

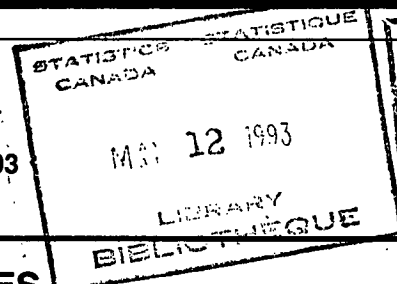


The Daily

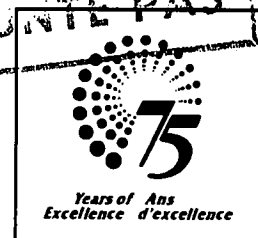
Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 12, 1993

For release at 8:30 a.m.



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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Composite Leading Indicator, April 1993** 2
The leading indicator grew by 0.6% in April, following increases of 0.5% in March and 0.6% in February. Growth so far this year has been driven by financial markets and export demand for manufactured goods, while household demand has also improved somewhat.
- **New Housing Price Index, March 1993** 4
The New Housing Price Index for Canada rose 0.6% in March 1993 compared to February 1993.
- **Stocks of Grain, March 31, 1993** 5
Farm stocks of the eight major grains totalled 25.1 million tonnes, down 6.2% from March 31, 1992, due to decreases in durum wheat and canola stocks.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Raw Materials Price Index - Early Estimate, April 1993	6
Railway Carloadings, Nine-day Period Ending April 30, 1993	6
Sugar Sales, April 1993	6
Oils and Fat, March 1993	6
Milling and Crushing Statistics, March 1993	7
Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics, March 1993	7
Electric Storage Batteries, March 1993	7
Steel Pipe and Tubing, March 1993	7
Steel Primary Forms, March 1993	8
Production of Eggs, March 1993	8
Wholesale Trade, 1990	8

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

9



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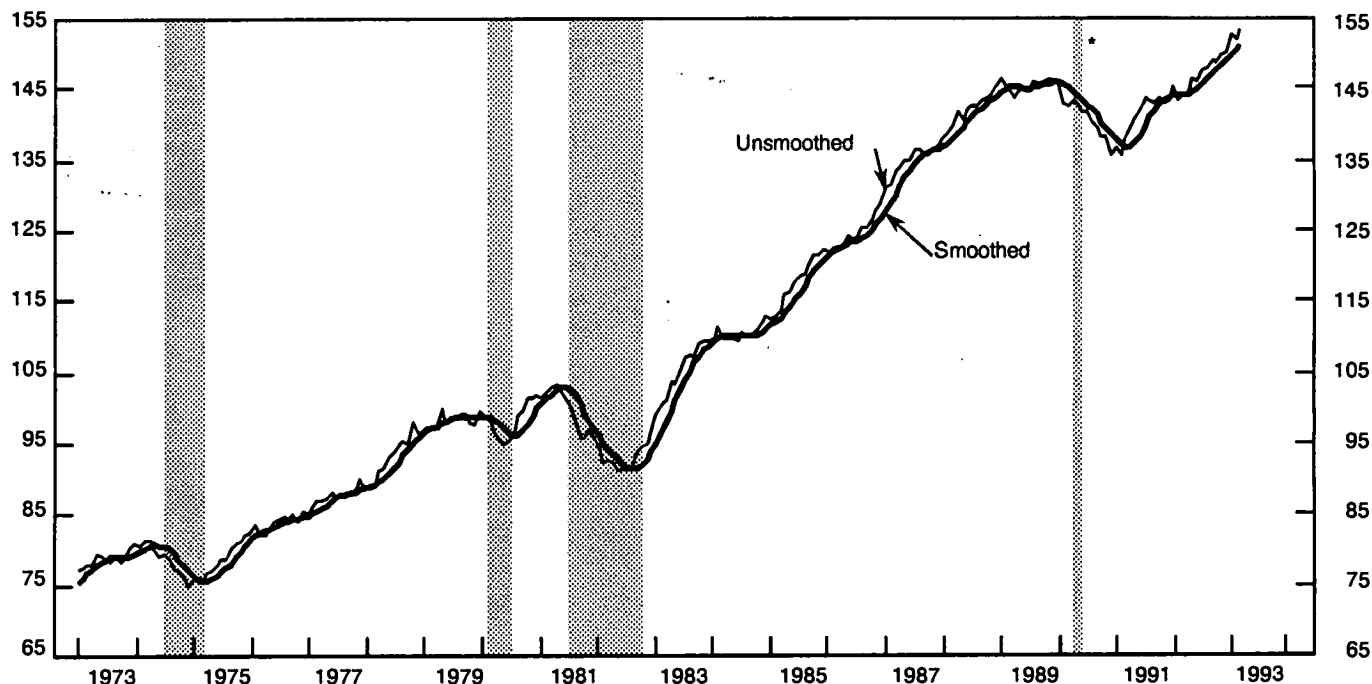
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MAJOR RELEASES

