

QUB

Friday, September 29, 1995

## **OVERVIEW**

### Weekly earnings slip

In July, employees' average weekly earnings slipped slightly from the previous month and were only somewhat higher than the year before.

## Raw material prices edge down

Led by a substantial drop in wood prices, raw material prices edged down in August.

## Industrial product prices stable

Industrial product prices remained stable for the third month in August.

### Foreigners invest heavily in Canadian bonds

In July, non-residents purchased a substantial \$5.1 billion of Canadian securities, all of which went into new Canadian bonds.

## Number of U.I. beneficiaries unchanged

The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits remained virtually unchanged in July.

### Fewer break-ins in 1994

The rate of breaking and entering dropped for a third straight year in 1994, falling to its lowest level since 1989.

## Weekly earnings slip

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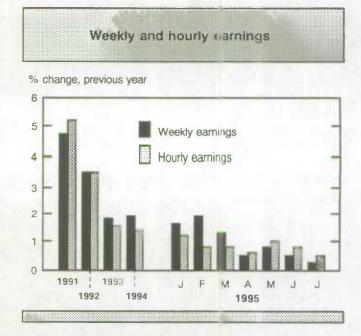
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In July, employees' average weekly earnings slipped slightly from the previous month and were only somewhat higher than the year before. Businesses employed more people than in June.

Employees received on average \$570.88 per week in July, down slightly from the month before (-0.1%) and only 0.3% higher than in July 1994. This was the fourth straight month when employees' weekly earnings rose by less than one percent compared with the previous year. The slowing of earnings growth was due in part to government-related industries: Employees in health and social services received 1.8% less in weakly earnings, while employees in education and related services and in public administration registered virtually no change. Employees in retail trade also received lower earnings in July, down 1.6% from July 1994.

The number of hours worked per week by employees paid by the hour fell to 30.6 hours per week, its lowest level in more than a year.

#### (continued on page 2)



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#### ... Weekly earnings slip

Average weekly earnings, July 1995 Seasonally adjusted

Province/Territory	Industrial aggregate (\$)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	570.88	-0.1	0.3
Newfoundland	528.30	-0.6	-1.1
Prince Edward Island	465.03	-1.3	2.7
Nova Scotia	489.94	-0.7	-1.7
New Brunswick	512.33	0.3	0.8
Quebec	543.13	-1.0	-0.8
Ontario	605.76	-0.1	0.1
Manitoba	505.60	0.3	1.2
Saskatchewan	497.55	1.7	1.3
Alberta	554.54	0.0	0.2
British Columbia	598.00	0.1	2.7
Yukon	666.89	3.3	-0.6
Northwest Territories	724.68	2.0	3.4

## Raw material prices edge down

In August, raw material prices edged down 0.3% on the strength of a 6% drop in the price of wood. Meanwhile, the price of crude oil rose 4% as renewed tension in the Middle East and lower world inventory levels led to upward price pressures. Excluding mineral fuels, raw material prices would have dropped 1.7%. While raw material prices were 4.3% higher than a year earlier, the rate of increase has been falling since January.

August's drop in wood prices was preceded by a slight slip in July and prior to that, a 12% rise over the first six months of 1995. Lower demand for lumber and high pulpwood inventories contributed to the drop. However, autumn often heralds a rally in prices. As well, the housing market is improving, particularly in the United States.

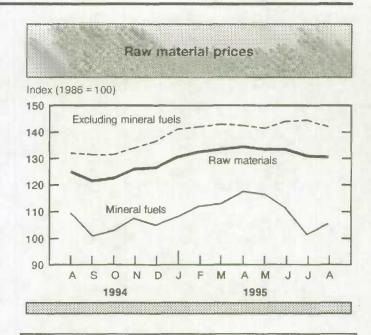
Non-ferrous metal prices slipped slightly (-0.2%) from July, but increased by over 17% compared with August 1994. Major contributors to the higher annual prices were copper concentrates, aluminum, radioactive concentrates, and nickel. Ferrous material prices, led by iron and steel scrap edged up.

