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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, July 17, 1992 **For release at 8:30 a.m.**

MAJOR RELEASES

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAJOR RELEASES

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade
May 1992

Seasonally adjusted exports rose $100 million in May to reach $12.9 billion. The increase resulted almost entirely from higher exports of commodities which tend to display fairly stable month-to-month movements, in particular machinery and equipment excluding aircraft and other transportation equipment ($125 million) and forestry products ($98 million). Moderating the increases were reduced exports of most of the volatile product groupings, among them aircraft and other transportation equipment (-$62 million), automotive products (-$19 million) and agricultural and fishing products (-$16 million).

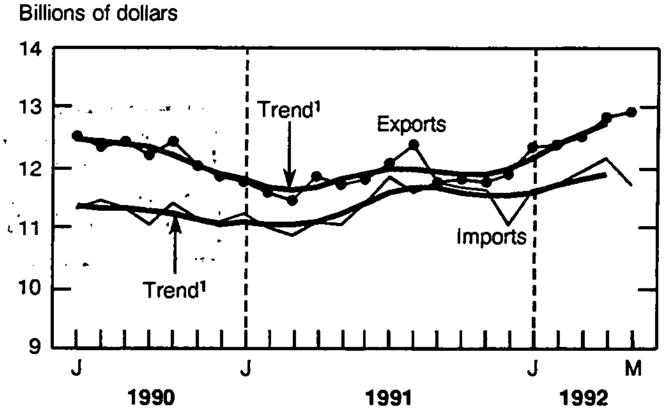
In contrast with increases registered over the last few months, seasonally adjusted imports dropped by $440 million to $11.7 billion in May. Decreases were widespread, the most significant being for automotive products (-$269 million), energy products (-$127 million), agricultural products (-$75 million) and miscellaneous consumer goods (-$61 million). The largest offsetting increase occurred for aircraft and other transportation equipment (up $77 million).

The large decrease in imports, combined with the relatively modest rise in exports, resulted in an improved merchandise trade surplus, rising from $646 million in April to $1.2 billion in May.

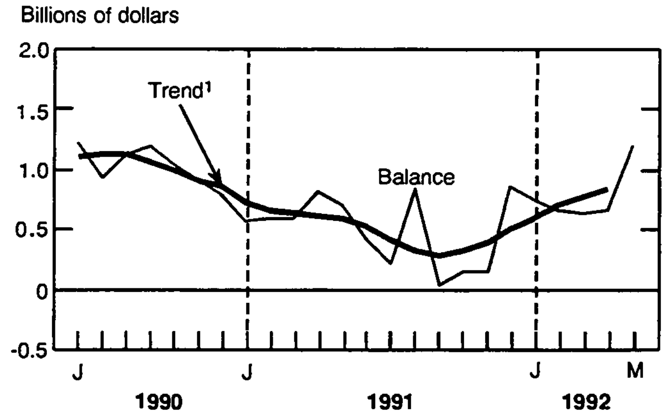
Trends

The seasonally adjusted merchandise trade data series have been further smoothed using moving averages in order to more clearly discern underlying trends. On a trend basis, total exports were up in May for the sixth consecutive month, and stood almost 10% higher than their low point in March 1991. Continuing the pattern observed in April, there were increased exports for all major commodity groups within the stable export component and for most of the groups within the more volatile group. And notwithstanding the decrease shown by the seasonally adjusted figures in May, the imports trend continued to increase and stood 8% above the low point in March 1991. As in April, increases occurred for imports of all commodity groups considered to be relatively stable, while the movements were mixed within the volatile component.

Merchandise Trade
Seasonally Adjusted
Balance of Payments Basis



Merchandise Trade Balance
Seasonally Adjusted
Balance of Payments Basis



[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).

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 May 1992 issue of Summary of Canadian International Trade (65-001, $18.20/$182) will be available the first week of August, 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. ■

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

May 1992

Seasonally Adjusted

The value of shipments declined 0.5% in May, following gains averaging 1.4% a month in the previous three months. Shipments for all manufacturing excluding the motor vehicle, parts and accessories industries rose 0.2% in May, the fourth consecutive monthly increase. In contrast, following a 6.8% increase in April, the motor vehicle, parts and accessories industries dropped 4.0% as a result of temporary plant closings and production cutbacks. Over the past 10 months, this industry has demonstrated a pattern of alternating increases and decreases.

