

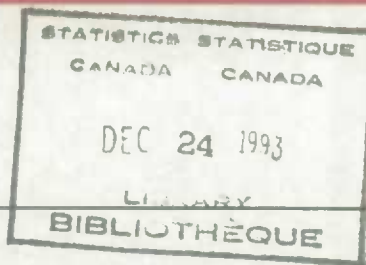


I·N·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

NOT FOR LOAN
NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS

Friday, December 24, 1993



OVERVIEW

■ **UI Beneficiaries: Downward Movement Continues**

The seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits fell 1.1% in October to 1.04 million persons.

■ **Retail Sales Higher than a Year Ago**

In October, seasonally adjusted retail sales increased marginally to \$16.3 billion. Sales were up 4.2% from October 1992.

■ **Wholesaling Activity Increases for Sixth Straight Month**

Seasonally adjusted sales by wholesale merchants rose 1.0% in October to \$17.6 billion. Of the nine trade groups, eight reported increases.

■ **Financial Performance of Major Airlines Improving**

The year-to-date operating losses of Canada's major airlines approached zero at the end of the third quarter of 1993, a substantial improvement from losses of \$175.6 million at the same point a year earlier.

■ **Foreign Investors Reduce their Holdings of Canadian Bonds**

Foreign investors sold a net \$1.9 billion of Canadian bonds in October, an abrupt reversal from their heavy net buying of \$8.0 billion in September.

■ **Higher Vehicle Prices Push Up Consumer Price Index**

The all-items Consumer Price Index rose half a percentage point in November, largely because of higher prices for 1994-model cars and trucks.

Note to our subscribers: The next *Infomat* issue will be published on January 7, 1994.

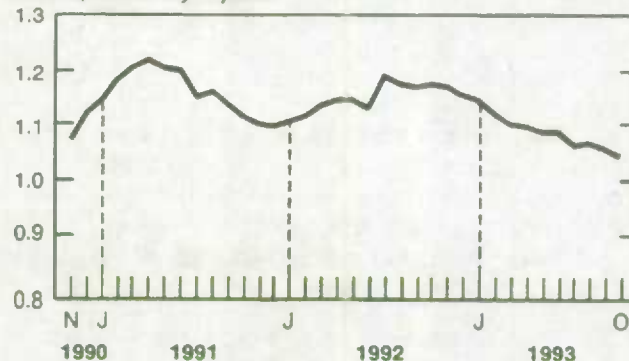
UI Beneficiaries: Downward Movement Continues

In October, the seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits fell 1.1% to 1.04 million persons. This was a continuation of a downward trend observed since November 1992, shortly interrupted in August 1993. The number of beneficiaries in October stood 11.2% below the level of a year ago (1.17 million).

(continued on page 2)

U.I. Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Benefits

Millions, seasonally adjusted

Statistics
CanadaStatistique
Canada

Canada

... UI Beneficiaries: Downward Movement Continues

The decline in the number of beneficiaries was broadly-based as all 10 provinces and the Northwest Territories reported decreases.

Benefit payments for October amounted to \$1.14 billion, down 3.8% from September and 13.3% less than the \$1.32 billion paid in October 1992.

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, October 1993

Seasonally Adjusted

Province/ Territory	Total (000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	1,041	-1.1	-11.2
Newfoundland	60	-2.6	-13.9
Prince Edward Island	13	-2.7	1.4
Nova Scotia	51	-1.0	-5.5
New Brunswick	56	-1.7	-2.1
Québec	339	-0.8	-9.8
Ontario	284	-1.2	-14.4
Manitoba	27	-1.2	-11.4
Saskatchewan	23	-4.3	-10.8
Alberta	70	-0.3	-12.3
British Columbia	112	-1.7	-11.9
Yukon	2	2.0	30.5
Northwest Territories	2	-1.4	-17.3

Retail Sales Higher than a Year Ago

Seasonally adjusted retail sales edged up by 0.1% in October, but the increasing trend observed since March 1992 showed new signs of slowing down. At \$16.3 billion, retail sales were 4.2% above a year earlier.

