

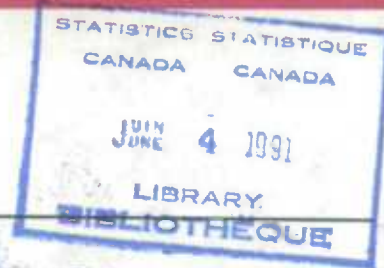


# IN·F·O·M·A·T

## A WEEKLY REVIEW

NOT FOR LOAN  
NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS

Friday, June 4, 1993



### OVERVIEW

- **More Help-wanted Ads in May**  
There were encouraging gains in all five regional Help-wanted Indexes in May.
- **Higher Manufacturing Production Boosts March GDP**  
Canada's economy grew by a solid 0.7% in March, the largest monthly increase in almost two years. This pushed output for the first quarter of the year up 1.0%, double the expansion of the previous two quarters.
- **Manufacturers Continue to Record Solid Gains in Shipments**  
The seasonally adjusted value of shipments by Canadian manufacturers increased for the sixth straight month in March, this time by 2.2%. Shipments stood 11.4% above the level of March 1992.
- **Average Weekly Wages Rise 3.0%**  
Average weekly earnings of Canadian workers rose 3.0% from the previous year to a seasonally adjusted level of \$559.79 in March.
- **Operating Profits Rise Sharply in First Quarter**  
In the first quarter, seasonally adjusted operating profits of all Canadian enterprises rose to \$11.4 billion, well above the fourth quarter's \$7.6 billion.
- **Retail Sales: Second Straight Monthly Decrease**  
Seasonally adjusted retail sales fell another 0.3% in March after a 1.1% drop in February but were still up 4.4% from their year-earlier level.
- **Home Also Place of Work to 1.1 million Canadians**  
Close to 1.1 million of the 13.0 million employed Canadians worked at home in 1991. Of those who worked at home, 26% worked and lived on a farm.

### More Help-wanted Ads in May

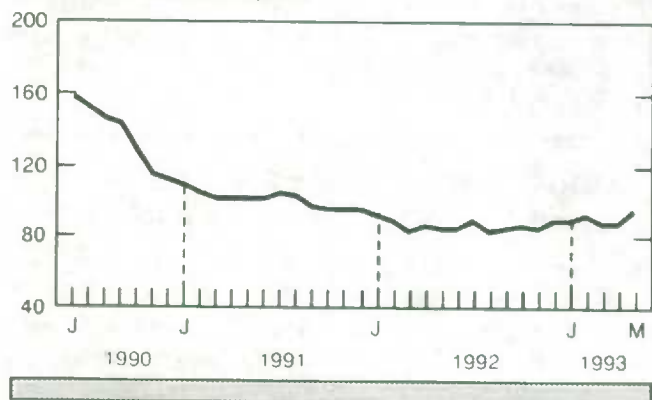
The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada (1991=100) advanced by eight points in May, the largest monthly increase since March 1992 when the index bottomed out at 83. The index stood at 95, 11 points above its year-earlier level of 84.

After fluctuating close to 83 between March and November of 1992, the index increased to 88 in December. It remained practically unchanged until April, then rose eight points in May to 95.

(continued on page 2)

Help-wanted Index, Canada

1991 = 100, seasonally adjusted



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

### ... More Help-wanted Ads in May

There were encouraging gains in all five regional Help-wanted Indexes:

- Québec: climbed eight points to 97;
- Prairie region: increased eight points to 87;
- Atlantic provinces: advanced seven points to 101;
- British Columbia: rose by seven points to 90;

- Ontario: was up by four points to 96.

The current indexes for all five regions stood above their year-earlier level. Increases ranged from three points in British Columbia to 14 points in both Québec and the Atlantic provinces.

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

## Higher Manufacturing Production Boosts March GDP

Canada's economy grew by a solid 0.7% in March to \$513 billion at annual rates, the largest monthly increase in almost two years. The jump in real gross domestic product at factor cost follows growth of 0.4% in February and 0.2% in January. This pushed output growth for the first quarter of the year to 1.0%, double the expansion of the previous two quarters.

Goods production continued to improve for the fifth consecutive month, rising by 1.2% in March. Four major goods-producing industries recorded higher output which was only partly offset by declines in utilities (-1.0%), agriculture (-0.1%) and fishing (-1.3%) industries.

