

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 17, 1993

For release at 8:30 a.m.



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- **Canadian Composite Leading Indicator, February 1993** 2
The growth of the composite index accelerated from 0.4% in January to 0.7% in February.
- **Births In Canada, 1991** 4
A total of 402,528 live births were recorded in Canada in 1991, a decrease of 0.7% from the previous year.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED



Statistics
Canada

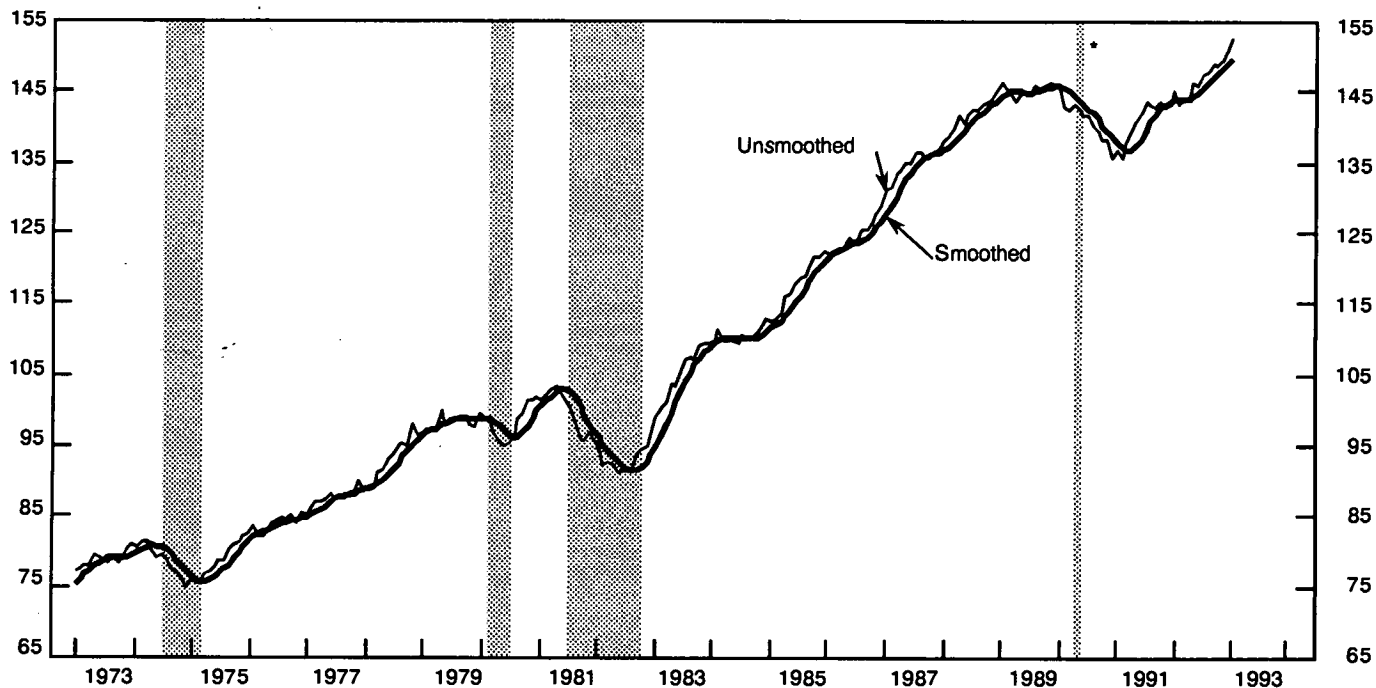
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MAJOR RELEASES

Composite Index

1981 = 100



* Shaded areas represent periods of recession; the April 1990 onset of recession is tentative, and no end-date has yet been proposed.

Canadian Composite Leading Indicator

February 1993

Growth in the overall index picked up to 0.7% in February, largely due to a rapid gain in the financial market indicators. The unsmoothed index jumped by 2.1%, led by the stock market and the money supply. Manufacturing demand also continued to improve, driven by sustained growth in exports. However, indicators of household demand remained mixed – especially housing demand, which fell 3.4% in February.

All the household demand indicators slowed at the turn of the year. Spending on durable goods rose less rapidly in December than in November, while a slowdown for furniture and appliance sales followed a

downturn in the housing market. The housing index continued to fall in February. Weak demand for personal services checked growth in the services employment component to only 0.2% in February. Unusually bad weather conditions may have played a role in slack household demand early in the new year, while employment and interest rates improved steadily.

