

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 20, 1993

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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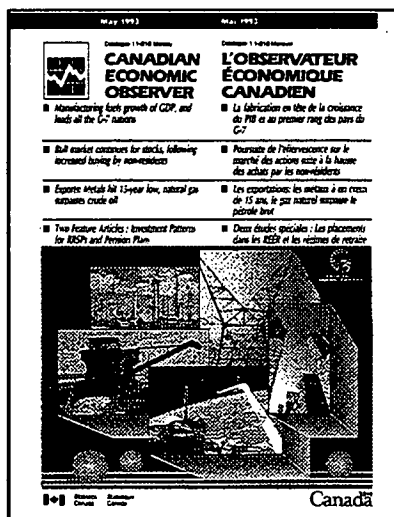
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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Consumer Price Index, April 1993** 3  
In April, the CPI year-to-year increase was 1.8%, down from the 1.9% increase reported in March.
- **Sales of Natural Gas, March 1993** 11  
Sales were up 8.8% from March 1992, led by residential sales – up 14.2% in March.
- **Farm Input Price Index, First Quarter 1993** 12  
The index was up 1.2% from the previous quarter and up 3.6% from the first quarter of 1992.

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## Canadian Economic Observer May 1993

The May issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, presents a monthly summary of the economy, major economic events in April and two feature articles – one on RRSPs as a source of venture capital and another on investment patterns of trustee pension plans. A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and major industrial nations.

*Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) can now be ordered from Publication Sales. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information, call Philip Cross (613-951-9162), Current Analysis Section.



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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Consumer Price Index

April 1993

In April, the CPI year-to-year increase was 1.8%, down from the 1.9% increase reported in March.

#### All-items

The all-items Consumer Price Index (CPI, 1986=100) for Canada showed no change (0.0%) between March and April 1993, remaining at 129.9. The clothing index stayed at March's level, four major components increased, and the transportation and food indexes declined.

Changes to provincial taxes in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and New Brunswick affected prices in April. In Saskatchewan, the sales tax rate increased from 8% to 9%, most adult clothing was made taxable and gasoline taxes were increased. In British Columbia, the sales tax rose from 6% to 7% while cigarette, alcohol and some transportation taxes were increased. In New Brunswick, the provincial sales tax remained at 11% but the tax base was expanded to include previously exempt goods and services – particularly in the clothing and recreation components. The impact of tax changes in these three provinces fell mostly on non-food commodities and was estimated to have put about 0.1% upward pressure on the national all-items index.

Between April 1992 and April 1993, the all-items index increased by 1.8% – the smallest advance in 1993. Increases were observed in January (+2.0%), February (+2.3%) and March (+1.9%).

In seasonally adjusted terms, the all-items CPI rose by 0.2% in April following a drop of 0.1% in March. The compound annual rate of increase based on the seasonally adjusted levels in the latest three-month period (from January to April) was 1.9%, up from 1.6% in March but still considerably lower than the increases in excess of 3% in the three previous months.

#### Food

The food index fell 0.2% in April following a decline of 0.4% in March. The April decline was concentrated in the food purchased from stores index, which fell 0.3% as the food purchased from restaurants index remained unchanged.

A large part of the decline in prices of food purchased from stores was a 4.3% drop in fresh

vegetable prices – in particular, lettuce and celery. The lower prices represented seasonal declines, which were delayed by adverse weather conditions in the growing areas of the United States. Lower prices were also observed for poultry (mainly turkey because of Easter specials), cured and ready-cooked meats, bakery products, rice, concentrated fruit juices, soft drinks and potato chips. Some of the downward effect was slowed by higher prices for beef, veal and pork – explained by favourable export conditions. Higher prices were also posted for fresh fruit (mostly bananas and apples), selected dairy products, eggs and breakfast cereal.

Between April 1992 and April 1993, the rise in the food index slowed to 1.0% following increases of 1.7% in March, 2.2% in January and 2.5% in February. The rise in April resulted from increases of 0.9% in the food purchased from stores index and 1.3% in the food purchased from restaurants index. Intense competition among food retailers continued to exert downward pressure on year-over-year grocery prices.

#### All-items excluding food

Between March and April, the all-items excluding food index edged up 0.1%. The index that exerted the most upward pressure was housing, up 0.2%, but increases in the health and personal care (+0.7%), recreation, reading and education (+0.2%) and tobacco products and alcoholic beverages (+0.3%) indexes also had considerable impact. Tax changes in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and New Brunswick were factors in the increases. A large proportion of the upward pressure was offset by a 0.6% drop in the transportation index.

