



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, October 4, 1991

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MAJOR RELEASE

- **Canadian Composite Leading Indicator, July 1991**
The leading indicator posted a gain of 1.2% in July, its fourth straight increase.

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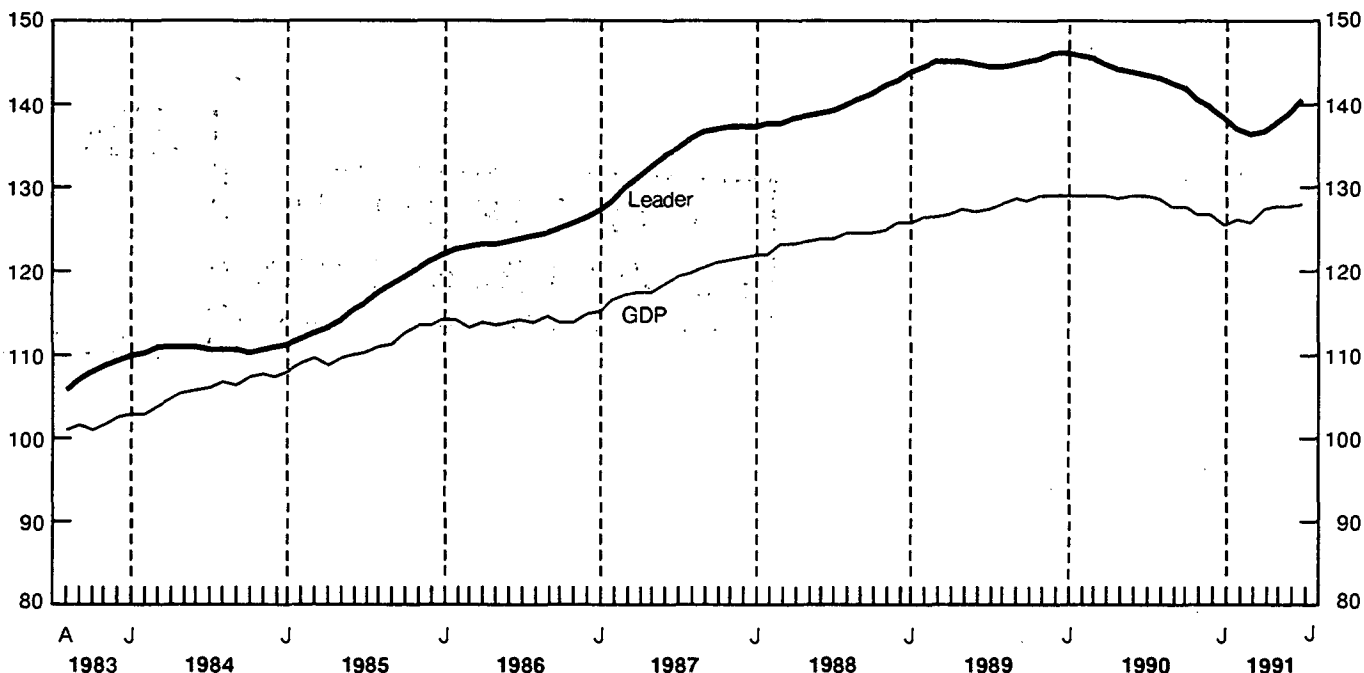
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MAJOR RELEASE

Composite Leading Indicator and GDP

1981 = 100



Canadian Composite Leading Indicator

July 1991

The growth in the leading indicator continued to accelerate, reaching 1.2% in July. All 10 components rose for the first time in six years. The gains were strongest for consumer durable goods, which had lagged behind the other components earlier in the year. Overall, the upturn of the index in the last four months has been slightly less rapid than in the previous three economic recoveries, as has been the gain in GDP.

All of the indicators of household demand improved in July. The housing index continued to grow rapidly, up 6.0%. This gain in housing demand contributed to the first rise in furniture and appliance sales this year. The increase in sales of durable goods shifted from cars to other goods. Prices of durable goods remained moderate, while labour income was sluggish.

The growth of new orders for durable goods slowed from 1.8% to 1.4%, as export demand remained restrained. This weakness accompanied a drop in business services employment, which accounted for the slowdown in overall services employment. However, shipments rose steadily which led to a 0.03-point increase in the ratio of shipments to finished goods inventory. The increase in shipments also came partly from higher production, which in turn raised the average workweek for the second straight month after nearly two years of decline.

The Toronto stock market index and the real money supply both recorded gains of about the same magnitude as those registered in June.

