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Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, March 31, 1995

OVERVIEW

Fewer Canadians receive U.I. benefits

In January, the number of Canadians who received regular U.I. benefits declined from the month before and was the lowest since 1981.

Weekly earnings stable for second month

In January, employees' average weekly earnings were virtually unchanged for the second month.

Industrial prices rise slower than in January

In February, industrial product prices rose at a slower rate than the month before.

Consumers pay more for goods and services

In February 1995, the year-over-year change in consumer prices was mostly due to the exclusion of tobacco tax reductions from the CPI.

Large Canadian investment in foreign bonds

Canadians invested a large amount in foreign bonds in January. Meanwhile, foreigners sold somewhat more in Canadian securities than they bought.

Profitable years for recording industry

Sales of recordings with Canadian content have almost tripled in the last five years.

Fewer Canadians receive U.I. benefits

In January, 766,000 Canadians received regular U.I. benefits, down 4.2% from the month before and the lowest level since December 1981. Compared with the July 1992 peak, the number was 36.2% less, with a 38.8% drop for men and a 33.9% drop for women. The larger proportional decline for men corresponds to increased employment in manufacturing and construction. Over the course of a business cycle, these industries are more affected by changes in the economy.

Except for a slight rise (0.4%) in Prince Edward Island, the number of beneficiaries declined in every province and territory, with the largest drop in Newfoundland (-8.6%). Compared with January 1994, decreases were reported by all provinces and territories.

The decline in the number of beneficiaries since the beginning of 1994 reflects gains in employment. Another factor may be that long-term unemployment — which renders people non- eligible for U.I. benefits — has remained high: it increased two and a half times between 1990 and 1994. In addition, in July 1994, changes were introduced to the U.I. legislation which tightened eligibility requirements.

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The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

... Fewer Canadians receive U.I. benefits

In January, 57.8% of all beneficiaries were male and 42.2% female. These numbers correspond to the ratio of men and women in the labour force. However, they mask significant differences in the types of benefits received: women accounted for 98.9% of maternity/parental benefits and 59.0% of sick benefits. The sick benefit results may reflect higher proportion of women working in jobs without sick benefit plans. For regular U.I. benefits, the proportions were 37.4% for females and 62.6% for males.

U.I. beneficiaries receiving regular benefits
January 1995
(Seasonally adjusted)

Province/territory	Total ('000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	**766**	**-4.2**	**-21.5**
Newfoundland	40	-8.6	-26.6
Prince Edward Island	11	0.4	-13.1
Nova Scotia	43	-2.3	-14.6
New Brunswick	48	-0.1	-11.6
Quebec	263	-3.1	-19.2
Ontario	193	-2.4	-25.8
Manitoba	19	-5.0	-25.0
Saskatchewan	15	-2.1	-26.5
Alberta	52	-7.3	-22.4
British Columbia	86	-6.5	-16.4
Yukon	1	-7.3	-32.0
Northwest Territories	1	-7.1	-10.3

Note to users

The majority (80.1% in January) of those who collect U.I. benefits receive regular benefits. In addition to regular benefits, claimants can qualify for special benefits (e.g., training, maternity, sickness and fishing). Data on the number of beneficiaries relate to a specific week of the reference month. Data on benefit payments, benefit weeks, and claims refer to a complete calendar month. Unless otherwise noted, all figures are seasonally adjusted.

During the month, 251,000 people submitted claims for U.I. benefits, virtually unchanged from a month earlier but still 5.0% lower than the same month last year. The amount of regular benefits paid to Canadians totalled $909.5 million, up 1.6% from December but 17.6% lower than the same month a year earlier.

For further information, order Unemployment insurance statistics *(catalogue 73-001) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4046.*

Weekly earnings stable for second month

In January, average weekly earnings ($571.06) were virtually unchanged for a second month. Employees in wholesale trade, manufacturing, and business services received higher earnings while those in most other industries (e.g., education, health and social services, public administration) earned less than in December.