Composite Leading Indicator

1981 = 100



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

Composite Leading Indicator

April 1993

The leading indicator grew by 0.6% in April, following increases of 0.5% in March and 0.6% in February. This rate of growth is slightly faster than at the turn of the year. Growth so far this year has been driven by the financial markets and by export demand for manufactured goods, while household demand has improved somewhat, also. Overall, six of the 10 components rose in April, two were flat and two declined. The unsmoothed index rebounded by 1.4% in April, after a 0.5% dip in March.

Household demand for durable goods remained hesitant, with sales up only 0.1% as consumer confidence continued to be fragile. Furniture and appliance sales also slowed, in line with new house sales in the first quarter of 1993. The drop in housing

demand slowed in April, however, as housing starts firmed. Demand for personal services strengthened in line with wages and salaries, which offset declining demand for business services. Personal services were weak throughout 1992.

Led by strong export demand, new orders for durable goods jumped another 2.7%, the best growth since 1988. Growth was recorded in all regions for the first time in four years. Shipments continued to rise, while inventories posted their first significant gain in almost three years, leaving the ratio of shipments to stocks essentially unchanged. The average work-week contracted by 0.3%, as firms resorted to more hiring to meet their staffing needs.

The financial market indices also posted their fastest growth in about five years. The stock market climbed by another 2.4% in April, and has now recovered all of the losses posted since last July. Growth in the money supply accelerated from 0.7% to 1%.

The U.S. leading indicator continued to grow at a moderate pace of 0.4%, despite a 1% dip in the unsmoothed version that accompanied severe winter storms in March, which affected manufacturing and household demand. Employment in the U.S. rose modestly in April.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For more information on the economy, order the May issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220), available the week of May 17-21. 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.

Composite Leading Indicator

Data used in the composite index calculation for:		1992		1993				Last month of data available	
		November	December	January	February	March	April		
									% change
Composite Leading Indicator Unsmoothed	(1981 = 100)	147.5	148.2	148.8	149.7	150.5	151.4	0.6	
		148.5	149.5	149.9	152.6	151.8	153.9	1.4	
Housing index ¹		135.6	134.5	131.0	126.9	122.8	120.9	-1.5	
Business and personal services employment	(thousands)	1,758	1,768	1,776	1,781	1,784	1,784	0.0	
United States composite leading index	(1967 = 100)	204.7	205.0	205.9	206.9	208.0	208.8 *	0.4	
TSE 300 stock price index	(1975 = 1000)	3,345	3,333	3,321	3,332	3,375	3,456	2.4	
Money supply	(millions of 1981 \$) ²	25,228	25,371	25,501	25,736	25,915	26,187	1.0	
Manufacturing									
Average workweek		38.3	38.3	38.3	38.3	38.4	38.3	-0.3	
New orders – durables	(millions of 1981 \$)	9,032.8	9,059.7	9,133.9	9,309.3	9,443.9	9,699.7**	2.7	
Shipment to inventory ratio ³		1.40	1.41	1.41	1.42	1.43	1.43**	0.00	
Retail Trade									
Furniture and appliance sales	(millions of 1981 \$)	1,036.0	1,043.0	1,050.3	1,056.7	1,066.3	1,073.3**	0.7	
Other durable goods sales	millions of 1981 \$)	3,562.1	3,573.6	3,588.0	3,600.7	3,611.1	3,614.7**	0.1	

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.