The housing index rose by 0.2%. Higher prices were noted for water, fuel oil, piped gas and electricity, for furniture and household textiles and for rented accommodation. Smaller price increases were also noted for child care services, household chemicals, horticultural goods and pet food. The owned accommodation index fell by 0.1% as lower costs for maintenance and repairs and for mortgage interest more than offset higher new home prices.

The 0.7% rise in the health and personal care index was due mainly to increased dental care charges, in accordance with the suggested fee guides for 1993, and to higher prices for selected personal care supplies, largely associated with sales tax increases.

The recreation, reading and education index rose 0.2%. Many of the commodities in this index were affected by the provincial tax changes. The recreation index rose 0.4%, mostly because of higher prices for recreational equipment and cablevision services. In addition, the reading index rose 0.1%, reflecting higher newspaper prices.

The index for tobacco products and alcoholic beverages shifted up by 0.3% as prices of both cigarettes and alcoholic beverages purchased from stores were affected by recent tax changes. Other factors affecting liquor and wine prices were higher markups, increased supplier prices and a rise in freight charges.

A 1.3% decline in new automobile prices, resulting from increased manufacturers' rebates for selected models, was the dominant factor behind the 0.6% fall in the transportation index. To a lesser extent, the decline in the transportation index was

also due to a drop in air fares, mostly of a seasonal nature. A moderate offset resulted from higher prices for tires and automobile repairs and from higher automobile insurance premiums.

After rising for the past three months, the clothing index posted no change in April. Both the women's wear index and the men's wear index declined by 0.1%. Within the two indexes, significant offsetting price movements were observed. In women's wear, lower prices for dresses and sportswear were partly offset by higher prices for foundation garments and footwear. In men's wear, a drop in suit prices was moderated to a large extent by higher prices for pants and footwear.

Over the 12-month period from April 1992 to April 1993, the all-items excluding food index rose 2.0%, slightly faster than the 1.9% reported for March. Over the past four months, the average of the 12-month rates was 2.1%.

# **The Consumer Price Index and Major Components** (1986 = 100)

Indexes	April 1992	March 1993	April 1993	April 1992 to April 1993	March 1993 to April 1993
	% change				
	unadjusted				
<b>All-items</b>	<b>127.6</b>	<b>129.9</b>	<b>129.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Food	120.9	122.4	122.1	1.0	-0.2
Housing	125.8	127.6	127.8	1.6	0.2
Clothing	130.1	131.6	131.6	1.2	0.0
Transportation	120.7	124.9	124.2	2.9	-0.6
Health and personal care	131.0	133.7	134.6	2.7	0.7
Recreation, reading and education	131.1	134.1	134.4	2.5	0.2
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	168.2	171.0	171.5	2.0	0.3
All-items excluding food	129.1	131.6	131.7	2.0	0.1
All-items excluding food and energy	130.0	132.5	132.5	1.9	0.0
Goods	123.7	125.6	125.5	1.5	-0.1
Services	132.3	135.2	135.3	2.3	0.1
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1986	78.4	77.0	77.0		
All-items (1981 = 100)			172.0		

## Energy

The energy index moved up 0.2% in April, largely responding to rate advances for electricity (+0.5%), piped gas (+0.3%) and fuel oil (+0.7%). The gasoline index fell 0.1%, reflecting the net effect of price wars, tax increases and price increases. Since April 1992, the energy index has risen by 3.3%.

## All-items excluding food and Energy

The all-items excluding food and energy index was unchanged in April following increases of 0.2% in March and 0.3% in both February and January. Since April 1992, the index has risen by 1.9%, the same as in March. The average of the 12-month rates of increase for the past four months stood at 2.0%.

## Goods and Services

The goods index fell a further 0.1% in April after a 0.2% fall in March. The latest change resulted largely from a 0.3% decline in the durable goods index as the semi-durable and non-durable goods indexes increased by 0.2% and 0.1%, respectively. At the same time, the services index edged up 0.1% following a 0.2% rise in March.

Between April 1992 and April 1993, the goods index climbed 1.5%, a slightly slower rate than the 1.6% reported for March. In the latest period, the services index maintained the same 2.3% rise observed in March.

## Main Contributors to Monthly Changes in the All-items Index, by City

Among the cities for which CPIs are published, the month-to-month change in the all-items indexes ranged from a drop of 0.2% observed in five cities to a rise of 1.3% observed in Regina. The higher than average increase in Regina was largely associated with the provincial tax changes in Saskatchewan.

Between April 1992 and April 1993, changes in city CPIs fluctuated between no change in Halifax to a 4.2% increase in Regina. This is the first time in over a year that Vancouver has not shown the highest annual increase.

