



IN·F·O·M·A·T

A WEEKLY REVIEW

Friday, May 13, 1994

MAY 13 1994

OVERVIEW

■ New Housing Prices Post Small Gain

In March, the New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100) increased 0.3% from a year ago, its lowest rate of change since October 1992.

■ Dual-earner Families Edge Down

In 1992, the number of two-earner families represented 60.8% of all husband-wife families, continuing a slight decline since 1989.

■ Unemployment Rises in April

The unemployment rate rose to 11.0% in April, due to a sharp increase in the number of adults entering the labour force but in search of work.

■ Farm Product Prices Up in March

The Farm Product Price Index (1986 = 100) rose to 107.6 in March, up 1.9% from February's level.

New Housing Prices Post Small Gain

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

The New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100) recorded a slight increase (+0.1%) from February's level. At 136.1, the index stood 0.3% higher than a year ago, the lowest year-over-year rate of change since October 1992.

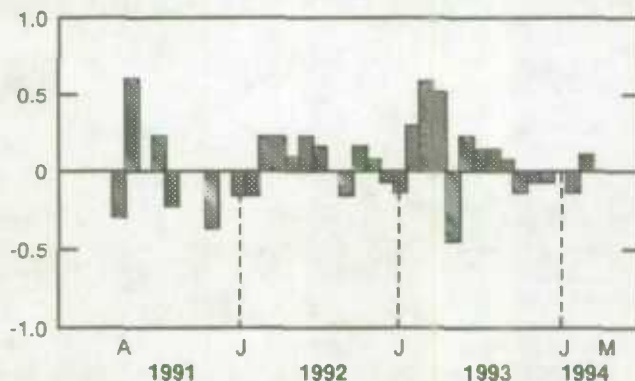
Of the 20 urban areas for which the index is calculated, eight registered increases, seven remained unchanged and five posted declines. According to the builders in the cities which registered price increases, the upward price movement was caused by higher material costs, lumber in particular.

Winnipeg (+1.6%), Calgary (+0.6%) and Hamilton (+0.5%) posted the largest gains in March, while significant monthly declines were recorded in St. Catharines-Niagara (-0.8%), Vancouver (-0.5%), St. John's (-0.4%) and Ottawa-Hull (-0.2%).

(continued on page 2)

New Housing Price Index

% change, previous month



... New Housing Prices Post Small Gain

The House Only Index edged down to 125.4, 0.1% below the previous period, but remained unchanged from March 1993. The Land Only Index posted a slight increase of 0.1% from February to a level of 169.3 in March and was up 1.0% from a year ago.

For further information, order *Construction Price Statistics* (catalogue number 62-007), or contact Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-4720.

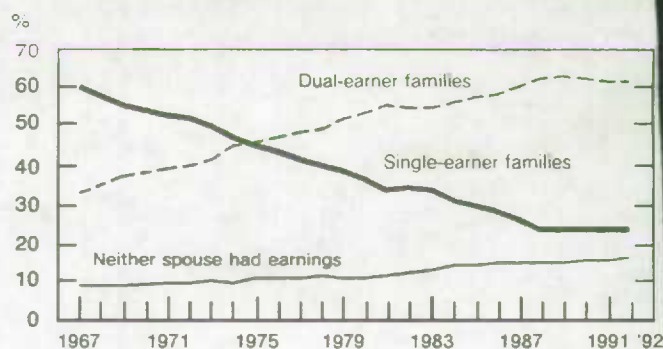
Dual-earner Families Edge Down

In 1992, the proportion of families where both spouses reported income from employment edged down for the third consecutive year, to 60.8%.

The proportion of families with only one spouse earning has changed slightly over the last four years; the proportion of husband single-earner families continued to decline; and that of wife single-earner families continued to climb. In families in which neither spouse earned income, the results show a continuing slow upward trend, reflecting the aging of the population and an increasing tendency for early retirement.

