



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 18, 1992

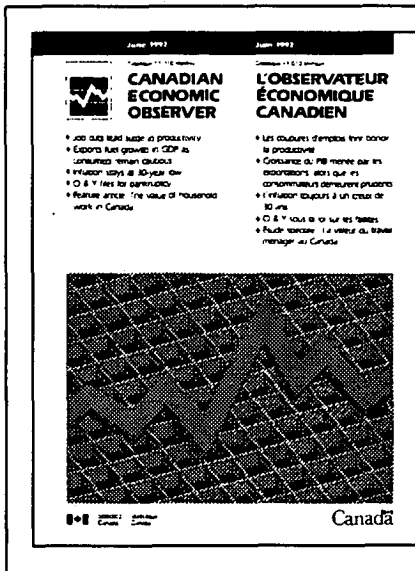
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Canadian Economic Observer, June 1992

The June 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 May, and a feature article on the value of household work in Canada. 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.



Statistics Canada

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Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

April 1992

Merchandise exports and imports have been increasing steadily since the beginning of the year. In April, exports stood at \$12.8 billion, up \$209 million from their revised level of \$12.6 billion in March. Imports rose \$239 million to reach \$12.1 billion. The larger increase in imports compared to exports caused a reduction in the merchandise trade surplus to \$662 million. Canada's trade surplus with the United States stood at \$1.7 billion.

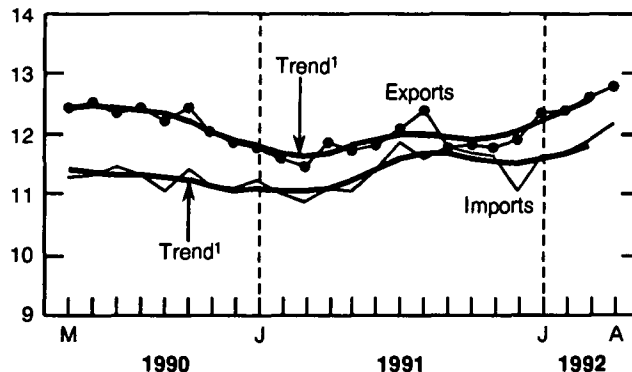
This was the second consecutive month in which the increase in exports was driven by commodities with relatively stable month-to-month movements. Industrial goods (less precious metals) were up by \$104 million, and machinery and equipment excluding aircraft and other transportation equipment rose by \$85 million. Smaller increases were noted for exports of miscellaneous consumer goods and special transactions. As in March, there was a small decline for forestry products (-\$12 million). Among the more volatile commodities, higher exports were recorded for energy products (\$110 million) and aircraft and other transportation equipment (\$24 million). In contrast, agricultural products declined by \$99 million (wheat alone dropped \$110 million) and automotive products fell \$27 million.

There were substantial increases for imports of most commodity groupings in April. More importantly, it was the stable import component which contributed most to the total increase. Increases were registered for imports of miscellaneous consumer goods (\$63 million), agricultural and fishing products (\$52 million), special transactions (\$52 million), machinery and equipment excluding aircraft and other transportation equipment (\$49 million), and industrial goods excluding precious metals (\$37 million). The only group within the stable component to decline this month was forestry products (-\$2 million). Among the more volatile commodities, imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment increased by \$55 million, energy products rose by \$70 million and automotive products were up \$127 million. In contrast, substantial downward influence was exerted by precious metals, which declined by \$261 million.

Merchandise Trade

Seasonally Adjusted
 Balance of Payments Basis

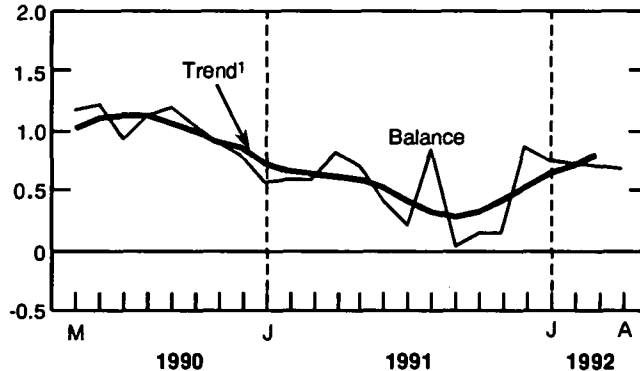
Billions of dollars



Merchandise Trade Balance

Seasonally Adjusted
 Balance of Payments Basis

Billions of dollars



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

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3620-3629, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718, 3719, 3887-3913.