* This is the March value as published in April.

** This is the February value as published in April.

New Housing Price Index

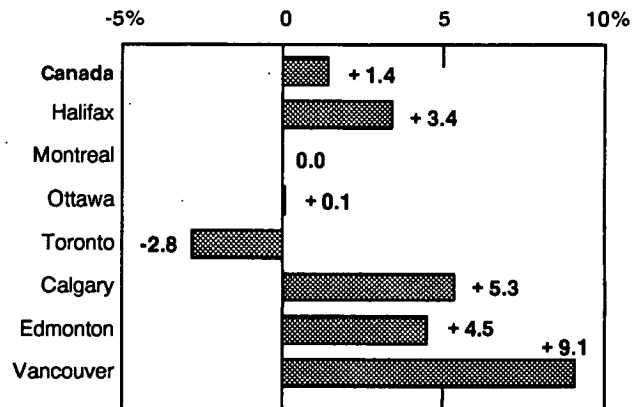
March 1993

The New Housing Price Index (1986=100) for Canada stood at 135.7 in March, up 0.6% from February 1993. The estimated House Only index increased 0.6% and the Land Only index increased 0.7%.

The largest monthly increases were in Calgary (+3.0%), Saskatoon (+2.9%) and Halifax (+2.2%). The only monthly decrease was in Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-0.4%).

The index of housing contractors' selling prices rose 1.4% from its year-earlier level. This rise was influenced by year-over-year increases in Vancouver (+9.1%), Regina (+8.3%) and Calgary (+5.3%). However, these housing price increases were partially offset by price decreases in Hamilton (-3.8%), Toronto (-2.8%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (-2.5%).

Percentage Change in New Housing Price Index, March 1993 / March 1992



Available on CANSIM: matrix 2032.

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

For more detailed information on this release, please contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9607), Prices Division.

New Housing Price Indexes (1986 = 100)

	March 1992	February 1993	March 1993	March 1993/ March 1992	March 1993/ February 1993
				% change	
Canada Total	133.8	134.9	135.7	1.4	0.6
Canada (House only)	124.5	124.7	125.4	0.7	0.6
Canada (Land only)	161.2	166.5	167.6	4.0	0.7
St. John's	126.8	127.0	127.0	0.2	-
Halifax	109.7	111.0	113.4	3.4	2.2
Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton	115.4	115.3	115.6	0.2	0.3
Quebec City	134.8	134.1	134.4	-0.3	0.2
Montreal	134.8	134.8	134.8	-	-
Ottawa-Hull	122.8	122.5	122.9	0.1	0.3
Toronto	141.7	137.8	137.8	-2.8	-
Hamilton	132.9	126.8	127.8	-3.8	0.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	132.5	129.0	129.2	-2.5	0.2
Kitchener-Waterloo	126.4	126.5	126.5	0.1	-
London	146.5	145.5	145.6	-0.6	0.1
Windsor	128.3	126.4	127.4	-0.7	0.8
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	133.2	133.9	133.3	0.1	-0.4
Winnipeg	108.0	110.8	112.8	4.4	1.8
Regina	113.0	121.9	122.4	8.3	0.4
Saskatoon	106.9	108.2	111.3	4.1	2.9
Calgary	132.6	135.5	139.6	5.3	3.0
Edmonton	141.3	145.6	147.7	4.5	1.4
Vancouver	131.3	142.2	143.3	9.1	0.8
Victoria	124.8	130.5	130.7	4.7	0.2

- Nil or zero.

Stocks of Grain

March 31, 1993

Eight Major Grains

Farm stocks of the eight major grains at March 31, 1993 totalled 25.1 million tonnes, down 6.2% from last year due to decreases in durum wheat and canola stocks. (The eight major grains are as follows: wheat, oats, barley, rye, flaxseed, canola, corn for grain and soybeans.) Total production of the eight major grains also fell, decreasing by 8.8% from the 1991/92 crop year.

Commercial stocks of the eight major grains at the end of March 1993 totalled 9.6 million tonnes, a 1.7% decrease from 9.8 million tonnes last year.

Total stocks (farm and commercial) of the eight major grains declined by 5.0% from 36.6 million tonnes in March 1992 to 34.7 million tonnes in March 1993.

