

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, May 4, 1992

**NOT FOR LOAN**  
**NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS**

STATISTICS CANADA	STATISTIQUE CANADA
For release at 8:30 a.m. May 4 1992	
LIBRARY BIBLIOTHÈQUE	

## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian Composite Leading Indicator, February 1992**  
 The composite index rose by 0.1% in February.

2
- **Non-residential Building Construction Price Index, First Quarter 1992**  
 The composite price index (1986 = 100) for non-residential building construction in Canada (excluding the Goods and Services Tax) remained unchanged at 121.1 in the first quarter of 1992.

4

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Railway Carloadings, Seven-day Period Ending April 21, 1992

5
- Railway Carloadings, March 1992

5
- Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, March 1992

5
- Apparent Per Capita Consumption of Poultry Meats, 1991

5

---

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 6

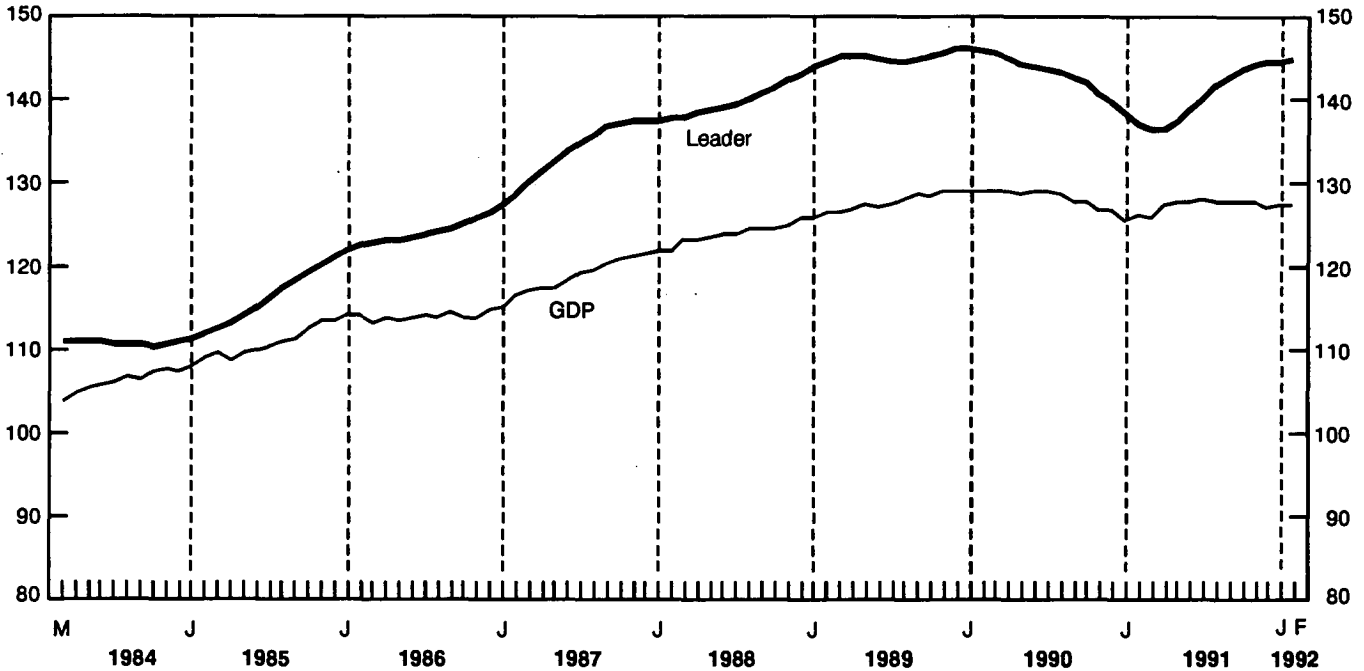
---



## MAJOR RELEASES

### Composite Leading Indicator and GDP

1981 = 100



### Canadian Composite Leading Indicator

February 1992

The leading indicator edged up 0.1% in February following no change in January and slow increases in the fall. The number of declining components remained at four, as manufacturing demand remained weak. The indicators of final demand firmed, however, led by the U.S. leading indicator.

