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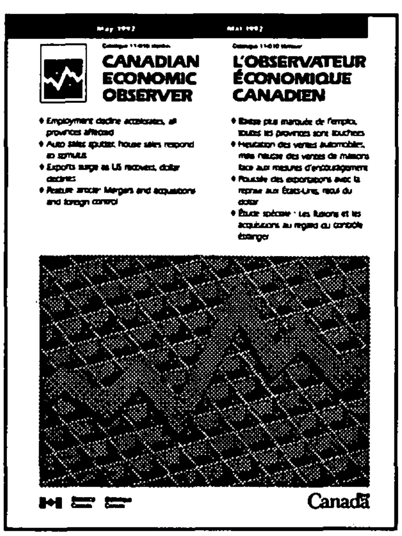
MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on page 2)



Canadian Economic Observer, May 1992

The May issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, is now available.

This issue contains a monthly summary of the economy, major economic events in April, and a feature article on mergers and acquisitions and foreign control. (See page 2 of today's *Daily* for a note concerning changes to the CALURA, Corporations publication.) A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

Canadian Economic Observer (11-010, $22/$220) can now be ordered from Publication Sales (613-951-7276). For more information, call Philip Cross (613-951-9162), Current Analysis Section.

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CALURA – Note on the Corporations Publication

Statistics Canada is in the process of changing the data sources and methodology it uses to publish the *Annual Report to Parliament under the Corporations and Labour Unions Returns Act, Part I - Corporations*. This report publishes financial information – on an industrial, geographical and provincial basis – about firms under Canadian or foreign control that are operating in the Canadian economy . It also provides measures and analysis of corporate concentration and of mergers and acquisitions and their impact on the level of foreign control in the economy.

Under the new method, the publication will use data from the quarterly financial survey to publish on a preliminary basis within the calendar year following the end of the reference year. The survey data will then be supplemented with data from taxation records in order to obtain revised and, ultimately, final estimates of the level of foreign control, corporate concentration, etc.

In addition to the improvements in timeliness that will arise from this new method, three other improvements will be worth noting:

- More extensive financial information (mainly income statement, balance sheet, sources and uses of funds) will be available for all size-groups of firms. Previously, only income statements and balance sheet information was available for the largest firms.
- This information will be aggregated to the CALURA "Global Enterprise" level (a group of corporations under common control), rather than published at the corporate level as was previously done. This will enable more comprehensive analysis of financial performance on the basis of foreign control.
- The data will be "calendarized." That is, the data will represent activity during a calendar year to a very large extent. Previously, the use of fiscal years meant the data for different firms represented different periods within a time span of more than two years.

The first release using this new method will cover reference years 1989, 1990 and 1991 on a preliminary data basis. It is expected that this initial publication will be available approximately 15 months after the end of the reference year. The most recently released CALURA Corporations publication was for reference year 1988. In the meantime, the paper "Mergers and Acquisitions and Foreign Control" is presented in *Canadian Economic Observer* to update information on mergers and acquisitions in 1991 and their estimated impact on foreign control.

In general, the CALURA publication will continue to cover the foreign control and concentration aspects as well as further develop analyses relating to provincial distributions, mergers and acquisitions, and other special topics as they arise. This work will be enhanced by the improved financial data and the greater timeliness of the analysis.

For more information, please contact Janice McMechan, CALURA (613-951-6904).

MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index
April 1992

National Highlights

All-items

The All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI, 1986 = 100) for Canada rose 1.7% between April 1991 and April 1992 to 127.6. This latest change was in line with the year-over-year increases recorded in the first three months of 1992. A stretch of 12-month increases as low as these was last observed about 30 years ago.

On a month-to-month basis, the All-items index edged up 0.1% in April following a rise of 0.3% in March. In the latest month, several offsetting movements were registered. Four of the major components showed increases varying from 0.2% for Transportation to 1.2% for Health and Personal Care. The remaining three components, Recreation, Reading and Education, Clothing and Housing fell 0.5%, 0.4% and 0.1%, respectively. The largest upward impact on the latest change in the All-items CPI was due to a 0.4% increase in the Food index. The most important downward pressure resulted from the 0.1% decline in the Housing index.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the All-items index rose 0.2% in April after increases of 0.1% in January, 0.2% in February and 0.4% in March.

The compound annual rate of increase, based on the seasonally adjusted index levels over the latest three-month period (January to April), was 2.9%. This followed increases of 1.3%, 0.9% and 2.5% in January, February and March, respectively, and shows a mildly increasing trend.

Food

The Food index rose 0.4% in April, the same rate as in March. In the latest period, the Food Purchased from Stores index advanced 0.5%, while the index for Food Purchased from Restaurants advanced 0.1%.

