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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Wholesale Trade, March 1992** 2
 Wholesale merchants' sales rose 0.8% in March to \$15.3 billion.

- **Machinery and Equipment Price Index, First Quarter 1992** 5
 In the first quarter of 1992, prices for new machinery and equipment purchased by Canadian industry increased 1.3% over the revised fourth quarter 1991 level.

- **Construction Union Wage Rate Index, April 1992** 6
 The Canada total Union Wage Rate Index (1986 = 100) for construction trades for April 1992 remained unchanged from March's revised level of 127.5.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Oil Pipeline Transport, February 1992 7
- Deliveries of Major Grains, March 1992 7
- Railway Carloadings, Seven-day Period Ending May 7, 1992 7
- Steel Primary Forms, Week Ending May 16, 1992 8
- Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, April 1992 8
- Selected Financial Indexes, April 1991 8
- Tea, Coffee and Cocoa, March 1992 8

PUBLICATION RELEASED 9

MAJOR RELEASE DATES: Week of May 25-29, 1992 10



MAJOR RELEASES

Wholesale Trade

March 1992

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

- Preliminary estimates indicate that wholesale merchants' sales were \$15.3 billion in March, up 0.8% from the previous month. This was the fourth increase since last September.
- Six of the nine trade groups reported higher sales in March. In terms of dollar impact, the increases were led by suppliers of motor vehicles, parts and accessories (+4.0%), wholesalers of "other products" (farm and paper products, agricultural supplies, industrial and household chemicals, etc.), up 1.7%, followed by merchants of other machinery, equipment and supplies (+1.1%). For the latter two groups, this was the second consecutive sales increase. Sales of lumber and building products were up 1.6%, maintaining the growth evident since January.
- Regionally, in terms of dollar impact, the most notable sales increases were recorded in Ontario (+0.9%), Quebec (+0.8%) and British Columbia (+1.3%).

Note to Users

When comparing data for March 1992 with March 1991, users are reminded that the March 1991 figures were influenced by the Goods and Services Tax.

Seasonally Adjusted Inventories

- In March, wholesale merchants' inventories were \$24.1 billion, down 2.0% from the previous month.
- The ratio of inventories to sales at the end of March was 1.57:1, down from the 1.62:1 recorded the month before. This marked a return to levels previously recorded in September of last year (1.56:1.)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 649 (sales, seasonally adjusted), 648 (sales, not seasonally adjusted), 61 (inventories, seasonally adjusted) and 59 (inventories, not seasonally adjusted).

The March issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$14.40/\$144) will be available the second week of June. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release contact Larry Murphy (613-951-9683) or Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540), Industry Division.