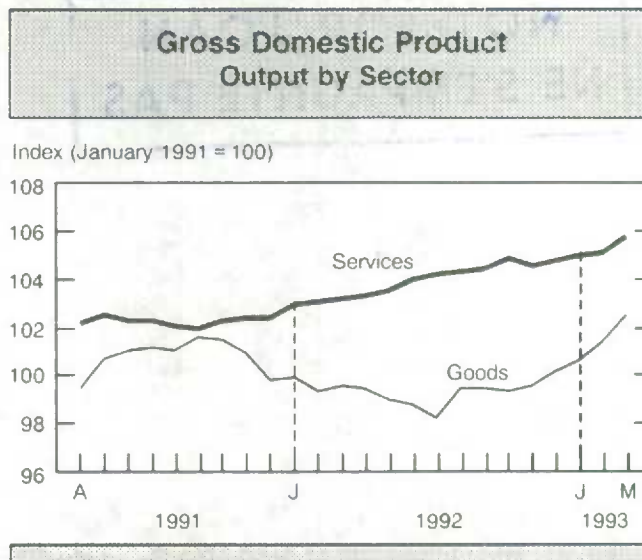
Manufacturers increased production for the sixth straight month, this time by 1.9%. Output of transportation equipment continued to improve, rising 2.5%, as exports of automotive products remained strong in March. Production of electrical products was up by 2.8% following two months of declines. Output of telecommunications equipment and office machinery accounted for most of the gain.

Output of paper and allied products also rebounded, increasing by 2.6% after falling for four straight months. Production of newsprint accounted for most of the advance as exports improved considerably (7.5%). Chemical producers raised output 2.5% and wood production was up by 3.2% to a level 9.1% above March 1992. Declines in production for primary metals and beverages partly offset these gains.

## Manufacturers Continue to Record Solid Gains in Shipments

Canadian manufacturers' shipments climbed 2.2% in March to a seasonally adjusted value of \$25.6 billion, the sixth consecutive monthly increase. The value of shipments for the first quarter totalled \$75.5 billion, 9.4% higher than for the corresponding period in 1992.

In March, 18 major groups of products recorded higher shipment levels while the remaining four groups had small decreases. Most of the surge in



Bolstered by widespread advances, services output rose 0.5% following increases of 0.2% in each of the previous two months. Finance, insurance and real estate services accounted for most of the latest gain. Output jumped 1.4% as activity by securities dealers and mutual funds rose substantially.

Communications was the only major services producer to decline. Communications output fell 0.9% as production by telecommunications carriers decreased 0.8%.

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.)

demand was concentrated in transportation equipment (3.4%), chemicals (3.7%), refined petroleum and coal products (4.1%) and wood (3.4%) industries.

After climbing by 7.1% in February, the level of unfilled orders was up 3.6% to \$24.8 billion. Large increases in transportation equipment industries (8.5%) accounted for most of the jump in the backlog of orders. New orders fell 0.7% to \$26.5 billion, following a steep increase of 7.7% in February.

(continued on page 3)



### ... Manufacturers Continue to Record Solid Gains in Shipments

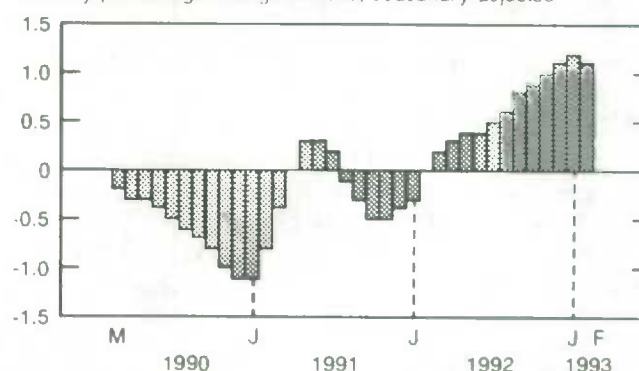
Inventory levels were up another 0.2% in March to \$34.3 billion, with 12 of 22 major groups showing increases. Notable gains were in the wood (2.9%), electrical and electronic products (2.5%), and refined petroleum and coal products (4.9%) industries. Declines in the primary metals (1.8%) and transportation equipment (0.9%) industries partly offset these increases.

The inventories to shipments ratio declined from 1.36 in February to an historical low of 1.34.

The trend for shipments rose for the twelfth consecutive month, at an average of 1.1% per month over the last four months. For unfilled orders, the trend, which had been falling since April 1989, rose over the last four months. The trend for inventories, after showing no change in September and October 1992, resumed its decline in November and fell a further 0.2% in February. Despite the monthly decrease in new orders, the trend, which has been rising since March 1992, advanced a further 1.1%.

### Shipments

Monthly percentage change in trend, seasonally adjusted



Note: The short-term trend represents a weighted average of the data.

