



# IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY

REVIEW



Friday, January 14, 1994

## OVERVIEW

### ■ Aggregate Wages and Salaries Still Up from Last Year

October's wages and salaries fell by 0.2% from September but still were 2.0% higher than the amount paid to workers in October 1992. However, the year-over-year growth rate was the weakest since May 1993.

### ■ New Housing Prices Edge Down for Second Straight Month

The New Housing Price Index for Canada slipped again by 0.1% in November. Six of the urban areas for which the index is calculated showed declines, the steepest being for St. Catharines-Niagara.

### ■ Sales of New Motor Vehicles Strengthen

Seasonally adjusted sales of new motor vehicles continued to improve for the second month in a row, increasing by 0.5% in November to 103,000 units.

### ■ 1993 Ends with Higher Unemployment Rate

After four months of declines, the unemployment rate advanced 0.2 points in December to 11.2%, returning to the same level as in September.

### ■ Employers Looking for Fewer Workers

The Help-wanted Index for Canada dropped by 4% in December and stood 3% below the level reached 12 months earlier.

## Aggregate Wages and Salaries Still Up from Last Year

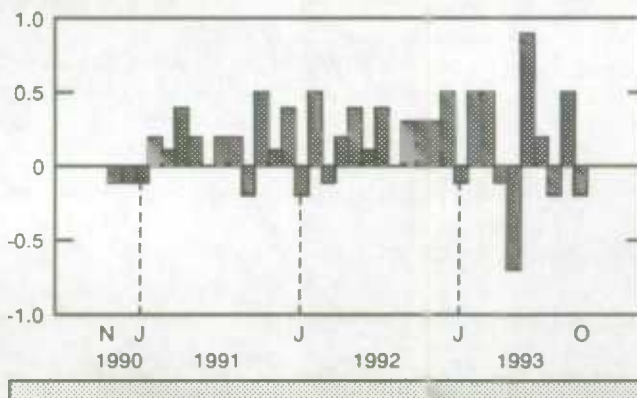
Seasonally adjusted wages and salaries fell 0.2% in October to \$29.4 billion, partly offsetting a 0.4% increase in September. The year-over-year growth rate slowed from 2.5% in September to 2.0% in October, the weakest since May 1993. Throughout 1993, the year-over-year changes have ranged from 2.0% to 3.4%.

Eight of 14 industry groups reported lower wages and salaries in October. The steepest declines were in transportation, communications and other utilities (-0.8%), mines, quarries and oil wells (-0.8%) and construction (-0.6%). Other decreases were in education and related services (-0.5%), provincial administration (-0.5%), health and welfare services (-0.4%), and commercial services (-0.2%). The only notable increases occurred in forestry (0.9%) and in federal (0.7%) and local administration (0.6%).

*(continued on page 2)*

### Wages and Salaries

% change, previous month



Statistics  
Canada

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Canada

Canada

### ... Aggregate Wages and Salaries Still Up from Last Year

The strongest year-over-year gains in wages and salaries occurred in forestry (7.6%), commercial services (3.7%), finance, insurance and real estate (3.2%) and manufacturing industries (3.2%). The only year-over-year declines were in construction (-4.7%) and mines, quarries and oil wells (-1.0%).

Most provinces and territories recorded declines in wages and salaries in October. However, Newfoundland posted its third strong advance in as many months and British Columbia recorded its second consecutive monthly increase. In Prince Edward Island, an increase offset two preceding months of declines.

For further information, order *Estimates of Labour Income* (catalogue number 72-005), or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4058.