Chart 1

Wholesale Merchants' Sales

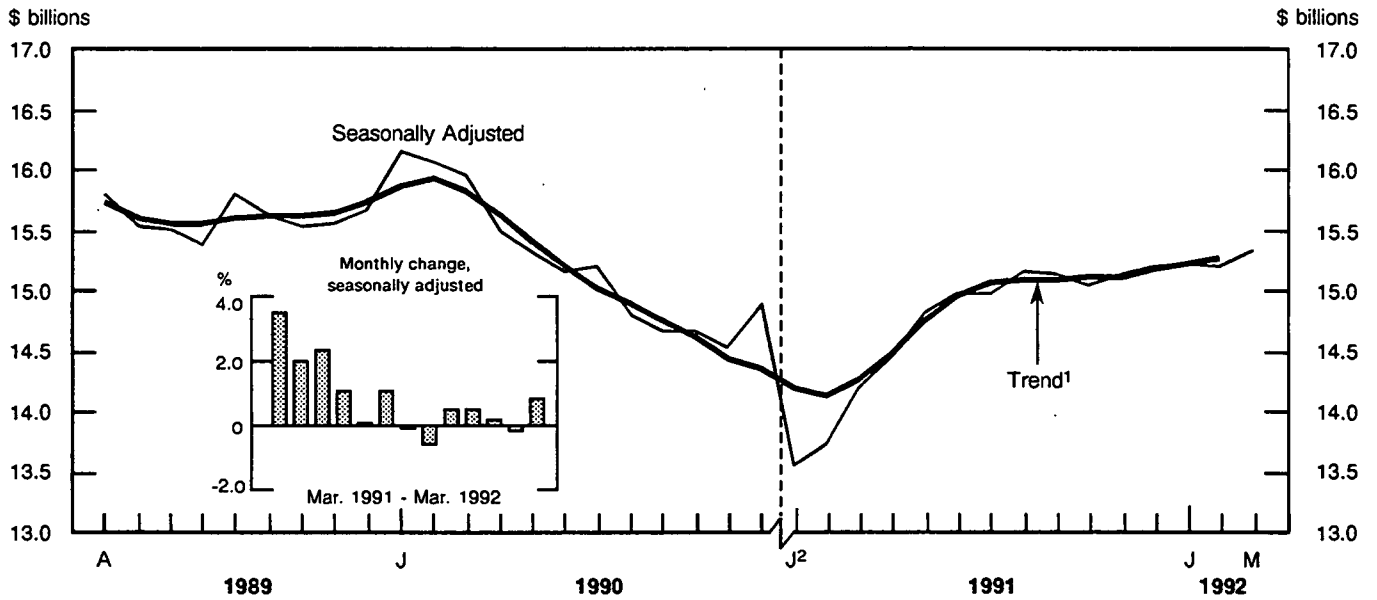
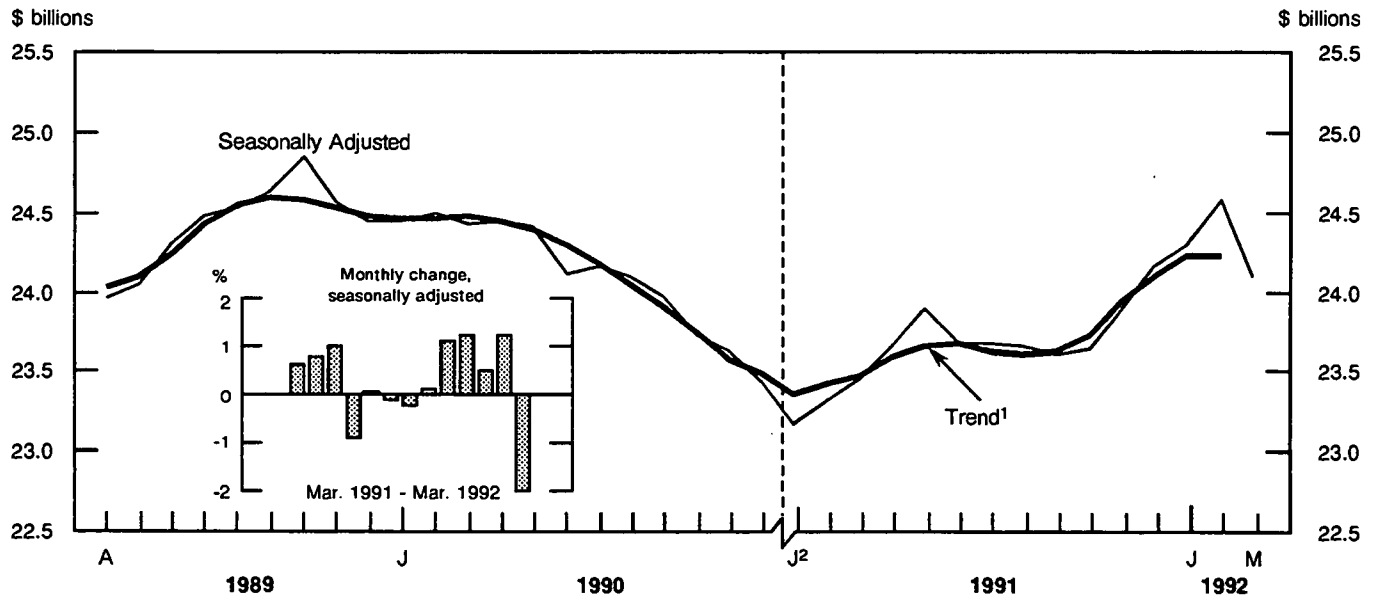


Chart 2

Wholesale Merchants' Inventories



¹ The short-term trend represents a weighted average of data.

² Prior to 1991, data includes Federal Sales Tax. Its successor, the Goods and Services Tax, is not included in the 1991 and later data.