Current account data, which incorporate merchandise trade statistics as well as data concerning trade in services and capital account movements, are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001, \$27.50/\$110).

In accordance with the revision practices of International Trade Division, revised figures for 1988 through 1991 are now available. For further information on international trade statistics (detailed tables, charts and a more complete analysis), *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$10/\$100) is now available. For more timely receipt of the data, a fax service is available on the morning of release (10-002, \$250). See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on statistics, concepts and definitions, the April 1992 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of July, or contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Client Services Section, or Marlene Sterparn (613-951-1711) (for analysis information), or Denis Pilon (613-951-4808) (for price index information), Macroeconomic Analysis Section, International Trade Division. ■

Sales of Natural Gas

April 1992 (Preliminary Data)

Sales of natural gas including direct sales in Canada during April 1992 totalled 5 036 million cubic metres, a 9.4% increase over the previous year.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in April 1992 were broken down as follows (with the percentage changes from April 1991 in brackets): residential sales, 1 356 million cubic metres (+17.6%); commercial sales, 1 091 million cubic metres (+12.7%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 2 589 million cubic metres (+4.3%).

Year-to-date figures for 1992 indicate that sales of natural gas amounted to 24 086 million cubic metres, a 1.7% increase from the same period in 1991.

On the basis of rate structure information, year-to-date sales were broken down as follows (with the percentage changes from 1991 in brackets): residential sales, 7 148 million cubic metres (+0.5%); commercial sales, 5 746 million cubic metres (-1.5%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 11 192 million cubic metres (+4.2%).

Based on the sum of the latest 12 months (May 1991 to April 1992), total natural gas sales including direct sales showed 1.2% growth over the previous period (May 1990 to April 1991).

The April 1992 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$12.70/\$127) will be available the third week of July. 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

April 1992

	Rate structure				Total
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	
	(thousands of cubic metres)				
New Brunswick	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	80 674	164 722	311 090	2 606	559 092
Ontario	766 487	503 351	724 404	173 337	2 167 579
Manitoba	54 564	53 400	40 030	560	148 554
Saskatchewan	70 382	52 705	4 837	150 554	278 478
Alberta	254 002	214 627	935 776	-	1 404 405
British Columbia	130 150	101 930	76 640	169 281	478 001
April 1992 - Canada	1 356 259	1 090 735	2 092 777	496 338	5 036 109
April 1991 - Canada	1 152 950	967 532	2 069 292	412 316	4 602 090
% change	17.6	12.7		4.3	9.4
Year-to-date Canada 1992	7 147 650	5 746 438	9 136 704	2 055 461	24 086 253
Year-to-date Canada 1991	7 115 618	5 834 280	9 169 566	1 574 902	23 694 366
% change	0.5	-1.5		4.2	1.7
May 1991 - April 1992	13 678 456	11 170 788	24 925 080	5 277 730	55 052 054
May 1990 - April 1991	13 617 053	11 249 868	25 490 217	4 030 615	54 387 753
% change	0.5	-0.7		2.3	1.2

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

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

May 1992

The Canada Total Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for construction trades (1986 = 100) rose by 0.9% in May 1992 from April's level of 127.5. On a year-over-year basis, the composite index increased 2.1% from 126.1 to 128.7.

On a monthly basis, the largest increases occurred in Vancouver (3.7%), Victoria (3.5%), Calgary (2.9%) and Edmonton (1.6%). These increases were the results of increments in existing collective agreements.

