



Infomat

A Weekly Review

Friday, October 4, 1996

OVERVIEW

◆ Economic activity strengthens

Economic growth gained momentum in July, when a surge in manufacturing production helped boost gross domestic product.

◆ Canada's population reaches 30 million

According to the latest estimates, Canada's population has reached 30 million as of September 30th, 1996.

◆ Little change in industrial prices

In August, the 12-month change in industrial prices remained near zero for a third consecutive month.

◆ Crude oil leads rise in raw material prices

Raw material prices increased between July and August, mainly as a result of higher crude oil as well as cattle, hog and copper prices.

◆ Cross-country migration falls for third straight year

Fewer Canadians were on the move between 1994 and 1995, as cross-country migration fell for the third consecutive period.

Economic activity strengthens

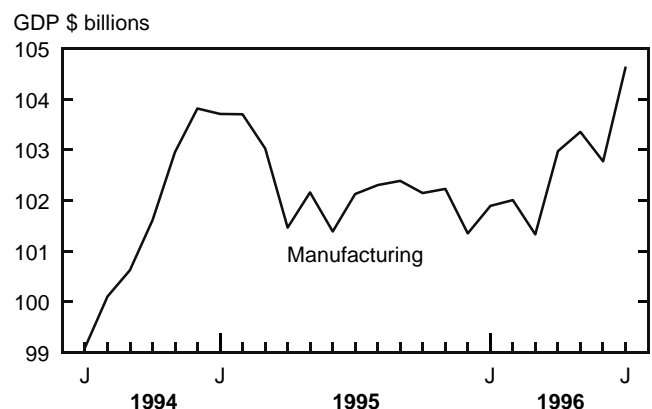
Economic growth gained momentum in July, when a surge in manufacturing production helped boost gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost by 0.5%. Economic activity improved in most other sectors as well, particularly in retail trade, wholesale trade, construction, transportation and storage services.

Manufacturing production increased for the fifth time in 1996, following a year-long slump. Production rose 1.8% in July and surpassed its December 1994 peak by 0.8%. July's strong increase followed a period of inventory reductions in manufacturing, as well as in trade. Another gain in construction, as well as improvements in exports and in consumer spending also helped manufacturers.

Output increased in 18 of the 21 major groups, with manufacturers of electrical and electronic equipment accounting for about a third of the overall gain. Manufacturers of chemicals, foodstuffs, construction-related materials and primary metals also contributed substantially to the advance. Production of industrial machinery improved for a second consecutive month, following several months of scant growth. Refiners of petroleum and coal products cut back the most.

(continued on page 2)

Production in manufacturing



... Economic activity strengthens

Activity in construction rose 0.5%, led by another advance in the residential sector. Home building, which has risen every month since last December, increased 2.5% in July. Although construction of single dwellings sparked most of the recovery, recent increases in the number of building permits for multiple dwellings suggest that multiples will contribute more in the coming months. Lower activity was noted on all types of non-residential building projects.

Wholesale trade advanced 0.9%. Like manufacturers, wholesalers benefitted from increased demand for construction-related materials, particularly lumber and building materials, and metals, hardware and heating equipment. Wholesalers also sold more consumer goods, with foodstuffs leading the rise. Activity in retail trade rose 0.4% in July, on the heels of a 0.7% gain in June. The advance in July was not as widespread as in June, and mostly reflected higher sales by retailers of non-durable goods.

Transportation and storage services increased 1.3%, after remaining at almost the same level during the previous three months.

Note to readers

Gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other industries into outputs.

Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1986 prices. All data are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

Higher activity in manufacturing and wholesale trade spurred demand for rail and trucking services.

Community, business and personal services receded 0.5%. Drops in health and accommodation services were responsible for most of the decline.

The July 1996 issue of **Gross domestic product by industry** (15-001-XPB, \$14/\$140) will be available in October. For further information, contact Ron Kennedy (613-951-3673), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

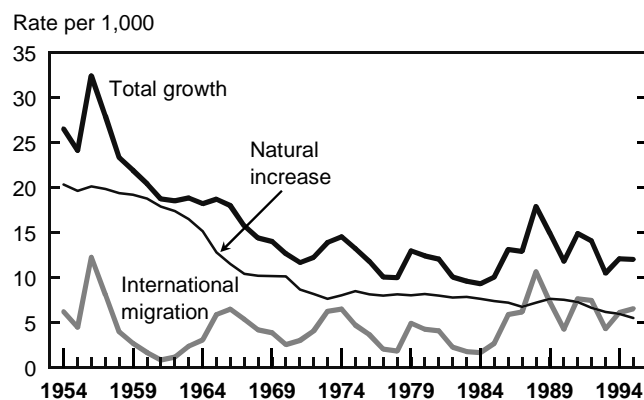
Canada's population reaches 30 million

According to the latest estimates, Canada's population has reached 30 million as of September 30th, 1996.

