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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, February 1993** 2
Shipments rose 1.6% in February; the trend for shipments has been increasing since early 1992. Unfilled orders grew by 5.0%. The trend for unfilled orders, which had been falling since April 1989, increased over the last three periods.
- **Sales of Natural Gas, February 1993** 5
A colder than normal February helped push natural gas sales to a level 7.4% above that of February 1992. Residential sales rose 12.6% over this period.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

February 1993

Seasonally Adjusted

The value of shipments advanced 1.6% in February, the fourth increase in five months. Twelve of the 22 major groups recorded higher shipment levels, notably the transportation equipment and the wood industries.

Unfilled orders rose 5.0% in February, the second increase in the last three months and the largest monthly increase in five years. New orders increased 6.4%, largely from a jump in demand in the transportation equipment industries. These increases in shipments and in orders were similar to those experienced in the United States for February.

The **short-term trend** smooths out irregular month-to-month movements which are not sustained over a longer period. Recent signals from the trend have been mixed. The trend for shipments increased for the 11th consecutive period, but at a slower rate over the three most recent periods. The shipments trend for the motor vehicle, parts and accessories industries has increased strongly over the last five periods. The trend for the rest of manufacturing also showed some strength with 11 consecutive monthly increases; the pace, however, slowed from an increase of 0.7% per month in August 1992 to 0.2% per month in the most recent period. The trend for 16 of the major groups rose in August 1992, whereas the trend for only 10 major groups rose in the most recent period.

The trend for unfilled orders, after falling since April 1989, increased in the three most recent periods. The inventories trend began to decline again in November 1992 after remaining relatively stable for three periods.

Highlights

Shipments: + 1.6%

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian manufacturers' shipments increased 1.6% to \$24.7 billion in February. Twelve of the 22 major groups (accounting for 58% of shipment values) increased, seven decreased and three remained unchanged. The largest increases in dollar terms were in the transportation equipment (6.0%) and wood (4.4%)

industries. Decreases were small in the seven major groups that declined.

Trend for Shipments: + 0.7%

The trend for shipments rose for the 11th month in a row, but at a slower pace for the last three periods. The trend for 10 of the 22 major groups (accounting for 57% of shipment values) increased in the most recent period. The most significant increases in dollar terms were in the transportation equipment, wood and primary metal industries.

Inventories (owned): -0.2%

Inventories (owned) decreased 0.2% in February to \$33.6 billion with 14 of the 22 major groups decreasing. The largest decreases were in the electrical and electronic products (-1.5%), chemicals (-1.3%) and primary metal (-1.2%) industries. The clothing (3.3%) and wood (1.5%) industries recorded the largest increases. The trend for inventories (owned), which increased slightly in September 1992, declined for the last three periods.

Inventories to shipments ratio: 1.36

The inventories to shipments ratio declined from 1.39 in January to 1.36 in February – an historical low. The trend declined from a peak of 1.52 in January 1992 to 1.38 in the most recent period – also an historical low.

