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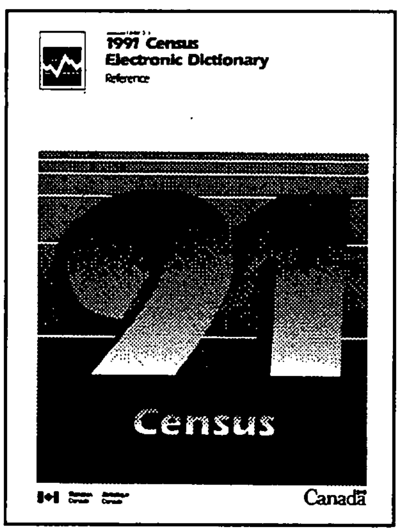


1991 Census Electronic Dictionary

The *1991 Census Electronic Dictionary* is now available. Like the print version, the Electronic Dictionary provides detailed information on all concepts, variables and geographic elements of the 1991 Census. The Dictionary also provides information about the historical comparability of these concepts, variables and geographic elements.

The *1991 Census Electronic Dictionary* is offered on IBM personal computer compatible diskettes that operate from DOS. All concepts and definitions are searchable by keywords, and the software allows users to print and save selected definitions in user-specified files. This product is one of many 1991 Census electronic products, each accompanied by a software user guide.

The *1991 Census Electronic Dictionary* (92-301D-E, $40) is now available. See "How to Order Publications". For further information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Reference Centre.

MAJOR RELEASES

Quarterly Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries

April 1992

Seasonally Adjusted

Canadian manufacturers' balance of opinion concerning the backlog of unfilled orders improved substantially between the January and April 1992 surveys. The balance of opinion regarding the expected volume of production over the next three months and for orders received also improved. Most of the increases were in the transportation equipment industries. The balance for levels of finished products inventory remained unchanged at -31.

Highlights

- The balance of opinion concerning the expected volume of production over the next three months improved by eight points from a level of -12 in January to -4 in April 1992. Nineteen of the 22 major industry groups posted improvements with transportation equipment industries showing the greatest increase.

  The balance of -4 in April is calculated by subtracting the pessimistic 29% who indicated a "lower than normal" volume of expected production from the optimistic 25% who reported a "higher than normal" volume of expected production.

- The April 1992 balance of opinion for the **backlog of unfilled orders** registered a 26-point improvement to -25. This improvement surpasses the greatest single quarter increase of 21 points that had been posted between the first quarter (-49) and second quarter (-28) of 1983. The increase was mainly in the transportation equipment industry.

  Unfilled orders are the stock of orders which will generate future shipments, assuming that orders are not cancelled.

- The balance of opinion concerning **orders received** posted a six point improvement over the last quarter. It went from -20 in January to -14 in April 1992. The increase was caused mostly by the following industries: transportation equipment, primary metals and refined petroleum and coal products industries.

- The April 1992 balance of opinion concerning the level of **finished products inventories** remained the same as in the previous quarter at a level of -31.

Note to users

The Business Conditions Survey is carried out in January, April, July and October and the majority of responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Results are based on replies from about 5,000 manufacturers.

Please note that survey weights and sampled units have been benchmarked to the 1987 Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM) and data back to 1987 have been revised accordingly. In general, trends for the revised data have remained the same as those prior to the benchmarking to the 1987 ASM.

Individual responses to the Business Conditions Survey are weighted by the value of the respondent's shipments reported to the Annual Survey of Manufactures. The proportions, therefore, reflect the magnitude of the individual manufacturer's contribution to the total. The balance is the difference between the proportion associated with the positive-type response (e.g., higher volume of production) and the proportion related to the negative-type response (e.g., lower volume of production). Both the raw data (raw) and seasonally adjusted (s.a.) data are given for the balance. The seasonally adjusted value for the neutral components (e.g., expected production about the same) is calculated by subtracting the sum of the seasonally adjusted values of the other two components from 100.

