



# IN·F·O·M·A·T

## A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, April 30, 1993

### OVERVIEW

#### ■ Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Decelerates

Average weekly earnings of Canadian workers rose 2.5% between February 1992 and February 1993, the lowest year-over-year increase in 10 years. Seasonally adjusted earnings reached a level of \$557.13.

#### ■ Number of Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries Decreasing

The seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits fell for the fourth straight month, by 2.0% in February.

#### ■ Industrial Product Price Index Maintains Upward Trend

The Industrial Product Price Index rose for the eleventh straight month, by 0.1% in March, and stood 3.6% above the level of March 1992.

#### ■ Raw Materials Continue to Register Large Price Increases

The Raw Materials Price Index rose by 1.2% in March, due mainly to a sharp increase in the wood index.

#### ■ Sales by Wholesale Merchants Unchanged in February

Seasonally adjusted sales by wholesale merchants totalled \$16.6 billion in February, unchanged from the previous month.

#### Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Decelerates

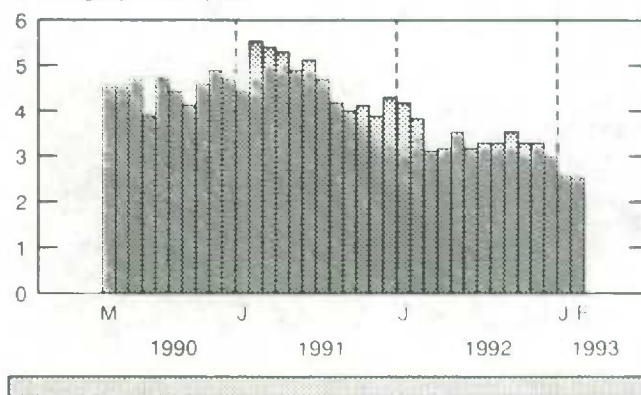
In February, average weekly earnings of Canadian workers rose 2.5% from the previous year to a seasonally adjusted level of \$557.13. This was the lowest year-over-year increase since the survey began in 1983. Only Ontario, Québec, Alberta and New Brunswick recorded year-over-year growth rates that exceeded the average for Canada.

Earnings in the service-producing industries, which account for more than three-quarters of total employment, edged up to \$516.31 and were 2.8% above their year-earlier level. Retail trade (0.9%)

(continued on page 2)

#### Average Weekly Earnings

% change, previous year



### ... Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Decelerates

and miscellaneous services (0.8%) showed the largest monthly increases while business services (-0.8%) had the steepest decrease.

Weekly earnings in goods-producing industries were \$693.17 in February, up 2.2% from a year earlier. Earnings rose in all four sectors, with growth ranging from 0.2% in both manufacturing and construction to 1.1% in logging and forestry.

There were about 10.0 million people employed in February, up slightly from January. Small increases were recorded in all industries except for education and related services and miscellaneous services. Manufacturing industries have posted employment gains in each of the last four months.

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

### Number of Unemployment Insurance Beneficiaries Decreasing

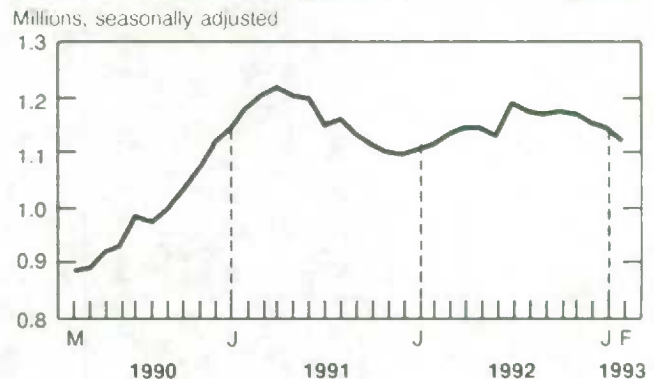
The seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits fell for the fourth straight month, by 2.0% in February. At 1.12 million, the number of unemployment insurance beneficiaries stood 0.5% above their level of February 1992. However, the year-over-year increase has decelerated sharply, from 5.4% in December 1992 to 3.6% in January 1993 and to 0.5% in February.

