



Infommat

A Weekly Review

Friday, May 12, 1995

OVERVIEW

Labour market stable in April

In April, for the fifth consecutive month, labour market conditions were little changed.

Residential permits reach four-year low

In the first quarter of 1995, residential building permits tumbled to a four-year low – a result of limited job gains, concerns about job security, and higher mortgage rates.

House prices continue to fall

In March, new house prices fell for the ninth consecutive month.

Help-wanted index down in April

In April, newspaper advertising for help wanted fell for the first time since September 1993.

U.S. business travellers spend \$1 billion in Canada

In 1993, business travel by Americans represented receipts of \$1 billion in Canada. Toronto attracted three times more American business travellers than did Montreal.

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Labour market stable in April

In April, for the fifth consecutive month, labour market conditions were little changed. A drop in the number of people looking for work caused the unemployment rate to fall 0.3 percentage points to 9.4%. Overall, employment has shown little change since December 1994.

The labour force participation rate – persons working or looking for work as a percentage of the population aged 15 or over – fell 0.2 percentage points (-38,000) to 64.9%, the lowest level in 11 years. Adult women (25 years and over) accounted for the drop. Their participation rate fell 0.7 percentage points (-56,000) to 56.5%, reaching the rate observed three years ago when employment was at its recessionary low.

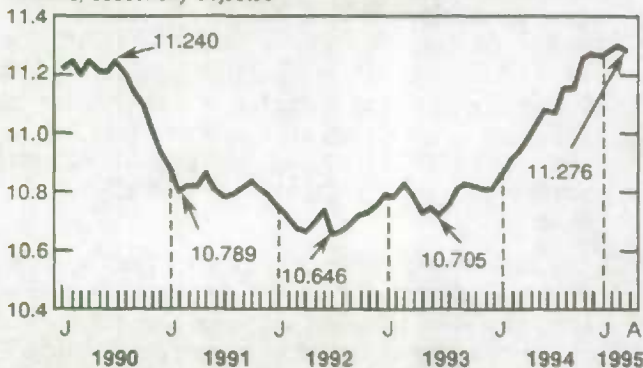
Regionally, labour force participation fell in Quebec (-23,000), as fewer people were looking for work. Newfoundland and Saskatchewan also experienced declines, while New Brunswick recorded a rise. In all other provinces, labour force participation was unchanged.

In the manufacturing sector, losses in March and April have left employment just 18,000 above its December 1994 level. Throughout 1994 and during the first two months of 1995, employment grew strongly in this sector. In agriculture, and in finance, insurance

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Full-time employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



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... Residential permits reach four-year low

late last fall, the monthly value of residential building permits has been generally declining since mid-1994. This may signal a bleak outlook for the new housing market in 1995. It also augurs further cuts in construction employment.

The non-residential sector, which has been overshadowed by the weak residential sector, rose to \$1.0 billion in March, up 5.7% from February.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, all data are seasonally adjusted. The monthly Building and demolitions permits survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 93% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The value of planned construction activities excludes engineering projects and land.

For further information, order Building permits (catalogue 64-001) or contact Investment and Capital Stock Division at (613) 951-9689.

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Building permits, March 1995

Seasonally adjusted

Province/Territory	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	(\$ millions)	% change, previous month	(\$ millions)	% change, previous month	(\$ millions)	% change, previous month
Canada	2,115	-1.0	1,095	-6.5	1,020	5.7
Newfoundland	16	-5.9	12	1.3	4	-22.9
Prince Edward Island	9	34.8	5	25.7	3	52.2
Nova Scotia	67	30.4	54	22.7	13	74.7
New Brunswick	42	15.8	18	-0.7	24	31.8
Quebec	655	34.6	221	7.7	434	54.2
Ontario	703	-7.1	423	-3.2	280	-12.4
Manitoba	33	-46.5	17	-34.8	16	-55.0
Saskatchewan	24	-72.9	11	-7.9	13	-83.1
Alberta	178	-9.8	109	8.0	69	-28.5
British Columbia	383	-9.2	220	-28.2	164	40.7
Yukon	2	-23.7	2	-11.2	0	-69.1
Northwest Territories	2	-78.1	2	-38.3	0	-96.1

House prices continue to fall

In March, the price of new houses fell for the ninth consecutive month, down 0.1% from February and down 0.6% from March 1994.