### Wages and Salaries, October 1993

Seasonally Adjusted

Province/ Territory	Wages and Salaries (millions of \$)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
<b>Canada</b>	<b>29,386</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Newfoundland	393	1.1	2.3
Prince Edward Island	96	0.7	1.1
Nova Scotia	731	0.0	0.9
New Brunswick	590	-0.9	1.9
Québec	6,642	-0.4	1.4
Ontario	12,353	-0.2	1.8
Manitoba	948	-0.1	-0.2
Saskatchewan	745	-0.2	0.0
Alberta	2,871	-0.9	1.6
British Columbia	3,803	0.6	5.5
Yukon and Northwest Territories	169	-1.5	2.8

### New Housing Prices Edge Down for Second Straight Month

After four months of slow growth, the New Housing Price Index for Canada (NHPI, 1986=100) slipped again by 0.1% in November. At 136.3, the index was 1.1% above its November 1992 level of 134.8. The NHPI climbed throughout 1989, fell sharply in 1990 and early 1991, and then remained virtually unchanged until early in 1993, when it began increasing again.

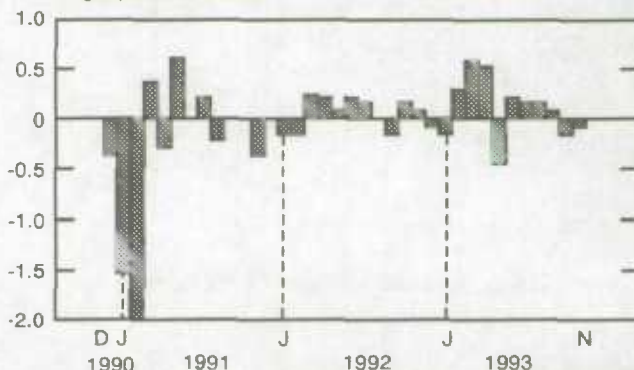
Of the 20 urban areas for which the index is calculated, six registered declines, eight showed increases and six were unchanged. The steepest decline occurred in St. Catharines-Niagara where the index fell 0.7% and stood 4.4% below its level one year ago. This was in line with the downtrend evident since June 1990. Other significant decreases were in Hamilton (-0.4%), where the index has also been declining since June 1990, and Kitchener-Waterloo (-0.3%).

The Vancouver index, which accounts for almost 20% of the Canada total, also slipped by 0.3%, but stood 5.3% above its year-earlier level. The index for Vancouver fell from a high of 141.6 in February 1990 to a low of 119.8 in February 1991, then rose steadily until September 1993, when it stabilized.

There were significant increases of 1.0% for both St. John's and Regina. This was the first large increase for St. John's after the index had remained

### New Housing Price Index

% change, previous month



virtually unchanged since February 1991. In Regina, the growth was a continuation of an upward trend and the index showed a year-over-year gain of 5.0%.

For further information, order *Construction Price Statistics* (catalogue number 62-007), or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9607.

### Sales of New Motor Vehicles Strengthen

Seasonally adjusted sales of new motor vehicles rose 0.5% in November following a sharp increase of 4.8% in October. At 103,000 units, sales were 0.2%

higher than in November 1992. This was the second consecutive month to show a year-over-year increase after four months of decline. The year-to-date total was just above 1.0 million units, a 3.5% decrease from the same period in 1992.

(continued on page 3)



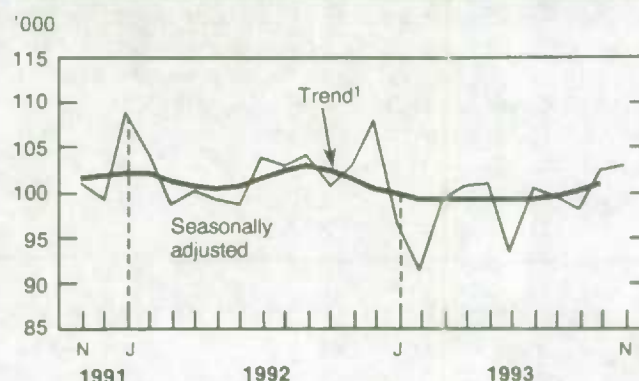
### ... Sales of New Motor Vehicles Strengthen

The gain in November reflected a modest 0.4% increase in sales of passenger cars to 62,000 units, and a similar advance in truck sales, to 41,000 units. After a rise of 10.0% in October, sales of cars manufactured in North America advanced a further 2.5% in November, to 44,000 units. In contrast, sales of imported passenger cars continued to decline, falling by 4.5% in November to 18,000 units. This was a level last seen in 1984.