#### U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits, February 1993

Seasonally Adjusted

Province/Territory	Total (000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Newfoundland	66	0.1	-3.8
Prince Edward Island	13	-0.1	1.0
Nova Scotia	54	0.2	2.4
New Brunswick	56	0.2	-4.9
Québec	366	-1.2	1.4
Ontario	307	-3.3	1.7
Manitoba	30	-0.8	-0.1
Saskatchewan	25	-1.7	-1.1
Alberta	78	-2.6	1.2
British Columbia	122	-2.6	-1.2
Yukon	2	6.0	41.2
Northwest Territories	2	-1.0	9.5

#### U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits



The decline in the number of beneficiaries was broadly-based: seven provinces and the Northwest Territories posted decreases. The number of beneficiaries fell for the fourth straight month in Ontario, this time by 3.3%. The number fell by 2.6% in both British Columbia and Alberta. In Québec, the number was down for the third month in a row, by 1.2% in February.

Disbursements for unemployment insurance benefits declined by 1.7% from January to \$1,257 million but were still 3.5% higher than the amount paid in February 1992. The number of benefit weeks paid to beneficiaries totalled 4.9 million weeks, a reduction of 2.5% from January.

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



## Industrial Product Price Index Maintains Upward Trend

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) edged up by 0.1% in March to 112.1. This eleventh consecutive monthly increase was the smallest for the period. In comparison with March 1992, the IPPI rose 3.6%, the tenth consecutive month to have a year-over-year increase.

Nine of 21 major groups of products registered rises while seven decreased and five remained unchanged. During March, the change in value of the American dollar relative to the Canadian dollar had a downward influence on export prices denominated in U.S. currency. The effect of this change was most clearly seen in the price decreases

for autos, trucks and other transportation equipment (-0.3%).

The lumber, sawmill and other wood products index rose for the fifth straight month, by 2.9% in March, and was 32.6% higher than its year-earlier level. Softwood lumber prices continued their rapid rise in Québec and the Prairies, but slowed in British Columbia, Ontario and the Atlantic provinces.

The petroleum and coal products index declined by 1.7% and the primary metal products index was down by 0.9%.

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

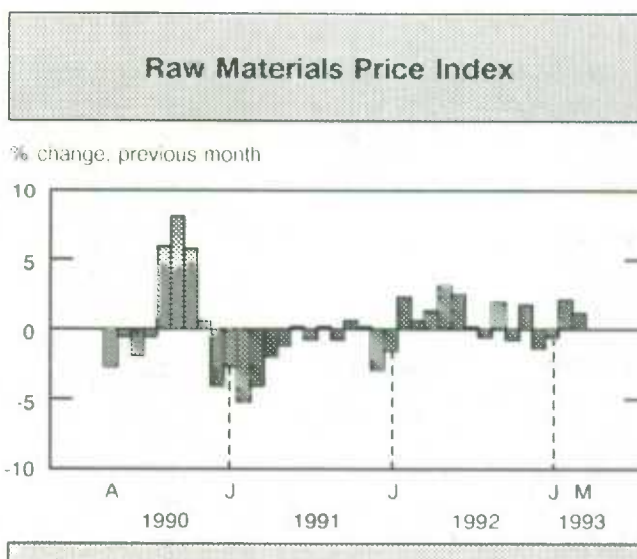
## Raw Materials Continue to Register Large Price Increases

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1986=100) rose by 1.2% in March to a level of 112.0, after rising by 2.2% in February. On a year-over-year basis, the RMPI increased for the eleventh straight month, this time by 10.9%.

Three major groups of products recorded monthly advances while two declined and two remained unchanged. The movement of the RMPI was mainly dominated by changes in the wood index. The index climbed by 7.4% in March and was up by 32.5% from its year-earlier level. The log and bolt index, the major component of the wood index, increased a further 9.6% in March, continuing the string of increases which date back to December 1991.

Higher prices for unrefined sugar (11.8%), raw tobacco (3.1%) and soybeans (4.2%) pushed the vegetable products index up 0.6%. Lower prices for barley (-8.1%) and wheat (-1.9%) partially offset these increases.

The mineral fuels index, which represents almost one-third of the RMPI, decreased by 0.4% as a result of lower prices for crude oil (-0.4%) and coal (-0.4%). In contrast, the natural gas index saw no change after increasing for six straight months.



The non-ferrous metals index dropped 2.4%, reflecting lower prices for copper and zinc concentrates and aluminum materials. Partly offsetting the decline, prices for radioactive concentrates climbed 23.9%.

