

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 6, 1991

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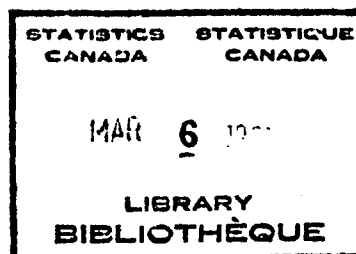
MAJOR RELEASES

- **Help-wanted Index, February 1991** 2
The seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index decreased four points to 75 in February 1991.
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
A new series of forecasts from a small group of economists is released today.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Electric Storage Batteries, January 1991	4
Cement, January 1991	4
Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics, September 1990	4

**NOT FOR LOAN
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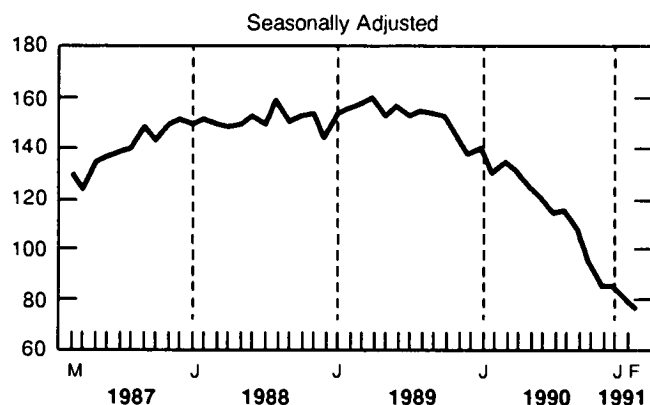
MAJOR RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

February 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.

Help-wanted Index, Canada (1981 = 100)



Note to Users:

Effective with the January 1991 release, only seasonally adjusted data are provided in The Daily. For users interested in trend-cycle estimates, these indices are available on CANSIM or on request.

decrease was most pronounced in the Western provinces. After reaching a peak of 160 in April 1989, the trend of the Canada index has declined for the past 22 months.

Changes by Region

- Between January and February 1991, the seasonally adjusted Help-wanted Index decreased 9.4% in the Prairie provinces (to 58 from 64), 7.0% in British Columbia (to 80 from 86), 4.2% in Ontario (to 68 from 71) and 1.1% in Quebec (to 87 from 88). The index increased 5.1% in the Atlantic provinces (to 123 from 117).
- Compared with February 1990, the Help-wanted Index decreased in all regions, falling 51.1% in Ontario, 39.2% in Quebec, 34.8% in the Prairie provinces, 33.9% in British Columbia, and 28.9% in the Atlantic provinces.

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

For further information, contact Carole Lacroix-McCann (613-951-4039), Labour Division (FAX: 613-951-4087).

Highlights – Seasonally Adjusted

- The Help-wanted Index for Canada (1981=100) decreased 5.1% (to 75 from 79) in February 1991. While the index increased in the Atlantic provinces, it declined in all the other regions. The

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

Year and month	Canada	Atlantic Region	Quebec	Ontario	Prairie Region	British Columbia
Seasonally Adjusted						
1990						
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
February	75	123	87	68	58	80

Short-term Expectations Survey

Note to Users:

For the past 11 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. On average, 23 economists participate in the survey.

Short-term forecasts of the unemployment rate and the year-over-year change in the Consumer Price Index for February 1991 and the trade balance for January 1991 are released in this issue.

The mean forecast of the year-over-year increase in the Consumer Price Index for February is 6.4%, with minimum and maximum values of 5.0% and 6.8%, respectively. The actual number for January 1991 was 6.8% while the mean of the estimates was 5.6%, marking the largest gap and understatement (1.2%) between these two numbers since the beginning of this survey.

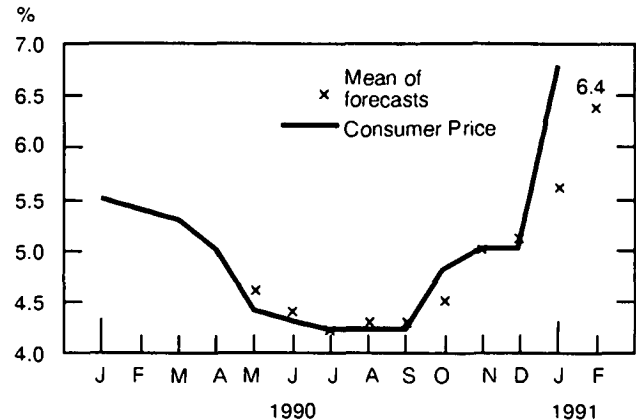
The mean forecast of the unemployment rate for February is 9.9% (minimum 9.8%, maximum 10.1%). The tendency to underestimate continued in a period when the actual unemployment rate went from 8.4% in September 1990 to 9.7% in January 1991.