Employees paid by the hour received on average $14.24 per hour, a drop of 0.6%, which brought the hourly earnings back to their November level. Hourly earnings have exhibited a moderate upward trend over the past year and were 1.2% higher than in January 1994.

Employees worked more hours in January, halting the declining trend of the previous three months. Hourly employees in most industries also worked longer hours with the notable exception of the accommodation, food, and beverage services industry.

Average weekly earnings, January 1995
Seasonally adjusted

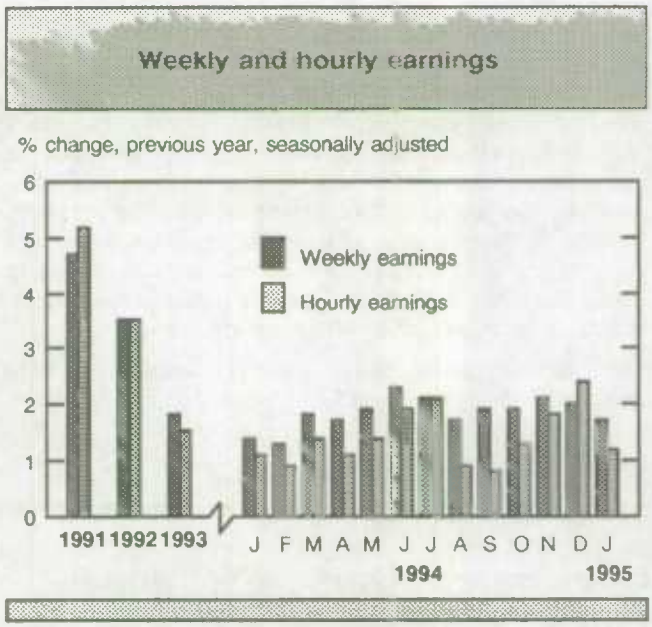
Province/Territory	Industrial aggregate ($)	%change, previous month	%change, previous year
Canada	**571.06**	**0.0**	**1.7**
Newfoundland	541.52	1.3	1.5
Prince Edward Island	449.88	-0.9	-2.6
Nova Scotia	494.00	-0.6	-0.6
New Brunswick	514.20	0.8	1.1
Quebec	541.70	-0.9	0.5
Ontario	611.60	0.4	2.7
Manitoba	495.19	-1.4	-0.1
Saskatchewan	494.10	0.4	3.8
Alberta	551.14	0.1	0.0
British Columbia	581.70	-0.1	2.1
Yukon	693.77	1.4	0.4
Northwest Territories	698.07	0.5	0.0

(continued on page 3)

... Weekly earnings stable for second month

The number of employees at 10.6 million showed virtually no movement from the month before. In recent months, the number of employees has been at its highest level since Spring 1991. The lost employment in January occurred mostly in construction companies. Their decline offset the growing number of employees in manufacturing, accommodation, food and beverage services, and retail stores.

For further information, order Employment, earnings and hours *(catalogue 72-002) or contact Labour Division at (613) 951-4090.*



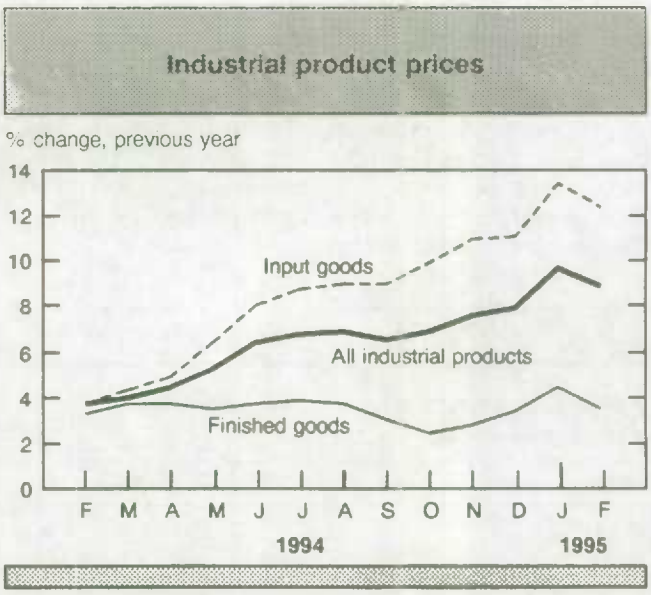
Industrial prices rise slower than in January

