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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, January 13, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

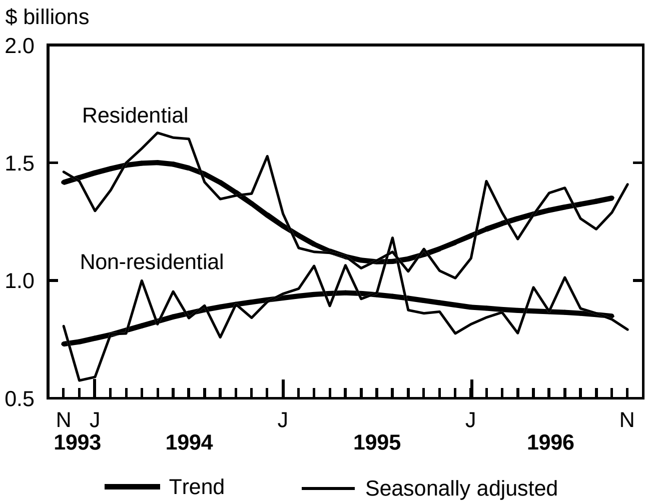
PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

Building permits
November 1996

Home building intentions surged 9.3% to $1.4 billion in November, in the wake of lower mortgage rates and stronger demand for new and existing homes.

Residential intentions surged 9.3%



This advance followed a robust 5.8% increase in October. The latest figures are encouraging signs for the housing sector, as mortgage rates in November reached their lowest level in a generation and resale activity set a new monthly record.

The advance in housing intentions — the seventh of 1996 — by far offset the 5.3% drop in the non-residential sector. Applications for non-residential permits fell for a fourth straight month, reaching $0.8 billion, the second lowest level of 1996. As a result, the overall value of building permits rose 3.5% in November to $2.2 billion.

Note to readers

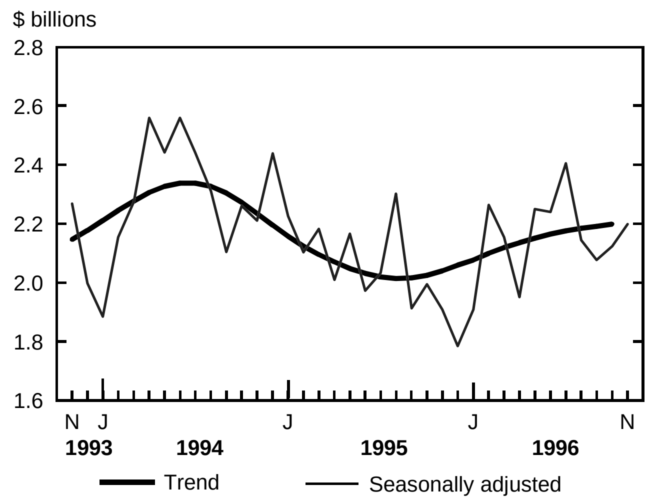
Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 93% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 7% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers, culverts) and land.

The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

Total value of permits rose 3.5%



The latest advances in housing intentions, combined with recent increases in retail trade sales, suggest that consumer confidence may be on the rebound.

Ontario led November's resurgence in the housing sector, as the value of its residential permits rose 20.1%. This occurred on the strength of a sharp increase in the value of permits for single-family dwellings.

Single-family permits led residential advance

The value of plans for single-family dwellings rose 8.0% to $1.0 billion in November, the highest level since December 1994. This was the third consecutive monthly increase for single-family dwellings, the key component of the residential sector.

Multi-family construction intentions rose 12.4% to $403 million, their sixth monthly gain in 1996.

Trends over the past 11 months point to some optimistic signs for the housing industry in early 1997. From January to November 1996, the value of residential building permits was up 16.1% from the same period in 1995. Much of the gain was due to a 16.2% increase in construction intentions for single-family dwellings and, to a lesser extent, to a 15.8% gain for multi-family dwellings.