The survey shows \$981 million as the mean forecast for the trade balance in January 1991. The minimum and maximum values for these estimates ranged from \$800 million to \$1,200 million. There is also a tendency to underestimate the trade balance as the average monthly balance from March 1990 to January 1991 is \$753 million while the actual average of the trade balance from March to December 1990 was \$1,018 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).

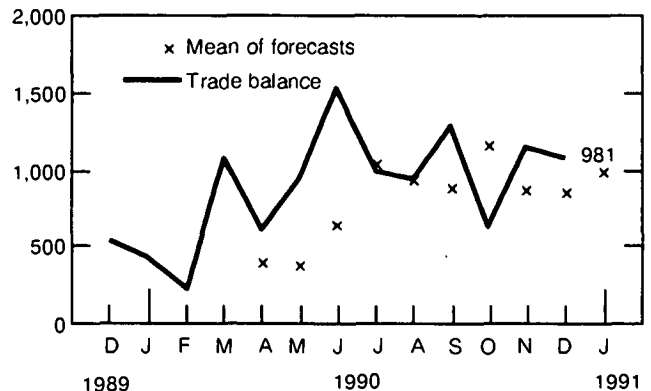
Forecasts vs. Actual

Consumer Price Index

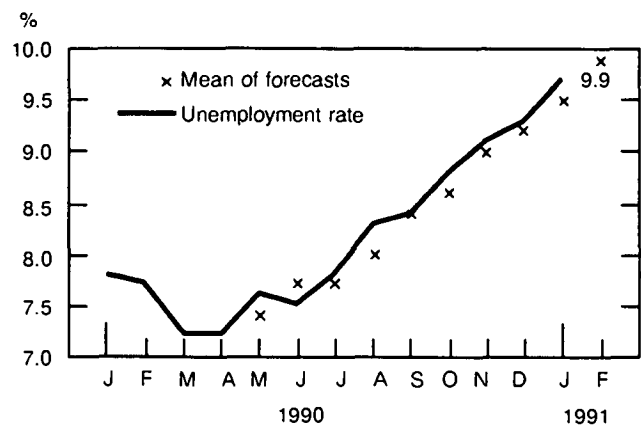


Trade Balance

Millions of dollars



Unemployment Rate





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The Daily, March 6, 1991

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Electric Storage Batteries

January 1991

Canadian manufacturers of electric storage batteries sold 182,995 automotive and heavy duty commercial replacement batteries in January 1991, a decrease of 13.1% from 210,559 batteries sold the same month a year earlier.

Information on sales of other types of storage batteries is also available.

The January 1991 issue of *Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries* (43-005, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Cement

January 1991

Canadian manufacturers shipped 304 282 tonnes of cement in January 1991, a decrease of 37.5% from the 486 791 tonnes shipped a year earlier and a decrease of 37.8% from the 489 295 (revised) tonnes shipped in December 1990.

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

The January 1991 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. ■

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics

September 1990

In September 1990, a total of 70 Canadian urban transit systems with gross annual total operating revenues of \$500,000 or more (subsidies included) carried 131,924,335 fare passengers, an increase of 23.6% from the previous month. A comparison with the same period in 1989 showed an increase of 5.5%.

Operating revenues totalled \$106,611,376, up 20.1% over August 1990 and up 10.1% over September 1989.

During the same period, 26 passenger bus carriers earning \$500,000 or more annually from intercity and rural bus operations carried 1,145,586 fare passengers, down 26.5% from the previous month and down 21.0% from the same month a year earlier. Earnings of these carriers totalled \$22,285,428, a 27.6% increase over the August 1990 operating revenues and an increase of 6.8% over September 1989.

All 1989 figures and 1990 cumulative data have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 351 and 352.

The September 1990 issue of *Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics* (53-003, \$7.10/\$71) will be available the second week of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Transportation Division. ■

**The
Daily**

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