In February, industrial product prices jumped 8.8% over a year earlier, a drop from January's 12-month increase of 9.7%. Between January and February the IPPI grew 0.2%, the lowest rise in five months.

The most important price increases occurred in meat products (4.6%), pulp (3.3%), domestic newsprint (2.9%), and commercial printing (2.3%). Meat prices rose mostly on the strength of pork and beef. Partly offsetting these increases were price declines for some chemicals and several food and feed items.

Declines in construction and automobile sales have affected both automobile and lumber prices. In the Canadian automotive sector, both exports and domestic prices edged down in February. Lumber, sawmill, and other wood products also decreased slightly. Declines also occurred in the prices of many non-ferrous metals other than aluminum.

The value of the U.S. dollar against the Canadian dollar slipped by about a half percentage between January 15 and February 15. This reduced the month-to-month increase in industrial prices from about 0.3% to 0.2%.



The 12-month change in Canadian industrial prices has been much higher then in other G7 countries for the past several months. In February, the gap narrowed somewhat. Canadian producer price increases were about 7 percentage points higher than in the U.S. and 5.5 percentage points higher than in Germany and the United Kingdom.

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... Industrial prices rise slower than in January

The slowing of the 12-month price rise in Canada may be temporary. The world economy continues to expand. The demand for processed raw materials, which has been fuelling the increase in Canadian industrial prices, is likely to continue to grow in the near future. Nevertheless, uncertainty in North American auto sales, and possible increases in U.S. and Canadian interest rates, may slow North American growth and Canadian industrial price rises as the year progresses.

For further information, order Industry price indexes *(catalogue 62-011) or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-3350.*

Note to users

The industrial product price index (IPPI) reflects the prices producers receive as the goods leave the plant. It is not indicative of what consumers pay. Unlike the consumer price index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and costs that occur between when goods leave the plant and when final users take possession of them (ie. transportation, wholesale, and retail costs). Since Canadian export producers often quote their prices in foreign currencies, exchange rate movements affect the IPPI. A 1.0% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar changes the IPPI by approximately 0.2%.

Consumers pay more for goods and services

In February 1995, the year-over-year change in consumer prices was 1.8%. In comparison, the month before, the 12-month rise in the all-items CPI was 0.6%. The difference between the January and February rates reflects the fact that tobacco tax reductions are no longer incorporated in the CPI 12-month change.

In February, the average price of goods and services increased 0.5% from January. However, the price rises faced by consumers for a number of goods and services were mostly due to seasonal factors. For the second consecutive month, higher food prices (0.6%) were the major contributors to the rise. Price hikes occurred for soft drinks, meat, and bakery products, but were slightly offset by falling prices for lettuce and bananas.

Further upward pressure came from travel tours (higher rates during increased seasonal demand), mortgage interest charges, auto insurance and gasoline. Piped gas prices fell for the second straight month, caused in part by milder weather this winter.

By region, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Ontario saw the largest monthly changes (0.5%), while Saskatchewan (0.1%) and Whitehorse (-0.2%) experienced unusually low price movements. Year-over-year price changes were above the national average in Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan.

