



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## MAJOR RELEASES

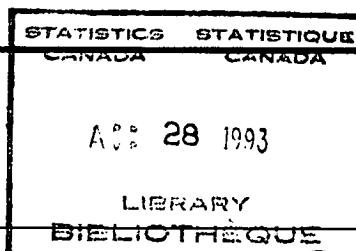
- **Unemployment Insurance Statistics, February 1993** 2  
In February, the seasonally adjusted number of beneficiaries declined 2.0% from January 1993. The unadjusted number of new claims received in the first two months of 1993 was down 21% from the same period in 1992.
- **Industrial Product Price Index, March 1993** 4  
In March 1993, the index rose to 112.1, up 0.1% from February's revised 112.0 and up 3.6% from March 1992. Wood product prices have risen sharply over the last five months to stand 32.6% higher than in March 1992.
- **Raw Materials Price Index, March 1993** 7  
The index increased 1.2% in March 1993 to 112.0, primarily due to a 7.4% increase in the wood index. Since March 1992, the index has risen 10.9%, led by a 32.5% increase in the wood component.

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Unemployment Insurance Statistics

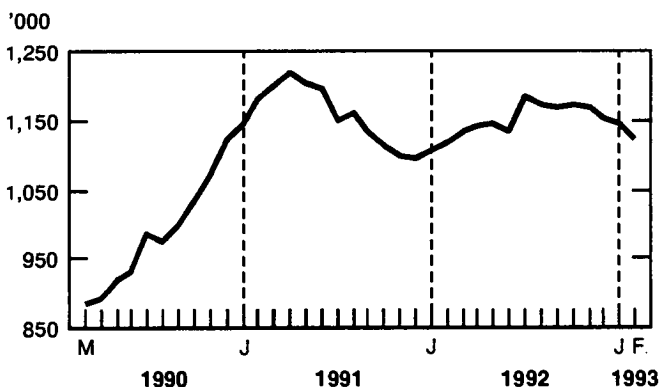
February 1993

#### Seasonally Adjusted Data

- For the week ended February 20, 1993, the number of beneficiaries<sup>1</sup> who received regular unemployment insurance benefits was estimated at 1,120,000, down 2.0% from a month earlier.
- Between January and February 1993, the number of beneficiaries who received regular benefits decreased 3.3% in Ontario, 2.6% both in British Columbia and in Alberta, 1.7% in Saskatchewan, 1.2% in Quebec and 1.0% in the Northwest Territories. An increase of 6.0% was observed in the Yukon Territory. The other provinces had changes of less than 1.0%.

#### Beneficiaries Receiving Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Canada

Seasonally adjusted



#### Data Not Adjusted for Seasonal Variation

- In February 1993, the estimated number of beneficiaries<sup>1</sup> (including all persons qualifying for regular and special unemployment insurance benefits) totalled 1,547,000, down 2.9% from

February 1992. Over the same 12-month period, the number of male beneficiaries decreased 3.8% to 922,000 and the number of female beneficiaries decreased 1.4% to 625,000.

- In the following census metropolitan areas, the year-over-year percentage change in the number of beneficiaries exceeded  $\pm 5\%$ :

	Beneficiaries February 1993	% Change February 1993/1992
Quebec	39,830	9
Regina	6,430	8
Trois-Rivières	11,130	8
Calgary	33,360	8
Ottawa	21,370	7
Hull	12,650	6
Kitchener	13,560	-16
Windsor	9,640	-20

- In February 1993, disbursements for unemployment insurance benefits<sup>2,3</sup> amounted to \$1.8 billion, up 1.3% from February 1992. For January and February 1993, a total of \$3.6 billion was paid in benefits, a decrease of 5.0% from the year-earlier period. For the same two-month period, the average weekly payment increased 2.9% to \$265.14, whereas the number of benefit weeks decreased 7.8% to 13.3 million.

<sup>1</sup> Beneficiaries is a count of persons who qualified for unemployment insurance benefits during a specific week of the reference month.

<sup>2</sup> Benefit payments, number of benefit weeks, and number of claims received relate to a complete calendar month. Data are usually final estimates when released. These estimates are affected by number of working days available during the reference month to process claims and to pay benefits. In short-term comparisons, it is not uncommon to observe different trends between these data and the number of beneficiaries.