For further information, order *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (catalogue number 31-001), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-9832. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 7.)

### Average Weekly Wages Rise 3.0%

Average weekly earnings of Canadian workers rose 3.0% from the previous year to a seasonally adjusted level of \$559.79 in March. This gain follows February's increase of 2.5%, the lowest year-over-year increase recorded in 10 years. Only Ontario, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon recorded year-over-year growth rates exceeding the average for Canada.

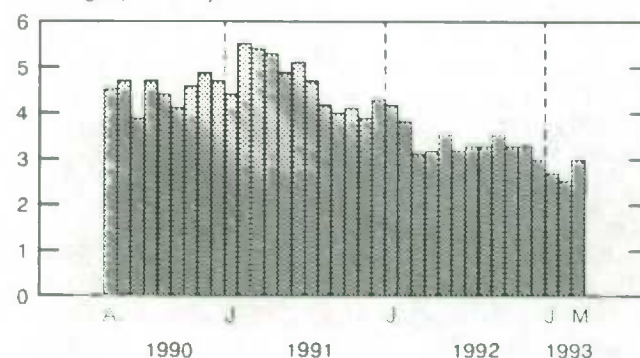
Weekly earnings in goods-producing industries amounted to \$698.59, up 2.9% from a year earlier and a substantial improvement compared to 2.3% growth in February. Construction (1.3%), durable goods manufacturing (0.8%) and logging and forestry (0.6%) showed the largest monthly increases. The only decline was in mining, quarrying and oil wells (0.7%).

Earnings in services-producing industries rose to \$518.62, up 3.3% above their year-earlier level. Earnings rose in all 11 sectors in March, led by business services (1.7%).

Slightly more than 10.0 million persons were employed in March, up 0.6% from February but on a year-over-year basis, the number rose for the first

### Average Weekly Earnings

% change, previous year



time in 29 months as it increased by 0.4%. Employment growth was mostly concentrated in Ontario and British Columbia.

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

## Operating Profits Rise Sharply in First Quarter

In the first quarter, seasonally adjusted operating profits of all Canadian enterprises rose to \$11.4 billion, well above the fourth quarter's \$7.6 billion but only half the 1989 peak of \$22.3 billion. Profits were also above the \$10.7 billion average for the first three quarters of 1992.

Operating profits of financial institutions rose to \$2.3 billion from \$0.7 billion in the fourth quarter of 1992. After having absorbed heavy losses for non-performing loans in the last quarter of 1992, chartered banks and trust companies recovered as their operating profits rose to \$134 million from losses of \$144 million.

In the non-financial sector, operating profits grew to \$9.2 billion, the highest since the third quarter of 1991 but still only half of the peak reached in the first quarter of 1989. The improvement came mainly from a \$0.8 billion increase in motor vehicles, parts and tires and a \$0.5 billion gain in petroleum and natural gas.

For further information, order *Quarterly Financial Statistics for Enterprises* (catalogue number 61-008) or contact *Industrial Organization and Finance Division* at (613) 951-9843.

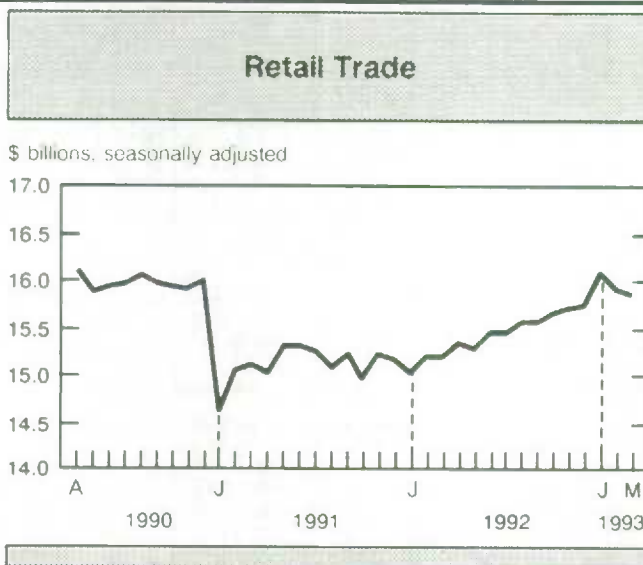
## Retail Sales: Second Straight Monthly Decrease

Seasonally adjusted retail sales decreased 0.3% in March to \$15.9 billion, after a 1.1% drop in February and a strong increase of 2.1% in January. Sales were still up 4.4% from their year-earlier level of \$15.2 billion, the tenth straight month to show a year-over-year increase. The trend, which has been rising since February 1992, remained positive but showed a decreasing rate of growth for the last two months.

