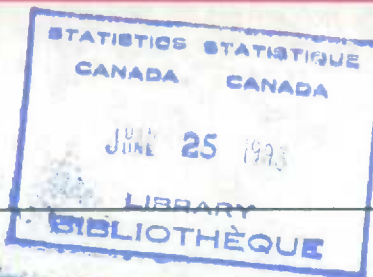




# IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

NOT FOR LOAN  
NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS



Years of  
Excellence  
d'excellence

Friday, June 25, 1993

## OVERVIEW

### Foreign Investors Reduce their Purchases of Canadian Securities

In April, non-residents purchased, on a net basis, \$1.6 billion of Canadian securities, down sharply from their unusually heavy purchase earlier in the year.

### Economic Growth Continues to Pick Up in 1993

Real Gross Domestic Product at market prices grew 0.9% in the first quarter after advancing 0.7% in the fourth quarter of 1992.

### Current Account Deficit Little Changed

Canada's seasonally adjusted current account deficit amounted to \$6.0 billion in the first quarter, virtually unchanged from the previous quarter when it reached its lowest level in more than two years.

### Borrowing by Domestic Non-financial Sectors Increases Sharply

Funds raised by domestic non-financial sectors on credit markets totalled \$120.3 billion at an annual rate in the first quarter, up from \$86.8 billion in the fourth quarter of 1992.

### Higher Food Prices Push Up Consumer Price Index

In May, the Consumer Price Index for Canada increased by 1.8% from a year ago. Higher food prices largely contributed to the rise.

### Sales by Wholesale Merchants Drop

Seasonally adjusted sales by wholesale merchants totalled \$16.2 billion in April, down 2.3% from March but 4.8% above the year-earlier level.

### Retail Sales Rise in April

Sales by retail stores climbed 1.0% in April to a seasonally adjusted level of \$16.1 billion. The trend for retail sales has been rising for the last 12 months.

### Foreign Investors Reduce their Purchases of Canadian Securities

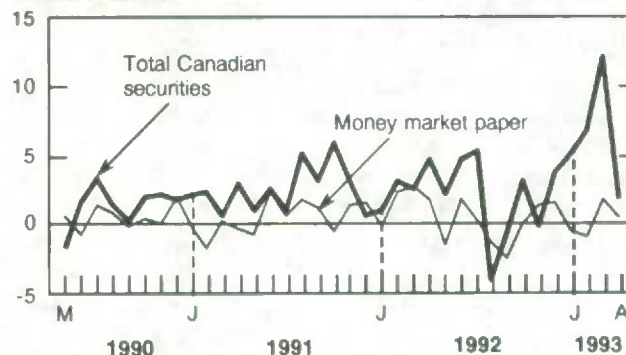
In April, foreign investors acquired, on a net basis, \$1.6 billion of Canadian securities, down sharply from their unusually heavy net buying earlier this year which amounted to an average of nearly \$8.0 billion a month. The net foreign investment in April was spread over Canadian bonds, equities and money market instruments.

Non-residents reduced their purchases of Canadian bonds, acquiring \$0.7 billion, down \$8.8 billion from the previous month. Foreign investors acquired \$3.5 billion in new issues which were partly offset by retirements of maturing bonds in

(continued on page 2)

#### Net Transactions in Securities

Billions of dollars



Statistics Canada  
Statistique Canada

Canada

### ... Foreign Investors Reduce their Purchases of Canadian Securities

the amount of \$2.1 billion. Close to three-quarters of net new bonds were issued by corporations and the balance by federal government enterprises. Surprisingly, the provinces and their enterprises were completely absent from the foreign market in April, after raising over \$10 billion in net new issues in the preceding three months.

In April, non-residents sold a net \$0.7 billion in outstanding Canadian bonds, their first withdrawal since November 1992. (Over the intervening four-month period, non-residents acquired almost \$10 billion in outstanding Canadian issues.) An investment from Europe (\$0.5 billion) was more than offset by net selling from Japan (\$0.5 billion), other Asian countries (\$0.6 billion) and the United States (\$0.1 billion).

Foreign investors reduced their net investment in the Canadian money market, down \$1.3 billion from March to a total of \$0.3 billion in April. Net investment in Government of Canada's treasury bills (\$0.5 billion) was partially offset by a net disinvestment in all other paper (\$0.1 billion).

Since December of 1992, foreign investors have indicated increased interest in Canadian stocks. In April, non-residents purchased \$0.6 billion of Canadian equities, bringing to \$3.8 billion their net investment in the past seven months. Residents of the United States contributed largely to the purchases of Canadian stocks (80%).