Truck sales have increased by 11.5% since August alone and sales for the first 11 months of 1993 amounted to 409,000 units, up 4.6% from the same period in 1992. Sales of passenger cars, however, have been slower in 1993 than in 1992. Nearly 449,000 North American built cars and 227,000 imported passenger cars have been sold since the beginning of the year, drops of 2.7% and 16.3%, respectively, from the same period last year.

For further information, order *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (catalogue number 63-007) or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-9824.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles,  
in Units, Canada



<sup>1</sup> The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.

## PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

### Labour Force Survey Results for December 1993

	Labour Force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	Rate (%)
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14,022</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>12,457</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>11.2</b>
Newfoundland	235	0.9	185	0.0	50	21.3
Prince Edward Island	65	-1.5	54	0.0	12	17.7
Nova Scotia	416	-0.5	353	-0.3	63	15.1
New Brunswick	331	0.3	287	-1.0	44	13.3
Québec	3,408	-0.4	2,971	-0.3	437	12.8
Ontario	5,389	0.7	4,810	0.5	579	10.7
Manitoba	546	-0.2	498	0.2	48	8.8
Saskatchewan	476	0.0	437	-0.7	39	8.2
Alberta	1,399	-0.4	1,272	-0.1	127	9.1
British Columbia	1,764	1.3	1,592	0.1	172	9.8

### 1993 Ends with Higher Unemployment Rate

After four months of declines, the unemployment rate advanced to 11.2% in December from 11.0% in November, and the participation rate edged up by 0.1 of a percentage point, to 65.1. Both rates were back at their September levels. A seasonally adjusted increase of 39,000 in the labour force broke down into a 7,000 increase in employment and a 32,000 increase in unemployment.

For adults, the labour force swelled by 41,000 and employment losses totalled 5,000, putting upward pressure on their unemployment rate,

which rose by 0.3 points to 9.9%. The unemployment rate for youths dropped by 0.5 points to 17.2% due to both employment gains (12,000) and a reduction in the size of their labour force (-2,000).

Even though employment increased by 24,000 in Ontario, unemployment rose by 16,000 due to an expansion of 40,000 in its labour force. Employment decreased by 10,000 in Québec and by 3,000 in both New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. There was little or no change in employment levels for the other provinces.

(continued on page 4)

### ... 1993 Ends with Higher Unemployment Rate

In 1993, labour market activity was more stable than in the previous two years. Employment continued the slow upward trend that began in the second quarter of 1992 while a decline in the participation rate put downward pressure on the unemployment rate, which averaged 11.2% for the year. Unemployment, which had been rising from March to July, fell in the second half of 1993 to an annual average of 1.6 million, little changed from 1992.

Employment growth in 1993 was concentrated in the service sector (149,000), almost all in community, business and personal services. In contrast, employment in the goods-producing sector fell slightly (-5,000) from 1992.

For further information, order *The Labour Force* (catalogue number 71-001), or contact Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-4720. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 6.)

## Employers Looking for Fewer Workers

After increasing by 7% in October and a further 2% in November, the Help-wanted Index (1991=100) for Canada fell by 4% in December. At 85, the index stood at the same level as in August 1993 but was 3% below its December 1992 level of 88.

Declines were recorded in three of the five regional Help-wanted Indexes. More help-wanted ads appeared in the Prairie provinces. In British Columbia, the index remained unchanged following a 6% drop in November.