The overall housing market has shown higher activity since the beginning of 1996. The year-to-date resale housing market was 22.3% stronger than in the corresponding period a year earlier, as it rose to levels not seen since 1992. The stronger demand for housing has translated into more building permits.

This is partly reflected in the latest tally of starts published by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which reported a 17% rise in November to 138,200 units — a two-year high. In the first 11 months of 1996, starts were up 11.3% over the same period in 1995. This suggests further growth in construction employment.

Provincially in November, in addition to Ontario’s remarkable increase, Nova Scotia posted a 39.2% increase in the value of its residential permits, due entirely to single-family permit applications (+48.5%) reaching record levels. Similarly, an exceptional 33.6% increase in New Brunswick was mainly the result of permits for single-family dwellings.

By contrast, Quebec reported the largest decrease (-7.4%), mostly due to its multi-family component (-17.1%) and, to a lesser extent, to single-family dwellings (-3.0%).

Sharp drop in industrial projects hit non-residential sector

The decline in the value of non-residential building permits for November was mainly due to a sharp drop in the industrial component, which fell 24.4% to $152 million, the lowest level since December 1995.

The institutional component, close behind, declined 20.5% to $144 million, its lowest monthly value since December 1985. These decreases more than offset a 9.3% increase in the commercial component.

Over the first 11 months of 1996, the value of non-residential building permits issued by municipalities dropped 10.0% compared with the same period in 1995. The industrial (-14.6%) and institutional (-28.0%) components led the year-to-date drop, while the commercial component recorded a slight increase (+2.9%). This is consistent with spending cutbacks announced by all levels of government and the low level of confidence expressed by the business sector in a quarterly survey conducted in September by the Conference Board of Canada.

Provincially in November, the largest drops were reported by British Columbia (-21.9%) and Ontario (-10.6%), both due to a lack of commercial and industrial projects.

Alberta reported the biggest increase (+18.3%), entirely due to a surge in applications for commercial permits (+131.2%). These reached $120 million, an exceptionally high level not seen since March 1982. Quebec posted a 7.1% increase in non-residential intentions, mainly the result of new industrial projects.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22, 24-32), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The November 1996 issue of *Building permits* (paper version: 64-001-XPB, $24/$240; microfiche version: 64-001-XMB, $25/$135) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

The December 1996 building permits estimate will be released on February 4.

For further information on this release, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689; Internet: burejoa@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Nathalie Léveillé (613-951-2025; Internet: levenat@statcan.ca), Current Investment Indicators Section, Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

Region and type of construction	Oct. 1996	Nov. 1996	Oct. to Nov. 1996	Nov. 1995 to Nov. 1996
	seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions		% change	
Canada	**2,124**	**2,199**	**3.5**	**15.3**
Residential	1,289	1,408	9.3	35.3
Non-residential	835	791	-5.3	-8.8
Newfoundland	22	24	8.1	62.1
Residential	15	19	24.8	91.0
Non-residential	7	5	-29.7	0.6
Prince Edward Island	8	16	110.4	86.9
Residential	5	9	94.0	122.9
Non-residential	3	7	138.9	52.2
Nova Scotia	57	67	17.6	29.2
Residential	36	50	39.2	42.2
Non-residential	21	17	-19.8	1.2
New Brunswick	37	41	10.8	31.6
Residential	21	28	33.6	55.6
Non-residential	16	13	-19.7	-2.2
Quebec	385	382	-0.7	20.1
Residential	205	190	-7.4	17.3
Non-residential	179	192	7.1	23.0
Ontario	771	839	8.9	4.7
Residential	490	588	20.1	44.9
Non-residential	281	251	-10.6	-36.5
Manitoba	42	38	-9.1	-3.4
Residential	23	22	-3.3	6.0
Non-residential	19	16	-16.2	-14.1
Saskatchewan	42	30	-28.5	-1.5
Residential	19	15	-17.8	27.9
Non-residential	24	15	-37.0	-20.4
Alberta	279	303	8.3	45.1
Residential	151	151	-0.2	26.6
Non-residential	128	152	18.3	69.7
British Columbia	476	451	-5.3	12.8
Residential	321	330	2.7	31.7
Non-residential	155	121	-21.9	-18.9
Yukon	4	6	35.1	116.4
Residential	3	3	21.1	91.7
Non-residential	2	3	58.8	159.5
Northwest Territories	2	3	71.0	54.0
Residential	0	2	591.0	26.4
Non-residential	1	1	-24.5	143.2

