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MAJOR RELEASES

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MAJOR RELEASES

Employment, Earnings and Hours

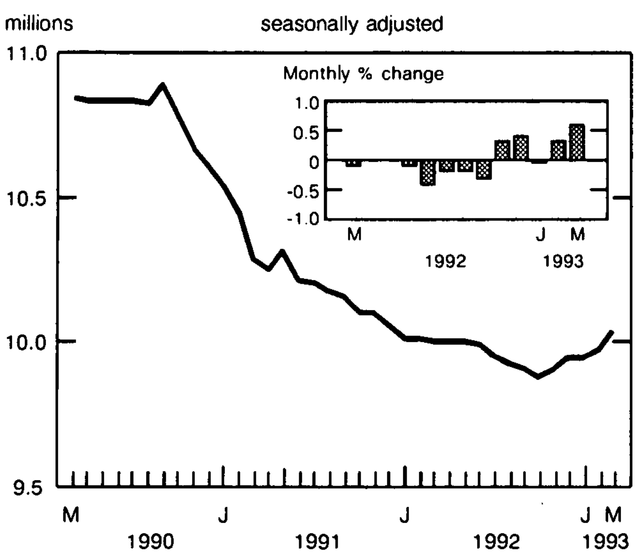
March 1993 (Preliminary)

For the first time in over two years, industrial aggregate payroll employment posted a year-over-year increase. Also on a year-over-basis, average weekly earnings were up 3.0%.

Seasonally Adjusted

Industrial aggregate payroll employment in March was estimated at 10,029,000, up 0.6% from February. Most of the gains were in Ontario and British Columbia. The industrial aggregate is the sum of all industries except agriculture, fishing and trapping, religious organizations, private households and military personnel.

SEPH Employment, Industrial Aggregate



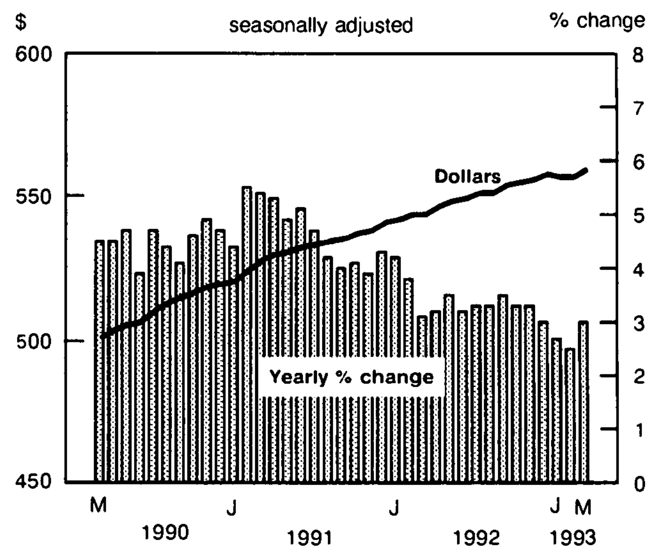
Led by non-durable manufacturing – where employment rose by 24,000 since November 1992 – manufacturing employment increased in each of the last five months. Employment in the service-producing industries increased for the fifth consecutive month. The advance of 125,000 since October 1992 was concentrated in accommodation, food and beverage services, business services, retail trade and transportation, communication and other utilities.

On a year-over-year basis, average weekly earnings (not adjusted for inflation) rose 3.0% from March 1992. Average weekly earnings grew by more than the national average in Ontario, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon Territory.

Average weekly hours of hourly-rated employees in the industrial aggregate advanced 0.3% for the second consecutive month following a decline in January. At 30.6 hours, the average weekly hours of hourly-rated employees stood at a 13-month high.

Average weekly hours in retail trade rose in six of the last seven months. Average weekly hours in construction rose in each of the last three months.

SEPH Average Weekly Earnings, Industrial Aggregate

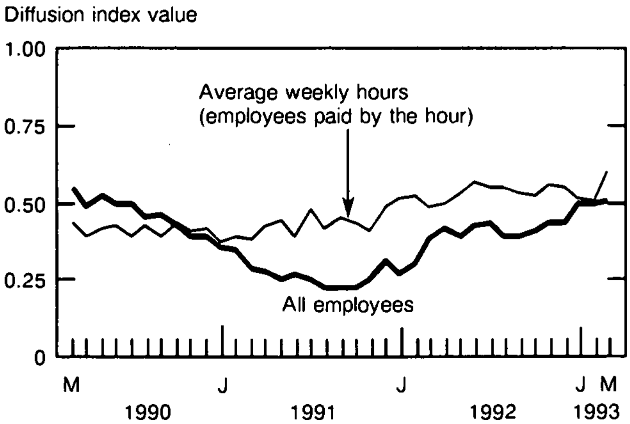


Unadjusted

On a year-over-year basis, industrial aggregate employment in March was up 41,000 (+0.4%). A gain in the service-producing industries (+60,000) was partially offset by a decline in the goods-producing industries (-19,000).

The diffusion index for average weekly hours for hourly-rated employees was 0.60, up sharply from last month, indicating that 128 industries out of 214 posted gains.

Diffusion Index, Industrial Aggregate



Boosted by accommodation, food and beverage services and by the finance and insurance industries, the service-producing industries recorded their third consecutive month of year-over-year increase in payroll employment. This increase was widespread across more than half the industries.

For the fourth consecutive month, year-over-year changes in employment for firms with less than 200 employees continued to be stronger than for firms with 200 or more employees.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 9438-9452 and 9639-9911.

Data are available from *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002, $28.50/$285) and by special tabulation.