On a year-over-year basis, the largest increase was observed for Calgary (8.5%), followed by Edmonton (5.4%), Vancouver (3.7%) and Victoria (3.5%). The remaining cities registered increases ranging from 0.1% to 2.7%, while St. John's and Halifax showed no change.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 2033 to 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 Rate Indexes, Basic Rate plus Supplements

May 1992
(1986 = 100)

	May 1992	April 1992	May 1991	% Change	
				May 1992/ April 1992	May 1992/ May 1991
Canada	128.7	127.5	126.1	0.9	2.1
St. John's	119.6	119.6	119.6	-	-
Halifax	120.2	120.2	120.2	-	-
Saint John	130.8	130.8	127.3	-	2.7
Quebec City	133.0	133.0	132.5	-	0.4
Chicoutimi	133.0	133.0	132.5	-	0.4
Montreal	133.1	133.1	132.6	-	0.4
Ottawa	134.6	134.6	133.9	-	0.5
Toronto	137.6	137.6	136.8	-	0.6
Hamilton	131.5	131.5	130.7	-	0.6
St. Catharines	134.7	134.7	133.9	-	0.6
Kitchener	129.9	129.9	129.1	-	0.6
London	133.6	133.6	132.9	-	0.5
Windsor	134.3	134.3	133.4	-	0.7
Sudbury	135.2	135.2	134.2	-	0.7
Thunder Bay	134.9	134.9	134.0	-	0.7
Winnipeg	119.7	119.7	118.1	-	1.4
Regina*	100.3	100.3	100.2	-	0.1
Saskatoon*	100.3	100.3	100.2	-	0.1
Calgary	122.5	119.1	112.9	2.9	8.5
Edmonton	114.7	112.9	108.8	1.6	5.4
Vancouver	128.5	123.9	123.9	3.7	3.7
Victoria	128.5	124.2	124.2	3.5	3.5

* Based on Average Hourly Earnings Data.

- Nil or zero.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import Price Indexes

April 1992

Current and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1986 = 100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to April 1992 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Customs-based current and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to April 1992 on a 1986 = 100 basis. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 "All Countries" and "U.S. only" SITC section indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3620-3629, 3651 and 3685.

The April 1992 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of July. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division. ■

Steel Primary Forms

Week Ending June 13, 1992

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel primary forms production for the week ending June 13, 1992 totalled 275 373 tonnes, a 2.9% increase from the preceding week's total of 267 587 tonnes and up 2.6% from the year-earlier level of 268 504 tonnes. The cumulative total in 1992 was 6 245 830 tonnes, a 5.7% increase from 5 906 599 tonnes for the same period in 1991.

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

Selected Financial Indexes

May 1992

May 1992 data 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. ■

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products,
May 1992.
Catalogue number 32-022
(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60;
Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

Electrical and Electronic Products Industries,
1989.
Catalogue number 43-250
(Canada: \$35; United States: US\$42;
Other Countries: US\$49).

Consumer Price Index, May 1992.
Catalogue number 62-001
(Canada: \$9.30/\$93; United States: US\$11.20/
US\$112; Other Countries: US\$13/US\$130).
Available at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, June 19, 1992.

Farm Product Price Index, April 1992.
Catalogue number 62-003
(Canada: \$7.10/\$71; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85;
Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99).

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International
Trade, April 1992.
Catalogue number 65-001P
(Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120;
Other Countries: US\$14/US\$140).

Exports - Merchandise Trade, 1991.
Catalogue number 65-202
(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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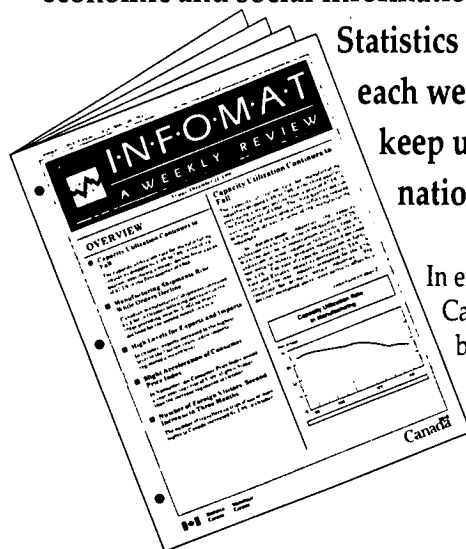
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