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MAJOR RELEASES

- **New Housing Price Index, March 1992**
 The Canada Total New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100) increased 0.2% in March 1992 from February 1992.
- **Health Reports, Fourth Quarter 1991** 4
 Delayed marriages, delayed family formation, and increased knowledge and effective use of contraceptives have been cited as reasons for the declining numbers of teenage pregnancies.

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Health Reports
 1991 Volume 3 No. 4
 Programme de Rapports sur la Santé
 Volume 3 Numéro 4
 1991

Rapports sur la santé
 1991 Volume 3 No. 4
 Programme des statistiques démographiques
 Volume 3 Numéro 4
 1991

Canada

Health Reports

Fourth Quarter 1991

The fourth quarter *Health Reports* features analytical articles that examine trends in low birth weight, teenage pregnancies and in healthier lifestyles for Canadians. This issue also presents a summary report of the substantive and organization recommendations of the National Task Force on Health Information. The more technical user will find a methodological article pertaining to the analysis of surgical procedures frequencies for Canada.

Highlights

- The teenage pregnancy rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 dropped 17.4% from 53.4 in 1974 to 44.1 in 1989.
- The incidence of low birth weight decreased from 6.6% of single live births in 1971 to 4.6% in 1989.
- Annual hospital data, divorces, health indicators, nursing doctoral statistics, and Statistics Canada's program of health statistics are also contained in this issue.

The fourth quarter 1991 Health Reports, Vol 3, No. 4 (82-003, \$26/\$104) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".
 For further information on this release contact Nelson Nault (613-951-2990), Canadian Centre for Health Information.



MAJOR RELEASES

New Housing Price Index

March 1992

The New Housing Price Index (NHPI, 1986 = 100) for Canada stood at 133.8 in March, up 0.2% from the February 1992 level. The estimated House Only index increased 0.1% and the Land Only index increased 0.4%.

The largest monthly increases were registered in Edmonton (1.5%) and Victoria (1.3%); the largest monthly decrease was recorded in Kitchener-Waterloo (-0.5%).

This index of Canadian housing contractors' selling prices now stands 0.1% lower than the year-earlier level. This small movement mainly reflects the offsetting impacts of decreases, such as in Toronto (-3.2%), compared to increases in cities such as Vancouver (7.4%) and Victoria (4.6%).

Note to Users

The NHPI reflects selling price changes from the contractor's perspective rather than the purchaser's. The analytical index more closely follows a purchase price concept, although it has not been adjusted for all possible costs.

Analytical Index

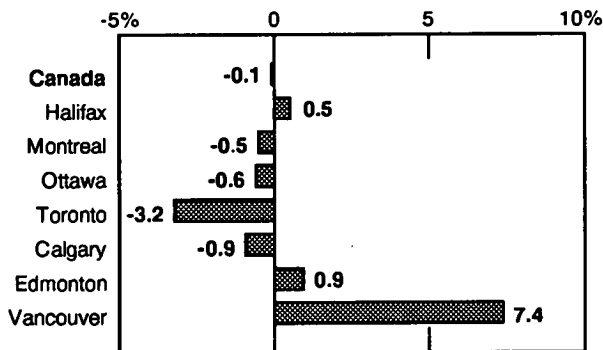
Prices Division has calculated an analytical index in which current regulations concerning the GST and relevant new housing rebates are applied to the current price sample to calculate an index that includes the estimated net effect of the GST on purchasers of these houses. In March 1992, this index was 139.4, up 0.1% from the revised Canada total level of 139.2 for February 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2032.

The first quarter 1992 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$18/\$72) will be available in June. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, please contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division. □

Percentage Change in New Housing Price Index from Same Month of the Previous Year, Canada and Selected Cities, March 1992



New Housing Price Indexes

1986 = 100

	March 1992	February 1992	March 1991	% change	
				March 1992/ February 1992	March 1992/ March 1991
Canada Total	133.8	133.5	134.0	0.2	-0.1
Canada (House only)	124.5	124.4	124.6	0.1	-0.1
Canada (Land only)	161.2	160.6	159.9	0.4	0.8
St. John's	126.8	126.5	126.8	0.2	-
Halifax	109.7	109.6	109.1	0.1	0.5
Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton	115.4	114.8	114.5	0.5	0.8
Quebec City	134.8	134.9	135.4	-0.1	-0.4
Montreal	134.8	134.5	135.5	0.2	-0.5
Ottawa-Hull	122.8	123.0	123.6	-0.2	-0.6
Toronto	141.7	141.7	146.4	-	-3.2
Hamilton	132.9	133.2	138.1	-0.2	-3.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	132.5	132.1	136.4	0.3	-2.9
Kitchener-Waterloo	126.4	127.0	128.7	-0.5	-1.8
London	146.5	146.0	145.0	0.3	1.0
Windsor	128.3	128.3	127.9	-	0.3
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	133.2	133.2	134.6	-	-1.0
Winnipeg	108.0	107.6	108.9	0.4	-0.8
Regina	113.0	112.9	112.0	0.1	0.9
Saskatoon	106.9	106.7	106.4	0.2	0.5
Calgary	132.6	132.2	133.8	0.3	-0.9
Edmonton	141.3	139.2	140.0	1.5	0.9
Vancouver	131.3	130.7	122.2	0.5	7.4
Victoria	124.8	123.2	119.3	1.3	4.6

- Nil or zero.