The incomes of single-earner families fell by 4.8% to \$47,817 in 1992, compared to \$50,213 in 1991. Two-earner families' incomes increased slightly to \$67,352, compared to \$66,087 in 1991 and

Distribution of husband-wife families by earning status



Average Income of Husband-Wife Families 1992

Province	Dual-earner families	Wife's earnings as a proportion of family income	Husband's earnings as a proportion of family income
	\$	%	%
Canada	67,352	30.7	55.1
Newfoundland	55,174	25.8	49.7
Prince Edward Island	52,690	28.5	50.3
Nova Scotia	59,600	28.2	55.3
New-Brunswick	58,354	29.5	53.3
Québec	62,044	31.5	54.6
Ontario	72,972	31.2	55.4
Manitoba	61,079	30.4	54.5
Saskatchewan	58,091	28.3	54.5
Alberta	67,931	30.4	54.8
British Columbia	71,344	30.2	57.0

families in which neither spouse earned income also recorded a small gain to \$34,185, compared to \$32,941 in 1991.

Ontario's dual-earner families recorded the largest income in 1992, followed by those in British Columbia. Ontario and British Columbia again ranked first in single-family earners' incomes at \$51,722 and \$48,199, respectively.

The earnings of the husband in dual-earner families accounted for 55.1% of the total family income in 1992 and the wife's earnings contributed 30.7%. The remainder of family income (14.2%) came from other family members' earnings, investment income, transfer payments and pensions.

For further information, order *Characteristics of Dual-Earner Families, 1992* (catalogue number 13-215), or contact Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-9775.

Unemployment Rises in April

The unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage points to 11.0% in April, following a decrease of 0.5 percentage points in March. In April, there were 65,000 more persons looking for work, due mainly to an increase of 70,000 adults in the labour force. The participation rate rose 0.3 to 65.1%, the first increase in 1994.

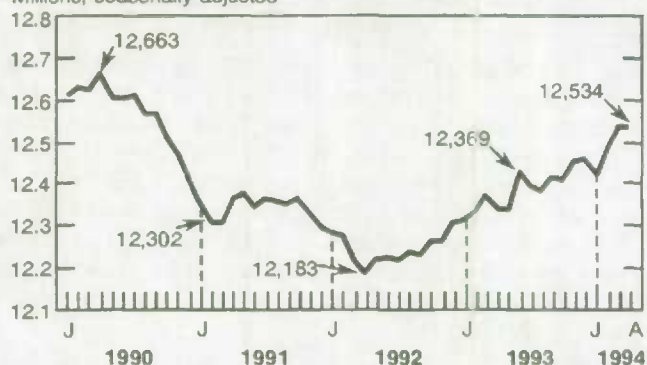
The level of employment was little changed in April, following strong employment growth in February and March. Since April 1992, employment for adults aged 25 and over has been increasing, gaining 432,000 (+4.2%). Employment decreased by 17,000 in April for youths aged 15 to 24. Over the past two years, employment among youths has fallen by 81,000 (-4.0%).

In the manufacturing sector, employment remained unchanged in April, following gains which totalled 74,000 in February and March. Employment increased in the construction sector (+23,000) and in transportation, communications and other utilities (+19,000). However, employment declined by 19,000 in trade and by 12,000 in public administration.

Employment in Manitoba recorded the largest gain in April (+7,000), up 1.4% from March. This brought the total gain over the latest three months to 10,000, offsetting January's sharp decline.

Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



Employment edged up in Ontario (+0.3%), which brought the latest three months' gains to 49,000, offsetting the loss of 41,000 in January. The other provinces showed no significant changes.

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).

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Labour Force Survey Results for April 1994

	Labour Force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	Rate (%)
Canada	14,081	0.5	12,534	0.0	1,547	11.0
Newfoundland	241	2.6	192	0.5	49	20.3
Prince Edward Island	67	1.5	55	1.9	12	18.2
Nova Scotia	428	0.5	369	0.0	59	13.8
New Brunswick	326	-0.3	283	-0.7	43	13.2
Québec	3,452	1.0	3,017	0.0	435	12.6
Ontario	5,368	0.4	4,818	0.3	550	10.2
Manitoba	549	1.3	497	1.4	52	9.5
Saskatchewan	473	0.4	436	-0.2	37	7.8
Alberta	1,393	-0.4	1,271	-0.2	122	8.8
British Columbia	1,785	0.6	1,600	-0.5	185	10.4

Farm Product Prices Up in March

The Farm Product Price Index (1986=100) rose to 107.6 in March, up 1.9% from February's level. The index rose 0.9% above its year-earlier level, following three months of year-over-year decreases.

