



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 24, 1991

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## MAJOR RELEASES

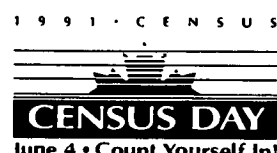
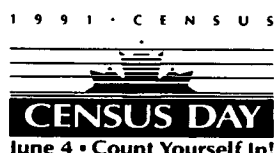
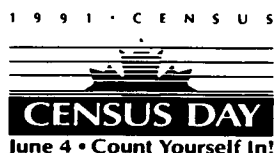
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The number of beneficiaries who received regular benefits, adjusted for seasonal variations, increased 4.4% from the preceding month to 1.2 million.
- **Department Store Sales and Stocks, February 1991** 4  
Seasonally adjusted, department store sales increased by a sharp 8.8% in February 1991.
- **Aggregate Labour Productivity Measures and Unit Labour Cost, 1990** 5  
Preliminary estimates show labour productivity for the business sector increased by 0.4% in 1990 compared to 1.7% in 1989, with goods industries exhibiting strong productivity gains led by the manufacturing sector.

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED



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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Unemployment Insurance Statistics

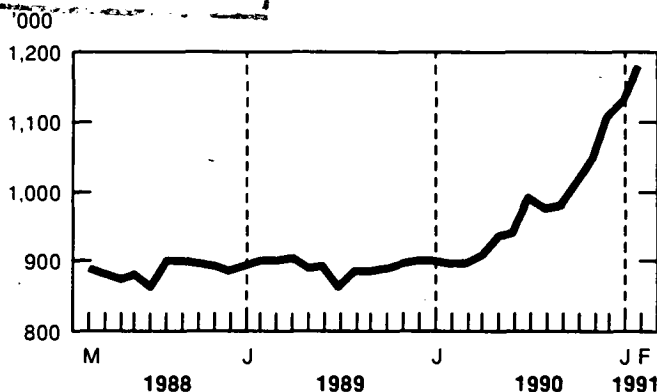
February 1991

#### Seasonally Adjusted Data

- For the week ended February 16, 1991, the preliminary estimate of the number of beneficiaries<sup>1</sup> who received regular unemployment insurance benefits was 1,179,000, up 4.4% from a month earlier.

#### Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Canada

Seasonally adjusted



- Between January and February 1991, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits increased in all provinces and territories, except for British Columbia where the number remained virtually the same. The changes were as follows:

#### % Changes

• Ontario	8.3
• Northwest Territories	4.9
• Quebec	3.6
• Newfoundland	3.0
• Manitoba	2.9
• Prince Edward Island	2.7
• Yukon	1.9
• Alberta	1.7
• New Brunswick	1.3
• Saskatchewan	0.7
• Nova Scotia	0.7

- In February, total benefit payments, adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of working days, rose 1.4% to \$1,343 million, while the number of benefit weeks decreased 7.2%, to 5.8 million.

#### Data Not Adjusted for Seasonal Variation

- In February 1991, the number of beneficiaries<sup>1</sup> (including all persons qualifying for regular and special unemployment insurance benefits) stood at 1,556,000, up 23.9% from the same month a year ago. Over the same period, the number of male beneficiaries rose 28.7% to 954,000, and the number of female beneficiaries advanced 16.9% to 602,000.

- Benefits paid during February 1991 totalled \$1,590 million<sup>2</sup>, up 32.0% from February 1990. For the first two months of 1991, disbursements amounted to \$3,378 million, increasing 35.6% compared with the same period a year ago. For the same two-month span, the average weekly payment increased 5.1% to \$244.77, while the number of benefit weeks advanced 28.8% to 13.8 million.

- A total of 300,000 claims<sup>2</sup> (applications) for unemployment insurance benefits were received in February 1991. This represents an increase of 29.8% over the same month a year earlier. Since the start of 1991, 752,000 claims have been received, up 21.4% from the same period last year.

The seasonally adjusted data are revised annually when final data for a complete calendar year become available. This release shows the revised data.