A considerable proportion of the 0.5% increase in the index for Food Purchased from Stores was due to higher prices for fresh vegetables and fresh meat. Higher seasonal prices were noted for nearly all types of fresh vegetables with the largest impact resulting from price increases for tomatoes, lettuce, celery and storage-type vegetables such as onions, cabbage and carrots. Prices of beef, veal, pork and chicken rose. Other price increases were observed for soft drinks, bakery products, eggs and fats and oils. Part of these upward increases was offset by lower prices for turkey (attributable to Easter "specials") cured meat, fresh milk, coffee, sugar and some types of fresh fruit, notably bananas and oranges. Price wars in grocery stores, which took place in the last three months mostly in Ontario and Quebec, extended to another chain store in Montreal.

As in March, the Food index fell 0.7% during the 12-month period from April 1991 to April 1992. Declines of 1.0% and 0.8% were registered in January and February, respectively. In the latest 12-month period, the index for Food Purchased from Stores declined 1.9%, but the index for Food Purchased from Restaurants rose 2.0%.

All-items excluding Food

On a month-to-month basis, the All-items excluding Food index remained unchanged in April following a 0.3% rise in March. The latest result reflected a large number of offsetting price movements. The largest upward impact resulted from a 1.2% advance in the Health and Personal Care index, while the greatest downward effect was found in the 0.1% decline in the Housing index.

Much of the 1.2% advance in the Health and Personal Care index was attributable to a 5.6% rise in dental care charges after the introduction in most of the provinces of the 1992 Suggested Fee Guides for dental surgeons. In addition, higher prices were reported for selected personal care supplies such as toilet goods and disposable diapers as well as for non-prescribed medicines.

The Transportation index rose 0.2% as a result of a 0.3% increase in the Private Transportation component and a 0.5% drop in the Public Transportation index. Some proportion of the rise in Private Transportation was due to higher prices for selected imported vehicles. As well, gasoline prices rose 0.7% after two consecutive declines. Automobile insurance premiums increased in Nova Scotia and Ontario, and widespread advances in tune-up charges were reported. At the same time, prices of tires, batteries, oil changes and expenses related to automobile body maintenance fell. The Public Transportation index decreased as air fares declined 1.7%, mostly due to lower "seat-sale" prices and excursion fares to London and lower seasonal prices to the Caribbean. This decline was moderated slightly by a rise in highway bus fares in Ontario and western Canada.

The Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages index increased 0.5% in April. Most of this increase was explained by a 1.6% advance in prices of alcoholic beverages purchased from stores. Beer prices rose 2.2% because of supplier increases in Newfoundland, Ontario and the Yukon and because of a tax rise in British Columbia. Wine prices and liquor prices rose 1.4% and 1.2% in response to higher markups in Newfoundland, tax increases in British Columbia, higher prices on imported products in Quebec, and supplier price increases for liquor in Manitoba. Some part of the overall increase in the Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages index was offset by a 0.3% decline in cigarette prices resulting from increased competition and a drop in taxes on cigarettes in New Brunswick.

The Housing index declined 0.1% as lower charges for owned accommodation, piped gas and furniture outweighed the impact of higher charges for rented accommodation, electricity, child care, pet food, detergent and soap and household textiles. The Owned Accommodation index fell 0.2%, mostly due to continuing declines in mortgage interest costs and a sharp (2.2%) drop in home maintenance and repair charges. This price decline was offset slightly by a 0.1% rise in new house prices following four successive months of price falls. The price of piped gas decreased as some distributing companies shifted to lower summer rates. The decline in furniture prices was attributable mainly to increased competition at the retail level accompanied by promotional activity.

Declines were registered in both the Recreation, Reading and Education index (-0.5%) and the Clothing index (-0.4%). For the first index, declines in the prices of home entertainment equipment and cablevision charges were observed. Cablevision charges fell as specialty channels previously available only through Pay TV were introduced as part of the basic service. The 0.4% drop in the Clothing index reflected declines of 0.5% noted in both the Women's Wear and the Men's Wear indexes. Prices declined for most categories of Women's Wear except for foundation garments and footwear. This reflected the predominance of sales and promotional prices over scattered price increases. Price increases represented a return to regular price levels from previously posted sales prices.

Over the 12-month period, April 1991 to April 1992, the All-items excluding Food index climbed 2.1%, extending the trend of relatively stable price increases which fluctuated between 2.1% and 2.2% since January.

Energy

Between March and April, the Energy index edged up 0.1%, following declines of 2.6% and 0.6% in February and March. The latest change was explained by an increase of 0.7% in gasoline prices and a drop of 2.7% in the price of piped gas. Over the 12-month period, April 1991 to April 1992, the Energy index rose 1.5% after six months of continuous declines.

