

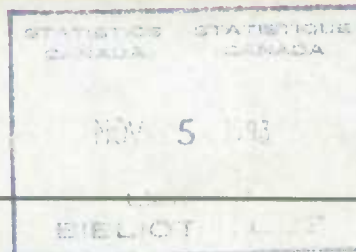


IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS

Friday, November 5, 1993



OVERVIEW

■ UI Beneficiaries: First Rise in 10 Months

In August, 21,700 more Canadians (in seasonally adjusted figures) received regular unemployment insurance benefits, reversing the declining trend observed since November 1992.

■ Help-wanted Ads Increase in October

Job prospects were somewhat brighter in October as there were gains in four of five regional Help-wanted Indexes.

■ Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Slows

Seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings of Canadian workers rose 1.7% between August 1992 and August 1993, a deceleration from growth rates of 2.0% in June and 1.8% in July. Average weekly earnings reached a level of \$560.61.

■ Business Conditions Outlook Improves Slightly

The balance of Canadian manufacturers' opinions concerning business conditions continued to be negative in October 1993 but improved slightly from the previous survey.

■ Economy Moves Ahead Slowly

Real gross domestic product at factor cost crept up 0.1% in August after slipping by 0.1% in July.

■ Employment in the Public Sector Stabilizes in 1992

In 1992, public sector employment remained unchanged from 1991. This was the first year since 1987 that public sector employment did not increase.

UI Beneficiaries: First Rise in 10 Months

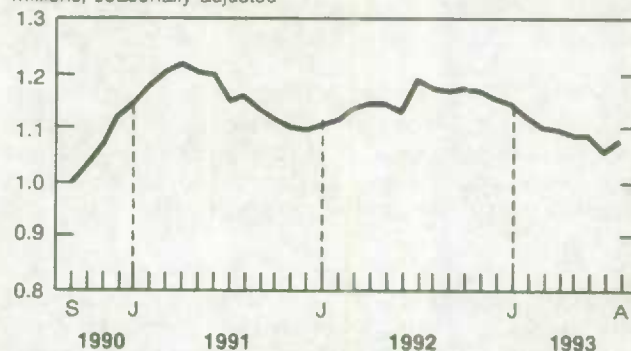
The seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits rose by 2.1% in August to 1.08 million persons. This increase reverses the declining trend evident since November 1992. Despite this, the number of beneficiaries still stood 8.1% below the level of a year ago (1.17 million), the sixth consecutive month to have a year-over-year decrease.

On a monthly basis, the number of beneficiaries increased in all provinces except in British Columbia and in the territories. However, on a year-over-year basis, only Prince Edward Island and the Yukon recorded increases.

(continued on page 2)

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits

Millions, seasonally adjusted



Statistics
Canada

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Canada

... UI Beneficiaries: First Rise in 10 Months

Total benefit payments for August rose 0.9% from July to \$1.22 billion but were 7.6% less than the \$1.32 billion paid in August 1992. Beneficiaries collected 4.73 million weeks of unemployment insurance, up from 4.68 million in July.

For further information, order *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (catalogue number 73-001) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4044.

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits, August 1993

Seasonally Adjusted Province/ Territory	Total (000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	1,075	2.1	-8.1
Newfoundland	61	0.6	-17.1
Prince Edward Island	14	1.8	2.3
Nova Scotia	51	1.2	-5.2
New Brunswick	57	1.4	-2.1
Québec	350	3.6	-5.4
Ontario	294	0.7	-12.3
Manitoba	29	2.5	-5.8
Saskatchewan	24	2.1	-5.5
Alberta	76	4.7	-4.3
British Columbia	117	-0.5	-8.1
Yukon	2	-1.8	37.5
Northwest Territories	2	-1.4	-9.2

Help-wanted Ads Increase in October

In spite of a 7% advance, the October seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada (1991=100) stood 8 points below its May level of 95 – the highest reached so far this year. However, in relation to 1992, the current index (87) was 2% above the level reached 12 months earlier.

Help-wanted ads increased in four of five regions but fell for the fifth month in a row in the Atlantic region.