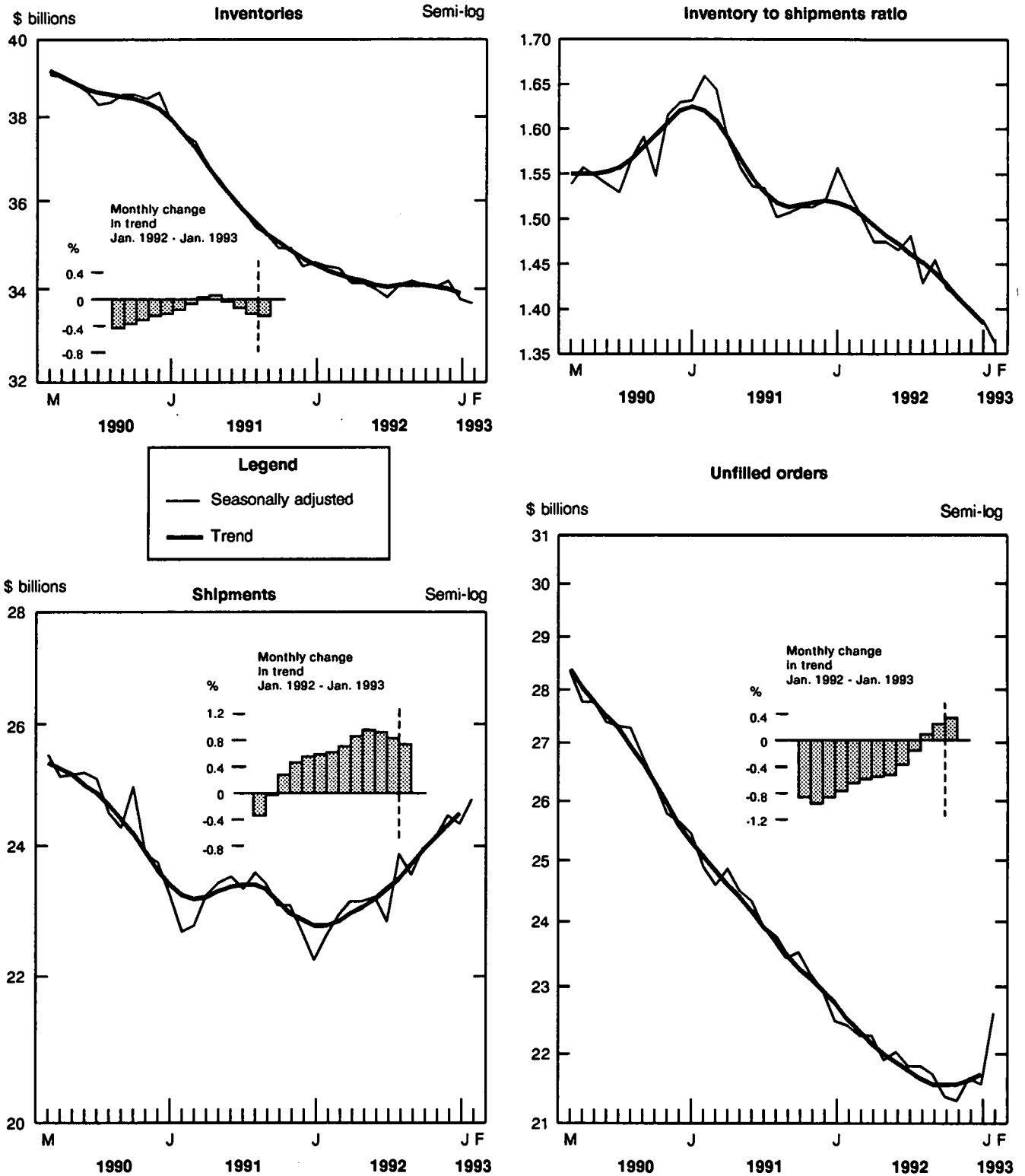
Unfilled Orders: + 5.0%

Unfilled orders grew 5.0% to \$22.6 billion in February, the largest monthly increase since March 1988. Large increases in transportation equipment (9.3%) industries accounted for most of the jump in the backlog of orders. The trend, which had been falling since April 1989, increased over the three most recent periods.

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders which will contribute to 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.

Manufacturers' Inventories, Shipments and Unfilled Orders, Seasonally Adjusted, February 1993



New Orders: + 6.4%

New orders rose 6.4% to \$25.8 billion in February, mainly due to large increases in the transportation equipment industries. The trend for new orders has continued to rise since March 1992, but at a slower pace over the last three periods.

Year-to-date: + 9.6%

Manufacturers' shipments for the first two months of 1993 were estimated at \$49.1 billion, 9.6% higher than the value for the corresponding period in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.

For more information, please consult the February 1993 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001, \$17.30/\$173), which will be 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, Information and Classification Section (613-951-9497) or the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section (613-951-9832), Industry Division.