Unfilled orders decreased for the seventh consecutive month, with the May decrease of 2.3% the largest monthly decline since February 1991. Decreases in the aircraft and shipbuilding industries as well as the machinery and the fabricated metals industries accounted for most of the May decline. These decreases reflected the cancellation of orders in a number of industries as well as the continued reduction by manufacturers of their order backlog because of a lack of new orders (new orders fell 2.4%).

The **short-term trend** smooths out irregular month-to-month movements which are not sustained over a longer period. Despite the decline in May, the trend for shipments increased for the third month in a row. This increase was due to both a sharp rise in the trend for the motor vehicle, parts and accessories industries and a slight increase for the rest of manufacturing. Increases in the two most recent periods in the trend for all manufacturing industries excluding motor vehicles, parts and accessories are the first since March 1989. The trend for unfilled orders has fallen since April 1989 and, over the last eight periods, at a rate of about -0.8% a month. The inventory trend has declined for more than two years but has fallen at a slower pace in recent months.

Highlights

- Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian manufacturers' **shipments** were $23.0 billion in May, a decrease of 0.5% from the previous month. Six of the 22 major groups (accounting for 49% of shipment values) recorded decreases with the transportation equipment industries (-4.9%), notably automobiles (-5.8%) and aircraft (-15.7%), accounting for most of this decrease.

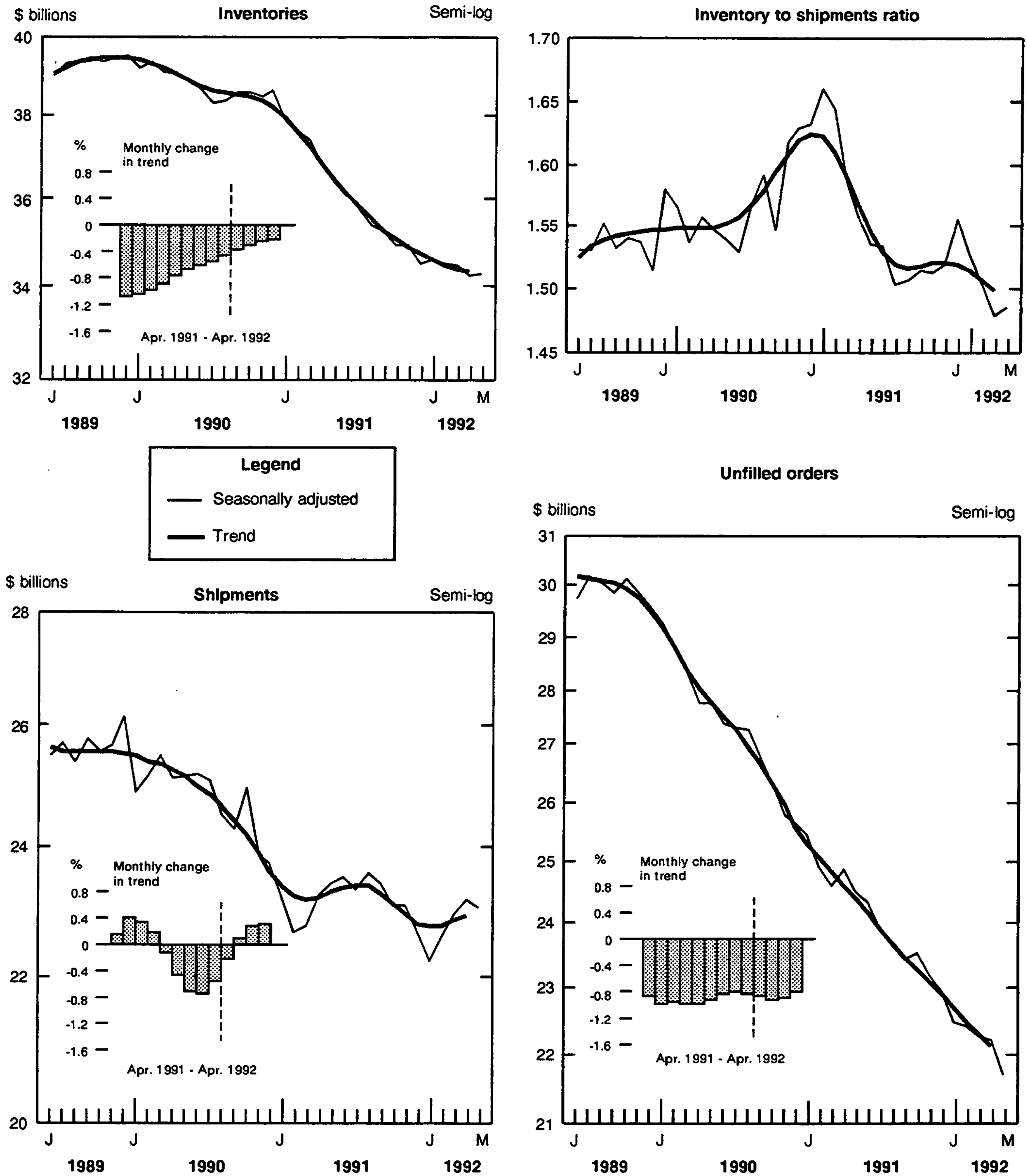
  The **trend** for shipments rose for the third time in a row. Eleven of the 22 major groups (accounting for 52% of shipment values) contributed to this increase. The most significant increases in the most recent period, in order of dollar impact, were registered in the transportation equipment, the refined petroleum and coal products and the wood industries.

