



The Daily

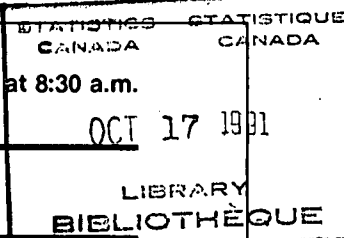
Statistics Canada

Thursday, October 17, 1991

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For release at 8:30 a.m.

NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, August 1991** 2
Higher exports of aircraft and automotive products, coupled with reduced imports of some commodities, pushed Canada's trade surplus to \$1.1 billion in August.
- **Unemployment Insurance Statistics, July 1991** 3
The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits, adjusted for seasonal variations, declined 3.7% in July to 1,169,000. Decreases were observed in all provinces and territories.
- **Sales of Natural Gas, August 1991** 5
Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during August 1991 totalled 2 706 million cubic metres, a 2.5% decrease from the previous year.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import Price Indexes, August 1991	6
Telephone Statistics, August 1991	6
Shipments of Rolled Steel, August 1991	6
Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products, October 1, 1991	6

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

7



Statistics
Canada

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Canada

MAJOR RELEASES

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

August 1991

Exports grew to \$12.4 billion in August, up \$257 million from their revised July level of \$12.2 billion. The biggest boost to the export sector came from the machinery and equipment group, which grew by \$414 million to reach \$2.8 billion. The largest influence on the growth of machinery and equipment exports in August was the aircraft, engines and parts group, which rose by \$436 million. Exports of automotive products rose \$198 million to \$3.2 billion, their highest level since March 1990. Energy products showed an increase of \$72 million, as crude petroleum exports rose by \$75 million. All other major commodity groupings registered decreases in August.

Reversing the previous month's movement, imports fell to \$11.3 billion, down by \$417 million from July. Automotive products registered an increase in August, the only major commodity grouping to do so. At \$2.7 billion, imports of automotive products were at their highest since March 1990. Machinery and equipment fell the most, declining by \$207 million to \$3.5 billion. Industrial goods and materials dropped by \$127 million to \$2.0 billion. The "other consumer goods" category decreased by \$118 million in August, almost entirely due to a \$112 million decrease for "miscellaneous consumer goods". Declines were also posted for energy products (-\$83 million) and agricultural and fishing products (-\$55 million).

The trade surplus grew by \$675 million in August, reaching \$1.1 billion compared to the revised July figure of \$453 million. Canada's trade surplus with the United States grew by \$734 million in August, reaching \$1.9 billion. Deficits were recorded with all other major trading partners.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3620-3629, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718, 3719, 3887-3913.

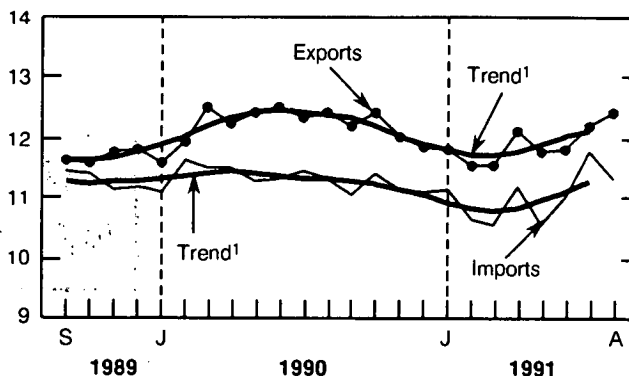
Current account data, which incorporate merchandise trade statistics as well as data concerning trade in services and capital account movements, are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001, \$27.50/\$110).

For further information on international trade statistics (detailed tables, charts and a more complete analysis) order *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$10/\$100), now available. See "How to Order Publications".