<sup>3</sup> Unemployment insurance disbursements shown include monies paid to schools and colleges to train beneficiaries (starting in February 1991) and funds made available to claimants as self-employment assistance (since June 1992).

- A total of 225,000 claims<sup>2</sup> (applications) for unemployment insurance benefits were received in February 1993, a 17.3% decrease from February 1992. During January and February 1993, 580,000 claims were received, down 21% from the same period a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717, 5735-5736.

The February 1993 issue of *Unemployment Insurance Statistics* (73-001, \$14.70/\$147), containing data for December 1992, January 1993 and February 1993, will be available in May. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information, please call Carole Lacroix (613-951-4039) or André Picard (613-951-4045), Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087).

### Unemployment Insurance Statistics

Seasonally adjusted data	February 1993	January 1993	December 1992	February 1992	% change February 1993/January 1993
<b>Regular Benefits</b>					
Beneficiaries (000)	1,120 <sup>P</sup>	1,143 <sup>P</sup>	1,154 <sup>r</sup>	1,115	-2.0
Amount paid (\$000)	1,256,708	1,277,965	1,297,528	1,214,664	-1.7
Weeks of benefits (000)	4,903	5,030	5,055	4,844	-2.5
<b>Unadjusted data</b>	February 1993	January 1993	December 1992	February 1992	% change February 1993/February 1992
Beneficiaries (000) - All	1,547 <sup>P</sup>	1,543 <sup>P</sup>	1,415 <sup>r</sup>	1,592	-2.9
Beneficiaries (000) - Regular	1,305 <sup>P</sup>	1,316 <sup>P</sup>	1,176 <sup>r</sup>	1,310	-0.4
Claims received (000)	225	355	388	273	-17.3
Amount paid (\$000)	1,768,434	1,834,837	1,642,919	1,745,017	1.3
Weeks of benefits (000)	6,448	6,833	6,049	6,602	-2.3
Average weekly benefit (\$)	266.02	264.30	260.33	257.94	3.1
<b>Year-to-date</b>	January to February				% change 1993/1992
	1993		1992		
Beneficiaries - Average (000)	1,545 <sup>P</sup>		1,574		-1.9
Claims received (000)	580		734		-21.0
Amount paid (\$000)	3,603,271		3,792,656		-5.0
Weeks of benefits (000)	13,282		14,399		-7.8
Average weekly benefit (\$)	265.14		257.75		2.9

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

"All beneficiaries" includes all claimants who receive regular benefits (e.g., because of lay-off or a voluntary quit) or special benefits (e.g., in case of sickness).

## Industrial Product Price Index

March 1993

According to preliminary figures, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI, 1986=100) rose 0.1% to 112.1 from 112.0 (revised) in February. Indices for nine of the 21 major groupings increased, while seven decreased and five did not change. The lumber, sawmill and other wood products index increased by a notable 2.9%, which was offset by declines in petroleum and coal products (-1.7%), primary metal products (-0.9%) and automobiles, trucks and other transport equipment (-0.3%).

During March, the value of the U.S. dollar fell 0.6% against the Canadian dollar, reducing the value of export prices denominated in U.S. dollars. This particularly affected the index for automobiles, trucks and other transport equipment. In March 1993, the U.S. dollar was 4.0% higher against the Canadian dollar than in March 1992.

Compared to March 1992, the IPPI was 3.6% higher, the same year-to-year change as in February. The most significant price increases over the last 12 months were in lumber, sawmill and other wood products (32.6%) and in autos, trucks and other transport equipment (4.2%). Increases greater than 4% also occurred in petroleum and coal products (6.8%), tobacco and tobacco products (5.5%) and meat, fish and dairy products (4.4%). Three declines occurred – the largest in primary metal products (-2.0%). The two other declines were less than 0.5%. Excluding petroleum and coal products, the 12-month change for the index was 3.4%.