  The trends for eight of the 22 major groups declined in the most recent period as well as in the two previous periods. The largest decreases, in order of dollar impact, were in the electrical and electronic products industries, the primary metal industries and the fabricated metals industries. However, in each of these eight industries, the trend has been falling at a progressively slower pace.

- **Inventories** (owned) increased 0.1% in May to $34.2 billion with 10 of the 22 major groups recording increases. The largest increases were recorded in the wood (2.6%), chemicals (0.5%) and the food industries (0.5%) . The **trend** for inventories (owned) has been declining since January 1990 but at a slower pace over the last 11 periods.

- The **inventories to shipments ratio** increased from 1.48 in April to 1.49 in May. The **trend**, which had shown no change from August 1991 to January 1992, has continued to decline since February.

Manufacturers' Inventories, Shipments and Unfilled Orders, Seasonally Adjusted, May 1992



- **Unfilled orders** dropped 2.3% in May to $21.7 billion, the seventh consecutive monthly decrease. The largest decrease was in the transportation equipment industry (-3.6%), notably the result of cancellations in the aircraft industry (-4.2%). In addition, large decreases were recorded in the shipbuilding industry (-3.3%), the machinery industry (-2.6%) and the fabricated metal industries (-3.2%). These decreases were largely due to cancellations and the reduction by manufacturers of their order backlog. The **trend** has fallen at about the same pace since September 1991.

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

  New orders are defined as the sum of shipments for the current month (i.e., orders received this month and shipped within the same month) plus the change in unfilled orders.

- **New orders** fell 2.4% to $22.5 billion in May, the first decrease following three consecutive increases. The **trend** for new orders has been rising since February 1992.

Year-to-date

Manufacturers' shipments for the first five months of 1992 were estimated at $113.9 billion, 1.2% lower than the value for the corresponding period in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.

For more information, consult the May 1992 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001, $17.30/$173), available shortly. Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request.

