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Statistics Canada

Tuesday, February 1, 1994

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The number of residential building permits issued in December rose 9.0% from November's revised figure. This second consecutive monthly increase was largely attributable to the single-family dwelling sector.

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- **Crude Oil and Natural Gas, November 1993**

Natural gas production rose 6.8% from November 1992, reflecting robust growth in exports and inventory replacement. Crude oil production increased 2.7% from November 1992.

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- **Short-term Expectations Survey**

A new series of forecasts from a small group of economists is released today.

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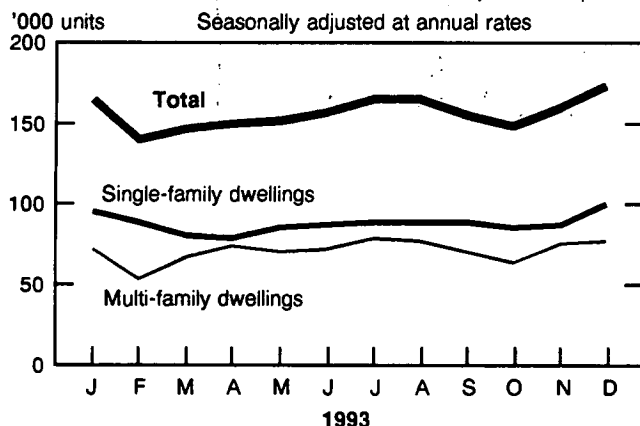
MAJOR RELEASES

Residential Building Permits

December 1993 (Advance Estimate)

The number of residential building permits issued in December rose 9.0% to 174,000 units at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, up from November's revised level of 160,000 units. This second consecutive monthly increase was largely attributable to the single-family dwelling sector.

Dwelling units authorized

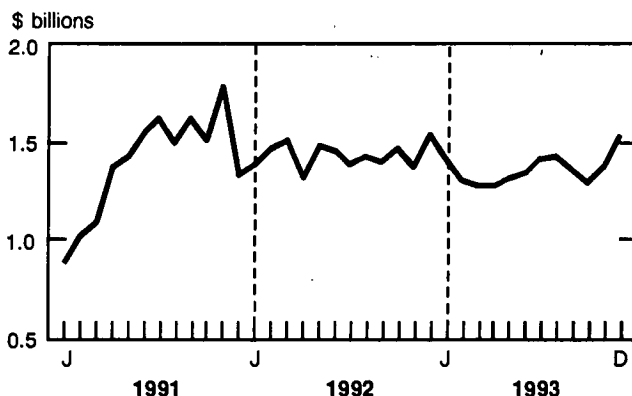


The continued growth in seasonally adjusted residential building intentions came principally from the single-family dwelling sector (+15.8% to 99,000 units) and, to a lesser extent, from the multi-family dwelling sector (+1.1% to 75,000 units).

The number of authorized dwelling units rose in all regions except British Columbia (-17.5%), where building intentions in the multi-family dwelling sector fell 29.4%. The largest increases were in the Atlantic region (+30.2%) and Ontario (+26.4%).

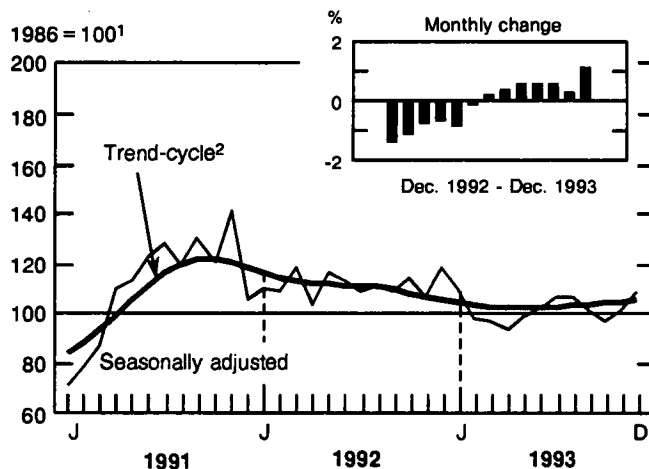
For the year 1993, the number of authorized dwelling units declined 7.7% from 1992. The single-family (-7.9%) and the multi-family (-7.4%) dwelling sectors were equally responsible for the drop. In 1993, all regions reported decreases in the number of dwelling units—particularly notable were the decreases in Ontario (-18.9%) and Quebec (-6.7%).

Value of residential building permits



The value of residential building permits rose 11.7% in December to \$1,527 million, up from November's revised level of \$1,367 million. This significant increase was attributable primarily to the single-family dwelling sector (+16.8%). All regions reported increases in the single-family dwelling sector—the most notable were in the Atlantic region (+39.9%) and Ontario (+24.1%).