## St. John's

The all-items index fell 0.1%, reflecting declines in four of the seven major component indexes. The

greatest downward pressure came from the transportation index, where lower prices for automobiles and air fares were recorded. A drop in the food index due mainly to lower prices for fresh vegetables, bakery products, prepared meats, cured meats and turkey exerted a notable downward influence. Prices for men's wear, women's wear and home entertainment equipment also declined. Partly offsetting these declines were advances in furniture prices, household operating expenses and in prices for wine and liquor purchased from stores. Increased charges for personal care supplies and dental care services were noted as well. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 1.1%.

## Charlottetown/Summerside

Decreased transportation charges, notably for gasoline, automobiles, vehicle maintenance and repairs, and air fares largely explained the 0.2% drop in the all-items index. Lower prices for personal care supplies were also recorded. The housing index advanced, reflecting higher prices for new houses, household furnishings, child care and rented accommodation. Higher prices for newspapers, increased recreational charges and a rise in clothing prices added further upward pressure. The food index remained unchanged overall. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 1.3%.

## Halifax

The all-items index rose 0.2%, despite declines in five of the seven major components. Most of the upward movement originated in the housing index, and reflected increased charges for owned accommodation, electricity, household furnishings and equipment, and rented accommodation. Additional upward pressure came from higher prices for recreational and home entertainment equipment. Moderating these advances were declines in automobile prices, air fares and personal care supplies. Slight declines in the indexes for food and for tobacco products and alcoholic beverages were also recorded. The all-items index is now at the same level as in April 1992.

## Saint John

The all-items index rose 0.2%. A large part of the upward impact came from advances in owned accommodation charges and furniture prices. Further

increases were recorded in the clothing and Recreation indexes, largely as a result of the extension of the provincial retail sales tax to many items in these categories. Declines in four of the seven major component indexes had a moderating effect. The greatest downward impact came from the transportation index, and reflected lower prices for vehicle purchases, air fares and gasoline. The food index declined, due mainly to lower prices for beef, prepared meats, sugar, soft drinks and eggs. Decreased charges for personal care supplies were recorded as well. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 1.7%.

### Quebec City

Decreased transportation charges – notably for vehicle purchases, gasoline and air fares – and lower clothing prices explained most of the 0.1% drop in the all-items index. Largely offsetting these declines were increased housing charges (household furnishings, rented accommodation, owned accommodation and child care) and higher food prices. The rise in the food index was largely due to higher prices for restaurant meals, chicken, cereal and bakery products, dairy products and fresh vegetables. Increased charges for dental care and personal care supplies were also recorded. Prices for alcoholic beverages advanced as well. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 1.5%.

### Montreal

The All-items index fell 0.2%, reflecting lower prices for new cars, gasoline, air fares and clothing. Partially offsetting these declines were higher prices for wine and liquor purchased from stores, increased recreation expenses and advances in charges for dental care and personal care supplies. The housing index rose slightly as higher prices for household furnishings and equipment and for fuel oil were largely offset by decreased charges for owned accommodation. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 1.8%.

### Ottawa

The all-items index fell 0.1%. Decreased transportation charges were a major contributor and reflected declines in automobile prices and air fares. Further downward pressure came from lower clothing prices and a drop in the housing index. Within housing, decreased charges for owned accommodation were recorded, along with declines in

natural gas charges and lower prices for furniture and household equipment. Advances in recreation charges and food prices also contributed an upward influence. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 2.4%.

### Toronto

The all-items index fell 0.2%. A large part of the downward pressure came from the food index, where lower prices were recorded for fresh vegetables, soft drinks, cereal and bakery products, restaurant meals and turkey. The transportation index also fell, reflecting price declines for new cars and air travel. Further downward pressure came from the housing index, where decreased charges for owned accommodation and piped gas were observed. Cigarette prices also fell. Partly offsetting these declines were higher prices for cablevision, recreation equipment and dental care. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 1.5%.

### Thunder Bay

The all-items index fell 0.2%. The greatest downward impact came from the transportation index where lower prices for automobiles, gasoline and air fares were recorded. The food index also dropped, reflecting lower prices for poultry, cereal and bakery products, dairy products, fresh vegetables and soft drinks. Prices declined for personal care supplies, non-prescribed medicines, recreation equipment and home entertainment equipment. Partially offsetting these declines were increased housing charges, most notably for household furnishings, water and basic telephone services. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 1.7%.

### Winnipeg

Higher food prices – most notably for fresh produce, beef, pork, cereal and bakery products, dairy products and prepared meats – explained most of the 0.2% rise in the all-items index. The housing index rose slightly, as higher prices for new houses and household textiles were partially offset by lower prices for furniture and decreased household operating costs. Increased charges for dental care and slightly higher clothing prices were recorded as well. A major offsetting effect came from a drop in the transportation index, mainly due to lower prices for automobiles and decreased air fares. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 2.7%.

