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A WEEKLY REVIEW

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Friday, September 24, 1993

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OVERVIEW

Foreign Investors Shift their Purchases from Bonds to Stocks

Non-residents purchased a negligible net \$0.3 billion of Canadian bonds in July but acquired \$1.4 billion of Canadian stocks, bringing to \$6.6 billion the net investment so far this year.

Retail Sales Continue to Fluctuate

Seasonally adjusted retail sales increased by 0.9% in July to a level of \$16.2 billion. This increase comes after a 0.6% drop in June and a 0.2% gain in May and places cumulative sales for the first seven months of the year 5.2% above the corresponding period in 1992.

Sales by Wholesale Merchants Continue to Increase

Seasonally adjusted wholesale merchants' sales increased for the third straight month, by 1.3% in July.

Manufacturers' Shipments: Third Decline in Four Months

As 11 of 22 major industry groups recorded lower shipment levels in July, Canadian manufacturers' shipments decreased 1.5%, the third decline in the last four months.

Consumer Price Index Increases Marginally

The All-items Consumer Price Index for Canada edged up by 0.1% in August. Higher prices for clothing and cigarettes exerted the greatest upward influence.

Foreign Investors Shift their Purchases from Bonds to Stocks

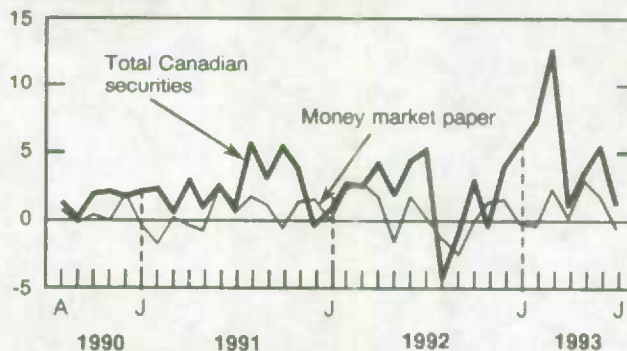
In July, foreign investors acquired, on a net basis, \$1.0 billion of Canadian securities, down sharply from their heavy net buying since the beginning of the year which amounted to an average of nearly \$6.0 billion a month. While reducing their holdings of money market paper and investing only marginally in Canadian bonds, non-residents acquired a substantial amount of Canadian stocks.

Since October 1992, foreign investors have shown increased interest in Canadian stocks. In July, non-residents purchased \$1.4 billion of Canadian equities, bringing to \$7.6 billion their investment in the past 10 months. Residents of the United States contributed largely to the purchases of Canadian stocks.

(continued on page 2)

Net Transactions in Securities

Billions of dollars



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Canada

... Foreign Investors Shift their Purchases from Bonds to Stocks

Non-residents purchased a negligible net \$0.3 billion of Canadian bonds, \$2.5 billion less than the amount acquired in June. They bought \$4.5 billion of gross new issues which were partly offset by retirements of maturing bonds in the amount of \$2.5 billion. Non-residents sold off \$1.7 billion of existing bonds, bringing to \$4.3 billion their net disinvestment since April 1993.

Foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian money market paper by \$0.7 billion after four straight months of net buying which totalled \$6.7 billion. The net disinvestment was directed exclusively to Government of Canada treasury bills (\$0.8 billion) offset by some small net purchases in other paper (\$0.1 billion).

For further information, order Canada's International Transactions in Securities (catalogue number 67-002) or contact Balance of Payments Division at (613) 951-1864.

Retail Sales Continue to Fluctuate

Seasonally adjusted retail sales increased by 0.9% in July to a level of \$16.2 billion. This increase comes after a 0.6% drop in June and a 0.2% gain in May. The cumulative sales for the first seven months of the year were up 5.2% from the corresponding period in 1992.

Sales increased in 11 of the 16 trade groups in July but fell in the remaining five groups. In order of dollar impact, the most significant increases were reported by the automotive (1.8%) and furniture (2.8%) sectors.