For further information on this release or on the program, products and services, contact Mike Mackinnon (613-951-4090) or fax (613-951-4087), Labour Division. □

Employment, Earnings and Hours

Industry Group - Canada (1980 S.I.C.)	Number of employees			Average weekly earnings *		
	March 1993p	February 1993r	January 1993	March 1993p	February 1993r	January 1993
	seasonally adjusted and change from previous month					
	thousands			dollars		
Industrial aggregate	**10,029**	**9,966**	**9,937**	**559.79**	**557.07**	**556.51**
	63	**29**	**-4**	**2.72**	**0.56**	**-0.67**
Goods-producing industries	**2,313**	**2,299**	**2,292**	**698.59**	**694.44**	**692.22**
	14	**7**	**-6**	**4.15**	**2.22**	**-1.19**
Logging and forestry	60	59	58	708.32	703.93	695.48
	1	1	1	4.39	8.45	-2.29
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	122	121	121	951.23	958.31	949.66
	1	0	-2	-7.08	8.65	-3.44
Manufacturing	1,599	1,591	1,585	671.58	668.16	665.33
	8	6	3	3.42	2.83	-1.04
Non-durable goods	754	742	740	630.86	629.72	624.73
	12	2	3	1.14	4.99	-11.16
Durable goods	847	848	844	707.51	701.91	699.70
	-1	4	2	5.60	2.21	4.35
Construction	399	393	393	648.18	640.06	640.18
	6	0	4	8.12	-0.12	4.50
Service-producing industries	**7,707**	**7,660**	**7,638**	**518.62**	**515.52**	**515.62**
	47	**22**	**13**	**3.10**	**-0.10**	**-0.63**
Transportation, communication and other utilities	827	817	815	709.63	707.04	707.82
	10	2	-3	2.59	-0.78	0.75
Trade	1,867	1,867	1,860	410.16	409.72	408.25
	0	7	5	0.44	1.47	1.02
Wholesale trade	577	572	568	595.07	594.39	594.45
	5	4	-6	0.68	-0.06	0.15
Retail trade	1,294	1,299	1,293	329.09	328.43	326.09
	-5	6	11	0.66	2.34	-0.66
Finance, insurance and real estate	663	658	661	618.42	614.04	616.23
	5	-3	3	4.38	-2.19	2.31
Business services	514	494	482	582.84	573.31	577.97
	20	12	-8	9.53	-4.66	-5.66
Education-related services	926	925	928	672.89	670.38	667.82
	1	-3	1	2.51	2.56	0.14
Health and social services	1,127	1,123	1,117	497.90	497.79	497.67
	4	6	-3	0.11	0.12	-0.83
Accommodation, food and beverage services	708	692	687	217.18	215.72	216.87
	16	5	8	1.46	-1.15	-0.86
Miscellaneous services	494	493	497	384.57	375.81	370.56
	1	-4	-4	8.76	5.25	-0.76
Public administration	715	715	717	745.94	737.38	737.34
	0	-2	1	8.56	0.04	5.54
Industrial aggregate						
Newfoundland	136	136	137	523.38	516.61	513.06
	0	-1	0	6.77	3.55	-6.22
Prince Edward Island	39	40	39	455.76	454.03	450.98
	-1	1	0	1.73	3.05	-2.40
Nova Scotia	284	284	284	496.77	490.43	492.82
	0	0	1	6.34	-2.39	5.13
New Brunswick	229	227	226	501.97	501.11	501.38
	2	1	2	0.86	-0.27	-0.77
Quebec	2,404	2405	2,402	542.71	540.48	542.76
	-1	3	22	2.23	-2.28	-4.15
Ontario	4,020	3963	3,950	591.24	587.26	587.41
	57	13	-22	3.98	-0.15	1.82
Manitoba	377	381	381	492.73	491.58	491.51
	-4	0	7	1.15	0.07	-3.98
Saskatchewan	298	298	297	477.78	471.14	471.02
	0	1	1	6.64	0.12	-2.72
Alberta	966	964	959	555.54	557.97	553.81
	2	5	-6	-2.43	4.16	-0.48
British Columbia	1,248	1235	1,231	559.47	558.88	551.81
	13	4	10	0.59	7.07	-2.08
Yukon Territory	11	11	12	689.58	689.74	693.95
	0	-1	0	-0.16	-4.21	22.24
Northwest Territories	21	21	20	724.32	715.78	712.77
	0	1	0	8.54	3.01	5.13