Merchandise Trade

Seasonally Adjusted
 Balance of Payments Basis

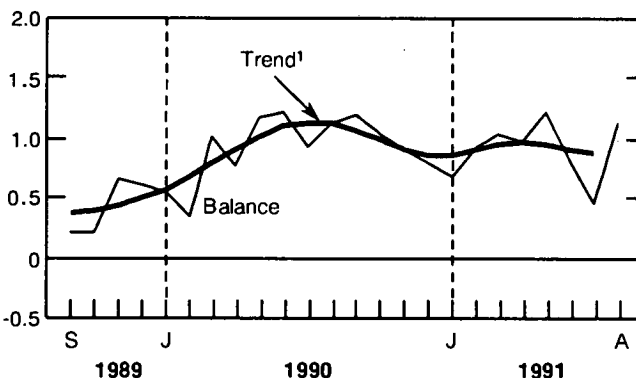
Billions of dollars



Merchandise Trade Balance

Seasonally Adjusted
 Balance of Payments Basis

Billions of dollars



¹ The short-term trend represents a weighted average of the data.

For more detailed information on statistics, concepts and definitions, order the August 1991 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182), available the first week of November 1991, or contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Trade Information Unit, or Marlene Sterpan (613-951-1711) (for analysis information), or Denis Pilon (613-951-4808) (for price index information), Trade Measures and Analysis Section, International Trade Division.

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

July 1991

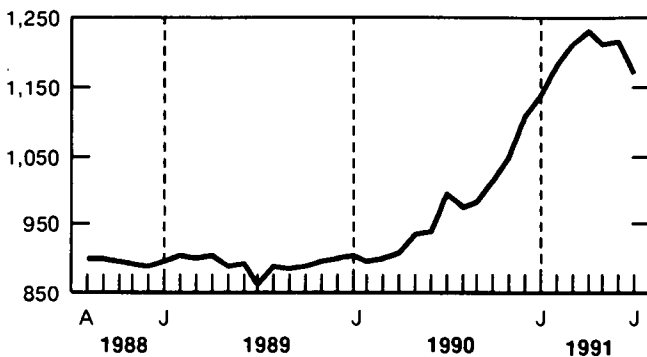
Seasonally Adjusted Data

- For the week ended July 20, 1991, the preliminary estimate of the number of beneficiaries¹ who received regular unemployment insurance benefits was 1,169,000, down 3.7% from a month earlier. This marks the third consecutive decrease in the number of beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Canada

Seasonally adjusted

'000



- Between June and July 1991, the number of beneficiaries who received regular benefits decreased in all provinces and territories. The largest proportional changes occurred in the Yukon (-7.1), Quebec (-5.4%), Saskatchewan (-4.3%), Manitoba (-3.0%), Ontario (-2.2%), Prince Edward Island (-2.2%) and Alberta (-2.0%).
- In July 1991, total benefit payments², adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of working days, increased 3.0% to \$1,587 million. The number of benefit weeks increased 3.1%, to 6.3 million.

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonal Variation

- In July 1991, the number of beneficiaries¹ (including all persons qualifying for regular and special unemployment insurance benefits) stood at 1,225,000, up 19.0% from the same month a year ago. Over the same period, the number of

Note to Data Users

Sub-provincial beneficiaries data are available on request; for example, tables which show the number of beneficiaries by metropolitan area and by sex and type of benefit. In addition, tabulations, based on aggregations of postal codes, can be produced for areas of specific interest to users.

male beneficiaries rose 25.7% to 637,000, and the number of female beneficiaries advanced 12.5% to 588,000.

- In the following census metropolitan areas the year-over-year percentage changes in the number of beneficiaries exceeded the national average:

	Beneficiaries, July 1991	% Change July 1991/1990
Toronto	139,980	52%
St. John's (Nfld)	13,470	47%
Oshawa	8,390	43%
St. Catharines-Niagara	14,080	37%
Hamilton	21,720	35%
Kitchener	14,580	35%
Vancouver	65,450	30%
Sudbury	5,920	28%
Calgary	25,930	21%

- Benefits paid during July 1991 totalled \$1,446 million², up 50.1% from July 1990. Since the start of 1991, benefit payments amounted to \$11,127 million, an increase of 39.6% compared with the same period a year ago. For the same seven-month period, the average weekly payment increased 5.3% to \$242.87, and the number of benefit weeks advanced 31.7% to 45.5 million.

