



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, July 4, 1990

For release at 10:00 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

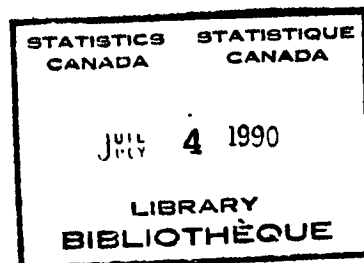
- **Composite Leading Indicator, April 1990** 2  
The composite leading index fell by 0.4% in April, the third straight decline.
- **Help-wanted Index, June 1990** 4  
The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index for Canada decreased four points to 120 in June 1990.

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Electric Power Statistics, April 1990	6
Cement, May 1990	6
Notifiable Disease Summary, Monthly Periods for January, February, March and April 1990	6

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 7

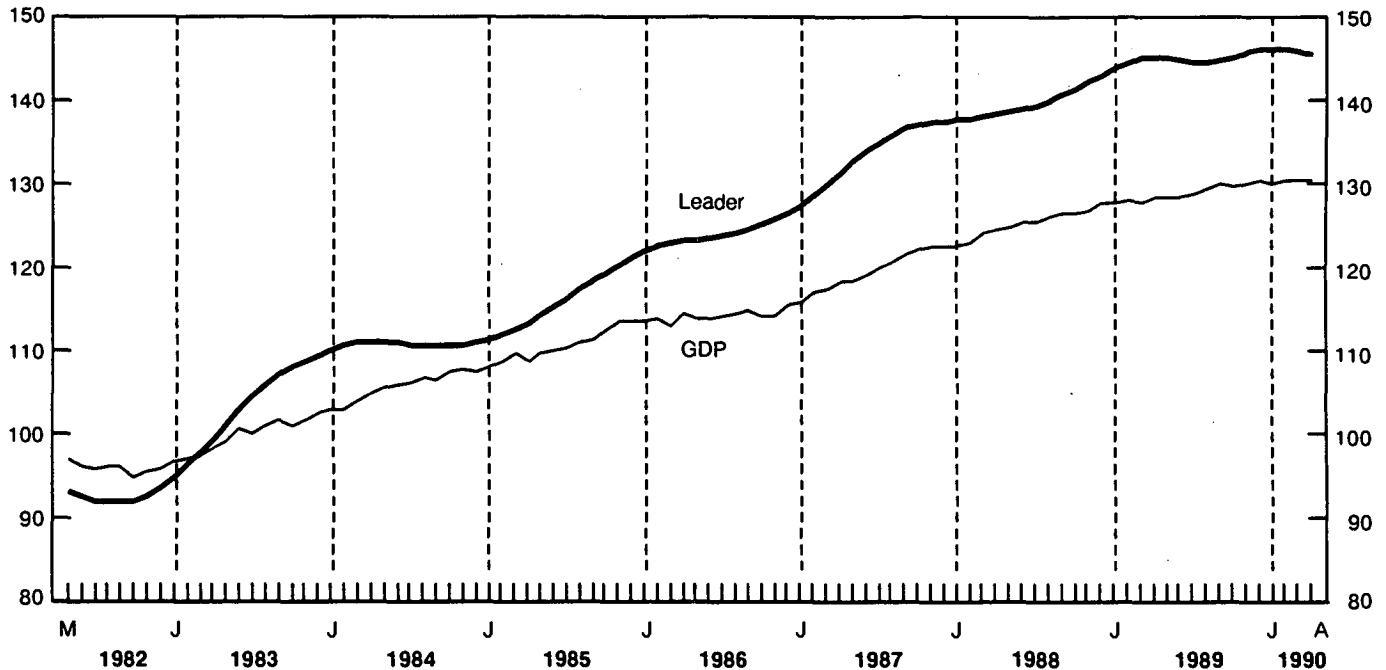
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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Composite Leading Indicator and GDP

1981 = 100



### Composite Leading Indicator

April 1990

The composite leading index fell by 0.4% in April, after drops of 0.1% in February and 0.2% in March. A decline of this magnitude typically has preceded a marked slowing of the economy in the past. Within the 10 components, the number declining rose from seven in March to eight in April. There was weakness in most of the indicators of final demand, while manufacturing continued to contract. The drop in the financial market indicators also deepened. The unsmoothed index fell 1.0%, its third decline in the last four months.

