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Wednesday, October 30, 1991

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MAJOR RELEASES

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

August 1991

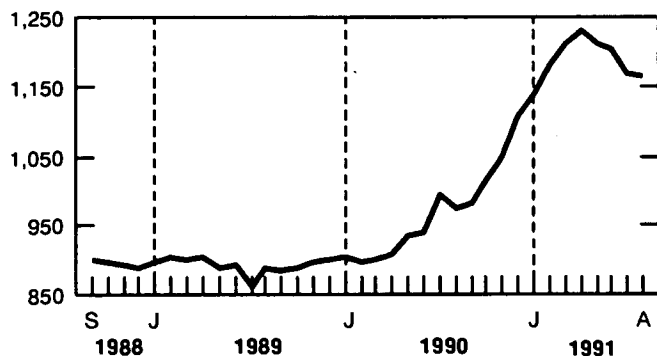
Seasonally Adjusted Data

- For the week ended August 17, 1991, the preliminary estimate of the number of beneficiaries¹ who received regular unemployment insurance benefits stood at 1,165,000, a slight decrease (-0.4%) from a month earlier.
- Between July and August 1991, the largest proportional decreases in the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits occurred in Ontario (-4.4%), British Columbia (-4.0%), Newfoundland (-3.2%) and the Northwest Territories (-2.7%). These declines were mainly offset by increases in the number of beneficiaries in Prince Edward Island (4.9%), Quebec (2.4%), Saskatchewan (2.2%) and Manitoba (2.0%).

Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Canada

Seasonally adjusted

'000



- In August 1991, total benefit payments², adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of working days, decreased 6.1% to \$1,490 million, and the number of benefit weeks declined 7.8%, to 5.8 million.

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonal Variation

- In August 1991, the number of beneficiaries¹ (including all persons qualifying for regular and special unemployment insurance benefits) was 1,231,000, up 19.7% from the same month a year

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.

ago. Over the same period, the number of male beneficiaries rose 26.0% to 607,000, and the number of female beneficiaries advanced 14.2% to 624,000.

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

	Beneficiaries, August 1991	% Change from August 1990
Windsor	14,430	51%
Toronto	136,660	42%
St. Catharines-Niagara	14,490	33%
Kitchener	13,970	30%
Oshawa	8,580	28%
Hamilton	22,010	27%
Ottawa	19,140	23%
Vancouver	62,540	22%
London	13,160	21%
Winnipeg	24,940	20%
Montreal	169,500	20%

- Benefits paid during August 1991 totalled \$1,288 million², up 22.9% from August 1990. Since the start of 1991, benefit payments have amounted to \$12,415 million, an increase of 37.6% compared with the same period a year ago. For the same eight-month period, the average weekly payment increased 5.3% to \$242.61, and the number of benefit weeks advanced 29.8% to 50.8 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 236,000 claims² (applications) for unemployment insurance benefits were received in August 1991. This represents a decrease of 6.8% from the same month a year earlier. Since the start of the year, 2,435,000 claims have been received, up 11.7% from 1990.

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

The August 1991 issue of *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001, \$14.70/\$147), containing data for June, July and August 1991, will be available in November. 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

	August 1991	July 1991	June 1991	August 1990	% change August 1991/ July 1991
Seasonally adjusted					
Benefits					
Amount paid (\$000)	1,489,998	1,586,518	1,540,078	1,128,572	-6.1
Weeks of benefit (000)	5,817	6,307	6,117	4,847	-7.8
Beneficiaries - Regular benefit (000)	1,165 P	1,169 P	1,204 r	973	-0.4
	August 1991	July 1991	June 1991	August 1990	% change August 1991/ August 1990
Unadjusted					
Benefits					
Amount paid (\$000)	1,288,004	1,445,506	1,290,171	1,048,382	22.9
Weeks of benefit (000)	5,306	5,964	5,426	4,593	15.5
Average weekly benefit (\$)	240.41	237.82	237.56	228.27	5.3
Claims received (000)	236	342	256	254	-6.8
Beneficiaries (000)					
Total	1,231 P	1,225 P	1,290 r	1,028	19.7
Regular benefits	1,061 P	1,054 P	1,104 r	894	18.7
	January to August				% change 1991/1990
	1991	1990			
Benefits					
Amount paid (\$000)	12,414,555	9,021,245			37.6
Weeks of benefit (000)	50,826	39,146			29.8
Average weekly benefit (\$)	242.61	230.45			5.3
Claims received (000)	2,435	2,179			11.7
Beneficiaries					
Year-to-date average (000)	1,433 P	1,134			26.3

P Preliminary figures.

r Revised figures.