## Regina

The all-items index rose 1.3%. A large part of this movement was due to the increase in the provincial retail sales tax from 8% to 9%. A rise in the clothing index had the greatest upward impact, and reflected the extension of the provincial sales tax to adult clothing. Higher prices for gasoline were recorded, and were largely due to a two cents per litre increase in gasoline taxes. Further upward pressure came from the housing index, where increased charges for household furnishings and equipment, owned accommodation and household operation were reported. The food index also advanced, mainly due to higher prices for fresh produce, cereal and bakery products, beef, dairy products and pork. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 4.2%.

## Saskatoon

The all-items index rose 0.9%, largely due to the increase in the provincial retail sales tax from 8% to 9%. Higher clothing prices exerted the greatest upward impact, and reflected the extension of the sales tax to adult clothing. Increased charges for owned accommodation and higher prices for gasoline (the latter due mainly to a two cents per litre increase in gasoline taxes) also contributed a notable upward influence. Higher prices for cigarettes and liquor purchased from stores were also reported. The food index rose slightly, as price increases for beef and cereal products were largely offset by lower prices for soft drinks and fresh fruit. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 3.7%.

## Edmonton

Advances in the housing and food indexes explained most of the 0.5% rise in the all-items index. Within the housing component, increased charges for natural gas and electricity were recorded, along with higher prices for new houses. The rise in the food index was mainly due to higher prices for beef, cereal and bakery products, pork, chicken and restaurant meals. Further upward pressure came from price increases for dental care, personal care supplies and women's wear. The transportation index declined, reflecting lower prices for automobiles, gasoline and air fares. These declines were partly offset by advances in vehicle insurance premiums and increased vehicle maintenance and repair charges. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 0.5%.

## Calgary

A large part of the 0.6% rise in the all-items index originated in the housing and food indexes. Within the housing component, increased charges were reported for owned accommodation, natural gas and household furnishings. The rise in the food index reflected higher prices for beef, dairy products, cereal and bakery products, eggs and fresh produce. Increased charges for dental care and women's wear were recorded as well. A drop in the transportation index moderated these advances. This decline was largely due to lower prices for new cars and air travel, and was partly offset by increases in vehicle maintenance and repair charges and vehicle insurance premiums. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 0.7%.

## Vancouver

The all-items index rose 0.2%. One of the main contributors to this rise was the increase in the provincial retail sales tax from 6% to 7%. Price increases for alcoholic beverages and cigarettes (resulting from the provincial budget) also had a major upward impact. Higher prices for household furnishings and equipment and increased charges for electricity were recorded as well. Further upward pressure came from increased charges for personal care supplies and dental care. The transportation index also advanced, reflecting higher prices for gasoline, increased vehicle rental charges (due to a \$1.50/day levy announced in the provincial budget), and a rise in vehicle maintenance and repair costs. The food index declined, reflecting lower prices for fresh produce, cereal and bakery products, dairy products, pork and cured meats. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 3.4%.

## Victoria

No overall change was recorded in the all-items index due to a number of offsetting effects. Among those factors exerting an upward influence were the rise in the provincial retail sales tax from 6% to 7%, advances in electricity charges, household equipment prices and long-distance telephone rates, and price increases for alcoholic beverages and cigarettes (the latter resulting from the provincial budget). Increased recreation charges and higher clothing prices also had a notable upward impact. Offsetting these advances was a drop in the transportation index, which reflected

lower prices for gasoline and automobiles and a decline in air fares. This decline was partially offset by increased charges for vehicle maintenance and repairs and a rise in vehicle rental charges, the latter due to the implementation of a \$1.50/day levy announced in the provincial budget. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 2.9%.

#### Whitehorse

The all-items index fell 0.2%, reflecting declines in the indexes for food, transportation, clothing and housing. Within the food index, lower prices were recorded for soft drinks, fresh produce and dairy products. The drop in the transportation index reflected decreased air fares and lower prices for vehicle purchases and maintenance and repairs. The decline in the housing index was mainly due to decreased charges for owned and rented accommodation and lower prices for furniture. Partially offsetting these declines were higher prices for home entertainment equipment, liquor purchased from stores, medicinal and pharmaceutical products and personal care supplies. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 1.3%.

#### Yellowknife

The all-items index fell 0.1%. The greatest downward impact originated in the transportation index, where lower prices were recorded for air travel, automobile purchases, and vehicle maintenance and repairs. Lower prices for clothing also had a notable dampening effect. The housing index fell slightly, as lower prices for household furnishings and equipment and decreased charges for owned accommodation more than offset higher prices for fuel oil and natural gas, and a rise in household operating expenses. Partially offsetting these declines were increased charges for dental care and personal care supplies, and higher prices for cigarettes and beer purchased from stores. The food index also advanced, reflecting price increases for fresh fruit, concentrated fruit juice, pasta products, milk, bakery products and beef. Since April 1992, the all-items index has risen 1.7%.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrices 2201-2230.