Note: *Data may not add to totals due to rounding.*

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New motor vehicle sales
November 1996

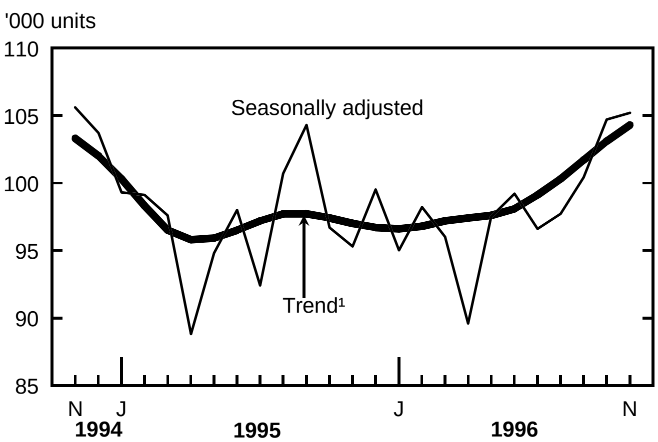
New motor vehicle sales maintained their speed in November on the strength of a 1.7% increase in truck sales, which appear headed toward a new annual record in 1996. Truck sales include light and heavy trucks, minivans, sport utility vehicles, vans and buses.

Consumers bought slightly fewer passenger cars (-0.5%) in November. However, their purchases of trucks fuelled a 0.5% increase in overall new motor vehicle sales, the fourth straight monthly increase. Dealers sold a total of 105,165 vehicles (seasonally adjusted), the highest level since November 1994.

Sales trend rises in 1996

Total sales in November were well above those of November 1995 (+10.3%). However, cumulative sales for the first 11 months of 1996 were up only 1.2% from the same period of 1995. Sales were flat at the beginning of 1996, then generally increased during the second quarter. The latest growth corresponds with the decline in interest rates throughout 1996. Early indications from the automotive industry point to another sales increase in December, with especially strong gains in the truck market.

New motor vehicle sales



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

The decline in total annual sales observed from 1988 through 1993 was interrupted by a strong increase of 5.6% in 1994. However, sales at the beginning of 1995 declined below previous lows before stabilizing. Total sales in 1995 continued the long-term downward trend, falling below the number of vehicles sold in 1993. While total sales for 1996 should be above those of 1995, they will remain below the levels reached in 1994.

A good month for trucks

While the number of passenger cars sold declined slightly in November, truck sales rose 1.7%. The truck market has generally followed an upward sales trend since 1992. Sales peaked in 1994, then declined in early 1995, but their growth resumed in mid-1995. Cumulative sales for the first 11 months of 1996 were already up to 97% of total sales for all of 1995. Truck sales are headed towards a new annual record in 1996.

In November, consumers opted for trucks in 48% of purchases (based on unadjusted data) and for cars in the remaining 52% of purchases. This is the highest market share for trucks in 1996. In the first 11 months of 1996, truck sales accounted for 44% of all new vehicle purchases. The arrival of winter bodes well for sales of this type of vehicle. The growth in truck sales is especially evident in the prairie regions, where they are more popular.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

The November 1996 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XPB, $16/$160) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Louise Généreux (613-951-3549). For analytical information, contact Sylvain Tremblay (613-951-4166; Internet: lozimar@statcan.ca), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