p *Preliminary estimates.*
r *Revised estimates.*
* *For all employees.*

Employment, Earnings and Hours

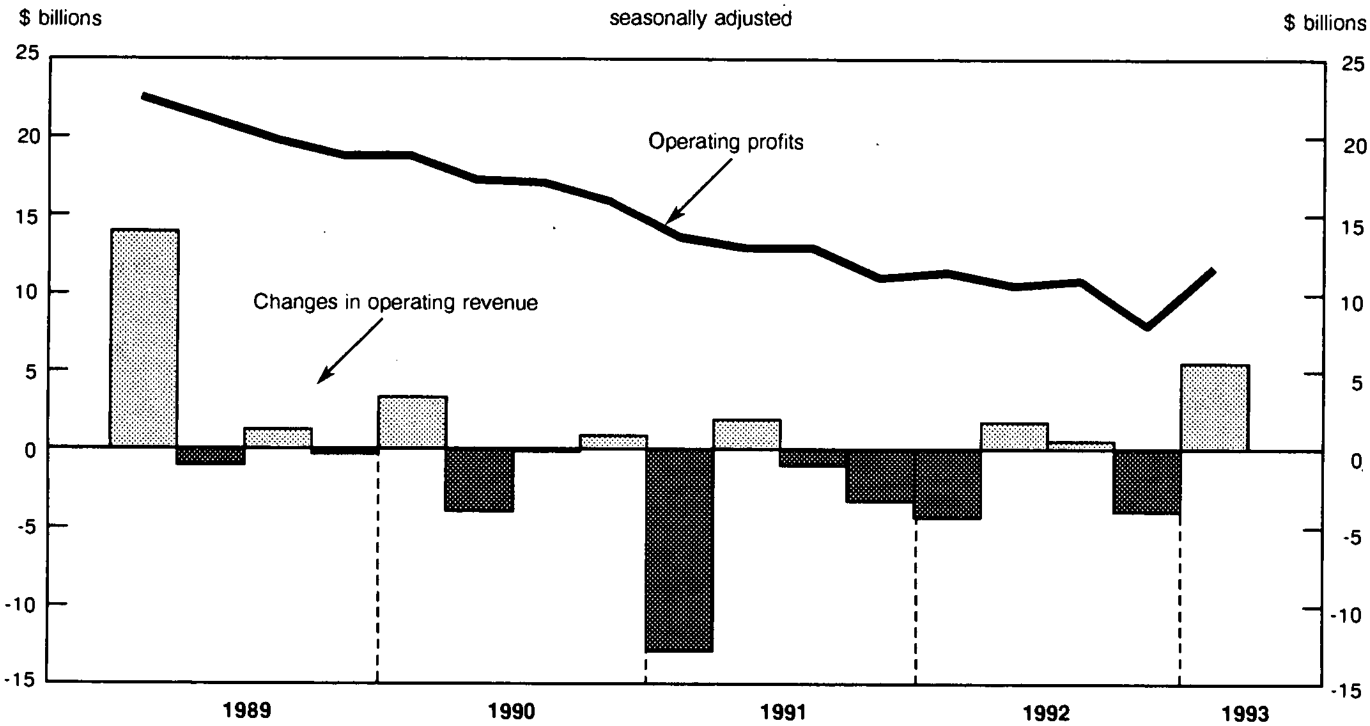
Industry Group – Canada 1980 S.I.C.	March 1993p	February 1993r	January 1993	March 1992 to March 1993	February 1992 to Feburary 1993	January 1992 to January 1993
	unadjusted					
	thousands			% change		
Employment, All Employees						
Industrial Aggregate	9,855	9,715	9,688	0.4	-0.5	-0.7
Goods-producing	2,191	2,161	2,158	-0.8	-2.5	-3.2
Manufacturing	1,557	1,540	1,533	0.0	-0.9	-1.8
Service-producing	7,664	7,553	7,530	0.8	0.1	0.0
Average Weekly Earnings, All Employees	dollars					
Industrial Aggregate	558.19	554.20	555.49	3.0	2.3	2.5
Goods-producing	704.30	700.25	697.37	2.9	2.3	2.3
Manufacturing	676.91	672.86	668.73	3.4	2.9	3.1
Service-producing	516.41	512.41	514.83	3.2	2.5	2.9
Average Weekly Hours, Hourly Employees	thousands					
Industrial Aggregate	30.2	29.8	29.9	0.9	-0.5	-0.7
Goods-producing	38.2	37.9	37.9	0.9	0.1	-0.2
Manufacturing	38.6	38.3	38.2	1.3	0.4	0.3
Service-producing	27.0	26.5	26.7	1.1	-0.7	-0.7

	March 1993p	February 1993r	January 1993
Diffusion Index of Employment, All Employees			
Industrial Aggregate	0.50	0.49	0.49
Goods-producing	0.47	0.50	0.45
Manufacturing	0.46	0.51	0.45
Service-producing	0.54	0.48	0.53
Diffusion Index of Average Weekly Hours, Hourly Employees			
Industrial Aggregate	0.60	0.50	0.51
Goods-producing	0.61	0.50	0.53
Manufacturing	0.65	0.52	0.54
Service-producing	0.58	0.50	0.49

	March 1993 p	February 1993 r	January 1993
	year-over-year % change		
Fixed-weighted Average Weekly Earnings, All Employees			
Industrial Aggregate	2.9	2.4	2.6
Goods-producing	2.4	1.5	1.8
Manufacturing	2.4	2.0	2.4
Service-producing	3.1	2.8	2.9
Variable-weighted Average Weekly Earnings*, All Employees			
Industrial Aggregate	2.5	2.1	2.3
Goods-producing	2.2	1.3	1.7
Manufacturing	2.2	1.8	2.3
Service-producing	2.8	2.5	2.8

p *Preliminary estimate.*
r *Revised estimate.*
* *Excluding overtime.*

Financial and Non-financial Enterprises
Quarterly Operating Profits and Changes in Operating Revenue



Quarterly Financial Statistics for Enterprises

First Quarter 1993

In the first quarter of 1993, operating profits of incorporated Canadian enterprises increased to $11.4 billion, well above the fourth quarter's $7.6 billion and above the $10.7 billion average for the first three quarters of 1992. However, profits remained below the $22.3 billion peak reached in 1989.

Seasonally Adjusted

The non-financial industries' operating profits recovered to $9.2 billion in the first quarter, the highest since the third quarter of 1991 but still only half of the peak attained in the first quarter of 1989. The latest improvement was led by an $0.8 billion increase in motor vehicles, parts and tires and a $0.5 billion increase in petroleum and natural gas.

The financial industries' operating profits rose to $2.3 billion in the first quarter from $0.7 billion previously. However, the first quarter of 1993 profits were less than half of the $4.7 billion peak recorded in the fourth quarter of 1988. Among the major contributors were the chartered banks and trust companies, whose fourth-quarter results were depressed by large provisions for non-performing loans. Life insurers and property and casualty insurers also showed significant profit growth.

Non-financial Industries

Motor Vehicles, Parts and Tires: Operating profits surged to $1.0 billion in the first quarter, up from $0.2 billion in the fourth quarter of 1992 and up from a $0.5 billion average for the first three quarters of 1992. The profit increase was concentrated among motor vehicle manufacturers. Results for the fourth quarter of 1992 were affected by high operating costs associated with closing plants and restructuring operations.

Petroleum and Natural Gas: Operating profits improved to $1.8 billion from $1.3 billion in the fourth quarter. This represented the second consecutive quarter of expansion and boosted profits to their highest levels since 1990. Higher natural gas prices and improved margins contributed to the improvement.

Transportation Services: In the first quarter, the industry returned to profitability with operating profits of $99 million. In the two previous quarters, losses averaged $200 million.

Wood and Paper: Operating profits recorded their fifth consecutive increase in the first quarter, rising to $352 million from $128 in the fourth quarter. Prior to the fourth quarter of 1992, operating losses were posted in eight consecutive quarters, including losses of $638 million in the fourth quarter of 1991. Strengthening lumber prices have been a major factor in the recovery.