In the three automotive-related trade groups, the largest upward influence came from a 2.9% sales gain by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers. Sales by automotive parts, accessories and services stores climbed 1.7% following two straight

months of lower sales. Sales by gasoline service stations, however, fell 1.2% after a moderate 0.9% increase in June.

A 3.2% increase in sales by household furniture and appliance stores more than offset decreases in the previous two months and pushed sales 11.4% above their year-earlier level. Higher sales by household furnishings stores in July (1.0%) followed three months of lower sales.

Retail sales increased in most parts of the country except in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. On a year-over-year basis, sales were up in all 10 provinces and in the Yukon but were down by 0.8% in the Northwest Territories.

For further information, order Retail Trade (catalogue number 63-005), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-9682.

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Retail and Wholesale Trade, July 1993 Seasonally Adjusted

	Retail Sales		Wholesale Sales	
	\$ millions	% change from previous month	\$ millions	% change from previous month
Canada	16,190	0.9	16,946	1.3
Newfoundland	282	2.4	177	3.2
Prince Edward Island	72	3.8	42	-0.3
Nova Scotia	542	0.3	377	2.7
New Brunswick	424	2.5	238	2.0
Québec	4,002	1.7	4,066	1.9
Ontario	5,906	0.6	7,012	1.2
Manitoba	552	1.6	596	0.2
Saskatchewan	472	1.4	524	0.3
Alberta	1,693	1.2	1,556	1.2
British Columbia	2,194	-0.6	2,337	1.0
Yukon	18	3.1	21	1.3
Northwest Territories	33	-0.8		

Sales by Wholesale Merchants Continue to Increase

Seasonally adjusted sales by wholesale merchants rose 1.3% in July to \$16.9 billion. This increase represents the third consecutive monthly gain and pushed sales 5.7% above their July 1992 level.

Seven trade groups reported higher sales which were partly offset by sales declines for food, beverage, drug and tobacco products (-0.2%) and apparel and dry goods (-1.4%).

The most notable increase in dollars was reported by wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies, up 2.0% from June. Sales by this group, which account for nearly 22% of total sales, grew for the third month in a row, bringing sales closer to year-earlier levels.

July's increase was also driven by higher sales of other products (farm and paper products, agricultural supplies, industrial and household chemicals, etc.), up 2.5% from June, and by higher sales of motor vehicles, parts and accessories, up 2.2%.

Manufacturers' Shipments: Third Decline in Four Months

Canadian manufacturers' shipments decreased 1.5% in July to a seasonally adjusted level of \$24.8 billion. This represents the third decrease in the last four months. However, the value of shipments for the first seven months of 1993 amounted to \$175.8 billion, an increase of 8.1% from the same period a year earlier.

Half of the 22 major industry groups, accounting for 49% of shipment values, recorded lower shipment levels in July while nine increased and two remained unchanged. A 6.8% drop in the motor vehicle, parts and accessories industry contributed most to the decrease. Increases were small except for a 7.3% rise in the beverages industry.

Inventory levels were up by 0.8% to \$34.9 billion, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. The largest increases were in the primary metals (3.3%), transportation equipment (2.5%) and wood (2.2%) industries. The inventories to shipments ratio rose for the fourth month in a row, to 1.41 in July.

The level of unfilled orders slipped by 0.3% to \$24.6 billion after increasing by 1.1% in June. (Unfilled orders are a stock of orders which, if not cancelled, will contribute to future shipments.) New orders also fell, by 2.7% to \$24.7 billion. This was their fifth decline since January.

Trends

The trend for shipments, which had been increasing for more than a year, flattened out in April and decreased in the two subsequent months.