For further information, order The consumer price index *(catalogue 62-001) or contact Prices Division at (613) 951-9606. (See also "Current trends" on page 10.)*

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

The Consumer price index, February 1995

% change, previous year*

Province/territory	All-items	Food	Energy	Housing	Transportation
Canada	**1.8**	**2.5**	**1.8**	**0.8**	**5.2**
Newfoundland	1.6	4.0	4.6	0.7	6.9
Prince Edward Island	0.0	0.1	3.4	1.0	6.0
Nova Scotia	0.9	2.6	1.2	0.3	5.8
New Brunswick	1.7	2.9	0.4	1.4	5.6
Quebec	1.2	2.1	1.1	1.0	3.4
Ontario	2.1	2.2	1.9	1.0	5.6
Manitoba	2.5	3.1	3.4	1.9	5.3
Saskatchewan	2.0	4.0	1.6	1.0	4.9
Alberta	2.3	4.1	1.2	-0.2	7.0
British Columbia	2.2	3.4	2.5	-0.2	5.6
Yukon	1.5	-0.1	2.5	1.0	4.2
Northwest Territories	1.9	2.3	4.2	1.1	4.9

* *Data are not seasonally adjusted.*

Large Canadian investment in foreign bonds

In January, non-residents sold a modest $0.8 billion more in Canadian securities than they bought, the third sell-off in the last five months. Meanwhile, Canadians invested an unusually large $1.5 billion in foreign bonds, mostly U.S. Treasury bonds.

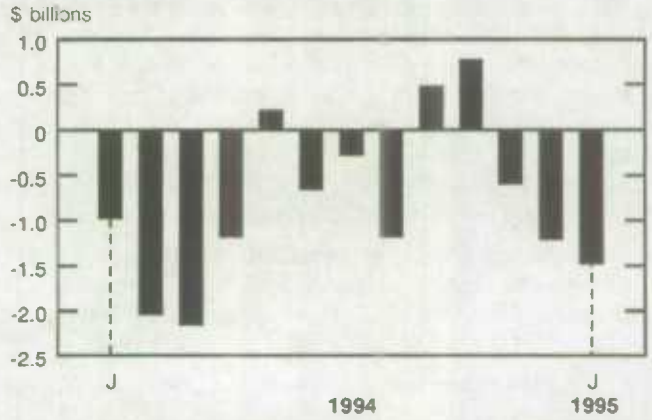
Overall, in the five months prior to January, foreigners withdrew $6.5 billion in portfolio investments from Canada. The withdrawal occurred against a backdrop of declining Canadian stock prices and a weakening Canadian dollar.

Foreigners reduced their holdings of Canadian stocks for a third consecutive month, selling $0.5 billion in January. Trading activity fell to its lowest level since April 1993.

After a large investment in December, non-residents sold $0.6 billion more in short-term paper than they purchased. They also reduced their holdings of other government and finance company paper, but bought Government of Canada treasury bills. The selling in January was mostly by U.K. investors.

Halting four straight months of disinvestment, foreigners resumed buying Canadian bonds with a small $0.3 billion investment in January. New issues, placed in foreign markets by some of the provinces, were mostly offset by continued selling of existing bonds and an unusually low amount of redemptions.

Canadian investment in foreign securities



Canadian investors purchased a record $1.5 billion of foreign bonds in January, mainly U.S. government issues. Since 1980, Canadians have been consistently investing in foreign bonds with the single exception of 1994, when they reduced their holdings by a small amount. Canadians sold a small amount of foreign stock in January.

For further information, order Canada's international transactions in securities *(catalogue 67-002) or contact Balance of Payments Division at (613) 951-1864.*

Profitable years for recording industry

Sales of recordings with Canadian content have almost tripled in the last five years to reach a new high of $92.7 million in 1993-94, up 30% over the preceding year alone. Overall, sales in the recording industry were 16.5% higher than in 1992-93. Profits rose 3% to $140 million.

Sales of recordings with Canadian content now represent 13% of total sales, compared with a market share of 8% five years ago. In 1993-94, companies released 719 new recordings with Canadian content, up 7.5% from the previous year. By comparison, the number of other new releases rose a marginal 0.8% to 5,648.