Health Reports

Fourth Quarter 1991

Highlights

Trends in Low Birth Weight in Canada, 1971-1989

Birth weight is a key predictor of the chances of infant survival and is an indicator of the health status of the community.

- The incidence of low birth weight (less than 2500g) decreased from 6.6% of single live births in 1971 to 4.6% in 1989.
- The percentage of infants having a very low birth weight (less than 1500g) decreased only slightly from 0.8% in 1971 to 0.7% in 1989.
- The decline in the incidence of low birth weight was more pronounced among female than among male babies. In 1971, about 7.4% of female single live births had a low birth weight compared to 5.9% of males. This decreased further in 1989, down to 4.9% for females and 4.3% for males.
- The incidence of pre-term births with a low birth weight increased markedly from 47% in 1971 to 60% in 1989.
- A reduction in the proportion of births to teenage mothers and increased monitoring of high-risk pregnancies are among the factors cited as reasons for the decline in the prevalence of low birth weight.

Teenage Pregnancies in Canada, 1975-1989

- The numbers of pregnancies occurring among teenage females aged 15 to 19 decreased from 1975 to 1987. This decrease was followed by an increase in the numbers of teenage pregnancies in 1988 and 1989. Overall in 1975, there were 19,000 fewer teenage pregnancies than in 1989.
- The pregnancy rate per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19 decreased from 53.4 in 1975 to 44.1 in 1989.
- Of the approximately 39,000 teenage pregnancies in 1989, some 58% resulted in live births, 36% in induced abortions, and 6% in other types of termination (including still births and spontaneous abortion). In 1975, some 66% of teenage pregnancies resulted in live births, 25% in induced abortions, and 9% had other outcomes.

- From 1975 to 1989, teenagers aged 18 to 19 consistently had a higher percentage of live birth outcomes than those aged 15 to 17. About 61% of teenage pregnancies resulted in live births for mothers aged 18 to 19 in 1989, decreasing from 71% in 1975.
- In 1975, about 56% of teenage pregnancies among females aged 15 to 17 resulted in live births. From 1979 to 1989, the percentage of live births that occurred among teenagers aged 15 to 17 fluctuated between 50% and 52%.
- Delayed marriages, delayed family formation, and increased knowledge and effective use of contraceptives have been cited as reasons for the declining numbers of teenage pregnancies.

An Analysis of Frequencies of Surgical Procedures in Canada

- This methodologically-oriented article presents certain statistical and graphical techniques for analyzing surgical procedure rates, while adjusting for differing population sizes.
- Preliminary analysis using these techniques showed that Canadian surgical procedure rates vary significantly according to geographical region, age, sex and the socio-economic status of the region's residents. The substantive findings will be reported at a later date.

National Task Force on Health Information

The National Task Force on Health Information was created in 1990 to make strategic planning recommendations concerning health information. The task force found that Canadian health information needs in several areas are inadequately met or not met at all, with important exceptions.

A health information system that covers individuals, their environment and the effects of conscious actions that are taken to affect individuals is needed.

Among its recommendations the Task Force suggested the formation of an Institute for Health Information to ensure the management of consensus on concepts and guidelines. It also would be a clearinghouse for results of health science research.

The fourth quarter 1991 *Health Reports*, Vol 3, No. 4 (82-003, \$26/\$104) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release contact Nelson Nault (613-951-2990), Canadian Centre for Health Information. ■

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Canadian Civil Aviation Statistics

March 1992

Preliminary monthly operational data for March 1992 are now available. Data reported by Canadian Level I air carriers on scheduled services show that domestic passenger-kilometres decreased 9.9% from a year earlier but international passenger-kilometres increased 15.3% over March 1991 figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 385.

Preliminary civil aviation data for March 1992 will be available in the June issue of *Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin* (51-004, \$9.30/\$93). See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact Bradley Snider (819-997-6195), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics

March 1992

In March 1992, a total of 73 Canadian urban transit systems with gross annual total operating revenues of \$1 million or more (subsidies included) carried 124.9 million fare passengers, an 8.5% increase from the previous month but a 5.4% decrease from March 1991. Operating revenues totalled \$117.8 million, up 8.4% from February 1992 and up 4.0% from March 1991.

In March, 22 passenger bus carriers that earn \$1 million or more annually from intercity and rural bus operations carried 1.1 million fare passengers, up 9.9% from the previous month but down 16.9% from March 1991. Operating revenues from the same services totalled \$19.4 million, a 10.8% increase over February 1992 but a 13.1% decrease from March 1991.

All 1991 figures and 1992 cumulative data have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 351 and 352.

The March 1992 issue of *Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics* (53-003, \$7.10/\$71) will be available the third week of May.

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

Steel Primary Forms

March 1992

Steel primary forms production for March 1992 totalled 1 229 675 tonnes, a 4.7% increase from 1 174 044 tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date production reached 3 398 802 tonnes in March, up 0.6% from 3 378 063 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

The March 1992 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division. ■

Electric Storage Batteries

March 1992

Information on the sales of storage batteries in March is now available.

The March 1992 issue of *Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries* (43-005, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

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



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Gross Domestic Product by Industry,
February 1992.

Catalogue number 15-001

(Canada: \$12.70/\$127; United States: US\$15.20/
US\$152; Other Countries: US\$17.80/US\$178).

Health Reports, 1991. Vol. 3, No. 4.

Catalogue number 82-003

(Canada: \$26/\$104; United States: US\$31.25/
US\$125; Other Countries: US\$36.50/US\$146).

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