Wheat

On March 31, 1993, farm stocks of all wheat – excluding durum – were up slightly (+ 0.9%) to 12.9 million tonnes from 12.8 million tonnes the year before.

Farm stocks of durum at March 31, 1993 were 2.4 million tonnes, down 23.5% from a year earlier. However, the March 1993 level of farm stocks was the second highest reported since 1984, the year that farm stocks of durum wheat were first published.

Oats and Barley

As of March 31, 1993, farm stocks of oats were over 1.1 million tonnes, up 19.2% from last year's 941 thousand tonnes, but still below the six-year (from 1986 to 1991) average of 1.5 million tonnes.

Farm stocks of barley totalled 5.2 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from the year before.

Oilseeds

Farm stocks of oilseeds (flaxseed, canola and soybeans) at March 31, 1993 were 1.4 million tonnes, down 36.8% from 2.1 million tonnes a year ago. Farm stocks of canola dropped 40.0% to 850 thousand tonnes in March 1993, the lowest level for March farm stocks of canola since 1986. Total stocks of canola (farm and commercial) were over 1.6 million tonnes, down 18.1% from March 31, 1992.

Farm stocks of flaxseed dropped 42.9% to 280 thousand tonnes in March 1993. Soybean farm stocks, at 220 thousand tonnes, were unchanged from a year earlier.

Corn for Grain

As of March 31, 1993, farm stocks of corn for grain totalled 2.1 million tonnes, a 15.1% decrease from a year earlier. Corn for grain production dropped 34.1% from the previous crop year.

Field Crop Reporting Series No. 3 – Stocks of Canadian Grain at March 31, 1993 (22-002, \$12/\$80) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

Copies of this publication are available by fax to subscribers. For further information, contact the Crops Section (613-951-8717), Agriculture Division. ■

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Raw Materials Price Indexes – Early Estimate

April 1993

The Raw Materials Price Index is estimated to have increased 1.5% in April 1993 from March 1993. The wood index led the rise (+6.1%) followed by mineral fuels (+1.1%) and animal and vegetable products (+0.6%). The metals index moderated the overall increase with a 1.8% decrease. The RMPI excluding mineral fuels is estimated to have risen 1.7% in April.

This is an early estimate of the April movement of the Raw Materials Price Index based on partial returns and other indicators. The regular index will be published at the end of this month.

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

Railway Carloadings

Nine-day Period Ending April 30, 1993

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the nine-day period totalled 6.1 million tonnes, a decrease of 2.6% from the same period last year.

Piggyback traffic increased 12.1% and the number of cars loaded increased 9.8% from the same period last year.

The tonnage of revenue freight loaded as of April 30, 1993 decreased 6.9% 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 (613-951-2528), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Sugar Sales

April 1993

Sugar refiners reported that sales totalled 90 300 tonnes for all types of sugar in April 1993, comprising 77 793 tonnes in domestic sales and 12 507 tonnes in export sales. Year-to-date sales at the end of April 1993 for all types of sugar totalled 339 873 tonnes: 292 369 tonnes in domestic sales and 47 504 tonnes in export sales.

Sales totalled 87 903 tonnes in April 1992, comprising 77 639 tonnes in domestic sales and 10 264 tonnes in export sales. Year-to-date sales in April 1992 for all types of sugar totalled 325 108 tonnes: 282 586 tonnes in domestic sales and 42 522 tonnes in export sales.

The April 1993 issue of *The Sugar Situation* (32-013, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

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

Oils and Fats

March 1993

Production of all types of deodorized oils in March 1993 totalled 68 337 tonnes, an increase of 13.7% from 60 091^r (revised) tonnes produced in February 1993. Year-to-date production at the end of March 1993 totalled 192 359^r tonnes, an increase of 9.7% from 175 351 tonnes in 1992.

Manufacturer's packaged sales of shortening totalled 10 582 tonnes in March 1993, up from 8 598^r tonnes the previous month. Year-to-date sales at the end of March were 29 517^r tonnes compared to 26 115 tonnes in 1992.

Sales of packaged salad oil totalled 7 869 tonnes in March 1993, up from 6 879 tonnes sold the previous month. Year-to-date in 1993 totalled 19 265 tonnes, compared to 16 489^r tonnes in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 184.

