



IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

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Friday, July 30, 1993



Years of Ans
Excellence d'excellence

OVERVIEW

■ Number of UI Beneficiaries Continues to Decrease

The seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits decreased for the seventh straight month in May, although the pace has slowed in the last two months.

■ Lower Crude Oil Prices Push Down RMPI

In June, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) decreased for the first time since January, due to a drop in the mineral fuels index.

■ Industrial Product Prices Edge Up in June

The Industrial Product Price Index advanced by 0.1% in June. This was a continuation of the upward trend evident since April 1992.

■ Retail Sales Unchanged in May

Seasonally adjusted retail sales totalled \$16.1 billion in May, unchanged from the previous month. The unchanged volume of sales follows a 1.2% increase in April.

■ Wholesalers Report Strong Increase in Sales

Sales by wholesale merchants rose 1.9% in May, led by the activity of suppliers of food, beverage, drug and tobacco products.

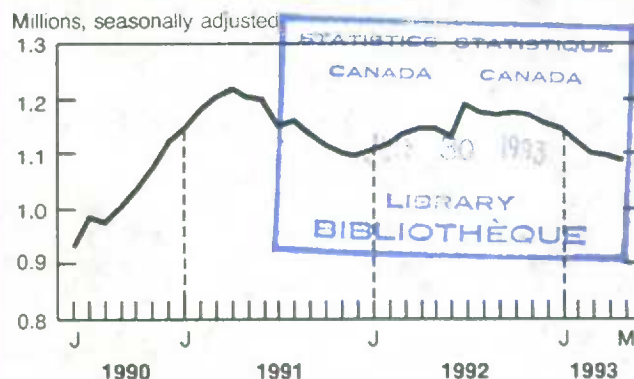
Number of UI Beneficiaries Continues to Decrease

The seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits decreased for the seventh straight month in May, but at a slower pace in the last two months. At 1.1 million, the number of beneficiaries stood 5.1% below the level of May 1992, the third consecutive year-over-year decline after eight straight increases.

The decrease in the number of beneficiaries was broadly-based: seven provinces and the Northwest Territories posted drops in the number of UI beneficiaries. On a year-over-year basis, all 10

(continued on page 2)

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

... Number of UI Beneficiaries Continues to Decrease

provinces and the Northwest Territories recorded decreases. The Yukon posted a 53.3% jump in the number of beneficiaries. (See accompanying table.)

Total benefit payments for May edged down by 0.2% from April to \$1.24 billion and were 1.9% less than the amount paid in May 1992. Beneficiaries collected 4.8 million weeks of unemployment insurance, a reduction of 0.5% from April.

For further information, order Unemployment Insurance Statistics (catalogue number 73-001) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4045.

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits, May 1993

Seasonally Adjusted

Province/Territory	Total (000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	1,085	-0.7	-5.1
Newfoundland	60	-4.8	-17.7
Prince Edward Island	14	0.1	-4.7
Nova Scotia	53	-0.8	-4.6
New Brunswick	56	0.0	-6.1
Québec	358	-0.2	-1.5
Ontario	298	-0.2	-7.7
Manitoba	29	-0.6	-4.2
Saskatchewan	23	-4.7	-5.4
Alberta	74	-2.4	-4.4
British Columbia	120	0.2	-1.8
Yukon	2	1.3	53.3
Northwest Territories	2	-0.1	-4.7

Lower Crude Oil Prices Push Down RMPI

In June, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1986=100) decreased for the first time since January, down 0.3% from May to a level of 114.8. The mineral fuels index, which accounts for almost one-third of the RMPI, was the largest component to post a decline. Excluding mineral fuels, the RMPI registered a 0.7% increase and rose 12.5% in comparison with June 1992.

Even though five of seven major indexes recorded monthly increases, they were not enough to offset decreases in the mineral fuels and vegetable products indexes. The mineral fuels index fell by 2.7% as a result of lower prices for crude oil (-3.0%), and the vegetable products index decreased by 1.3%.

The wood index was up by 1.9% because of a 2.3% increase in log and bolt prices, which have been rising steadily since December 1991. The monthly rate of increase in the wood index has slowed somewhat in recent months. However, in comparison with June 1992, the wood index rose by 43.3% on the strength of a 58.7% surge in log and bolt prices.