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

## Sales by Wholesale Merchants Unchanged in February

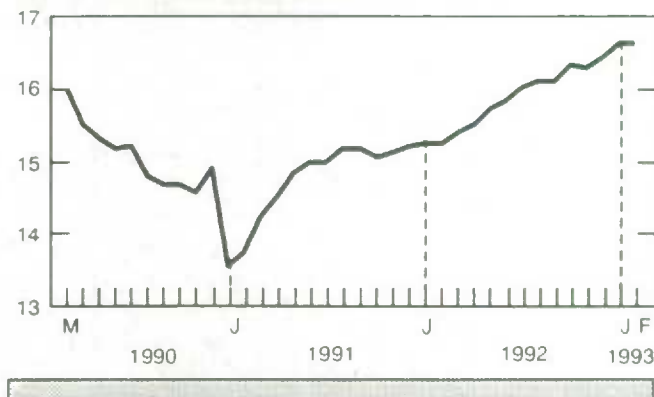
Seasonally adjusted sales by wholesale merchants totalled \$16.6 billion in February, unchanged from January. Sales increased every month from March to October 1992, edged down in November, rose again in December (0.7%) and in January (1.3%), then remained unchanged in February.

Offsetting factors caused the unchanged level in February as five trade groups posted higher sales and four recorded declines. Leading the gains were higher sales by wholesalers of food, beverage, drug and tobacco products. Sales for this group, which account for more than a quarter of total sales, increased for the eighth straight month, this time by 0.7%. Sales of other machinery, equipment and supplies, the second largest trade group, also gained 0.7%. Suppliers of lumber and building materials recorded a fifth straight monthly increase, this time by 1.6%.

Sales by wholesalers of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies decreased by 2.3% in February, after increasing by 3.3% in December 1992 and by 1.7% in January. Sales by distributors of other products (farm and paper products, agricultural supplies, industrial and household chemicals) fell 1.0%.

## Wholesale Trade

Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Half of the 10 provinces reported lower sales. Québec wholesalers had the largest decline (-1.0%), the fourth consecutive monthly drop. In Ontario, sales edged down after increasing by a total of 8.9% since May 1992. British Columbia wholesalers registered the strongest growth in terms of dollar impact. Their sales rose for the fifth straight month, by 1.5% in February. Sales in Saskatchewan grew by 1.8%, the third monthly increase in a row.

For further information, order *Wholesale Trade* (catalogue number 63-008), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3540.

## NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

### Travel-log

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

This quarter, the feature article is "Profile of Canadian Travellers in the United States in 1991". This issue also looks at the results of the Canadian Travel Survey for the third quarter of 1992. In addition, the performance of the Travel Price Index is analyzed for the fourth quarter of 1992 and for the year 1992. For researchers, an index of all articles published in *Travel-log* since 1991 is presented. And, for easy reference, the Touriscope Indicators for the fourth quarter of 1992 and for 1992 are listed at the middle of the publication.

The Spring 1993, Vol. 12, No. 2 issue of *Travel-log* (catalogue number 87-003, \$10.50/\$42) is now available. For more information on this release, contact Lise Beaulieu-Caron (613-951-1673), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.



# PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM APRIL 23 TO 29, 1993

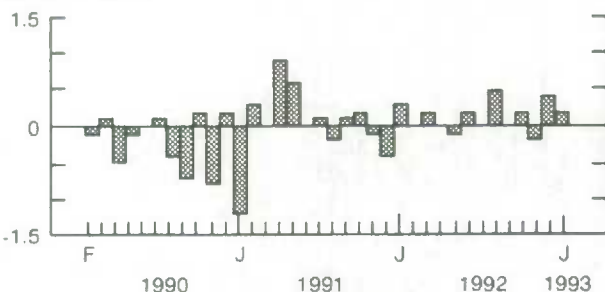
Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Farm Product Price Index	February 1993	62-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
Field Crop Reporting Series No. 2: March Intentions of Principal Field Crop Area, Canada	1993	22-002	12/80	14/96	16/112
<b>EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM</b>					
Television Viewing	1991	87-208	26	31	36
Travel-log, Vol. 12, No.2	Spring 1993	87-003	10.50/42	12.50/50	14.75/59
<b>INDUSTRY</b>					
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers	March 1993	36-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Construction Type Plywood	February 1993	35-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Gas Utilities	January 1993	55-002	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
Gypsum Products	February 1993	44-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation	March 1993	44-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies	February 1993	35-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia	February 1993	35-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
<b>INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK</b>					
Building Permits	February 1993	64-001	22.10/221	26.50/265	30.90/309
Capital and Repair Expenditures – Manufacturing Sub-industries	Intentions 1993	61-214	17	20	24
<b>LABOUR</b>					
Estimates of Labour Income	October- December 1992	72-005	22.50/90	27/108	31.50/126
<b>NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND ENVIRONMENT</b>					
Provincial Economic Accounts, Annual Estimates	1981-1991	13-213	40	48	56
<b>PRICES</b>					
Industry Price Indexes	February 1993	62-011	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
<b>SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>					
Telephone Statistics	February 1993	56-002	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116