The components related to household demand improved slightly. Spending on durable goods rose 0.1% after four straight declines. Car sales remained sluggish, while sales of other durable goods picked up. Furniture and appliance sales also strengthened in tandem with rising house sales. Higher house sales also helped slow the rate of decline of the housing index from 1.7% in January to 0.7% in February. Demand for personal services remained

poor, however, at a time of weak labour market conditions and incomes.

New orders for durable goods posted a third consecutive drop in February (-1.1%), a reflection of the slack in final demand. Shipments fell and inventories rose, leading to the first drop in the ratio of shipments to stocks since April 1991. The weakness in manufacturing accompanied another drop in employment in business services. The average workweek rose slightly in February.

The financial market indicators continued to progress in February. The stock market index was up 0.5%, while the money supply expanded 0.6%, its best gain since October 1988. The money supply had started to rise slowly in mid-1991.

The U.S. leading indicator accelerated to a 0.3% gain in February, after slowing in recent months. Household demand led the gain, fuelled by rising incomes, and this has already been reflected in Canada's exports to the U.S.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 191**

For more information on the economy, the April issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release or about the next release dates, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Division.

**Canadian Leading Indicators**

	Percentage Change			Level	
	December	January	February	January	February
<b>Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>144.5</b>	<b>144.7</b>
Unsmoothed	0.2	-0.6	1.6	143.3	145.6
<b>Retail trade</b>					
Furniture and appliance sales	0.4	0.2	0.4	995.6 <sup>4</sup>	999.7 <sup>4</sup>
Other durable goods sales	-0.4	-0.1	0.1	3,540 <sup>4</sup>	3,544 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Housing index<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>125.0</b>	<b>124.1</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>					
New orders - durables	-0.5	-1.8	-1.1	9,123 <sup>4</sup>	9,021 <sup>4</sup>
Shipment to inventory ratio - finished goods <sup>2</sup>	0.01	0.00	-0.01	1.48	1.47
Average workweek (hours)	0.0	0.0	0.3	38.0	38.1
<b>Business and personal services employment (thousands)</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>1,799</b>	<b>1,791</b>
<b>United States composite leading index (1967 = 100)</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>194.5</b>	<b>195.0</b>
<b>TSE300 stock price index (1975 = 1000)</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>3,511</b>	<b>3,527</b>
<b>Money supply (M1) (\$1981)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>24,212<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>24,368<sup>4</sup></b>

<sup>1</sup> Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (MLS).

<sup>2</sup> Difference from previous month.

<sup>3</sup> Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.

<sup>4</sup> Millions of 1981 dollars.

## Non-residential Building Construction Price Index

First Quarter 1992

The composite price index (1986=100) for non-residential building construction in Canada (excluding the Goods and Services Tax) remained unchanged at 121.1 in the first quarter of 1992. This was the third consecutive quarter with an index figure of 121.1.

The first quarter 1992 marked the first period for which a comparison with the price index of one year earlier was not influenced by either the repeal of the Federal Sales Tax or the imposition of the Goods and Services Tax, and this was reflected in the small 0.6% decrease. By comparison, the year-over-year changes in the previous four quarters were as follows: first quarter 1991, -2.9%; second quarter, -4.8%; third quarter, -3.8%; and fourth quarter, -3.4%.

Once again, Toronto (at an index level of 124.3) was the only city to register a decrease from the

previous quarter. Figures for the other cities were: Halifax 109.0, 0.0%; Montreal 114.4, 0.4%; Ottawa 125.1, 0.3%; Calgary 121.1, 0.2%; Edmonton 123.7, 0.2%; and Vancouver 116.1, 0.2%.

At the city level, changes in the price indexes from the same quarter one year ago were as follows: Montreal 0.1%, Edmonton and Ottawa -0.1%, Calgary and Vancouver -0.5%, Halifax -0.7% and Toronto -1.0%.

**Note:** Price indexes for the seven cities represent the metropolitan area in each case.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2042 and 2043.**

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, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division.