The animal and animal products index edged up by 0.3%, reflecting higher prices for hogs (8.6%). The increase was partly offset by a 2.3% drop in cattle and calves prices.

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

Industrial Product Prices Edge Up in June

The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) advanced by 0.1% in June to 112.1, a continuation of the upward movement observed since April 1992. This small increase still pushed the IPPI 2.9% above its year-earlier level of 108.9. Prices increased in 15 major groups of products in June, fell in four and remained unchanged in two.

During June, the change in value of the American dollar relative to the Canadian dollar had an upward influence on export prices denominated in U.S. currency. This change affected the autos,

trucks and other transportation equipment index as it increased by 0.3% to 109.4, its highest level since 1986.

The chemicals and chemical products index increased 0.9%, mainly because of a 5.0% price increase for industrial organic chemicals.

The lumber, sawmill and other wood products index fell 1.8%, the second decrease in as many months, but still stood 16.1% above its level of June 1992.

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

Retail Sales Unchanged in May

In May, seasonally adjusted retail sales amounted to \$16.1 billion, unchanged from April. After an exceptionally large gain in January (2.2%), sales have not changed significantly because of offsetting fluctuations in monthly movements. However, sales were up 5.5% from a year earlier, the twelfth straight month to show a year-over-year increase.

Lower sales were recorded in nine of 16 major trade groups in May, notably in the automotive (-0.5%) and furniture (-0.8%) sectors. Higher sales in the food sector (0.5%) had an offsetting effect.

All major automotive components showed decreases but the largest downward influence came from a 0.9% sales decrease for gasoline service

stations. This was the third consecutive monthly decrease for this trade group. Sales by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers fell 0.2% after a particularly strong 3.9% rise in April.

Sales by supermarkets and grocery stores advanced 0.7% in May following three consecutive monthly declines. Sales in the food sector have closely followed food price movements.

Retail sales fell in most parts of the country in May although stronger retail sales were reported in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and the Yukon. But on a year-over-year basis, sales were higher in all provinces and territories.

For further information, order *Retail Trade* (catalogue number 63-005) or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3551.

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Retail and Wholesale Trade, May 1993

Seasonally Adjusted

	Retail Sales		Wholesale Sales	
	\$ millions	% change from previous month	\$ millions	% change from previous month
Canada	16,110	0.0	16,521	1.9
Newfoundland	270	-2.4	175	-0.7
Prince Edward Island	68	-1.9	41	3.2
Nova Scotia	534	0.6	360	4.7
New Brunswick	412	-4.0	240	3.6
Québec	3,911	-0.8	4,000	1.6
Ontario	5,982	-0.1	6,822	3.0
Manitoba	547	-1.5	583	-0.1
Saskatchewan	466	-0.2	511	-1.2
Alberta	1,691	0.0	1,511	2.0
British Columbia	2,178	3.2	2,257	0.0
Yukon	17	0.5	22	-0.3
Northwest Territories	33	-1.6		

Wholesalers Report Strong Increase in Sales

Seasonally adjusted sales by wholesale merchants rose 1.9% to \$16.5 billion in May, the largest monthly increase since May 1991. The increase followed weaker sales in April (-2.7%) and a small rise in March (0.3%). This rise pushed sales 5.1% above their May 1992 level.

The May increase was broadly based as seven of the nine trade groups recorded higher sales, led by the activity of suppliers of food, beverage, drug and tobacco products. Sales by this group, which accounts for more than a quarter of total sales, grew by 3.5% after two months of lower sales.

The second largest rise was by wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies. Still a 2.8% rise in sales did not recoup a 6.6% drop in April, leaving sales 2.7% below their year-earlier

level of \$3.6 billion. Sales by distributors of other products (farm and paper products, agricultural supplies, industrial and household chemicals, etc.) were up by 1.6% after two straight months of declines.

The only decrease was reported by wholesalers of lumber and building materials. Their sales fell for the second consecutive month, by 2.1% in May, following four months of growth. For household goods, an unchanged volume of sales followed a 3.0% drop in April.

Six of the provinces had higher sales while Saskatchewan wholesalers reported the steepest decrease in sales. The volume of sales in British Columbia remained unchanged but in comparison with May 1992, sales stood 10.6% above their year-earlier level.