The Consumer Price Index and Major Components (Not Seasonally Adjusted), Canada

(1986 = 100)

	Indexes			Percentage change April 1992 from	
	April 1992	March 1992	April 1991	March 1992	April 1991
All-items	**127.6**	**127.5**	**125.5**	**0.1**	**1.7**
Food	120.9	120.4	121.8	0.4	-0.7
Housing	125.8	125.9	123.8	-0.1	1.6
Clothing	130.1	130.6	129.2	-0.4	0.7
Transportation	120.7	120.5	117.7	0.2	2.5
Health and personal care	131.0	129.4	128.5	1.2	1.9
Recreation, reading and education	131.1	131.7	129.3	-0.5	1.4
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	168.2	167.4	157.2	0.5	7.0
All-items excluding food	129.1	129.1	126.4	0.0	2.1
All-items excluding food and energy	130.0	130.0	127.2	0.0	2.2
Goods	123.7	123.6	122.4	0.1	1.1
Services	132.3	132.2	129.4	0.1	2.2
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1986	78.4	78.4	79.7		
All-items (1981 = 100)	168.9				

All-items excluding Food and Energy

In April, the All-items excluding Food and Energy index remained unchanged following an average monthly rise of 0.3% in the first three months of 1992. Over the 12-month period ending in April 1992, the index rose 2.2%, about the same increase as noted in March.

Goods and Services

Both the Goods as well as the Services index moved up 0.1% in April. In March, the Goods index advanced 0.5% and the Services index increased 0.2%. All the increase in the Goods index in April resulted from a 0.4% rise in the Non-durable component, as the Durable and Semi-durable components fell 0.3% and 0.2%, respectively. Between April 1991 and April 1992, the Goods index edged up 1.1%, slightly above the 0.9% reported in March. Over the same period, the Services index climbed 2.2%, compared to a 2.5% increase in March.

City Highlights

Between March and April, changes in the All-items indexes for cities for which CPIs are published fluctuated between a decline of 0.6% observed in Saint John and Whitehorse to an increase of 0.6% in Winnipeg. In Saint John, sharp declines were observed in the Transportation and Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages indexes. In Whitehorse, major declines were reported in the Food and Housing indexes. The largest rise, noted in Winnipeg, resulted from significant increases in the Housing, Transportation and Health and Personal Care indexes.

Between April 1991 and April 1992, changes in city CPIs ranged from a decline of 0.5% in Saskatoon to a rise of 2.8% in Vancouver.

Main Contributors to Monthly Changes in the All-items Index, By City

St. John's

The 0.2% rise in the All-items index was largely attributable to price increases for alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, food and personal care supplies. Within the Food index, price increases were recorded for chicken, dairy products, bakery products, fresh vegetables and beef. Moderating these advances were price declines for home entertainment equipment and gasoline, decreased household operating expenses and a drop in owned accommodation charges. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.0%.

Charlottetown/Summerside

Higher prices for food, clothing and alcoholic beverages were the major contributing factors in the 0.1% rise in the All-items index. Within the Food index, price increases were recorded for poultry, cereal products, fish, fresh vegetables, and cured and prepared meats. Increased charges for dental care were observed as well. A decline in the Housing index, reflecting decreased charges for fuel oil, electricity and owned accommodation, had a notable dampening effect. Lower prices for recreational and home entertainment equipment also had a moderating impact. The Transportation index fell slightly, as declines in gasoline prices, vehicle maintenance charges and air fares more than offset higher prices for automotive vehicles. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 0.8%.

Halifax

Increased housing charges, most notably for electricity, owned accommodation, household furnishings and water, were among the main contributors to the 0.2% rise in the All-items index. Further upward pressure came from the Food index, as price increases for fresh vegetables, soft drinks, restaurant meals, beef, pork and sugar were recorded. Other notable increases were observed in automotive vehicle prices, in vehicle insurance premiums and in dental care charges. Lower prices for women's wear, home entertainment equipment and personal care supplies dampened the overall upward movement. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.5%.

Saint John

The All-items index fell 0.6%. Much of the decline was associated with lower prices for cigarettes and gasoline, and, to a lesser extent, with decreased prices for women's wear and home entertainment equipment. Partially offsetting these declines were advances in charges for rented accommodation, basic telephone service and furniture. The Food index was up slightly, as higher prices for fresh produce and soft drinks were recorded. Increased charges for dental care were noted as well. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 0.7%.

Quebec City

The 0.2% rise in the All-items index was largely associated with higher prices for gasoline, alcoholic beverages, dental care and recreational equipment. Moderating these advances were lower charges for personal care supplies, owned accommodation, household furnishings and equipment and household operation. The Food index fell slightly, reflecting lower prices for fresh fruit, beef, poultry, sugar, soft drinks and dairy products. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.8%.

Montreal

No overall change was recorded in the All-items index, as declines in four of the major component indexes offset advances in the remaining three. The greatest downward pressure came from the Housing index where decreased charges for household furnishings and equipment, homeowner maintenance and repairs and household operating expenses were recorded. The Food index also fell, reflecting lower prices for restaurant meals, prepared meats, fresh fruit, dairy products, fish, soft drinks cereal products and poultry. In addition, lower prices for recreational and home entertainment equipment were recorded, along with lower prices for clothing. Offsetting these declines were price advances for alcoholic beverages, gasoline, dental care, and personal care supplies. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 2.0%.

