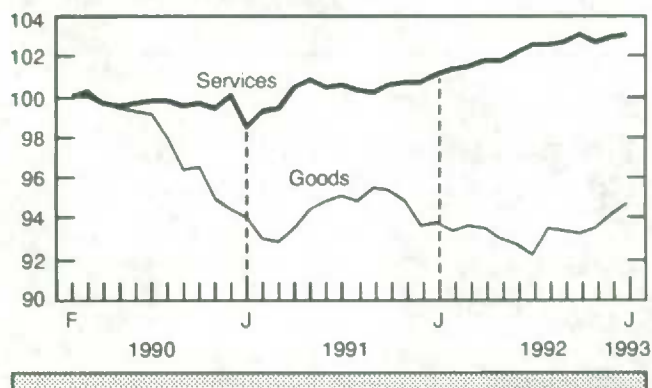
Six of seven major goods-producing industries recorded higher output, but the advance was concentrated in construction and manufacturing, which accounted for 65% of the overall gain.

Construction output climbed 1.7% after a 0.5% gain in December, the first two consecutive monthly increases in 15 months. Residential construction surged 7.5%, but a decline of 3.9% in non-residential construction partly offset this gain.

(continued on page 2)

Gross Domestic Product Output by Sector

Index (February 1990 = 100)



... Economy Continues to Expand

Manufacturing output edged up by 0.2%, the fourth consecutive month of higher production. Production of primary metals continued to improve, rising 3.0% in January, mainly due to higher production by smelters and refiners and iron and steel mills. Output of transportation equipment rose 1.3%, the fourth gain in as many months, and production of fabricated metal products advanced 3.0%.

Declines in production of electrical products, non-metallic mineral products, food, and pulp and paper products had a moderating effect.

Retail trade and communications accounted for most of the gain in services. Retail trade rose 1.5% as 14 of 18 trade groups recorded higher sales and communications output grew 1.0% led by a 1.4% rise in output of telecommunication carriers. Wholesale trade advanced a further 0.4% following four consecutive monthly increases.

Losses in finance, insurance and real estate (-0.4%), transportation and storage services (-0.7%), and community, business and personal services (-0.2%) offset most of the gains.

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.)

Number of Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries Decreases

The seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits fell by 1.0% in January to 1.15 million. The number of beneficiaries stood above their level in January 1992 but the year-over-year increase decelerated from 7.0% in November to 6.4% in December and to 4.2% in January.

The decline in the number of beneficiaries was broadly-based: eight provinces posted significant decreases. On a year-over-year basis, though, New Brunswick was the only province to record a decline.

Benefit payments for January dropped by 1.5% from December to \$1.3 billion but were still 3.0% higher than the amount paid in January 1992. The number of benefit weeks paid to beneficiaries totalled 5.0 million weeks, an increase of 0.8% from a year earlier.

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits, January 1993 Seasonally Adjusted

Province/Territory	Total (000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	1,148	-1.0	4.2
Newfoundland	66	-0.5	1.9
Prince Edward Island	13	1.0	2.1
Nova Scotia	54	-1.4	4.7
New Brunswick	56	-0.6	-4.8
Québec	372	-1.2	2.5
Ontario	317	-2.5	8.4
Manitoba	30	-1.5	0.3
Saskatchewan	25	-1.7	1.0
Alberta	81	-0.9	5.4
British Columbia	127	1.9	1.7
Yukon	2	14.5	29.9
Northwest Territories	2	1.4	12.1

For further information, order *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (catalogue number 73-001) or contact *Labour Division* at (613) 951-4087.

Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Decelerates

In January, average weekly earnings of Canadian workers rose 2.6% from the previous year to a seasonally adjusted level of \$556.35. This was the lowest year-over-year increase since the survey began 10 years ago. Only Ontario, Québec and Prince Edward Island recorded year-over-year growth rates that exceeded the average for Canada.

Earnings in the service-producing industries, which account for more than three-quarters of total employment, slipped to \$515.88 and were 3.1% above their year-earlier level. Finance, insurance and real estate (0.5%) and accommodation, food and beverage services (1.3%) showed the largest monthly increases while business services (-0.7%) had the steepest decrease.