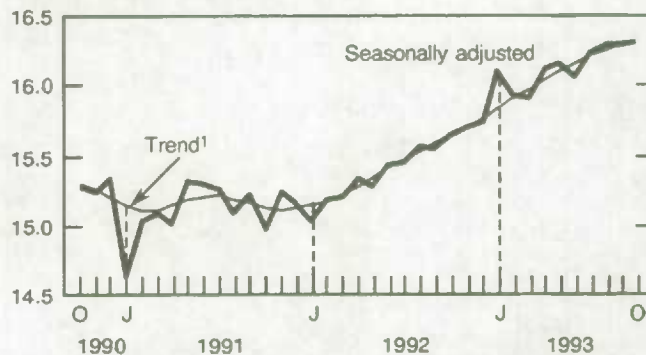
Half of 16 trade categories recorded higher sales in October, with the most significant gains registered by the food and general merchandise sectors. Sales by supermarkets and grocery stores, which account for almost one-quarter of total sales, rose 0.7% and stood 3.2% above their year-earlier level. General merchandise stores reported a 1.3% rise in sales following no change in September.

These gains were almost counterbalanced by decreases in the automotive and furniture sectors. In the automotive sector, the largest downward influence came from a 1.8% drop in sales by gasoline service stations as sales closely followed gasoline price movements in October. Both components of the furniture sector declined: sales by household furniture and appliance stores fell 1.6% and sales by household furnishings stores dropped 3.0%.

Québec retailers reported a marginal gain in October after sales had declined by a total of 1.0% in the previous two months. In Ontario, retail sales were unchanged for the second straight month while British Columbia retailers registered their first decline

Retail Sales

Billions of dollars



Data prior to 1991 have been adjusted to remove the Federal Sales Tax to be comparable to January 1991 and subsequent data.

¹ Trend represents smoothed seasonally adjusted data.

in three months. On a year-over-year basis, retail sales increased in all provinces and territories except in Newfoundland (-1.0%).

For further information, order *Retail Trade* (catalogue number 63-005), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-9682.

(continued on page 3)

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Retail and Wholesale Trade, October 1993 (Seasonally Adjusted)

	Retail Sales		Wholesale Sales	
	\$ millions	% change from previous month	\$ millions	% change from previous month
Canada	16,307	0.1	17,561	1.0
Newfoundland	281	1.0	176	1.2
Prince Edward Island	72	1.6	37	-0.6
Nova Scotia	541	-0.9	379	-1.3
New Brunswick	424	0.1	239	0.4
Québec	3,966	0.1	4,163	1.1
Ontario	5,979	0.0	7,267	1.5
Manitoba	572	1.6	571	2.4
Saskatchewan	484	0.0	533	3.1
Alberta	1,706	1.0	1,643	1.3
British Columbia	2,230	-0.4	2,528	-1.2
Yukon	17	2.0		
Northwest Territories	35	-2.3	25	5.7

Wholesaling Activity Increases for Sixth Straight Month

In October, seasonally adjusted sales by wholesale merchants totalled \$17.6 billion, up 1.0% from September's revised level of \$17.4 billion. This increase pushed sales 7.6% above their October 1992 level.

Eight of nine trade groups recorded higher sales while a 0.1% decline was reported by wholesalers of motor vehicles, parts and accessories. However, sales for this group were 10.1% above their year-earlier level.

The largest increase, in order of dollar impact, came from sales of other products (farm and paper products, agricultural supplies, industrial and

household chemicals, etc.). Sales by this group, which account for 16% of total sales, rose 2.3% to \$2.8 billion and stood 10.1% above their October 1992 level. Wholesalers of food, beverage, drug and tobacco products also posted a notable gain, with sales increasing by 1.4%.

Regionally, the monthly movements were mixed, with sales changes ranging from 5.7% in the Yukon to -1.3% in Nova Scotia. British Columbia wholesalers recorded their first significant drop since September 1992 but still showed the largest year-over-year increase (18.8%).