The April 1993 issue of *Consumer Price Index* (62-001, \$9.30/\$93) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division. □



# Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.<sup>1</sup>

	All- Items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Trans- portation	Health and Personal Care	Recre- ation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
<b>St. John's</b>								
April 1993 index	123.7	116.5	118.6	133.1	118.8	128.5	131.4	151.1
% change from March 1993	-0.1	-0.5	0.3	-0.6	-0.8	1.0	-0.5	0.5
% change from April 1992	1.1	-0.1	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.4	0.6	5.5
<b>Charlottetown/Summerside</b>								
April 1993 index	128.5	127.2	121.1	127.8	117.8	138.8	134.4	187.9
% change from March 1993	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	-1.7	-0.4	0.5	0.0
% change from April 1992	1.3	1.9	1.7	0.6	0.0	3.0	2.1	0.2
<b>Halifax</b>								
April 1993 index	126.7	128.5	119.9	129.5	118.4	130.1	129.8	171.4
% change from March 1993	0.2	-0.1	0.8	-0.2	-0.7	-0.4	0.6	-0.1
% change from April 1992	0.0	-0.7	-0.1	0.9	-0.5	1.6	1.6	-0.5
<b>Saint John</b>								
April 1993 index	126.8	126.0	121.0	132.6	119.9	132.2	128.8	172.6
% change from March 1993	0.2	-0.2	0.4	1.3	-0.3	-0.3	0.9	-0.1
% change from April 1992	1.7	1.7	0.8	3.0	2.2	3.7	2.1	1.2
<b>Quebec City</b>								
April 1993 index	129.0	119.3	127.6	136.8	117.4	136.3	137.6	169.3
% change from March 1993	-0.1	0.3	0.2	-0.7	-1.0	0.7	0.1	0.4
% change from April 1992	1.5	-0.2	1.7	1.3	1.9	3.3	2.9	1.3
<b>Montreal</b>								
April 1993 index	131.0	121.2	130.8	136.6	119.1	136.5	140.7	174.4
% change from March 1993	-0.2	0.0	0.1	-0.8	-1.2	0.5	0.3	0.3
% change from April 1992	1.8	0.7	2.3	1.0	1.7	2.8	3.0	1.6
<b>Ottawa</b>								
April 1993 index	130.0	125.1	127.5	130.7	124.7	140.5	134.0	165.1
% change from March 1993	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.4	-0.6	1.4	0.1	0.0
% change from April 1992	2.4	7.0	1.4	0.8	1.1	5.7	2.1	0.4
<b>Toronto</b>								
April 1993 index	131.3	123.6	130.8	130.0	126.4	137.6	135.6	165.3
% change from March 1993	-0.2	-0.7	-0.2	0.0	-0.6	0.2	0.3	-0.1
% change from April 1992	1.5	1.7	1.0	0.6	2.6	1.8	2.3	1.7
<b>Thunder Bay</b>								
April 1993 index	128.8	121.0	126.5	132.0	124.9	129.4	132.9	170.2
% change from March 1993	-0.2	-0.7	0.2	0.0	-0.6	-0.5	-0.2	0.1
% change from April 1992	1.7	1.0	1.7	1.7	2.2	1.9	2.9	0.9
<b>Winnipeg</b>								
April 1993 index	129.9	128.7	124.6	132.0	126.4	132.7	135.5	165.8
% change from March 1993	0.2	1.8	0.1	0.1	-0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0
% change from April 1992	2.7	3.4	0.7	1.7	5.9	2.6	4.5	2.0