Ottawa

Among the main contributors to the 0.1% rise in the All-items index were increased transportation charges (notably for automotive vehicles, gasoline, insurance and maintenance and repairs) and higher housing costs (particularly for rented accommodation, furniture and household appliances). Further upward pressure came from higher prices for beer purchased from stores and increased charges for dental care. The Food index rose marginally, due to higher prices for fresh produce and beef. Lower prices for clothing had a dampening effect. The Recreation index also fell, as decreased charges for cablevision services more than offset higher prices for recreational equipment. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.4%.

Toronto

The All-items index fell slightly (-0.1%), reflecting declines in the Housing, Clothing and Recreation indexes. Within Housing, decreased charges were observed for owned accommodation, piped gas and furniture. The fall in the Clothing index reflected lower prices for men's and women's wear. Decreased charges for cablevision services and for home entertainment equipment were responsible for the drop in the Recreation index. Partially offsetting these declines were higher prices for automotive vehicles, vehicle insurance, gasoline and beer purchased from stores. The Food index also advanced, largely due to higher prices for fresh produce, beef, dairy products and bread. Charges for dental care and non-prescribed medicines were up as well. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.2%.

Thunder Bay

Higher food prices, particularly for fresh produce, bakery products, dairy products and fish, and increased housing charges (notably for rented accommodation, water, household operating expenses, furniture and appliances) explained most of the 0.1% rise in the All-items index. Further upward pressure came from higher prices for beer purchased from stores, increased charges for dental care and price increases for non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies. The Transportation index remained unchanged, as advances in automotive vehicle prices and vehicle insurance premiums were offset by declines in maintenance and repair charges and air fares. A drop in the Recreation index, reflecting lower prices for recreational and home entertainment equipment as well as a decline in charges for cablevision services, had a notable dampening effect. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 2.3%.

Winnipeg

The All-items index rose 0.6%. A large part of the upward impact originated in the Transportation index, where higher prices for gasoline and automotive vehicles were observed. Charges for owned and rented accommodation, electricity and household furnishings advanced as well. Further upward pressure was exerted by higher food prices (mainly beef, restaurant meals and bakery products) and increased charges for dental care and for personal care supplies. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.6%.

Regina

The All-items index fell 0.2%, as declines were registered in five of the seven major component indexes. The largest downward impact came from the Transportation index, where lower prices for gasoline were recorded. A decline in the Food index also had a significant dampening effect, as lower prices for fresh produce, cured and prepared meats, and pork more than offset higher prices for beef, bakery products and dairy products. Price declines for home entertainment, men's and women's wear, new houses and household equipment also exerted a considerable downward impact. Partially offsetting these declines were advances in dental care charges and household furnishings prices. Since April 1991, the All-items index has registered a 0.3% decline.

Saskatoon

Increased housing charges, notably for household furnishings, owned accommodation, rented accommodation and household operating expenses, explained a large part of the 0.2% rise in the All-items index. A rise in the Transportation index, reflecting higher prices for automotive vehicles, increased charges for vehicle maintenance and repairs and higher fares for local bus travel exerted a considerable upward influence. Advances in dental care charges were also registered. Dampening these advances were lower food prices, most notably for fresh produce, cured and prepared meats, and pork. Price declines were also recorded for recreational equipment, home entertainment equipment and clothing. Since April 1991, the All-items index has fallen 0.5%.

Edmonton

No overall change was recorded in the All-items index, as advances in four of the major component indexes totally offset declines in the remaining three. A large part of the upward pressure came from the Food index, where higher prices were recorded for chicken, cereal and bakery products, fresh fruit and dairy products. Increased dental care charges and higher prices for personal care supplies contributed a further upward influence. Higher prices for cigarettes, home entertainment equipment and recreational equipment were also registered. Offsetting these advances were declines in charges for gasoline, piped gas and household furnishings and equipment. Clothing prices fell slightly. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 2.1%.

Calgary

The All-items index fell slightly (-0.1%), largely due to decreases in the Transportation and Recreation indexes. Within Transportation, lower gasoline prices and decreased air fares were recorded. The fall in the Recreation index reflected lower prices for home entertainment and recreational equipment, as well as a decrease in cablevision charges. The Clothing index declined as well. Partly offsetting these declines were price increases for fresh vegetables, chicken and bakery products. Charges for personal care supplies, dental care and non-prescribed medicines advanced as well. The Housing index was also up, largely due to higher prices for household furnishings and equipment and increased household operating expenses. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 2.2%.

Vancouver

Increased charges for alcoholic beverages and gasoline, combined with advances in the Food and Housing indexes accounted for most of the 0.4% rise in the All-items index. Within the Food component, price increases were recorded for pork, bakery products, soft drinks and fresh produce. The rise in the Housing index was mainly due to increased charges for rented and owned accommodation, higher household operating expenses and price increases for household furnishings and equipment. Charges for dental care advanced as well. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 2.8%.

