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The IPPI increased 0.1% in January 1992, the first increase since January 1991. The year-to-year decrease remained at -3.1%, unchanged from December's figure.
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A 9.7% drop in crude mineral oil prices was the most important factor in the 2.4% decrease of the RMPI in January.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

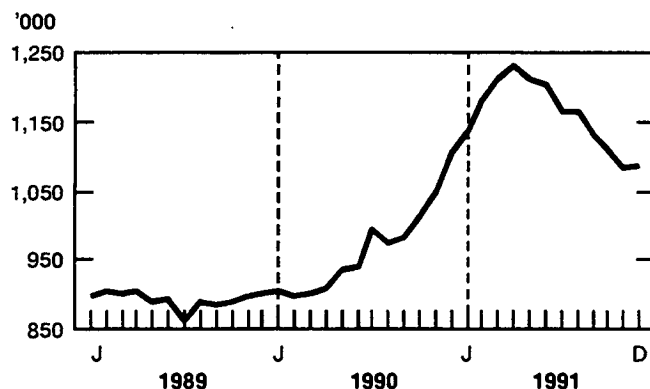
December 1991

Seasonally Adjusted Data

- For the week ended December 14, 1991, the preliminary estimate of the number of beneficiaries¹ who received regular unemployment insurance benefits stood at 1,085,000, virtually unchanged (+0.4%) from a month earlier.

Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Canada

Seasonally adjusted



- Between November and December 1991, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits increased 13.1% in the Yukon, 3.7% in British Columbia, 2.6% in the Northwest Territories, 2.1% in Ontario and 1.0% in Alberta. The

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 Disbursements, 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. Since January 1991, benefit payments shown include monies paid to institutions for training courses.

Note to 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.

number decreased 2.7% in Newfoundland, 1.7% in Manitoba, 1.1% in Prince Edward Island and 1.0% in Saskatchewan. There was little or no change in the other provinces.

- In December 1991, total unemployment insurance disbursements², adjusted for seasonal variations and the number of working days, decreased 1.1% to \$1,584 million. The number of benefit weeks increased 1.5% to 5.9 million.

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonal Variation

- In December 1991, the number of beneficiaries¹ (including all persons qualifying for regular and special unemployment insurance benefits) was 1,361,000, up 2.2% from the same month a year ago. Over the same period, the number of male beneficiaries rose 2.1% to 781,000, and the number of female beneficiaries advanced 2.4% to 580,000.
- In the following census metropolitan areas the year-over-year percentage changes in the number of beneficiaries was or exceeded 10%:

	Beneficiaries December 1991	% Change December 1991/1990
Sudbury	6,900	18%
Saint John, N.B.	5,990	17%
Halifax	13,880	10%
Victoria	9,520	-18%
Thunder Bay	4,850	-15%
Kitchener	13,130	-14%
Hamilton	20,020	-13%
Oshawa	7,510	-12%
Sherbrooke	7,690	-10%

- Unemployment insurance benefit payments during December 1991 were \$1,413 million², up 20.2% from December 1990. For the year 1991, benefit payments totalled \$17,696 million, an increase of 34.2% compared with 1990. For the same period, the average weekly payment increased 5.5% to \$243.91, and the number of benefit weeks advanced 25.3% to 71.5 million.
- A total of 369,000 claims² (applications) for unemployment insurance benefits were received in December 1991. This was a decrease of 4.7% from the same month a year earlier. During 1991, 3,877,000 claims were received, up 4.9% from the previous year.

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

The December 1991 issue of *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001, \$14.70/\$147), containing data for October, November and December 1991, will be available in March. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information, please call Carole Lacroix (613-951-4039) or André Picard (613-951-4045), Labour Division (FAX: 613- 951-4087).