Financial Industries

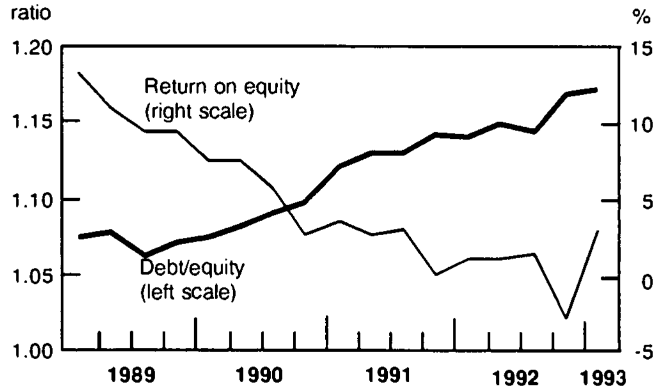
Chartered Banks (Booked-in-Canada) and Other Deposit-accepting Intermediaries: Operating profits recovered to $134 million from the previous quarter's losses of $144 million. As noted, the fourth quarter of 1992 results were severely depressed by large provisions for non-performing loans. Quarterly profits were $1.1 billion in the first and third quarters of 1992, with small losses reported in the second and fourth quarters. Operating profits averaged $1.2 billion throughout the 1988 to 1991 period.

Property and Casualty Insurers: Operating profits in the first quarter of 1993 rose to $422 million from $119 million in the previous quarter. Operating profits averaged $265 million in 1992.

Trust Companies: Operating losses totalled $5 million in the first quarter of 1993 compared with losses of $345 million in the fourth quarter of 1992. Losses were recorded for the two previous quarters due to large provisions for non-performing loans. Quarterly profits averaged $170 million throughout the 1988 to 1991 period.

Life Insurers: Operating profits rebounded to $312 million in the first quarter of 1993 from losses of $113 million in the previous quarter. Most of the increase can be attributed to an $840 million increase in revenue from annuity considerations, slightly offset by a $207 million increase in actuarial liabilities. For the first three quarters of 1992, profits averaged $294 million.

Financial and non-financial Enterprises – Financial Ratios



Financial Ratios

Return on Equity: The rate of return on shareholders' equity (a measure of profitability) increased to 3.0% from -2.9% in the fourth quarter and from a 1.1% average over the first three quarters of 1992. However, this was still well below the fourth quarter of 1988 pre-recession peak of 14.5%.

Debt to Equity: This solvency indicator remained constant at 1.2 in the first quarter.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3860-3869, 3914-3971, 3974-3981.

The first quarter 1993 issue of *Quarterly Financial Statistics for Enterprises* (61-008, $23/$92) will be available in June. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact either Gail Campbell or Bill Potter for non-financial industries data (613-951-9843), and contact Robert Moreau for financial industries data (613-951-2512), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. □

Selected Financial Statistics

First Quarter 1993

	Second Quarter 1992	Third Quarter 1992	Fourth Quarter 1992	First Quarter 1993
			$ billions	
Balance Sheet				
Cash and Deposits	83.1	87.5	87.2	88.0
Accounts Receivable	142.0	142.7	142.5	136.8
Inventories	123.4	122.1	120.9	121.0
Investments	419.9	427.1	424.3	429.3
Loans	621.4	629.6	634.6	638.1
Capital Assets	441.3	440.4	438.5	439.8
All Other Assets	111.2	113.2	112.0	121.6
Total Assets	**1,942.3**	**1,962.6**	**1,960.0**	**1,974.6**
Deposits (Financial Institutions)	594.1	605.0	613.5	620.3
Accounts Payable	189.4	195.5	195.8	193.8
Borrowing	481.6	479.1	477.7	478.8
All Other Liabilities	257.9	263.7	263.7	273.1
Total Liabilities	**1,523.0**	**1,543.3**	**1,550.7**	**1,566.0**
Share Capital	214.4	216.6	219.0	220.5
Retained Earnings (Including Surplus)	204.9	202.7	190.3	188.1
Total Equity	**419.3**	**419.3**	**409.3**	**408.6**
Statement of Changes in Financial Position				
Financial Industries				
Cash from Operating Activities	5.0	9.8	2.6	4.7
Cash from Financing Activities	9.8	10.5	8.9	6.5
Cash Applied to Investment Activities	11.4	14.9	8.5	8.6
Cash Applied to Fixed Assets	0.5	0.6	1.6	0.6
Cash Applied to Dividends	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.0
Non-financial Industries				
Cash from Operating Activities	11.6	10.9	16.4	11.0
Cash from Financing Activities	8.0	1.8	2.4	4.4
Cash Applied to Investment Activities	3.3	-0.3	1.3	0.7
Cash Applied to Fixed Assets	9.0	8.4	11.0	10.4
Cash Applied to Dividends	5.2	4.9	6.6	5.6
			seasonally adjusted	
Income Statements				
Operating Revenue	278.5	278.9	275.0	280.6
Operating Profit	10.3	10.6	7.6	11.4
Profit Before extraordinary gains	1.0	1.5	-2.9	3.1
Net Profit	**1.0**	**1.5**	**-3.2**	**3.1**

■

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

March 1993

Shipments rose 2.2% in March, the sixth consecutive increase. Unfilled orders grew 3.6%. The trend for unfilled orders, which had been falling since April 1989, increased over the last four periods.

Seasonally Adjusted

The value of shipments grew 2.2% in March, the sixth consecutive increase. Eighteen of the 22 major groups recorded higher shipment levels, notably transportation equipment, chemicals, refined petroleum and coal products and the wood industries.

Unfilled orders rose 3.6% in March, the fifth straight increase. Several contracts in the transportation equipment industries contributed to a large increase in the backlog of unfilled orders over the last two months. Inventory levels increased slightly in March, the fourth increase in the last five months.

Short-term Trend

The short-term trend smooths out irregular month-to-month movements that are not sustained over a longer period. The trend for shipments, rising for the twelfth consecutive period, rose at an average 1.1% per month over the last four periods. The shipments trend for the motor vehicle, parts and accessories industries have increased strongly over the last seven periods. The rest of manufacturing also showed some strength, trending steadily upward at an average 0.5% per month since May 1992. The trend for 17 of the major groups rose in the most recent period – the strongest being transportation equipment and wood.

The trend for unfilled orders, after falling since April 1989, increased in the four most recent periods. The inventories trend began to decline again in November 1992 after showing no change in September and October.