Victoria

The All-items index rose 0.3% with most of the advance originating from higher prices for food and alcoholic beverages. The rise in the Food index reflected price increases for restaurant meals, pork, fresh produce and eggs. The Housing index also advanced due to increased charges for household furnishings and equipment, new houses and rented accommodation. Higher charges for dental care were also recorded. Moderating these advances were lower prices for clothing, home entertainment equipment, new cars and air fares. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.9%.

Whitehorse

Declines in five of the seven major component indexes accounted for the 0.6% fall in the All-items index. The largest downward influence came from the Food index where lower prices were registered for fresh produce, cereal products, pork and dairy products. Decreased household operating expenses and lower prices for household furnishings and equipment also had a major downward influence. Clothing prices declined, as did the costs of personal care supplies and home entertainment equipment. Some upward pressure was exerted by price increases for beer purchased from stores, automotive vehicles, and vehicle maintenance and repairs. Charges for dental care advanced as well. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 0.6%.

Yellowknife

Declines in the Housing, Food and Clothing indexes accounted for most of the 0.3% decline in the All-items index. Lower prices for household furnishings and equipment explained the drop in the Housing index, while price declines for fresh fruit and beef were responsible for the fall in the Food index. A sharp rise in the Health and Personal Care index dampened the overall decline. Since April 1991, the All-items index has risen 1.1%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2201-2230.

The April 1992 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001, $9.30/$93) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.[1]

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and Personal care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
St.John's								
April 1992 index	122.4	116.6	117.6	132.5	118.0	126.7	130.6	143.2
% change from March 1992	0.2	0.6	-0.3	0.2	-0.3	1.4	-0.5	2.4
% change from April 1991	1.0	-2.4	0.3	3.3	2.3	1.0	3.7	3.0
Charlottetown/Summerside								
April 1992 index	126.9	124.8	119.1	127.0	117.8	134.7	131.7	187.5
% change from March 1992	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.7	-0.1	0.5	-0.2	0.6
% change from April 1991	0.8	-0.5	-0.4	3.4	1.2	1.5	3.0	2.9
Halifax								
April 1992 index	126.7	129.4	120.0	128.3	119.0	128.0	127.8	172.3
% change from March 1992	0.2	0.3	0.4	-0.5	0.2	0.3	-0.5	0.1
% change from April 1991	1.5	-0.4	1.6	2.1	2.2	-0.4	3.3	1.5
Saint John								
April 1992 index	124.7	123.9	120.0	128.7	117.3	127.5	126.2	170.5
% change from March 1992	-0.6	0.2	0.2	-0.4	-1.2	0.3	-0.4	-5.8
% change from April 1991	0.7	0.1	0.9	2.3	2.1	0.7	2.4	-5.2
Quebec City								
April 1992 index	127.1	119.5	125.5	135.1	115.2	132.0	133.7	167.2
% change from March 1992	0.2	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	1.0	0.8	0.3	0.6
% change from April 1991	1.8	-0.8	1.4	0.7	1.9	3.1	3.9	8.2
Montreal								
April 1992 index	128.7	120.3	127.9	135.3	117.1	132.8	136.6	171.6
% change from March 1992	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.2	2.1	-0.1	0.5
% change from April 1991	2.0	-1.0	1.8	1.0	1.8	3.3	3.4	9.4
Ottawa								
April 1992 index	127.0	116.9	125.8	129.6	123.3	132.9	131.2	164.5
% change from March 1992	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.3	0.2	0.5	-0.3	0.5
% change from April 1991	1.4	-2.5	1.9	0.6	3.4	-0.4	0.6	7.7