For further information, please contact Bob Traversy (613-951-9497) or the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section (613-951-9832), Industry Division. □

Shipments, Inventories and Orders in all Manufacturing Industries
May 1992

Period	Not seasonally adjusted: Shipments	Inventories	Unfilled orders	New orders	Seasonally adjusted: Shipments	Inventories	Unfilled orders	New orders
	$ millions							
May 1991	25,189	36,689	24,754	25,002	23,410	36,450	24,527	23,065
June 1991	24,567	35,868	24,430	24,243	23,500	36,070	24,364	23,337
July 1991	21,664	35,376	24,003	21,237	23,297	35,745	23,917	22,851
August 1991	23,222	35,166	23,872	23,091	23,568	35,394	23,688	23,338
September 1991	24,329	34,794	23,573	24,031	23,403	35,213	23,465	23,180
October 1991	25,037	34,568	23,503	24,967	23,047	34,868	23,546	23,128
November 1991	23,286	34,589	23,098	22,880	23,062	34,865	23,234	22,750
December 1991	20,873	33,825	22,555	20,331	22,684	34,465	22,960	22,410
January 1992	20,532	34,763	22,451	20,428	22,221	34,562	22,519	21,780
February 1992	21,479	35,177	22,463	21,491	22,577	34,481	22,441	22,499
March 1992	23,860	35,159	22,374	23,771	22,906	34,418	22,293	22,758
April 1992	23,531	34,711	22,311	23,468	23,154	34,193	22,231	23,092
May 1992	24,080	34,487	21,866	23,636	23,038	34,218	21,721	22,528

	Seasonally Adjusted									
	Shipments		Inventories		Inventory to shipments ratio		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend
	Month-to-month % change				Ratio		Month-to-month % change			
May 1991	0.9	0.4	-1.0	-1.0	1.56	1.57	-1.4	-1.0	-1.7	0.3
June 1991	0.4	0.4	-1.0	-1.0	1.53	1.55	-0.7	-0.9	1.2	0.4
July 1991	-0.9	0.2	-0.9	-0.9	1.53	1.53	-1.8	-1.0	-2.1	0.2
August 1991	1.2	-0.1	-1.0	-0.8	1.50	1.52	-1.0	-1.0	2.1	-0.1
September 1991	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	-0.7	1.50	1.52	-0.9	-0.9	-0.7	-0.4
October 1991	-1.5	-0.7	-1.0	-0.6	1.51	1.52	0.3	-0.8	-0.2	-0.6
November 1991	0.1	-0.8	0.0	-0.5	1.51	1.52	-1.3	-0.8	-1.6	-0.7
December 1991	-1.6	-0.6	-1.1	-0.4	1.52	1.52	-1.2	-0.8	-1.5	-0.6
January 1992	-2.0	-0.2	0.3	-0.4	1.56	1.52	-1.9	-0.9	-2.8	-0.3
February 1992	1.6	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	1.53	1.51	-0.3	-0.9	3.3	0.1
March 1992	1.5	0.3	-0.2	-0.3	1.50	1.51	-0.7	-0.9	1.2	0.3
April 1992	1.1	0.3	-0.7	-0.2	1.48	1.50	-0.3	-0.8	1.5	0.4
May 1992	-0.5	*	0.1	*	1.49	*	-2.3	*	-2.4	*

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

Sales of Natural Gas

May 1992

Sales of natural gas including direct sales in Canada during May 1992 totalled 3 712 million cubic metres, a 3.2% increase over the May 1991 level.

On the basis of rate structure information, sales in May 1992 were as follows (the percentage changes from May 1991 are in brackets): residential sales, 747 million cubic metres (+2.5%); commercial sales, 595 million cubic metres (-0.6%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 2 370 million cubic metres (+4.4%).

Year-to-date figures for 1992 indicate that sales of natural gas amounted to 27 700 million cubic metres in May, a 1.5% increase 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, 7 886 million cubic metres (+0.5%); commercial sales, 6 357 million cubic metres (-1.2%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 13 457 million cubic metres (+3.4%).

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

May 1992

	Rate structure				
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total
	(thousands of cubic metres)				
New Brunswick	–	–	–	–	–
Quebec	52 563	99 520	244 342	2 600	399 025
Ontario	397 878	255 899	608 216	169 991	1 431 984
Manitoba	24 310	22 579	28 665	600	76 154
Saskatchewan	51 262	30 423	2 878	142 466	227 029
Alberta	161 998	131 123	969 541	–	1 262 662
British Columbia	59 394	55 414	46 293	153 938	315 039
May 1992 – Canada	**747 405**	**594 958**	**1 899 935**	**469 595**	**3 711 893**
May 1991 – Canada	728 964	598 739	1 899 399	371 289	3 598 391
% change	2.5	-0.6	4.4		3.2
Year-to-date Canada 1992	**7 885 872**	**6 356 910**	**10 925 423**	**2 531 867**	**27 700 072**
Year-to-date Canada 1991	7 844 582	6 433 019	11 068 965	1 946 191	27 292 757
% change	0.5	-1.2	3.4		1.5