<sup>1</sup> The number of beneficiaries represents a count of persons who qualified for unemployment insurance benefits during a specific week of the reference month.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

The last two matrices contain monthly data, starting in February 1984, on beneficiaries by sex and Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) or Census Agglomeration (CA).

The February 1991 issue of *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001, \$14.70/\$147), containing

data for December 1990, January and February 1991, will be available in May. See "How to Order Publications".

Unpublished beneficiaries data, including statistics for small areas defined by data users, are also available on request. For special tabulations or further information, contact André Picard (613-951-4045) or Horst Stiebert (613-951-4044), Labour Division (Fax: 613-951-4087).

## Unemployment Insurance Statistics

	February 1991	January 1991	December 1990	February 1990	% change February 1991/ January 1991
Seasonally adjusted					
<b>Benefits</b>					
Amount paid (\$000)	1,343,212	1,325,342	1,243,605	1,035,142	1.4
Weeks of benefit (000)	5,764	6,208	5,007	4,497	-7.2
<b>Beneficiaries - Regular benefit (000)</b>	<b>1,179<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,130<sup>P</sup></b>	<b>1,107<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>893</b>	<b>4.4</b>
	February 1991	January 1991	December 1990	February 1990	% change February 1991/1990
Unadjusted					
<b>Benefits</b>					
Amount paid (\$000)	1,590,435	1,788,018	1,175,203	1,204,828	32.0
Weeks of benefit (000)	6,456	7,319	4,916	5,150	25.4
Average weekly benefit (\$)	245.32	244.29	239.04	233.95	4.9
<b>Claims received (000)</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>29.8</b>
<b>Beneficiaries (000)</b>					
Total	1,556 <sup>P</sup>	1,493 <sup>P</sup>	1,332 <sup>r</sup>	1,255	23.9
Regular benefits	1,358 <sup>P</sup>	1,313 <sup>P</sup>	1,148 <sup>r</sup>	1,083	25.4
January to February					% change 1991/1990
	1991	1990			
<b>Benefits</b>					
Amount paid (\$000)	3,378,453		2,491,304		35.6
Weeks of benefit (000)	13,775		10,693		28.8
Average weekly benefit (\$)	244.77		232.98		5.1
<b>Claims received (000)</b>	<b>752</b>		<b>620</b>		<b>21.4</b>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>					
<b>Year-to-date average (000)</b>	<b>1,524<sup>P</sup></b>		<b>1,256</b>		<b>21.3</b>

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

## Department Store Sales and Stocks

February 1991

### Highlights

#### Seasonally Adjusted Data

- Department store sales including concessions totalled \$1,090 million in February 1991, a sharp increase of 8.8% over the previous month's revised total of \$1,002 million.
- The 8.8% increase in department store sales in February followed a notable decline of 15.0% (after adjustment in indirect taxes) in January and a gain of 5.5% in December 1990. In spite of the strong gain in February, sales were about 3.9% lower than in the same month last year, after adjustment for tax changes.
- The increase was broadly based with 25 of the 40 major commodity lines recording higher sales. The gains in sales were most pronounced in the clothing, furniture and home furnishings categories. These groups had unusually large declines in January.

#### Note to Users

Department store sales estimates exclude the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Prior to January 1991, sales data include the Federal Sales Tax (FST). Due to this change in indirect taxes, data for 1991 are not strictly comparable with those of previous years. For users interested in deriving comparable data, an estimate of the amount of FST included in department store sales for 1990 is available for Canada (3.5%).

- Department store stocks (at selling value) totalled \$4,739 million at the end of February. The ratio of stocks to sales stood at 4.35:1 in February, a sharp decrease from the 4.59:1 ratio observed in January.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 112 (levels 1-3, series 4, 5, 6).

The February 1991 issue of *Department Store Sales and Stocks* (63-002, \$13/\$130) will be available the third week of June.