Building Permits

August 1991 (Seasonally Adjusted Data)

Summary

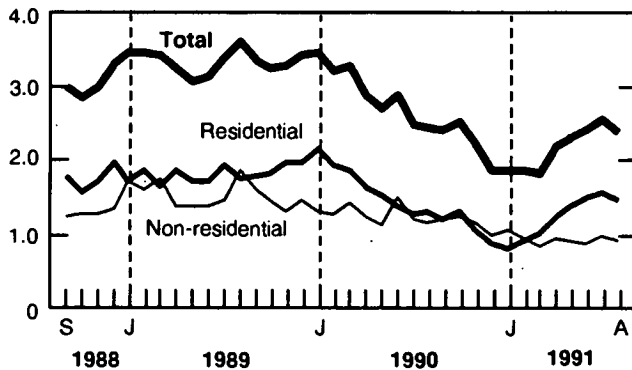
The preliminary value of building permits issued in Canada declined 7.2% in August to a level of \$2,353 million, down from \$2,537 million in July. This decrease, only the third to occur in 1991, was equally attributable to the residential and non-residential construction sectors (see Chart 1).

Chart 1

Value of Building Permits Issued In Canada

Seasonally adjusted

\$ billions



Note: Revised data for July, preliminary data for August.

Residential Sector

- The preliminary value of residential building permits decreased 6.0% in August to \$1,459 million, down from \$1,553 million in July. The last recorded decrease occurred in January 1991 (see Chart 1).
- Both components of residential building declined in August. The single-family dwelling sector experienced a 3.3% drop (to \$1,058 million) while the multi-family dwelling sector fell 12.4% (to \$401 million).
- On a regional basis, only the Atlantic region (+6.2%) and British Columbia (+1.2%) reported gains in the value of residential building permits in August.

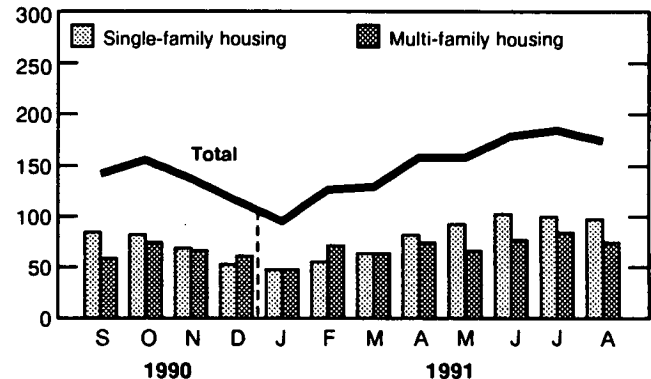
- The preliminary total number of dwelling units authorized in August was down 6.8% to 172,000 units at an annual rate (98,000 single-detached and 74,000 multiple dwellings). Similarly to the value of residential building permits, the total number of dwelling units authorized declined for the first time since January 1991 (see Chart 2).

Chart 2

Dwelling Units Authorized In Canada

Seasonally adjusted at annual rates

'000 units



Note: Revised data for July, preliminary data for August.

Advance Estimate of the Residential Sector for September 1991

- The advance estimate for September indicated that the value of residential building permits issued in Canada rose to \$1,567 million, up 7.5% from the revised value¹ for August (\$1,458 million).
- The advance estimate of dwelling units authorized in September showed an increase of 7.1% to 184,000 units at annual rates, from the revised level of 171,000 units reported in August.

¹ The addition of data due to the advance estimate for September results in the revision of seasonally adjusted figures for previous months (including August).