Vegetable product prices fell 2% in August on the heels of lower prices for grains, oilseeds, and rubber. Wheat prices, which jumped 24% from January to July, declined 6% in August. However, tight world wheat supply and strong global demand may result in further upward price pressures.

Animal and animal product prices rose 1.3%. Higher prices for fish, industrial unprocessed milk and hogs were partly offset by lower cattle prices. Hog prices continued to lead the way, up 28% since April. Businesses employed 10,703,000 employees in July, up slightly from the previous month. Moderate gains in finance, insurance and real estate; health and social services, and business services were partly offset by fewer employees in wholesale trade and public administration.

Employment edged up for the fifth consecutive month, for a total gain of 164,000 since February 1995. During this period, employment growth was concentrated in Ontario and to a lesser extent in British Columbia. Nearly one-third of the employment gain in Ontario occurred in business services, while gains in British Columbia were widespread across most industries.

For further information, order Employment, earnings and hours (catalogue 72-002) or contact Stephen Johnson, Labour Division at (613) 951-4090, or via the Internet:philpat@statcan.ca).



#### 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 a world market. Also, unlike the industrial product price index, the RMPI includes goods that are not produced in Canada.

For further information, order industry price indexes (catalogue 62-011) or contact Client Services Unit, Prices Division at (613) 951-3350.

## Industrial product prices stable

Industrial prices remained stable for a third month in August, following a period of weakening international trade and industrial production. The year-over-year rise dropped from 8% in July to 7.1% in August, continuing the downward trend that began in January.

Between July and August, price increases for paper and allied products and for primary metals were offset by declines for gasoline and wood. Pulp and newsprint prices rose marginally as markets remained quite tight. Among primary metals, aluminum prices ended five months of falling, bouncing up 1.9%. Nickel prices also increased, rising 2.2% as inventories declined. These increases were partly offset by a 1.6% drop in copper prices. The gasoline and fuel oil price index continued downward, as did lumber and timber prices.

The 12-month increase in Canadian industrial prices remains the second highest among the G7 countries. Italy is leading at 9.2% for June, followed by Canada at 7.1% for August. Canada's position is a result of exchange rate movements, the relatively large role of non-ferrous metals and paper and allied products in the Canadian economy, and relatively low annual wage increases.

In August, consumer goods prices declined for both the manufacturer and the consumer. The 12month rise in goods prices paid by consumers fell from 2.2% in July to 1.6% in August. For manufacturers, the corresponding annual price increases dropped by a similar proportion, from a little under 3% to just over 2%. About half of what the consumer pays goes to manufacturers.

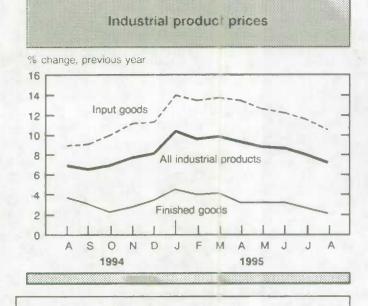
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In July, non-residents purchased a substantial \$5.1 billion in Canadian securities, their second largest monthly investment so far this year. The funds went entirely into new Canadian bonds.

Foreigners invested \$5.5 billion in Canadian bonds, which went entirely into new issues. As much as \$5.0 billion of this investment, the fourthlargest Canadian bond investment on record, was denominated in U.S. dollars and Japanese yen. This included a new Euro-U.S. dollar federal issue, the second issue in three months floated by the Government of Canada in the foreign market. This strong investment was partly offset by belowaverage retirements of \$1.1 billion and a small disinvestment in the secondary market.

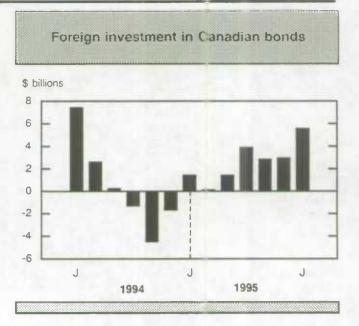
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#### Note to readers

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 costs) that occur from the time a good leaves a plant until the 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% change in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar changes the IPPI by about 0.2%.