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

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

Canada's International Transactions in Services

This publication is a unique source of information on Canada's international trade in services. Trade offices, analysts, consultants, embassies, consulates, and researchers can find invaluable data here on Canada's performance in the exchange of transborder services.

Were you aware, for example, that Canadian travellers spent less on goods in the United States during 1992? That almost 70% of business services imports are from the United States, over 60% from affiliates located there? That most exports of business services are to unrelated parties and are conducted largely by companies operating in the finance, services and retailing industries? This and more information is available on international travel, business services, transportation, government services, and other services.

Canada's International Transactions in Services, 1991 and 1992 (catalogue number 67-203, \$32) will be available next week. For further information, contact Hugh Henderson at (613) 951-9049, Balance of Payments Division.



Adults with Disabilities: Their Employment and Education Characteristics

The information in this publication was obtained from the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Data tables include information for Canada, the provinces and territories, and 17 selected census metropolitan areas; data are tabulated for persons with and without disabilities between 15 and 64 years of age.

To obtain a copy of Adults with Disabilities: Their Employment and Education Characteristics, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey (catalogue number 82-554, \$60), contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. For more information on this release, contact the Post-Censal Surveys Program at (613) 951-4414.

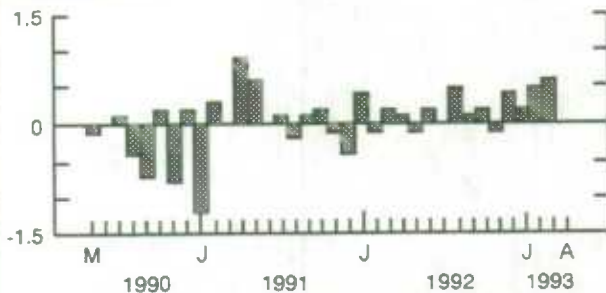
PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JULY 23 TO 29, 1993

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
AGRICULTURE					
Fruit and Vegetable Production	July 1993	22-003	18/72	21.50/86	25.25/101
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION					
Hospital Morbidity	1990-1991	82-216	20	24	28
List of Canadian Hospitals	1992	83-239	20	24	28
INDUSTRY					
Construction Type Plywood	May 1993	35-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers	June 1993	36-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production	April 1993	26-006	10/100	12/120	14/140
Department Store Sales and Stocks	March 1993	63-002	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Electric Lamps	June 1993	43-009	5/50	6/60	7/70
Gas Utilities	April 1993	55-002	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation	June 1993	44-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
New Motor Vehicle Sales	March 1993	63-007	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies	May 1993	35-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia	May 1993	35-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
Wholesale Trade Statistics, Wholesale Merchants, Agents and Brokers	1990	63-226	34	41	48
POST-CENSAL SURVEYS					
Adults with Disabilities: Their Employment and Education Characteristics, Health and Activity Limitation Survey	1991	82-554	60	72	84
PRICES					
Farm Product Price Index	May 1993	62-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
Industry Price Indexes	May 1993	62-011	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics	April 1993	63-011	6.10/61	7.30/73	8.50/85
Telephone Statistics	May 1993	56-002	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116
SOCIAL SURVEY METHODS					
Survey Methodology	June 1993	12-001	35	42	49
TRANSPORTATION					
Air Passenger Origin and Destination, Domestic Report	1992	51-204	38	46	53

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

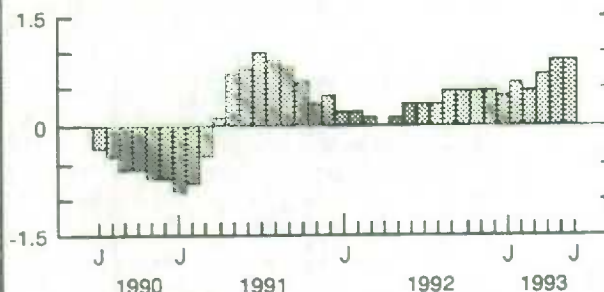
% change,
previous month



Gross domestic product at factor cost was unchanged in April following a 0.6% gain in March and average monthly growth of 0.4% since December.