New motor vehicle sales

	Nov. 1995	Oct. 1996[r]	Nov. 1996[p]	Nov. 1995 to Nov. 1996	Oct. to Nov. 1996
	seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
New motor vehicles	**95,349**	**104,682**	**105,165**	**10.3**	**0.5**
Passenger cars	54,355	57,732	57,424	5.6	-0.5
North American[1]	45,769	50,736	49,564	8.3	-2.3
Imports	8,586	6,996	7,859	-8.5	12.3
Big Three automakers	34,886	33,718	33,977	-2.6	0.8
Other automakers	19,469	24,014	23,447	20.4	-2.4
Trucks, vans and buses	40,994	46,950	47,741	16.5	1.7

	Nov. 1995	Nov. 1996[p]	Nov. 1995 to Nov. 1996	Market share Nov. 1995	Market share Nov. 1996
	unadjusted				
			% change	%	
New motor vehicles	**87,890**	**97,327**	**10.7**		
Passenger cars	48,061	50,552	5.2		
North American[1]	40,760	43,914	7.7	84.8	86.9
Imports	7,301	6,638	-9.1	15.2	13.1
Big Three automakers	30,311	28,990	-4.4	63.1	57.3
Other automakers	17,750	21,562	21.5	36.9	42.7
Trucks, vans and buses	39,829	46,775	17.4		
North American[1]	38,109	43,662	14.6	95.7	93.3
Imports	1,720	3,113	81.0	4.3	6.7

1 *Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.*
r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

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OTHER RELEASES

Raw materials price indexes, early estimate
December 1996

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) is estimated to have increased 1.5% in December compared with November. The mineral fuels index led the way, with a 3.4% increase, followed by the metals index (+1.4%), wood (+0.5%) and the vegetable and animal products (+0.4%). The RMPI excluding mineral fuels is estimated to have increased 0.6% in December.

This is an early estimate of the December movement of RMPI. These numbers are based on partial returns and other indicators. The regular index will be published at the end of this month.

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848), Client Service Unit, Prices Division. ■

Civil aviation operating statistics
November 1996

Canadian Airlines International Ltd. (CAI) reported a 10% decrease in passenger-kilometres flown (seasonally adjusted data) on their international (scheduled and charter) routes in November compared with October. Air Canada's November production dropped by 5% from a month earlier. Air Canada's seasonally adjusted international output was 10% higher than one year ago, while CAI's was 11% lower.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 385.

Civil aviation data (operational) for Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. for November will be published in the February 1996 issue of the *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XPB, $11/$105). See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Lund (819-997-6188), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Oils and fats
November 1996

Production of all types of deodorized oils in November totalled 103 114 tonnes, a 5.7% decrease from 109 378 tonnes in October. At the end of November, year-to-date production totalled 1 057 162 tonnes, a 18.7% increase from 890 881 tonnes a year earlier.

November's domestic sales of deodorized oils were as follows: margarine oil, 13 431 tonnes; shortening oil, 24 833 tonnes; and salad oil, 26 313 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 185.

The November 1996 issue of *Oils and fats* (32-006-XPB, $6/$60) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; Internet: zylstra@statcan.ca), Industry Division. ■

Steel primary forms
November 1996

Production of steel primary forms for November totalled 1 323 410 tonnes, a 19.1% increase from 1 111 525 metric tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date production reached 13 304 074 metric tonnes, up 1.0% from 13 174 125 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

The November 1996 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001-XPB, $6/$60) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827; Internet: milsomg@statcan.ca), Industry Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products
November 1996

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 63 946 tonnes in November, up 5.9% from 60 362 tonnes in November 1995.

Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The November 1996 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XPB, $6/$60) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Doug Higgins (613-951-9837; Internet: higgdou@statcan.ca), Industry Division. ■

Engineers
1993

Data on engineers are now available for 1993, showing such information as total revenue, the percentage distribution of revenue by field of specialization and by type of service, and expenses by category.

