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Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, August 16, 1996

OVERVIEW

◆ **Employment rises slightly**

In July, employment rose slightly, while the unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage points to 9.8%.

◆ **Car sales record second consecutive gain**

The number of passenger cars sold increased 3.5% in June following a large jump in May.

◆ **New house prices falling more slowly than before**

For a second consecutive month in June, the pace of the downward trend in the new housing price index slowed.

◆ **Real spending on culture declines**

Government spending on culture grew slightly in 1994/95 from the previous fiscal year. However, real spending on culture fell for a fifth straight year.

◆ **Energy production posts lowest advance in three years**

Canadian energy production increased only 4.0% in 1995, its lowest advance in three years.

◆ **Alcohol sales up**

In 1994/95, Canadians increased their purchases of all three types of alcoholic beverages (beer, spirits and wine) for the first time in seven years.

Employment rises slightly

In July, employment rose a slight 19,000; the unemployment rate dipped 0.2 percentage points to 9.8%. The growth in employment was concentrated in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. In Ontario, an employment gain of 31,000 (mostly in manufacturing) was the first significant increase since February 1996. Even so, employment in this province was 89,000 above its July 1995 level. The job losses continued in Quebec, wiping out the gains realized in the second half of 1995 and early 1996.

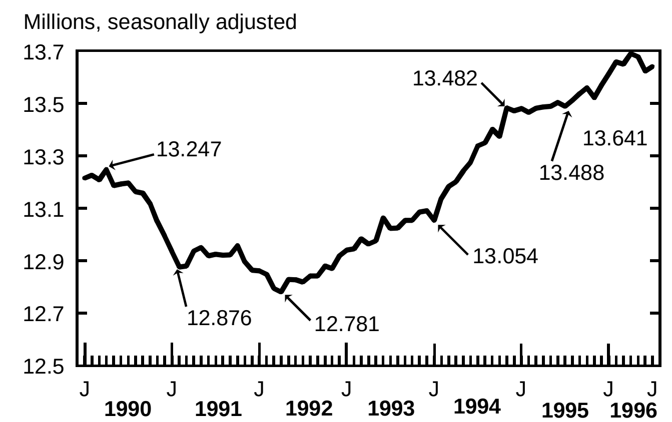
Adults (aged 25 and over) accounted for all of July's gain of 19,000. This increase followed a decrease of 35,000 in June and brought the employment gain among adults since July 1995 to 184,000 – an average monthly increase of about 15,000.

Full-time employment staged a partial recovery in July, regaining 37,000 of the 62,000 jobs lost in June. But these gains were made only among men (+57,000), while women lost 20,000 full-time jobs. In fact, full-time employment has grown by 109,000 over the past year – again, mostly among men. Although part-time employment fell by 18,000, it has increased 44,000 since July 1995.

Employment among youths (aged 15 to 24) remained stable in July, leaving job losses over the past year at 31,000. Summer jobs continued to be hard to find for younger students (aged 15 to 19), as their employment rate (45.4%) was lower while their unemployment rate (22.8%) was higher than in July 1995. The

(continued on page 2)

Employment



Statistics Canada Statistique Canada
Canada

... Employment rises slightly

situation for students aged 20 to 24 improved somewhat, as their jobless rate stood at 9.0%, its lowest since 1990.

Public sector employment fell by 29,000, following a similar loss in June; employment in the sector is down 2.4% (-50,000) so far this year. In the private sector, the estimated number of employees grew by 71,000 in July, bringing the year-to-date gain to 167,000 (+1.8%). Self-employment shrank by 22,000, and has fallen 45,000 (-2.0%) so far this year.

Manufacturing employment climbed by 25,000 in July, bringing the gain since March to 54,000. This is consistent with the recent growth in shipments. Nevertheless, manufacturing employment has shown no net increase since February 1995.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2074, 2075, 2078-2107 and table 00799999.