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#### ... Foreigners invest heavily in Canadian bonds

Non-residents invested a small \$0.1 billion in Canadian stocks, halting eight straight months of selling. U.S. investors purchased \$0.4 billion, while overseas investors sold \$0.3 billion. Trading activity with non-residents declined to \$7.0 billion after the June's sharp jump to \$8.9 billion. Canadian stock prices, as measured by the TSE 300 index, rose a healthy 1.9%. This, however, was well below the 3.2% gain in U.S. stock prices.

## Number of U.I. beneficiaries unchanged

The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits remained virtually unchanged at 716,000 in July, 0.1% higher than in June. This follows a slight increase of 0.4% between May and June, the first rise since October 1992. These figures are in line with other indicators, which point to generally weakening labour market conditions. For instance, in July, the composite index fell 0.3% and the unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points.

Provincially, significant variations existed in the number of beneficiaries. Newfoundland and British Columbia saw substantial increases (5.8%and 4.0%, respectively). Minor rises (less than 2%) occurred in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Prince Edward Island. These increases were offset by declines in seven provinces, the largest in Ontario (-2.4\%), Manitoba (-1.9%), and Quebec (-1.5%).

In July, 260,000 people filed claims for unemployment insurance benefits, down 2.2% from June. Since mid-1994, the trend for the number of claims received has fluctuated around an upward trend. For the first seven months of 1995, 1,682,000 people submitted claims, 2.1% higher than during the same period last year (unadjusted).

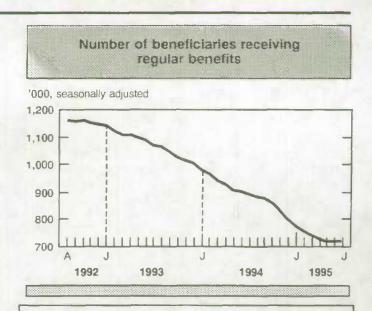
#### U.I. beneficiaries receiving regular benefits, July 1995 Seasonally adjusted

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Province/territory	Total ('000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	716	0.1	-19.6
Newfoundland	39	5.8	-26.6
Prince Edward Island	10	0.8	-20.1
Nova Scotia	37	-0.6	-23.0
New Brunswick	40	-1.1	-22.6
Quebec	245	-1.5	-15.6
Ontario	177	-2.4	-21.0
Manitoba	19	-1.9	-16.7
Saskatchewan	15	-0.5	-20.6
Alberta	50	-0.3	-19.7
British Columbia	79	4.0	-17.6
Yukon	1	1.0	-22.4
Northwest Territories	1	1.6	-12.1

Canadian investors bought \$1.1 billion of foreign securities, matching their large investments recorded earlier this year. Purchases of \$0.7 billion of foreign bonds were split between U.S. and overseas bonds. Residents bought \$0.7 billion of overseas stocks and sold \$0.3 billion of U.S. stocks.

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



#### Note to readers

The majority who collect unemployment insurance benefits receive regular benefits (76.8% in July). In order to qualify for regular benefits, a person must have experienced an interruption of earnings, be capable of and available for work, and be unable to find suitable employment.

In addition to regular benefits, claimants can qualify for special benefits (e.g. training, maternity, sickness, and fishing benefits).

Data on the number of beneficiaries relate to a specific week of the reference month. Data on benefit payments, benefit weeks and claims refer to a complete calendar month.

Unless otherwise noted, all data are seasonally adjusted.

Canadians received \$928.4 million (unadjusted) in U.I. benefits (including regular and special benefits), down 9.3% from July 1994. This was the lowest level since July 1989 (comparing the same month in previous years), when 763.6 million was disbursed. For the first seven months of 1995, \$8.7 billion was paid to U.I. beneficiaries, down 14.4% from the same period last year.

For further information, order Unemployment insurance statistics (catalogue 73-001) or contact Adib Farhat, Labour Division at (613) 951-4045.

