



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, June 11, 1990

For release at 10:00 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

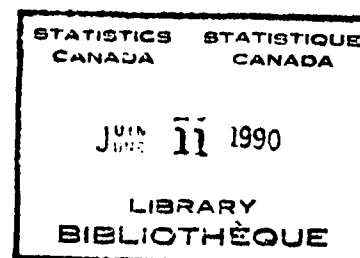
- **New Motor Vehicle Sales, April 1990** 2  
Seasonally adjusted, new motor vehicle sales fell by 6.8% from March 1990.
- **Farm Product Price Index, April 1990** 4  
Farm prices increased 0.7% over the March 1990 level.
- **Construction Union Wage Rate Index, April 1990** 5  
The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index for construction trades remained unchanged from the previous month.

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### New Motor Vehicle Sales

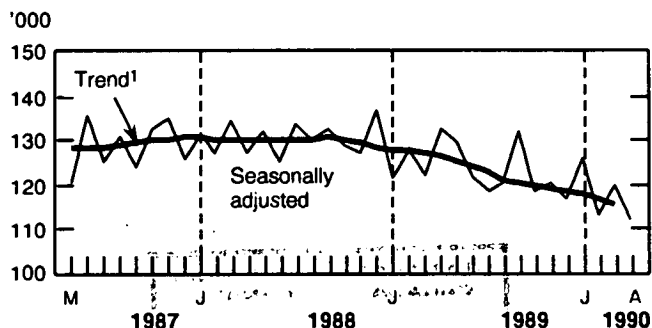
April 1990

### Highlights

#### Seasonally Adjusted

- Adjusted for seasonal fluctuations and the number of trading days, preliminary estimates indicate that sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 112,000 units in April 1990, a decrease of 6.8% from the revised March 1990 level. In April, lower sales were posted for both trucks (-8.5%) and passenger cars (-5.9%).
- In the first four months of 1990, new motor vehicle sales have fluctuated markedly while registering no overall growth, as declines in April and February more than offset gains in March and January.
- On an origin basis, sales of North American passenger cars decreased by 6.4% in April 1990 to 49,000 units, following an increase of 4.3% in March. Sales of overseas passenger cars decreased 4.8% to 25,000 units, following a gain of 1.9% in March 1990.

#### Monthly Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Canada, Seasonally Adjusted, in Units, 1987-1990



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

#### Note to Users:

**North American Vehicles:** Motor vehicles manufactured or assembled in North America. These vehicles may be built by domestic or foreign-owned companies.

**Imported vehicles:** Motor vehicles manufactured or assembled overseas and marketed in Canada by domestic or foreign-owned companies.

#### Unadjusted

- Sales of all new motor vehicles totalled 134,000 units in April 1990, down a sharp 23.0% from the April 1989 level. Passenger car sales decreased 24.9%, while sales of trucks recorded a drop of 18.9%.
- Unit sales of North American passenger cars declined 30.1%. Sales of imported passenger cars were down 10.4% from their level in April 1989. The decline was attributable to a 17.2% decrease in cars imported from "other countries" and to a 8.5% drop in sales of Japanese cars.
- The Japanese share of the Canadian passenger car market rose to 24.7% in April 1990, from 20.3% a year earlier. The Japanese share grew mainly at the expense of North American manufacturers, as their market share declined to 68.8% from 73.9% in April 1989.
- All provinces registered lower unit sales of motor vehicles in April 1990 compared to April 1989. The decreases ranged from -30.2% in Newfoundland to -12.6% in British Columbia.
- For the first four months of 1990, total new motor vehicle sales decreased 8.4% from the same period last year to 454,000 units. Sales of domestic passenger cars were down 13.3% to 200,000 units, while imported passenger car sales decreased 1.5% to 98,000 units. Sales of trucks totalled 156,000 units during this period, down 5.6% from a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

The April 1990 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007, \$14.40/\$144) will be available the third week of August. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Roger Laplante (613-951-3552) or Maurice Massaad (613-951-9682), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