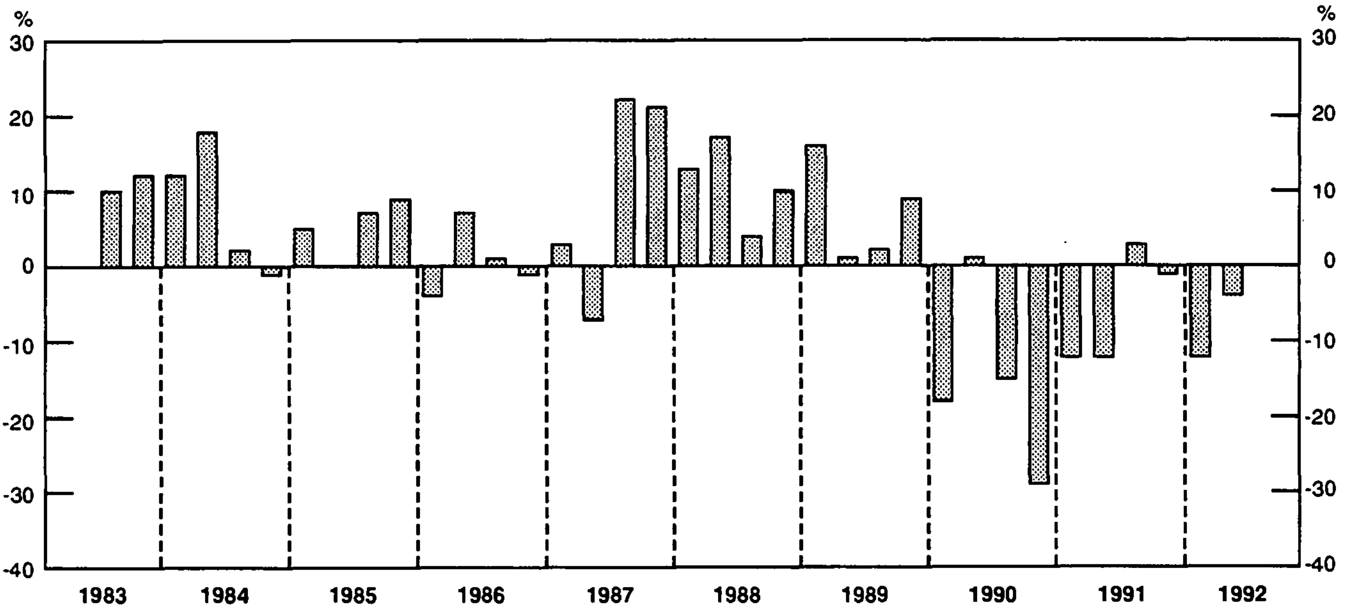
Unadjusted

- About 80% of Canadian manufacturers did not report any particular production difficulties in the April 1992 survey. The main source of production difficulties is still "working capital shortage," remaining at 8% this quarter. "Skilled labour shortage" continues to be less of a problem at 2%; it had reached a level of 13% in the April and July 1989 surveys. Currently, 3% of manufacturers indicate that a shortage of raw materials is their main source of production difficulty.

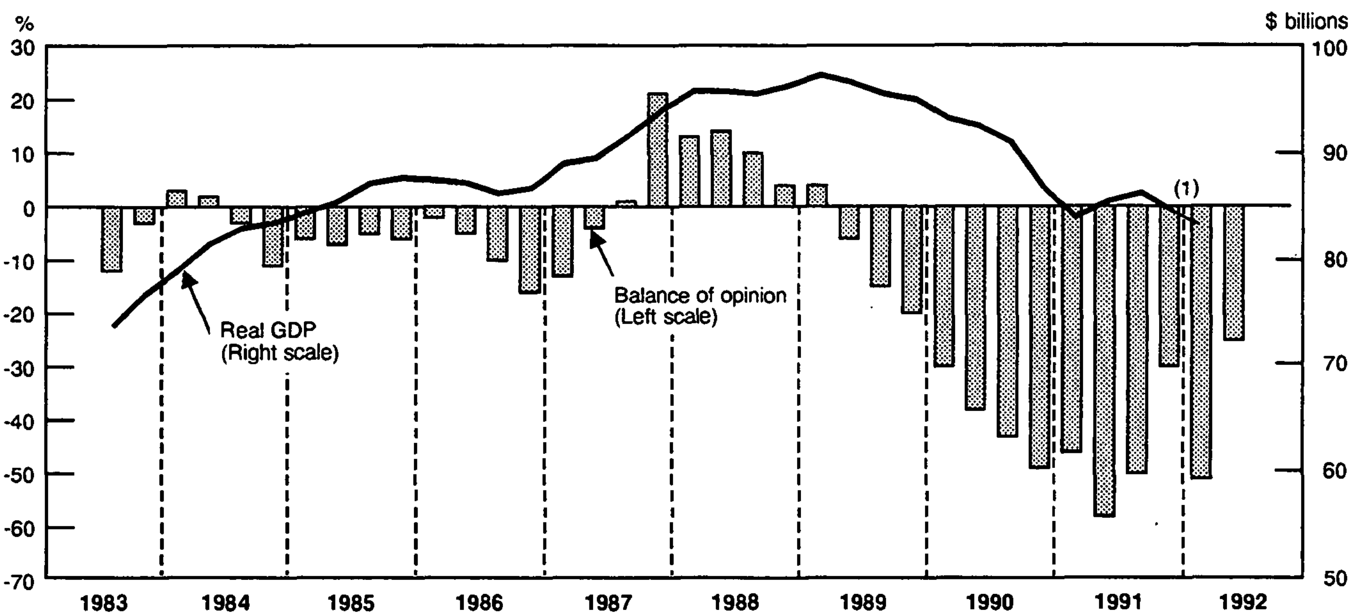
Available on CANSIM (raw data only): matrices 2843-2845.