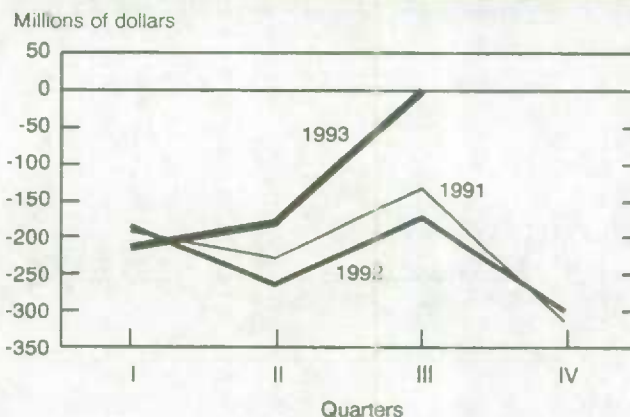
For further information, order *Wholesale Trade* (catalogue number 63-008), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3540.

Financial Performance of Major Airlines Improving

The year-to-date operating losses (revenues minus expenses from passenger and freight operations) of Canada's major airlines were reduced to \$1.2 million at the end of the third quarter of 1993, a substantial improvement from losses totalling \$175.6 million for the same period in 1992.

Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. both attribute this year's improvement to controlled costs and higher productivity of fewer employees. In fact, recent wage cuts have been significant. As of November, 65% of Air Canada's employees had accepted wage reductions. Moreover, the four Level I carriers together reported that, as of the third quarter, both the number of employees and the wages paid had decreased by nearly 9% from the third quarter of 1992.

Year-to-date operating income (loss)



(continued on page 4)

... Financial Performance of Major Airlines Improving

Productivity of the Level I carriers' remaining employees increased in 1993 with respect to passengers and freight carried. Most significant, for the first three quarters of 1993, productivity with respect to passengers rose 6.5% over the same period in 1992.

However, the improvement has yet to affect their net losses. Their 1993 year-to-date net losses amounted to \$427.9 million at the end of the third quarter, from \$390.6 million a year earlier. Net financial performance takes into account factors such as the effects of income tax, interest expenses, capital gains, and expenses such as restructuring costs.

Note to Users

The four Level I air carriers and their shares of the industry's total operating revenue for 1992 are as follows: Air Canada, 35.6%, Canadian Airlines International Ltd., 32.1%, Time Air, 2.3%, and Air BC, 2.2%. The comments by the major air carriers that are cited in this release can be found in the press releases that were issued along with their quarterly results.

For further information, order *Canadian Civil Aviation, 1992* (catalogue number 51-206) or contact Transportation Division at (613) 997-6188.

Foreign Investors Reduce their Holdings of Canadian Bonds

In October, foreign investors acquired, on a net basis, \$800 million of Canadian securities, down sharply from \$9.8 billion in September. The total for the first 10 months of 1993, at \$47 billion, exceeded by far the total for the same period in 1992 (\$19 billion).

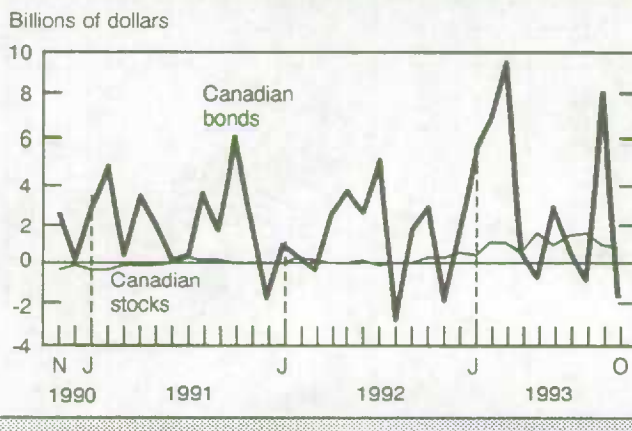
Foreign investors sold a net \$1.9 billion of Canadian bonds in October, an abrupt reversal from their heavy net buying of \$8.0 billion in September. They bought \$2.5 billion of gross new issues which were offset by retirements of maturing bonds in the amount of \$2.7 billion. Non-residents sold a net \$1.7 billion of outstanding bonds. Investors from the United States (\$1.8 billion) and Asia (\$1.0 billion) were net sellers of outstanding bonds, outweighing a net investment of \$1.1 billion by European investors.

Note to Users

International security transactions refers to the trading of bonds, stocks and Canadian money market instruments of residents of Canada with non-residents. The securities are broken down between Canadian securities (bonds, stocks and money market instruments) and foreign securities (bonds and stocks).