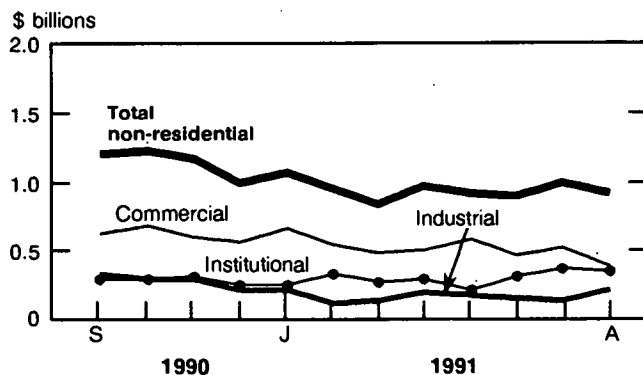
Non-residential Sector

- The preliminary value of non-residential building permits fell 9.2% in August to a level of \$894 million, down from \$984 million in July (see Chart 1).
- The value of building permits decreased 27.7% in the commercial sector to \$372 million and 8.4% in the institutional sector to \$325 million. However, the industrial sector recorded a 71.9% increase in its value of building permits to a level of \$197 million (see Chart 3).

Chart 3

Value of Non-residential Permits Issued in Canada

Seasonally adjusted



Note: Revised data for July, preliminary data for August.

- British Columbia (-40.4%) and Ontario (-11.9%) were the only regions to report declines in the value of non-residential building permits in August.

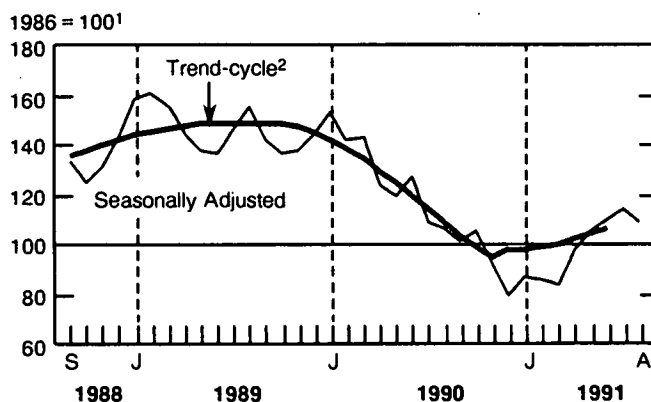
Short-term Trend

- The short-term trend (excluding engineering projects) increased 2.1% in June to a level of 105.8, up from the level of 103.6 recorded in May (see Chart 4).

- The trend index of residential permits was up 4.4% in June to 108.3 while the non-residential trend index fell 1.0% to a level of 102.3. The residential trend index has been increasing for the last seven months while the non-residential trend index is still declining, although at a more moderate rate.

Chart 4

Building Permits Indices



¹ This series is deflated by using the construction input price index which includes cost of material and labor.

² The trend-cycle shows the seasonally-adjusted value of building permits without irregular influences which can obscure the short-term trend. In order to reduce the number of false signals in the construction activity series, the trend-cycle is published with a two-month lag.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The August issue of *Building Permits* (64-001, \$22/\$220) is scheduled for release the third week of November.

For further information on statistics, contact Pierre Pichette (613-951-2585) or Marcel Poirier (613-951-2026), and for analytical information, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-2025), Current Investment Indicators Section. ■

Sales of Refined Petroleum Products

September 1991

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

- Seasonally adjusted, preliminary estimates of September sales of refined petroleum products totalled 6.6 million cubic metres (m³), an increase of 1.6% over August 1991.
- Two of the four major products contributed to this increase in sales. Sales of motor gasoline increased 5.4% and diesel fuel oil rose 3.2%. Light fuel oil and heavy fuel oil sales registered decreases of 20.0% and 2.8%, respectively, from August 1991.

Unadjusted Sales

- Preliminary estimates indicate that total sales of refined petroleum products declined 6.0% from September 1990, recording a volume of 6.4 million m³. Three of the four main products registered decreases: heavy fuel oil fell 16.5%, light fuel oil 8.8% and diesel fuel oil decreased 1.7%. Only motor gasoline increased (2.9%).
- Total product sales for 1991 are now below 7.1% volumes recorded in 1990. Within this total, heavy fuel oil are down 20.3%, light fuel oil 11.9%, diesel fuel oil 4.8% and motor gasoline 3.1%.