## Non-residential Building Construction Price Indexes

First Quarter 1992  
(1986 = 100)

	Seven Cities and Composite Indexes							Composite
	Halifax	Montréal	Ottawa	Toronto	Calgary	Edmonton	Vancouver	
Quarterly Indexes								
<b>1991</b>								
First Quarter	109.8	114.3	125.2	125.5	122.7	123.8	116.7	121.8
Second Quarter	109.6	113.8	124.3	125.4	121.9	123.4	115.4	121.4
Third Quarter	108.9	113.9	124.4	124.9	121.8	123.2	115.1	121.1
Fourth Quarter	109.0	114.0	124.7	124.6	121.8	123.5	115.9	121.1
<b>1992</b>								
First Quarter	109.0	114.4	125.1	124.3	122.1	123.7	116.1	121.1
Percentage Change								
Q.2 1991/Q.1 1991	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7	-0.1	-0.7	-0.3	-1.1	-0.3
Q.3 1991/Q.2 1991	-0.6	0.0	0.1	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3
Q.4 1991/Q.3 1991	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0
Q.1 1992/Q.4 1991	0.0	0.4	0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
Q.1 1992/Q.1 1991	-0.7	0.1	-0.1	-1.0	-0.5	-0.1	-0.5	-0.6

Note: Effective January 1, 1991, the Goods and Services tax is excluded but the Provincial Sales Tax is included (as before). ■

---

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending April 21, 1992

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the period totalled 4.6 million tonnes, a 14.0% decrease from the same period last year.

Piggyback traffic decreased 11.2% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 12.9% during the same period.

The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year increased 4.0% 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. ■

### Railway Carloadings

March 1992

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada totalled 20.4 million tonnes in March 1992, an 8.9% increase from the March 1991 figure. The carriers received an additional 1.1 million tonnes from United States connections.

Total loadings in Canada for the year to date showed a 6.3% increase from the 1991 period. Receipts from United States connections also showed a 1.9% increase.

All 1991 figures and 1992 cumulative data have been revised.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 1431.**

The March 1992 issue of *Railway Carloadings* (52-001, \$8.30/\$83) is to be released the second week of May.

For seasonally adjusted revenue freight loadings, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Transportation Division. ■

### Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products

March 1992

Factory shipments of steel wire and specified wire products for March 1992 are now available, as are production and export market data for selected commodities.

Shipments totalled 60 720 tonnes in March 1992, a 16.6% increase from the 52 094<sup>r</sup> (revised) tonnes shipped during the previous month.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).**

The March 1992 issue of *Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products* (41-006, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Bruno Pépin (613-951-9837), Industry Division. ■

### Apparent Per Capita Consumption of Poultry Meats

1991

The apparent per capita consumption of stewing hens and chickens was 24.7 kilograms in 1991 compared to 24.6 kilograms in 1990. Turkey consumption remained unchanged at 4.7 kilograms per capita.

Per capita consumption of eggs was 15.76 dozen in 1991, compared to 15.88 dozen in 1990.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 1136, 1137, 1139-1141 and 1144.**

For more detailed information on this release, contact Benoit Lévesque (613)951-2549, Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

### **Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, February 1992.**

**Catalogue number 35-003**

(Canada: \$7.10/\$71; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85; Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99).

### **Rigid Insulating Board, March 1992.**

**Catalogue number 36-002**

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60; Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

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.



### **How to Order Publications**

*Simplify your search for data with the Statistics Canada Catalogue 1992. It includes sources for key statistics on all areas of Canadian social and economic activity. Using the keyword index, you'll find what you need in seconds. For easy access to over 800 Statistics Canada products and services, order the Statistics Canada Catalogue 1992 (11-204E, \$13.95; United States: US\$17; Other Countries: US\$20).*

*You may purchase Statistics Canada publications by writing to Publication Sales, Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or by calling 613-951-7277.*

*Please enclose a cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publications. Provide full information on each publication order (catalogue number, title, issue). Canadian customers, please add 7% GST to your order.*

*To order Statistics Canada products and services toll-free, dial 1-800-267-6677 from within Canada. For orders from outside Canada, dial 613-951-7277.*

*Publications may also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, or from authorized bookstore agents or other booksellers.*

**The  
Daily**

### **Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information**

Catalogue 11-001E. Price: Canada: \$120.00 annually; United States: US\$144.00 annually; Other Countries: US\$168.00 annually

Published by the Communications Division  
Statistics Canada, 10-L, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-951-1116)  
Editor: Tim Prichard (613-951-1103)

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, 1992. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from Chief, Author Services, Publications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.