The series are presented from a Canadian point of view. For example, when a U.S. resident sells a U.S. treasury bond to a Canadian resident, the series shows a purchase of a foreign security from a non-resident. Similarly, when a U.S. resident purchases a Canadian stock from a Canadian resident, the series shows a sale of a Canadian security to a non-resident.

Security Transactions



Non-residents increased their holdings of Canadian money market paper by \$1.9 billion, in line with large net purchases earlier in the year. The foreign funds went into Government of Canada treasury bills (\$2.1 billion), with a small net \$200 million withdrawal of other paper.

The foreign net acquisition of \$700 million of Canadian stocks in October has brought total net purchases this year to almost \$10.0 billion, a sharp contrast with the previous annual record investment of \$6.6 billion in 1987.

Canadian residents bought a net \$700 million of foreign securities in October following a net disinvestment of a similar amount in September. The October investment was directed more to stocks (\$500 million) than to bonds (\$200 million).

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

Higher Vehicle Prices Push Up Consumer Price Index

The all-items Consumer Price Index (1986=100) for Canada rose 0.5% in November to a level of 131.5, the largest increase recorded since November 1992. Three of the seven major components posted advances ranging from 0.1% for tobacco products and alcoholic beverages to 2.6% for transportation. In spite of this increase, the year-over-year rate stood at 1.9%, unchanged from September and October.

The large rise in the transportation index resulted mainly from higher prices for new motor vehicles. Prices of new-model vehicles are reported in November and take into account changes in quality. Thus, the 6.4% hike in prices of new automotive vehicles represents the change in the amount that consumers are paying for vehicles of comparable quality. Automobile insurance premiums were up as well, by 1.6%, while gasoline prices fell 1.4%.

After increasing by 0.2% in October, the food index rose a further 0.4% in November, largely due

to higher prices for fresh vegetables and poultry. The food index recorded its largest year-over-year increase since May, rising by 1.7%.

The clothing index fell 0.4% as higher prices for men's and boy's wear were offset by lower prices for women's wear. The health and personal care index slipped 0.3% and the housing index edged down by 0.1% after rising by 0.2% in September and October.

Following a decline of 0.5% in October, the energy index remained unchanged in November as a drop in gasoline prices offset increases in natural gas (5.6%) and fuel oil (0.3%) prices. Between November 1992 and November 1993, the energy index fell 0.4%, the first year-over-year decrease in four months.

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, November 1993/1992 *

Province/territory	All-items	Food	Energy	Housing	Transportation
Canada	1.9	1.7	-0.4	1.1	3.4
Newfoundland	1.7	1.9	-4.0	-0.8	3.1
Prince Edward Island	2.3	3.4	-1.5	1.4	2.2
Nova Scotia	2.6	3.2	-1.3	1.6	3.1
New Brunswick	1.8	1.9	-1.1	0.2	2.9
Québec	1.2	1.1	-0.5	0.4	3.1
Ontario	1.8	2.5	-1.3	1.1	3.5
Manitoba	2.7	2.9	-1.7	1.9	3.2
Saskatchewan	3.0	3.1	2.8	1.3	3.2
Alberta	1.1	-3.5	2.7	2.0	1.9
British Columbia	3.2	2.8	0.8	2.0	4.9
Yukon	3.3	3.3	5.4	1.7	2.9
Northwest Territories	2.2	6.0	-2.5	-0.1	2.8

* Data are not seasonally adjusted.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM DECEMBER 17 TO 23, 1993