Shipments

Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian manufacturers' shipments increased 2.2% to $25.6 billion in March. Eighteen of the 22 major groups (90% of shipment values) increased, four decreased. The largest increases in dollar terms were the transportation equipment (+3.4%), chemicals (+3.7%), refined petroleum and coal products (+4.1%) and wood (+3.4%) industries. Decreases were small for the four major groups that declined.

Note to Users

With the March 1993 release, the estimated values of shipments, inventories and orders have been revised back to January 1990. These revisions result from benchmarking to the 1990 Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM). The benchmarking and revision process adjusts monthly sample estimates in the benchmark year (1990) to the annual ASM levels, updates the sample, uses new and revised data, and re-estimates the seasonal adjustment factors.

Shipments Trend

The shipments trend has been rising for a year, climbing at a rate of at least 1.0% per month over the last four periods. The trend for 17 of the 22 major groups (84% of shipment values) increased in the most recent period. The most significant increases in dollar terms were for transportation equipment and wood.

Inventories (owned)

Inventories (owned) increased 0.2% in March to $34.3 billion with 12 of the 22 major groups recording increases. The largest increases were in the wood (+2.9%), electrical and electronic products (+2.5%), and refined petroleum and coal products (+4.9%) industries. The primary metals (-1.8%) and transportation equipment (-0.9%) industries recorded the largest decreases. The trend for inventories (owned) – flat in September and October 1992 – declined in the last four periods.

Inventories to Shipments Ratio

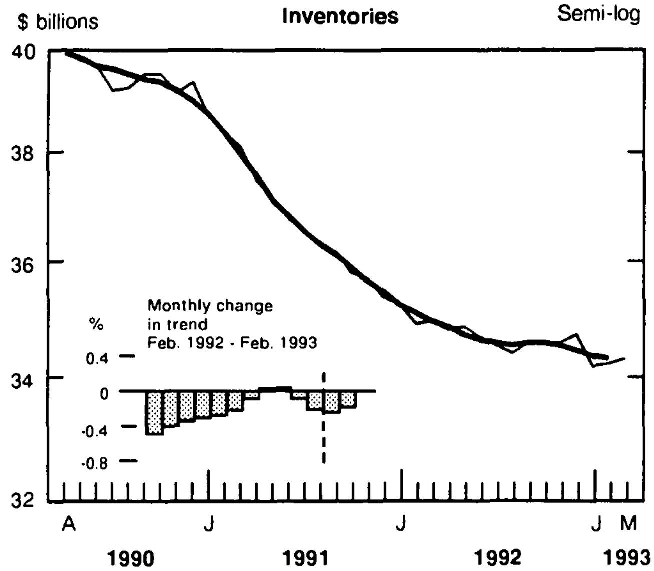
The inventories to shipments ratio declined from 1.36 in February to 1.34 in March, an historical low. The trend declined from a peak of 1.52 in January 1992 to 1.36 in the most recent period, also an historical low.

Unfilled Orders

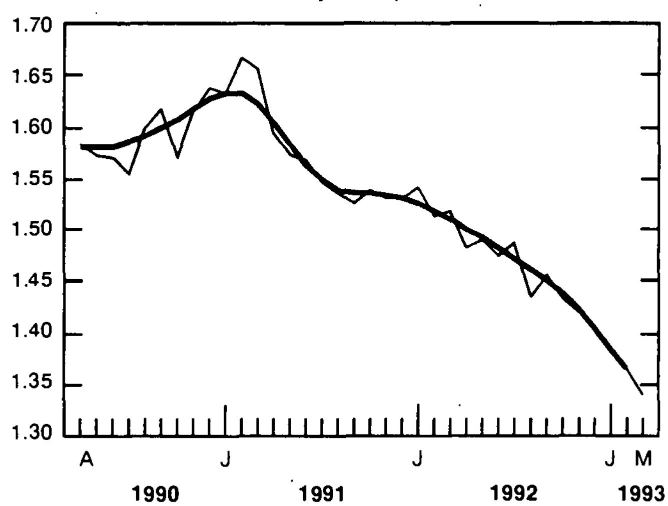
Unfilled orders grew 3.6% to $24.8 billion, the fifth increase in a row. Large increases in transportation equipment (+8.5%) industries accounted for most of the jump in the backlog of orders. The trend, which had been falling since April 1989, increased over the four most recent periods.