The growth of new orders for durable goods rose from 0.9% in November to 1.9% in December, led by demand from the United States for automotive products and capital goods. Shipments also increased sharply relative to inventories, which remained under tight control. The strengthening of manufacturing demand lengthened the average workweek in January for the first time since August 1992. A further increase was recorded in February, while manufacturing employment has risen slowly.

The U.S. leading indicator accelerated to 0.4% growth in December and 0.5% in January, after little change since September. Sustained growth in consumer spending outweighed a slowdown in housing, while employment rose sharply in February.

The financial market indicators in Canada improved markedly in February. As interest rates fell back to the lows touched last September, the money supply grew by 1.0% in February, its strongest gain in almost six years. The stock market posted its first increase in a year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For more information on the economy, the March 1993 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) will be available the week of March 22-26. 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

Data used in the composite index calculation for:	September 1992	October 1992	November 1992	December 1992	January 1993	February 1993	% change, last month of data available
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)							
Unsmoothed	146.1	146.9	147.5	148.2	148.8	149.8	0.7
Housing index ¹	147.8	149.0	148.5	149.5	150.0	153.1	2.1
Business and personal services employment (thousands)	134.5	135.5	135.8	134.7	130.6	126.1	-3.4
United States composite leading index (1967 = 100)	1,739	1,750	1,759	1,769	1,777	1,781	0.2
TSE 300 stock price index (1975 = 1000)	204.5	204.6	204.7	205	205.9	206.9 *	0.5
Money supply (M1) (\$ 1981) ²	3,389	3,369	3,345	3,333	3,321	3,332	0.3
Manufacturing	24,855	25,040	25,228	25,371	25,505	25,764 ⁴	1.0
Average workweek	38.3	38.3	38.3	38.3	38.4	38.5	0.3
New orders - durables	8,922.3	8,983.9	9,033.5	9,060.8	9,138.8	9,316.0 ^{4,™}	1.9
Shipment to inventory ratio ³	1.38	1.39	1.40	1.41	1.41	1.42 [™]	0.01
Retail Trade							
Furniture and appliance sales	1,029.5	1,032.2	1,035.9	1,042.9	1,050.1	1,056.2 ^{4,™}	0.6
Other durable goods sales	3,534.2	3,548.3	3,562.2	3,573.5	3,587.1	3,599.4 ^{4,™}	0.3

¹ Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (MLS).

² Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.

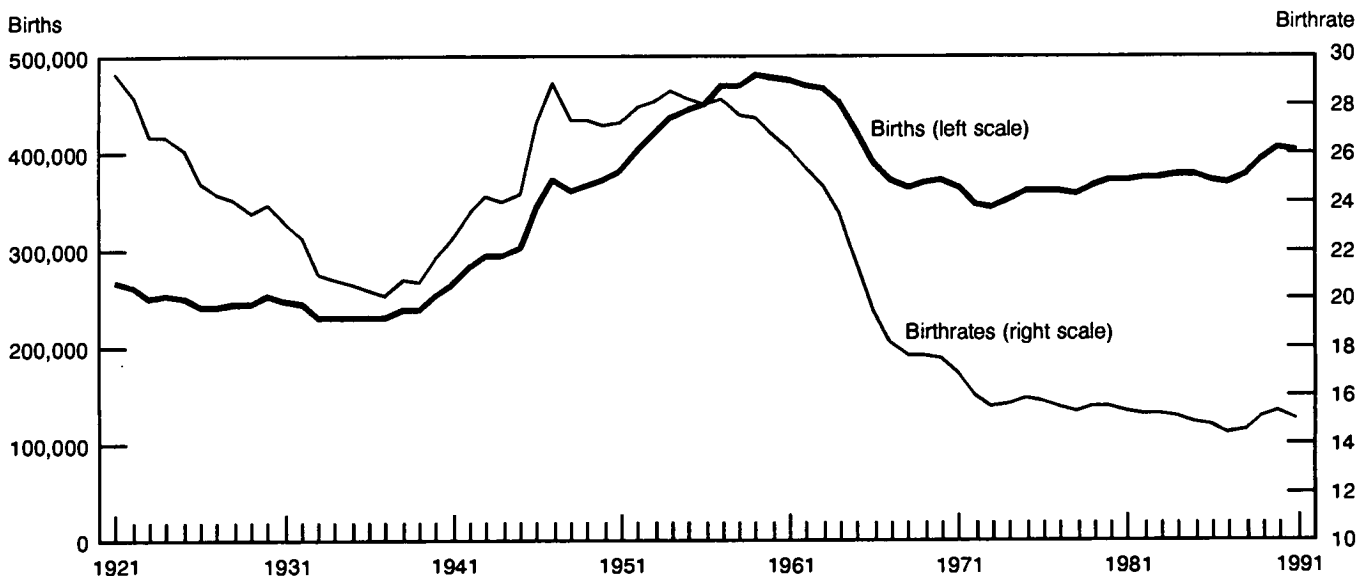
³ Difference from previous month.