Canada's growth rate has fluctuated widely since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Between 1929 and 1954, when the population increased from 10 million to 15 million, it rose at an average rate of 1.7% a year. With the beginning of the baby boom in 1954, Canada's population grew relatively quickly (+2.3% a year) to reach 20 million by 1966. After the baby boom had ended, it took the country 16 years to reach 25 million in 1982. Then the growth rate slowed down: between 1966 and 1982, it was 1.6%, and from 1982 to the present, it averaged 1.3% a year.

Up to 1990, natural increase was mostly responsible for the nation's population growth. Before the end of the baby boom in 1966, it accounted for at least 75% of the growth. However, since the early 1980s, its importance has been decreasing and international migration is currently of comparable importance.

Population growth



Population and growth rates

	Population			Growth rate	
	July 1, 1994 ^r	July 1, 1995 ^r	July 1, 1996 ^p	1994-95	1995-96
				%	
Canada	29,255,599	29,615,325	29,963,631	1.22	1.17
Newfoundland	581,242	576,637	570,711	-0.80	-1.03
Prince Edward Island	134,554	135,606	137,312	0.78	1.25
Nova Scotia	933,857	937,777	942,796	0.42	0.53
New Brunswick	757,661	760,187	762,501	0.33	0.30
Quebec	7,288,815	7,343,240	7,389,137	0.74	0.62
Ontario	10,937,058	11,097,450	11,252,425	1.46	1.39
Manitoba	1,129,486	1,136,796	1,143,524	0.65	0.59
Saskatchewan	1,012,156	1,016,600	1,022,537	0.44	0.58
Alberta	2,715,554	2,752,058	2,789,528	1.34	1.35
British Columbia	3,670,825	3,762,859	3,855,140	2.48	2.42
Yukon	29,658	30,294	31,452	2.12	3.75
Northwest Territories	64,733	65,821	66,568	1.67	1.13

^r Revised postcensal estimates.

^p Preliminary postcensal estimates.

(continued on page 3)

... Canada's population reaches 30 million

Immigration to Canada reached significant levels after the Second World War. Between 1945 and 1966, average annual levels were about 125,000. Immigration generally stayed around that level throughout the 1970s and most of the 1980s. Only since 1990 have annual immigration levels surpassed continuously the 200,000 mark.

Over the past four decades, the makeup of immigration to Canada has been altered drastically. In 1954, almost 95% of all immigrants came from Europe and the United States. Today, that figure has dropped to 22%. In 1995, most immigrants (61%) came from Asia.

Over the past four decades, Canadians have also seen significant improvements in life expectancy. In the mid-1950s, men could expect to live 68 years, compared with 75 years today. Gains for women were slightly higher, rising from almost 73 years in 1954 to 81 years today.

Changes in mortality and fertility have also had a profound impact on the composition of Canada's population, particularly on

its age distribution. Canadian women had 3.8 children on average in 1954. Today, that rate has dropped to 1.7. In 1954, 1 out of every 3 individuals (32%) was younger than 15, and only 1 out of 13 (8%) was older than 65. Now, 20% of the population is younger than 15, and 12% is older than 65.

British Columbia has had the fastest growing population in the country (+2.5%) over the last two years. Its rate has been twice that of the nation as a whole (+1.2%). In general, the Western provinces and territories outpaced the Atlantic provinces in growth. In fact, Newfoundland was the only province or territory to have lost population over the recent past. Ontario's growth rate is slightly above that of the country, while Quebec's is roughly half of the nation's rate.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1-6, 397, 5731, 6470, 6471, 6516 and 6981.

Quarterly demographic statistics (91-002-XPB, \$10/\$32) will be available shortly. For further information, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; the Internet: chamlis@statcan.ca), Demography Division.

Little change in industrial prices

In August, the 12-month change in industrial prices remained near zero (+0.1%) for a third consecutive month. Strong softwood lumber and pork prices were behind the modest increase.