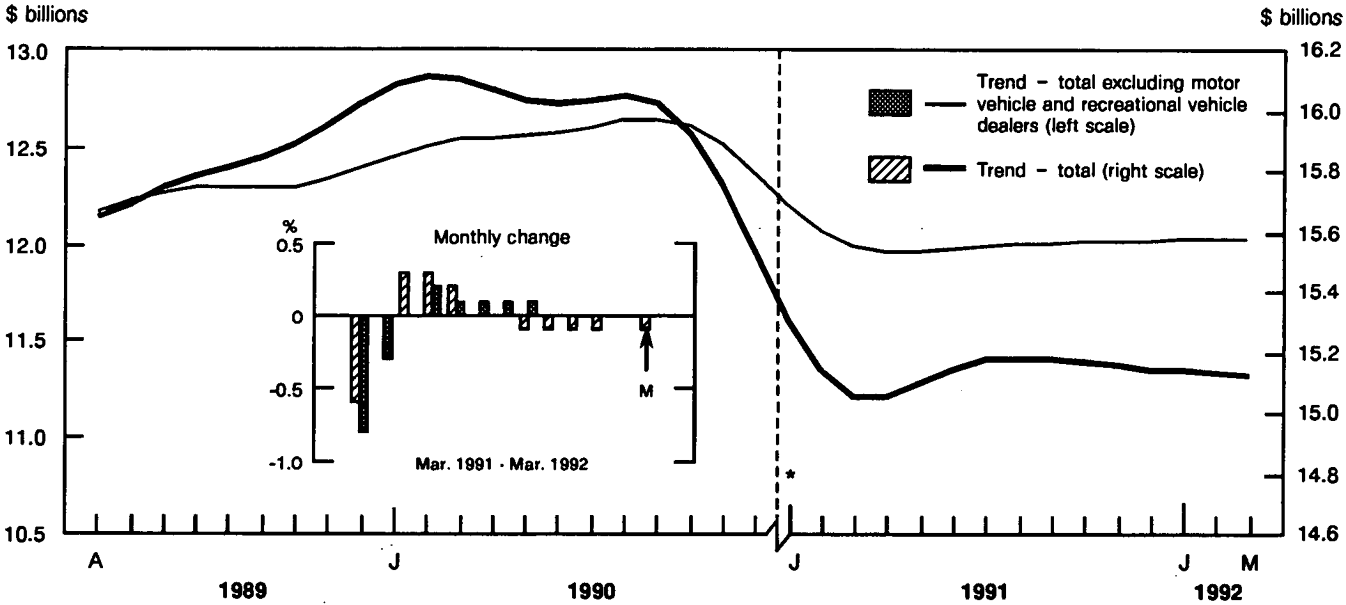
Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres – Concluded

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.[1]

	All-items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and Personal care	Recreation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
Toronto								
April 1992 index	129.3	121.5	129.5	129.2	123.2	135.2	132.5	162.5
% change from March 1992	-0.1	0.2	-0.4	-0.7	0.5	0.8	-0.6	0.1
% change from April 1991	1.2	-2.5	1.3	-0.1	3.1	2.0	0.8	7.0
Thunder Bay								
April 1992 index	126.6	119.8	124.4	129.8	122.2	127.0	129.1	168.6
% change from March 1992	0.1	0.5	0.2	-0.2	0.0	1.2	-1.2	0.4
% change from April 1991	2.3	2.0	3.4	2.2	1.0	1.3	0.5	6.1
Winnipeg								
April 1992 index	126.5	124.5	123.7	129.8	119.4	129.3	129.7	162.5
% change from March 1992	0.6	0.5	0.4	-0.1	1.5	2.1	-0.2	0.2
% change from April 1991	1.6	0.9	1.8	2.3	0.9	1.5	1.2	3.8
Regina								
April 1992 index	125.7	125.7	118.2	129.6	122.7	141.0	128.8	160.6
% change from March 1992	-0.2	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	1.0	-0.4	0.0
% change from April 1991	-0.3	-2.9	0.6	-2.8	0.2	1.2	1.8	-0.4
Saskatoon								
April 1992 index	125.2	125.4	119.6	128.6	118.2	151.7	126.8	149.8
% change from March 1992	0.2	-0.3	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.7	-0.2	0.1
% change from April 1991	-0.5	-2.5	0.6	-2.7	-0.6	1.3	0.5	-0.7
Edmonton								
April 1992 index	126.0	120.5	121.7	128.8	119.9	128.8	130.7	178.8
% change from March 1992	0.0	0.7	-0.1	-0.1	-0.6	1.5	0.2	0.1
% change from April 1991	2.1	0.8	1.6	2.2	4.0	2.3	2.0	3.2
Calgary								
April 1992 index	126.0	121.2	122.0	129.5	117.0	128.7	129.1	178.0
% change from March 1992	-0.1	0.4	0.2	-0.1	-1.6	2.9	-0.9	0.0
% change from April 1991	2.2	1.2	2.3	1.7	3.6	2.3	0.8	3.4
Vancouver								
April 1992 index	126.8	127.9	120.6	123.6	128.3	123.5	128.9	161.4
% change from March 1992	0.4	0.6	0.2	-0.6	0.6	0.7	-0.2	2.2
% change from April 1991	2.8	2.9	1.4	1.6	4.9	0.7	1.8	8.8
Victoria								
April 1992 index	125.8	126.2	118.6	125.1	127.0	123.8	129.3	162.1
% change from March 1992	0.3	1.0	0.3	-0.8	-0.2	0.5	-0.2	1.9
% change from April 1991	1.9	1.4	0.6	2.2	2.3	3.2	0.5	9.0
Whitehorse								
April 1992 index	122.8	115.8	121.7	129.9	114.1	128.0	125.3	149.4
% change from March 1992	-0.6	-2.4	-0.4	-0.2	0.5	-1.8	-0.5	0.6
% change from April 1991	0.6	-2.4	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Yellowknife								
April 1992 index	124.1	117.5	119.2	130.3	118.0	122.1	125.9	161.0
% change from March 1992	-0.3	-0.8	-0.4	-1.1	0.1	2.0	0.0	-0.1
% change from April 1991	1.1	0.4	1.4	0.1	1.3	1.9	-0.2	2.7