The July 1996 issue of ***The labour force*** *(71-001-XPB, $23/$230), will be available shortly. For further information, contact Doug Drew (613-951-4720), Household Surveys Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7).*

Labour Force Survey, July 1996
Seasonally adjusted

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	Rate (%)
Canada	**15,129**	**0.0**	**13,641**	**0.1**	**1,488**	**9.8**
Newfoundland	236	-0.4	192	2.1	44	18.6
Prince Edward Island	70	-0.2	60	0.4	10	14.5
Nova Scotia	434	-2.0	381	-1.8	53	12.2
New Brunswick	359	1.1	318	1.0	41	11.4
Quebec	3,615	-0.4	3,167	-1.1	448	12.4
Ontario	5,845	0.2	5,309	0.6	536	9.2
Manitoba	567	0.5	521	0.4	46	8.1
Saskatchewan	497	0.0	462	0.2	35	7.0
Alberta	1,523	0.1	1,420	0.9	103	6.8
British Columbia	1,974	0.2	1,814	0.9	160	8.1

Car sales record second consecutive gain

The number of passenger cars sold rose 3.5% in June to 55,820 following an 11.1% jump in May. This pushed total new motor vehicle sales up 1.9% from May, to 99,406 vehicles. Early reports from the auto industry suggest a sales decline in July.

These latest gains were not enough, however, to offset the declines recorded in January, March and April. For the first six months of 1996, passenger car sales fell 4.3% from the same period in 1995.

Truck sales, on the other hand, which were virtually flat in June (+0.1% to 43,586), remained solid in the first half, with only two monthly declines (January and April), and were up 6.4% from the first half of 1995.

Dealers in Saskatchewan reported the largest percentage increase in the number of new vehicles sold in the first half of 1996 (+11.8%). This was followed closely by dealers in Manitoba (+11.3%). These two sales gains came mostly from the truck market (+17.0% in Saskatchewan and +23.5% in Manitoba).

Consumers in Saskatchewan purchased more passenger cars during the first half of 1996 than they did during the same period of 1995. In all the other provinces, car sales fell; the worst decline in car sales was in Ontario, down 7.2% in the first half of 1996.

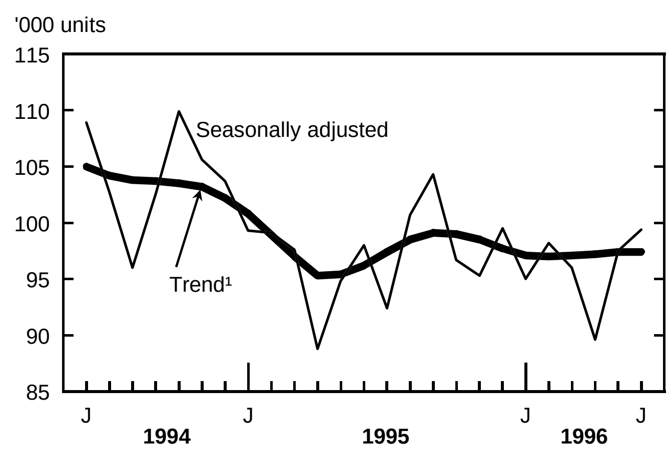
(continued on page 3)

Note to readers

Motor vehicles are divided into two categories: passenger cars and trucks. Passenger cars include cars used for personal and commercial purposes (such as taxis and rental cars). Trucks include minivans, sport utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans, coaches and buses.

Monthly data have been seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified. Year-to-date figures for the first half are based on unadjusted data.

New motor vehicle sales



¹ The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.

