

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 30, 1990

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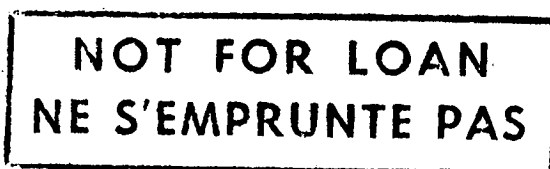
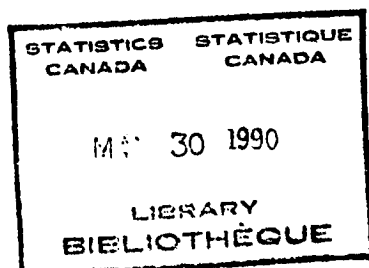
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MAJOR RELEASES

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

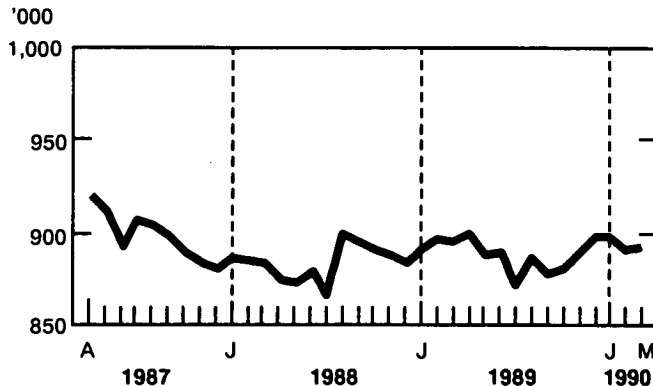
March 1990

Seasonally Adjusted

- Preliminary estimates show that the number of beneficiaries¹ receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits for the week ending March 17, 1990 totalled 892,000, virtually unchanged from the preceding month.

Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Canada

Seasonally adjusted



- Between February and March 1990, the seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits increased 3.0% in Ontario and 1.5% in Newfoundland. The number decreased 4.2% in British Columbia, 2.1% in the Yukon, 1.9% in Alberta and 1.1% in New Brunswick. There was little or no change in the other provinces and territory.
- In March 1990, total benefit payments, adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of working days, increased 2.0% from the preceding month to \$1,044 million. The number of benefit weeks decreased 0.2% to 4.5 million.

Unadjusted

- In March 1990, the total number of beneficiaries¹ (including all persons qualifying for regular and special unemployment insurance benefits) stood

at 1,225,000, down slightly (-0.3%) from the same month a year ago. For the same period, the number of male beneficiaries increased 0.8% to 719,000, while the number of female beneficiaries declined 1.8% to 506,000.

- Benefits paid during March 1990 totalled \$1,233 million², up 7.6% over March 1989. For the first quarter of 1990, a total of \$3,724 million was paid to beneficiaries, an 8.5% increase over the same quarter last year. During this period, the average weekly payment increased 7.2% to \$233.01, and the number of benefit weeks advanced 1.2% to 16.0 million.
- A total of 256,000 claims² (applications) for unemployment insurance benefits were received in March 1990, up 8.3% over the same month a year ago. Since the start of 1990, 875,000 claims have been received. This represents an advance of 10.3% over the same period last year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717, 5735, and 5736. The last two matrices contain monthly data, starting in January 1984, on beneficiaries by sex and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) or Census Agglomeration (CA).

The March 1990 issue of *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001, \$14.70/\$147), containing data for January, February and March 1990, will be available in June. See "How to Order Publications".

Unpublished beneficiaries data, including statistics for small areas defined by data users, are also available on request. For special tabulations or further information, contact André Picard (613-951-4045) or Horst Stiebert (613-951-4044), Labour Division.

¹ The number of beneficiaries represents a count of persons who qualified for unemployment insurance benefits during a specific week of the reference month.

² Benefits paid, number of benefit weeks, and number of claims received relate to a complete calendar month, and these data are usually final estimates when released. It should also be noted that these data are affected by the number of working days available during the reference month to process claims, and to pay benefits. In making short-term comparisons it is not uncommon to observe different trends between these data and the number of beneficiaries. □