[1] *For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 23 of the July-September 1991 issue of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, $17.25/$69.00).* ■

Retail Sales Trends[1] - Canada



[1] *Trends represent smoothed seasonally adjusted data.*
* *Prior to 1991, data includes Federal Sales Tax. Its successor, the Goods and Services Tax, is not included in the 1991 and later data.*

Retail Trade

March 1992

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Sales in Current Dollars

- Preliminary estimates indicate that retail sales fell 0.4% in March to $15.1 billion, following no growth in February and January. Excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales declined 0.3% in March after a 0.1% gain in February and no change in January.

- The weak sales trend was broadly based with 11 of 16 trade groups recording lower sales. The most significant drops, in order of dollar impact, were registered by general merchandise stores (-2.5%), motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers (-0.8%) and gasoline service stations (-1.4%). Partly offsetting these decreases was a gain by supermarkets and grocery stores (+1.3%)

- Sales of motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers continued to fluctuate around a declining trend in March. Gasoline service stations registered lower sales in March following a drop in February (-2.7%). Higher sales by supermarkets and grocery stores followed a 0.5% gain in February and a 0.9% decline in January.

- The overall March decline in retail sales was concentrated in three provinces: Newfoundland (-3.0%), Ontario (-1.1%) and Manitoba (-1.1%). Notable increases were recorded in Nova Scotia (+4.5%) and Saskatchewan (+2.7%). Sales advanced in the Yukon (+1.9%) and in the Northwest Territories (+1.1%).

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Sales in Current Dollars

- Total retail sales remained virtually flat in the first quarter of 1992. This compares to a 0.6% decrease in the last quarter of 1991 and no change in the third quarter of 1991.

Trends

- As illustrated in the accompanying chart, after declining sharply from August 1990 to March 1991 and rising slightly between April and July 1991, the trend for total retail trade has been decreasing slightly. The decrease since July 1991 is due to declining sales of recreational and motor vehicle dealers. Retail sales excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers have remained almost unchanged since July 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2399 (seasonally adjusted), 2400 (not seasonally adjusted), 2398 (department store type merchandise totals for the provinces and territories), and 2299, 2401-2405, 2407, 2409, 2411-2413, 2415-2417 (quarterly trade group estimates for Canada, the provinces, territories and totals for the four census metropolitan areas).

Note to Users

Estimates for Census Metropolitan Areas

Total monthly retail trade estimates (not seasonally adjusted) for Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver are now available on CANSIM or on request from the Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

The March 1992 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, $18.20/$182) will be available the first week of June. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact John Svab (613-951-3549) or Sonia Demers (613-951-3551), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

Retail Sales, by Trade Group and by Region
March 1992

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted						
	Mar. 1991[r]	Feb. 1992[r]	Mar. 1992[p]	Mar. 1992/ 1991[r]	Mar. 1991[r]	Dec. 1991[r]	Jan. 1992[r]	Feb. 1992[r]	Mar. 1992[p]	Mar./ Feb. 1992[r]	Mar. 1992/ 1991[r]
	millions of $			%	millions of $					%	%
Canada											
Supermarkets and grocery stores	3,650	3,431	3,444	-5.6	3,627	3,652	3,617	3,636	3,683	1.3	1.5
All other food stores	300	257	261	-12.9	313	298	297	293	288	-1.6	-8.1
Drug and patent medicine stores	770	791	817	6.1	795	840	845	850	851	- -	7.0
Shoe stores	109	80	102	-6.4	135	132	129	130	130	0.3	-3.2
Men's clothing stores	119	82	96	-19.3	152	139	141	136	131	-3.6	-13.6
Women's clothing stores	281	205	256	-8.7	308	338	297	299	296	-1.2	-4.0
Other clothing stores	284	211	265	-6.7	319	312	306	308	306	-0.9	-4.2
Household furniture and appliance stores	561	525	577	2.9	624	635	632	646	651	0.8	4.3
Household furnishings stores	152	147	164	8.1	171	163	180	187	186	-0.3	8.9
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	3,055	2,559	3,267	6.9	3,023	3,136	3,146	3,131	3,106	-0.8	2.8
Gasoline service stations	1,120	1,032	1,075	-4.0	1,165	1,106	1,180	1,149	1,133	-1.4	-2.7
Automotive parts, accessories and services	776	666	777	--	883	870	872	864	869	0.6	-1.6
General merchandise stores	1,465	1,271	1,414	-3.5	1,715	1,764	1,711	1,741	1,697	-2.5	-1.1
Other semi-durable goods stores	417	393	407	-2.5	506	506	517	507	503	-0.8	-0.6
Other durable goods stores	308	300	306	-0.8	395	421	405	413	409	-1.0	3.4
All other retail stores	743	661	715	-3.7	836	826	869	858	845	-1.5	1.1
Total, all stores	**14,109**	**12,610**	**13,943**	**-1.2**	**14,968**	**15,138**	**15,145**	**15,147**	**15,084**	**-0.4**	**0.8**
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	**11,055**	**10,050**	**10,676**	**-3.4**	**11,945**	**12,002**	**11,998**	**12,016**	**11,977**	**-0.3**	**0.3**
Department store type merchandise	4,465	4,004	4,403	-1.4	5,121	5,250	5,163	5,217	5,160	-1.1	0.8
Regions											
Newfoundland	262	237	255	-2.6	277	286	290	286	278	-3.0	0.4
Prince Edward Island	55	50	56	1.5	63	65	67	64	65	1.6	4.0
Nova Scotia	452	398	462	2.2	482	489	506	480	501	4.5	3.9
New Brunswick	352	316	353	0.4	375	377	388	384	385	0.4	2.6
Quebec	3,552	3,005	3,443	-3.1	3,724	3,721	3,748	3,690	3,699	0.2	-0.7
Ontario	5,145	4,731	5,074	-1.4	5,498	5,614	5,617	5,648	5,584	-1.1	1.6
Manitoba	480	448	480	-0.2	517	528	531	537	531	-1.1	2.8
Saskatchewan	413	372	414	0.2	449	452	453	447	459	2.7	2.2
Alberta	1,496	1,333	1,503	0.5	1,575	1,582	1,608	1,587	1,607	1.3	2.0
British Columbia	1,864	1,681	1,864	--	1,931	1,988	1,962	1,955	1,977	1.1	2.4
Yukon	12	11	12	4.8	14	14	14	15	15	1.9	5.3
Northwest Territories	28	26	28	-0.3	30	30	30	30	30	1.1	2.6