The first-stage intermediate goods index declined 1.1% from February, but the second-stage intermediate goods index rose 0.4%. The finished foods and feeds index increased by 0.2% from February, but the capital equipment and the all other finished goods indices declined 0.2% and 0.3%, respectively, from February. Four of these indices were higher than a year earlier, ranging from finished foods and feeds at 2.2% to second-stage intermediate goods at 5.5%. First-stage intermediate goods, however, declined by 0.8% from March 1992. The period of increasing year-to-year price changes for the finished goods index and for its three component indices (food and feeds, capital equipment, and other finished goods), which began in January 1992, came to an end in January 1993. Year-to-year, all four of these indices declined in February and three of the four also declined in March, while the food and feeds index remained unchanged.

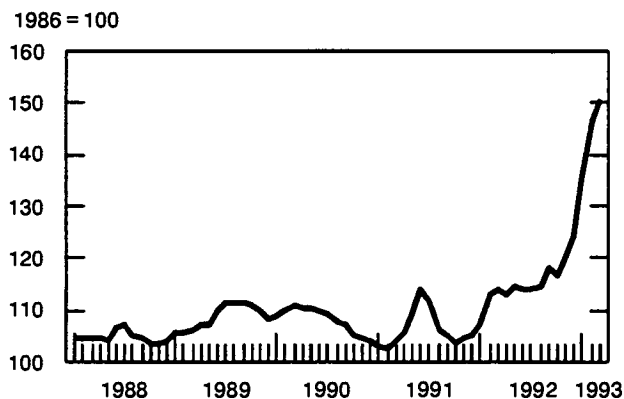
## Highlights

- The lumber, sawmill and other wood products index increased for the fifth consecutive month in March, rising by 2.9%, and was 32.6% higher than in March 1992. Strong price increases for softwood lumber continued in Quebec and the Prairies, but increases were much smaller in Ontario and the Atlantic provinces, and smallest in British Columbia (where prices barely rose in the interior).
- The automobiles, trucks and other transportation equipment index fell 0.3% in March as the value of the U.S. dollar fell, despite a 0.1% increase in the domestic automobile price index and no change in the domestic truck price index. Overall, the autos, trucks and other transportation equipment index was 4.2% higher than a year before. Contributing to this was the effect of the change in the valuation of the Canadian dollar on the price of exports as well as a 7.4% price increase for domestic trucks. Domestic automobile prices declined by 0.2% in the same time period.
- The petroleum and coal products index fell 1.7% in March but stood 6.8% higher than a year earlier. These movements were primarily the result of world crude oil price movements.
- The primary metal products price index was down 0.9% from February 1993 and down 2.0% from March 1992. Most non-ferrous metals, except magnesium, declined in March. The aluminum products and nickel products indices showed similar declines, 1.2% and 1.3%, respectively. The indices for copper and copper alloy products and for non-ferrous metals fell 3.1% and 2.3%, respectively. Increased exports from the former U.S.S.R. have depressed a number of non-ferrous metal prices for some time and continued to do so in March. Primary metal products declined between March 1992 and March 1993, primarily due to a 16.4% fall in nickel product prices and a 6.0% decline in the other non-ferrous metals index. During the last year, the index for iron and steel products has shown little movement. In March 1993, it was up 0.1% from February 1993 and was down 0.1% from March 1992.

## The Wood Products Index

The wood products price index tracks the behaviour of indices for 23 classes of lumber and timber, nine classes of veneer and plywood, and 36 classes of other wood fabricated materials (including doors, mouldings, coffins, barrels, shingles and shakes, along with other items).

### Wood Products Price Index



Until August 1992, the wood products price index fluctuated between 102 and 114. The index rose to 117.5 in September 1992, declined briefly in October, then rose consistently until March 1993, when it reached 150.4.

The recent increase in wood prices is generally attributed to a supply shortfall in the United States during a period of rising demand for wood. This shortfall is attributed to a decline in capacity due to mill closings during the last few years and due to government constraints on production for environmental reasons.

In the United States, price increases were beginning to show signs of softness as April opened, but the implications for Canada remain to be seen.