For further information please contact: Claude Robillard (613-951-3507) Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section, Industry Division. □

Balance of Opinion for Expected Volume of Production
Next Three Months vs Last Three Months



Balance of Opinion on Backlog of Unfilled Orders
and Real GDP for Manufacturing Industries
Seasonally adjusted



(1) —— January and February 1992

Business Conditions Survey, Canadian Manufacturing Industries

April 1992

	All Manufacturing Industries				
	April 1991	July 1991	October 1991	January 1992	April 1992
Volume of production during next three months compared with last three months will be:			seasonally adjusted		
About the same	40	51	45	48	46
Higher	24	26	27	20	25
Lower	36	23	28	32	29
Balance	-12	3	-1	-12	-4
			raw		
Balance	7	-13	4	-23	18
Orders received are:			seasonally adjusted		
About the same	44	60	50	50	66
Rising	8	13	21	15	10
Declining	48	27	29	35	24
Balance	-40	-14	-8	-20	-14
			raw		
Balance	-36	-13	-8	-26	-9
Present backlog of unfilled orders is:			seasonally adjusted		
About normal	36	42	36	43	45
Higher than normal	3	4	17	3	15
Lower than normal	61	54	47	54	40
Balance	-58	-50	-30	-51	-25
			raw		
Balance	-61	-49	-26	-52	-29
Finished product inventory on hand is:			seasonally adjusted		
About right	56	69	62	63	63
Too low	3	3	10	3	3
Too high[1]	41	28	28	34	34
Balance	-38	-25	-18	-31	-31
			raw		
Balance	-38	-25	-17	-32	-31
Sources of production difficulties:			raw		
Working capital shortage	9	8	11	8	8
Skilled labour shortage	4	4	3	2	2
Unskilled labour shortage	0	0	0	0	0
Raw material shortage	2	3	3	2	3
Other difficulties	9	9	8	5	6
No difficulties	75	75	75	82	80

[1] *No evident seasonality.*

■

Short-term Expectations Survey

The following are the forecasts of the year-over-year change in the Consumer Price Index and the unemployment rate for April 1992, of merchandise exports and imports for March 1992, and of the change in gross domestic product for February 1992.

The increase in the Consumer Price Index for April was forecast at 1.7%, with minimum and maximum values of 1.5% and 2.1%, respectively. The mean forecast for March was overestimated by 0.1%.

The mean forecast of the unemployment rate for April was 11.0% (minimum 10.7%, maximum 11.3%). For March, the mean forecast underestimated the outcome by 0.5%.

March merchandise exports were forecast to be $12.3 billion, with a minimum and maximum of $11.8 billion and $12.9 billion, respectively. For February, the mean forecast underestimated the outcome by $0.2 billion. The forecast of imports for the same period was $11.3 billion, with minimum and maximum values of $11.0 billion and $11.7 billion, respectively. Last month, the mean forecast matched the actual level ($11.2 billion).

