



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, February 6, 1991

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

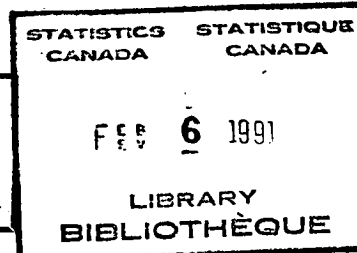
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The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index decreased 6 points to 79 in January 1991.
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 4
A new series of forecasts from a small group of economists is released today.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

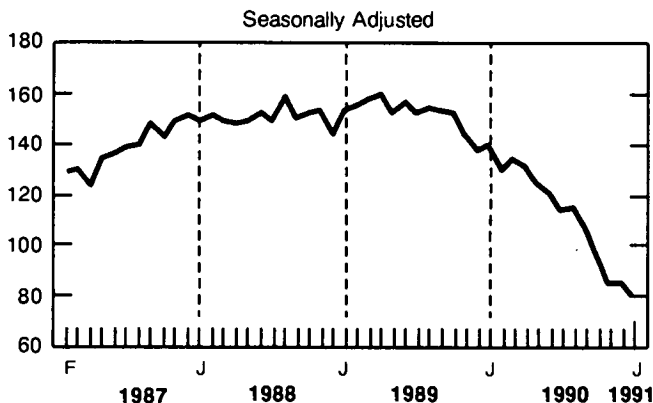
January 1991

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) decreased 7.1% in January 1991 to 79 from 85. All the regions contributed to the decline. After having reached a peak of 160 in April 1989, the trend of the Canada index has steadily declined. The downward trend has been accelerating since the beginning of 1990.

Help-wanted Index, Canada (1981 = 100)



Note to Users:

Effective with this release, only seasonally adjusted data will be provided in *The Daily*. For users interested in trend-cycle estimates, these indices are available on CANSIM or on request. It should be noted that trend-cycle estimates for the two most recent months are not released because they can change significantly as new data become available.

Changes by Region

- Between December 1990 and January 1991, the seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index decreased 16.4% in the Atlantic provinces (to 117 from 140), 15.4% in Quebec (to 88 from 104), 11.3% in Ontario (to 71 from 80), 8.6% in the Prairie provinces (to 64 from 70) and 1.1% in British Columbia (to 86 from 87).
- As compared with January 1990, the Help-wanted Index decreased in all regions, falling 51.0% in Ontario, 44.7% in Quebec, 36.1% in the Atlantic provinces, 34.4% in British Columbia and 22.9% in the Prairie provinces.

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 (FAX: 613-951-4087). ☐

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

Year and month	Canada	Atlantic Region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Region	British Columbia
Seasonally Adjusted						
1990						
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
July	114	187	122	109	83	119
August	115	162	127	110	78	123
September	107	164	114	102	79	119
October	94	136	110	88	72	99
November	85	127	101	73	70	94
December	85	140	104	80	70	87
1991						
January	79	117	88	71	64	86

Short-term Expectations Survey

For the past 10 months, Statistics Canada has been canvassing a small group of economists and asking them to forecast each month the year-over-year change in the consumer price index, the unemployment rate and the merchandise trade balance.

There has been on average 23 participants in this survey and a new set of forecasts for January 1991 (December 1990 for the trade balance) is released in this issue.

The mean forecast of the year-over-year increase in the Consumer Price Index for January is 5.6%, with minimum and maximum values of 4.8% and 6.4%, respectively. The actual number for December 1990 was 5.0%, while the mean of the estimates was 5.1%, continuing an overall slight positive bias.

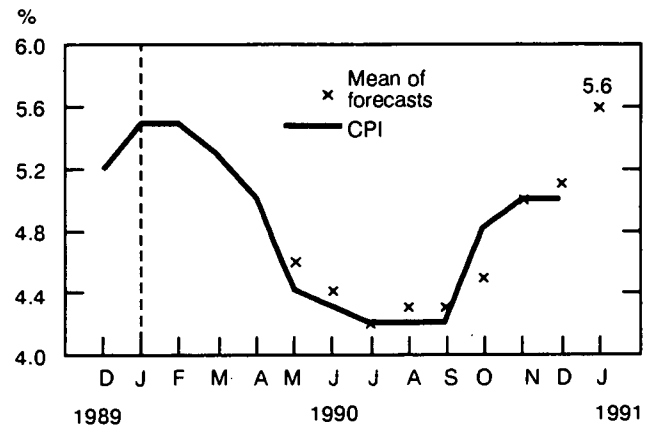
The mean forecast for the unemployment rate for January 1991 is 9.5%. There seems to have been, on average, an underestimation of the unemployment rate since July 1990 (the mean of forecasts never exceeded the actual number). The actual unemployment rate went from 8.4% in September to 9.3% in December 1990.

The survey shows \$848 million as the mean forecast for the trade balance of December 1990. The average monthly balance forecast from March to December 1990 was \$730 million, an underestimate when compared to the actual average revised monthly balance for the period March to November 1990 (\$1,071 million).