During the last five year period, wood product shipments in Canada bottomed in January 1991 and have since been recovering. Nevertheless, the value of shipments in constant dollars in the opening months of 1993 was noticeably below 1988 and 1989 values. However, the ability of Canadian wood industries to appreciably increase shipments in the short term is constrained by the fact that the surviving plants in these industries were already at 90.2% of capacity by the last quarter of 1992, their highest level since the 1970s.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2000-2008.**

The March 1993 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011, \$18.20/\$182) will be available at the end of May. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division. □

**Industrial Product Price Indexes**  
 (1986 = 100)

Index	Relative Importance <sup>1</sup>	Index March 1993 <sup>2</sup>	March 1993/ February 1993	March 1993/ March 1992
			% change	
<b>Industrial Product Price Index - Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>112.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Total IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>113.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Intermediate goods</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>110.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>
First-stage intermediate goods	13.4	102.5	-1.1	-0.8
Second-stage intermediate goods	47.0	113.2	0.4	5.5
<b>Finished goods</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>113.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Finished foods and feeds	9.9	117.9	0.2	2.2
Capital equipment	10.4	114.2	-0.2	2.8
All other finished goods	19.3	111.8	-0.3	2.8
<b>Aggregation by commodities:</b>				
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.4	114.5	0.3	4.4
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.3	115.2	0.2	1.6
Beverages	2.0	123.8	0.2	2.1
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.7	154.7	0.0	5.5
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.1	113.7	0.2	-0.4
Textile products	2.2	109.5	0.0	0.4
Knitted products and clothing	2.3	114.0	-0.1	-0.3
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	4.9	150.4	2.9	32.6
Furniture and fixtures	1.7	118.4	0.0	0.9
Paper and paper products	8.1	104.0	-0.1	0.4
Printing and publishing	2.7	129.9	0.1	1.9
Primary metal products	7.7	99.7	-0.9	-2.0
Metal fabricated products	4.9	112.8	0.0	0.6
Machinery and equipment	4.2	118.2	0.0	1.3
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	17.6	107.7	-0.3	4.2
Electrical and communications products	5.1	111.4	-0.1	0.0
Non-metallic mineral products	2.6	111.3	0.1	0.9
Petroleum and coal products <sup>3</sup>	6.4	90.7	-1.7	6.8
Chemical, chemical products	7.2	115.3	0.1	2.2
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.5	113.0	-0.1	1.1
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.4	78.0	0.1	10.6

<sup>1</sup> Weights are derived from the "make" matrix of the 1986 Input/Output table.

<sup>2</sup> Indexes are preliminary.

<sup>3</sup> This index is estimated for the current month.

## Raw Materials Price Index

March 1993

Based on preliminary data, the Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI, 1986=100) for March 1993 reached 112.0, up 1.2% from the previous month. Three of the seven major component indexes were higher in March, with wood increasing the most (7.4%). The overall upward trend was moderated by decreases in the indexes for non-ferrous metals (-2.4%) and mineral fuels (-0.4%). The RMPI excluding mineral fuels for March 1993 rose 1.9%.

In March 1993, the RMPI was 10.9% higher than in March 1992, due mainly to increases in the wood (32.5%), mineral fuels (11.5%) and animal and animal products (6.3%) indexes. The 1.3% drop in the non-ferrous metals index slightly offset these upward influences. The RMPI excluding mineral fuels rose 10.7% from March 1992 to March 1993.

### Highlights

- The wood index posted a 7.4% increase in March 1993 as a result of the 9.6% rise in its major component, the log and bolt index, which has been rising continuously since December 1991. Compared with March 1992, the wood index climbed 32.5% on the strength of the 45.2% rise in the log and bolt index.
- The vegetable products index was 0.6% higher in March 1993, reflecting higher prices for unrefined sugar (11.8%), raw tobacco (3.1%) and soybeans

(4.2%). These increases were partially offset by decreases in the indexes for barley (-8.1%) and wheat (-1.9%). The vegetable products index rose 3.5% from March 1992, due to rising indexes for oilseeds (14.7%), unrefined sugar (22.1%) and raw tobacco (9.7%). The 1.7% decrease in the grains index was a moderating factor.

- The mineral fuels index was down 0.4% in March 1993 due to identical 0.4% decreases in its two main components, the crude mineral oils and coal indexes. The natural gas index was unchanged following six consecutive monthly increases. The mineral fuels index was up 11.5% from the March 1992 level due to the 12.2% rise in the crude mineral oils index.
- The non-ferrous metals index dropped 2.4% in March 1993, reflecting lower prices for copper concentrates (-3.2%), zinc concentrates (-5.5%) and aluminum materials (-1.8%). Since March 1992, the non-ferrous metals index fell 1.3%, due mainly to lower indexes for zinc concentrates (-13.1%), nickel concentrates (-17.4%) and aluminum materials (-2.8%). Radioactive concentrates were an offsetting factor, increasing 23.9%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2009.