Between July and August, industrial prices rose 0.4%, following declines during the two previous months. Significant August advances were recorded by softwood lumber, pork and refined petroleum products. Newsprint prices continued to drop, more than offsetting an increase in pulp prices.

Almost a third of August's monthly price changes was accounted for by a 0.6% decline in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar. This raised the value of all export prices quoted in U.S. currency, particularly those for motor vehicles and pulp, paper and wood products.

Softwood lumber prices jumped 5.6% in August and stood 24.1% higher compared with August 1995. Softwood prices climbed nation-wide, with the greatest increase in the Prairies and the smallest in coastal British Columbia. Pork prices, which have been increasing steadily since last November, rose 7.1% over July and gained 21.3% over a year ago. In the United States, softwood lumber and pork prices have risen as well.

Newsprint prices continued to decline in August, as prices fell 4.3% from July. By contrast, pulp prices were recovering, as falling inventories and rising world demand pushed prices up (+1.1%). U.S. newsprint and pulp prices mirrored Canadian trends. Newsprint prices decreased (-4.0%) while pulp prices increased (+2.3%) over July.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2000-2008.

The August 1996 issue of **Industry price indexes** (62-011-XPB, \$21/\$210) will be available in October. For further information, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350; fax 613-951-2848; Internet danipau@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

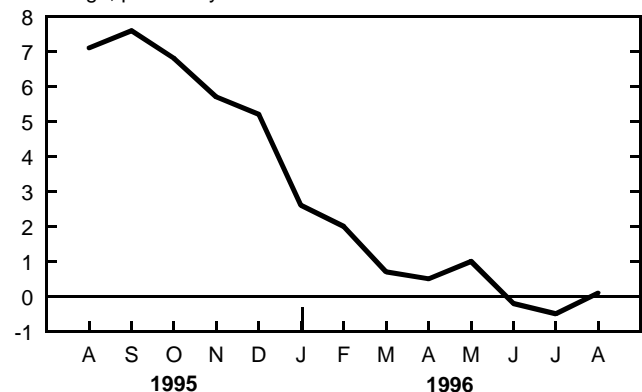
Note to readers

The industrial product price index (IPPI) reflects the prices producers receive as goods leave their plants. It does not reflect what consumers pay. Unlike the consumer price index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all costs (including transportation, wholesale, and retail) occurring from the time a good leaves a plant and a final user takes possession.

Since Canadian export producers often quote their prices in foreign currencies, changes in the exchange rate affect the IPPI. A 1.0% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar has been estimated to change the IPPI by about 0.2%.

Industrial product prices

% change, previous year



Crude oil leads rise in raw material prices

Strong crude oil prices led a 1.3% increase in raw material prices between July and August. Cattle, hogs and copper also saw price advances, which were partially offset by lower prices for grains, logs and pulpwood. Excluding mineral fuels — 90% of which is crude oil — raw material prices rose 0.3% over July. Year-over-year prices increased 5.7%, led by crude oil, hogs, cattle and corn. If mineral fuels were discounted, overall prices would have declined slightly.

Monthly crude oil prices climbed 4.0% in August, due to strong demand and the restocking of gasoline and heating oil inventories. On a 12-month basis, crude oil prices were up 26.7%.

Monthly prices for animal and animal products were up 2.9%, led by cattle and hog prices. Cattle prices have risen steadily for six months, hitting a level in August not seen since November 1995. Reduced cattle inventories and potentially lower feed costs could affect future prices. Hog prices have been boosted by shortages in Canada due to higher feed costs and increased exports to the United States. On a year-over-year basis, animal and animal product prices advanced 9.9%.

Higher gold and copper prices led an overall increase in non-ferrous metals of 2.7% in August. Weak nickel prices continued in August (-1.3%) and could face further drops as stainless steel producers liquidate inventories in the coming months. Year-over-year prices for non-ferrous metals declined 17.1%, dragged down by lower copper and aluminum prices.

Dampened by good wheat crops and low export demand, vegetable prices dropped 5.3% in August. However, prices remained higher than in the previous year. Wheat, corn and canola prices dropped between July and August, while soybeans posted an increase.