Lower sales were recorded in 10 of 16 major groups, notably in the clothing (-1.8%) and automotive (-0.3%) trade groups. The four trade groups relating to clothing posted declines with the steepest reported by women's clothing stores, down 2.7%. The trend in the clothing sector declined for the third month in a row, breaking the series of increases which dated back to March 1992.

An 8.8% rise in unit sales of new motor vehicles pushed sales by dealers of motor vehicles and recreational vehicles up 0.2% in March. The advance was almost offset by lower sales by automotive parts, accessories and services stores (1.3%) and gasoline service stations (0.9%). The trend for automotive retailers was unchanged in March after increasing for 13 consecutive months.

Sales by supermarkets and grocery stores were down by 0.3% following a steep decrease of 1.4% in February. In the August 1992 to January 1993



period, sales had increased by an average of 1.0% per month.

Seven provinces and the territories posted lower sales, with declines ranging from -0.1% in Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories to -6.5% in Prince Edward Island. Advances were in Newfoundland (2.3%), Ontario (1.0%) and Manitoba (0.7%).

For further information, order *Retail Trade* (catalogue number 63-005), or contact *Industry Division* at (613) 951-9236.

## Home Also Place of Work to 1.1 million Canadians

This week, Statistics Canada released data on the social and economic characteristics of Canadian families, fertility, place of work and religion, based on information collected for the 1991 Census.

Census data show that in 1991, 11.7 million employed Canadians held jobs outside their residence while close to 1.1 million worked at home. Almost 152,000 workers reported having no usual place of work (such as construction workers), and another 46,000 worked outside Canada.

The western provinces in general showed the highest percentage of people working at home, with a large number of respondents indicating that they lived and worked on a farm. Nationally, 26% of Canadians who worked at home also lived on a farm.

### Other highlights include:

- The proportion of women who were or had been married but had not yet had children has increased during the past two decades. In 1991, 38% of these women aged 25-29 had yet to bear

children, compared with 21% in 1971. Among women aged 35-39, the percentage rose from 7% in 1971 to 13% in 1991.

- Between 1981 and 1991, Newfoundland experienced the largest decline in the number of children born to married women – from 2,371 to 1,930 children per 1,000 married women. This was followed closely by New Brunswick, from 2,050 to 1,733. The smallest decline occurred in Alberta, from 1,746 to 1,715.
- The number of empty nest families is rising. While the number of families increased by 16% between 1981 and 1991, the number of empty nest families grew by a remarkable 40% in the same period, from just over one million to over 1.5 million family units.
- Over one-quarter of all families in Saskatchewan (26%) and British Columbia (25%) were empty nest, followed by Manitoba (23%), Ontario (21%) and Nova Scotia (21%). The Northwest Territories had the lowest proportion of empty nesters (9%).

*For further information, contact Statistics Canada Reference Centre at (613) 951-8116.*



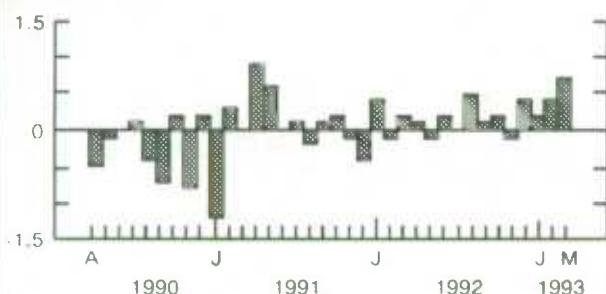
# PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM MAY 28 TO JUNE 3, 1993

Division/title	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Cereals and Oilseeds Review	March 1993	22-007	13.80/138	16.60/166	19.30/193
Livestock Statistics Updates	May 1993	23-603EU	90	108	126
<b>CENSUS</b>					
Families: Social and Economic Characteristics	1991 Census	93-320	40	48	56
Fertility	1991 Census	93-321	40	48	56
Place of Work	1991 Census	93-323	40	48	56
Religions in Canada	1991 Census	93-319	40	48	56
<b>INDUSTRY</b>					
Canadian Forestry Statistics	1990	25-202	27	32	38
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers	April 1993	36-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production	February 1993	26-006	10/100	12/120	14/140
Electric Power Statistics	March 1993	57-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Gas Utilities	February 1993	55-002	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
Gypsum Products	April 1993	44-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins	April 1993	46-002	5.60/56	6.70/67	7.80/78
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation	April 1993	44-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production and Stocks of Tea, Coffee and Cocoa	Quarter Ended March 1993	32-025	6.75/27	8/32	9.50/38
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia	March 1993	35-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies	March 1993	35-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Quarterly Shipments of Office Furniture Products	Quarter Ended March 31, 1993	35-006	6.75/27	8/32	9.50/38
The Sugar Situation	April 1993	32-013	5/50	6/60	7/70
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>					
Imports, Merchandise Trade	1992	65-203	166	199	232
<b>SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>					
Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics	March 1993	63-011	6.10/61	7.30/73	8.50/85
Telephone Statistics	March 1993	56-002	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116