For further information, order *Canada's International Transactions in Securities* (catalogue number 67-002) or contact Balance of Payments Division at (613) 951-1864.

## Economic Growth Continues to Pick Up in 1993

The economy continued to pick up in the first quarter as gross domestic product (GDP) at 1986 prices increased 0.9% following a 0.7% rise in the previous quarter. Substantial growth in consumer spending, business outlays for machinery and equipment and exports mostly influenced this rise. Construction was the only component of aggregate demand to decline.

Consumer spending grew substantially in the first quarter, reflected in higher retail sales. A sharp rise in January more than offset a modest decline in February and no change in March. Following two moderate quarterly increases, residential investment fell notably in the first quarter, even though mortgage rates declined and housing prices continued to show weakness.

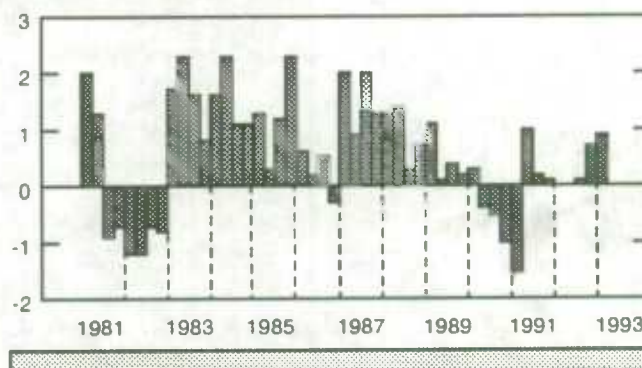
During the first quarter, business investment in plant and equipment increased 1.3%. Purchases of machinery and equipment rose (2.3%) but residential and non-residential construction fell, 5.8% and 0.8% respectively.

Imports grew 2.5% in volume terms during the first quarter, due to increases for motor vehicle parts, crude and refined petroleum, industrial machinery, and office equipment. Real exports increased 1.4%, led by motor vehicles and parts.

Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income grew 1.1% in the first quarter. Higher supplementary labour income accounted for most of this rise. The Atlantic and Prairie regions and Québec mostly felt the continuing weakness in

### GDP at 1986 Prices

% change, previous quarter



employment. Personal income rose 0.9% in the first quarter, reflecting higher labour income and government transfer payments partly offset by lower investment income.

Total government sector spending in current dollars rose 1.1% in the first quarter while government revenue grew 0.4%. The federal deficit, on a national account basis, rose from \$29.2 billion at an annual rate in the fourth quarter to \$32.3 billion in the first quarter.

For further information, order *National Income and Expenditure Accounts* (catalogue number 13-001) or contact *National Accounts and Environment Division* at (613) 951-3640.



## Current Account Deficit Little Changed

Canada's seasonally adjusted current account deficit in the first quarter remained virtually unchanged from the previous quarter at a level of \$6.0 billion.

Both merchandise exports and imports continued to advance, but the merchandise trade surplus declined for the first time in over a year, narrowing from \$3.6 billion in the fourth quarter to \$3.1 billion in the first quarter. Exports advanced by 1.9% to \$43.0 billion in the first quarter, led by increasing sales of automotive products. Merchandise imports rose 3.4% to \$39.9 billion, with all commodity groups registering higher imports.

The investment income account generated a deficit of \$6.0 billion in the first quarter, slightly lower than in the previous quarter. The decrease stemmed from sharp increases in dividend receipts from Canadian direct investment.

The deficit on travel edged up to \$2.0 billion, in line with the quarterly average recorded throughout 1992. More than half of the deficit was realized with the United States.

The capital account, which is not seasonally adjusted, showed that foreign investors acquired an unprecedented amount of Canadian bonds and also invested significantly in Canadian stocks, posting

## Borrowing by Domestic Non-financial Sectors Increases Sharply

Funds raised on credit markets by domestic non-financial sectors totalled \$120.3 billion, seasonally adjusted at annual rates, in the first quarter. This represents a strong increase from the fourth quarter of 1992, when \$86.8 billion was raised. Borrowing by governments and government business enterprises accounted for 62% of all funds raised.