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 be noted that these estimates are affected by the number of working days available during the reference month to process claims and to pay benefits. If short-term comparisons are made, it is not uncommon to observe different trends between these data and the number of beneficiaries.

- A total of 342,000 claims (applications) for unemployment insurance benefits were received in July 1991. This represents an increase of 7.9% over the same month a year earlier. Since the start of the year, 2,198,000 claims have been received, up 14.1% from last year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717, 5735-5736.

The July 1991 issue of *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001, \$14.70/\$147), containing data for May, June and July 1991, will be available in October. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information, please call Carole Lacroix-McCann (613-951-4039) or André Picard (613-951-4045), Labour Division (FAX: 613-951-4087).

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

	July 1991	June 1991	May 1991	July 1990	% change July 1991/ June 1991
Seasonally adjusted					
Benefits					
Amount paid (\$'000)	1,586,518	1,540,078	1,504,390	1,129,979	3.0
Weeks of benefit ('000)	6,307	6,117	6,319	4,787	3.1
Beneficiaries - Regular benefit ('000)	1,169^P	1,214^P	1,212^r	990	-3.7
	July 1991	June 1991	May 1991	July 1990	% change July 1991/ July 1990
Unadjusted					
Benefits					
Amount paid (\$'000)	1,445,506	1,290,171	1,609,500	962,792	50.1
Weeks of benefit ('000)	5,964	5,426	6,599	4,270	39.7
Average weekly benefit (\$)	237.82	237.56	243.81	225.46	5.5
Claims received (000)	342	256	267	317	7.9
Beneficiaries (000)					
Total	1,225 ^P	1,281 ^P	1,419 ^r	1,029	19.0
Regular benefits	1,054 ^P	1,094 ^P	1,202 ^r	898	17.4
January to July					% change 1991/1990
	1991	1990			
Benefits					
Amount paid (\$'000)	11,126,551	7,972,863			39.6
Weeks of benefit ('000)	45,520	34,553			31.7
Average weekly benefit (\$)	242.87	230.74			5.3
Claims received ('000)	2,198	1,926			14.1
Beneficiaries					
Year-to-date average ('000)	1,460 ^P	1,149			27.1

^P Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

... Figures not available.

Sales of Natural Gas

August 1991 (Preliminary Data)

Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during August 1991 totalled 2 706 million cubic metres, a 2.5% decrease from the level recorded the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in August 1991 were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from August 1990 in brackets: residential sales, 332 million cubic metres (-5.2%); commercial sales, 281 million cubic metres (-8.6%) and industrial sales (including direct sales), 2 092 million cubic metres (-1.1%).

Year-to-date figures for 1991 indicate that sales of natural gas amounted to 35 672 million cubic metres, a 0.8% decrease from the level recorded during the same period in 1990.

On the basis of rate structure information, year-to-date sales were broken down as follows, with the percentage changes from 1990 in brackets: residential sales, 8 926 million cubic metres (+0.3%); commercial sales, 7 345 million cubic metres (-0.3%) and industrial sales (including direct sales), 19 401 million cubic metres (-1.5%).

Based on the sum of the latest 12 months (September 1990 to August 1991), total natural gas sales (including direct sales) posted a 1.2% decrease from the previous period (September 1989 to August 1990).

The August 1991 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$12.70/\$127) will be available the third week of November. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Sales of Natural Gas – Preliminary Data

August 1991

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
	thousands of cubic metres				
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	12 302	37 596	231 841	2 121	283 860
Ontario	163 249	105 935	477 480	155 729	902 393
Manitoba	17 140	9 042	27 084	600	53 866
Saskatchewan	22 700	14 880	3 000	94 913	135 493
Alberta	71 342	64 100	886 237	-	1 021 689
British Columbia	45 065	49 926	107 468	105 830	308 289
August 1991 – Canada	331 798	281 489	1 733 110	359 193	2 705 590
August 1990 – Canada	350 106	308 126	1 851 135	264 862	2 774 229
% change	-5.2	-8.6		-1.1	-2.5
Year-to-date Canada 1991	8 925 691	7 344 925	16 396 142	3 005 074	35 671 832
Year-to-date Canada 1990	8 901 702	7 370 691	17 059 992	2 632 628	35 965 013
% change	0.3	-0.3		-1.5	-0.8
Sum of September 1990 – August 1991	13 588 035	11 182 864	25 113 234	4 300 453	54 184 586
Sum of September 1989 – August 1990	13 457 318	11 169 582	26 080 926	4 112 423	54 820 249
% change	1.0	0.1		-2.6	-1.2