(continued on page 3)

... Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Decelerates

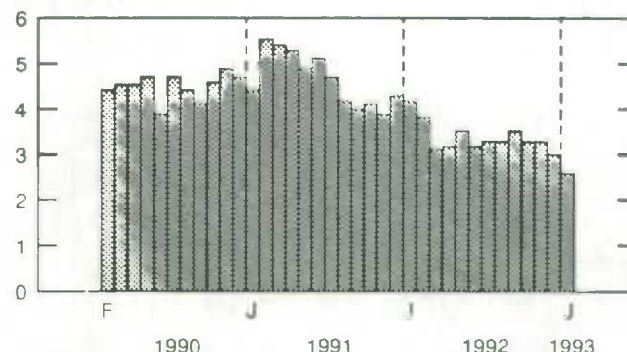
Weekly earnings in goods-producing industries were \$691.22 in January, up 2.2% from a year earlier. Earnings grew for the first time in five months in construction, up 0.3% to \$637.79.

There were about 10.0 million people employed in January, up slightly from December. Employment growth was mostly concentrated in the service-producing industries. There were small employment increases in New Brunswick, Québec, Manitoba and British Columbia.

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

Average Weekly Earnings

% change, previous year



Industrial Product Prices Unchanged

After nine straight months of increases, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) remained unchanged in February at January's revised level of 111.7. Ten major groups of products registered increases while eight decreased and three were unchanged. On a year-over-year basis, the IPPI increased for the ninth straight month, this time by 3.3%.

In February, the change in value of the American dollar relative to the Canadian dollar had a significant downward influence on export prices denominated in U.S. currency. The indices mainly affected were autos, trucks and other transportation equipment (-1.3%) and paper and paper products (-1.4%). This was the first decrease in eight months

for the autos, trucks and other transportation equipment group but the fourth straight monthly drop for the paper products component.

The lumber, sawmill and other wood products price index increased for the fourth consecutive month, rising by 5.8% in February, and was 26.2% higher than in February 1992. Softwood lumber prices continued their rapid rise in most of Canada, but slowed in British Columbia. The rise in wood prices was attributable to supply limitations due to environmental issues, plant closures and increases in housing starts on both sides of the border, particularly in the United States.

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

Price Index for Raw Materials Climbs

In February, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1986=100) rose by 2.1% to a level of 110.6, after two consecutive monthly decreases. When compared with February 1992, the RMPI was higher by 10.0%, the tenth straight month to have a year-over-year increase.

As in previous months, the movement of the RMPI was dominated by changes in the price of crude oil, which climbed by 4.9% in February following two months of declines averaging 6.8%. Partly offsetting the increase, coal prices were down by 1.8%, the first fall in seven months.

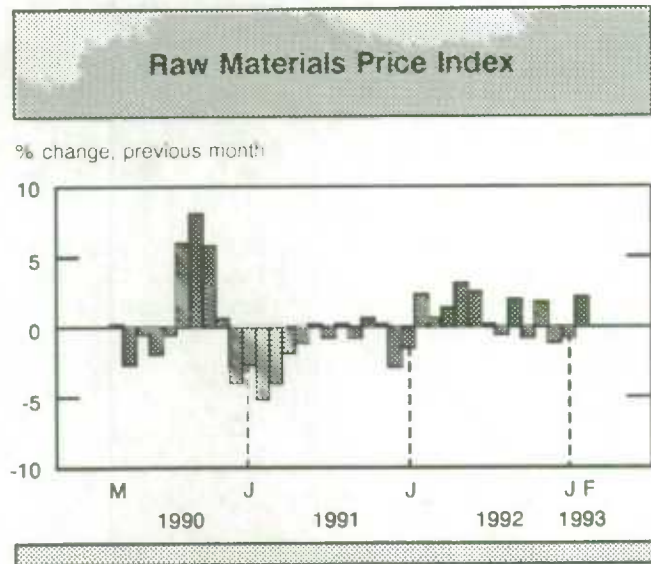
(continued on page 4)

... Price Index for Raw Materials Climbs

The wood index was up for the 13th consecutive month, this time by 4.6%, led by higher prices for logs and bolts (6.2%). Higher prices for furs, hides and skins (14.1%) and hogs for slaughter (2.3%) pushed the animal and animal products index up 0.7%.

The non-ferrous metals index slipped 1.5%. This drop was largely attributable to lower prices for copper concentrates, aluminum materials and radioactive concentrates. After increasing for three months in a row, the vegetable products index posted a decrease of 1.5% in February, reflecting lower prices for wheat, corn and cocoa, coffee and tea.