## Fewer break-ins in 1994

Police reported 387,877 break-ins in 1994. Almost 60% of this total were break-ins at residencies and 28% occurred at businesses. The remainder were committed at other premises such as schools, community centres, garages and sheds.

Breaking and entering comprised a major proportion of all reported crime, accounting for over 15% of Criminal Code offences (excluding traffic violations) and 25% of all property crime in 1994.

The rate of breaking and entering incidents was 1,326 per 100,000 population, a 6% drop from 1993 and down 14% from 1991.

In 1994, property was damaged in 71% of breakins and stolen in 81%. In one-third of reported incidents, stolen property was valued at less than \$1,000, while it was valued between \$1,000 and \$5,000 in 25% of incidents. According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, break-ins accounted for more than \$373 million in residential insurance claims and \$118 million in commercial insurance claims in 1993.

#### Note to readers

The Criminal Code defines breaking and entering as a crime which occurs when a dwelling or other premise is illegally entered by a person who intends to commit an indictable offence.

Males represented 96% of those accused in breaking and entering incidents in 1994. Of all males accused, 32% were aged 12 to 17, 32% were aged 18 to 24 and 25% were aged 25 to 34. About a third of accused females were aged 12 to 17.

The breaking and entering rate fell between 1991 and 1994 in every region of Canada except Manitoba, and the Yukon.

For further information, order Juristat: Breaking and entering in Canada (catalogue 85-002) or contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics at (613) 951-9023 or toll free in Canada at 1-800-387-2231.

#### **Breaking and entering**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1991 to 1994
	Per 100,000 population				
Canada	1,546	1,502	1,405	1,326	-14
Newfoundland	983	884	700	719	-27
Prince Edward Island	1,083	1,130	880	761	-30
Nova Scotia	1,278	1,158	1,007	937	-27
New Brunswick	923	937	979	854	-7
Quebec	1,814	1,747	1,604	1,416	-22
Ontario	1,221	1,156	1,115	1,083	-11
Manitoba	1,757	1,648	1,701	1,793	2
Saskatchewan	1,725	1,834	1 665	1,704	-1
Alberta	1,678	1,666	1,441	1,255	-25
British Columbia	2,043	2,088	1,979	1,958	-4
Yukon	1,752	1,927	2,013	1,904	9
Northwest Territories	3,234	3,265	3,125	2,876	-11

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED FROM SEPTEMBER 22 TO 28, 1995

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Division/title of publication	Period	Catalogue number	Canada (Cdn.\$)	United States	Other
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AGRICULTURE					
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CANADIAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE STATISTICS					
Juristat: Breaking and entering in Canada	1994	85-002	10/90	12/108	14/126
HEALTH STATISTICS					
National population health survey overview	1994-95	82-567	10	12	14
INDUSTRY					
Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables	July 1995	32-011	6/60	8/72	9/84
Construction type plywood	July 1995	35-001	6/60	8/72	9/84
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Energy statistics handbook Mineral wool including fibrous glass	September 1995	57-601	330	400	460
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Pack of processed asparagus Production and disposition of tobacco	1995	32-233	14	17	20
products Production, shipments and stocks on hand of	August 1995	32-022	6/60	8/72	9/84
sawmills east of the Rockies Production, shipments and stocks on hand of	July 1995	35-002	11/110	14/132	16/154
sawmills in British Columbia	July 1995	35-003	8/80	10/96	12/112
Refined petroleum products	June 1995	45-004	20/200	24/240	28/280
The crude petroleum and natural gas					
industry	1994	26-213	28	34	40
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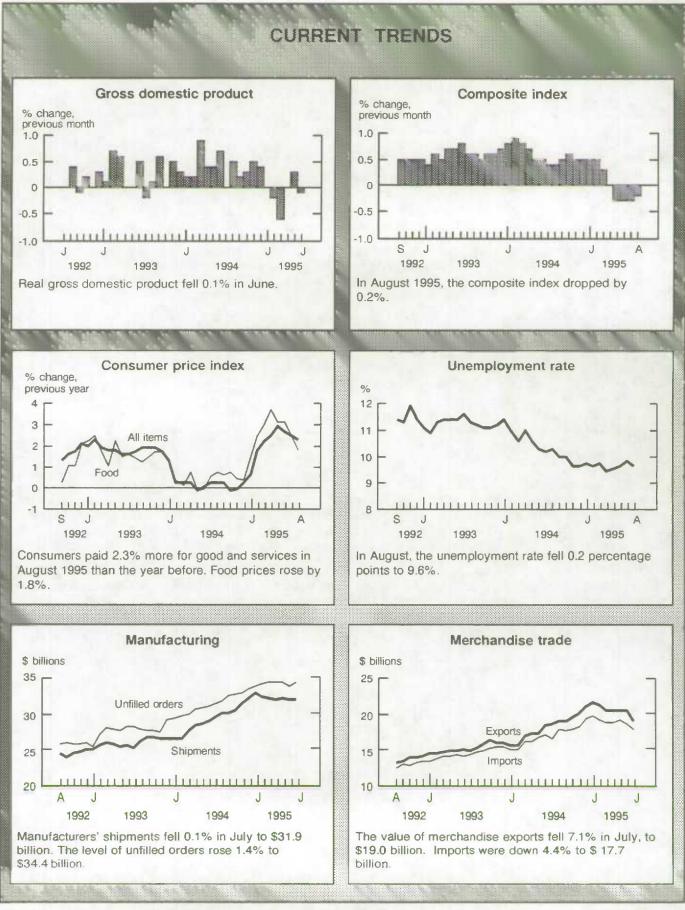
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## Senior families