Compared to October 1992, more help-wanted ads appeared in Québec and the Prairie provinces, when the indexes were at 86 and 79, respectively.

Changes in Indexes by Region

	October	May Level
British Columbia	up 9% to 85	90
Prairie provinces	up 8% to 86	87
Québec	up 7% to 92	97
Ontario	up 5% to 85	96
Atlantic provinces	down 1% to 77	101

The current indexes for British Columbia, Ontario and the Atlantic provinces are below last year's level.

For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4044.

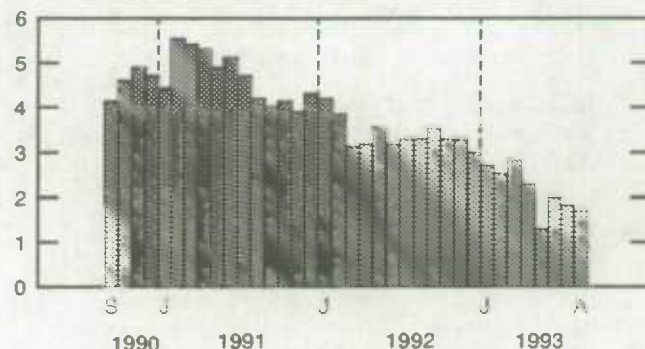
Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Slows

In August, seasonally adjusted average weekly earnings of Canadian workers were virtually flat and stood at \$560.61. The year-over-year growth rate decelerated, from 2.0% in June to 1.8% in July and to 1.7% in August. Lower wage settlements partly accounted for the continuing trend of smaller increases in earnings. A change in the employment mix towards lower-paying industries also contributed to the lower earnings growth.

The lowest year-over-year changes in earnings were in business services, public administration and construction. Average weekly earnings in business services, which reported 509,000 employees in August, stood at \$580.22, a 1.3% drop from August 1992. This was the fourth consecutive month in which earnings declined from the previous year.

Average Weekly Earnings

% change, previous year



(continued on page 3)

... Growth in Average Weekly Earnings Slows

In public administration, average weekly earnings were little changed from the previous year and stood at \$735.13. Earnings rose 0.5% from August 1992, the lowest increase recorded this year. The slowdown was partly due to measures taken in Ontario where public sector employees had to take unpaid holidays.

Average weekly earnings in construction rose 0.3% on a year-over-year basis to \$642.30, which represents the second consecutive year-over-year increase following two months of declines.

Business Conditions Outlook Improves Slightly

According to the Business Conditions Survey, 26% of Canadian manufacturers expect to reduce production over the next three months, down from 34% in the previous survey. Twenty-one per cent plan to increase output, down from 25%, while 53% expect production to remain the same, up from 41% in the previous survey. The balance of opinion continues to be negative, although less so, having moved from -9 in July to -5 in October.

The proportion reporting rising new orders is 20%, down from 22%, while the proportion reporting falling orders is 16%, down from 20%. Almost two-thirds of manufacturers reported new orders were about the same, up from 58% in the previous survey. The balance of opinion for new orders improved by 2% and has remained positive during the last four quarters.

The proportion reporting a higher-than-normal backlog of orders is 16%, up from 10% in the previous survey, while 21% feel that their unfilled order books are lower-than-normal, down from 32%. The balance of opinion concerning the backlog

Employment in August remained slightly below 10.0 million, virtually unchanged since April 1993. Half of the provinces registered increases in August. Among the larger provinces, Québec (0.7%) and British Columbia (0.8%) registered the biggest increases. In Ontario, employment slipped 0.1%.

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

Note to Users

The balance of opinion is the difference between the proportion of positive responses, such as higher volume of production, and negative responses, such as lower volume of production.

of unfilled orders moved from -22 in July to -5 in October, a level last seen in April 1989. The balance had bottomed out in April 1991 at -58.

The level of concern about employment prospects and current inventory levels remained high. The survey found 23% plan to reduce employment over the next three months, up from 22%, while 65% plan no change in employment. Only 12% plan to increase employment. The balance of opinion moved from -13 in July to -11 in October.

The percentage reporting their inventory levels were "about right" was 62, down from 76% in the previous survey, 7% said they were "too low" and 31% "too high". The balance of opinion moved from -18 in July to -24 in October.