Residential building permits indexes



¹ This series is deflated by using the construction input price index, which includes cost of material and labor.

² The trend-cycle shows the seasonally adjusted value of building permits without irregular influences, that can affect the short-term trend.

Residential building permits index

The short-term trend index for residential permits, which has increased on average by 0.5% over the last seven months, rose in December by 1.1% to 104.6. This is the longest sustained growth since 1991.

The residential building permits advance estimate

is based on results from over 90.0% of the municipalities surveyed.

The residential and non-residential building permits preliminary estimate for December 1993 will be released on February 15.

For further information, contact Nathalie Léveillé (613-951-2025), Current Investment Indicators Section, Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Value of residential building permits (advance estimate)

	Value			
	November 1993 ^r	December 1993 ^a	November 1993 ^r to December 1993 ^a	December 1992 to December 1993 ^a
	\$ thousands		% change	
Canada				
Seasonally adjusted	1,366,789	1,527,172	11.7	-0.2
Unadjusted	1,307,816	907,371	-30.6	3.4

Number of dwelling units authorized (advance estimate)

	Annual rate			
	November 1993 ^r	December 1993 ^a	November 1993 ^r to December 1993 ^a	December 1992 to December 1993 ^a
	units		% change	
Canada				
Seasonally adjusted	159,516	173,808	9.0	1.1
Unadjusted	156,840	111,456	-28.9	2.7

^a Advance figures.

^r Revised figures.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas

November 1993 (Preliminary)

Crude oil and natural gas exports to the United States continued their strong growth in November 1993. Natural gas production rose 6.8% from November 1992, reflecting robust growth in exports as well as inventory replacement. Crude oil exports rose 17.8% in November 1993 from a year earlier, while crude oil imports were up 29.9%. Crude oil production increased 2.7% from November 1992.

Natural gas

Natural gas production rose 6.8% in November 1993 from November 1992, to 11.2 billion cubic metres. Year-to-date production was up 11.2% from the same period in 1992.

Natural gas exports increased 7.8% from November 1992, to 5.6 billion cubic metres. Year-to-date exports increased 9.0% from 1992.

Domestic sales of natural gas increased 1.8% from November 1992, to 5.7 billion cubic metres. Year-to-date sales were 6.0% higher than in 1992.

Crude oil

Crude oil production increased 2.7% in November 1993 from November 1992, to 8.8 million cubic metres. Year-to-date production increased 4.0% from the same period in 1992.

Note to users

The crude petroleum and natural gas industry (SIC 071) is an important sector of the economy, especially in Western Canada. In 1992, the total value of crude oil and natural gas production amounted to \$19.3 billion, of which \$11.0 billion was exported. (Crude oil production was valued at \$10.9 billion and natural gas at \$8.4 billion.) The industry employs 30,000 and has annual capital expenditures of \$6.0 billion.

Exports of crude oil were up 17.8% from November 1992, to 4.7 million cubic metres. Year-to-date exports rose 9.3% to 48.6 million cubic metres.

Imports of crude oil increased 29.9% to 3.4 million cubic metres in November 1993. Year-to-date imports were up 18.7% over the previous year, at 31.6 million cubic metres.

November's refinery receipts were up 10.4% at 7.7 million cubic metres. Year-to-date receipts were up 7.0%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

The November 1993 issue of *Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Production* (26-006, \$10/\$100) will be available the last week of February. See "How to Order Publications".

For detailed information on this release, contact Brian Preston (613-951-3563), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Crude oil and natural gas

	November 1992	November 1993	November 1992 to November 1993	January 1992 to November 1992	January 1993 to November 1993	January- November 1992 to January- November 1993
	thousands of cubic metres		% change	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹						
Production	8 544.5	8 773.6	2.7	92 553.3	96 264.6	4.0
Exports	3 954.6	4 659.9	17.8	44 438.3	48 567.3	9.3
Imports	2 646.2	3 439.0	29.9	26 602.6	31 568.3	18.7
Refinery receipts	6 959.2	7 686.2	10.4	74 091.4	79 261.3	7.0
	millions of cubic metres		% change	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas²						
Marketable production	10 486.8	11 200.6	6.8	105 160.3	116 941.7	11.2
Exports	5 230.5	5 638.3	7.8	52 294.9	56 982.1	9.0
Canadian sales ³	5 601.7	5 700.2	1.8	50 168.9	53 203.8	6.0

¹ Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

³ Includes direct sales.