The United States leading indicator posted a fourth straight increase in July, with the 0.7% gain slightly larger than in previous months. Consumer confidence fell, however, while slack demand for durable goods led to a drop in retail sales in August.

For further information on this release, or about the next release dates, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Division.

For more information on the economy, order the

October issue of the *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220), available the week of October 21-25. See "How to Order Publications".

Canadian Leading Indicators

	Percentage Change			Level	
	May	June	July	June	July
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	0.7	0.9	1.2	138.9	140.5
Unsmoothed	1.2	0.4	0.9	143.3	144.6
Retail trade					
Furniture and appliance sales	-0.3	-0.1	0.2	978 ⁴	980 ⁴
Other durable goods sales	0.5	1.0	1.4	3,540 ⁴	3,588 ⁴
Housing index ¹	6.1	6.4	6.0	117.6	124.7
Manufacturing					
New orders – durables	0.3	1.8	1.4	8,629 ⁴	8,746 ⁴
Shipment to inventory ratio (finished goods) ²	0.01	0.02	0.03	1.36	1.39
Average workweek (hours)	0.0	0.3	0.3	37.6	37.7
Business and personal services employment (thousands)	0.4	0.3	0.3	1,771	1,776
United States composite leading index (1967 = 100)	0.3	0.5	0.7	188.5	189.8
TSE300 stock price index (1975 = 1000)	1.9	1.4	1.2	3,438	3,479
Money supply (M1) (\$1981) ³	0.2	0.2	0.3	24,001 ⁴	24,073 ⁴

¹ Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (MLS).

² Difference from previous month.

³ Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.

⁴ Millions of 1981 dollars.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

For-hire Trucking (Commodity Origin and Destination) Statistics

Annual 1989

Preliminary 1989 data are now available from the For-hire Trucking Commodity Origin and Destination Survey. The survey measures the inter-city (distances of 25 km or more) commodity movements of Canadian-domiciled for-hire carriers.

Highlights

- Revenue earned on domestic shipments was \$5.4 billion in 1989, up 5.0% from 1988;
- A total of 162.4 million tonnes of commodities was transported within Canada in 1989, compared to 177 million tonnes in 1988;
- Over 54.4 billion tonne-kilometres were recorded within Canada, compared to 57.9 billion tonne-kilometres during 1988.

More detailed information is available by contacting Robert Larocque (613-951-2486) or Kathie Davidson (613-951-8779), Transportation Division, Facsimile (613) 951-0579. ■

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending September 21, 1991

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the week totalled 4.4 million tonnes, an increase of 4.0% over the same period last year.
- Piggyback traffic decreased 6.0% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 4.7% during the same period.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year is 0.2% higher than that loaded in the previous year.

Note: Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic. All 1990 figures and 1991 cumulative data have been revised.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Telecommunication Equipment Industry 1989 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1989, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the telecommunication equipment industry (SIC 3351) totalled \$2,660.6 million, up 10.3% from \$2,411.3 million in 1988.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5574.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical and Electronic Products Industries* (43-250, \$35).

For more detailed information on this release, contact W.L. Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

Electronic Parts and Components Industry

1989 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1989, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the electronic parts and components industry (SIC 3352) totalled \$1,486.4 million, up 18.3% from \$1,256.0 million in 1988.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5575.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical and Electronic Products Industries* (43-250, \$35).

For more detailed information on this release, contact W.L. Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

The Dairy Review, July 1991.

Catalogue number 23-001

(Canada: \$12.20/\$122; United States: US\$14.60/
US\$146; Other Countries: US\$17.10/US\$171).

Refined Petroleum Products, June 1991.

Catalogue number 45-004

(Canada: \$18.20/\$182; United States: US\$21.80/
US\$218; Other Countries: US\$25.50/US\$255).

Electric Power Statistics, July 1991.

Catalogue number 57-001

(Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120;
Other Countries: US\$14/US\$140).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences – Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 – 1984.



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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.

A national toll-free telephone order service is in operation at Statistics Canada. The toll-free line (1-800-267-6677) can be used by Canadian customers for the ordering of Statistics Canada products and services.

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MAJOR RELEASE DATES

Week of October 7-11
(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
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October		
7	Short-term Expectations Survey	
9	Help-wanted Index	September 1991
9	New Motor Vehicle Sales	August 1991
9	New Housing Price Index	August 1991
9	Estimates of Labour Income	July 1991
10	Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area	August 1991
11	Labour Force Survey	September 1991
11	Travel Between Canada and Other Countries	August 1991
11	Farm Product Price Index	August 1991