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

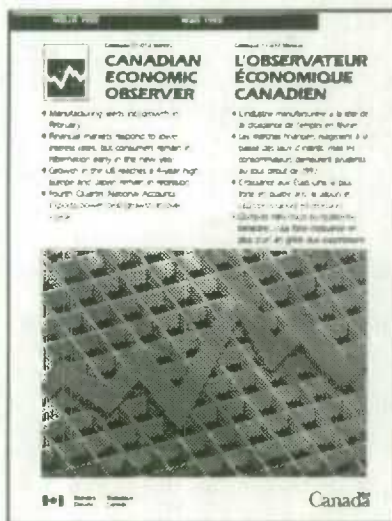


PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM MARCH 26 TO APRIL 1, 1993

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION					
Health Reports, Vol. 4, No. 4	Fourth Quarter 1992	82-003	26/104	31.25/125	36.50/146
Selected Infant Mortality and Related Statistics, Canada	1921-1990	82-549	40	48	56
CENSUS					
Aboriginal Data: Age and Sex	1991 Census	94-327	30	36	42
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM					
Government Expenditures on Culture	1990-91	87-206	17	20	24
Heritage Institutions	1990-91	87-207	30	36	42
University Finance Trend Analysis	1981-82 to 1990-91	81-260	39	47	55
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
Canadian National Child Care Study: Where are the children? An overview of child care arrangements in Canada		89-527E	25	30	35
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS					
Canadian Social Trends	Spring 1993	11-008E	8.50/34	10/40	12/48
INDUSTRY					
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables - Monthly	January 1993	32-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production	December 1992	26-006	10/100	12/120	14/140
Electric Power Statistics	January 1993	57-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Gas Utilities	December 1992	55-002	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation	February 1993	44-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Summary of Canadian International Trade	December 1992	65-001	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
LABOUR					
Quarterly Estimates of Trusteed Pension Funds	Third Quarter 1992	74-001	11/44	13.25/53	15.50/62
NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND ENVIRONMENT					
Financial Flow Accounts	Fourth Quarter 1992	13-014	12.50/50	15/60	17.50/70
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Traveller Accommodation Statistics	1988-1990	63-204	22	26	31
TRANSPORTATION					
Surface and Marine Transport Service Bulletin, Vol. 9, No. 2	March 1993	50-002	9.40/75	11.25/90	13.15/105

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

Canadian Economic Observer



The March issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, presents a monthly summary of the economy, the major economic events in February, a technical note on the short-term forecasting survey, and a year-end review of the economy. A statistical overview contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and major industrial nations.

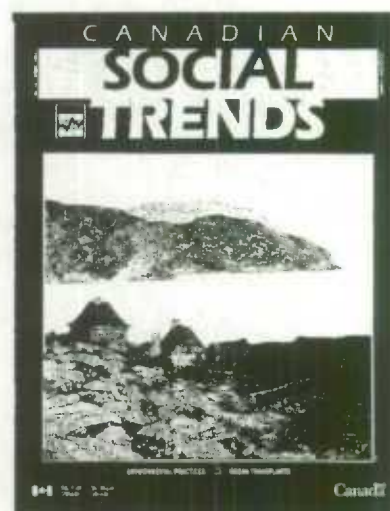
The March issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (catalogue number 11-010, \$22/\$220) is now available. For more information, call Philip Cross (613-951-9162), Current Analysis Section.

Canadian Social Trends

The Spring 1993 edition of *Canadian Social Trends* features two articles relating to women ("Women in the Workplace" and "Alimony and Child Support") and two articles relating to health ("Organ Donation and Transplantation" and "Trends in Low Birth Weight"). Other articles in this issue are "Unemployment Insurance in Canada," "Environmental Practices of Canadian Households" and "Emotional Support and Family Contacts of Older Canadians."

Each quarter, *Canadian Social Trends* integrates data from various sources to examine important social trends and issues. It also features the latest social indicators, as well as information about new Statistics Canada products and services.

The Spring 1993 edition of *Canadian Social Trends* (catalogue number 11-008E, \$8.50/\$34) is now available. For further information about this release, contact Cynthia Silver (613-951-2556), Canadian Social Trends, Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.



Health Reports



Seniors are the focus of the fourth quarter 1992 issue of *Health Reports*. Featured is an article on help given and received by seniors from outside the household. Two other articles are presented: one describes reductions in mortality among older adults and children in Canada and the United States; the other describes deaths and hospitalizations resulting from accidental falls.