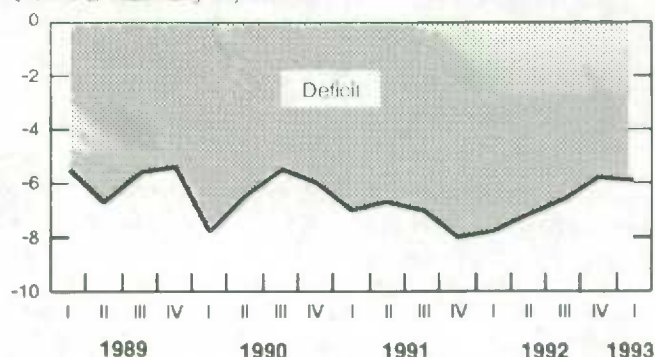
Borrowing by the federal government increased sharply to \$37.7 billion in the first quarter, from \$18.9 billion in the fourth quarter of 1992, in line with a widening in the deficit. Most of the financing came through marketable bonds.

Demand for funds by non-financial private corporations rose to \$19.2 billion in the first quarter, from \$3.5 billion raised in the last quarter of 1992. Business investment in machinery and equipment strengthened substantially and inventory reduction slowed.

Other levels of government softened their demand for funds to \$25.2 billion in the first quarter, following fairly heavy borrowing of \$36.7 billion in the previous quarter. There was a lower level of borrowing in the provincial government sector as shorter-term debt was replaced with longer-term debt.

### Current Account Balance

\$ billions, seasonally adjusted



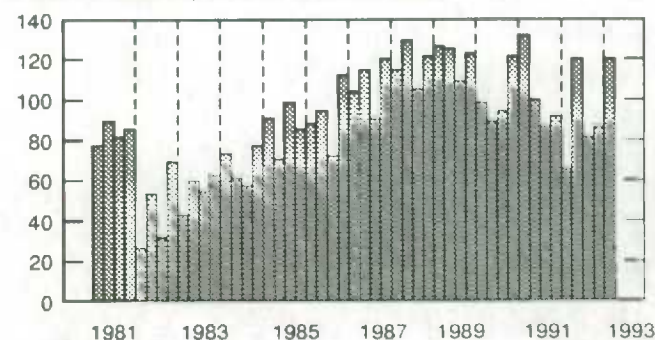
by far the largest net quarterly investment since the market crash of 1987. Conversely, Canadian investors significantly increased their investment abroad.

In contrast with the depreciation that prevailed for most of 1992, the Canadian dollar strengthened against the United States dollar in the first quarter.

For further information, order *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (catalogue number 67-001) or contact *Balance of Payments Division* at (613) 951-9055.

### Total Funds Raised by Domestic Non-financial Sectors

\$ billions, seasonally adjusted at annual rates



Borrowing by the personal sector weakened in the first quarter. It decreased from \$28.6 billion in the fourth quarter of 1992 to \$26.0 billion in the first quarter. Consumer credit debt rose moderately, in line with the growth in personal expenditure on goods. Mortgage borrowing slowed, reflecting the decline in residential construction and sluggish resale activity in the housing market.

For further information, order *Financial Flow Accounts* (catalogue number 13-014) or contact *National Accounts and Environment Division* at (613) 951-3640.

## Higher Food Prices Push Up Consumer Price Index

In May, the All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI, 1986=100) for Canada rose 0.2% to a level of 130.1. Five of the seven major components recorded increases, but food prices contributed the greatest upward influence. On a year-over-year basis, the all-items index increased by 1.8%, unchanged from April's rise.

Following two monthly declines, the food index advanced 1.0% in May. A 1.3% jump was recorded in the food purchased from stores index while the food purchased from restaurants index increased a moderate 0.3%. Notable price increases were observed for fresh vegetables (13.1%). Between May 1992 and May 1993, the food index rose 2.2%, up sharply from the 1.0% rise in April.

The transportation index edged up by 0.1% in May. Higher gasoline prices (1.3%) were almost entirely offset by a 2.5% seasonal drop in the air fares index, mostly on flights to southern destinations.

Higher recreational charges, along with slightly higher prices for selected recreational equipment

and photographic goods, largely contributed to the 0.4% rise in the recreation, reading and education index. Increases were also recorded in the health and personal care index (0.3%) and in the tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index (0.1%).

A 1.0% decline in the clothing index followed a weak rise in March (0.3%) and no movement in April. Seasonal price discounts and sales activities, partly attributable to persistent weakness in demand, accounted mostly for the latest decline. All clothing commodities reported price declines. Among all major components of the CPI, the clothing index showed the smallest 12-month increase, by 0.4%.

Owned accommodation charges (-0.3%) and selected household operation commodity prices (-0.3%) influenced the 0.1% decline in the housing index.