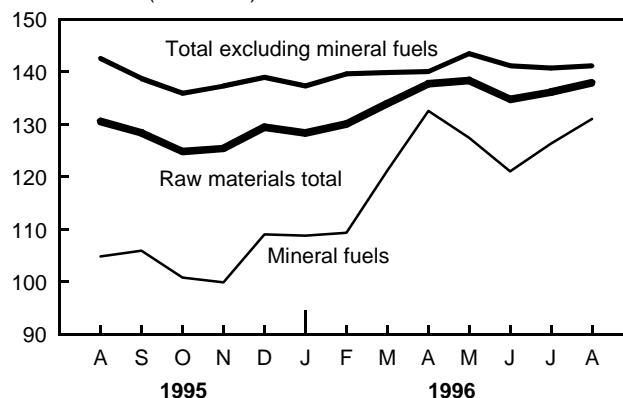
Falling pulpwood and log prices contributed to both an August drop in wood prices of almost 1% and a year-over-year

Note to readers

The raw materials price index (RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in world markets. Also, unlike the industrial product price index, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.

Raw material prices

Price indexes (1986=100)



decline of 6.8%. Recent price increases in pulp and softwood lumber may strengthen log and pulpwood prices in the coming months.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2009.

The August 1996 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011-XPB, \$21/\$210) will be available in October. For further information, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350; fax 613-951-2848; Internet danipau@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Cross-country migration falls for third straight year

Fewer Canadians were on the move between 1994 and 1995, as cross-country migration fell for the third straight year (-3.5% to 1.2 million).

Ontario ranked first among the provinces in gaining more individuals, adding 95,300 people. The majority of those new residents came from outside Canada, as Ontario received 55% of all immigrants between 1994 and 1995. In terms of interprovincial migration, Ontario actually lost more people than it gained.

British Columbia posted the second largest net migration gain: 66,500 people. This province fared particularly well, and was once again the big winner in interprovincial migration, recording a net gain of 29,300 people from other provinces. Nonetheless, this figure was down 23% from the preceding year. British Columbia was also the most popular destination for those leaving the Western provinces and the territories, with the exception of Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

Note to readers

These migration estimates are derived by comparing addresses supplied on personal income tax returns for 1993 and 1994, which were filed in the spring of 1994 and 1995 respectively. They reflect moves between census divisions, which are sub-provincial geographic areas (e.g., counties, regional districts, regional municipalities). Therefore, moves across town or across the street are not counted in these estimates.

International migration refers to immigrants and emigrants, but excludes returning Canadians and non-permanent residents.

Quebec recorded a net population gain of 11,000 between 1994 and 1995, about half the increase in the preceding period. Quebec lost 8,900 individuals in the migration exchange with the other provinces, but gained 19,900 from international migration, down one-third from the previous year.

(continued on page 5)

... Cross-country migration falls for third straight year

For the second consecutive year, Newfoundland led the provinces and territories with the largest net migration loss of 6,600 individuals. Four in every 10 Newfoundlanders who left the province migrated to Ontario, the most popular destination for those leaving the Atlantic provinces.

Among the metropolitan areas with urban cores of more than 100,000 people, Toronto had the largest net gain in migrants (+58,887). Vancouver placed second with 35,897. Montreal had a net migration gain of 3,000 people, a fifth of the amount reported two years ago. The Ontario part of the Ottawa-Hull region had a

net migration gain of 3,600, about one-third of its net gain of two years previously.

The largest proportion of individuals who moved between 1994 and 1995 were aged 25 to 44. Children under the age of 18 formed the second largest group of migrants as they tended to move with their parents, who were likely to fall in the 25 to 44 age group.

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

Migration

	1994-95						1994-95	1993-94
	International			Interprovincial			Total	
	in	out	net	in	out	net	net	net
Canada	215,470	45,949	169,521	284,968	284,968	0	169,521	189,650
Newfoundland	614	260	354	6,406	13,380	-6,974	-6,620	-4,505
Prince Edward Island	188	73	115	2,514	2,165	349	464	685
Nova Scotia	3,575	819	2,756	15,299	18,040	-2,741	15	384
New Brunswick	659	964	-305	10,853	11,666	-813	-1,118	-1,021
Quebec	26,138	6,193	19,945	23,056	32,003	-8,947	10,998	21,057
Ontario	117,576	19,451	98,125	66,902	69,743	-2,841	95,284	91,232
Manitoba	3,749	2,306	1,443	15,890	19,110	-3,220	-1,777	-2,325
Saskatchewan	2,138	1,002	1,136	16,814	20,466	-3,652	-2,516	-4,119
Alberta	16,381	7,698	8,683	51,247	51,803	-556	8,127	9,023
British Columbia	44,228	7,036	37,192	70,783	41,492	29,291	66,483	80,273
Yukon	91	64	27	2,067	1,798	269	296	-1,054
Northwest Territories	133	83	50	3,137	3,302	-165	-115	20

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Energy statistics handbook on diskette

The *Energy statistics handbook* is a comprehensive source of detailed information on the energy field. Data are presented in an easy-to-use manner by energy type: total energy, petroleum, natural gas, electricity, uranium and coal. The handbook offers supporting sections on prices and conversion factors, such as how to change natural gas and crude oil volumes to a heat-equivalent measure. Economic indicators such as employment, automobile sales and investment expenditures provide a global context for the energy data.