## CURRENT TRENDS

### Gross Domestic Product

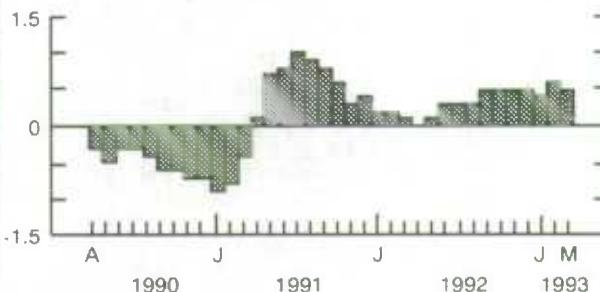
% change,  
previous month



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 composite leading indicator continued its steady growth, rising by 0.5% in March.

### Consumer Price Index

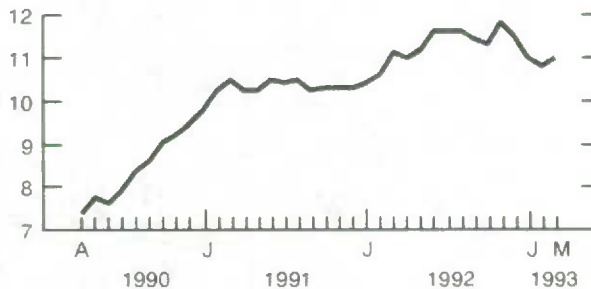
% change,  
previous year



The year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI was 1.9% in March, considerably lower than February's 14-month high of 2.3%. The food index rose by 1.7%.

### Unemployment Rate

%



In March, the unemployment rate advanced to 11.0% from 10.8% in February.

### Manufacturing

Billions  
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments rose by 1.6% in February to \$24.7 billion. The level of unfilled orders increased by 5.0%, rebounding from a 0.5% decrease in January.

### Merchandise Trade

Billions  
of dollars



The seasonally adjusted value of merchandise exports decreased by 1.5% in February to \$14.4 billion while imports climbed by 4.9% to \$13.3 billion, pushing Canada's trade balance to \$1.1 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)	January	507.4	0.2%	1.6%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	March	150.5	0.5%	4.5%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	4th Quarter	8.6	-18.9%	-12.8%
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	February	15.9	-0.7%	5.0%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	February	90.5	-5.3%	-11.5%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	March	12.4	0.4%	1.3%
Unemployment Rate (%)	March	11.0	0.2	-0.2
Participation Rate (%)	March	65.3	0.3	-0.3
Labour Income (\$ billion)	January	33.0	0.2%	2.9%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	February*	557.13	0.1%	2.5%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	February	14.4	-1.5%	16.3%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	February	13.3	4.9%	13.4%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	February	1.1	-0.9	0.4
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	February	24.7	1.6%	9.6%
New Orders (\$ billion)	February	25.8	6.4%	14.7%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	February	22.6	5.0%	0.9%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	February	1.36	-0.03	-0.17
Capacity Utilization (%)	4th Quarter	77.6	2.4	4.1
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	March	129.9	-0.1%	1.9%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	March*	112.1	0.1%	3.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	March*	112.0	1.2%	10.9%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	February	134.9	0.3%	1.0%

**Note:** All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of average weekly earnings and the price indexes.

\* New this week.



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**KEY RELEASE CALENDAR: MAY 1993\***

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries, April Short-term Expectations Survey	<b>5</b> Help-wanted Index, April	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Labour Force Survey, April Estimates of Labour Income, February
<b>10</b> New Housing Price Index, March Farm Product Price Index, March	<b>11</b> Census of Population: Housing Costs, Education, Mobility and Migration, 1991	<b>12</b> Canadian Composite Leading Indicator, April	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> New Motor Vehicle Sales, March Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, March
<b>17</b> Building Permits, March Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area, March	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Merchandise Trade, March Department Store Sales - Advance Release, April	<b>20</b> Consumer Price Index, April Sales of Natural Gas, March	<b>21</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Canada's International Transactions in Securities, March Wholesale Trade, March	<b>26</b> Unemployment Insurance Statistics, March Farm Cash Receipts, January-March Farm Net Income, 1992	<b>27</b> Industrial Product Price Index, April Raw Materials Price Index, April International Travel Account, January-March	<b>28</b> Retail Trade, March Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, March Employment, Earnings and Hours, March Quarterly Financial Statistics of Enterprises, First Quarter
<b>3</b> Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry, March Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, April				

**I·N·F·O·M·A·T****A Weekly Review**

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