The crops index increased 5.4% in March to 96.4. The cereals index contributed mainly to this increase, reaching 76.7, an 8.9% increase over February. The index was 19.6% below its year-earlier level. The oilseeds index rose 3.8% to 139.7, reaching the highest level since September 1988. Soybeans, flaxseeds and canola prices all rose in most provinces. The potatoes index increased 4.2% to 172.6 and stood 80.9% above the previous year's level.

The livestock and animal products index rose 0.3% to 114.5, in March. Since September 1992, the index has been above year-earlier levels. The cattle and calves index increased 2.3% in March to 124.3, recording higher price levels since the beginning of 1993. The index stood 4.9% above the year-earlier level. The hogs index dropped 3.4% in March to 93.7, but stood 12.9% above the level recorded a year ago.

The Farm Product Price Index March 1994

Province	Crops		Livestock and Animal Products	
	% change from		% change from	
	February 1994	March 1993	February 1994	March 1993
Canada	5.4	-6.3	0.3	5.2
Newfoundland	-1.5	-7.3	2.5	-12.3
Prince Edward Island	5.0	95.5	-1.2	0.0
Nova Scotia	0.6	1.2	-1.3	3.8
New Brunswick	3.8	62.4	-0.7	1.4
Québec	1.0	21.2	-1.6	8.0
Ontario	0.9	12.2	-1.1	5.1
Manitoba	6.0	-15.4	2.4	1.3
Saskatchewan	9.3	-19.9	0.8	3.5
Alberta	9.7	-14.6	4.4	4.4
British Columbia	0.1	-16.0	0.6	7.3

For further information, order Farm Product Price Index (catalogue number 62-003), or contact Agriculture Division at (613) 951-2441.

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

Profiles of census tracts—Part B

The first six profiles of census tracts from the 1991 Census are now available. Each publication provides data collected from a 20% sample of households on characteristics such as home language, ethnic origin, place of birth, education, religion, labour force activity, housing costs, and income.

Census tracts are presented in numerical order within each centre. Data for the component census subdivisions are also shown.

The area profile series publications are listed under "Census" on page 5 of this issue.

For further information on this release, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

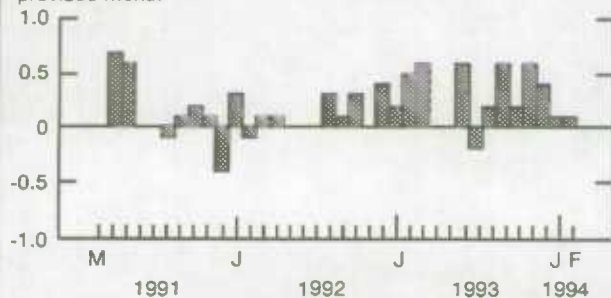
PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM MAY 6 TO 12, 1994

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (Cdn.\$)	United States	Other Countries
			US\$		
AGRICULTURE					
Field crop reporting series: No. 3 – Stocks of Canadian grain	March 31, 1994	22-002	15/85	18/102	21/119
CENSUS					
Profile of census tracts in CalgaryPart B	1991 Census	95-375	40	48	56
Profile of census tracts in Matsqui and VancouverPart B	1991 Census	95-389	60	72	84
Profile of census tracts in MontréalPart B	1991 Census	95-330	100	120	140
Profile of census tracts in Ottawa-HullPart B	1991 Census	95-351	50	60	70
Profile of census tracts in St. John'sPart B	1991 Census	95-304	35	42	49
Profile of census tracts in TorontoPart B	1991 Census	95-354	100	120	140
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
Characteristics of dual-earner families	1992	13-215	27	33	38
Labour force information	April 1994	71-001P	10/100	12/120	14/140
INDUSTRY					
Asphalt roofing	March 1994	45-001	6/60	7/70	8/80
Cement	March 1994	44-001	6/60	7/70	8/80
Department store sales and stocks	December 1993	63-002	16/160	19/190	22/220
Footwear statistics	Quarter ended				
	March 1994	33-002	6/24	7/28	8/32
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	March 1994	46-002	6/60	7/70	8/80
Oil pipeline transport	February 1994	55-001	11/110	13/130	15/150
Retail trade	February 1994	63-005	20/200	24/240	28/280
Rigid insulating board (wood fibre products)	March 1994	36-002	6/60	7/70	8/80
Shipments of solid fuel burning heating products	Quarter ended				
	March 1994	25-002	6/24	7/28	8/32
Specified domestic electrical appliances	March 1994	43-003	6/60	7/70	8/80
Steel wire and specified wire products	March 1994	41-006	6/60	7/70	8/80
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS					
Gross domestic product by industry	February 1994	15-001	14/140	17/170	20/200
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK					
Building permits	Annual Summary 1993	64-203	60	72	84
Building permits	March 1994	64-001	24/240	29/290	34/340
LABOUR					
Unemployment insurance statistics	February 1994	73-001	16/160	20/200	23/230