For further information, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division.

### Raw Materials Price Index (1986=100)

	Relative Importance	Index March 1993 <sup>1</sup>	March 1993/ February 1993	March 1993/ March 1992
			% Change	
<b>Raw Materials total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>112.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>10.9</b>
Mineral fuels	32	105.0	-0.4	11.5
Vegetable products	10	94.6	0.6	3.5
Animal and animal products	26	109.6	0.4	6.3
Wood	13	170.6	7.4	32.5
Ferrous materials	4	97.9	0.0	6.2
Non-ferrous metals	13	95.2	-2.4	-1.3
Non-metallic minerals	3	99.9	0.0	1.4
Total excluding mineral fuel	68	115.3	1.9	10.7

<sup>1</sup> These indexes are preliminary.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins

March 1993

Canadian chemical firms produced 145 656 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in March 1993, a 0.1% increase from the 145 481 tonnes produced in March 1992.

For January to March 1993, production totalled 415 226<sup>r</sup> (revised) tonnes, down 2.7% from the 426 884 tonnes produced during the same period in 1992.

Data are also available on Canadian production of three other types of synthetic resins and 24 industrial chemicals for March 1993 and March 1992

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.**

The March 1993 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins* (46-002, \$5.60/\$56) will be available at a later date.

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

### Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder

March 1993

Production of process cheese in March 1993 totalled 9 333 456 kilograms, an increase of 44.0% from February 1993 and an increase of 37.6% from the revised total for March 1992. For January to March 1993, year-to-date production totalled 20 503 657 kilograms, compared to the year-earlier 16 839 825<sup>r</sup> (revised).

Production of instant skim milk powder during March totalled 484 893 kilograms, an increase of 26.5% from February 1993 and an increase of 25.7% from March 1992. Year-to-date production at month's end totalled 1 260 397 kilograms, compared to 1 110 362 kilograms the year before.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 188 (series 1.10).**

The March 1993 issue of *Production and Inventories of Process Cheese and Instant Skim Milk Powder* (32-024, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

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

### Electric Utilities Construction Price Indexes

1992 (Revised) and 1991 (Final)

Final 1991 and the revised 1992 figures are now available for the Electric Utility Construction Price Indexes.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 2022.**

The first quarter 1993 issue of *Construction Price Statistics* (62-007, \$18/\$72) will be available in June. See "How To Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information and Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division. ■

### Homicide Court Outcome Study

Cases Reported in 1988

A follow-up study has been conducted on those accused of committing a homicide that was reported to police in 1988. Cases from 1988 were selected in order to allow sufficient time for the cases to progress through the court system from initial charge to sentencing.

Points in the process that were examined include clearance, initial charge, results of preliminary inquiries, dispositions and sentencing by offence type (first degree, second degree, manslaughter and infanticide) for adults and young persons accused of committing homicide.

For further information, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

### Farm Product Price Index, February 1993.

#### Catalogue number 62-003

(Canada: \$7.10/\$71; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85;  
Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99).

### Building Permits, February 1993.

#### Catalogue number 64-001

(Canada: \$22.10/\$221; United States:  
US\$26.50/US\$265; Other Countries:  
US\$30.90/US\$309).

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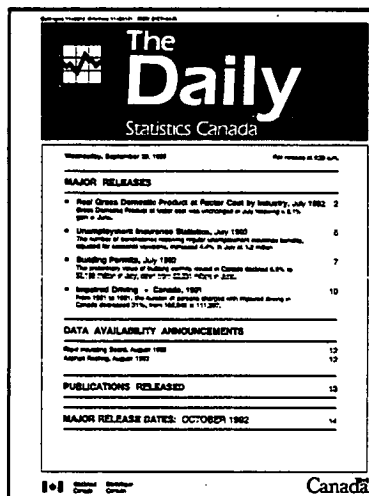
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