... Car sales record second consecutive gain

The growth in vehicle and truck sales in Saskatchewan and Manitoba may reflect the positive outlook for the agricultural sector. Wheat and feed grain prices have surged due to low global stocks and strong demand. Also, June unemployment rates in the two provinces (7.2% in Saskatchewan and 8.0% in Manitoba) were well below June's national rate of 10.0%.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

The June 1996 issue of ***New motor vehicle sales*** *(63-007-XPB, $16/$160) will be available shortly. For further information, contact Mary Beth Lozinski Garneau (613-951-9824), Industry Division.*

New motor vehicle sales
(1991=100)
Seasonally adjusted

	First half 1995	First half 1996	First half 1995 to First half 1996
			% change
Canada	**612,417**	**613,395**	**0.2**
Newfoundland	9,389	8,920	-5.0
Prince Edward Island	2,207	2,153	-2.4
Nova Scotia	17,656	18,197	3.1
New Brunswick	16,120	16,568	2.8
Quebec	154,014	159,053	3.3
Ontario	235,867	227,773	-3.4
Manitoba	18,381	20,451	11.3
Saskatchewan	15,677	17,525	11.8
Alberta	65,876	68,209	3.5
British Columbia	77,230	74,546	-3.5

New house prices falling more slowly than before

For a second consecutive month in June, the pace of the downward trend in the new housing price index slowed. In June, the annual rate of change in the index was -2.2%, slower than the -2.5% reported in May and the -2.7% in April. The annual rate of change has been negative since June 1994. In fact, since then, the index has dropped 3.4%.

Compared with a year earlier, new housing prices fell in 13 urban centres, increased in 7 and remained unchanged in 1. New home prices on the west coast showed the largest annual declines as builders in Victoria (-7.4%) and Vancouver (-6.7%) reduced prices in order to generate sales in those competitive markets. The largest annual advance was in Saskatoon (+1.7%).

The outlook for housing construction seems encouraging. In the first half of 1996, the value of residential building permits was up 11.9% from a year earlier. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported that the annual rate of housing starts in June was 3.2%. The Canadian Real Estate Association attributes an improving resale market to stable and lower mortgage rates and to greater consumer confidence.

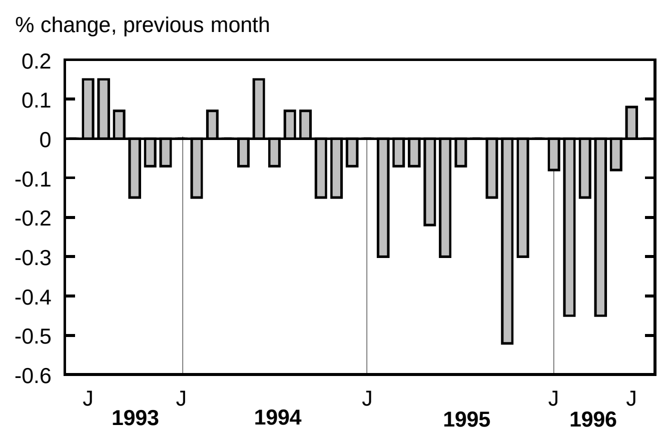
From May to June 1996, the new housing price index at the national level posted its first monthly rise (+0.1%) since September 1994, as 9 city indexes were unchanged, 8 rose and only 4 declined. The house-only index for Canada climbed 0.1% from the month before, but dropped 2.5% from the year before. The land-only index was unchanged from May 1996 and fell 1.1% from June 1995.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2032.

Note to readers

The new housing price index measures changes in the prices of new single-family dwellings (detached, semi-detached and townhouses).

New housing price index



The second quarter 1996 issue of ***Construction price statistics*** *(62-007-XPB $23/$76) will be available in September. For further information, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848; the Internet: danipau@statcan.ca), Prices Division.*

Real spending on culture declines

The federal, provincial-territorial and municipal governments in Canada spent a combined $5.84 billion on culture in the 1994/95 fiscal year, less than the 1992/93 peak of $5.86 billion but up a slight 0.5% from 1993/94. However, real (inflation-adjusted) government spending on culture in 1994/95 was down 0.3% from the preceding year, the fifth consecutive drop since 1989/90.