Note: Revised figures will be available in the "Gas Utilities" publication (Catalogue #55-002) as well as on CANSIM.

- Nil or zero.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import Price Indexes

August 1991

Current and fixed weighted export and import price indexes, on a balance of payments basis, are now available on a 1986 = 100 basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to August 1991 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Customs based current and fixed weighted U.S. price indexes are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to August 1991 on a 1986 = 100 basis. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 "All Countries" and "U.S. only" SITC section indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3620-3629.

The August 1991 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of November. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division. ■

Telephone Statistics

August 1991

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported monthly revenues of \$1,118 million in August 1991, down 0.9% from August 1990.

Operating expenses were \$810.6 million, a decrease of 1.8% from August 1990. Net operating revenue was \$307.5 million, an increase of 1.5% from August 1990.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 355.

The August 1991 issue of *Telephone Statistics* (56-002, \$8.30/\$83) is scheduled for release the week of October 28. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact J.R. Slattery (613-951-2205), Services, Science and Technology Division. ■

Shipments of Rolled Steel

August 1991

Rolled steel shipments for August 1991 totalled 932 007 tonnes, a decrease of 4.4% from the preceding month's total of 974 537 tonnes but an increase of 6.0% from the year-earlier level of 879 232 (revised) tonnes. Year-to-date shipments totalled 7 322 474 tonnes, a decrease of 14.2% compared to 8 534 944 tonnes the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).

The August 1991 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gerry Barrett (613-951-3515), Industry Division. ■

Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products

October 1, 1991

Preliminary cold storage of frozen poultry products at October 1st, 1991 and revised figures for September 1st, 1991 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

To order *Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry* (\$115/year), a statistical bulletin, contact Guy Gervais (613-951-2453).

For more detailed information on this release contact Benoit Levesque (613-951-2550), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics,
August 1991.

Catalogue number 25-001

(Canada: \$6.10/\$61; United States: US\$7.30/US\$73;
Other Countries: US\$8.50/US\$85).

Canadian Forestry Statistics, 1988.

Catalogue number 25-202

(Canada: \$27; United States: US\$32; Other
Countries: US\$38).

Consumer Price Index, September 1991.

Catalogue number 62-001

(Canada: \$9.30/\$93; United States:
US\$11.20/US\$112; Other Countries: US\$13/US\$130).

Available Friday, October 18 at 7 a.m.

Quarterly Demographic Statistics, April-June 1991.
Catalogue number 91-002

(Canada: \$7.50/\$30; United States: US\$9/US\$36;
Other Countries: US\$10.50/US\$42).

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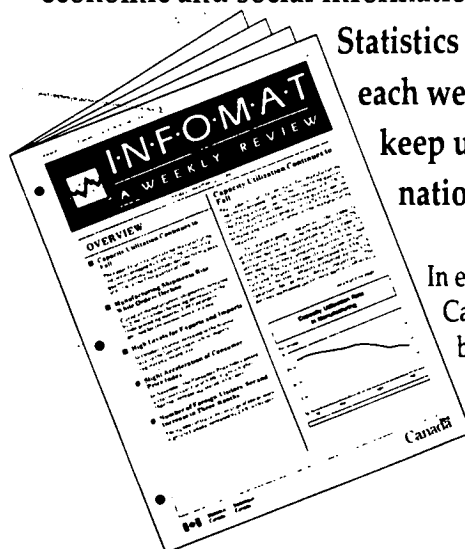


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