For further information, contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3507.

Economy Moves Ahead Slowly

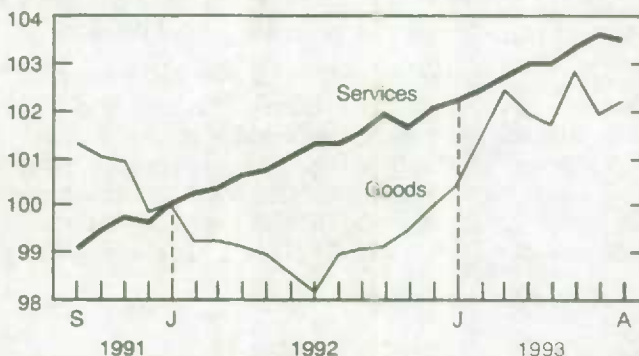
Real gross domestic product at factor cost crept up 0.1% in August after slipping by 0.1% in July. A rebound in manufacturing sparked a 0.4% advance in goods production while activity in the service-producing industries edged down by 0.1%, the first decline in nine months.

The 0.4% increase in goods production followed a drop of 0.9% in July. Manufacturing accounted for most of the advance but output of utilities and agriculture also contributed. Manufacturers raised output 0.8% after a similar decline in July. The gain was concentrated in durable goods, which grew 1.5%.

Elsewhere in manufacturing, producers of electrical and electronic products cut output 2.3% following a reduction of 1.6% in July. Production of

Gross Domestic Product Output by Sector

Index (January 1992 = 100)



(continued on page 4)

... Economy Moves Ahead Slowly

office machinery accounted for most of the decline, dropping 9.6%, due to weaker exports of office machines and equipment in August. Output of paper and allied products fell 2.0% as manufacturers of pulp and paper reduced production 2.4%. Shipments of newsprint to the United States decreased in four of the last five months and domestic demand for wood pulp and other paper also weakened in August.

Output of utilities advanced 1.0%, led by a 1.4% gain in electricity. Domestic demand and exports of electricity improved recently, while imports fell sharply over the last three months. Output of the forestry industry dropped 3.9%, its fourth consecutive monthly decline. Construction activity

fell a further 0.4%, its third straight monthly decline, as weakness in residential construction more than offset gains in non-residential and engineering construction.

Output of services fell 0.1% after increasing by 0.3% in June and July. The weakness in services was fairly widespread as government services, wholesale trade, and transportation and storage all recorded significant drops. Gains in finance, insurance and real estate and in communications moderated the downturn.

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.)

Employment in the Public Sector Stabilizes in 1992

In 1992, public sector employment, consisting of nearly 2.7 million employees, remained unchanged from 1991. This was the first year since 1987 that public sector employment did not increase. Public sector employment accounted for 23.0% of all employment in Canada. Remuneration, however, increased 3.8% from 1991, to \$95.7 billion. The annual average growth rate for government remuneration from 1987 to 1991 was 6.4%.

The federal government employed close to 413,000 people in 1992, a decrease of 1.3% over 1991, which may be primarily attributed to a reduction in military personnel and to the end of temporary employment for those hired for the 1991 Census of Population. The annual average growth rate for federal government employment between 1987 and 1991 was 1.3%.

Provincial and territorial government employment averaged 964,000 employees, a year-over-year decline of 0.2%. The annual average growth rate for provincial and territorial government employment between 1987 and 1991 was 1.7%. The 1992 decline was mainly due to a reduction in provincial hospital employment (-1.1%). Hospitals employed 492,000 people in 1992, representing 51.0% of total provincial and territorial government employment.