Federal spending on culture in 1994/95 (+1.6%) accounted for nearly half of all government spending on culture that year. Cultural outlays by the provincial-territorial governments dropped 4.8%, the second consecutive decline in 10 years, whereas municipal governments raised their spending by 0.9%.

In 1994/95, the federal government spent 2% more on operations and capital spending, (86% of the federal cultural budget), but cut by 3% its grants, contributions and other transfers to artists and cultural organizations. The overall 1.6% federal increase, which halted a slide that began in 1991/92, was largely due to higher spending on broadcasting.

Broadcasting was the cultural industry that received the most federal support in 1994/95, at $1.58 billion (+4% from 1993/94) or just over half the federal cultural budget. This spending (mostly on operating and capital expenses) was concentrated in Ontario and Quebec. Meanwhile, federal government spent $410.6 million (-2%) on other cultural industries (including film and video production, book and periodical publishing, and sound recording). Grants, contributions and transfers to these industries fell 3%. The performing arts suffered even larger federal cuts (-8% to $105.9 million), as their grant portion ($64.8 million) dropped 10%.

Federal cultural spending increased in only seven provinces and territories; the greatest were in the Northwest Territories (+12%) and Prince Edward Island (+8%). The largest declines occurred in the Yukon (-12%) and Newfoundland (-9%).

Government spending on culture

	1989/90	1993/94	1994/95	1993/94 to 1994/95
	$ millions			% change
Federal	**2,891**	**2,831**	**2,875**	**1.6**
Provincial-territorial	1,690	1,916	1,824	-4.8
Municipal[1]	1,080	1,413	1,426	0.9
All levels ($ current)[2]	5,376	5,810	5,839	0.5
All levels ($ constant, 1986)[2]	4,779	4,532	4,520	-0.3

[1] *Municipal spending is on a calendar year basis.*
[2] *These totals exclude inter-governmental transfers, and thus cannot be derived by adding the three figures above.*

Note to readers

The Surveys of Federal and Provincial-Territorial Government Expenditures on Culture represent a census of federal and provincial-territorial cultural departments and agencies. A sample was used to estimate the spending of all municipalities.

The three main categories of spending on culture are operating expenditures, capital expenditures, and grants and contributions.

Above-average declines in cultural spending were reported by the governments of British Columbia (-16%), New Brunswick (-8%), Prince Edward Island (-8%), Nova Scotia (-6%) and Ontario (-5%); the goverments of Manitoba, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories recorded growth.

The provincial and territorial governments spent $676.2 million on libraries (-10% from 1993/94), representing nearly two-fifths of their total cultural budget. Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Manitoba and the Yukon all reported higher funding for libraries. The heritage sector (including institutions such as museums, archives, and historic and nature parks) received 3% more funding, to $450.9 million.

On a per capita basis in 1994/95, provincial-territorial spending on culture exceeded the national average ($62) in the Yukon ($289), the Northwest Territories ($202), Prince Edward Island ($90), Quebec ($83), Manitoba ($78) and British Columbia ($63); the lowest rate ($41) occurred in New Brunswick.

Municipal spending on culture, which has been rising for 10 years, grew about 1% in 1994 due to greater funding for libraries. Libraries have accounted for, on average, about three-quarters of the municipal cultural budget since 1984.

Over the last 10 years, the municipal share of all government spending on culture has grown 7 percentage points, to 23% in 1994. In 1994, municipal cultural spending declined in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec and the two territories; spending rose in all other provinces.

Details from the Government Expenditures on Culture Surveys are available in table format (87F0009XPE, $50). A summary of the data will also appear in ***Canada's culture, heritage and identity: a statistical perspective*** *(87-211-XPB, $30), scheduled for release this winter. The data are also available by province and territory. Researchers may request special tabulations on a cost-recovery basis. For further information, contact Pina La Novara (613-951-1573; fax: 613-951-9040), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.*

Energy production posts lowest advance in three years

Canadian production of energy products grew only 4.0% in 1995, its lowest advance in three years. Slower export growth and only modest increases in domestic energy consumption (demand) ended the recent surge in energy production. Exports rose 8.2%, down from the 11.0% advance of the previous year, while domestic consumption rose 2.4%, the smallest increase since 1992. Residential energy consumption declined 1.8%, due to unusually mild weather in the first half of 1995.