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

	December 1991	November 1991	October 1991	December 1990	% change December 1991/ November 1991
Seasonally adjusted					
Benefits					
Amount paid (\$000)	1,584,360	1,602,072	1,549,883	1,243,605	-1.1
Weeks of benefit (000)	5,913	5,825	5,939	5,007	1.5
Beneficiaries - Regular benefit (000)	1,085 P	1,081 P	1,110 r	1,107	0.4
	December 1991	November 1991	October 1991	December 1990	% change December 1991/ December 1990
Unadjusted					
Benefits					
Amount paid (\$000)	1,412,509	1,316,505	1,344,343	1,175,203	20.2
Weeks of benefit (000)	5,282	5,059	5,393	4,916	7.4
Average weekly benefit (\$)	253.93	248.25	243.99	239.04	6.2
Claims received (000)	369	411	385	387	-4.7
Beneficiaries (000)					
Total	1,361 P	1,215 P	1,138 r	1,332	2.2
Regular benefits	1,108 P	979 P	928 r	1,148	-3.5
January to December					% change 1991/1990
	1991	1990			
Benefits					
Amount paid (\$000)	17,695,617	13,189,409			34.2
Weeks of benefit (000)	71,460	57,053			25.3
Average weekly benefit (\$)	243.91	231.18			5.5
Claims received (000)	3,877	3,695			4.9
Beneficiaries					
Year-to-date average (000)	1,362 P	1,121			21.5

P Preliminary figures
r Revised figures
.. Figures not available

Industrial Product Price Index

January 1992

According to preliminary figures, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) edged up to 107.7 in January 1992 from December's level of 107.6. Of the 21 indexes for major groups of products, 11 increased while nine decreased and one remained unchanged. The main indexes that contributed increases in January were paper and paper products (0.9%) and lumber, sawmill and other wood products (1.1%). A general factor in January was the 1.2% increase in the value of the U.S. dollar; this had an upward effect on prices of exported goods denominated in U.S. currency. In addition to the paper and lumber indexes, the main index affected was that for autos, trucks and other transport equipment (0.6%). The impact of these increases was partially offset by price decreases for petroleum and coal products (-1.6%) and meat, fish and dairy products (-0.6%).

Since January 1991, the IPPI has decreased 3.1%, the largest year-to-year decrease registered since 1956, when the complete set of price indexes for manufactured goods was introduced. This contrasts with the positive year-to-year change of 2.2% in January 1991. The major contributors to the 12-month change were the indexes for primary metal products (-7.5%), paper and paper products (-10.9%) and petroleum and coal products (-24.3%). Of the indexes that increased over the year, those that had the biggest impact on the overall change were autos, trucks and other transport equipment (2.6%), tobacco and tobacco products (9.8%) and lumber, sawmill and other wood products (3.4%). The falls in the indexes for primary metals and for paper and paper products were the main causes of the change in the year-to-year decrease for first-stage intermediate goods, which went from -2.5% in January 1991 to -10.2% in January 1992, after reaching a low of -14.3% in October 1991. On the other hand, the year-to-year changes for both second-stage intermediate goods, which are affected by movements in petroleum prices, and finished goods continued to fall. The 12-month change (-0.3%) for finished goods in January was the lowest one registered since the 1981 introduction of price indexes by stage of processing. Excluding petroleum and coal products, the 12-month change in the IPPI was -1.4% in January.