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (Cdn.\$)	United States	Other Countries
			US\$		
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Economic Statistics Updates	December 1993	10-603E	21/42	25/50	29.50/59
Apparent Per Capita Food Consumption in Canada	Part II, 1992	32-230	27	32	38
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS					
Juristat Service Bulletin: Common Assault in Canada	Vol. 13, No. 6	85-002	3.60/65	4.30/78	5/91
Juristat Service Bulletin: Youth Court Statistics	1992-93 Vol. 13, No. 5	85-002	3.60/65	4.30/78	5/91
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION					
Nursing Education Program	1992	83-244	15	18	21
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
The Labour Force	November 1993	71-001	17.90/179	21.50/215	25.10/251
Workplace Benefits and Flexibility: A Perspective on Parents' Experiences, Canadian National Child Care Study	1988	89-530E	25	30	35
HOUSING, FAMILY AND SOCIAL STATISTICS					
Canadian Social Trends	Winter 1993	11-008E	8.50/34	10/40	12/48
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE					
Quarterly Financial Statistics for Enterprises	Third Quarter 1993	61-008	23/92	27.50/110	32.25/129
INDUSTRY					
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables - Monthly	October 1993	32-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Clothing Industries	1991	34-252	35	42	49
Construction Type Plywood	October 1993	35-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers	November 1993	36-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation	November 1993	44-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks	November 1993	32-001	2.70/27	3.20/32	3.80/38
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	October 1993	31-001	17.30/173	20.80/208	24.20/242
Primary Iron and Steel	October 1993	41-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products	November 1993	32-022	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing	October 1993	41-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Production, Shipments and Stocks on hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies	October 1993	35-002	10/100	12/120	14/140
Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia	October 1993	35-003	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
Refined Petroleum Products	September 1993	45-004	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Exports by Country	January-September 1993	65-003	82.75/331	99.25/397	115.75/463
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK					
Industrial Capacity Utilization Rates in Canada	Third Quarter 1993	31-003	11/44	13.25/53	15.50/62
PRICES					
Construction Price Statistics	Third Quarter 1993	62-007	18/72	21.50/86	25.25/101
Consumer Price Index	November 1993	62-001	9.30/93	11.20/112	13/130
Industry Price Indexes	October 1993	62-011	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS					
The Control and Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada	Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1992	63-202	26	32	36
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Science Statistics, Service Bulletin	Vol. 17, No. 11	88-001	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Canadian Social Trends

This edition of *Canadian Social Trends* features articles on: time-crunch stress; dual earners and housework responsibilities; the changing roles of women and men over the past two centuries; trends in health status and practices in Canada and the United States; disabilities among children; and, the increasing number of people living here who speak neither official language.

According to "Tempus Fugit... Are You Time Crunched?", almost one-half of Canadians aged 15 and over experience some degree of stress trying to balance work and family responsibilities. Dual-income parents of young children, especially mothers, are most susceptible.

Each quarter, *Canadian Social Trends* integrates data from various sources to examine important social trends and issues. It features the latest social indicators, as well as information about new products and services.

The Winter 1993 edition of *Canadian Social Trends* (catalogue number 11-008E, \$8.50/\$34) is now available. For further information, contact Cynthia Silver (613-951-2556), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.

Importer and Exporter Databases – 1991 and 1992

By linking merchandise trade data to the industrial activity of more than 140,000 organizations that trade internationally, the *Importer/Exporter Databases* are the means for determining importer and exporter market shares in specific industries.

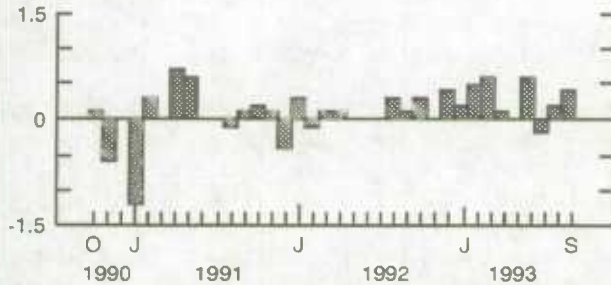
For the first time, analysts can study trade variables such as commodity, value, size of importer/exporter, mode of transport and frequency of shipments and then link the data on the industry that is trading with the data on the industry that is manufacturing the commodity.

For example, approximately 60% of the value of Canadian exports is accounted for by the largest 100 exporters. Manufacturing industries are responsible for over 50% of all imports and 65% of all exports. Almost one-third of all importers are involved in wholesale trade.

Information like this on the composition and structure of the importing and exporting community is now available on a cost-recovery basis from the *Importer and Exporter Databases* for 1991 and 1992. No specific company detail will be released. For details, contact Claude Graziadei at (613) 951-7259, fax: 613-951-0117, International Trade Division.