In recent years, booming exports of natural gas and crude oil have been pushing production higher. All natural gas exports and most crude oil exports go to the United States via an extensive pipeline network. Soaring gas and oil exports have spurred the expansion of new oil pipelines, but have also kept existing natural

(continued on page 5)

... Energy production posts lowest advance in three years

gas pipelines operating near full capacity. With the slowdown in Canadian natural gas exports, U.S. users turned to inventories to meet their needs.

Growth in crude oil exports slowed in 1995, as did coal exports, while electricity exports actually declined compared with 1994.

Energy consumption in Canada was 2.4% higher in 1995 than in 1994. Most of the increase was due to the industrial sector, where demand for energy continued to recover from its 1991-92 trough, rising a robust 3.8%. A jump in energy use by the mining sector and strong growth in manufacturing industries — especially cement, iron and steel — were largely responsible. This was the largest increase in industrial energy use in seven years and the first time it surpassed its 1989 pre-recession peak.

Over the past decade, energy production has risen almost 50%, mainly because of strong export demand. In Canada, final demand for energy has increased 17% since 1985, roughly in tandem with population growth. Energy consumption by the manufacturing sector rose less than 6%, even though output jumped 18%, which indicates this sector is becoming more energy efficient. On a per capita basis, manufacturing's energy consumption has been steadily declining in Canada, despite the nation's energy-intensive industrial structure. The largest increases in energy consumption have come from the transportation, residential, and commercial sectors.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4945, 4946, 4950-4962 and 7976-8001.

*The fourth quarter 1995 issue of **Quarterly report on energy supply/demand in Canada** (57-003-XPB, $41/$136) will be available shortly. For further information, contact Irfan Hashmi (613-951-3501; Internet: hashirf@statcan.ca), Industry Division.*

Alcohol sales up

In 1994/95, Canadians increased their purchases of all three types of alcoholic beverages (beer, spirits and wine) for the first time in seven years.

Wine sales rose 2.5% to 232.9 million litres, their highest level in four years. Beer sales increased 1.5% to 2.0 billion litres, and spirit sales, which had been falling since 1987/88, rose 0.2% to 126.9 million litres.

Per capita sales of all three types of alcoholic beverages have been declining for about 10 years. In 1994/95, sales of wine held steady at 10.0 litres per person; spirits dropped to 5.4 litres per person from 5.6; and beer sales fell from 87.1 litres per person to 86.5.

With the increased sales, the total value of alcoholic beverages sold rose 2.0% to $10.7 billion. Beer sales rose 3.6% to $5.8 billion, while wine sales grew 2.5% to $2.0 billion. Despite marginal growth in sales of spirits, the value of sales fell 1.5% to $2.9 billion. In addition, the net income of liquor authorities, plus provincial and territorial government revenue from the control and sale of alcoholic beverages, rose 3.6% to $3.2 billion.

Over the past decade, sales of domestic alcoholic beverages have dropped more rapidly than sales of imports. Between 1984/85 and 1994/95, sales of Canadian spirits fell 28.1% compared with -12.1% for imported spirits. Import beer sales rose 95.0% over this period, while domestic beer sales declined 4.4%. However, domestic sales of spirits and beers continued to surpass sales of imported products. As for wines, until the end of 1989/90, Canadian wine sales usually exceeded import sales. However, since 1984/85, domestic wine sales have dropped 11.8%; sales of imported wines have increased 1.0%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2728 and 2730-2731.