Wholesale Merchants' Sales, by Trade Group and Region

March 1992

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992 ^r	Mar. 1992 ^p	Mar. 1992/1991	Mar. 1991	Dec. 1991 ^r	Jan. 1992 ^r	Feb. 1992 ^r	Mar. 1992 ^p	Mar./Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992/1991
	millions of \$				%	millions of \$					%
Canada											
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,578	3,471	3,668	2.5	3,677	3,854	3,871	3,835	3,799	-0.9	3.3
Apparel and dry goods	392	437	476	21.7	330	367	372	380	383	0.9	16.1
Household goods	479	441	526	9.6	460	523	536	522	517	-1.1	12.4
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,923	1,477	1,966	2.2	1,719	1,692	1,702	1,667	1,734	4.0	0.8
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	980	968	1,062	8.3	954	1,062	1,080	1,063	1,037	-2.4	8.7
Lumber and building materials	1,081	1,008	1,255	16.1	1,228	1,278	1,398	1,417	1,439	1.6	17.2
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	279	213	327	17.5	322	324	336	334	352	5.5	9.3
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,522	3,227	3,948	12.1	3,143	3,555	3,433	3,458	3,496	1.1	11.2
Other products	2,298	2,241	2,602	13.2	2,358	2,539	2,499	2,525	2,568	1.7	8.9
Total, all trades	14,532	13,482	15,829	8.9	14,191	15,194	15,226	15,200	15,324	0.8	8.0
Regions											
Newfoundland	142	139	144	1.3	153	167	162	163	160	-1.7	4.4
Prince Edward Island	28	35	37	32.2	30	37	40	41	41	0.5	34.0
Nova Scotia	342	281	311	-9.2	341	325	347	336	319	-5.2	-6.6
New Brunswick	214	203	229	6.7	234	223	245	244	247	1.1	5.4
Quebec	3,575	3,306	3,795	6.2	3,543	3,727	3,671	3,690	3,719	0.8	5.0
Ontario	6,206	5,653	6,799	9.6	5,890	6,369	6,364	6,343	6,400	0.9	8.7
Manitoba	425	426	484	13.8	449	495	504	508	518	2.0	15.4
Saskatchewan	408	391	423	3.7	456	488	479	478	473	-0.9	3.8
Alberta	1,328	1,227	1,423	7.1	1,350	1,374	1,420	1,393	1,418	1.8	5.0
British Columbia	1,848	1,805	2,166	17.2	1,730	1,968	1,973	1,985	2,011	1.3	16.2
Yukon and Northwest Territories	14	17	17	21.9	14	20	20	19	18	-6.1	32.3

Wholesale Merchants' Inventories, by Trade Group

March 1992

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Mar. 1991	Feb. 1992 ^r	Mar. 1992 ^p	Mar. 1992/1991	Mar. 1991	Dec. 1991 ^r	Jan. 1992 ^r	Feb. 1992 ^r	Mar. 1992 ^p	Mar./Feb. 1992	Mar. 1992/1991
	millions of \$				%	millions of \$					%
Canada											
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,575	2,804	2,734	6.2	2,614	2,748	2,778	2,838	2,795	-1.5	6.9
Apparel and dry goods	760	862	865	13.8	766	823	868	860	857	-0.4	11.9
Household goods	972	1,152	1,162	19.5	972	1,128	1,110	1,152	1,162	0.8	19.5
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	3,693	3,762	3,545	-4.0	3,512	3,523	3,568	3,627	3,363	-7.3	-4.2
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,862	2,032	2,033	9.2	1,821	2,059	2,079	2,097	2,034	-3.0	11.7
Lumber and building materials	2,313	2,428	2,526	9.2	2,238	2,271	2,325	2,381	2,402	0.9	7.3
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,439	1,437	1,489	3.5	1,391	1,396	1,394	1,411	1,424	0.9	2.4
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,076	7,063	7,061	-0.2	7,046	7,175	7,094	7,140	7,038	-1.4	-0.1
Other products	3,185	3,154	3,098	-2.7	3,092	3,042	3,067	3,070	3,007	-2.0	-2.7
Total, all trades	23,875	24,694	24,513	2.7	23,452	24,164	24,283	24,575	24,081	-2.0	2.7

^r Revised figure.