Local governments employed 959,000 people in 1992, an advance of 1.5% from 1991, but half the 3.0% annual average growth rate recorded from 1987 through 1991. Local school boards, accounting for a large part (54.1%) of total local government employment, employed 519,000 employees, an increase of 1.5% from 1991. Local hospital

Public Sector Employment and Remuneration, 1992

	Number of employees	% of total paid workers	Remuneration \$ millions	% Change from 1991
Public Sector	2,685,174	23.0	95,651	3.8
Total Government	2,335,361	19.9	81,373	4.2
Federal	412,914	2.5	16,894	3.3
Provincial/territorial	963,613	8.7	30,679	3.6
Local	958,833	8.7	33,799	5.3
Total Government Business Enterprise	349,813	3.1	14,279	1.3
Federal	149,395	1.3	5,367	-1.8
Provincial/territorial	147,647	1.3	6,604	2.4
Local	52,771	0.5	2,308	5.7

employment, representing 7.0% of local government employment, averaged 67,000 employees, a decline of 0.9% from 1991.

Federal and provincial governments throughout Canada have announced policies to downsize or privatize public enterprises. As a result of these policies and general business conditions, employment in government business enterprises has dropped by 14.3% since 1987. In 1992, employment declined 1.7% to reach 350,000 employees.

For further information, order *Public Sector Employment and Remuneration* (catalogue number 72-209) or contact *Public Institutions Division* at (613) 951-8306.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM OCT. 29 TO NOV. 4, 1993

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (Cdn.\$)	United States	Other Countries
			US\$		
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM					
Education Statistics Bulletin: Financial Statistics of Community Colleges and Vocational Schools, Vol. 15, No. 3	1990-91	81-002	4.90/49	5.90/59	6.90/69
INDUSTRY					
Asphalt Roofing	September 1993	45-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Coal and Coke Statistics	August 1993	45-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production	July 1993	26-006	10/100	12/120	14/140
Electric Power Statistics	August 1993	57-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Gas Utilities	July 1993	55-002	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
General Review of the Mineral Industries	1991	26-201	22	26	31
Gypsum Products	September 1993	44-003	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder	September 1993	32-024	5/50	6/60	7/70
Refined Petroleum Products	July 1993	45-004	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Retail Trade	August 1993	63-005	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Rigid Insulating Board (Wood Fibre Products)	September 1993	36-002	5/50	6/60	7/70
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products	September 1993	41-006	5/50	6/60	7/70
The Sugar Situation	September 1993	32-013	5/50	6/60	7/70
Wholesale Trade	August 1993	63-008	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Imports by Commodity	August 1993	65-007	55.10/551	66.10/661	77.10/771
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS					
Public Sector Employment and Remuneration	1992 (With Historical Data from 1988)	72-209	39	47	55
TRANSPORTATION					
Surface and Marine Transport Service Bulletin, Vol. 9, No. 6		50-002	9.40/75	11.25/90	13.15/105

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Public Sector Employment and Remuneration

The second edition of *Public Sector Employment and Remuneration, 1992* (with historical data from 1988) presents employment and remuneration data for the federal, provincial, territorial and local public sectors. The public sector universe encompasses all organizations, whether commercial or non-commercial, under the control of a government.

For the first time, the publication includes data on provincial health institutions, local school boards, hospitals and government business enterprises.

Public Sector Employment and Remuneration, 1992 (catalogue number 72-209, \$39) is now available. For further information, contact the Data Dissemination and External Relations Section (613-951-0767) or the Public Employment Section (613-951-8306), Public Institutions Division.

Challenges of Measuring an Ethnic World : Science, Politics and Reality

In April 1992, Statistics Canada and the United States Bureau of the Census jointly sponsored an international conference on the measurement of ethnicity. The record of that conference, *Challenges of Measuring an Ethnic World: Science, Politics and Reality* is a comprehensive source of information on the theories, concepts, policies and practices that drive the collection and analysis of data on ethnicity and race.

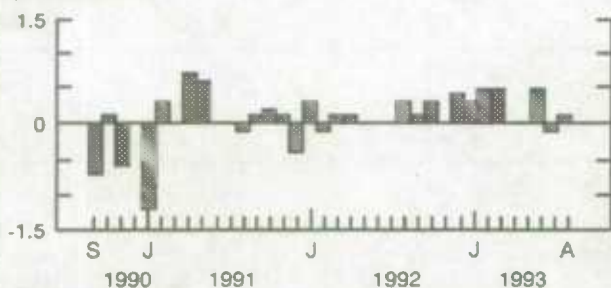
This volume is a fundamental source of information on current theories and concepts of ethnic measurement and classification as practised in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, the former Soviet Union, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia. It also provides some direction for future research activities in this field.