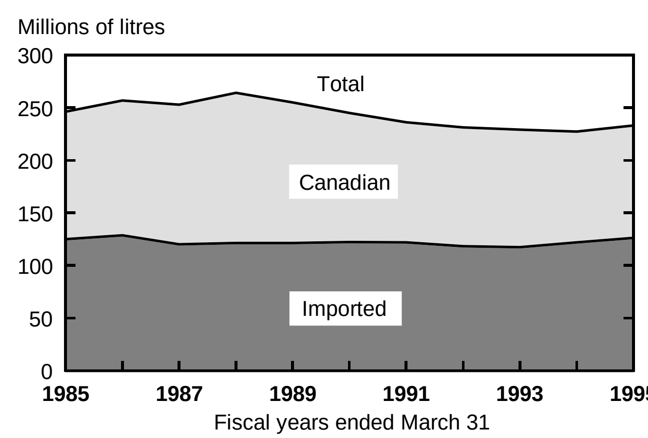
***The control and sale of alcoholic beverages in Canada,** fiscal year ended March 31, 1995 (63-202-XPB, $36) is now available. For further information, contact Richard Sauriol (613-951-1829), Public Institutions Division.*

Note to readers

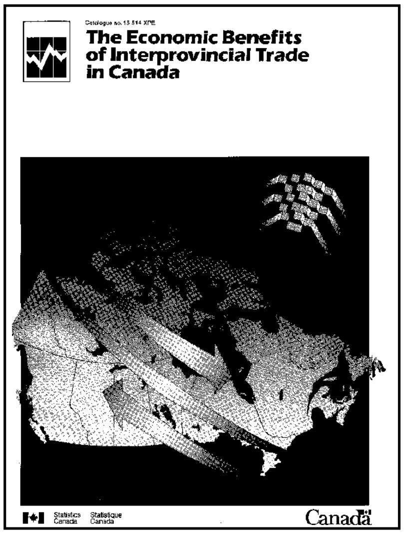
The data presented here on sales of alcoholic beverages by volume should not be equated with data on the consumption of alcoholic beverages. The sales volumes include sales by liquor authorities and their agents, and sales by wineries and breweries and their outlets that operate under license from liquor authorities.

Data on the consumption of alcoholic beverages would include these sales, plus data on homemade wine and beer, wine and beer manufactured through brew-on-premises, sales to Canadian residents in duty-free shops, and any unrecorded transactions.

Wine sales



New from Statistics Canada



The economic benefits of interprovincial trade in Canada

Did you know that one-sixth of the private sector economy (gross domestic product and jobs) is driven by interprovincial trade? The importance of interprovincial trade is even more deep-rooted. Provincial access to national markets is essential to achieving economies of scale and efficiencies of production, which are critical for most industries to be competitive on an international scale in an era of rapid trade globalization. The majority of industries (25 of 45 groups) were found to be primarily dependent on export markets.

Based on the 1990 interprovincial input-output accounts, *The economic benefits of interprovincial trade in Canada,* provides an analysis of economic activity underlying interprovincial trade and international exports, as well as estimates of industrial dependence on export markets and the economic benefits derived through export sales. This in-depth study contains over 100 pages of analytical text, charts and statistical summaries, including trade profiles for each province and territory, plus a selection of statistical tables on interprovincial and international trade flows.

The economic benefits of interprovincial trade in Canada *(15-514-XPE, $49) is now available. For further information, contact Ronald Rioux (613- 951-3697; fax: 613-951-0489; internet: riouxr@statscan.ca), Input-Output Division.*

Family income

1994

Data on family income, which are derived from the 1994 income tax returns filed in the spring of 1995, are a unique source of information on small areas and are ideal for supporting market analyses and policy decisions.