Contact Roger Laplante (613-951-3552), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

### Department Store Sales, Canada (including concessions)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted				
	February 1990	January 1991	February 1991	February 1990	November 1990 <sup>r</sup>	December 1990 <sup>r</sup>	January 1991 <sup>r</sup>	February 1991 <sup>p</sup>
millions of \$								
Total Sales	775	681	705	1,175	1,158	1,222	1,002	1,090
Total Stocks	4,390	3,869	4,314	4,781	5,008	4,926	4,603	4,739
Stock to Sales Ratio	5.66	5.68	6.12	4.07	4.33	4.03	4.59	4.35

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

### Average Annual Rate of Growth of Real Gross Domestic Product per Person-hour and Unit Labour Cost



### Aggregate Labour Productivity and Unit Labour Cost

1990

Preliminary labour productivity estimates (real gross domestic product per person-hour worked) increased by 0.4% in 1990 compared to 1.7% in 1989. The low productivity growth rate was expected, following a deceleration of economic activity in 1990 which reduced real GDP growth to 0.4% for the year as a whole.

The 1990 increase in business sector compensation per person-hour, at 6.6%, ends an accelerating trend that began in 1985. The unit labour cost increase, nevertheless, accelerated from 5.2% in 1989 to 6.2% in 1990 as productivity declined faster than wage inflation.

During 1990, a substantial shift in employment between major industries took place, while the employment level of the business sector as a whole remained largely unchanged (0.5%). This occurred mainly in the manufacturing industry which suffered important employment losses (-5.4%) and in the

wholesale and retail trade industry which experienced employment gains (2.8%). The employment move from higher-wage manufacturing to lower-wage services had a significant impact on the lower increase in business sector labour compensation per person-hour in 1990.

Manufacturing adjustment in employment and hours started early in 1989 as output was sharply decelerating. Further adjustment in employment and hours in 1990 resulted in a cyclical increase in labour productivity of 2.7% in a period of output contraction (-4.0%). Manufacturing compensation per person-hour increased by 7.0% compared to 6.3% in the previous year. Consequently, the unit labour cost increase decelerated to 4.1%.

Surprisingly, in the case of the wholesale and retail trade industry, output decreased 2.5% while employment and person-hours increased by 2.8% and 3.1%, respectively. The employment rise was in part due to longer store hours in Ontario. Labour productivity decreased 5.5%, the largest annual drop since the measurement of productivity of the industry began in 1961.

The revised 1989 estimate of business sector labour compensation now indicates a lower increase of 8.6%, compared to the 9.8% increase previously reported. This reflects a downward revision to the 1989 labour income, a component of labour compensation, resulting from the availability of income tax benchmarks.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 7916 to 7938.**

For further information on this release, contact Aldo Diaz (613-951-3687), Fax (613-951-0489), Input-Output Division. □