p *Preliminary figure.*
r *Revised figure.*

Sales of Natural Gas

March 1992 (Preliminary Data)

Sales of natural gas (including direct sales) in Canada during March 1992 totalled 5 870 million cubic metres, a 1.3% decrease from the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in March 1992 were as follows (the percentage changes from March 1991 are in brackets): residential sales, 1 693 million cubic metres (-5.0%); commercial sales, 1 376 million cubic metres (-5.6%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 2 801 million cubic metres (+3.4%).

Year-to-date 1992 sales of natural gas amounted to 19 050 million cubic metres, a 0.2% decrease from the same period in 1991.

On the basis of rate structure information, year-to-date sales were as follows (the percentage changes from 1991 are in brackets): residential sales, 5 791 million cubic metres (-2.9%); commercial sales, 4 656 million cubic metres (-4.3%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 8 603 million cubic metres (+4.1%).

During the latest 12 months (April 1991 to March 1992), total natural gas sales (including direct sales) showed no change from the previous period (April 1990 to March 1991).

The March 1992 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, $12.70/$127) will be available the third week of June. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Sales of Natural Gas – Preliminary Data

March 1992

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
	thousands of cubic metres				
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	97 942	214 385	322 484	6 385	641 196
Ontario	959 536	662 124	853 496	191 655	2 666 811
Manitoba	77 681	80 137	34 001	650	192 469
Saskatchewan	91 489	63 074	4 124	161 450	320 137
Alberta	308 112	238 917	949 820	-	1 496 849
British Columbia	158 462	116 963	97 747	179 133	552 305
March 1992 – Canada	**1 693 222**	**1 375 600**	**2 261 672**	**539 273**	**5 869 767**
March 1991 – Canada	1 782 453	1 457 436	2 316 196	393 942	5 950 027
% change	-5.0	-5.6	3.4		-1.3
Year-to-date Canada 1992	**5 791 391**	**4 655 703**	**7 043 927**	**1 559 123**	**19 050 144**
Year-to-date Canada 1991	5 962 668	4 866 748	7 100 274	1 162 586	19 092 276
% change	-2.9	-4.3	4.1		-0.2
April 1991 – March 1992	**13 475 147**	**11 047 585**	**24 901 595**	**5 193 708**	**54 618 035**
April 1990 – March 1991	13 671 245	11 340 234	25 641 803	3 924 633	54 577 915
% change	-1.4	-2.6	1.8		0.0

Note: Revised figures will be available in the "Gas Utilities" publication (Catalogue #55-002) as well as on CANSIM.
– Nil or zero.

■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian Economic Observer, May 1992.
Catalogue number 11-010
(Canada: $22/$220; United States: US$26/US$260; Other Countries: US$31/310).

Oils and Fats, March 1992.
Catalogue number 32-006
(Canada: $5/$50; United States: US$6/US$60; Other Countries: US$7/US$70).

Touriscope: International Travel - Advance Information, March 1992.
Catalogue number 66-001P
(Canada: $6.10/$61; United States: US$7.30/US$73; Other Countries: US$8.50/US$85).

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