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

	March 1990	February 1990	January 1990	March 1989	March/ February 1990
Seasonally Adjusted					%
Benefits					
Amount Paid (\$000)	1,043,862	1,023,409	980,741	960,057	2.0
Weeks of Benefit (000)	4,476	4,485	4,335	4,449	-0.2
Beneficiaries - Regular Benefit (000)	892^P	892^P	899^r	895^r	-
	March 1990	February 1990	January 1990	March 1989	March 1990/1989
Unadjusted					%
Benefits					
Amount Paid (\$000)	1,232,844	1,204,828	1,286,475	1,146,046	7.6
Weeks of Benefit (000)	5,290	5,150	5,544	5,263	0.5
Average Weekly Benefit (\$)	233.07	233.95	232.07	217.74	7.0
Claims Received (000)	256	231	389	236	8.3
Beneficiaries (000)					
Total	1,225 ^P	1,239 ^P	1,256 ^r	1,229 ^r	-0.3
Regular Benefits	1,058 ^P	1,073 ^P	1,093 ^r	1,071 ^r	-1.2
January to March					1990/1989
	1990		1989		%
Benefits					
Amount Paid (\$000)	3,724,148		3,433,804		8.5
Weeks of Benefit (000)	15,983		15,798		1.2
Average Weekly Benefit (\$)	233.01		217.35		7.2
Claims Received (000)	875		794		10.3
Beneficiaries					
Year-to-date Average (000)	1,240^P		1,236^r		0.3

^P Preliminary figures
^r Revised figures
- nil or zero

Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities

1989

In October 1989, Statistics Canada conducted a survey designed to assess directly the functional reading, writing and numeracy skills of Canada's adult population on behalf of the National Literacy Secretariat.

For the purpose of the survey, literacy was defined as the information processing skills necessary to use the **printed material** commonly encountered at work, at home and in the community.

Highlights

- A majority (62%) of Canadian adults aged 16 to 69 have reading abilities sufficient to deal with most everyday reading requirements (Level 4). Their skills are adequate to enable them to acquire further knowledge using written material.
- The reading skills of 16% (2.9 million) of Canada's adults are too limited to allow them to deal with the majority of written material encountered in everyday life. This percentage includes individuals whose abilities are classified at Levels 1 (5%) and 2 (9%) and persons who did not attempt the test because they reported having no abilities in English or French (2%).
- Of the 2% (320,000) of Canada's adult population reported as having no skills in either of Canada's official languages, the great majority of them (three out of four) are women over 35 years of age and 71% of them live in Ontario.
- A further 22% (4.0 million) of Canadian adults can use reading materials to carry out simple reading tasks within familiar contexts with materials that are clearly laid out (Level 3). However, this group does not have sufficient skills to cope with unfamiliar, more complex reading contexts.

Note to Users: Description of Skill Levels

- Level 1 - Canadians at this level have difficulty dealing with printed materials. They most likely identify themselves as people who cannot read.*
- Level 2 - Canadians at this level can use printed materials only for limited purposes such as finding a familiar word in a simple text. They would likely recognize themselves as having difficulties with common reading materials.*
- Level 3 - Canadians at this level can use reading materials in a variety of situations provided the material is simple, clearly laid out and the tasks involved are not too complex. While these people generally do not see themselves as having major reading difficulties, they tend to avoid situations requiring reading.*
- Level 4 - Canadians at this level meet most everyday reading demands. This is a large and diverse group which exhibits a wide range of reading skills.*

The Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities consisted of interviews administered to individuals in their homes and involved a series of tasks designed to test reading, writing and numeracy activities commonly encountered in daily life in Canada. The assessment of everyday literacy skills was restricted to Canada's official languages. A representative sample of approximately 9,500 persons aged 16 to 69 attempted some or all of the tasks designed to measure their literacy skills.

Data on the writing and numeracy skills will be made available at the end of June 1990. A micro-data file allowing detailed analysis of socio-demographic characteristics with the assigned individual skill levels and scores for each task also will be available at that time. A full analysis of the survey data is scheduled for publication in September 1990.

For more detailed information, contact Gilles Montigny (613-951-9731) or Scott Murray (613-951-9476), Household Surveys Division or Tom Brecher (613-953-5283), National Literacy Secretariat, Department of the Secretary of State of Canada. ■

Sales of Refined Petroleum Products

April 1990

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted

- Seasonally adjusted, preliminary estimates of April sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7.0 million cubic metres (m³), an increase of 0.3% over the March level. This follows a similar slight increase in the previous month.
- Motor gasoline sales fell 2.3%, the third decline in the first four months of the year. Diesel fuel sales also registered a third decline this year, dropping 5.6% from March levels. Light fuel oil and heavy fuel oil sales, however, were up 3.7% and 4.4%, respectively.