# Measures of Labour Productivity and Unit Labour Cost, Canada, 1981-1990 (1986 = 100)

	Real GDP	Person- hours worked <sup>1</sup>	Compensation per person- hour worked	Real GDP per person-hour worked	Real GDP per person	Unit labour cost
<b>Business Sector</b>						
Indexes						
1981	86.9	95.3	76.1	91.2	92.3	83.4
1982	82.7	90.6	83.9	91.3	90.8	91.9
1983	85.7	90.3	87.7	94.9	94.0	92.4
1984	91.7	93.4	92.0	98.1	97.8	93.8
1985	96.7	98.1	95.4	98.5	98.6	96.8
1986	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1987	104.8	103.9	105.7	100.9	101.6	104.8
1988	109.8	108.4	112.4	101.3	102.4	111.0
1989	113.4	110.1	120.3	103.0	103.2	116.8
1990	113.8	110.1	128.2	103.4	103.1	124.0
Annual rate of change (%)						
1946-1990	4.4	1.3	8.0	3.1	2.4	4.8
1961-1990	4.4	1.9	8.1	2.4	1.9	5.5
1961-1973	5.9	1.9	7.6	3.9	3.2	3.5
1973-1982	2.6	1.3	11.2	1.3	0.5	9.8
1982-1990	4.1	2.5	5.4	1.6	1.6	3.8
1984-1985	5.5	5.1	3.7	0.4	0.8	3.3
1985-1986	3.4	1.9	4.8	1.5	1.4	3.3
1986-1987	4.8	3.9	5.7	0.9	1.6	4.8
1987-1988	4.8	4.4	6.3	0.4	0.8	5.9
1988-1989	3.2	1.5	7.0	1.7	0.8	5.2
1989-1990	0.4	0.0	6.6	0.4	-0.1	6.2
<b>Manufacturing Industries</b>						
Indexes						
1981	89.8	101.0	74.5	88.9	87.8	83.9
1982	78.2	92.2	82.4	84.8	82.9	97.1
1983	83.2	91.5	87.4	91.0	90.1	96.1
1984	94.0	95.2	91.6	98.7	98.7	92.8
1985	99.3	97.7	96.3	101.6	101.7	94.8
1986	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1987	104.0	103.5	103.5	100.5	101.0	103.0
1988	109.1	109.8	106.6	99.4	101.3	107.3
1989	109.6	109.5	113.3	100.1	100.9	113.2
1990	105.2	102.4	121.2	102.8	102.4	117.9
Annual rate of change (%)						
1946-1990	4.1	0.9	7.7	3.2	2.9	4.4
1961-1990	3.8	1.0	7.8	2.8	2.7	4.8
1961-1973	6.7	2.1	6.5	4.5	4.4	1.9
1973-1982	0.0	-0.9	12.0	1.0	0.4	11.0
1982-1990	3.8	1.3	4.9	2.4	2.7	2.5
1984-1985	5.6	2.6	5.1	2.9	3.0	2.2
1985-1986	0.7	2.3	3.9	-1.6	-1.6	5.5
1986-1987	4.0	3.5	3.5	0.5	1.0	3.0
1987-1988	4.9	6.1	2.9	-1.1	0.4	4.1
1988-1989	0.4	-0.3	6.3	0.7	-0.4	5.6
1989-1990	-4.0	-6.5	7.0	2.7	1.5	4.1

<sup>1</sup> In general, hours worked is less than hours paid. Therefore, compensation per person-hour worked is greater than compensation per person-hour paid.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation

March 1991

Manufacturers shipped 2 022 741 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in March 1991, down 40.2% from the 3 384 951 square metres shipped a year earlier, but up 11.2% from the 1 818 281 square metres shipped the previous month.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of March 1991 totalled 5 945 339 square metres, a decrease of 44.6% from the same period in 1990.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32 and 33).**

The 1991 March issue of *Mineral Wool including Fibrous Glass Insulation* (44-004, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

### Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers

March 1991

Canadian domestic shipments of corrugated boxes and wrappers totalled 173 840 thousand square metres in March 1991, a decrease of 7.1% from the 187 193<sup>r</sup> (revised) thousand square metres shipped a year earlier.

January-to-March 1991 domestic shipments totalled 478 045<sup>r</sup> thousand square metres, down 8.8% from the 524 042<sup>r</sup> thousand square metres for the same period in 1990.

The March 1991 issue of *Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers* (36-004, \$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. ■

### Exports by Commodity (H.S. Based)

February 1991

Commodity-country export trade statistics based on the Harmonized System (H.S.) for February 1991 are now available on microfiche, computer printouts or magnetic tapes in advance of the monthly publication.

The February 1991 issue of *Exports by Commodity (H.S. Based)* (65-004, \$55.10/\$551) will be available the second week of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

### Electric Lamps

First Quarter 1991

Data on manufacturers' imports, production, and inventories of electric lamps for the first quarter of 1991 are now available.

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



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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**Survey Methodology: A Journal of Statistics**  
Canada, December 1990.  
**Catalogue number 12-001**  
(Canada: \$35.00; United States: US\$42.00;  
Other Countries: US\$49.00).

**Primary Iron and Steel**, February 1991.  
**Catalogue number 41-001**  
(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States:  
US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries:  
US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

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