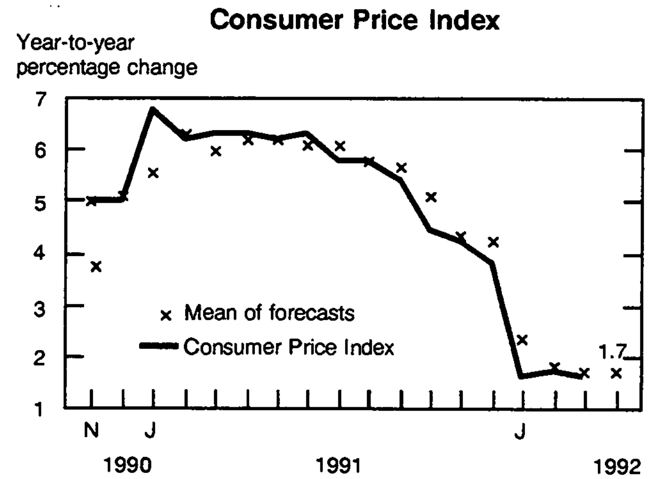
Gross Domestic Product was forecast to have changed by 0.1% between January and February 1992, with minimum and maximum changes of -0.3% and 0.4%. Statistics Canada announced on April 30th that the actual change in GDP for February was the same as predicted.

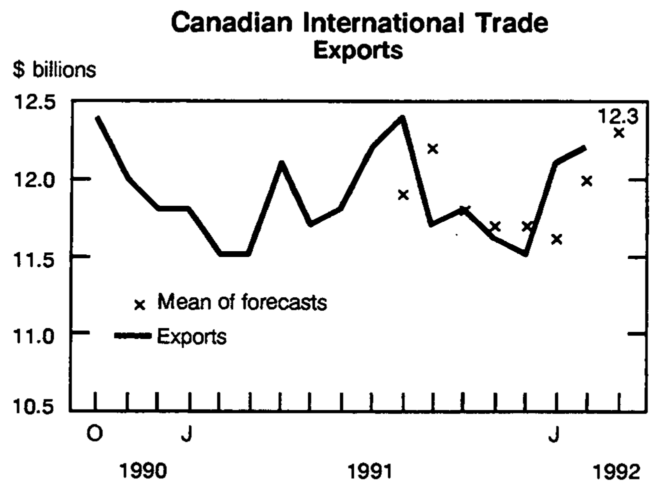
For a complete set of tables or more information concerning this survey, contact Diane Lachapelle (613-951-0568).

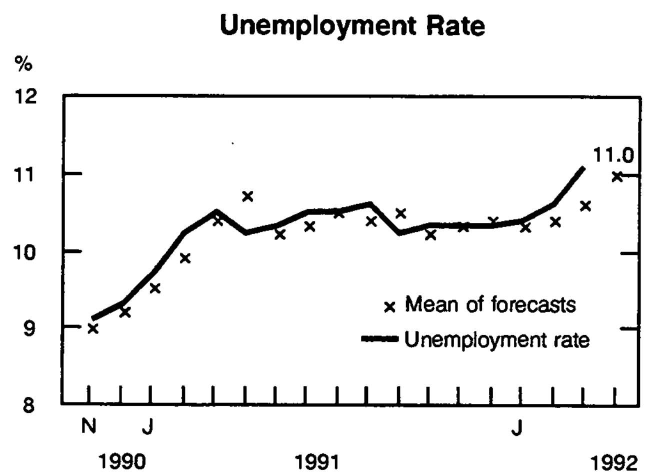
Note to users

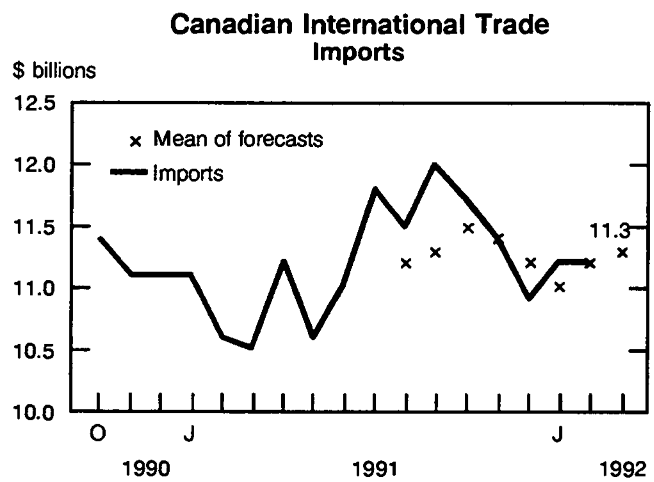
Since April 1990, Statistics Canada has been canvassing a small group of economic analysts (an average of 24 participants) and requesting from them a one-month-ahead forecast of key economic indicators. The experience to date suggests that the results of this survey are found useful by the public at large. This month, participants were asked for their monthly forecasts of the year-to-year change in the Consumer Price Index, the unemployment rate, merchandise exports and imports, and the monthly change in the Gross Domestic Product.