Foreign-controlled companies account for less than a third of new releases with Canadian content. However, for two straight years, they have been responsible for more than half the sales of those releases. Profit levels of Canadian-owned recording companies have increased dramatically. In 1993-94, 196 Canadian companies reported profits of $16.5 million, seven times the level five years ago and 32% above the preceding year. In contrast, 14 foreign-controlled companies reported profits of $123.6 million in 1993-94, down slightly from 1992-93.

(continued on page 6)

... Profitable years for recording industry

For most people, compact discs are the format of choice. In 1993-94, consumers bought 56.1 million CDs, more than four times the level of five years ago and a 23.8% increase from 1992-93. Compact discs represented 69% of dollar sales in 1993-94. On the other hand, cassette tapes are still maintaining their sales while losing their share in an expanding market. In 1993-94, consumers purchased 39 million tapes — slightly more than the year before, but 7.8% less than five years ago.

Sales of CDs are expected to keep growing as more and more households buy compact disc players. In 1994, 40.8% of households had a CD player compared with 33% the previous year.

For further information, contact Education, Culture and Tourism Division at (613) 951-1573.

Note to users

A musical selection is deemed to be a Canadian content selection if it fulfils any two of the following conditions established by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC): the music was composed by a Canadian; the instrumentation or lyrics were principally performed by a Canadian; the live performance was wholly recorded in Canada; the lyrics were written by a Canadian.

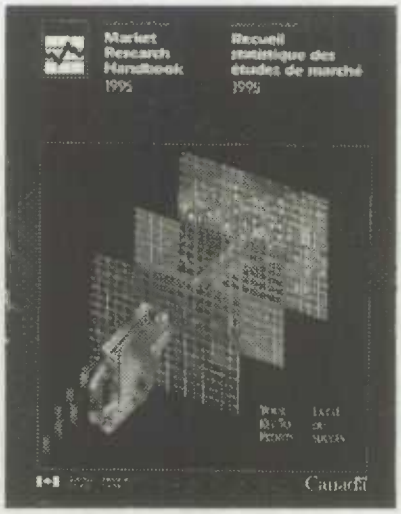
Sales of recordings

	Sales with Canadian content	Total sales	Share of sales with Canadian content
	$ millions		%
1989-90	36.7	454.3	8.0
1990-91	53.6	508.7	10.5
1991-92	57.9	579.7	10.0
1992-93	71.5	633.5	11.3
1993-94	92.7	738.0	12.6

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM MARCH 24 TO 30, 1995

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (Cdn.$)	United States	Other countries
				US$	
AGRICULTURE					
Livestock statistics updates	March 1995	10-600E	144	173	202
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS					
Juristat: Police personnel and expenditure in Canada	1993	85-002	5/60	6/72	7/84
Juristat: Youth custody and probation in Canada	1993-1994	85-002	5/60	6/72	7/84
EDUCATION, CULTURE AND TOURISM					
Education quarterly review	Spring 1995	81-003	15/60	18/72	21/84
HEALTH STATISTICS					
Births 1992		84-210	15	18	21
Divorces	1992	84-213	20	24	28
Health reports	1994	82-003	28/112	34/135	40/157
Hospital morbidity	1992-1993	82-216	20	24	28
Marriages	1992	84-212	15	18	21
Mental health statistics	1992-1993	83-245	15	18	21
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
Dynamics of labour income	1994	75-201E	37	45	52
The labour force	February 1995	71-001	20/200	24/240	28/280
INDUSTRY					
Canada's mineral production: preliminary estimates	1994	26-202	24	29	34
Construction type plywood	January 1995	35-001	6/60	8/72	9/84
Corrugated boxes and wrappers	February 1995	36-004	6/60	8/72	9/84
Crude petroleum and natural gas production	December 1994	26-006	11/110	14/132	16/154
Department store sales and stocks	December 1994	63-002	16/160	20/192	23/224
Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes)	February 1995	43-009	6/60	8/72	9/84
Electric power statistics	January 1995	57-001	11/110	14/132	16/154
Gas utilities	December 1994	55-002	14/140	17/168	20/196
Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation	February 1995	44-004	6/60	8/72	9/84
Production and disposition of tobacco products	February 1995	32-022	6/60	8/72	9/84
Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills east of the Rockies	January 1995	35-002	11/110	14/132	16/154
Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills in British Columbia	January 1995	35-003	8/80	10/96	12/112
The sugar situation	February 1995	32-013	6/60	8/72	9/84
Vending machine operators	March 31, 1994	63-213	24	29	34
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Canadian international merchandise trade	January 1995	65-001	19/182	22/219	26/255
Exports by commodity	December 1994	65-004	60/600	72/720	84/840
Exports by country	Jan.-Dec. 1994	65-003	90/360	108/432	126/504
LIBRARY					
Statistics Canada publication list		11-209	free	free	free
MARKETING					
Market research handbook	1995	63-224	110	132	154
PRICES					
Consumer price index	February 1995	62-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Service indicators	4th quarter 1994	63-016	28/112	34/135	40/157