The components related to household demand all declined in April. The housing index fell 3%, its second straight drop. Lower house sales continued, while housing starts fell for the first time after several months of growth. The number of unsold houses rose sharply in March and April. Furniture and appliance

sales also slackened. Sales of other durable goods declined, partly because of the waning stimulus of rebates on autos. A drop in paid-worker employment so far in the second quarter suggests there will be little reversal of these trends in the short-term.

The manufacturing indicators continued to decline in April. The trend of new orders for durable goods fell at a particularly rapid rate, as the auto industry contracted further and the capital goods industry remained mixed. Auto exports dropped in April after inventories rose in the U.S. in March. The ratio of shipments to stocks remained on a downward trend due to declining shipments, while the average workweek shortened.

The financial market indicators both continued to post marked declines in April. The Toronto stock exchange index fell by 2.7%, despite a rally in the United States markets. The real money supply continued to decline at rates comparable to the 1986 slowdown.

The leading indicator for the United States was up 0.1% in April, the same as in March. New orders declined anew, while building permits weakened. A larger increase in the index in May partly reflected gains in auto production, although sales remained sluggish. Consumer confidence fell to its lowest level since the 1987 stock market crash.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For further information on this release, or about the next release dates, contact F. Roy-Mayrand (613-951-3627), International and Financial Economics Division.

For more information on the economy, order the July issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220), available the week of July 15. See "How to Order Publications".

### Canadian Leading Indicators

	Percentage Change			Level	
	February	March	April	March	April
<b>Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)</b>					
Smoothed	-0.1	-0.2	-0.4	145.5	144.9
Unsmoothed	0.1	-0.3	-1.0	144.1	142.6
<b>Retail Trade</b>					
Furniture and appliance sales	-0.2	-0.2	-0.4	1,008 <sup>4</sup>	1,084 <sup>4</sup>
Other durable goods sales	0.5	0.4	-0.3	3,900 <sup>4</sup>	3,889 <sup>4</sup>
<b>House Spending Index<sup>1</sup></b>	0.4	-1.0	-3.0	147.1	142.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>					
New orders - durables	-2.5	-1.9	-1.5	9,596 <sup>4</sup>	9,454 <sup>4</sup>
Shipment to inventory ratio - (finished goods) <sup>2</sup>	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	1.43	1.42
Average workweek (hours)	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	38.5	38.4
Business and personal services employment (thousands)	0.7	0.6	0.6	1,762	1,773
<b>United States Composite Leading Index (1967 = 100)</b>	-0.1	0.1	0.1	193.6	193.7
<b>TSE300 Stock Price index (1975 = 1000)</b>	-1.2	-1.6	-2.7	3,834	3,731
<b>Money Supply (M1) (\$1981)<sup>3</sup></b>	-0.1	-0.7	-0.8	25,567 <sup>4</sup>	25,373 <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (MLS).

<sup>2</sup> Difference from previous month.

<sup>3</sup> Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.

<sup>4</sup> Millions of 1981 dollars..

## Help-wanted Index

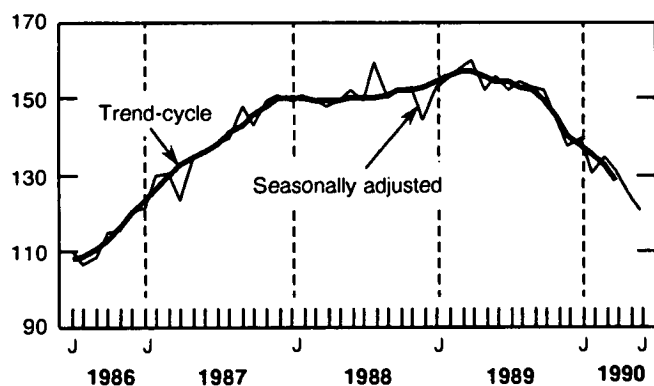
June 1990

The Help-wanted Index serves as an early indicator of the demand for labour by monitoring changes in the number of help-wanted ads published in 20 major metropolitan areas.

### Highlights – Seasonally Adjusted

The Help-wanted Index for Canada (1981=100) continued to decrease in June, falling four points to 120. The index declined in three regions and advanced in two.

**Help-wanted Index, Canada  
(1981 = 100)**



### Changes by Region

Between May and June 1990, the seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index decreased 8.0% in the Prairie provinces (to 80 from 87), 6.7% in Ontario (to 112 from 120), and 3.4% in Quebec (to 143 from 148). The index increased 6.3% in the Atlantic provinces (to 168 from 158) and 3.4% in British Columbia (to 121 from 117).