## New Motor Vehicle Sales - Canada

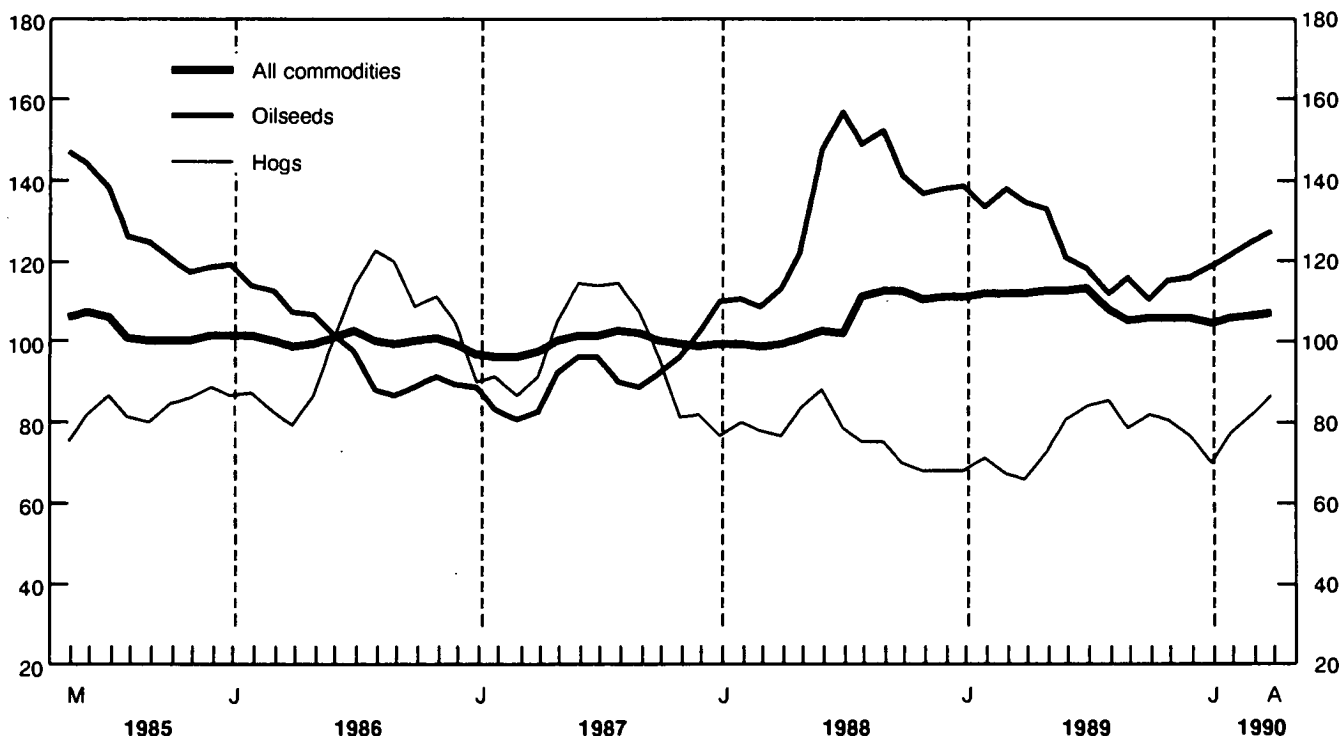
April 1990

	Seasonally Adjusted			
	January 1990 <sup>r</sup>	February 1990 <sup>r</sup>	March 1990 <sup>r</sup>	April 1990 <sup>p</sup>
	Units % Change	Units % Change	Units % Change	Units % Change
<b>Total New Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>125,832</b> 7.9	<b>113,083</b> -10.1	<b>119,642</b> 5.8	<b>111,514</b> -6.8
<b>Passenger Cars by Origin:</b>				
North America	54,220 -0.6	50,025 -7.7	52,192 4.3	48,827 -6.4
Overseas	27,302 12.0	26,114 -4.4	26,612 1.9	25,329 -4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,522</b> 3.3	<b>76,138</b> -6.6	<b>78,804</b> 3.5	<b>74,156</b> -5.9
<b>Trucks, Vans and Buses</b>	<b>44,310</b> 17.5	<b>36,945</b> -16.6	<b>40,839</b> 10.5	<b>37,359</b> -8.5
	Unadjusted			
	April 1990	Change 1990/89	January- April 1990	Change 1990/89
	Units	%	Units	%
<b>Total New Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>134,243</b>	<b>-23.0</b>	<b>453,523</b>	<b>-8.4</b>
<b>Passenger Cars by Origin:</b>				
North America	62,039	-30.1	200,001	-13.3
Japan	22,282	-8.5	77,741	3.1
Other Countries (Including South Korea)	5,845	-17.2	20,193	-15.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,166</b>	<b>-24.9</b>	<b>297,935</b>	<b>-9.8</b>
<b>Trucks, Vans and Buses by Origin:</b>				
North America	37,743	-21.3	131,059	-8.0
Overseas	6,334	-0.3	24,529	9.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,077</b>	<b>-18.9</b>	<b>155,588</b>	<b>-5.6</b>

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>r</sup> Revised

## Farm Product Price Index (1986 = 100)



## Farm Product Price Index

April 1990

The Farm Product Price Index (1986=100) for Canada stood at 107.1 in April, up 0.7% over the revised March level of 106.4. The crops and the livestock and animal products indexes both recorded 0.7% increases. However, the overall index remained 4.3% below the year-earlier level of 111.9. Cereal and oilseed prices for the 1989-90 crop year (August 1 - July 31) have been much lower than in the previous crop year, as 1989 North American grain production rebounded from the drought-reduced 1988 level.