Note to Users

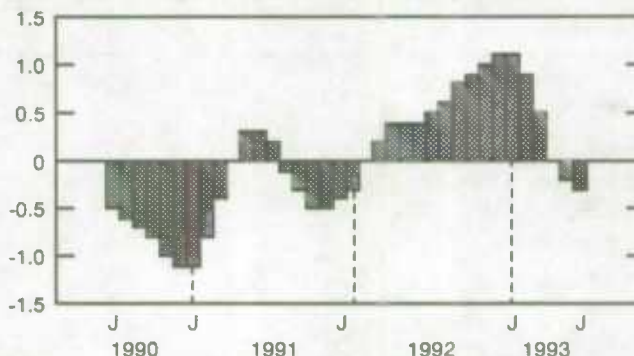
Wholesalers interact with various sectors of the economy both in buying and selling goods. More specifically, wholesalers purchase through a network of importers, manufacturers and other wholesalers. They sell to other wholesalers, retailers, household consumers, industrial and commercial users, and to foreign markets.

Sales for nine provinces and territories rose. The volume of sales in Prince Edward Island fell by 0.3% following increases in the previous two months. In British Columbia, sales grew by 1.0% for the third straight month.

For further information, order *Wholesale Trade* (catalogue number 63-008), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-3540.

Shipments

Monthly percentage change in trend, seasonally adjusted



Note: The short-term trend represents a weighted average of the data.

The main contributors to the overall decline were the motor vehicle, parts and accessories and the wood industries.

The trend for inventories continued to advance for the third month in a row, representing the first increases in more than three years. For unfilled orders, the trend has been increasing since October 1992 but at a slower pace since February 1993. The trend for new orders, however, decreased for the third successive month after one year of growth.

For further information, order *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (catalogue number 31-001), or contact Industry Division at (613) 951-9832. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 8.)

Consumer Price Index Increases Marginally

In August, the All-items Consumer Price Index (CPI, 1986=100) for Canada edged up by 0.1% to 130.6. Four of the seven major components recorded increases while a 0.4% decline in the food index helped moderate the rise. On a year-over-year basis, the all-items index increased by 1.7%, slightly higher than the 1.6% year-over-year increases in June and July.

A 0.5% rise in the clothing index followed a 0.4% decrease in July. As retailers returned promotional prices to their regular levels, four of five major clothing components showed increases, led by the women's wear index which rose by 0.8%.

Most of a 0.5% increase in the tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index was attributable to a 0.8% rise in cigarette prices. In addition, prices of beer purchased from stores rose mostly in Alberta and British Columbia where breweries increased their prices.

The food index fell 0.4% after edging up by 0.1% in June and remaining unchanged in July. The index for food purchased from stores decreased by 0.7% mainly because of lower prices for fresh vegetables and meat. A considerable proportion of the decline was offset by higher prices for fresh fruit, and to a lesser extent, by higher prices for cured meat, canned fish, dairy products, breakfast cereal, margarine and soft drinks.

Both the housing and transportation indexes remained unchanged in August. In the transportation index, a steep 1.3% drop in gasoline prices was completely offset by increases in automobile insurance premiums and air fares.

The decrease in gasoline prices pushed the energy index down for the second straight month, by 0.6% in August. In comparison with August 1992, the energy index registered no change even though gasoline prices have fallen by 3.6% over the same period.

For further information, order *Consumer Price Index* (catalogue number 62-001), or contact *Prices Division* at (613) 951-9606. (See also "Current Trends" chart on page 8.)

PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVES: CONSUMER PRICES

The Consumer Price Index, Percentage Change, August 1993/1992 *

Province/territory	All-items	Food	Energy	Housing	Transportation
Canada	1.7	1.4	0.0	1.2	2.9
Newfoundland	2.2	2.6	-0.8	0.5	3.1
Prince Edward Island	2.1	2.9	0.3	1.5	0.9
Nova Scotia	1.2	0.9	-2.1	0.8	1.3
New Brunswick	1.6	1.5	3.0	0.6	2.2
Québec	0.9	0.0	-0.9	0.6	1.7
Ontario	1.5	2.5	-0.3	0.9	3.1
Manitoba	2.4	3.9	-1.2	0.6	3.2
Saskatchewan	2.7	3.0	6.2	0.8	4.2
Alberta	1.0	-3.3	3.0	1.6	3.3
British Columbia	3.4	2.6	0.5	3.5	4.9
Yukon	2.8	2.6	3.8	2.0	2.6
Northwest Territories	1.6	2.5	0.2	0.5	1.9