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Market research handbook

A broad range and depth of market data are now available in the latest *Market research handbook*. A bestseller since 1971, the *Handbook* is a comprehensive source of socio-economic data on Canadian consumers and businesses. You will find information on what Canadians earn and how they spend their money on cars, rent, home entertainment and appliances, for example. And data on retail and department store sales give further insight into spending patterns.

The *Market research handbook* is an invaluable data source for market researchers, business strategists, product planners, sales leaders, and others who need a comprehensive overview of Canadian society and the economy. It will help identify, define and locate your target markets. With over 600 pages and more than 200 statistical tables, the *Handbook* gives you quick access to census data, demographic projections, and important economic indicators in most cases for the provinces, the territories and 45 census metropolitan areas.

The 1995 edition of the Market research handbook *(catalogue 63-224, $110) is now available. Contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.*

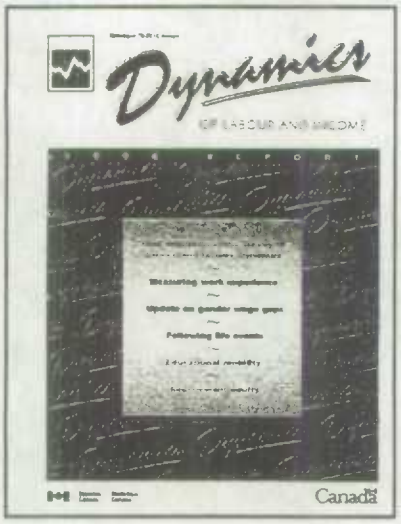
Education quarterly review

The Spring 1995 issue of *Education quarterly review* contains insightful articles on financial assistance to postsecondary students, the male-female earnings gap among postsecondary graduates, university enrolment trends, and adult education.

More than just numbers, *Education quarterly review* is a valuable source for anyone who needs relevant, unbiased and accurate analysis of current educational issues and trends.

The Spring 1995 issue of Education quarterly review *(catalogue 81-003, $15/$60) is now available. For further information, contact Jim Seidle at (613) 951-1500, fax: (613) 951-9040, the Internet: education@statcan.ca), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.*

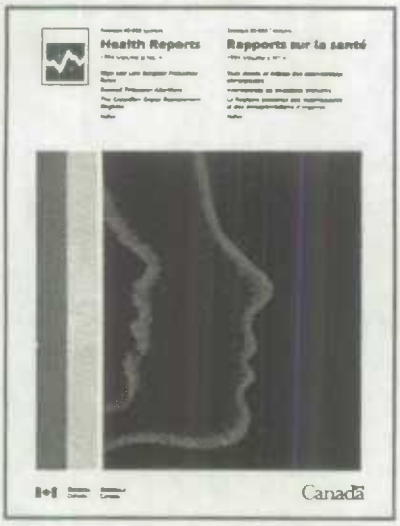
NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA



Dynamics of labour and income

This publication presents the first results from the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, a new longitudinal survey. Along with a survey overview, *Dynamics* features five articles about the background of Canadians. The topics cover the work experience of Canadians, the more uncommon information on life events, intergenerational changes in education, data on visible minorities and aboriginal peoples, and the male-female wage gap. This information was collected during a preliminary interview with the first panel of respondents in January 1993.