To order Challenges of Measuring an Ethnic World: Science, Politics and Reality (uncatalogued, \$35), contact any Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or the Census Analysis Division (613-951-8233, fax: 613-951-2952).

CURRENT TRENDS

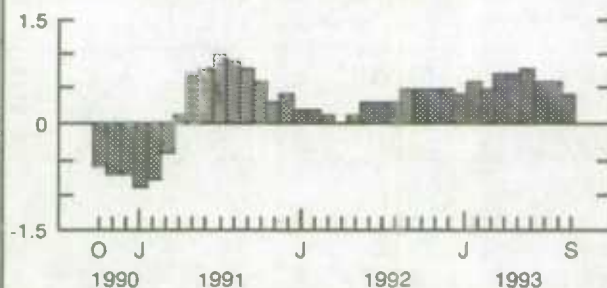
Gross Domestic Product

% change,
previous month



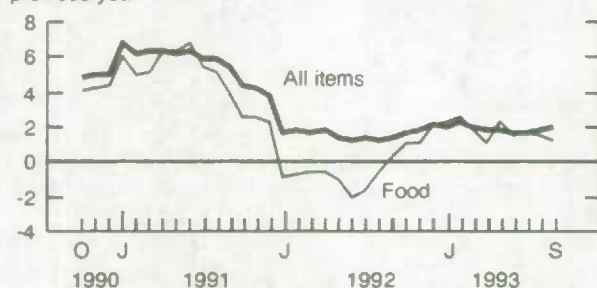
Composite Index

% change,
previous month



Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



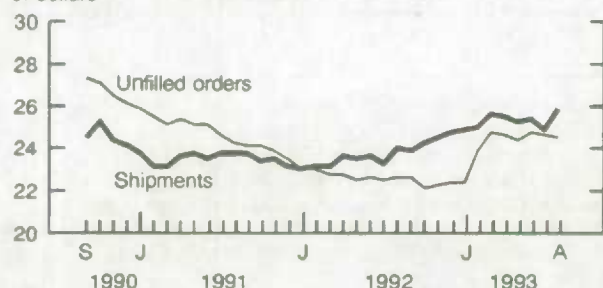
Unemployment Rate

%



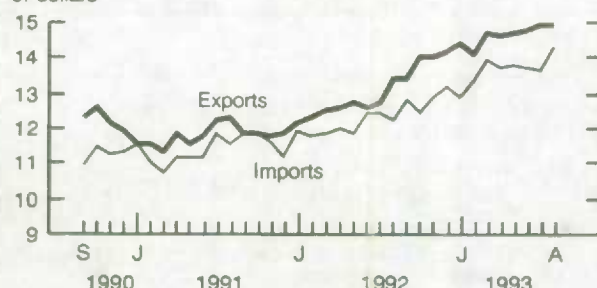
Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



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)	August*	517.3	0.1%	2.6%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	September	156.6	0.4%	7.2%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	2nd Quarter	14.0	22.8%	35.9%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	August	16.3	0.3%	4.7%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	August	98.7	-1.2%	-4.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	September	12.4	0.4%	1.5%
Unemployment Rate (%)	September	11.2	-0.1	-0.2
Participation Rate (%)	September	65.1	0.0	-0.2
Labour Income (\$ billion)	July	33.2	0.2%	2.5%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	August*	560.61	-0.1%	1.7%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	August	14.9	-0.3%	10.8%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	August	14.3	4.9%	17.0%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	August	0.60	-0.72	-0.62
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	August	25.8	3.7%	7.5%
New Orders (\$ billion)	August	25.6	3.7%	6.4%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	August	24.4	-0.5%	8.4%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	August	1.37	-0.04	-0.06
Capacity Utilization (%)	2nd Quarter	78.3	-0.2	3.3
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	September	130.7	0.1%	1.9%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	September	112.9	0.1%	2.7%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	September	112.0	-1.0%	2.3%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	August	136.5	0.1%	1.3%

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

* New this week.

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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 Regional Reference Centre for more information.

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