For a complete set of tables or more information concerning this survey, contact Diane Lachapelle (613-951-0568) or Christian Lajule (613-951-3351). ■

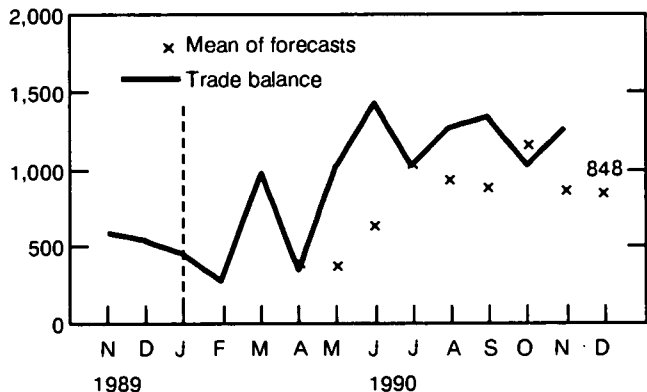
Forecasts vs. Actual

Consumer Price Index

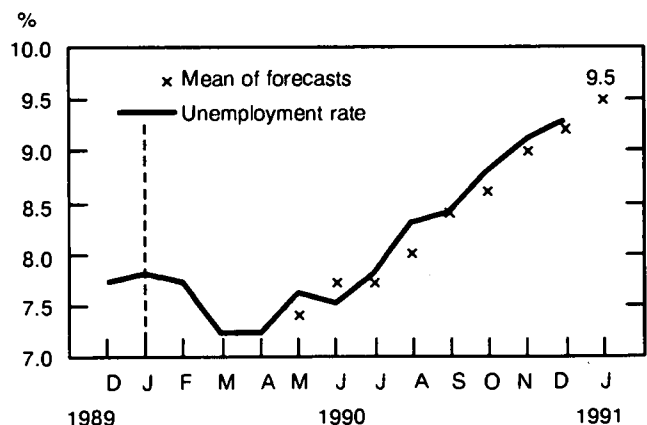


Trade Balance

Millions of dollars



Unemployment Rate



DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Milling and Crushing Statistics

December 1990

Milling

The total amount of wheat milled in December 1990 was 217 488 tonnes, up 18% from the 183 675 tonnes milled in December 1989.

The resulting wheat flour production increased 6% to 147 646 tonnes in December 1990 from 139 195 tonnes in December 1989.

Crushing

Canola crushings for December 1990 amounted to 115 655 tonnes, down 4% from the 120 587 tonnes crushed in December 1989. The resulting oil production increased 3% to 48 275 tonnes from 46 857 tonnes in December 1989. Meal production decreased 4%, to 65 753 tonnes from 68 733 tonnes in December 1989.

Soybean crushings for the same month increased slightly to 92 723 tonnes in 1990 from 92 552 tonnes a year earlier. As a result, oil production decreased 3% to 16 367 tonnes in December 1990 from 16 903 tonnes in December 1989. Meal production increased 2% to 71 860 tonnes from 70 548 tonnes in December 1989.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The December 1990 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007, \$13.80/\$138) is scheduled for release in March. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact A. Dupuis (613-951-3871), Agriculture Division. ■

Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products

December 1990

Factory shipments of steel wire and specified wire products for December 1990 are now available, as are production and export market data for selected commodities.

Shipments totalled 32 963 tonnes in December 1990, a decrease of 22.8% from the 42 717 tonnes shipped during the previous month.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The December 1990 issue of *Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products* (41-006, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Bruno Pépin (613-951-9837), Industry Division. ■

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins

December 1990

Canadian chemical firms produced 139 302 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in December 1990, an increase of 11.6% from the 124 845^r (revised) tonnes produced in December 1989.

January to December 1990 production totalled 1 531 571^r tonnes, up 14.1% from the 1 341 774^r tonnes produced during the same period in 1989.

Data are also available on Canadian production of three other types of synthetic resins and 24 industrial chemicals for December 1990, December 1989 and corresponding cumulative figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.

The December 1990 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins* (46-002, \$5.60/\$56) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Raj Sehdev (613-951-3513), Industry Division. ■

Electric Lamps

Fourth Quarter 1990

Data on imports, manufacturers' production and inventories of electric lamps for the fourth quarter of 1990 are now available.

For more detailed information, contact J.P. Beauparlant (613-951-3526), Industry Division. ■



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Fruit and Vegetable Production, December 1990.
Catalogue number 22-003

(Canada: \$18.00/\$72.00; United States:
US\$21.50/US\$86.00; Other Countries:
US\$25.25/US\$101.00).

Gypsum Products, December 1990.
Catalogue number 44-003

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

Refined Petroleum Products, October 1990.
Catalogue number 45-004

(Canada: \$18.20/\$182.00; United States:
US\$21.80/US\$218.00; Other Countries:
US\$25.50/US\$255.00).

Railway Carloadings, November 1990.
Catalogue number 52-001

(Canada: \$8.30/\$83.00; United States:
US\$10.00/US\$100.00; Other Countries:
US\$11.60/US\$116.00).

How to Order Publications

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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.

The Daily

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Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-951-1116)
Editor: Bonnie Williams (613-951-1103)

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