*For further information, order Consumer Price Index (catalogue number 62-001) or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9606. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 8.)*

## PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES: CONSUMER PRICES

The Consumer Price Index, Percentage Change, May 1993/1992 \*

Province/territory	All-items	Food	Energy	Housing	Transportation
Canada	1.8	2.2	2.5	1.3	2.6
Newfoundland	1.5	1.7	-1.0	0.7	1.0
Prince Edward Island	2.1	4.3	1.0	1.8	-0.3
Nova Scotia	0.6	1.9	-3.9	0.3	-0.6
New Brunswick	1.1	1.8	0.5	0.3	0.4
Québec	1.6	1.5	-0.4	1.5	1.5
Ontario	1.6	3.5	3.4	0.6	2.0
Manitoba	3.4	5.7	9.6	1.0	6.9
Saskatchewan	3.1	4.3	5.1	0.9	3.6
Alberta	0.8	-5.0	5.6	1.2	3.3
British Columbia	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.3	5.4
Yukon	1.7	3.2	-2.4	1.3	1.8
Northwest Territories	1.7	0.3	3.3	0.7	2.4

\* Data are not seasonally adjusted.



## Sales by Wholesale Merchants Drop

Seasonally adjusted wholesale sales declined to \$16.2 billion in April, down 2.3% from March. This follows a 0.3% rise in March and a 0.2% fall in February. Still sales increased 4.8% from the level recorded in April 1992.

Seven of the nine major trade groups reported lower sales in April. Wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies posted a 3.9% decline in April, following two consecutive monthly increases. Sales by merchants of food, drug and tobacco products, the largest trade group, decreased for the second consecutive month, this time by 2.8%. The largest monthly increase was recorded by

wholesalers of other products, up 1.2% from the previous month.

After a 1.5% increase in March, sales by distributors of motor vehicles, parts and accessories fell 2.9% in April. Suppliers of lumber and building materials recorded a 4.2% decline in April following a 3.2% rise in March.

All provinces except Newfoundland (3.2%), Saskatchewan (1.5%) and British Columbia (0.1%) posted lower sales in April. Ontario recorded the strongest decline in sales by wholesale merchants, down 4.0% in April, after remaining unchanged in March and decreasing in February (0.6%).

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

## PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

### Retail and Wholesale Trade, April 1993 Seasonally Adjusted

	Retail Sales		Wholesale Sales	
	\$ millions	% change from previous month	\$ millions	% change from previous month
<b>Canada</b>	<b>16,075</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>16,235</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
Newfoundland	277	0.9	177	3.2
Prince Edward Island	70	4.4	40	-3.3
Nova Scotia	529	3.0	345	-2.6
New Brunswick	429	6.0	232	-2.9
Québec	3,939	2.0	3,940	-2.0
Ontario	5,976	0.7	6,628	-4.0
Manitoba	556	0.2	586	-0.3
Saskatchewan	467	-0.3	520	1.5
Alberta	1,679	4.2	1,474	-1.4
British Columbia	2,105	-3.1	2,271	0.1
Yukon	17	-1.1	21	4.5
Northwest Territories	34	3.5		

### Retail Sales Rise in April

Seasonally adjusted retail sales advanced 1.0% in April to \$16.1 billion, following declines in March (0.1%) and February (1.1%). Sales were up 4.9% from their year-earlier level, the eleventh straight month to report a year-over-year increase. Up 0.3% in April 1993, the trend for retail sales has been rising steadily since April 1992.

Thirteen of the 16 major trade groups recorded higher sales in April, led by the automotive (2.2%) and other retail stores (1.5%) groups. The food and drug groups registered decreases of 0.3% and 0.5%, respectively.

Following declines in the preceding two months, automotive sales increased sharply in April. A strong gain in sales by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers (3.8%) accounted largely for

this rise. The trend for automotive retailers has been rising for fifteen consecutive months, but at a slower pace of rate. The clothing sector also registered a gain in April, partly due to stronger sales in shoe stores (5.0%).

Sales in the food sector decreased in April for the third consecutive month. This decline was due to lower sales by supermarkets and grocery stores (-0.4%), which had recorded rising sales since July 1992.