Short-term Expectations Survey

The increase in the Consumer Price Index for January is forecast at 1.7%, with minimum and maximum values of +1.5% and +1.8% respectively. For December, the mean forecast was overestimated at 1.9%, compared to an outcome of 1.7%.

The mean forecast of the unemployment rate for January is 11.1% (minimum 10.9%, maximum 11.3%). For December, the mean forecast was underestimated at 11.0%, compared to an outcome of 11.2%.

December's merchandise exports are forecast to be \$16.0 billion, with a minimum of \$15.8 billion and a maximum of \$16.5 billion. For November, the mean forecast (\$16.1 billion) overestimated the outcome by \$0.3 billion. The forecast of imports for December is \$15.1 billion, with a minimum of \$14.7 billion and a maximum of \$15.3 billion. For November, the mean forecast (\$14.8 billion) underestimated the outcome by \$0.2 billion.

Note to users

Since April 1990, Statistics Canada has been asking a small group of economists (an average of 23 participants) to forecast certain key economic indicators for the coming month.

This month, the economists were asked to forecast the year-over-year change in the Consumer Price Index, the unemployment rate for January 1994, the level of merchandise exports and imports for December 1993, and the month-to-month change in Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost for December 1993.

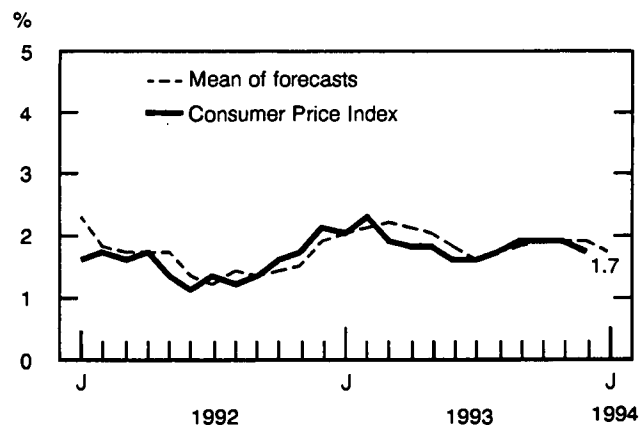
The next release is scheduled for March 8.

Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost is forecast to have changed by +0.3% between November and December 1993 (minimum +0.0%, maximum +0.6%). Between October and November 1993, the mean forecast was slightly overestimated at +0.4%, compared to an outcome of +0.3%.

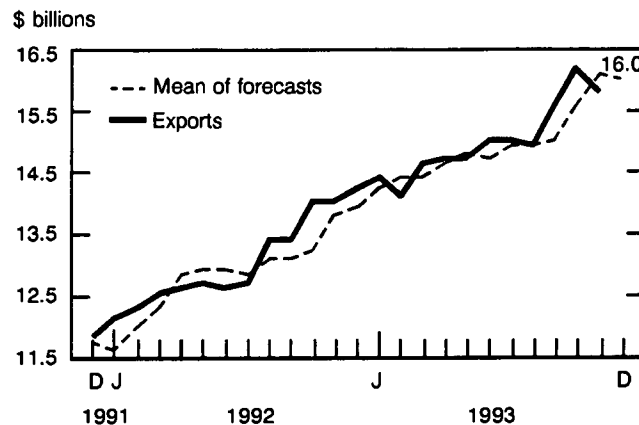
For a complete set of tables or more information about this survey, contact Diane Lachapelle (613-951-0568). □