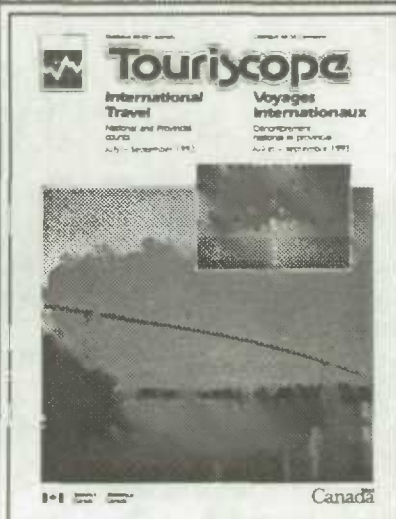
For further information, contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4045.

### Changes in Indexes by Region

Seasonally Adjusted - December 1993

	Index	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	85	-4	-3
Atlantic Provinces	85	-11	-7
Quebec	93	-2	7
Ontario	81	-10	-11
Prairie Provinces	85	5	2
British Columbia	80	0	-10

## NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



### Touriscope: International Travel, National and Provincial Counts

"Canada: A Destination Highly Rated By Japanese Tourists" is the feature article in this issue of *Touriscope: International Travel*. This issue also contains data (by month for the past two years) on a province of entry basis in the form of tables and graphs.

Each issue reviews recent trends in international travel and provides preliminary estimates of receipts and payments on the travel account for the quarter.

The third quarter 1993 issue of *Touriscope: International Travel, National and Provincial Counts* (catalogue number 66-001, \$38.50/\$154) is now available. For more information, contact Ruth McMillan at (613) 951-1791, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.



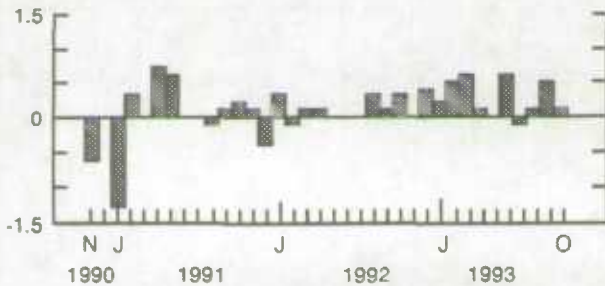
# PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM JANUARY 7 TO 13, 1994

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (Cdn.\$)	United States	Other Countries
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>					
Cereals and Oilseeds Review	October 1993	22-007	13.80/138	16.60/166	19.30/193
<b>BALANCE OF PAYMENTS</b>					
Canada's International Transactions in Securities	September 1993	67-002	15.80/158	19/190	22.10/221
<b>CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS</b>					
Juristat Service Bulletin – Correctional Services in Canada: Highlights for 1992-93	Vol.14, No. 1	85-002	3.60/65	4.30/78	5/91
<b>EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM</b>					
Touriscope: International Travel, National and Provincial Counts	July-September 1993	66-001	38.50/154	46.25/185	54/216
Universities: Enrolment and Degrees	1991, Last Edition	81-204	27	32	38
<b>HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS</b>					
Labour Force Information	December 1993	71-001P	6.30/63	7.60/76	8.80/88
<b>INDUSTRY</b>					
Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production	September 1993	26-006	10/100	12/120	14/140
Department Store Sales and Stocks	September 1993	63-002	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries	November 1993	43-005	5/50	6/60	7/70
Gas Utilities	September 1993	55-002	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder	November 1993	32-024	5/50	6/60	7/70
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics	November 1993	25-001	6.10/61	7.30/73	8.50/85
Quarterly Report on Energy Supply-Demand in Canada	1993-II	57-003	31.75/127	38/152	44.50/178
Retail Trade	October 1993	63-005	18.20/182	21.80/218	25.50/255
Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products	November 1993	41-006	5/50	6/60	7/70
Wholesale Trade	October 1993	63-008	14.40/144	17.30/173	20.20/202
<b>INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS</b>					
Gross Domestic Product by Industry	October 1993	15-001	12.70/127	15.20/152	17.80/178
<b>LABOUR</b>					
Estimates of Labour Income	July-September 1993	72-005	22.50/90	27/108	31.50/126
Unemployment Insurance Statistics	October 1993	73-001	14.70/147	17.60/176	20.60/206
<b>METHODOLOGY</b>					
Survey Methodology, Vol. 19, No. 2	December 1993	12-001	45	50	55
<b>NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND ENVIRONMENT</b>					
Financial Flow Accounts, Quarterly Estimates	Third Quarter 1993	13-014	25/100	30/120	35/140
National Income and Expenditure Accounts, Quarterly Estimates	Third Quarter 1993	13-001	25/100	30/120	35/140
<b>SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>					
Leisure and Personal Services	1989-1991	63-233	30	36	42
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>					
Railway Operating Statistics, Vol. 73, No. 10	October 1993	52-003	10.50/105	12.60/126	14.70/147
Road Motor Vehicles: Registrations	1992	53-219	17	20	24