* Data are not seasonally adjusted.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM SEPTEMBER 17 TO 23, 1993

Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue Number	Price: Issue/Subscription		
			Canada (\$Cdn.)	United States	Other Countries
			\$US		
AGRICULTURE					
The Dairy Review	July 1993	23-001	12.20/122	14.60/146	17.10/171
CENSUS					
Schooling, Work and Related Activities, Income, Expenses and Mobility	1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey	89-534	60	72	84
CURRENT ECONOMIC ANALYSIS					
Canadian Economic Observer	September 1993	11-010	22/220	26/260	31/310
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
The Labour Force	August 1993	71-001	17.90/179	21.50/215	25.10/251
INDUSTRY					
Canned and Frozen Fruits and Vegetables - Monthly	July 1993	32-011	5/50	6/60	7/70
Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers	August 1993	36-004	5/50	6/60	7/70
Monthly Production of Soft Drinks	August 1993	32-001	2.70/27	3.20/32	3.80/38
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	July 1993	31-001	17.30/173	20.80/208	24.20/242
Oil Pipeline Transport	June 1993	55-001	10/100	12/120	14/140
Pack of Processed Asparagus	1993	32-233	13	16	18
Primary Iron and Steel	July 1993	41-001	5/50	6/60	7/70
Refined Petroleum Products	June 1993	45-004	18.20/182	21.80/218	22.50/255
INTERNATIONAL TRADE					
Exports by Country	January-June 1993	65-003	82.75/331	99.25/397	115.75/463
INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STOCK					
Building Permits	July 1993	64-001	22.10/221	26.50/265	30.90/309
LABOUR					
Employment, Earnings and Hours	June 1993	72-002	28.50/285	34.20/342	39.90/399
Estimates of Labour Income	April-June 1993	72-005	22.50/90	27/108	31.50/126
PRICES					
Consumer Price Index	August 1993	62-001	9.30/93	11.20/112	13/130
SERVICES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY					
Science Statistics Service Bulletin: Federal Government Expenditures on Scientific Activities, Vol. 17, No. 7	1993-94	88-001	7.10/71	8.50/85	9.90/99
Telephone Statistics	July 1993	56-002	8.30/83	10/100	11.60/116
TRANSPORTATION					
Air Carrier Traffic at Canadian Airports	July-September 1992	51-005	30.50/122	36.50/146	42.75/171
Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin, Vol. 25, No. 9	September 1993	51-004	9.30/93	11.20/112	13/130

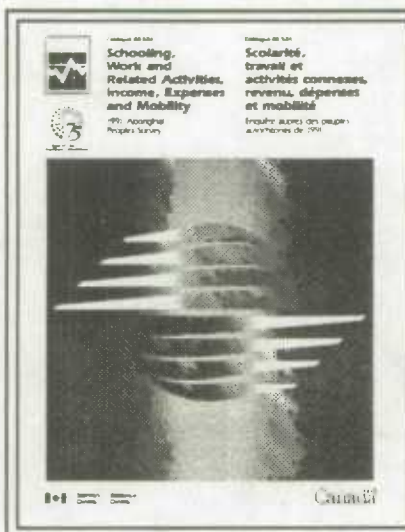
NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA

New Series of Population Estimates (First Release)

Statistics Canada has introduced a new series of population estimates for Canada, the provinces and territories. The new estimates are based on 1991 Census results together with the Agency's estimates of net undercoverage in the Census.

This marks the first time that population estimates have included estimates of the number of people not counted in the Census. The release provides revised population estimates back to 1971, and outlines the nature and impact of these revisions.

For more information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



Schooling, Work and Related Activities, Income, Expenses and Mobility - 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey

Data tables in this publication include information for Canada, the provinces and territories, and 11 selected census metropolitan areas. Data are tabulated for adults and children by both total Aboriginal population and by specific Aboriginal group.

To obtain a copy of *Schooling, Work and Related Activities, Income, Expenses and Mobility* (89-534, \$60), contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

For more information about this publication, contact the Post-Censal Surveys Program (613-951-4414).