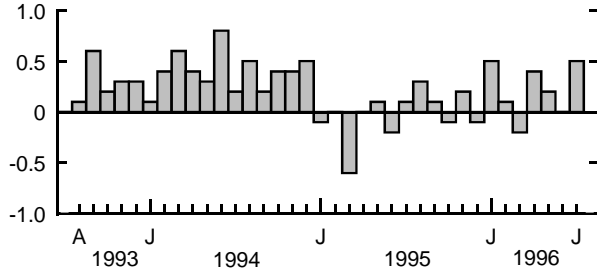
The electronic format presents many advantages. Access to data and reference material is easy—you can search by key word or topic. Selected data, or even entire tables, can be copied and pasted into spreadsheet applications such as Lotus or Excel for easy data manipulation.

The Energy statistics handbook (57-601-XDE, \$275) is now available on diskette. To order this electronic product, contact the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre nearest you or order via the Internet at: order@statcan.ca. For further, contact Irfan Hashmi (613-951-3501; hashirf@statcan.ca), Industry Division.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

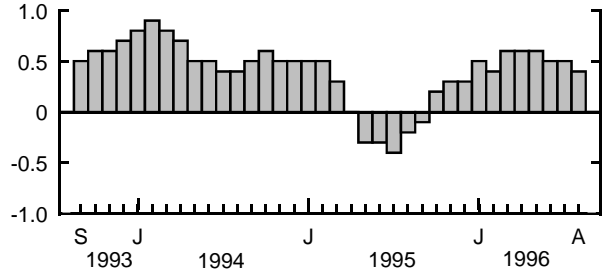
% change,
previous month



Real gross domestic product at factor cost increased 0.5% between June and July.

Composite index

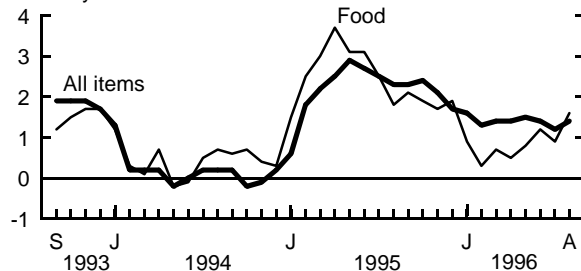
% change,
previous month



The composite index grew by 0.4% between July and August.

Consumer price index

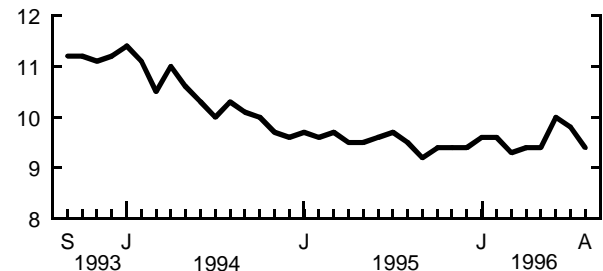
% change,
previous year



Consumers paid 1.4% more for goods and services in August 1996 than the year before. Food prices rose by 1.6%.

Unemployment rate

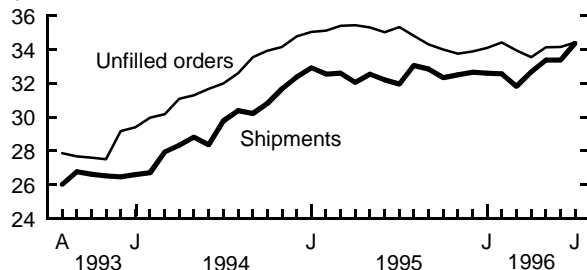
%



In August, the unemployment rate fell to 9.4%.