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

The September 1991 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products* (45-004, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the third week of December. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Sales of Refined Petroleum Products

	June 1991 ^r	July 1991 ^r	August 1991 ^r	September 1991 ^p	September 1991/ August 1991
Adjusted for Seasonal Variation					
	thousands of cubic metres				%
Total, All Products	6 583.3	7 125.9	6 455.9	6 560.9	1.6
Main Products:					
Motor Gasoline	2 709.7	2 841.4	2 660.1	2 802.9	5.4
Diesel Fuel Oil	1 326.1	1 430.7	1 334.2	1 376.9	3.2
Light Fuel Oil	520.3	557.9	628.1	502.5	-20.0
Heavy Fuel Oil	722.4	827.5	684.7	665.5	-2.8
Total					
	September 1990	September 1991	January- September 1990	January- September 1991	Cumulative 1991/1990
Unadjusted for Seasonal Variation					
	thousands of cubic metres				%
Total, All Products	6 852.3	6 442.1	63 353.6	58 854.2	-7.1
Main Products:					
Motor Gasoline	2 729.6	2 807.6	25 619.4	24 818.2	-3.1
Diesel Fuel Oil	1 511.3	1 485.9	12 587.6	11 978.8	-4.8
Light Fuel Oil	335.2	305.7	4 611.3	4 062.2	-11.9
Heavy Fuel Oil	659.3	550.5	7 344.5	5 854.0	-20.3

^p Preliminary.
^r Revised.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Livestock Report

October 1, 1991

Total pig numbers in Canada at October 1, 1991 at an estimated 10,515,500 head were up 1% from a year earlier at 10,420,500. Sows for breeding and bred gilts were estimated at 1,046,100 head, showing an increase of 1% from a year earlier at 1,040,100.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9500-9510.

The October 1, 1991 issue of *Livestock Report* (23-008, \$16.50/\$66) will be available approximately the 15th of November. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-2511), Agriculture Division. ■

Asphalt Roofing

September 1991

Shipments of asphalt shingles totalled 3 821 134 bundles in September 1991, an increase of 7.7% from the 3 547 023^r (revised) bundles shipped a year earlier.

January to September 1991 shipments were 30 797 661 bundles, down 0.8% from 31 056 893^r bundles shipped during the same period in 1990.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27 and 28).

The September 1991 issue of *Asphalt Roofing* (45-001, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division. ■

Rigid Insulating Board

September 1991

Shipments of rigid insulating board totalled 3 060 thousand square metres (12.7 mm basis) in September 1991, an increase of 12.1% compared to 2 729 thousand square metres (12.7 mm basis) in September 1990.

For January to September 1991, year-to-date shipments amounted to 27 354 thousand square metres (12.7 mm basis) compared to 27 729^r (revised) thousand square metres (12.7 mm basis) for the same period in 1990, a decrease of 1.4%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 31 (series 1) and 122 (series 4-7).

The September 1991 issue of *Rigid Insulating Board* (36-002, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division. ■

Shipments of Solid Fuel-burning Heating Products

Third Quarter 1991

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products totalled \$17.8 million for the third quarter of 1991, an increase of 3.9% from the \$17.2^r (revised) million shipped during the third quarter of 1990.

Manufacturers' shipments of Canadian-made solid fuel-burning heating products are now available, as are data on the number of units shipped.

The 1991 third quarter issue of *Shipments of Solid Fuel-burning Heating Products* (25-002, \$4.75/\$19) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Keith Martin (613-951-3518), Industry Division. ■

Selected Financial Indexes

September 1991

Figures for September 1991 are now available for the Selected Financial Indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2031.

The third quarter 1991 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$18/\$72) will be available in December. See "How to Order Publications".

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



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PUBLICATION RELEASED

Gross Domestic Product by Industry, June 1991.
Catalogue number 15-001

(Canada: \$12.70/\$127; United States:
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