Unadjusted Sales

- Preliminary estimates indicate that total sales of refined petroleum products decreased 4.6% from

April 1989, to 6.4 million m³ sold. Two of the four main products contributed to the monthly decline. Motor gasoline sales were down 2.7% from April 1989, while diesel fuel sales recorded a decrease of 15.2% for the same period. Light fuel sales gained 1.7% over April 1989 volumes. Heavy fuel sales registered a gain of 9.4%.

- Following this April decrease, total product sales for 1990 now lag 1.4% behind volumes recorded in the first four months of 1989. Within this total, heavy fuel oil sales have climbed 2.9%, while sales of light fuel oil have declined 2.1%, motor gasoline, 1.0% and diesel fuel, 2.5%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

The April 1990 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the third week of July. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Sales of Refined Petroleum Products

	January 1990 ^r	February 1990 ^r	March 1990 ^r	April 1990 ^p	April/ March 1990
Seasonally Adjusted					
	(thousands of cubic metres)				%
Total, All Products	7 074.2	6 966.0	6 998.5	7 021.2	0.3
Main Products					
Motor Gasoline	2 862.8	2 860.2	2 923.9	2 855.3	-2.3
Diesel Fuel Oil	1 501.2	1 414.0	1 390.1	1 312.0	-5.6
Light Fuel Oil	551.1	519.9	561.7	582.7	3.7
Heavy Fuel Oil	766.1	788.7	866.4	904.4	4.4
Total					
	April 1989	April 1990	January-April 1989	January-April 1990	Cumulative 1990/1989
Unadjusted					
	(thousands of cubic metres)				%
Total, All Products	6 688.7	6 380.7	27 489.7	27 097.5	-1.4
Main Products					
Motor Gasoline	2 679.6	2 624.7	10 570.0	10 469.2	-1.0
Diesel Fuel Oil	1 414.6	1 198.9	5 111.2	4 985.4	-2.5
Light Fuel Oil	573.6	583.4	3 465.8	3 393.1	-2.1
Heavy Fuel Oil	776.1	848.8	3 368.5	3 467.5	2.9

P Preliminary.
r Revised.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas

February 1990

Highlights

- Preliminary figures for February 1990 indicate that marketable production of natural gas, at 8.2 billion cubic metres, decreased after 12 consecutive gains, falling 3.5% from February 1989. Exports posted a gain of 2.1% over February of last year, while domestic sales of natural gas were down 8.1%. On a cumulative yearly basis, production and exports rose 0.5% and 7.8%, respectively, over 1989 levels, while Canadian sales fell 2.9%.
- Production of crude oil and equivalent in February 1990 amounted to 7.1 million cubic metres, a decrease of 6.4% from February 1989. This

represents the 13th consecutive decline. Exports also continued their downward trend, dropping 9.6% below February 1989. Imports, however, rose 40.5% over the same period. Year-to-date figures show production down 6.8%, exports down 10.4%, and imports up 12.7%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 127 and 128.

The February 1990 issue of *Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, \$10/\$100) will be available the last week of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas

	February 1990	% Change from February 1989	January - February 1990	% Change from January - February 1989
(thousands of cubic metres)				
Crude Oil and Equivalent				
Production	7 088.6	-6.4	14 878.3	-6.8
Exports	2 653.9	-9.6	5 628.5	-10.4
Imports	3 091.5	40.5	5 435.3	12.7
Refinery Receipts	7 636.5	12.4	15 126.2	3.9
(millions of cubic metres)				
Natural Gas				
Marketable Production	8 207.6	-3.5	17 475.2	0.5
Exports	3 120.3	2.1	6 773.7	7.8
Canadian Sales	6 159.9	-8.1	13 051.2	-2.9

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grain Marketing Situation Report

April 1990

The situation report for April is now available. This report presents up-to-date information on the Canadian and world grain supply and market situation.

For further information on this release, contact Tony Dupuis (613-951-3871), Agriculture Division. ■

Government Expenditures on Culture

1988-89

Preliminary information regarding federal, provincial and municipal government expenditures on culture in 1988-89 is now available.

For further information on this release, contact N. Verma (613-951-6863), Education, Culture and Tourism Division. ■



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The Daily, May 30, 1990

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Electric Lamps (Light Bulbs and Tubes), April 1990.

Catalogue number 43-009

(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

Telephone Statistics, March 1990.

Catalogue number 56-002

(Canada: \$8.30/83.00; United States: US\$10.00/US\$100.00; Other Countries: US\$11.60/US\$116.00).

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Please enclose cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publications and provide full information on publications required (catalogue number, title, issue).

Publications may also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, or from authorized bookstore agents or other booksellers.

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