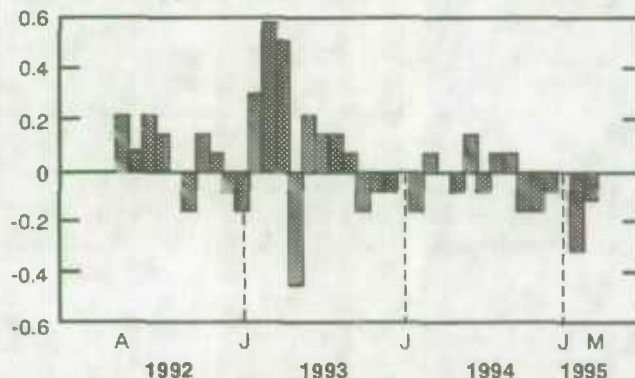
In 5 of the 21 cities surveyed, contractors reported stable or offsetting new home selling prices resulting in no monthly changes. In the 10 cities showing monthly increases, the largest were recorded for Edmonton (1.5%), Regina (0.9%) and Saskatoon (0.6%). No other monthly increase was larger than 0.3%. Of the six cities registering declines, the largest were for Vancouver (-1.0%) and Hamilton (-0.7%).

On a year-over-year basis, housing prices rose in 12 cities and fell in eight. Prices rose the most in Halifax (4.2%) and Regina (3.3%). The largest price decreases were recorded for Victoria (-7.3%) and Vancouver (-4.4%).

The house only index dropped 0.3% from last year and 0.1% from last month. The land only index fell as well, 0.5% and 0.1% respectively.

New housing price index

% change, previous month



For further information, order Construction price statistics (catalogue 62-007) or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-3350.

Help-wanted index down in April

The help-wanted index (1991 = 100) fell 2% to 100 in April, the first decline since September 1993. From September 1993 to November 1994, the index increased 20% and then, beginning in December 1994, it levelled off for four months.

The index is compiled from help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. In these labour markets, the index reflects changes in the demand for labour. However, since not all jobs are filled through help-wanted ads, the index represents only a part of all hiring.

Compared with April 1994, the help-wanted index grew in Ontario (15%), the Atlantic provinces (12%) and Quebec (5%). The index was unchanged in the Prairie provinces and it fell 8% in British Columbia.

Between March and April, the index recorded the following changes:

- Atlantic provinces: down 3% to 103
- Quebec: down 1% to 104
- Ontario: down 1% to 108
- Prairies: down 3% to 92
- British Columbia: down 1% to 81

U.S. business travellers spend \$1 billion in Canada

In 1993, business travel by Americans to Canada channelled \$1 billion into the Canadian economy, excluding international transportation fares. In contrast, business travel from other countries generated only \$0.5 billion.

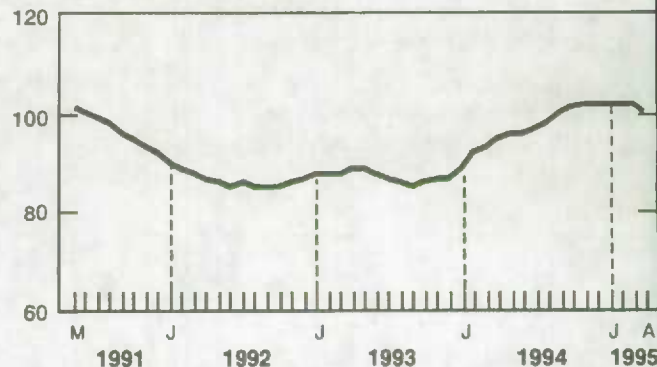
While trips of less than 24 hours accounted for 45% (or 1.5 million) of American entries into Canada for business purposes, expenditures in these instances represented only 4% of the \$1 billion generated by this target market. The rest was made up by the 1.8 million American business travellers making overnight trips to attend meetings, conventions, conferences, seminars, trade shows or other business. Their average stay was three days.

Business travel accounted for 15% of the trips made by Americans to Canada, up from 14% in 1990. This increase came as the total number of trips made to Canada by American residents fell, while the number of business trips rose. The Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, by facilitating access to Canada, seems to have had a positive effect on business travel by Americans.