The March 1993 issue of *Oils and Fats* (32-006, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

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

Milling and Crushing Statistics

March 1993

Milling

The total amount of wheat milled in March 1993 was 211 307 tonnes, up 22% from the 173 552 tonnes milled in March 1992. The resulting wheat flour production increased by 15% to 151 174 tonnes in March 1993, up from 131 399 tonnes in March 1992.

Crushing

Canola crushings for February 1993 totalled 175 982 tonnes, up 21% from the 145 913 tonnes crushed in March 1992. The resulting oil production increased 21% to 72 418 tonnes, up from 60 067 tonnes in March 1992. Meal production increased 23% to 107 688 tonnes, up from 87 221 tonnes in March 1992.

Data on soybean crushings are now confidential.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The March 1993 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007, \$13.80/\$138) is scheduled for release in May. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact A. Y. Bertrand (613-951-3859), Agriculture Division. ■

Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics

March 1993

Pulpwood receipts totalled 3 117 008 cubic metres in March 1993, an increase of 8.6% from 2 870 733^r (revised) cubic metres a year earlier. Receipts of wood residue totalled 6 182 476 cubic metres, up 12.4% from 5 501 280^r cubic metres in March 1992. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue in March was 8 931 418 cubic metres, an increase of 1.0% from 8 844 909^r cubic metres the previous year. The March 1993 closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue decreased 15.5% to 14 439 286 cubic metres from 17 094 723^r cubic metres a year earlier.

At the end of March 1993, year-to-date receipts of pulpwood totalled 10 491 390 cubic metres, a decrease of 1.2% from 10 622 213^r cubic metres a year earlier. Year-to-date receipts of wood residue increased 12.4% to 17 007 987 cubic metres from the year-earlier 15 131 106^r cubic metres. Year-to-date consumption of pulpwood and wood residue, at 26 276 284 cubic metres, rose 1.1% from 26 001 764^r cubic metres a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 54.

The March 1993 issue of *Pulpwood and Wood Residue Statistics* (25-001, \$6.10/\$61) will be available at a later date.

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

Electric Storage Batteries

March 1993

Manufacturers of electric storage batteries sold 125,968 automotive and heavy-duty commercial replacement batteries in March 1993.

Year-to-date sales at the end of March 1993 totalled 345,681 automotive and heavy-duty commercial replacement batteries, down 18.1% from the 422,033 units sold the previous year.

Information on sales of other types of storage batteries is also available.

The March 1993 issue of *Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries* (43-005, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

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

Steel Pipe and Tubing

March 1993

Steel pipe and tubing production for March 1993 totalled 160 357 tonnes, an increase of 24.7% from 128 578 tonnes produced a year earlier.

Year-to-date production at the end of March totalled 461 267 tonnes, up 23.3% from 374 169 tonnes produced during the same period in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.

The March 1993 issue of *Steel Pipe and Tubing* (41-011, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

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

Steel Primary Forms

March 1993

Steel primary forms production for March 1993 totalled 1 273 572 tonnes, an increase of 3.6% from 1 229 675 tonnes produced the previous year.

At the end of March 1993, year-to-date production totalled 3 496 244 tonnes, up 2.9% from 3 398 802 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

The March 1993 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

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

Production of Eggs

March 1993

Egg production in March 1993 was 40.1 million dozen, a 0.7% decrease from March 1992. The average number of layers decreased by 1.1% between March 1992 and 1993, while the number of eggs per 100 layers increased to 2,306 from 2,298.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1145, 1146 and 5689-5691.

To order *Production and Stocks of Eggs and Poultry* (\$115/year), contact Julie Gordon (613-951-5039).

For further information on this release, contact Conrad Barber-Deuck (613-951-2549), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

Wholesale Trade

1990

In 1990, the total volume of trade (net sales and receipts plus the value of goods handled on a commission basis) transacted by firms in the wholesale trade sector totalled \$314.1 billion, an increase of 5.9% from \$296.5 billion (revised) in 1989. Wholesale merchants accounted for \$275.6 billion (87.7%) of the total volume of trade, while agents and brokers – the other segment of the wholesale trade sector – accounted for \$38.5 billion (12.3%).