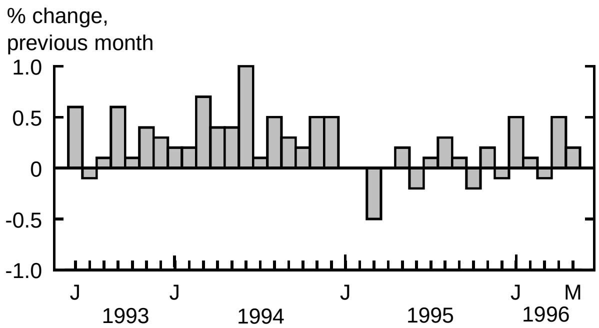
The data are available by province and territory, city, town, census metropolitan area and census division, as well as by forward sortation area (the first three characters of the postal code) and letter carrier walk (grouping of postal codes).

Husband-wife families in the community of Westmount, Que., had the highest median total income in Canada ($96,400), followed by Hampstead, Que. ($89,900), and Yellowknife, N.W.T. ($88,800). Lone-parent families in Wallenstein, Ont., had the highest median total income ($45,300), followed by Sillery, Que. ($43,900), and Cap-Rouge, Que. ($41,800).

For further information on this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; Internet: saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

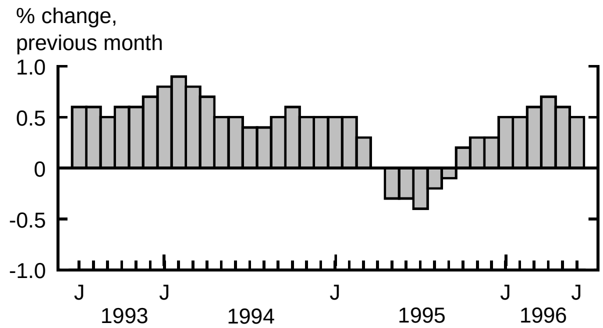
Current trends

Gross domestic product



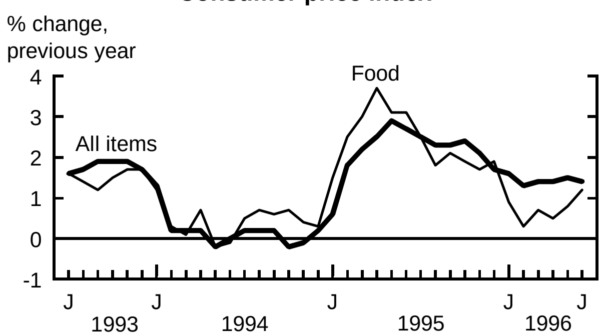
Real gross domestic product at factor cost rose 0.2% in May.

Composite index



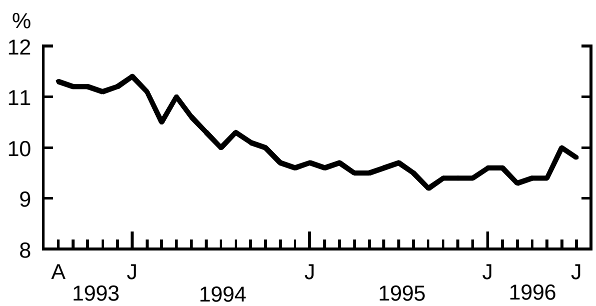
The composite index grew by 0.5% between May and June.

Consumer price index



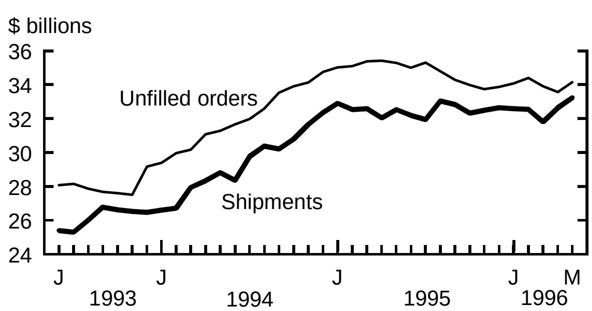
Consumers paid 1.4% more for goods and services in June 1996 than the year before. Food prices rose by 1.2%.