Highlights

- The lumber, sawmill and other wood products index showed an increase of 1.1% in January, due primarily to higher prices for softwood lumber and ties (2.2%) and for veneer and plywood, softwood (5.3%). These increases were partially offset by a decrease in the sash, door and other millwork products index (-0.7%). Over the last 12 months, increases for softwood lumber and ties products (9.7%) were mainly responsible for the 3.4% increase in the lumber, sawmill and other wood products index.
- The paper and paper products index increased 0.9% in January. This was the first increase registered since September 1990. Although prices for pulp were up 3.6% in January, they were still 22.8% below their level of 12 months ago. The newsprint and other paper stock index and the paper products index were down 9.0% and 2.8%, respectively, from a year ago.
- The primary metal products index increased 0.4% in January, its first increase since September 1990. This was due primarily to higher prices for aluminum products (2.9%). Over the last 12 months, the primary metal products index has fallen 7.5%, with declines ranging from 18.1% for aluminum products to 1.9% for iron and steel products.
- According to initial estimates, the petroleum and coal products index fell 1.6% in January, due to lower prices for gasoline and fuel oil as well as for other refined petroleum products. On a year-to-year basis, the petroleum and coal products index declined 24.3%, mainly as a result of lower prices for gasoline and fuel oils.
- The meat, fish and dairy products index decreased 0.6% in January, due primarily to lower prices for fresh or frozen pork (-4.4%). Over the last 12 months, the meat, fish and dairy products index has fallen 2.6%, mainly as a result of decreases in prices for fresh or frozen pork (-16.8%) and fresh or frozen beef and veal (-7.8%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2000-2008.

The January 1992 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$18.20/\$182) will be available near the end of March. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information and Current Analysis Section (613-951-9607), Prices Division. □

Industrial Product Price Indexes
(1986 = 100)

Index	Relative Importance ¹	Index January 1992 ²	January 1992/ December 1991	January 1992/ January 1991
				% change
Industrial Product Price Index - Total	100.0	107.7	0.1	-3.1
Total IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products³	93.6	108.9	0.2	-1.4
Intermediate goods	60.4	106.1	0.1	-4.9
First-stage intermediate goods	13.4	103.4	0.5	-10.2
Second-stage intermediate goods	47.0	106.9	0.0	-3.3
Finished goods	39.6	110.1	0.1	-0.3
Finished foods and feeds	9.9	114.4	-0.4	0.1
Capital equipment	10.4	109.5	0.4	1.8
All other finished goods	19.3	108.2	0.2	-1.5
Aggregation by commodities:				
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.4	107.3	-0.6	-2.6
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.3	113.4	-0.2	0.9
Beverages	2.0	120.4	-0.2	1.5
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.7	146.8	0.1	9.8
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.1	116.3	0.1	0.1
Textile products	2.2	109.2	0.0	-0.5
Knitted products and clothing	2.3	114.1	0.1	1.2
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	4.9	105.9	1.1	3.4
Furniture and fixtures	1.7	117.8	-0.4	-0.4
Paper and paper products	8.1	105.1	0.9	-10.9
Printing and publishing	2.7	125.9	-0.2	1.0
Primary metal products	7.7	101.4	0.4	-7.5
Metal fabricated products	4.9	112.7	0.4	0.1
Machinery and equipment	4.2	115.6	0.2	0.9
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	17.6	101.1	0.6	2.6
Electrical and communications products	5.1	110.6	0.5	-0.6
Non-metallic mineral products	2.6	110.3	-0.4	-0.8
Petroleum and coal products ³	6.4	90.8	-1.6	-24.3
Chemical, chemical products	7.2	113.0	-0.4	-5.0
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.5	111.0	-0.3	-0.5
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.4	67.2	1.5	-15.7

¹ Weights are derived from the "make" matrix of the 1986 Input/Output table.

² Indexes are preliminary.

³ This index is estimated for the current month.

Raw Materials Price Index

January 1992

Preliminary estimates for the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1986 = 100) show a 2.4% decrease from the preceding month to 98.6 in January. The main contributor to this decline was the mineral fuels index, which fell by 8.9%. Among the remaining components, the vegetable products index increased 1.4% and the animal and animal products index rose 1.0%. The RMPI excluding mineral fuels continued the upward movement started in December 1991, with an increase of 0.7% in January.

In January 1992, the RMPI was down 15.7% from January 1991. The decrease was due to declines in six of seven components of the total index. The main changes were a 32.2% drop in mineral fuels prices and a 14.3% decrease in non-ferrous metals. The RMPI excluding the mineral fuels component was down 5.6% in January 1992 compared to January 1991.