The percentage changes in the index between March and April 1990 by province were as follows:

- Newfoundland +1.8%
- Prince Edward Island -1.2%
- Nova Scotia +0.6%

- New Brunswick +0.2%
- Quebec +1.3%
- Ontario +0.7%
- Manitoba +1.2%
- Saskatchewan +0.8%
- Alberta -0.1%
- British Columbia +1.6%
- Canada +0.7%

## Crops

The crops index rose 0.7% in April to 113.5, as prices for cereals and oilseeds increased. The index, however, stood 14.5% below the year-earlier level of 132.7. Grain prices for the 1989-90 crop year have fallen below those of the previous crop year, but have been trending upwards since November 1989, mainly due to increasing oilseed prices. Grain prices in 1988-89 were the highest in four years, as drought in North America reduced crop production.

- The cereals index increased 0.9% in April to 109.8. The cereals index has been fluctuating between 108.6 and 109.8 for the last six months, and remains 20.4% below year-earlier levels.
- The oilseeds index rose 2.1% in April to 127.0. Oilseed prices remained 5.6% below year-earlier levels, despite increases since November 1989.
- The potatoes index decreased 2.5% in April to 168.6. The index stood 1.5% below the year-earlier level, and 24.0% below the record level attained in July 1989.

#### Livestock and Animal Products

The livestock and animal products index increased 0.7% in April to 103.1, as hog prices increased, and cattle prices decreased. Poultry prices rose 0.7%, while egg prices fell 0.5%. The April increase in the livestock index was a continuation of the generally rising trend which occurred throughout 1989, mainly resulting from higher hog prices from May to December 1989.