Toronto was the most popular destination for American business travellers in 1993. Americans made some 664,000 business trips to Toronto, triple the number of trips to Montreal. Over one million visits were made to Ontario as a whole.

Help-wanted index

(1991 = 100), seasonally adjusted



Note to readers

All help-wanted indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed.

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

Rate of participation in selected activities during trips by residents of the United States to Canada, 1993



¹ Visits to national, provincial, regional parks and historic sites.

Note: Travellers can participate in more than one activity on a trip.

As the most popular destination in Canada according to Americans, 16% of all visits to Ontario were for business reasons. In Quebec and Alberta, however, the proportion of business travel was the highest (18%). Alberta recorded a 28% increase in this type of travel between 1990 and 1993, compared with 4% for the country as a whole.

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... U.S. business travellers spend \$1 billion in Canada

Of the activities experienced by American business travellers while in Canada, three out of five people said they enjoyed some fine dining.

Nearly half went shopping, while over a third took advantage of their stay to go sightseeing.

For further information, order Travel-log (catalogue 87-003) or contact Education, Culture and Tourism Division at (613) 951-1673.

Business trips by residents of the United States to Canada by purpose and duration of trip, 1993

	Trips	Nights	Spending	Average duration	Average spending per	
					Trip	Night
	'000	'000	\$000,000	Nights	\$	\$
Meetings	1,001	2,313	471	2.3	471	204
Congresses, conferences, trade show or seminar	573	2,366	376	4.1	656	159
Other business	241	879	136	3.6	564	155
Total, overnight trips	1,815	5,558	983	3.1	542	177
Total, same-day trips	1,468	...	41	...	28	...

... N/A

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM MAY 5 TO 11, 1995

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (Cdn.\$)	United States	Other countries
			US\$		
AGRICULTURE					
Cereals and oilseeds review	February 1995	22-007	15/144	18/173	21/202
INDUSTRY					
Asphalt roofing	March 1995	45-001	6/60	8/72	9/84
Cement	March 1995	44-001	6/60	8/72	9/84
Electric power statistics	1993	57-202	29	35	41
Gypsum products	March 1995	44-003	6/60	8/72	9/84
New motor vehicle sales	January 1995	63-007	16/160	20/192	23/224
Oil pipeline transport	February 1995	55-001	11/110	14/132	16/154
Production and inventories of process cheese and instant skim milk powder	March 1995	32-024	6/60	8/72	9/84
Rigid insulating board	March 1995	36-002	6/60	8/72	9/84
Shipments of fuel burning heating products	1 st Quarter 1995	25-002	8/24	9/29	11/34
Specified domestic electrical appliances	March 1995	43-003	6/60	8/72	9/84
Wholesaling and retailing in Canada	1993	63-236	45	54	63
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS					
Gross domestic product by industry	February 1995	15-001	14/140	17/168	20/196
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Exports by commodity	February 1995	65-004	60/600	72/720	84/840
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK					
Building permits	February 1995	64-001	24/240	29/288	34/336
TRANSPORTATION					
Aviation service bulletin	Vol. 27, no. 4	51-004	10/99	12/119	14/139

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Wholesaling
and Retailing
in Canada,
1993

Les commerces
de gros et de
détail au Canada,
1993



Canada

Canada

Wholesaling and retailing in Canada

1993

A new annual publication covering the distributive trades, *Wholesaling and retailing in Canada*, which replaces *Wholesale trade statistics* and *Annual retail trade*, uses the new Annual wholesale and retail trade survey as its data source. This new survey collects data from a sample of wholesalers and retailers and follows the same sampling strategy used for the Monthly wholesale and retail trade surveys. The two annual publications being replaced used annual surveys that compiled estimates from both surveys and administrative data.

Two articles in *Wholesaling and retailing in Canada, 1993* review the performance of these sectors in 1993. Also provided are information on operating revenues and expenditures by trade group at national, provincial and territorial levels.

The 1993 issue of *Wholesaling and retailing in Canada* (catalogue 63-236, \$45) is now available. For further information, call Gilles Simard at (613) 951-3541, Wholesale Trade Section or Serge Grenier at (613) 951-3556, Retail Trade Section.