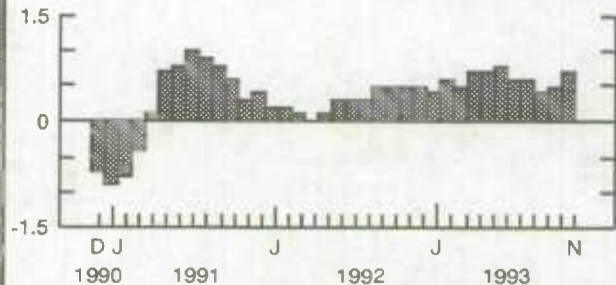
CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

% change,
previous month

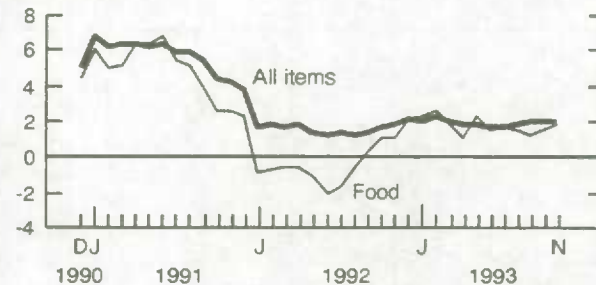
Real gross domestic product at factor cost grew by a sound 0.4% in September, boosting the value of goods and services produced during the month.

Composite Index

% change,
previous month

The growth of the composite index accelerated, rising from 0.4% in September to 0.5% in October, and then to 0.7% in November.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year

In November, the year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI remained unchanged for the third straight month at 1.9%. The food index rose by 1.7%, up from 1.5% in October.

Unemployment Rate

%



The unemployment rate slipped from 11.1% in October to 11.0% in November.

Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars

Canadian manufacturers' shipments edged up by 0.2% in October to \$26.4 billion. The level of unfilled orders fell 1.4% to \$23.8 billion, the fourth straight monthly decline.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars

In October, seasonally adjusted merchandise exports climbed 3.2% to \$16.1 billion, while imports increased 1.8% to \$14.7 billion.

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)	September	520.2	0.4%	3.0%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	November	158.4	0.7%	7.4%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	3rd Quarter	13.0	-6.9%	23.8%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	October*	16.3	0.1%	4.2%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	October	99.9	2.4%	-0.5%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	November	12.5	0.5%	1.5%
Unemployment Rate (%)	November	11.0	-0.1	-0.8
Participation Rate (%)	November	65.0	0.1	-0.6
Labour Income (\$ billion)	September	33.4	0.4%	2.8%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	October*	560.17	-0.1%	1.0%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	October	16.1	3.2%	15.1%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	October	14.7	1.8%	18.3%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	October	1.41	0.24	-0.17
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	October	26.4	0.2%	9.5%
New Orders (\$ billion)	October	26.1	-0.3%	10.2%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	October	23.8	-1.4%	7.9%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	October	1.33	0.00	-0.10
Capacity Utilization (%)	3rd Quarter	78.6	0.2	3.1
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	November*	131.5	0.5%	1.9%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	October	113.5	0.4%	2.7%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	October	112.6	0.4%	3.7%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	October	136.4	-0.1%	1.3%

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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KEY RELEASE CALENDAR: JANUARY 1994*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		5 Charitable Donations, 1992 Industrial Product Price Index and Raw Materials Price Index, November 1993	6 Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, November 1993 Crude Oil and Natural Gas, October 1993 Help-wanted Index, December 1993	7 Labour Force Survey, December 1993
10 New Motor Vehicle Sales, November 1993	11 New Housing Price Index, November 1993 Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area, November 1993 Earnings of Men and Women, 1992	12 Estimates of Labour Income, October 1993	13	14 Farm Product Price Index, November 1993 Travel Between Canada and Other Countries, November 1993
17	18 Building Permits, November 1993 Department Store Sales, Advance Release, December 1993	19 Canadian International Trade, November 1993 Canadian Composite Leading Indicator, December 1993	20 Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, November 1993 Sales of Natural Gas, November 1993	21 Consumer Price Index (CPI), December 1993 Wholesale Trade, November 1993
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31 Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry, November 1993 Residential Building Permits, December 1993 Sales of Refined Petroleum Products, December 1993				

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