⁴ Millions of 1981 dollars.

* This is the January value as published in February.

™ This is the December value as published in February.

Number of Births and Crude Birthrates¹, Canada, 1921-1991



¹ Number of live births per 1,000 population

Births in Canada

1991

A total of 402,528 live births were recorded in Canada in 1991, a decrease of 0.7% from the previous year, but 8.9% more than the 369,742 births in 1987 – the year with the lowest number of births during the 1980s.

In 1991, Canada's crude birthrate of 14.9 live births per 1,000 population was 2.6% lower than the 1990 rate of 15.3. However, the 1991 birthrate was 3.5% greater than the 1987 rate of 14.4, which was the lowest rate recorded during the 1980s. Over the last 10 years, the birthrate ranged between 14.4 and 15.3 per 1,000 population (see Table and Chart).

Provincial and Territorial Rates

The 1991 crude birthrates for the 10 provinces ranged from 12.5 live births per 1,000 population for Newfoundland to 17.0 for Alberta. The comparable birthrates for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories were 21.1 and 29.9, respectively. Canada's birthrate declined by 2.6% between 1990 and 1991. The rate also declined in every province. The birthrate

declined by a smaller percentage than the national rate in Manitoba (-0.6%), Ontario (-1.3%), Quebec (-2.1%) and Alberta (-2.3%) and by a greater percentage in British Columbia (-2.7%), New Brunswick (-3.7%), Saskatchewan (-4.3%), Prince Edward Island (-5.8%), Newfoundland (-6.0%) and Nova Scotia (-6.9%). The rate decreased by 1.4% in the Yukon but increased by 2.0% in the Northwest Territories.

International Birthrates

The 1991 birthrate for Canada (14.9) and the rates for nine of 16 countries for which data are available were in the range of 13 to 15 live births per 1,000 population. Countries in this range included the following: Finland (13.1), the Netherlands (13.2), Czechoslovakia and France (13.3 each), the United Kingdom (13.8), Norway (14.2), Poland and Sweden (14.3 each), and Australia (14.8). Five countries had birthrates lower than 13 births per 1,000 population: Switzerland (12.6), Denmark (12.5), Germany (11.3), Japan (9.9), and Italy (9.8). Two countries had birthrates greater than 15 per 1,000 population: the United States (16.3) and New Zealand (17.8).

Historical Publication

Selected Birth and Fertility Statistics, Canada, 1921-1990 (82-553, \$40) is now available. This publication is a compilation of historical data on selected birth and fertility statistics from 1921 to 1990 for Canada, the 10 provinces and two territories.

Major topics included in this publication are as follows: the numbers and rates of live births; total, general, and age-specific fertility rates; births and birthrates by age of mother and by order of live birth; and birthweights of newborns. The publication contains two sections: (a) a narrative description of

the historical trends exhibited by Canada's birth and fertility rates, supplemented by charts on these topics; and (b) a set of statistical tables containing historical birth and fertility data since 1921. The data will be available in machine-readable form at a later date.

For data on live births recorded in 1991, which are now available, contact Nelson Nault (613-951-1746), Information Requests Unit, Canadian Centre for Health Information.

For further information about this release, contact Surinder Wadhera (613-951-1764), Canadian Centre for Health Information.