Public use microdata files on households and housing

1991 Census

The Public use microdata file (PUMF) on households and housing is now available on CD-ROM. This file is based on a 3% sample (298,960) of unaggregated, anonymous records from the 1991 Census database.

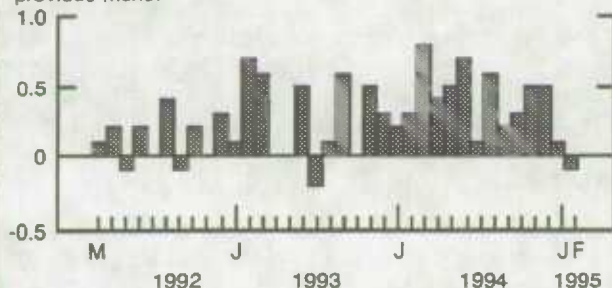
This product provides two basic tools: a full text-retrieval package, which permits users to search for words or subjects and a program which allows the selection of variables for specific geographic areas. The data for these areas can then be processed using SAS, SPSS or other software.

Microdata files are available for the provinces and territories as well as selected census metropolitan areas. All variables covered by the census are included, allowing quick access to comprehensive social and economic data.

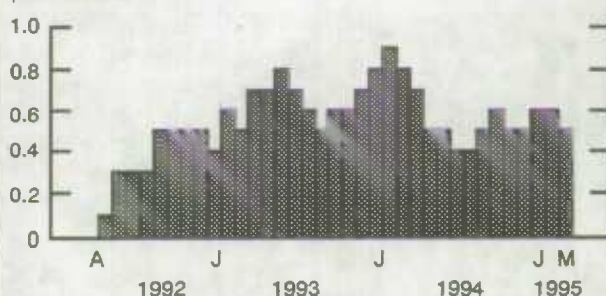
Public use microdata files on Families as well as on Individuals were released previously on CD-ROM. Each product costs \$1,000. A set of three costs \$1,500. For further information on this product or to order, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross domestic product

% change,
previous month

Composite index

% change,
previous month

Consumer price index

% change,
previous year

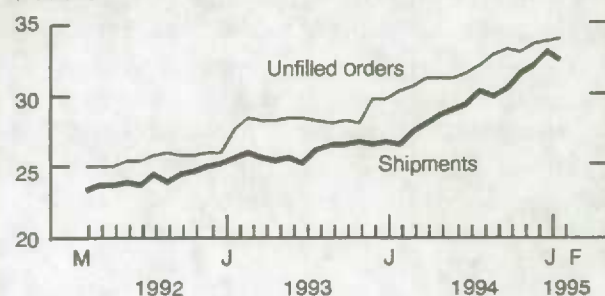
Unemployment rate

%



Manufacturing

\$ billions



Merchandise trade

\$ billions



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	544.8	-0.1%	4.6%
Composite index (1981 = 100)	March	174.3	0.5%	6.6%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	3rd quarter	20.2	11.4%	48.5%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	February	17.7	-0.5%	4.2%
New motor vehicle sales ('000 units)	February	101.2	-0.6%	-6.0%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	April*	13.5	0.0%	2.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	April*	9.4	0.3 [†]	-1.6 [†]
Participation rate (%)	April*	64.9	-0.2 [†]	-0.5 [†]
Labour income (\$ billion)	January	34.8	-0.3%	4.2%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	December	572.69	0.3%	2.5%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	February	21.5	-4.4%	36.7%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	February	19.1	-5.0%	27.9%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	February	2.4	0.0	1.7
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	February	32.6	-1.3%	23.3%
New orders (\$ billion)	February	32.8	-1.0%	21.6%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	February	34.1	0.6%	12.5%
Inventory/ shipments ratio	February	1.27	0.04	-0.12
Capacity utilization (%)	4th quarter	84.8	0.9 [†]	4.6 [†]
PRICES				
Consumer price index (1986 = 100)	March	133.0	0.2%	2.2%
Industrial product price index (1986 = 100)	March	127.6	0.6%	9.3%
Raw materials price index (1986 = 100)	March	132.4	0.5%	16.5%
New housing price index (1986 = 100)	March*	135.3	-0.1%	-0.6%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

* new this week

[†] percentage point

I·N·F·O·M·A·T

A weekly review

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