## CURRENT TRENDS

### Gross Domestic Product

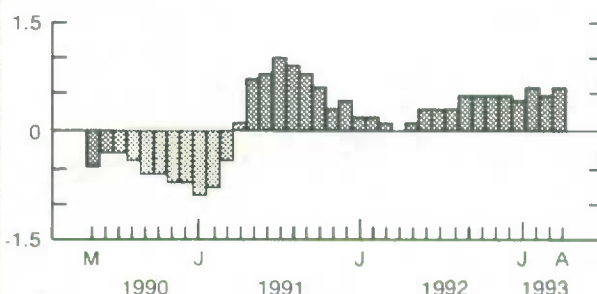
% change,  
previous month



Canada's economy grew by a solid 0.7% in March, the largest monthly increase in almost two years. This pushed output for the first quarter of the year up 1.0%.

### Composite Leading Indicator

% change,  
previous month



The composite leading indicator continued its steady growth, rising by 0.6% in April.

### Consumer Price Index

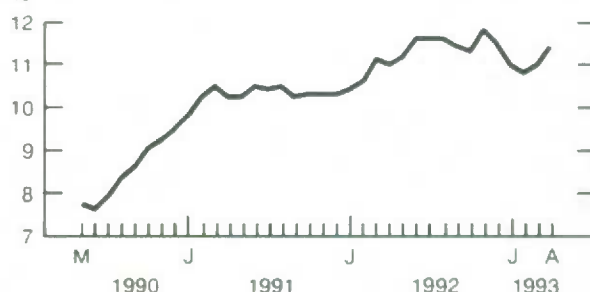
% change,  
previous year



The year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI was 1.8% in April, slightly lower than March's increase of 1.9%. The food index rose by 1.0%.

### Unemployment Rate

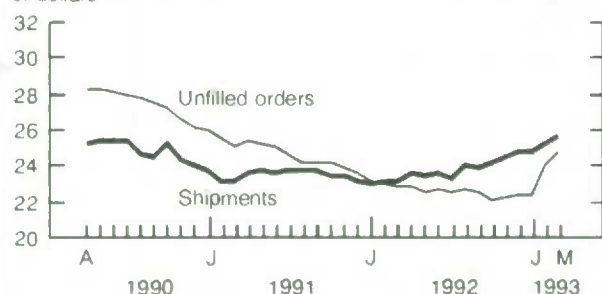
%



In April, the unemployment rate rose to 11.4% from 11.0% in March.

### Manufacturing

Billions  
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments rose for the sixth straight month, by 2.2% in March. The level of unfilled orders was up by 3.6% after climbing by 7.1% in February.

### Merchandise Trade

Billions  
of dollars



The seasonally adjusted value of merchandise exports increased by 0.7% in March to \$14.5 billion while imports climbed by 3.7% to \$13.8 billion.

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



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## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	March*	513.3	0.7%	2.7%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	April	151.4	0.6%	5.1%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	1st Quarter*	11.4	51.5%	3.3%
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	March*	15.9	-0.3%	4.4%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	March	98.7	8.8%	0.1%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	April	12.3	-0.3%	1.3%
Unemployment Rate (%)	April	11.4	0.4	0.3
Participation Rate (%)	April	65.3	0.0	0.1
Labour Income (\$ billion)	February	33.0	0.2%	2.6%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	March*	559.79	0.5%	3.0%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	March	14.5	0.7%	15.1%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	March	13.8	3.7%	15.1%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	March	0.7	-0.4	0.1
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	March*	25.6	2.2%	11.4%
New Orders (\$ billion)	March*	26.5	-0.7%	16.0%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	March*	24.8	3.6%	9.1%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	March*	1.34	-0.02	-0.18
Capacity Utilization (%)	1st Quarter*	78.4	1.7	4.6
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	April	129.9	0.0%	1.8%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	April	112.3	0.0%	3.9%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	April	113.8	1.5%	11.2%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	March	135.7	0.6%	1.4%

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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