Dynamics of labour and income: 1994 report *(catalogue 75-201E, $37) is now available. For further information, contact Maryanne Webber at (613) 951-2899, Philip Giles at (613-951-2891) or your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.*



Health reports

This issue of *Health reports* contains two research papers. The first deals with high and low surgical procedure rates associated with 39 commonly performed operations. Data are presented at the subprovincial level for all provinces (excluding Prince Edward Island). The second article focuses on trends and medical complications related to second trimester abortions (abortions performed at 13 to 24 weeks of gestation). A special article that describes the Canadian Organ Replacement Register is also featured.

The fourth quarter 1994 (Vol. 6, no. 4) issue of Health reports *(catalogue 82-003, $28/$112) is now available. For more information, contact the Information Requests Unit at (613) 951-1746, Health Statistics Division.*

CANSIM time series directory

The 1995 *CANSIM time series directory* is available on either compact disc or in hard copy. The directory serves as a guide to the data contained in the CANSIM time series database. Online access to this data base is available world-wide through a number of distributors.

The compact disc makes directory searching easier. You can search by keyword and by topic. The disc also contains a thesaurus of terms used by Statistics Canada and an instructional module, "About Statistics Canada data". The latter gives more information on the data and services available from Statistics Canada.

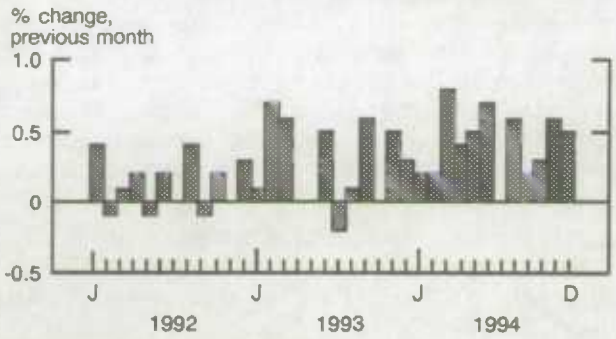
Prices:

- *StatCan: CANSIM directory disc:* a compact disc with a new disc issued semi-annually (Canada: $75; United States: US$90; other countries: US$100).
- *CANSIM time series directory:* a three-volume, hard copy set with a semi-annual amendment (Canada: $225; United States: US$270; other countries: US$315).
- Cross-reference index (hard copy) for databank, matrix and series identifiers (Canada: $75; United States: US$90; other countries: US$100).

For further information about the 1995 CANSIM time series directory, contact Mary Townson at (613) 951-1122, Marketing Division, or your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

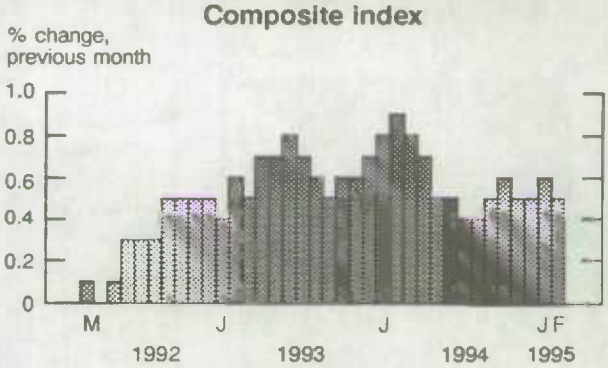
CURRENT TRENDS

Gross domestic product



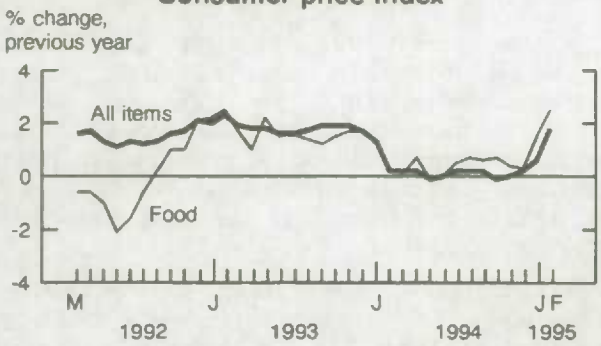
Real gross domestic product at factor cost grew 0.5% in December.