- The hog index rose 5.4% to 86.3 in April. Hog prices in Canada and the U.S. in April showed unexpected strength in response to small decreases in slaughter levels and farrowing intentions. In April, the check-off program instituted to help offset the cost of the U.S. countervailing duty on Canadian pork exports was no longer in effect. The removal of the check-off further increased the prices received by producers.
- The cattle index decreased 0.6% to 107.6 in April. This was unchanged from the year-earlier level. The cattle index has been quite stable during the last 12 months, fluctuating between 106.4 and 108.3.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 176.**

#### Note to Users:

As of March 1990, the Farm Product Price Index has been rebased to 1986=100. The weighting period of 1981-1984=100 has been maintained, and the commodities included in the index remain unchanged from those included in the 1981=100 index. To provide a measure of continuity, an annual series of linked indexes on a 1986=100 base is available from 1950 to date. The monthly index has been recalculated using a 1986 time base as far back as January 1981. Annual indexes from 1950 to 1980 are linked to the current time base at January 1981.

The April issue of the *Farm Product Price Index* (62-003, \$7.10/\$71) is scheduled for release on June 21. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Liz Leckie (613-951-2436), Farm Income and Prices Section, Agriculture Division. ■

#### Construction Union Wage Rate Index

April 1990

The Canada Total Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for construction trades (1981=100) showed no change in April from the March figure of 157.6. On a year-over-year basis, the composite index increased 5.6% to 157.6 from 149.3.

The table on the following page shows wage rates for crane operators, heavy equipment operators and truck drivers.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 400-405, 956 and 958.**

The second quarter 1990 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$18/\$72) will be available in July. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division. □

# Construction Union Wage Rates<sup>1</sup>

(in dollars)

April 1990

	Trades					
	Crane Operator		Heavy Equipment Operator		Truck Driver	
	Basic Rate	Basic Rate and Selected Pay Supplements <sup>2</sup>	Basic Rate	Basic Rate and Selected Pay Supplements <sup>2</sup>	Basic Rate	Basic Rate and Selected Pay Supplements <sup>2</sup>
St. John's	14.55	16.72	14.50	16.67	14.15	16.29
Halifax	17.47	20.28	17.09	19.87	16.21	18.92
Saint John	16.33	19.15	15.75	18.52	14.47	17.11
Montreal	19.18	22.76	18.02	21.48	15.96	19.20
Ottawa	20.92	25.95	19.90	24.83	16.50	21.09
Toronto	21.97	27.13	21.03	26.09	18.33	22.31
Thunder Bay	20.70	25.70	19.62	24.51	16.55	21.14
Winnipeg	20.15	24.12	16.27	19.85	15.61	19.12
Regina	..	..	..	..	..	..
Edmonton	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vancouver	21.63	27.77	21.12	27.19	20.92	27.02

<sup>1</sup> Rates are available for other trades and other cities..

<sup>2</sup> Basic Rate and selected pay supplements: vacation pay, statutory holiday pay, employer's contribution to health and welfare and pension plans.

.. Figures not available.

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area

April 1990

Department stores sales including concessions totalled \$1,055 million in April 1990, up 1.9% over the April 1989 level of \$1,035 million. Concessions sales totalled \$83.5 million, 7.9% of total department store sales.

Department store sales during April 1990 for the provinces and the 10 metropolitan areas surveyed were as follows (with the percentage change from April 1989 in parentheses):

#### Department Stores Sales Including Concessions

##### Province

- Newfoundland, \$15.2 million (+ 35.2%);
- Prince Edward Island, \$6.7 million (+ 8.0%);
- Nova Scotia, \$34.3 million (+ 5.9%);
- New Brunswick, \$22.3 million (+ 6.3%);
- Quebec, \$201.8 million (+ 1.7%);
- Ontario, \$436.3 million (+ 2.4%);
- Manitoba, \$47.3 million (+ 2.1%);
- Saskatchewan, \$31.2 million (+ 2.5%);
- Alberta, \$113.3 million (-3.4%);
- British Columbia, \$146.5 million (+ 0.6%).