^p Preliminary figure.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Machinery and Equipment Price Index

First Quarter 1992

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index by industry of purchase (1986 = 100) was at a preliminary level of 102.4 in the first quarter of 1992, up 1.3% from its revised fourth quarter 1991 level. Prices for domestically produced machinery and equipment increased 0.5%, while prices for imported machinery and equipment rose 2.4%.

The total index was up 1.9% for the 1992 first quarter compared to the same quarter a year earlier, due to increases in the domestic and imported components of 1.5% and 2.5%, respectively.

None of the industry divisions showed a price decrease in the first quarter of 1992. Construction (2.3%), manufacturing (2.1%) and mines, quarries and oil wells (2.1%) showed the greatest increases. Between the first quarter of 1991 and the first quarter of 1992, the greatest price increases were noted in manufacturing (2.7%), mines, quarries and oil wells (2.7%) and in construction (2.6%).

Note to users

Experimental indexes for electronic computing equipment based on the hedonic quality adjustment approach were incorporated for the first time this quarter in the official series for office machinery and equipment.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2023-2025.

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

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

Machinery and Equipment Price Indexes (1986 = 100)

	Relative Importance ¹	Indexes			Percentage Change	
		1st Q. 1992	4rd Q. 1991	1st Q. 1991	1st Q. 1992/ 4th Q. 1991	1st Q. 1992/ 1st Q. 1991
Machinery and Equipment Price Index :	100.0	102.4	101.1	100.5	1.3	1.9
SIC Divisions:						
1. Agriculture	11.0	113.5	113.5	111.7	0.0	1.6
2. Forestry	1.5	112.8	112.2	109.9	0.5	2.6
3. Fishing	0.6	102.6	102.2	102.2	0.4	0.4
4. Mines, Quarries and Oil Wells	6.0	100.4	98.3	97.8	2.1	2.7
5. Manufacturing	29.9	104.4	102.3	101.7	2.1	2.7
6. Construction	3.5	100.5	98.2	98.0	2.3	2.6
7. Transportation, Communication, Storage and Utilities	25.9	101.5	100.2	99.8	1.3	1.7
8. Trade	4.0	97.4	96.5	96.0	0.9	1.5
9. Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1.8	96.8	95.9	96.6	0.9	0.2
10. Community, Business and Personal Services	11.1	92.1	91.6	91.8	0.5	0.3
11. Public Administration	4.7	100.5	98.8	98.2	1.7	2.3

* These indexes are preliminary

¹ Division weights are based on the value of capitalized expenditures on new machinery and equipment for the years 1979-1983 at 1986 prices (Public and Private Investment in Canada, 1979-1983)

- Amount too small to be expressed

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

April 1992

In April 1992, the Canada Total Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for construction trades (1986 = 100) showed no change from March's revised level of 127.5. On a year-over-year basis, the composite index increased 6.1% from 120.2 to 127.5.

The accompanying table shows wage rates for reinforcing steel erectors, roofers, and asbestos mechanics.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 2033-2038.

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

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

Construction Union Wage Rates¹

April 1992

	Trades					
	Reinforcing Steel Erector		Roofers		Asbestos Mechanic	
	B	B + S	B	B + S	B	B + S
	(dollars)					
St. John's	16.43	19.51	16.28	19.35	16.53	19.47
Halifax	18.95	21.38	18.54	20.58	21.89	27.32
Saint John	15.50	18.05	15.55	18.33	20.52	23.01
Montreal	21.67	25.94	20.34	24.05	21.57	25.67
Ottawa	22.77	29.41	20.58	25.48	22.92	29.86
Toronto	23.33	30.32	26.09	28.90	24.62	31.73
Thunder Bay	26.11	29.83	21.36	25.44	24.00	31.05
Winnipeg	19.00	22.67	18.56	21.13	18.40	20.44
Regina	20.30	24.16	15.00	17.95	17.40	20.13
Edmonton	17.02	20.65	18.91	22.60	23.75	26.07
Vancouver	22.20	29.89	22.71	27.06	21.33	30.00

¹ Rates are available for other trades and other cities.

B = Basic rate.