Forecasts vs actual

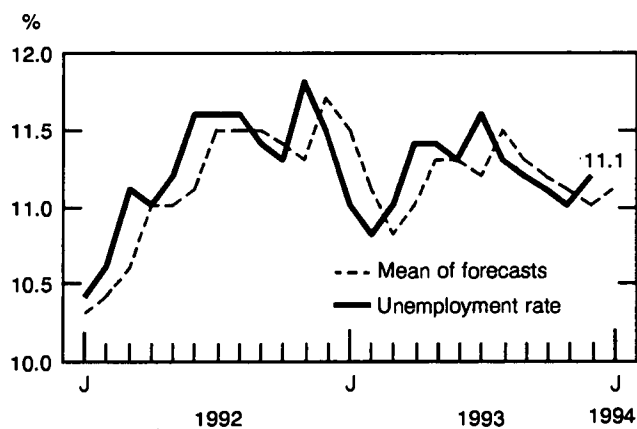
Consumer Price Index



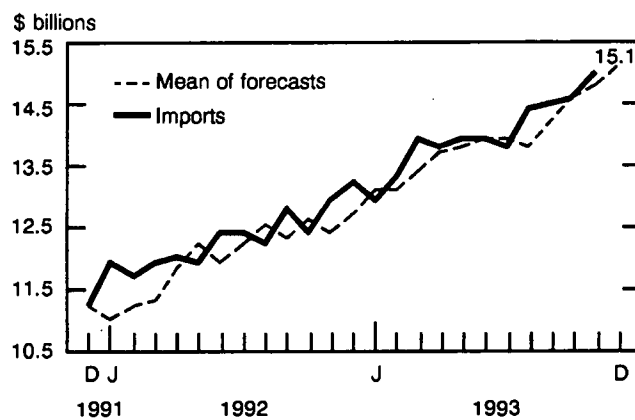
Mechandise exports



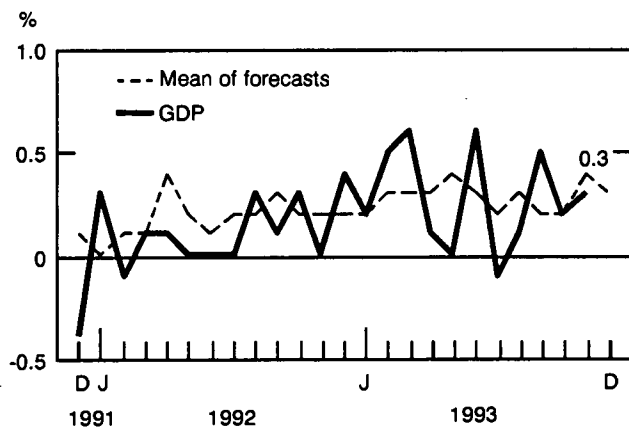
Unemployment rate



Mechandise Imports



Gross Domestic Product



DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gypsum Products

December 1993

Manufacturers shipped 16 495 thousand square metres of plain gypsum wallboard in December 1993, up 5.1% from 15 696 (revised) thousand square metres in December 1992 but down 11.0% from 18 537 thousand square metres in November 1993.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of December 1993 totalled 226 257 thousand square metres, up 1.6% from a year earlier.

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

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

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

Rigid Insulating Board

December 1993

Shipments of rigid insulating board totalled 1 797 thousand square metres (12.7 mm basis) in December 1993, a 14.2% decrease from 2 094 thousand square metres in December 1992.

For January to December 1993, shipments totalled 33 318 thousand square metres, a 6.6% increase from 31 242 thousand square metres in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 31 (series 1) and 122 (series 4 to 7).

The December 1993 issue of *Rigid Insulating Board* (36-002, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

For information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division. ■

Asphalt Roofing

December 1993

Shipments of asphalt shingles totalled 1 058 284 metric bundles in December 1993, a decrease of 8.9% from 1 161 180 metric bundles a year earlier.

For January to December 1993, shipments totalled 35 895 727 metric bundles, down 7.8% from 38 920 484 metric bundles shipped during the same period in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 32 and 122 (series 27 and 28).

The December 1993 issue of *Asphalt Roofing* (45-001, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

For information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division. ■

Biscuit Production

December 1993

Production of biscuits (sweetened) totalled 79 010 726 kilograms for the semi-annual period ended December 1993, a decrease of 4.4% from the same period in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 190.

Production of Selected Biscuits (32-026, \$6.75/\$13.50) will be available shortly. See "How to Order Publications".

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

PUBLICATION RELEASED

Wholesale Trade, November 1993.
Catalogue number 63-008
(Canada: \$14.40/\$144; United States:
US\$17.30/US\$173; Other Countries:
US\$20.20/US\$202).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.



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Statistics Canada

Friday, September 16, 1992
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Labour Force Survey, August 1992**
The unemployment rate fell 0.2 to 11.3 in August 1992.
- **Price Product Price Index, July 1992**
The Price Product Price Index rose 0.2% in July. The price index measured in 1982 base prices rose 0.1% in July 1992. The index for all urban consumers rose 0.1% in July 1992.
- **Advance Statistics of Education, 1992-93**
Since 1984-85, Statistics Canada has published the *Advance Statistics of Education* series. This series provides information on the education system in Canada.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Department Store Sales in Province and Metropolitan Area, July 1992**
Retail Sales in Province and Metropolitan Area, July 1992.
- **Business Conditions Summary, June 1992**
Business Conditions Summary, June 1992.
- **Living and Cost of Living, July 1992**
Living and Cost of Living, July 1992.
- **Construction Starts, July 1992**
Construction Starts, July 1992.

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Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E. (Canada: \$120; United States: US\$144; Other Countries: US\$168.)

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