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

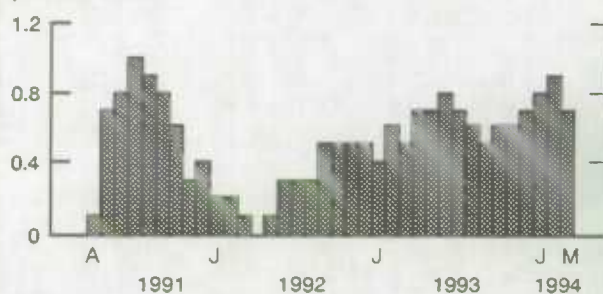
% change,
previous month



Real gross domestic product at factor cost crept up 0.1% in February, the same rate of increase reported in January.

Composite Index

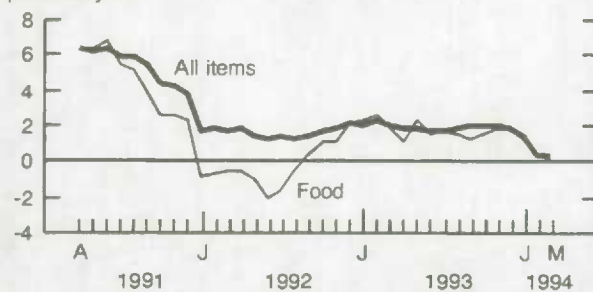
% change,
previous month



The leading indicator continued to advance in March, rising by 0.7% from February. This increase follows a revised monthly gain of 0.9% in February — a 29-month high.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



In March, the year-over-year change in the all-items CPI was 0.2%, the same rate of increase reported in February. The food index rose by 0.1%.

Unemployment Rate

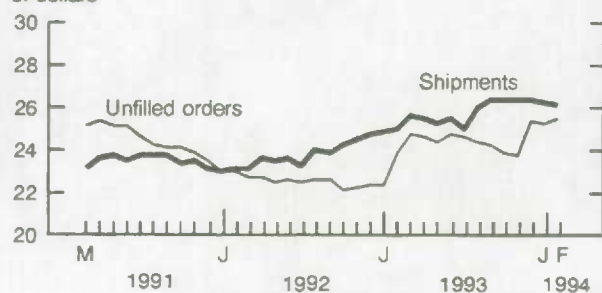
%



In April, the unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage points to 11.0%. The increase was due to a growth in the number of adults entering the labour force in search of work.

Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments fell 0.3% in February to \$26.1 billion. The level of unfilled orders rose 0.8% to \$25.5 billion.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



In February, the value of merchandise exports fell by 1.5% to \$15.4 billion, while imports remained virtually unchanged at \$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)	February	527.9	0.1%	3.3%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	March	163.3	0.7%	8.5%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	4th Quarter	14.0	11.4%	86.6%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	February	16.8	0.9%	6.4%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	February	107.0	0.6%	17.2%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	April*	12.5	0.0%	1.6%
Unemployment Rate (%)	April*	11.0	0.4	-0.4
Participation Rate (%)	April*	65.1	0.3	-0.2
Labour Income (\$ billion)	January	33.5	0.3%	2.0%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	February	565.33	0.3%	1.5%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	February	15.4	-1.5%	9.5%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	February	14.7	0.0%	10.2%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	February	0.76	-0.23	-0.03
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	February	26.1	-0.3%	4.3%
New Orders (\$ billion)	February	26.3	0.8%	-1.0%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	February	25.5	0.8%	6.7%
Inventory/Shipments Ratio	February	1.38	0.02	0.01
Capacity Utilization (%)	4th Quarter	80.1	1.6	3.3
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	March	130.1	-0.2%	0.2%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	March	116.3	0.4%	3.6%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	March	112.8	1.3%	1.1%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	March*	136.1	0.1%	0.3%

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

* New this week.

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