Manufacturers' Inventories, Shipments and Unfilled Orders

Inventories



Inventory to shipments ratio

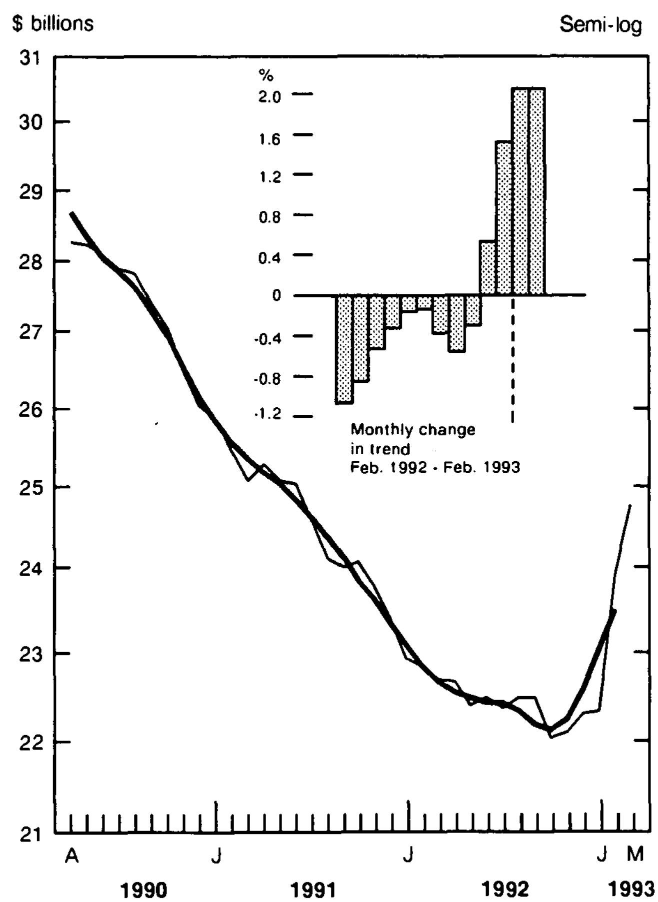


Legend

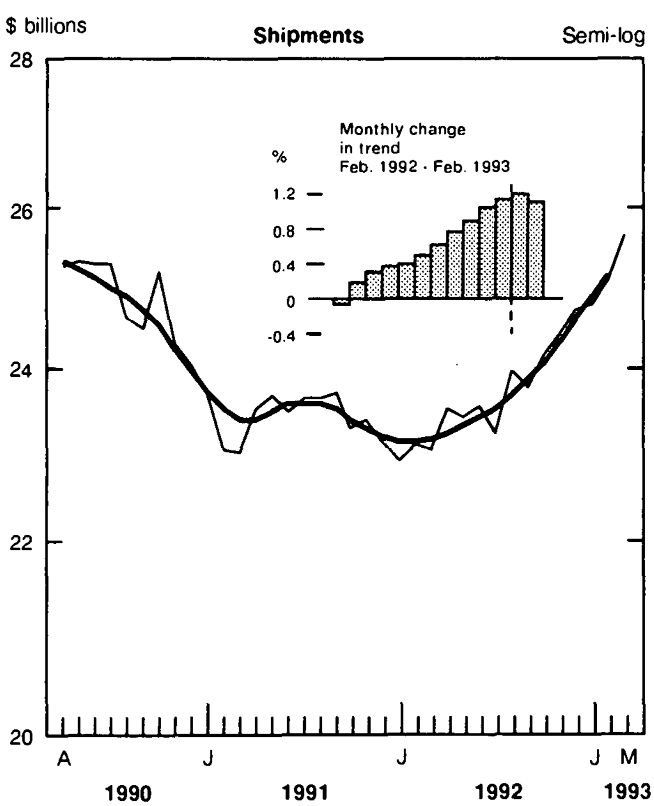
— Seasonally adjusted

— Trend

Unfilled orders



Shipments



Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments, assuming that orders are not cancelled.

New orders are 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.

New Orders

New orders declined 0.7% to $26.5 billion, following a large increase of 7.7% the previous month. The trend for new orders has continued to rise since March 1992, rising at a rate of more than 1.0% per month over the last five periods.

Year-to-date

Manufacturers' shipments for the first three months of 1993 were estimated at $75.5 billion, 9.4% higher than for the corresponding period in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.

For more information, please consult the March 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. □

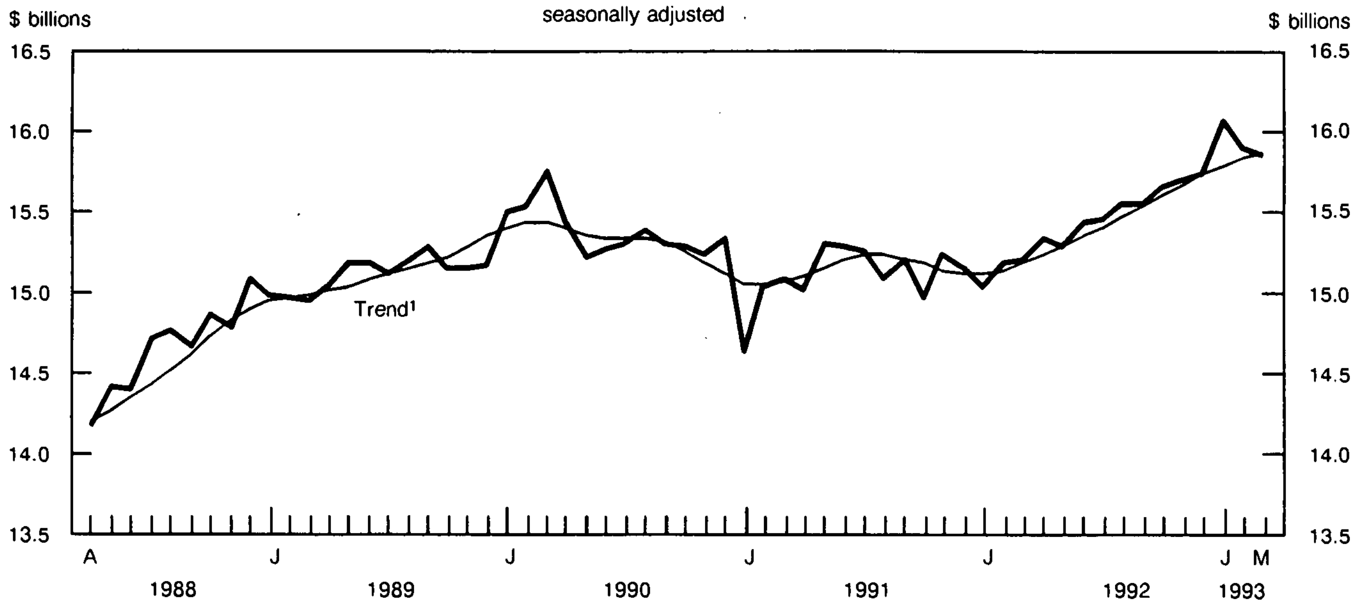
Shipments, Inventories and Orders in all Manufacturing Industries

Period	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted			
	Shipments	Inventories	Unfilled orders	New orders	Shipments	Inventories	Unfilled orders	New orders
	$ millions							
March 1992	24,075	35,719	22,909	24,069	23,017	34,933	22,711	22,850
April 1992	23,705	35,326	22,944	23,740	23,497	34,774	22,690	23,476
May 1992	24,404	35,064	22,659	24,119	23,403	34,838	22,401	23,114
June 1992	25,571	34,465	22,557	25,469	23,529	34,654	22,516	23,645
July 1992	21,378	34,093	22,373	21,194	23,219	34,488	22,381	23,084
August 1992	23,489	34,150	22,649	23,765	23,960	34,361	22,514	24,093
September 1992	25,020	34,160	22,427	24,798	23,769	34,569	22,495	23,750
October 1992	25,677	34,125	21,917	25,167	24,146	34,545	22,053	23,704
November 1992	24,557	34,262	21,856	24,496	24,387	34,575	22,101	24,434
December 1992	23,088	33,986	21,912	23,144	24,711	34,656	22,309	24,919
January 1993	21,666	34,350	22,246	22,001	24,746	34,138	22,330	24,768
February 1993	23,268	34,841	23,902	24,924	25,093	34,196	23,923	26,685
March 1993	27,304	35,045	24,943	28,345	25,648	34,279	24,784	26,509