# Consumer Price Indexes for Urban Centres – Concluded

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.<sup>1</sup>

	All- Items	Food	Housing	Clothing	Trans- portation	Health and Personal Care	Recre- ation Reading and Education	Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages
<b>Regina</b>								
April 1993 index	131.0	130.3	120.2	139.4	131.4	144.8	132.1	176.8
% change from March 1993	1.3	1.0	0.5	6.0	1.3	1.2	0.5	1.0
% change from April 1992	4.2	3.7	1.7	7.6	7.1	2.7	2.6	10.1
<b>Saskatoon</b>								
April 1993 index	129.8	128.6	120.0	138.7	127.2	156.7	131.7	162.1
% change from March 1993	0.9	0.1	0.5	6.1	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.9
% change from April 1992	3.7	2.6	0.3	7.9	7.6	3.3	3.9	8.2
<b>Edmonton</b>								
April 1993 index	126.6	110.2	123.7	129.2	125.3	132.4	133.0	181.4
% change from March 1993	0.5	1.5	0.8	0.2	-0.5	0.8	-0.2	0.0
% change from April 1992	0.5	-8.5	1.6	0.3	4.5	2.8	1.8	1.5
<b>Calgary</b>								
April 1993 index	126.9	114.5	123.0	130.2	122.0	131.1	133.7	181.1
% change from March 1993	0.6	1.2	1.2	0.2	-0.1	0.6	0.1	0.1
% change from April 1992	0.7	-5.5	0.8	0.5	4.3	1.9	3.6	1.7
<b>Vancouver</b>								
April 1993 index	131.1	128.4	125.1	126.5	135.9	128.3	132.8	168.2
% change from March 1993	0.2	-1.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.6
% change from April 1992	3.4	0.4	3.7	2.3	5.9	3.9	3.0	4.2
<b>Victoria</b>								
April 1993 index	129.4	129.2	122.2	128.4	131.3	127.7	132.7	166.8
% change from March 1993	0.0	-0.3	0.5	0.2	-1.6	0.0	0.5	1.7
% change from April 1992	2.9	2.4	3.0	2.6	3.4	3.2	2.6	2.9
<b>Whitehorse</b>								
April 1993 index	124.4	118.1	123.5	131.2	116.2	125.4	126.2	150.2
% change from March 1993	-0.2	-0.9	-0.2	-1.1	-0.7	0.5	1.0	0.3
% change from April 1992	1.3	2.0	1.5	1.0	1.8	-2.0	0.7	0.5
<b>Yellowknife</b>								
April 1993 index	126.2	117.1	120.9	133.1	120.9	123.5	129.6	165.7
% change from March 1993	-0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.3	-0.8	1.1	0.1	0.3
% change from April 1992	1.7	-0.3	1.4	2.1	2.5	1.1	2.9	2.9

<sup>1</sup> For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 23 of the July-September 1992 issue of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, \$17.25/\$69.00).

## Sales of Natural Gas

March 1993 (Preliminary)

Sales of natural gas including direct sales during March 1993 totalled 6 388 million cubic metres, an 8.8% increase from March 1992.

Sales in March 1993 were as follows (percentage changes from March 1992 in brackets): residential sales, 1 930 million cubic metres (+14.2%); commercial sales, 1 511 million cubic metres (+9.4%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 2 947 million cubic metres (+5.1%).

Weather has significantly affected residential sales of natural gas. Sales increased in March 1993 primarily because of colder than normal weather conditions throughout Western Canada.

Year-to-date figures as of March 1993 indicate that sales of natural gas amounted to 20 518 million cubic metres, an 8.3% increase over the same period in 1992.

Year-to-date sales were as follows (percentage changes from 1992 in brackets): residential sales, 6 602 million cubic metres (+14.1%); commercial sales, 5 097 million cubic metres (+9.2%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 8 819 million cubic metres (+3.8%).

The March 1993 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$12.70/\$127) will be available the third week of June. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gerry O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division.

### Sales of Natural Gas in Canada

Rate structure	March 1992	March 1993	1992/1993	Year-to-date 1992	Year-to-date 1993	1992/1993
	m <sup>3</sup> thousands		% change	m <sup>3</sup> thousands		% change
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 873 496</b>	<b>6 387 970</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>18 950 897</b>	<b>20 518 426</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Residential	1 689 808	1 930 272	14.2	5 786 256	6 601 983	14.1
Commercial	1 380 690	1 510 643	9.4	4 666 686	5 096 999	9.2
Industrial	2 261 512	2 217 794	5.1	6 945 714	6 732 060	3.8
Direct <sup>1</sup>	541 486	729 261		1 552 241	2 087 384	

### Sales of Natural Gas, by Province

	Canada	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	m <sup>3</sup> thousands						
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 387 970</b>	<b>680 631</b>	<b>2 885 967</b>	<b>207 602</b>	<b>431 380</b>	<b>1 539 721</b>	<b>642 669</b>
Residential	1 930 272	108 667	1 082 305	82 690	98 510	359 734	198 366
Commercial	1 510 643	218 784	700 871	85 600	62 900	297 531	144 957
Industrial	2 217 794	349 847	845 409	38 712	4 324	882 456	97 046
Direct <sup>1</sup>	729 261	3 333	257 382	600	265 646	-	202 300
<b>Degree Days<sup>2</sup></b>							
March 1992	...	719	557	692	562	469	295
March 1993	...	683	558	729	614	572	331

<sup>1</sup> Represents direct sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

... Figures not applicable.

- Nil or zero.