Composite index



In February 1995, the composite index continued to grow moderately, up 0.5% from the month before.

Consumer price index



Consumers paid 1.8% more for goods and services in February 1995 than the year before. Food prices rose by 2.5%.

Unemployment rate

In February, the unemployment rate dipped 0.1 percentage points to 9.6%.

Manufacturing

Manufacturers' shipments jumped 3.0% in January to $33.1 billion. The level of unfilled orders grew by 0.5% to $33.9 billion.

Merchandise trade

The value of merchandise exports surged 6.2% in January, to $22.5 billion. Imports grew more than 5% to $20.1 billion.

Note: *All series are seasonally adjusted except the consumer price index.*

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change, previous year
GENERAL				
Gross domestic product ($ billion, 1986)	December	545.2	0.5%	5.1%
Composite index (1981 = 100)	February	173.4	0.5%	6.9%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	3rd quarter	20.2	11.4%	48.5%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	January	17.9	0.8%	7.1%
New motor vehicle sales ('000 units)	January	101.0	-6.5%	-5.3%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	February	13.5	-0.1%	2.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	February	9.6	-0.1†	-1.4†
Participation rate (%)	February	65.1	-0.2†	-0.3†
Labour income ($ billion)	December	34.8	0.7%	4.2%
Average weekly earnings ($)	December	572.69	0.3%	2.5%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	January	22.5	6.2%	41.8%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	January	20.1	5.4%	33.4%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	December	2.1	-0.2	1.5
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	January	33.1	3.0%	24.5%
New orders ($ billion)	January	33.3	1.5%	24.6%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	January	33.9	0.5%	14.1%
Inventory/ shipments ratio	January	1.22	-0.02	-0.15
Capacity utilization (%)	4th quarter	84.8	0.9†	4.6†
PRICES				
Consumer price index (1986 = 100)	February*	132.7	0.5%	1.8%
Industrial product price index (1986 = 100)	February*	126.3	0.2%	8.8%
Raw materials price index (1986 = 100)	February*	131.8	0.8%	17.2%
New housing price index (1986 = 100)	January	135.8	0.0%	-0.3%

Note: *All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.*
* *new this week*
† *percentage point*

Regional Reference Centres

Statistics Canada's Regional Reference Centres offer a full range of the agency's products and services. Each reference centre is equipped with a library and a sales counter where users can consult or purchase publications, microcomputer and CD-ROM diskettes, microfiche, maps and more.

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Fax: 1-902-426-9538

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H2Z 1X4

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KEY RELEASE CALENDAR: April 1995*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 **Building permits**, February	4	5	6 **Help-wanted index**, March **Estimates of labour income**, January	7 **Labour force survey**, March
10	11 **New motor vehicle sales**, February **New housing price index**, February	12	13 **Department store sales**, February	14
17	18 **Monthly survey of manufacturing**, February **Travel between Canada and other countries**, February	19 **Canadian international trade**, February **Composite index**, March	20 **Canadian economic observer**, April **National balance sheet accounts**, 1994	21 **Consumer price index**, March
24 **Retail trade**, February **Wholesale trade**, February	25 **Canada's international transactions in securities**, February **Unemployment insurance statistics**, February	26 **Industrial product price index**, March **Raw materials price index**, March	27 **Employment, earnings and hours**, February	28 **Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry**, February **Field crop reporting series: March seeding intentions**

* Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series may change.

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