	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			
March 1992	-0.3	0.2	0.1	-0.4	1.52	1.51	-0.7	-0.8	-0.6	0.4
April 1992	2.1	0.3	-0.5	-0.3	1.48	1.50	-0.1	-0.5	2.7	0.6
May 1992	-0.4	0.4	0.2	-0.3	1.49	1.49	-1.3	-0.3	-1.5	0.6
June 1992	0.5	0.4	-0.5	-0.3	1.47	1.48	0.5	-0.1	2.3	0.6
July 1992	-1.3	0.5	-0.5	-0.2	1.49	1.47	-0.6	-0.1	-2.4	0.5
August 1992	3.2	0.6	-0.4	-0.1	1.43	1.46	0.6	-0.4	4.4	0.4
September 1992	-0.8	0.8	0.6	0.0	1.45	1.45	-0.1	-0.6	-1.4	0.6
October 1992	1.6	0.9	-0.1	0.0	1.43	1.44	-2.0	-0.3	-0.2	1.2
November 1992	1.0	1.0	0.1	-0.1	1.42	1.42	0.2	0.5	3.1	1.8
December 1992	1.3	1.1	0.2	-0.2	1.40	1.40	0.9	1.5	2.0	2.0
January 1993	0.1	1.2	-1.5	-0.3	1.38	1.38	0.1	2.1	-0.6	1.7
February 1993	1.4	1.1	0.2	-0.2	1.36	1.36	7.1	2.1	7.7	1.1
March 1993	2.2	*	0.2	*	1.34	*	3.6	*	-0.7	*

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

Retail Sales



Data prior to 1991 have been adjusted to remove the Federal Sales Tax to be comparable to January 1991 and subsequent data.
[1] Trend represents smoothed, seasonally adjusted data.

Retail trade

March 1993 (Preliminary)

Seasonally adjusted retail sales decreased 0.3% in March to $15.9 billion, following a 1.1% decrease in February and a particularly strong increase of 2.1% in January. These decreases are reflected in the trend, which has risen since February 1992 and which has shown a decreasing rate of change for the last two months.

Seasonally Adjusted

Major Components

Ten of the 16 trade groups posted lower sales in March. In dollar terms, the most significant decreases were reported by the clothing (-1.8%) and automotive (-0.3%) trade groups. The largest increases were in the drug (+0.4%) and furniture (+0.3%) groups.

Clothing: The 1.8% sales decrease in March by clothing stores followed a 1.0% decline in February after a 1.2% increase in January. All four components declined in March – women's clothing stores (-2.7%), shoe stores (-2.6%), men's clothing stores (-0.9%) and other clothing stores (-1.1%). After sustained increases that began in March 1992, the trend in the clothing sector declined for the third consecutive month, decreasing 0.2% in March.

Automotive: The sales decline for automotive retailers in March was the second decline in the last three months. However, the March level was still higher than the December 1992 level.

Sales of motor vehicle and recreational dealers increased by 0.2% in March after a 2.5% drop in February. The 8.8% gain in unit sales of new motor vehicles in March was almost entirely offset by lower sales of automotive parts, accessories and services stores (-1.3%) and gasoline service stations (-0.9%).

The trend for automotive retailers was flat in March after sustaining a positive rate of change for 13 consecutive months.

Regions

All provinces except Newfoundland (+2.3%), Ontario (+1.0%) and Manitoba (+0.7%) posted sales decreases in March, ranging from -0.1% in Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories to -6.5% in Prince Edward Island.

Trend

The trend for retail sales has been rising, with rates ranging between +0.2% and +0.4% since March 1992. The trend increased by 0.2% in March 1993. (The trend smooths out irregular month-to-month movements that are not sustained over a longer period.)

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2299, 2398-2417 and 2420.

Revised monthly retail trade estimates for 1992 and January 1993, as well as revised seasonally adjusted estimates for 1990 to January 1993, are now available on CANSIM and on request. The revised 1992 estimates will also appear in the March 1993 issue of *Retail Trade.*

Raw and seasonally adjusted retail trade estimates in constant dollars, as well as the price indices from 1986 to March 1993, are available on CANSIM and on request. These data for the period of 1991 to March 1993 will appear in the March 1993 issue of *Retail Trade.*

The March 1993 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, $18.20/$182) will be available the first week of June. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information, contact Pierre Desjardins (613-951-9236), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

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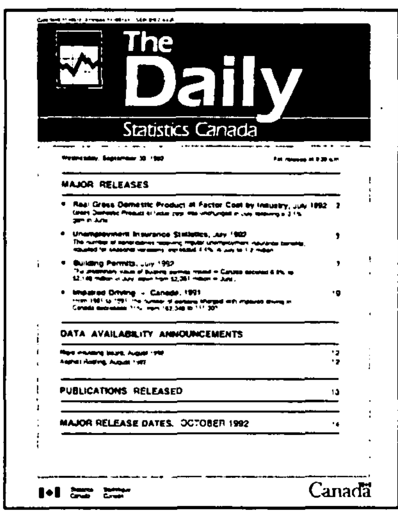