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

## Farm Input Price Index

First Quarter 1993 (Preliminary)

The Farm Input Price Index (FIPI, 1986 = 100) for the first quarter of 1993 stood at 111.1, up 1.2% from the previous quarter and up 3.6% from a year earlier. Among the nine major group indexes, seven increased in the first quarter and two declined.

The largest quarterly change was for the building and fencing index (+3.9%), mainly because of higher prices for wood materials.

The machinery and motor vehicles index rose 1.9%; within this component, prices rose for new machinery. The powered machinery index was up 4.3%, while the non-powered machinery index was up 2.3%. The petroleum products index declined by 0.2%.

The supplies and services index rose 1.9%, mainly due to increases in electricity rates (+3.1%).

A 2.3% quarterly decrease in the interest index – mainly because of lower interest rates for non-mortgage loans – had a downward effect on the total index.

Year-to-year, increases in the building and fencing (+5.5%), crop production (+4.0%), machinery and motor vehicles (+3.0%) and animal production (+7.0%) indexes were the main contributors to the overall increase.

### Provincial Indexes

Among the provinces, quarterly changes varied between -0.3% for New Brunswick to +2.4% for Alberta. Indexes for all Eastern provinces changed by less than 1.0% from the previous quarter, while

indexes for all Western provinces increased by 1.0% or more. Year-to-year, a similar pattern prevailed everywhere except Newfoundland. Increases in the indexes for the Western provinces – pushed particularly by wood, seed, crop insurance and feeder cattle prices – ranged from 3.5% to 5.2% (in Saskatchewan). Except for Ontario, indexes for the Eastern provinces recorded much lower year-to-year increases.

For Eastern Canada, the FIPI for the first quarter of 1993 stood at 114.5, up 0.6% from the previous quarter and up 2.8% from a year before. Higher prices for lumber, new machinery and electricity had the largest impact, while a decrease in interest rates had an offsetting effect.

For Western Canada, the FIPI stood at 108.4, up 1.6% from the previous quarter and up 4.3% from the year before. An increase in the animal production index (+4.1%) played the key role in the quarter's overall rise; increases in wood and machinery prices also contributed to the rise. A decrease in the interest index (-2.5%) partially offset the increases. Year-to-year, increases in crop production input prices – particularly for seed – were an important factor.

Following the revision schedule for these series, some indexes for 1992 have been revised. The indexes for 1991 are now final.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2050-2063**

The first quarter 1993 issue of *Farm Input Price Indexes* (62-004, \$18/\$72) will be available in the middle of June. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-9606), Prices Division. □

**Farm Input Price Indexes**

(1986 = 100)

	First Quarter 1992	Fourth Quarter 1992	First Quarter 1993	First Quarter 1993/1992	First Quarter 1993/ Fourth Quarter 1992
					% change
<b>Canada</b>					
<b>Total Farm Input</b>	<b>107.2</b>	<b>109.8</b>	<b>111.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Building and fencing	113.0	114.7	119.2	5.5	3.9
Machinery and motor vehicles	113.1	114.3	116.5	3.0	1.9
Crop production	96.4	100.6	100.3	4.0	-0.3
Animal production	100.2	105.1	107.2	7.0	2.0
Supplies and services	114.0	114.5	116.7	2.4	1.9
Hired farm labour	128.3	130.0	130.2	1.5	0.2
Property taxes	121.8	121.8	125.5	3.0	3.0
Interest	107.4	107.5	105.0	-2.2	-2.3
Farm rent	98.4	98.4	100.9	2.5	2.5
<b>Eastern Canada</b>					
<b>Total Farm Input</b>	<b>111.4</b>	<b>113.8</b>	<b>114.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Building and fencing	120.1	120.9	124.2	3.4	2.7
Machinery and motor vehicles	117.0	118.7	120.8	3.2	1.8
Crop production	110.8	109.4	108.9	-1.7	-0.5
Animal production	99.8	104.3	104.7	4.9	0.4
Supplies and services	121.3	121.6	124.8	2.9	2.6
Hired farm labour	133.0	137.5	136.9	2.9	-0.4
Property taxes	124.6	124.6	128.3	3.0	3.0
Interest	109.0	110.6	108.1	-0.8	-2.3
Farm rent	124.3	124.3	128.2	3.1	3.1
<b>Western Canada</b>					
<b>Total Farm Input</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>106.7</b>	<b>108.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Building and fencing	105.0	107.8	113.6	8.2	5.4
Machinery and motor vehicles	111.2	112.1	114.3	2.8	2.0
Crop production	88.5	96.2	95.9	8.4	-0.3
Animal production	100.8	106.1	110.4	9.5	4.1
Supplies and services	106.6	107.5	108.7	2.0	1.1
Hired farm labour	122.7	121.1	122.2	-0.4	0.9
Property taxes	121.1	121.1	124.7	3.0	3.0
Interest	106.4	105.6	103.0	-3.2	-2.5
Farm rent	89.7	89.7	91.7	2.2	2.2

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Steel Primary Forms

Week Ending May 15, 1993

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian steel primary forms production for the week ending May 15, 1993 totalled 295 969 tonnes, up 4.6% from the week-earlier 283 075 tonnes and up 8.1% from the year-earlier 273 908 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 5 340 748 tonnes, a 4.1% increase from 5 130 770 tonnes for the same period in 1992.