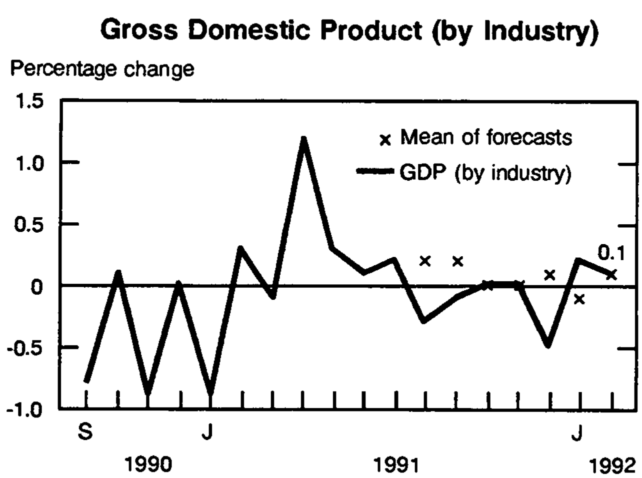
FORECASTS VS. ACTUAL











DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Cement

March 1992

Canadian manufacturers shipped 439 884 tonnes of cement in March 1992, a decrease of 2.0% from the 449 681 tonnes shipped a year earlier but an increase of 34.1% from the 328 051 tonnes shipped in February 1992.

January to March 1992 shipments totalled 1 064 700^{r} (revised) tonnes, down 5.7% from the 1 129 022 tonnes shipped during the same period in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 35).

The March 1992 issue of *Cement* (44-001, $5/$50) will be available at a later date.

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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Shipments of Solid Fuel Burning Heating Products, Quarter Ended March 1992.
Catalogue number 25-002
(Canada: $4.75/$19; United States: US$5.75/US$23; Other Countries: US$6.75/US$27).

1991 Census Electronic Dictionary
Catalogue number 92-301D-E
(Canada: $40; United States: US$48; Other Countries: US$56).

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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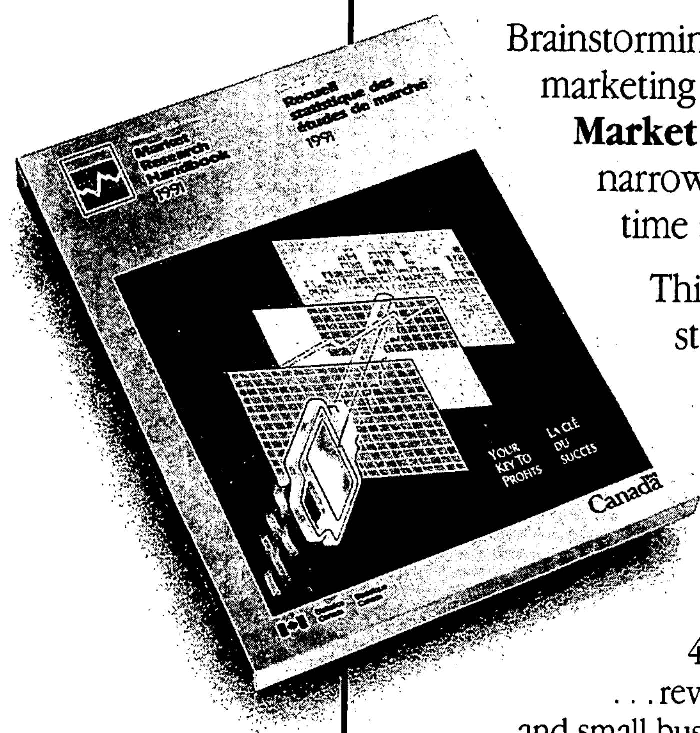

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