## CURRENT TRENDS

### Gross Domestic Product

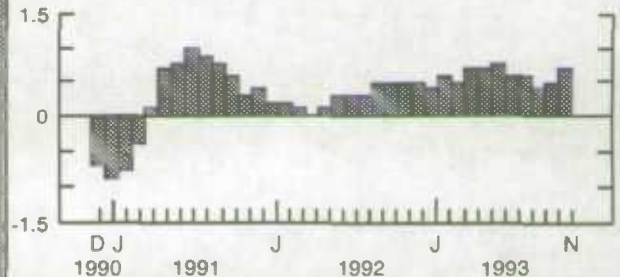
% change,  
previous month



Economic growth continued in October: real gross domestic product at factor cost crept up 0.1% after a gain of 0.5% in September and a marginal increase in August.

### Composite Index

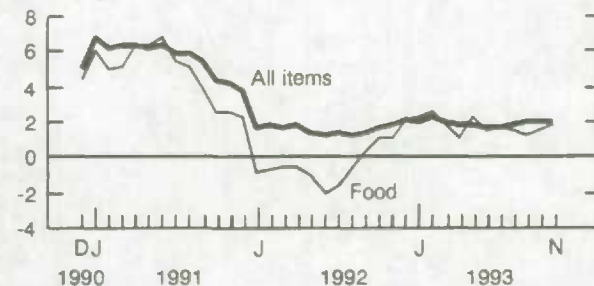
% change,  
previous month



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

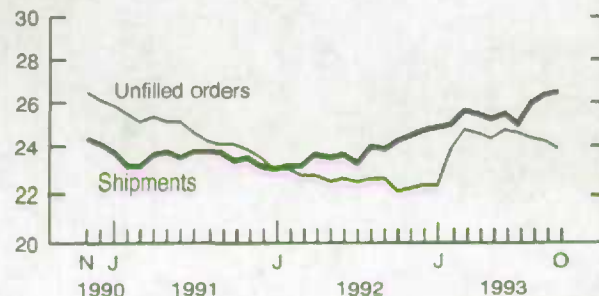
%



After four months of declines, the unemployment rate advanced 0.2 points in December to 11.2%, returning to the same level as in September.

### 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
<b>GENERAL</b>				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	October	521.2	0.1%	2.9%
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%
<b>DOMESTIC DEMAND</b>				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	October	16.3	0.1%	4.2%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	November*	103.0	0.5%	0.2%
<b>LABOUR</b>				
Employment (millions)	December*	12.5	0.1%	1.2%
Unemployment Rate (%)	December*	11.2	0.2	-0.3
Participation Rate (%)	December*	65.1	0.1	-0.4
Labour Income (\$ billion)	October*	33.3	-0.2%	2.1%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	October	560.17	-0.1%	1.0%
<b>INTERNATIONAL TRADE</b>				
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
<b>MANUFACTURING</b>				
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
<b>PRICES</b>				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	November	131.5	0.5%	1.9%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	November	113.8	0.2%	2.7%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	November	110.0	-2.3%	-0.4%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	November*	136.3	-0.1%	1.1%

*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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