##### Metropolitan Area

- Calgary, \$42.9 million (-4.2%);
- Edmonton, \$49.5 million (-5.8%);
- Halifax-Dartmouth, \$18.5 million (+ 4.8%);
- Hamilton, \$31.1 million (-7.8%);
- Montreal, \$109.0 million (-1.5%);
- Ottawa-Hull, \$49.2 million (+ 3.7%);
- Quebec City, \$27.5 million (-1.4%);
- Toronto, \$171.2 million (-2.1%);
- Vancouver, \$80.9 million (-4.4%);
- Winnipeg, \$41.8 million (-0.5%).

#### Department Stores Sales Excluding Concessions

##### Province

- Newfoundland, \$13.4 million (+ 36.7%);
- Prince Edward Island, \$6.2 million (+ 7.3%);
- Nova Scotia, \$31.4 million (+ 5.6%);
- New Brunswick, \$20.3 million (+ 6.7%);
- Quebec, \$188.5 million (+ 1.3%);
- Ontario, \$399.7 million (+ 2.1%);
- Manitoba, \$42.6 million (+ 1.6%);
- Saskatchewan, \$28.4 million (+ 2.0%);
- Alberta, \$104.9 million (-3.7%);
- British Columbia, \$136.1 million (-0.3%).

#### Note to Users:

Trading days can have a significant impact on department store sales. Users should therefore use the year-over-year comparisons with caution. Estimates shown in this release are not adjusted for trading-day differences.

Users should also note that the year-over-year movements for some provinces and census metropolitan areas are exaggerated due to the inclusion of some outlets previously classified to the general merchandise category.

Information on department store sales and stocks by department will be released in *The Daily* during the week of June 18, 1990.

#### Metropolitan Area

- Calgary, \$39.3 million (-4.0%);
- Edmonton, \$46.0 million (-7.2%);
- Halifax-Dartmouth, \$17.1 million (+ 4.2%);
- Hamilton, \$28.5 million (-8.5%);
- Montreal, \$102.0 million (-2.9%);
- Ottawa-Hull, \$46.1 million (+ 3.2%);
- Quebec City, \$25.6 million (-2.4%);
- Toronto, \$158.8 million (-2.7%);
- Vancouver, \$75.8 million (-4.8%);
- Winnipeg, \$38.1 million (-0.5%).

Order the April 1990 issue of *Department Store Monthly Sales, by Province and Selected Metropolitan Area* (63-004, \$2.70/\$27), available the fourth week of June. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Maurice Massaad (613-951-9682), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. ■

#### Selected Financial Indexes

April 1990

April 1990 figures are now available for the selected financial indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2031.

The second quarter 1990 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$18/\$72) will be available in September. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division. ■



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The Daily, June 11, 1990

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Footwear Statistics, April 1990.**

**Catalogue number 33-002**

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

**Particleboard, Waferboard and Fibreboard, April 1990.**

**Catalogue number 36-003**

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

**Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, April 1990.**

**Catalogue number 41-006**

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

**Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, April 1990.**

**Catalogue number 43-005**

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

**Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, April 1990.**

**Catalogue number 46-002**

(Canada: \$5.60/\$56.00; United States:  
US\$6.70/US\$67.00; Other Countries:  
US\$7.80/US\$78.00).

**Gas Utilities, February 1990.**

**Catalogue number 55-002**

(Canada: \$12.70/\$127.00; United States:  
US\$15.20/US\$152.00; Other Countries:  
US\$17.80/US\$178.00).

**Wholesale Trade, March 1990.**

**Catalogue number 63-008**

(Canada: \$14.40/\$144.00; United States:  
US\$17.30/US\$173.00; Other Countries:  
US\$20.20/US\$202.00).

**Service Industry Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 1 - The Consulting Engineering Industry, 1987.**

**Catalogue number 63-015**

(Canada: \$7.20/\$43.00; United States:  
US\$8.65/US\$52.00; Other Countries:  
US\$10.00/US\$60.00).

**Unemployment Insurance Statistics, March 1990.**

**Catalogue number 73-001**

(Canada: \$14.70/\$147.00; United States:  
US\$17.60/US\$176.00; Other Countries:  
US\$20.60/US\$206.00).

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