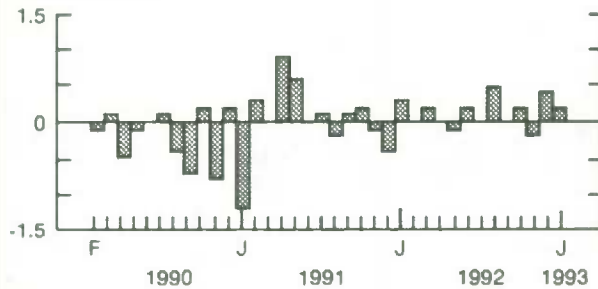
On a completely different subject, "An Investigation of the Increase in Preschool-age Asthma In Manitoba" looks at possible reasons for the increase in asthma rates among children under five years of age.

The fourth quarter 1992 issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (82-003, \$26/\$104) is now available. For further information on this release, contact Information Requests (613-951-1746), Canadian Centre for Health Information.

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

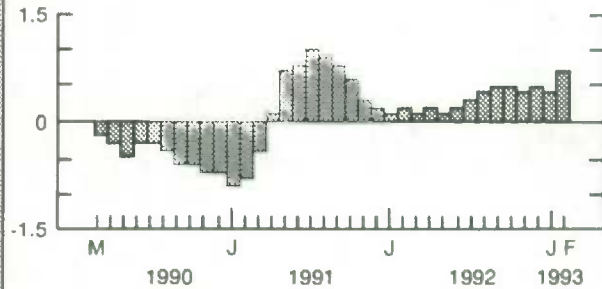
% change,
previous month



Economic growth continued in January: real gross domestic product at factor cost advanced 0.2% after a gain of 0.4% in December.

Composite Leading Indicator

% change,
previous month



The growth of the composite leading indicator accelerated from 0.4% in January to 0.7% in February.

Consumer Price Index

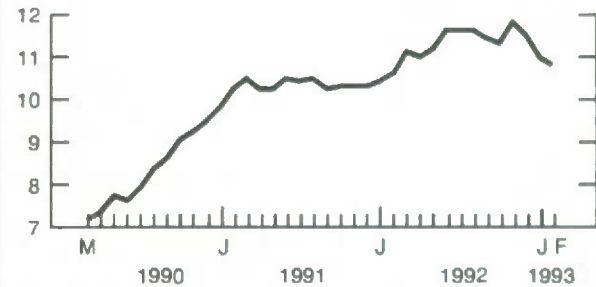
% change,
previous year



The year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI rose to 2.3% in February. The food index rose by 2.5%, continuing its upward trend.

Unemployment Rate

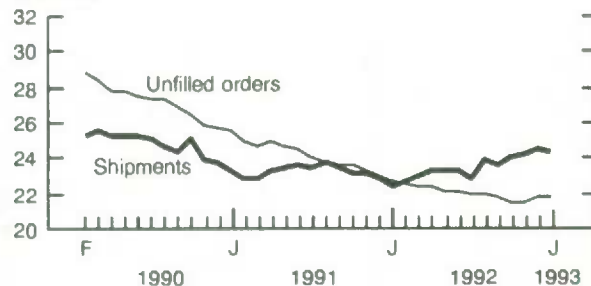
%



In February, the unemployment rate fell to a one-year low of 10.8% from 11.0% in January.

Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments edged down by 0.3% in January to \$24.3 billion. The level of unfilled orders increased by 0.4%, the second straight monthly increase.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



The seasonally adjusted value of merchandise exports increased by 3.6% in January to \$14.6 billion while imports fell by 3.0% to \$12.7 billion, pushing Canada's trade balance to \$1.9 billion.

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



1010138752

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
GENERAL				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	January*	507.4	0.2%	1.6%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	February	149.8	0.7%	4.2%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	4th Quarter	8.6	-18.9%	-12.8%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	January	16.0	1.8%	5.6%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	January	97.1	-10.1%	-9.7%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	February	12.3	0.1%	0.5%
Unemployment Rate (%)	February	10.8	-0.2	0.1
Participation Rate (%)	February	65.0	-0.2	-0.6
Labour Income (\$ billion)	December	32.9	0.4%	2.9%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	January*	556.35	-0.1%	2.6%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	January	14.6	3.6%	18.2%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	January	12.7	-3.0%	9.0%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	January	1.9	0.9	1.2
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	January	24.3	-0.3%	9.4%
New Orders (\$ billion)	January	24.4	-1.2%	12.0%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	January	21.7	0.4%	-3.5%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	January	1.39	-0.01	-0.17
Capacity Utilization (%)	4th Quarter	77.6	2.4	4.1
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	February	130.0	0.3%	2.3%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	February*	111.7	0.0%	3.3%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	February*	110.6	2.1%	10.0%
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**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, 1993. 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 Licence Services,
Marketing 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.