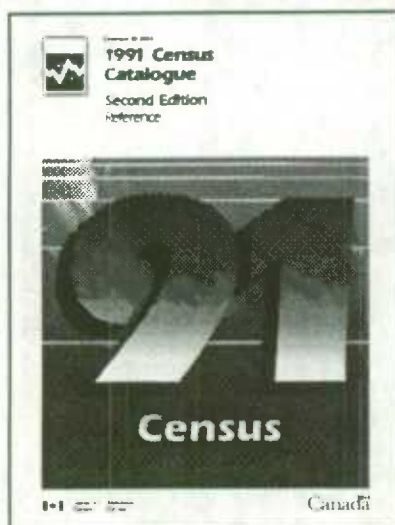
Nine provinces and territories posted higher sales, with increases ranging from 6.0% in New Brunswick to 0.2% in Manitoba. Decreases were reported by British Columbia (3.1%), the Yukon (1.1%) and Saskatchewan (0.3%).

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

# PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JUNE 18 TO 24, 1993

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
<b>CENSUS</b>					
1991 Census Catalogue, Second Edition	1991	92-302E	15	18	21
<b>INDUSTRY</b>					
Campus Bookstores	Academic Year 1991-92	63-219	22	26	31
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables – Monthly	April 1993	32-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Chemical and Chemical Products Industries	1990	46-250	35	42	49
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers	May 1993	36-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Electric Lamps (light bulbs and tubes)	May 1993	43-009	5/50	6/60	7/70
Fabricated Metal Products Industries	1990	41-251	35	42	49
Logging Industry	1990	25-201	30	36	42
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation	May 1993	44-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks	May 1993	32-001	2.70/27	3.20/32	3.80/38
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	April 1993	31-001	17.30/173	20.80/208	24.20/242
Production and Shipments of Blow-Moulded Plastic Bottles	Quarter Ended March 31, 1993	47-006	6.75/27	8/32	9.50/38
Refined Petroleum and Coal Products Industries	1990	45-250	35	42	49
Retail Trade	March 1993	63-005	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Rubber and Plastic Products Industries	1990	33-250	35	42	49
The Sugar Situation	May 1993	32-013	5/50	6/60	7/70
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>					
Exports by Country	January-March 1993	65-003	82.75/331	99.25/397	115.75/463
<b>INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK</b>					
Building Permits	April 1993	64-001	22.10/221	26.50/265	30.90/309
Industrial Capacity Utilization Rates in Canada	First Quarter 1993	31-003	11/44	13.25/53	15.50/62
<b>PRICES</b>					
Construction Price Statistics	First Quarter 1993	62-007	18/72	21.50/86	25.25/101
Farm Input Price Index	First Quarter 1993	62-004	18/72	22/88	25/100
The Consumer Price Index	May 1993	62-001	9.30/93	11.20/112	13/130
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>					
Air Carrier Operations in Canada	April-June 1992	51-002	24.25/97	29/116	34/136
Aviation Service Bulletin, Vol. 25, No. 6	June 1993	51-004	9.30/93	11.20/112	13/130
Railway Operating Statistics, Vol. 72, No. 12	December 1992	52-003	10.50/105	12.60/126	14.70/147

## NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



### 1991 Census Catalogue Second Edition

The second edition of *1991 Census Catalogue* is now available. The catalogue describes the products and services of the 1991 Census of Population, the 1991 Census of Agriculture, the Post-censal Surveys Program and the Employment Equity Data Program.

The catalogue contains details on the availability, price, medium (print or electronic), content and catalogue numbers of the products and services.

It also uses symbols, charts, maps, a glossary of geographic terms, and data quality notes to help users learn more about the census products and services that are available from Statistics Canada.

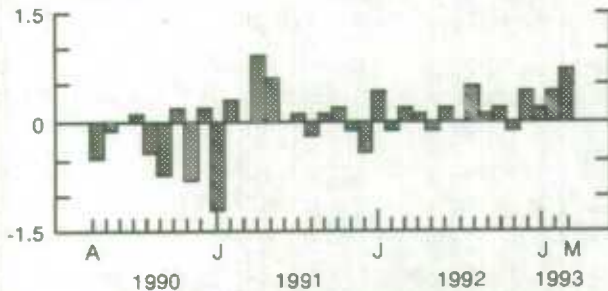
*To order the second edition of 1991 Census Catalogue (catalogue number 92-302E, \$15), contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.*