The data will be released in *Architectural, engineering and scientific services, 1992-93* (63-234-XPB, $38), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Diane Lake (613-951-3489), Services Division. ■

Scientific and technical services
1992–1993

Data are now available on scientific and technical services for the reference years 1992-1993. These include such information as total revenue, the percentage distribution of revenue by type of project and by category of client, and expenses by category.

The data will be released in *Architectural, engineering and scientific services, 1992-93* (63-234-XPB, $38), which will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Diane Lake (613-951-3489), Services Division. ■

Annual Survey of Manufactures
1995

The Annual Survey of Manufactures provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry will be released as they become available. Data are now available for the industries listed in the table below.

As of today, principal statistics at the national level are available for a total of 31 industries.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5393, 5405, 5442, 5476 and 5558.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Food industries* (32-250-XPB, $38), *Beverage and tobacco products industries* (32-251-XPB, $38), *Clothing industries* (34-252-XPB, $38), *Furniture and fixture industries* (35-251-XPB, $38) and *Transportation equipment industries* (42-251-XPB, $38). The publications will be released shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information, see the contacts listed below. (Fax: 613-951-9499; Internet: desrosi@statcan.ca).

Value of shipments

	1994	1995	1994 to 1995	Catalogue number	Contact	Telephone (613)
	$ millions		% change			
Industry (SIC)						
Cane and beet sugar (1081)	629.0	664.9	5.7	32-250-XPB	P. Zylstra	951-3511
Wine (1141)	302.6	322.0	6.4	32-251-XPB	P. Zylstra	951-3511
Men's and boys' pants (2433)	536.9	553.6	3.1	34-252-XPB	N. Charron	951-3510
Other household furniture (2619)	159.3	156.3	-1.9	35-251-XPB	D. Higgins	951-9837
Motor vehicle steering and suspension parts (3254)	1,441.7	1,607.4	11.5	42-251-XPB	A. Shinnan	951-3515

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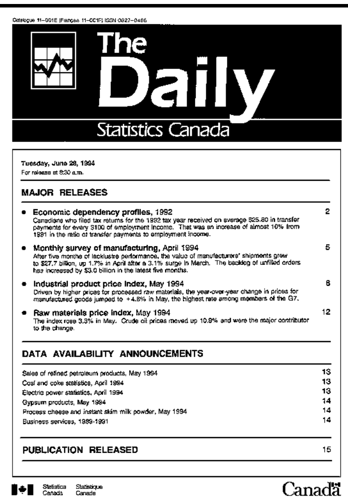
PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, October 1996
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB
(Canada: $15/$144; United States: US$18/US$173; other countries: US$21/US$202).

Exports by commodity, October 1996, microfiche version
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB
(Canada: $35/$350; United States: US$42/US$420; other countries: US$49/US$490).

Exports by commodity, October 1996, paper version
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB
(Canada: $75/$750; United States: US$90/US$900; other countries: US$105/US$1,050).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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Economic dependency profiles,** 1992 — 2
  Canadians who filed tax returns for the 1992 tax year received on average $25.80 in transfer payments for every $100 of employment income. That was an increase of almost 10% from 1991 in the ratio of transfer payments to employment income.
- **Monthly survey of manufacturing,** April 1994 — 5
  After five months of lacklustre performance, the value of manufacturers' shipments grew to $27.7 billion, up 1.7% in April after a 3.1% surge in March. The backlog of unfilled orders has increased by $3.0 billion in the latest five months.
- **Industrial product price index,** May 1994 — 8
  Driven by higher prices for processed raw materials, the year-over-year change in prices for manufactured goods jumped to +4.6% in May, the highest rate among members of the G7.
- **Raw materials price index,** May 1994 — 12
  The index rose 3.3% in May. Crude oil prices moved up 10.9% and were the major contributor to the change.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Process cheese and instant skim milk powder, May 1994	14
Business services, 1989-1991	14

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