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

### Tobacco Products

April 1993

Tobacco product firms produced 4.11 billion cigarettes in April 1993, a 12.6% increase from the 3.65<sup>r</sup> (revised) billion cigarettes manufactured during the same period in 1992. For January to April 1993, production totalled 16.74<sup>r</sup> billion cigarettes, up 9.8% from 15.24<sup>r</sup> billion cigarettes for the corresponding period in 1992.

Domestic sales in April 1993 totalled 2.54 billion cigarettes, a decrease of 13.9% from 2.95<sup>r</sup> billion cigarettes sold in April 1992. Year-to-date sales at the end of April 1993 totalled 9.45<sup>r</sup> billion cigarettes, down 16.4% from 11.31<sup>r</sup> billion cigarettes a year earlier.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.**

The April 1993 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products* (32-022, \$5/\$50) will be available shortly. See "How to Order Publications".

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

### Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns

March 1993

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,498 million for March 1993, a 3.6% increase from \$1,446 million for March 1992.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.**

The March 1993 issue of *Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns* (63-011, \$6.10/\$61) will be available in three weeks. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact William Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services, Science and Technology Division. ■

### Soft Drinks

April 1993

Data on soft drink production for April 1993 are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 196.**

*Monthly Production of Soft Drinks* (32-001, \$2.70/\$27) will be available shortly. See "How to Order Publications".

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

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Canadian Economic Observer, May 1993.**  
**Catalogue number 11-010**  
(Canada: \$22/\$220; United States: US\$26/US\$260;  
Other Countries: US\$31/US\$310).

**Survey Sampling, March 1993.**  
**Catalogue number 12-602E**  
(Canada: \$35; United States: US\$42; Other  
Countries: US\$49).

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

**Consumer Price Index, April 1993.**  
**Catalogue number 62-001**  
(Canada: \$9.30/\$93; United States:  
US\$11.20/US\$112; Other Countries: US\$13/US\$130).  
**Available at 7:00 a.m.**

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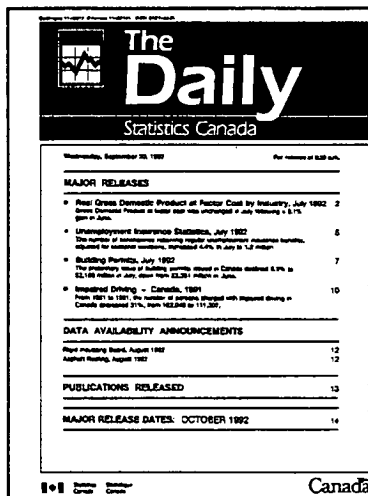
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Published by the Communications Division  
Statistics Canada, 10-N, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-951-1187)  
Editor: Tim Prichard (613-951-1103)

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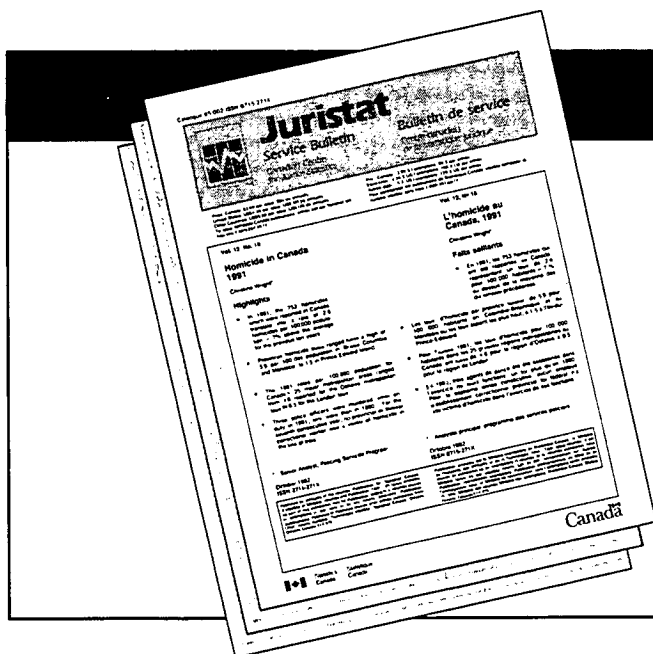
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