Births and Birthrates¹ by Province and Territory, Canada

1981, 1990 and 1991

	Births			Birthrate ¹		
	1991	1990	1981	1991	1990	1981
Canada	402,528	405,486	371,346	14.9	15.3	15.3
Newfoundland	7,166	7,604	10,130	12.5	13.3	17.8
Prince Edward Island	1,885	2,014	1,897	14.5	15.4	15.5
Nova Scotia	12,016	12,870	12,079	13.4	14.4	14.3
New Brunswick	9,497	9,824	10,503	13.1	13.6	15.1
Quebec	97,310	98,048	95,322	14.2	14.5	14.8
Ontario	151,478	150,923	122,183	15.3	15.5	14.2
Manitoba	17,282	17,352	16,073	15.8	15.9	15.7
Saskatchewan	15,304	16,090	17,209	15.4	16.1	17.8
Alberta	42,776	43,004	42,638	17.0	17.4	19.1
British Columbia	45,612	45,617	41,474	14.2	14.6	15.1
Yukon	568	556	536	21.1	21.4	23.2
Northwest Territories	1,634	1,584	1,302	29.9	29.3	28.5

¹ Number of live births per 1,000 population.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department Store Sales

February 1993 (Advance Release)

Department stores sales including concessions for February totalled \$691 million. Sales for the major department stores were \$371 million and sales for the junior category were \$320 million.

For further information on this release, contact Diane Lake (613-951-9824), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. ■

Average Prices and Indexes of Selected Farm Inputs

February 1993

Data on average prices for selected farm inputs for February 1993 are now available as are price indexes for these inputs (at the same level of geographic detail) for the period May 1992 to January 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 550-582 (by geographic region).

For further information, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9606), Prices Division. ■

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending March 7, 1993

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the seven-day period totalled 4.1 million tonnes, a decrease of 10.6% from the same period last year.
- Piggyback traffic increased 12.0% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded increased 4.8% during the same period.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded as of February 21, 1993 decreased 10.1% from the previous year.

Note: Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flatcars. Piggyback traffic numbers are

included in total carload traffic. All 1992 figures and 1993 cumulative data have been revised.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Tobacco Products

February 1993

Canadian tobacco product firms produced 3.91 billion cigarettes in February 1993, a 0.8% increase from the 3.88^r (revised) billion cigarettes manufactured during the same period in 1992. Production for January and February 1993 totalled 7.92 billion cigarettes, up 5.6% from 7.50^r billion cigarettes produced during the corresponding period in 1992.

Domestic sales in February 1993 totalled 2.25 billion cigarettes, a decrease of 33.4% from the 3.38 billion cigarettes sold in February 1992. For January to February 1993, sales totalled 4.24 billion cigarettes, down 27.3% from the 5.83 billion cigarettes sold during the same period in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The February 1993 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products* (32-022, \$5/\$50) will be available shortly.

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

Electric Lamps

February 1993

Canadian light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 24,328,990 light bulbs and tubes in February 1993, a decrease of 10.2% from the 27,102,139 units sold a year earlier.

At the end of February 1993, year-to-date sales amounted to 46,328,112^r (revised) light bulbs and tubes, down 15.6% from the 54,911,912 sold during the same period in 1992.

The February 1993 issue of *Electric Lamps* (43-009, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

Soft Drinks

February 1993

Data on soft drinks for February 1993 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 196.

Monthly Production of Soft Drinks (32-001, \$2.70/\$27) will be released at a later date.

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

The Daily Statistics Canada	
Wednesday, September 15, 1992 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Statistics Canada Publications List, 1993.
Catalogue number 11-209E
(Free).

Family Incomes, Census Families, 1991.
Catalogue number 13-208
(Canada: \$19; United States: US\$23;
Other Countries: US\$27).

Particleboard, Waferboard and Fibreboard,
January 1993.
Catalogue number 36-003
(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60;
Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and
Tubing, January 1993.
Catalogue number 41-011
(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60;
Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

Production and Shipments of Blow-moulded
Plastic Bottles, Quarter Ended December 31, 1992.
Catalogue number 47-006
(Canada: \$6.75/\$27; United States: US\$8/US\$32;
Other Countries: US\$9.50/US\$38).

Touriscope: International Travel - Advance
Information, January 1993. Vol. 9, No. 1.
Catalogue number 66-001P
(Canada: \$6.10/\$61; United States: US\$7.30/US\$73;
Other Countries: US\$8.50/US\$85).

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