B + S = Basic rate and selected pay supplements: vacation pay, statutory holiday pay, employer's contribution to health and welfare and pension plans.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Oil Pipeline Transport

February 1992

- In February, net receipts of crude oil and refined petroleum products into Canadian pipelines increased 2.7% from the same period the previous year to 14 312 938 cubic metres (m³). Year-to-date receipts in February totalled 29 558 393 m³, up 1.4% from 1991.
- Pipeline exports of crude oil decreased 0.6% compared to February 1991, while pipeline imports declined 2.0% for the same period. On a cumulative basis, exports in 1992 were up 4.5% from 1991 levels and imports were up 13.5%.
- Deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries in February rose 2.0% from 1991, but deliveries of liquid petroleum gases and refined petroleum products decreased 17.5%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 181.

The February 1992 issue of *Oil Pipeline Transport* (55-001, \$10/\$100) will be available the last week of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact G. O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

Deliveries of Major Grains

March 1992

Producer deliveries of major grains by prairie farmers showed a slight decrease from March 1991, except for wheat, durum wheat, flaxseed and canola – where marketings increased.

Deliveries for March 1991 and March 1992 were as follows (in thousand tonnes):

	1991	1992
Wheat (excluding durum)	1 729.4	1 737.6
Durum wheat	139.9	168.0
Total wheat	1 869.3	1 905.6
Oats	53.1	52.4
Barley	490.3	397.3
Rye	27.5	18.2
Flaxseed	34.2	46.3
Canola	323.8	312.7
Total	2 798.2	2 732.5

Available on CANSIM: matrices 976-981.

The March 1992 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007, \$13.80/\$138) is scheduled for release in June. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information on this release, contact Alain Y. Bertrand (613-951-3859), Agriculture Division. ■

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period ending May 7, 1992

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the period totalled 4.8 million tonnes, a 1.8% decrease from the same period last year.

Piggyback traffic decreased 0.9% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 2.2% during the same period.

The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year increased 1.9% 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. ■

Steel Primary Forms

Week Ending May 16, 1992

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel primary forms production for the week ending May 16, 1992 totalled 273 908 tonnes, a 10.5% increase from the preceding week's total of 247 780 tonnes and up 9.6% from the year-earlier level of 249 907 tonnes.

The cumulative total in 1992 was 5 164 141 tonnes, a 4.0% increase from 4 966 646 tonnes for the same period in 1991.

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

Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation

April 1992

Manufacturers shipped 2 139 868 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in April 1992, down 20.1% from the 2 678 256 square metres shipped a year earlier but up 15.5% from the 1 853 340 square metres shipped the previous month.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of April 1992 totalled 9 172 525 square metres, a 6.4% increase from the same period in 1991.

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

The 1992 April issue of *Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation* (44-004, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

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

Selected Financial Indexes

April 1992

April 1992 figures are now available for the Selected Financial Indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2031.

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

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

Tea, Coffee and Cocoa

March 1992

Data on tea, coffee and cocoa for the first quarter of 1992 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 188 (series 1.7 and 1.8).

Production and Stocks of Tea, Coffee and Cocoa (32-025, \$6.75/\$27) will be released at a later date.

For further detailed information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATION RELEASED

Imports: Merchandise Trade, 1991.
Catalogue number 65-203
(Canada: \$166; United States: US\$199;
Other Countries: US\$232).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.



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The Daily, May 22, 1992

MAJOR RELEASE DATES

Week of May 25-29, 1992
(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
May		
25	Canada's International Transactions in Securities	March 1992
26	Department Store Sales and Stocks	March 1992
26	Employment, Earnings and Hours	March 1992
27	Industrial Product Price Index	April 1992
27	Raw Materials Price Index	April 1992
27	Unemployment Insurance Statistics	March 1992
28	Farm Cash Receipts	January-March 1992
28	Net Farm Income	1991
28	Farm Debt Outstanding	December 31, 1991
28	Farm Capital Value	July 1, 1991
29	Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry	March 1992
29	Building Permits	March 1992
29	Financial Statistics of Enterprises	First Quarter 1992
29	International Travel Account	First Quarter 1992
29	Sales of Refined Petroleum Products	April 1992
29	Major Release Dates	June 1992