Manufacturing

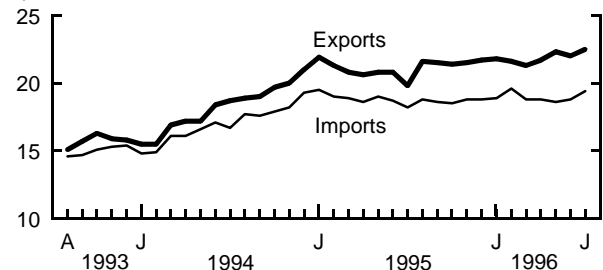
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments advanced 3.0% in July to \$34.4 billion. The level of unfilled orders rose 0.7% to \$34.4 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



In July, the value of merchandise exports rose 2.1% from June to \$22.5 billion. Imports advanced 3.2% to \$19.4 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)	July*	551.3	0.5%	1.9%
Composite index (1981=100)	August	179.7	0.4%	4.8%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	Q2 1996	22.1	-1.6%	-6.4%
Capacity utilization (%)	Q2 1996	82.7	0.3†	-0.9†
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	July	18.0	0.2%	1.7%
New motor vehicle sales ('000 units)	July	96.4	-2.9%	4.3%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August	13.7	0.6%	1.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	August	9.4	-0.4†	-0.1†
Participation rate (%)	August	64.8	0.1†	0.1†
Labour income (\$ billion)	June	35.7	0.3%	2.1%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	July	584.85	-0.7%	2.4%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	July	22.5	2.1%	13.4%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	July	19.4	3.3%	6.6%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	July	3.1	-0.1	1.5
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	July	34.4	3.0%	7.6%
New orders (\$ billion)	July	34.6	3.7%	7.3%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	July	34.4	0.7%	-2.6%
Inventory/shipments ratio	July	1.29	-0.05	-0.11
PRICES				
Consumer price index (1986=100)	August	135.7	0.1%	1.4%
Industrial product price index (1986=100)	August*	129.3	0.4%	0.1%
Raw materials price index (1986=100)	August*	137.9	1.3%	5.7%
New housing price index (1986=100)	July	131.5	-0.1%	-2.2%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of the price indexes.

* new this week

† percentage point

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A weekly review

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Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (Cdn.\$)	United States	Other countries
			US\$		
HEALTH STATISTICS					
Therapeutic abortions					
Microfiche version	1994	82-219-XMB	25	30	35
Paper version	1994	82-219-XPB	30	36	42
INDUSTRY					
Coal and coke statistics	July 1996	45-002-XPB	11/110	14/132	16/154
Construction type plywood	July 1996	35-001-XPB	6/60	8/72	9/84
Crude petroleum and natural gas production	June 1996	26-006-XPB	18/180	22/216	26/252
Electric power statistics	July 1996	57-001-XPB	11/110	14/132	16/154
Retail trade	July 1996	63-005-XPB	20/200	24/240	28/280
Wholesale trade	July 1996	63-008-XPB	18/180	22/216	26/252
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Exports by commodity					
Microfiche version	July 1996	65-004-XMB	35/350	42/420	49/490
Paper version	July 1996	65-004-XPB	75/750	90/900	105/1,050
Imports by commodity					
Microfiche version	July 1996	65-007-XMB	35/350	42/420	49/490
Paper version	July 1996	65-007-XPB	75/750	90/900	105/1,050
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Science statistics service bulletin: Estimation of research and development expenditures in the higher education sector	1994-1995	88-001-XPB	8/76	10/92	12/107
TRANSPORTATION					
Aviation service bulletin	September 1996	51-004-XPB	11/105	13/126	15/147

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344 Edmonton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 3L9

Local calls: (204) 983-4020
Toll free: 1-800-661-7828
Fax: 1-204-983-7543

Saskatchewan

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Avord Tower, 9th Floor
2002 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 0R7

Local calls: (306) 780-5405
Toll free: 1-800-667-7164
Fax: 1-306-780-5403

Southern Alberta

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
First Street Plaza, Room 401
138-4th Avenue Southeast
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 4Z6

Local calls: (403) 292-6717
Toll free: 1-800-882-5616
Fax: 1-403-292-4958

Alberta and the Northwest Territories

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
8th Floor, Park Square
10001 Bellamy Hill
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3B6

Local calls: (403) 495-3027
Toll free: 1-800-563-7828
Fax: 1-403-495-5318

British Columbia and the Yukon

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Library Square Tower, Suite 600
300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6C7

Local calls: (604) 666-3691
Toll free: 1-800-663-1551
Fax: 1-604-666-4863

Telecommunications Device for the Hearing Impaired

Toll free: 1-800-363-7629