## CURRENT TRENDS

### Gross Domestic Product

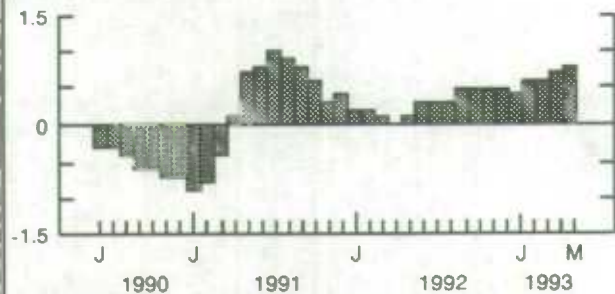
% change,  
previous month



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

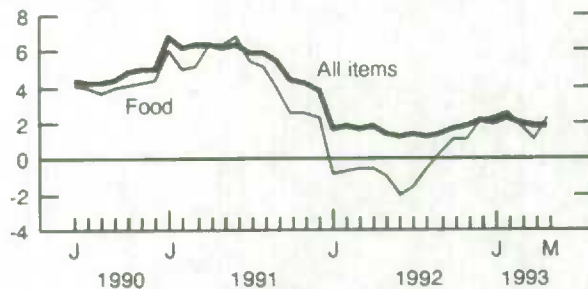
% change,  
previous month



The composite leading indicator continued to accelerate in May, rising by 0.8% from April. This marked its largest monthly increase in nearly two years.

### Consumer Price Index

% change,  
previous year



The year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI was 1.8% in May, identical to the rise registered in April. The food index rose by 2.2%.

### Unemployment Rate

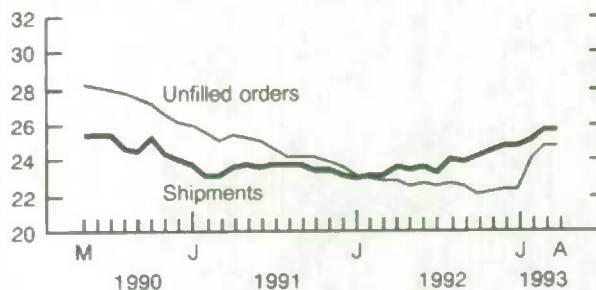
%



In May, the unemployment rate stayed at 11.4%, unchanged from April.

### Manufacturing

Billions  
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments decreased by 0.4% in April following six straight monthly increases. The level of unfilled orders edged up by 0.1% after climbing by 3.5% in March.

### Merchandise Trade

Billions  
of dollars



The seasonally adjusted value of merchandise exports climbed 2.3% in April while imports edged down by 0.1%, pushing Canada's trade balance up by \$347 million.

**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)	March	513.3	0.7%	2.7%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	May	152.8	0.8%	6.0%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	1st Quarter	11.4	51.5%	3.3%
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	April*	16.1	1.0%	4.9%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	April	100.2	1.0%	0.4%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	May	12.3	0.0%	1.0%
Unemployment Rate (%)	May	11.4	0.0	0.2
Participation Rate (%)	May	65.2	-0.1	-0.3
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)	April	14.8	2.3%	17.4%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	April	13.7	-0.1%	14.2%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	April	1.2	0.35	0.50
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
Shipments (\$ billion)	April	25.6	-0.4%	8.8%
New Orders (\$ billion)	April	25.6	-3.4%	9.1%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	April	24.8	0.1%	9.1%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	April	1.34	0.01	-0.14
Capacity Utilization (%)	1st Quarter	78.4	1.7	4.6
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	May*	130.1	0.2%	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)	April	136.4	0.5%	1.7%

*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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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM and E-STAT, Statistics Canada's computerized data retrieval systems. A telephone inquiry service is available with toll-free access for clients who are located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services – from seminars to consultations – are also offered. Call or write your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre for more information.

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S4P 0R7

Local calls: (306) 780-5405  
Toll free: 1-800-563-7828  
Fax: 1-306-780-5403

### Alberta and the Northwest Territories

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
8th Floor, Park Square  
10001 Bellamy Hill  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 3B6

Local calls: (403) 495-3027  
Toll free: 1-800-563-7828  
Fax: 1-403-495-5318

### Southern Alberta

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
First Street Plaza, Room 401  
138-4th Avenue Southeast  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2G 4Z6

Local calls: (403) 292-4181  
Toll free: 1-800-563-7828  
Fax: 1-403-292-4958

### British Columbia and the Yukon

Advisory Services  
Statistics Canada  
Sinclair Centre, Suite 440F  
757 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6C 3C9

Local calls: (604) 666-3691  
Toll free: 1-800-663-1551  
Fax: 1-604-666-4863

### Telecommunications Device for the Hearing Impaired

Toll free: 1-800-363-7629