Unemployment rate



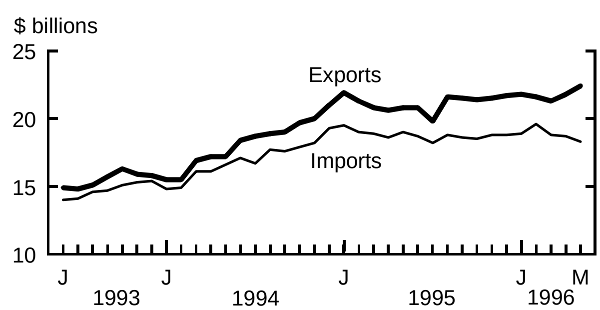
In July, the unemployment rate fell to 9.8%.

Manufacturing



Manufacturers' shipments rose 1.8% in May to $33.2 billion. The level of unfilled orders rose 1.7% to $34.2 billion.

Merchandise trade



In May, the value of merchandise exports rose 2.9% from April to $22.4 billion. Imports declined by 2.1% to $18.3 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)	May	549.6	0.2%	1.4%
Composite index (1981=100)	June	178.4	0.5%	3.4%
Operating profits of enterprises ($ billion)	1st quarter	21.6	-7.5%	-7.2%
Capacity utilization (%)	1st quarter	82.8	-0.1†	-3.0†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade ($ billion)	May	17.8	0.0%	1.1%
New motor vehicle sales ('000 units)	May	97.0	8.2%	2.3%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	July*	13.6	0.1%	1.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	July*	9.8	-0.2†	0.1†
Participation rate (%)	July*	64.7	-0.1†	-0.1†
Labour income ($ billion)	May	35.4	0.2%	2.6%
Average weekly earnings ($)	May	584.71	1.4%	2.4%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports ($ billion)	May	22.4	2.9%	7.9%
Merchandise imports ($ billion)	May	18.3	-2.1%	-3.8%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in $ billion)	May	4.1	1.0	2.4
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments ($ billion)	May	33.2	1.8%	2.1%
New orders ($ billion)	May	33.8	4.6%	4.4%
Unfilled orders ($ billion)	May	34.2	1.7%	-3.2%
Inventory/shipments ratio	May	1.36	-0.03	0.00
PRICES				
Consumer price index (1986=100)	June	135.6	-0.1%	1.4%
Industrial product price index (1986=100)	June	129.1	-0.4%	-0.2%
Raw materials price index (1986=100)	June	134.6	-2.3%	0.8%
New housing price index (1986=100)	June*	131.6	0.1%	-2.2%

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

Infomat
A weekly review

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Publications released from August 9 to 15, 1996

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Canada (Cdn.$)	United States (US$)	Other countries (US$)
HEALTH STATISTICS					
The decline in marriage in Canada	1981 to 1991	84-536-XPB	36	44	51
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
Labour force information	Week ending July 20, 1996	71-001-XPB	10/100	12/120	14/140
INDUSTRY					
Construction type plywood	June 1996	35-001-XPB	6/60	8/72	9/84
Footwear statistics	2nd quarter 1996	33-002-XPB	8/24	9/29	11/34
Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins	June 1996	46-002-XPB	6/60	8/72	9/84
Oil pipeline transport	May 1996	55-001-XPB	11/110	14/132	16/154
Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard	June 1996	36-003-XPB	6/60	8/72	9/84
Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing	June 1996	41-011-XPB	6/60	8/72	9/84
Pulpwood and wood residue statistics	June 1996	25-001-XPB	7/70	9/84	10/98
Refined petroleum products	May 1996	45-004-XPB	20/200	24/240	28/280
Steel wire and specified wire products	June 1996	41-006-XPB	6/60	8/72	9/84
INDUSTRY MEASURES AND ANALYSIS					
Gross domestic product by industry	May 1996	15-001-XPB	14/140	17/168	20/196
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Exports by commodity					
paper version	May 1996	65-004-XPB	75/750	90/900	105/1,050
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