Shipments, Inventories and Orders in all Manufacturing Industries

February 1993

Period	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted			
	Shipments	Inventories	Unfilled orders	New orders	Shipments	Inventories	Unfilled orders	New orders
\$ millions								
February 1992	21,479	35,177	22,463	21,491	22,577	34,481	22,441	22,499
March 1992	23,839	35,163	22,377	23,753	22,904	34,405	22,289	22,752
April 1992	23,458	34,648	22,397	23,478	23,122	34,092	22,291	23,123
May 1992	24,105	34,374	22,105	23,813	23,121	34,089	21,926	22,756
June 1992	25,290	33,704	22,011	25,196	23,165	33,945	22,049	23,288
July 1992	21,130	33,347	21,835	20,954	22,813	33,793	21,817	22,581
August 1992	23,203	33,772	22,038	23,405	23,844	34,052	21,850	23,877
September 1992	24,826	33,750	21,778	24,566	23,516	34,169	21,721	23,387
October 1992	25,478	33,713	21,242	24,942	23,939	34,036	21,395	23,612
November 1992	24,205	33,807	21,143	24,106	24,114	34,032	21,349	24,068
December 1992	22,938	33,558	21,276	23,071	24,452	34,108	21,663	24,767
January 1993	21,368	33,961	21,552	21,644	24,345	33,729	21,564	24,246
February 1993	22,887	34,386	22,666	24,001	24,737	33,646	22,633	25,807

Period	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			
February 1992	1.6	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	1.53	1.51	-0.3	-1.0	3.3	-0.1
March 1992	1.5	0.3	-0.2	-0.3	1.50	1.50	-0.7	-0.9	1.1	0.4
April 1992	0.9	0.5	-0.9	-0.3	1.47	1.49	0.0	-0.8	1.6	0.6
May 1992	0.0	0.5	0.0	-0.2	1.47	1.48	-1.6	-0.6	-1.6	0.7
June 1992	0.2	0.6	-0.4	-0.2	1.47	1.47	0.6	-0.6	2.3	0.6
July 1992	-1.5	0.6	-0.4	-0.1	1.48	1.46	-1.0	-0.6	-3.0	0.6
August 1992	4.5	0.7	0.8	0.0	1.43	1.45	0.1	-0.5	5.7	0.8
September 1992	-1.4	0.9	0.3	0.1	1.45	1.44	-0.6	-0.4	-2.0	1.0
October 1992	1.8	1.0	-0.4	0.0	1.42	1.42	-1.5	-0.1	1.0	1.2
November 1992	0.7	0.9	0.0	-0.1	1.41	1.41	-0.2	0.1	1.9	1.1
December 1992	1.4	0.8	0.2	-0.2	1.39	1.40	1.5	0.3	2.9	1.0
January 1993	-0.4	0.7	-1.1	-0.2	1.39	1.38	-0.5	0.3	-2.1	0.8
February 1993	1.6	*	-0.2	*	1.36	*	5.0	*	6.4	*

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

Sales of Natural Gas

February 1993 (Preliminary Data)

Highlights

- Sales of natural gas including direct sales in Canada during February 1993 totalled 6 751 million cubic metres, a 7.4% increase over February 1992.
- On the basis of rate structure information, sales in February 1993 were as follows (the percentage changes from February 1992 are in brackets): residential sales, 2 232 million cubic metres (+12.6%); commercial sales, 1 721 million cubic metres (+7.8%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 2 797 million cubic metres (+3.5%).
- Weather has a significant impact on residential sales of natural gas. The increase in sales in February 1993 was primarily due to colder than normal weather conditions throughout Canada.
- Year-to-date figures at the end of February 1993 indicate sales of natural gas amounted to 14 076 million cubic metres, a 7.6% increase over the same period in 1992.
- On the basis of rate structure information, year-to-date sales at the end of February 1993 were as follows (the percentage changes from 1992 are in brackets): residential sales, 4 672 million cubic metres (+14.0%); commercial sales, 3 586 million cubic metres (+9.1%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 5 817 million cubic metres (+2.2%).