#### Note to Users:

Seasonally adjusted data include irregular components which can obscure the short-term trend. While these data are useful for examining month-to-month changes in the Help-wanted Index, smoothed seasonally adjusted data or trend-cycle estimates are also provided for readers interested in the longer-term trend. Trend-cycle estimates for the two most recent months are not shown because they can change significantly as new data become available.

### Highlights – Longer-term Trend

- The trend-cycle for Canada continued to decrease between March and April 1990, falling four points to 128. The index had reached a peak of 157 in March 1989, then started to decline in May 1989.
- The long-term trend is downward in all regions, although the start of the decrease varied considerably across the country. Using April 1990 as a reference month, the trend-cycle had been decreasing for 15 consecutive months in Ontario, for 11 months in Quebec, for nine months in the Atlantic provinces, and for three months both in the Prairie provinces and in British Columbia.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 5 and 7).

For further information, contact André Picard (613-951-4045) or Horst Stiebert (613-951-4044), Labour Division. □

# **Help-wanted Index (1981 = 100), Canada and Regions**

Year and month	Canada	Atlantic Region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Region	British Columbia
<b>1989</b>						
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>						
June	156	232	178	167	87	130
July	152	213	171	161	90	131
August	154	181	176	159	92	132
September	153	204	177	161	93	128
October	152	190	168	171	91	129
November	144	182	160	154	91	139
December	137	164	153	150	89	132
<b>1990</b>						
January	139	183	159	145	83	131
February	130	173	143	139	89	121
March	134	186	149	135	89	129
April	131	181	145	128	91	138
May	124	158	148	120	87	117
June	120	168	143	112	80	121
<b>1989</b>						
<b>Trend-cycle</b>						
April	157	199	179	174	89	128
May	156	201	179	170	89	130
June	154	203	178	167	90	131
July	154	204	176	164	90	131
August	153	203	174	161	91	130
September	152	199	171	159	91	130
October	149	192	167	156	91	131
November	145	186	162	153	91	132
December	140	181	157	149	90	132
<b>1990</b>						
January	137	179	152	145	90	132
February	135	177	149	139	89	129
March	132	175	147	132	88	126
April <sup>P</sup>	128	172	146	126	86	123

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Electric Power Statistics

April 1990

Net generation of electric energy in Canada in April 1990 decreased to 36 798 gigawatt hours (GWh), down 4.8% from the corresponding month last year. Exports decreased 44.6% to 1 033 GWh, while imports climbed from 1 024 GWh to 1 858 GWh.

Year-to-date figures show net generation at 165 972 GWh, down 5.9% from the previous year's period. Exports, at 3 851 GWh, were down 48.4%, while imports, at 7 871 GWh, were up 146.8%.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3987-3999.**

The April 1990 issue of *Electric Power Statistics* (57-001, \$10/\$100) will be available the second week of July. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Dave Madsen (613-951-9823), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

### Cement

May 1990

Canadian manufacturers shipped 1 125 776 tonnes of cement in May 1990, a decrease of 7.9% from the 1 222 291 tonnes shipped a year earlier, but an increase of 29.7% over the 867 755 tonnes shipped in April 1990.

January to May 1990 shipments totalled 3 773 920 tonnes, down 1.3% from the 3 823 324 tonnes shipped during the same period in 1989.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 35) .**

The May 1990 issue of *Cement* (44-001, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

### Notifiable Disease Summary

Monthly Periods for January, February, March and April 1990

Statistics and new cases of notifiable diseases for January, February, March and April 1990 are now available by sex and five-year age group for Canada and the provinces.

**Available on CANSIM: cross-classified table 00050133.**

For further information on this release, contact Beth Sander (613-951-1746), Canadian Centre for Health Information. ■

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**The Dairy Review**, April 1990.

**Catalogue number 23-001**

(Canada: \$12.20/\$122.00; United States:  
US\$14.60/US\$146.00; Other Countries:  
US\$17.10/US\$171.00).

**Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based)**, April 1990.

**Catalogue number 65-007**

(Canada: \$55.10/\$551.00; United States:  
US\$66.10/US\$661.00; Other Countries:  
US\$77.10/US\$771.00).

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*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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**The  
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