1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey

A large-scale survey of people who reported Aboriginal ancestry and/or who reported being registered under the *Indian Act* of Canada was conducted after the 1991 Census. This survey, the Aboriginal Peoples Survey, was developed in consultation with Aboriginal organizations and government departments.

From those people who identified as North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, the survey collected information on such issues as employment, education, language, tradition, health, lifestyle and social issues, mobility, housing, disability, income and household expenses.

Upcoming Data Products and Services from the 1991 Aboriginal Peoples Survey

Aboriginal Peoples Survey Workshop
Disability and Housing
Community Profiles (available in electronic format)
Microdata File
North American Indians: A Statistical Profile
The Métis: A Statistical Profile
The Inuit: A Statistical Profile

Release Date

Fall 1993
December 1993
Spring 1994
Spring 1994
Fall 1994
Fall 1994
Fall 1994

NEW FROM STATISTICS CANADA – Concluded

StatCan: CANSIM Disc

A comprehensive collection of data, with easy-to-use retrieval software and excellent support material, make *StatCan: CANSIM Disc* a valuable resource for information on Canada. This release puts nearly 520,000 CANSIM time series of socio-economic information on your desktop.

Two new elements have been added for this version of the disc: "About Statistics Canada Data", which gives you information about data and services available from Statistics Canada; and, "Statistics Canada Publications", an electronic version of our catalogue, which lists publications and other products.

Access to this combination of data and reference material is easier than ever. Information on the disc can still be searched by keyword, but now you can also "Search by Topic". This allows you to choose progressively narrower topics from a provided list, thus focusing your search, and retrieving just the information you need. A few keystrokes on your personal computer will give you detailed information on topics ranging from agriculture to zinc mining.

Prices for the September 1993 issue of *StatCan: CANSIM Disc* are as follows: Annual (one-copy): Canada: \$1,995; Other Countries: US\$1,995. Semi-annual subscription (including an update): Canada: \$2,995; Other Countries: US\$2,995. An educational discount is available as follows: Annual (one-copy): Canada: \$995; Other Countries: US\$995. Semi-annual subscription (including an update): Canada: \$1,495; Other Countries: US\$1,495. For more information, contact your nearest Statistics Regional Reference Centre.

Canada-Japan Trade Data Reconciliation

Statistics Canada announces that Canada and Japan have reached agreement on a set of reconciled merchandise trade statistics for bilateral trade between Canada and Japan for 1990 and 1991.

Prior to the reconciliation, Canada's published statistics indicated trade deficits of \$1.3 billion for 1990 and \$3.1 billion for 1991. In contrast, Japan's published statistics indicated Japanese deficits of \$2.0 billion for 1990 and \$0.5 billion for 1991. After applying several agreed-upon adjustments, the reconciled data show Canadian deficits of \$452 million in 1990 and \$2.1 billion in 1991.

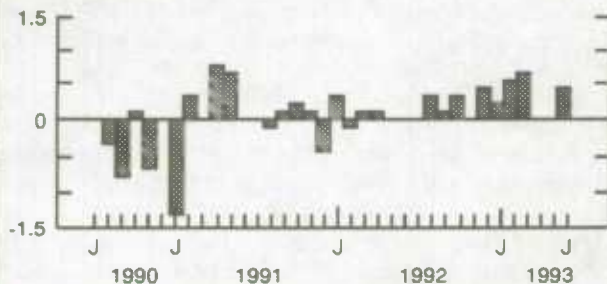
The reconciliation adjustments do not represent revisions to the officially-published figures of either country, but reflect discrepancies between the two sources of information.

For further information, please contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-0304, fax: 613-951-0117), Client Services Section, International Trade Division.