Highlights

- The mineral fuels price index fell by 8.9% in January as a result of lower prices for crude mineral oils (-9.7%). However, prices for natural gas and coal were up 2.3% in January. The mineral fuels index was down 32.2% from January 1991, due primarily to a 34.0% drop in the price of crude oil.
- In January, the vegetable products index was up 1.4% from December. This was mainly due to increases in prices of wheat (5.0%), raw tobacco (5.3%) and corn (2.6%). However, the overall

increase was moderated by a 4.0% drop in prices of unrefined sugar. Over the last 12 months, the vegetable products index fell 4.0%, due primarily to drops in prices of fresh potatoes (-41.7%), unrefined sugar (-9.4%) and oilseeds (-6.9%). A 16.6% increase in wheat prices moderated the overall decline.

- The animal and animal products index was up 1.0% in January. This increase was largely the result of higher prices for hogs (2.6%) and cattle for slaughter (3.9%). The animal and animal products index was down 6.3% from the same period last year, due primarily to a 25.6% drop in hog prices and a 13.4% decrease in prices of cattle for slaughter. However, fish prices were up 12.4% in January 1992 compared to the same period last year.
- The non-ferrous metals index was up 0.2% from December 1991. The main increases were a 5.2% jump in the prices of aluminum materials and a 3.9% rise in the prices of nickel concentrates. However, these increases were nearly offset by drops in prices of copper concentrates (-0.6%) and zinc concentrates (-6.2%). Over the past year, the non-ferrous metals index has decreased 14.3%. The main contributions to this decline were lower prices for aluminum materials (-24.5%), concentrates of copper (-12.2%) and precious metals (-9.2%).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2009.

For further information on this release, contact the Information and Current Analysis Section (613-951-9607), Prices Division.

Raw Materials Price Index

(1986 = 100)

	Relative Importance	Index January 1992 ¹	January 1992/ December 1991	January 1992/ January 1991
% Change				
Raw Materials total	100	98.6	-2.4	-15.7
Mineral fuels	32	94.7	-8.9	-32.2
Vegetable products	10	88.0	1.4	-4.0
Animal and animal products	25	100.0	1.0	-6.3
Wood	13	124.2	0.0	1.5
Ferrous materials	4	89.5	1.7	-2.7
Non-ferrous metals	13	90.1	0.2	-14.3
Non-metallic minerals	3	99.6	-0.7	-5.6
Total excluding mineral fuels	68	100.4	0.7	-5.6

¹ These indexes are preliminary.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending February 14, 1992

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the period totalled 4.8 million tonnes, an increase of 6.4% over the same period last year.
- Piggyback traffic decreased 1.4% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded showed no change during the same period.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year increased 5.2% from the previous year.

Note: Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic. All 1991 figures and 1992 cumulative data have been revised.

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

Telephone Statistics

December 1991

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported monthly revenues of \$1,108.0 million in December 1991, up 1.7% from December 1990.

Operating expenses were \$896.2 million, an increase of 0.3% from December 1990. Net operating revenue was \$211.8 million, an increase of 8.0% from December 1990.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 355.

The December 1991 issue of *Telephone Statistics* (56-002, \$8.30/\$83) is scheduled for release this week. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact J.R. Slattery (613-951-2205), Services, Science and Technology Division. ■

Stocks of Frozen Meat Products

February 1, 1992

Total frozen meat in cold storage as of February 1 amounted to 32 370 tonnes as compared with 30 800 tonnes last month and 28 170 tonnes a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9517-9525.

To order *Stocks of Frozen Meat Products* (\$11.50/\$115), contact Guy Gervais (613-951-2453).

For more information on this release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-2508), Agriculture Division. ■



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PUBLICATION RELEASED

Pack of Canned Tomatoes and Tomato Products, 1991.

Catalogue number 32-237

(Canada: \$13; United States: US\$16;

Other Countries: US\$18).

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