Demographic and financial data on senior families (a family where one spouse is aged 55 or older) are now available for researchers, social policy planners, and others interested in the situation of seniors in Canada. Close to 5.6 million Canadians are aged 55 and over, and this segment of the population is continuing to grow. In 1993, as in 1992, senior husband-wife families saw decreases in average investment income.

Small area data on senior families are produced annually for many levels of postal geography, and are ideal for supporting market analyses and policy decisions.

For further information, contact client services, Small Area and Administrative Data Division at (613) 951-9720, fax 951-4745.



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

## LATEST MONTHLY STATISTICS

	Period	Level	Change, previous period	Change previous year
GENERAL		1000		
Gross domestic product (\$ billion, 1986)	July*	541.2	0.1%	1.4%
Composite index $(1981 = 100)$	August	171.8	-0.2%	2.4%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	2nd quarter	23.5	-0.7%	25.1%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	July	17.7	-0.3%	2.9%
New motor vehicle sales ('000 units)	July	91.8	-5.7%	-8.5%
LABOUR		7. 1. 1.		
Employment (millions)	August	13.5	0.2%	1.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	August	9.6	-0.2	-0.7
Participation rate (%)	August	64.8	-0.1	-0.6
	June	35.0	0.9%	2.8%
Labour income (\$ billion)				
Average weekly earnings (\$)	July*	570.88	-0.1%	0.3%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				1.00
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	July	19.0	-7.1%	1.6%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	July	17.7	-4.4%	7.5%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	July	1.2	-0.6	-0.9
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	July	31.9	-0.1%	8.3%
New orders (\$ billion)	July	32.4	3.1%	8.5%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	July	34.4	1.4%	9.5%
Inventory/ shipments ratio	July	1.40	0.02	0.11
Capacity utilization (%)	2nd quarter	83.3	-1.5*	-0.2*
PRICES	1.			
Consumer price index (1986=100)	August	133.8	-0.1%	2.3%
Industrial product price index (1986=100)	August*	129.2	0.0%	7.1%
Raw materials price index (1986=100)	August*	130.3	-0.3%	4.3%
New housing price index $(1986 = 100)$	July	134.4	-0.1%	-1.2%

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

\* percentage point

# I•N•F•O•M•A•T

### A weekly review

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Release dates for International Trade, the Consumer Price Index and the Labour Force Survey are fixed; dates for other data series may change. Unless otherwise indicated, all time periods refer to 1995. ÷