Composite Leading Indicator

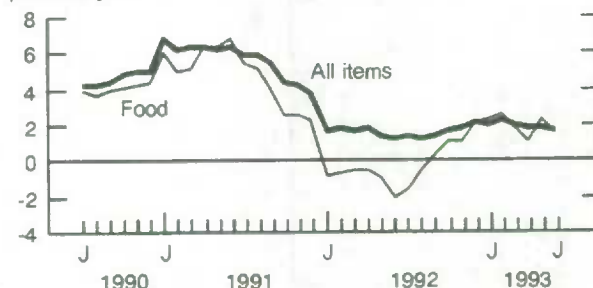
% change,
previous month



The composite leading indicator continued its year-long improvement in June, rising by 0.9% for the second consecutive month.

Consumer Price Index

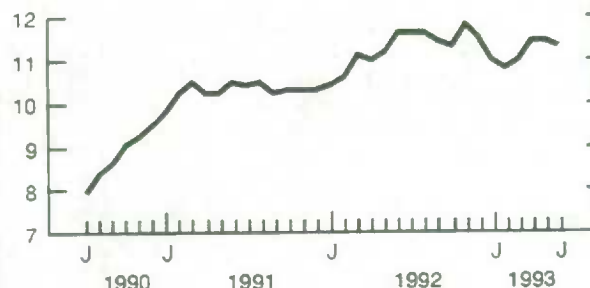
% change,
previous year



The year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI was 1.6% in June, the lowest year-over-year change since November 1992. The food index rose by 1.5%.

Unemployment Rate

%



The unemployment rate edged down to 11.3% in June after remaining at 11.4% for two straight months.

Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments fell for the second straight month, by 1.2% in May, and the level of unfilled orders dropped 1.6%.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



In May, seasonally adjusted merchandise imports climbed 2.2% while exports fell 2.0%, reducing Canada's trade balance to \$612 million from \$1.2 billion in April.

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)	April	512.3	0.0%	2.3%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	June	154.2	0.9%	6.7%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	1st Quarter	11.4	51.5%	3.3%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	May	16.1	0.0%	5.5%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	May	101.0	0.3%	1.9%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	June	12.4	0.8%	1.6%
Unemployment Rate (%)	June	11.3	-0.1	-0.3
Participation Rate (%)	June	65.6	0.4	-0.1
Labour Income (\$ billion)	April	33.2	-0.2%	3.3%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	April	559.47	0.2%	2.5%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	May	14.5	-2.0%	14.3%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	May	13.9	2.2%	17.3%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	May	0.61	-0.59	-0.24
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	May	25.1	-1.2%	7.4%
New Orders (\$ billion)	May	24.8	-2.4%	7.1%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	May	24.2	-1.6%	8.1%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	May	1.37	0.02	-0.12
Capacity Utilization (%)	1st Quarter	78.4	1.7	4.6
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	June	130.2	0.1%	1.6%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	June*	112.1	0.1%	2.9%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	June*	114.8	-0.3%	6.3%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	May	135.8	-0.4%	1.2%

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: AUGUST 1993*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3 Trusted Pension Plans, First Quarter Short-term Expectations Survey	4 Private and Public Investment in Canada, Revised Intention 1993 Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries, July Help-wanted Index, July	5 Migration, 1991-92	6 Labour Force Survey, July
9 New Motor Vehicle Sales, June Estimates of Labour Income, May	10 New Housing Price Index, June Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area, June	11 Canadian Leading Indicator, July Farm Product Price Index, June	12	13 Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, June
16	17 Building Permits, June Department Store Sales - Advance Release, July	18 Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, June	19 Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, June Sales of Natural Gas, June Farm Cash Receipts, January-June	20 Consumer Price Index, July
23 Retail Trade, June	24 Wholesale Trade, June	25 Canada's International Transactions in Securities, June Unemployment Insurance Statistics, June Field Crop Reporting Series: No. 5	26 Quarterly Financial Statistics of Enterprises, Second Quarter Families, 1992	27 Industrial Product Price Index, July Raw Materials Price Index, July International Travel Account, Second Quarter
30 Employment, Earnings and hours, June Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, July	31 National Income and Expenditure Accounts (Gross Domestic Product), Second Quarter Canadian Balance of International Payments, Second Quarter Financial Flow Accounts, Second Quarter Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry, June			

* Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series may change.

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