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Retail Sales

Trade group	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted						
	Mar. 1992[r]	Feb. 1993[r]	Mar. 1993[p]	Mar. 1993/ 1992	Mar. 1992[r]	Dec. 1992[r]	Jan. 1993[r]	Feb. 1993[r]	Mar. 1993[p]	Mar./ Feb. 1993	Mar. 1993/ 1992
	$ millions			% change	$ millions					% change	
Canada											
Food											
Supermarkets and grocery stores	3,472	3,467	3,671	5.7	3,739	3,897	3,978	3,925	3,913	-0.3	4.6
All other food stores	232	237	257	10.7	255	265	275	282	284	0.7	11.3
Drug											
Drug and patent medicine stores	820	865	934	13.8	864	915	949	964	968	0.4	12.1
Clothing											
Shoe stores	103	77	103	-0.8	130	123	133	131	128	-2.6	-1.5
Men's clothing stores	99	82	103	4.7	135	143	143	143	142	-0.9	5.4
Women's clothing stores	251	198	254	1.4	297	317	310	308	300	-2.7	0.7
Other clothing stores	268	219	279	3.8	316	335	343	337	334	-1.1	5.5
Furniture											
Household furniture and appliance stores	568	521	617	8.7	637	671	681	671	675	0.6	6.1
Household furnishings stores	160	136	160	-0.1	183	177	180	180	179	-0.6	-2.3
Automotive											
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	3,271	2,593	3,519	7.6	3,138	3,286	3,330	3,248	3,254	0.2	3.7
Gasoline service stations	1,101	1,061	1,143	3.7	1,162	1,180	1,203	1,218	1,206	-0.9	3.8
Automotive parts, accessories and services	758	690	820	8.2	856	874	904	916	904	-1.3	5.6
General Merchandise											
General merchandise stores	1,414	1,208	1,462	3.4	1,723	1,752	1,797	1,752	1,750	-0.1	1.6
Retail Stores Not Elsewhere Classified											
Other semi-durable goods stores	403	407	448	11.0	514	560	566	562	563	0.1	9.5
Other durable goods stores	306	301	328	7.0	407	413	431	431	431	--	5.8
All other retail stores n.e.c.	702	614	701	-0.1	840	830	854	837	828	-1.1	-1.5
Total, Retail Sales	**13,930**	**12,676**	**14,798**	**6.2**	**15,196**	**15,740**	**16,078**	**15,905**	**15,858**	**-0.3**	**4.4**
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	**10,659**	**10,082**	**11,279**	**5.8**	**12,060**	**12,454**	**12,747**	**12,657**	**12,606**	**-0.4**	**4.5**
Department store type merchandise	4,393	4,014	4,687	6.7	5,206	5,407	5,534	5,481	5,469	-0.2	5.1
Regions											
Newfoundland	252	213	252	-0.2	279	282	282	269	275	2.3	-1.4
Prince Edward Island	55	53	57	4.8	65	68	68	71	66	-6.5	2.7
Nova Scotia	460	403	467	1.6	508	515	526	510	509	-0.1	0.3
New Brunswick	355	317	372	4.7	391	402	408	401	401	-0.2	2.4
Quebec	3,427	3,035	3,590	4.8	3,720	3,773	3,967	3,885	3,831	-1.4	3.0
Ontario	5,072	4,671	5,469	7.8	5,603	5,843	5,916	5,862	5,922	1.0	5.7
Manitoba	482	442	509	5.7	532	557	558	550	554	0.7	4.1
Saskatchewan	412	374	434	5.3	452	466	467	468	466	-0.5	3.1
Alberta	1,498	1,327	1,521	1.5	1,609	1,657	1,698	1,655	1,605	-3.0	-0.3
British Columbia	1,873	1,802	2,082	11.2	1,988	2,129	2,138	2,184	2,179	-0.2	9.7
Yukon Territory	14	13	15	4.6	17	16	16	17	17	-1.7	1.2
Northwest Territories	30	27	30	2.3	32	32	33	33	33	-0.1	1.7

p *Preliminary figure.*
r *Revised figure.*
-- *Amount too small to be expressed.*

■

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Profiles
1990

The Small Area and Administrative Data Division announces the release of the new 1990 Community Profiles. These profiles respond to the unique data needs of small communities. It is now possible to construct an annual "report card" for areas as small as a single rural postal code based on administrative data.

Five profiles are available as follows: population, sources of income, labour force participation, economic dependency and family characteristics. Using the postal code as a building block, community profiles can be constructed from data that are available for more than 20,000 postal areas across Canada.

For more information on this release, please contact Client Services, Small Area and Administrative Data Division (613-9519720) or your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

Steel Primary Forms
Week Ending May 22, 1993 (Preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 22, 1993 totalled 284 526 tonnes, down 3.9% from the week-earlier 295 969 tonnes but up 3.6% from the year-earlier 274 649 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 5 625 274 tonnes, a 4.1% increase from 5 405 419 tonnes for the same period in 1992.

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

Gypsum Products
April 1993

Manufacturers shipped 16 876 thousand square metres of plain gypsum wallboard in April 1993, down 7.0% from the 18 143 thousand square metres shipped in April 1992 and down 18.7% from the 20 753 thousand square metres shipped in March 1993.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of April totalled 70 209 thousand square metres, an increase of 3.1% from the January to April 1992 period.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 39 and 122 (series 11).

The April 1993 issue of *Gypsum Products* (44-003, $5/$50) will be available at a later date.

For more detailed information on this release, please contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

Shipments of Office Furniture Products
First Quarter 1993

For the quarter ending March 31 1993, shipments of office furniture products totalled $161.1 million, an 8.3% decrease from $175.7 million shipped during the first quarter of 1992.

Data on manufacturers' shipments of office furniture products for the first quarter of 1993 are now available. Data for province of destination as well as exports are also available.

The March 1993 issue of *Shipments of Office Furniture Products* (35-006, $6.75/$27) will be available at a later date.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Keith Martin (613-951-3518), Industry Division. ■

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MAJOR RELEASE DATES

Week of May 31 to June 4

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
May		
31	Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry	March 1993
31	Sales of Refined Petroleum Products	April 1993
31	Crude Oil and Natural Gas	February 1993
31	Major Release Dates	June 1993
June		
1	Census of Population: Social and Economic Characteristics of Families, Religion, Fertility and Place of Work	1991 Census
2	Help-wanted Index	May 1993
2	Therapeutic Abortions	1991
2	Short-term Expectations Survey	
3	Canada-United States Volume and Price Comparisons Based on Purchasing Parities	
4	Labour Force Survey	May 1993