CURRENT TRENDS

Gross Domestic Product

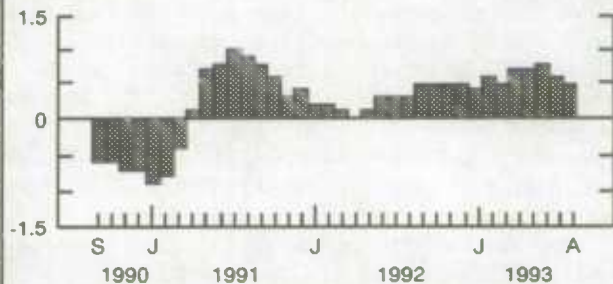
% change,
previous month



After remaining unchanged in April and May, real gross domestic product at factor cost expanded 0.4% in June.

Composite Leading Indicator

% change,
previous month



The composite index grew by 0.5% in August, similar to average monthly increases in the preceding twelve months.

Consumer Price Index

% change,
previous year



The year-over-year increase in the all-items CPI was 1.7% in August and the food index rose by 1.4%.

Unemployment Rate

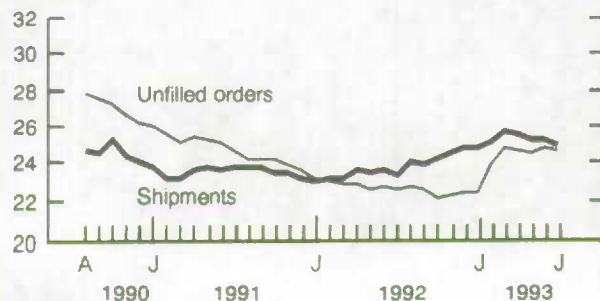
%



The unemployment rate fell to 11.3% in August, returning to the level registered in June.

Manufacturing

Billions
of dollars



Canadian manufacturers' shipments decreased 1.5% to \$24.8 billion in July, while the level of unfilled orders slipped by 0.3% to \$24.6 billion.

Merchandise Trade

Billions
of dollars



In July, seasonally adjusted merchandise imports climbed 1.1% to \$13.9 billion, while exports edged up by 0.2% to \$14.9 billion.

LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change Previous Period	Change Previous Year
GENERAL				
Gross Domestic Product (\$ billion, 1986)	June	516.9	0.4%	2.9%
Composite Leading Indicator (1981 = 100)	August	155.7	0.5%	7.1%
Operating Profits of Enterprises (\$ billion)	2nd Quarter	14.0	22.8%	35.9%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail Trade (\$ billion)	July*	16.2	0.9%	4.8%
New Motor Vehicle Sales ('000 units)	July	99.8	7.0%	-3.8%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	August	12.4	-0.1%	1.3%
Unemployment Rate (%)	August	11.3	-0.3	-0.3
Participation Rate (%)	August	65.1	-0.3	-0.5
Labour Income (\$ billion)	June	33.2	0.8%	2.9%
Average Weekly Earnings (\$)	June	558.60	0.6%	1.8%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise Exports (\$ billion)	July	14.9	0.2%	17.2%
Merchandise Imports (\$ billion)	July	13.8	1.1%	11.5%
Merchandise Trade Balance (\$ billion)	July	1.0	-0.12	0.76
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	July*	24.8	-1.5%	6.8%
New Orders (\$ billion)	July*	24.7	-2.7%	7.1%
Unfilled Orders (\$ billion)	July*	24.6	-0.3%	9.8%
Inventory/ Shipments Ratio	July*	1.41	0.03	-0.08
Capacity Utilization (%)	2nd Quarter	78.3	-0.2	3.3
PRICES				
Consumer Price Index (1986 = 100)	August*	130.6	0.1%	1.7%
Industrial Product Price Index (1986 = 100)	July	112.2	0.2%	2.8%
Raw Materials Price Index (1986 = 100)	July	112.7	-1.9%	4.3%
New Housing Price Index (1986 = 100)	June	136.1	0.2%	1.2%

Note: All series are seasonally adjusted with the exception of average weekly earnings and the price indexes.

* New this week.

I·N·F·O·M·A·T

A Weekly Review

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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM and E-STAT, Statistics Canada's computerized data retrieval systems. A telephone inquiry service is available with toll-free access for clients who are located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services – from seminars to consultations – are also offered. Call or write your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre for more information.

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Fax: 1-709-772-6433

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Fax: 1-403-292-4958

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