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

■

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import Price Indexes
May 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 May 1992 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Customs-based current and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1986 = 100) are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to May 1992. 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 May 1992 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, $18.20/$182) will be available the first week of August. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Foamed and Expanded Plastic Products Industry
1990 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1990, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the foamed and expanded plastic products industry (SIC 1611) totalled $527.5 million, down 16.9% from $634.6 million in 1990.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5414.

The data for this industry will be released in *Rubber and Plastics Products Industries* (33-250, $35).

For more detailed information on this release, contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-951-3513), Industry Division. ■

Floor Tile, Linoleum and Coated Fabrics Industry
1990 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1990, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the floor tile, linoleum and coated fabrics industry (SIC 3993) totalled $197.9 million, down 4.4% from $207.1 million in 1989.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6895.

The data for this industry will be released in *Other Manufacturing Industries* (47-250, $35).

For more detailed information on this release, contact S. Pépin (613-951-3514), Industry Division. ■

Leaf Tobacco Industry
1990 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1990, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the leaf tobacco industry (SIC 1211) totalled $322.0 million, unchanged from the 1989 level.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5407.

The data for this industry will be released in *Beverage and Tobacco Products Industries* (32-251, $35).

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

Other Rubber Products Industries
1990 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1990, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other rubber products industries (SIC 1599) totalled $1,075.7 million, up 0.8% from $1,067.3 million in 1989.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6899.

The data for this industry will be released in *Rubber and Plastics Products Industries* (33-250, $35).

For more detailed information on this release, contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-951-3513), Industry Division. ■

Particle Board Industry

1990 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1990, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the particle board industry (SIC 2592) totalled $323.7 million, down 6.1% from $344.8 million in 1989.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5470.

The data for this industry will be released in *Wood Industries* (35-250, $49).

For more detailed information on this release, contact J. Lepage (613-951-3516), Industry Division. ■

Wafer Board Industry

1990 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1990, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the wafer board industry (SIC 2593) totalled $249.4 million, down 25.8% from $336.1 million in 1989.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5471.

The data for this industry will be released in *Wood Industries* (35-250, $49).

For more detailed information on this release, contact J. Lepage (613-951-3516), Industry Division. ■

Other Combined Publishing and Printing Industry

1990 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1990, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other combined publishing and printing industry (SIC 2849) totalled $177.5 million, down 10.1% from $197.4 million in 1989.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5503.

The data for this industry will be released in *Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries* (36-251, $35).

For more detailed information on this release, contact S. Pépin (613-951-3514), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, June 1992.
Catalogue number 32-001
(Canada: $2.70/$27; United States: US$3.20/US$32; Other Countries: US$3.80/US$38).

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

Primary Iron and Steel, May 1992.
Catalogue number 41-001
(Canada: $5/$50; United States: US$6/US$60; Other Countries: US$7/US$70).

Refined Petroleum Products, April 1992.
Catalogue number 45-004
(Canada: $18.20/$182; United States: US$21.80/US$218; Other Countries: US$25.50/US$255).

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

Science Statistics Service Bulletin: Total Spending on Research and Development in Canada, 1971 to 1992. Vol. 16, No. 3.
Catalogue number 88-001
(Canada: $7.10/$71; United States: US$8.50/US$85; Other Countries: US$9.90/US$99).

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MAJOR RELEASE DATES

Week of July 20-24

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
July		
21	**Retail Trade**	May 1992
22	**Private and Public Investment in Canada**	Revised Intentions 1992
22	**Wholesale Trade**	May 1992
22	**Department Store Sales and Stocks**	May 1992
23	**Canada's International Transactions in Securities**	May 1992
23	**Employment, Earnings and Hours**	May 1992

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