The February 1993 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$12.70/\$127) will be available the third week of May. 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

February 1993

	Rate structure					
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct ¹	Total	
(thousands of cubic metres)						
Quebec	110 931	250 263	344 896	3 558	709 648	
Ontario	1 176 685	762 850	875 007	221 646	3 036 188	
Manitoba	100 514	94 656	48 348	550	244 068	
Saskatchewan	140 252	85 482	3 313	240 162	469 209	
Alberta	455 475	351 993	812 990	–	1 620 458	
British Columbia	247 951	176 216	106 659	140 344	671 170	
February 1993 – Canada	2 231 808	1 721 460	2 191 213	606 260	6 750 741	
February 1992 – Canada	1 982 039	1 596 693	2 205 361	498 783	6 282 876	
% change	12.6	7.8	3.5		7.4	
Year-to-date Canada 1993	4 671 711	3 586 356	4 514 266	1 303 203	14 075 536	
Year-to-date Canada 1992	4 096 448	3 285 996	4 684 202	1 010 755	13 077 401	
% change	14.0	9.1	2.2		7.6	
Degree Days²	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
February 1993	900	678	920	893	721	405
February 1992	658	525	784	685	501	306

¹ Represents direct sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

² A unit measuring the extent to which the outdoor mean temperature (the average of the maximum and minimum) falls below 18 degrees celsius. One degree day is counted for each degree below 18 degrees celsius for each calendar day. A high value indicates a cold month and a low value a warm month.

- Nil or zero.

Note: Revised figures will be available in *Gas Utilities* (55-002) and on CANSIM.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department Store Sales

March 1993 (Advance Release)

Department stores sales including concessions for March totalled \$866 million, up 1.7% from March 1992. Sales for the major department stores were \$463 million and sales for the junior category were \$403 million.

Note: The department store sales advance release is a very preliminary indication of department store sales in Canada. Data from this release are not a component of the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. This release is an advance indicator of the Monthly Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area Survey.

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

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending April 7, 1993

Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the seven-day period totalled 4.3 million tonnes, a decrease of 11.3% from the same period last year.
- Piggyback traffic increased 1.4% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 0.3% during the same period.
- Tonnage of revenue freight loaded as of April 7, 1993 decreased 7.8% 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. ■

Electric Lamps

March 1993

Canadian light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 21,770,588 light bulbs and tubes in March 1993, a decrease of 1.3% from the 22,046,995 units sold a year earlier.

Year-to-date sales at the end of March 1993 amounted to 68,098,700 light bulbs and tubes, down 11.5% from the 76,958,907^r (revised) units sold during the same period in 1992.

The March 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. ■

Pack of Apples and Apple Products

1991

Data on the pack of processed apples for 1991 are now available.

Pack of Apples and Apple Products, 1991 (32-241, \$13) will be released at a later date.

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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Monthly Production of Soft Drinks, March 1993.
Catalogue number 32-001
(Canada: \$2.70/\$27; United States: US\$3.20/US\$32;
Other Countries: US\$3.80/US\$38).

Refined Petroleum Products, January 1993.
Catalogue number 45-004
(Canada: \$18.20/\$182; United States:
US\$21.80/US\$218; Other Countries:
US\$25.50/US\$255).

Passenger Bus and Urban Transit Statistics,
February 1993.
Catalogue number 53-003
(Canada: \$7.10/\$71; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85;
Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99).

Energy Statistics Handbook, April 1993.
Catalogue number 57-601
(Canada: \$300; United States: US\$360; Other
Countries: US\$420).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, January 1993.
Catalogue number 72-002
(Canada: \$28.50/\$285; United States:
US\$34.20/US\$342; Other Countries:
US\$39.90/US\$399).

Performing Arts, 1990-91.
Catalogue number 87-209
(Canada: \$30; United States: US\$36; Other
Countries: US\$42).

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