Net sales and receipts, the main component of volume of trade, totalled \$260.3 billion in 1990, an increase of 5.8% from \$246.1 billion in 1989. The value of goods handled on a commission basis accounted for the remaining \$53.8 billion in 1990, an increase of 6.8% from \$50.4 billion in 1989. Year-end inventories rose to \$31.5 billion for 1990, up 3.5% from \$30.4 billion for 1989.

Data for 1991 are expected to be released in November.

Wholesale Trade Statistics, 1990 (63-226, \$34) will be available in June. It presents detailed information for merchants, as well as for agents and brokers, at the establishment and location levels for Canada and the provinces. For the first time, these data are based on the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gilles Simard (613-951-3541), Wholesale Trade Section, Industry Division. ■

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Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry, July 1992 2
Gross Domestic Product at factor cost was unchanged in July following a 0.1% drop in June.
- Unemployment Insurance Statistics, July 1992 6
The number of beneficiaries receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits, adjusted for seasonal variations, increased 0.4% to 2.6 million in July.
- Building Permits, July 1992 7
The preliminary value of building permits issued in Canada declined 6.4% to \$1.16 billion in July, after rising \$2.26 billion in June.
- Impaired Driving - Canada, 1991 10
From 1981 to 1991, the number of persons charged with impaired driving in Canada declined 71%, from 145,000 to 111,000.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Report on the State of the Environment, 1992 12
- Report on the State of the Environment, 1992 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 13

MAJOR RELEASE DATES: OCTOBER 1992 14

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Field Crop Reporting Series No. 3: Stocks of Canadian Grain at March 31, 1993.

Catalogue number 22-002

(Canada: \$12/\$80; United States: US\$14/US\$96; Other Countries: US\$16/US\$112).

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, March 1993.

Catalogue number 32-022

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60; Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

Particleboard, Waferboard and Fibreboard, March 1993.

Catalogue number 36-003

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60; Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

Specified Domestic Electrical Appliances, March 1993.

Catalogue number 43-003

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60; Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

Refined Petroleum Products, February 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, March 1993.

Catalogue number 53-003

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

Annual Retail Trade, 1990.

Catalogue number 63-223

(Canada: \$22; United States: US\$26; Other Countries: US\$31).

Construction in Canada, 1991-93.

Catalogue number 64-201

(Canada: \$39; United States: US\$47; Other Countries: US\$55).

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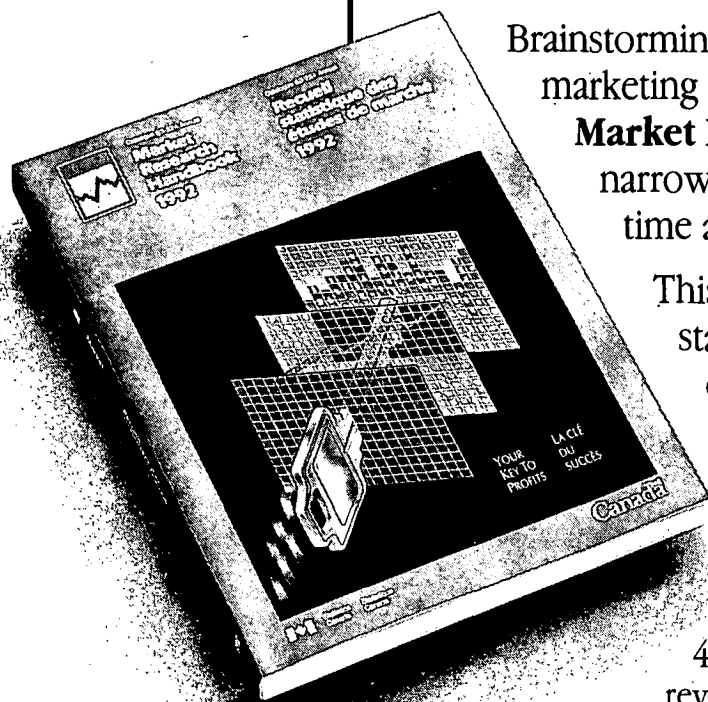
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