



Infomat

A Weekly Review

JAN 12 1996

Friday, January 12, 1996

OVERVIEW

◆ Employment up in 1995 due to gains in last five months

At the close of the year, there were 88,000 more jobs than in December 1994. Almost all the gains occurred in the last five months of 1995.

◆ Number of U.I. beneficiaries rises

The number of Canadians receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits advanced 0.8% in October.

◆ Housing recovery stalled

Housing construction intentions tumbled sharply in November, stalling hopes for a recovery in this sector.

◆ Wages and salaries drop

Following strong growth in August and September, wages and salaries fell in October.

◆ Industrial prices advance

November's rise in industrial prices was due almost entirely to a drop in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar.

◆ Manufacturers pay more for raw materials

In November, for the first time in five months, the price of raw materials increased.

◆ Help-wanted index continues to slide

The help-wanted index, which has been on a downward slide since April, continued to decline in December.

Employment up in 1995 due to gains in last five months

Employment rose by 54,000 in December 1995, offsetting a decline in November. Counting December's increase, employment was up 88,000 (0.7%) from December 1994. Virtually all the gains occurred in the last five months of 1995. This contrasts with 1994, when job gains were spread throughout the year and totalled 382,000.

Because of a sharp rise in labour force participation, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 9.4% for the third straight month. This was only slightly lower than the 9.6% of a year earlier.

Despite the fact that adults' employment increased throughout 1995, their employment rate declined on a year-over-year basis, as the rate of population growth outpaced the rate of job growth. Youth employment, which showed large monthly fluctuations, fell 32,000 from December 1994. Despite lower labour force participation among youths during 1995, their unemployment rate rose to 16.1%, up 0.5 percentage points from a year earlier.

Almost all of the 88,000 jobs gained during 1995 were part time, whereas the ones gained in 1994 were all full time. The growth in part-time jobs may be part of the reason hours worked remained unchanged in 1995 despite employment growth of 0.7%.

(continued on page 2)

Employment

Millions, seasonally adjusted



Statistics Canada
Statistique Canada

Canada

... Employment up in 1995 due to gains in last five months

Construction employment closed the year down 2.9% from the year before, despite an increase in December 1995. Employment in trade rose in December, to end the year up 45,000 jobs (2.0%).

Community, business and personal services employment also increased in December, bringing the gain for the year to 110,000 (2.2%). The employment gain in this industry was the main reason for the overall increase in part-time employment during 1995.

Despite job losses in December, employment in transportation, communications and other utilities rose 34,000 (3.4%) over 1995. Employment in finance, insurance and real estate also declined in December.

Employment losses since September in manufacturing were offset by gains earlier in the year, leaving employment nearly unchanged from 1994 year-end.

Agricultural and other primary industrial employment, little changed in December, was 9,000 lower than in December 1994. After falling in the beginning of 1995, public administration employment remained little changed in the second half of the year.

For further information, order *The labour force* (catalogue 71-001) or contact Doug Drew, Household Surveys Division at (613) 951-4720. (See also "Current trends" on page 7.)

Labour Force Survey, December 1995
Seasonally adjusted

	Labour force		Employment		Unemployment	
	'000	% change, previous month	'000	% change, previous month	'000	Rate (%)
Canada	14,978	0.4	13,567	0.4	1,411	9.4
Newfoundland	237	1.7	197	0.5	40	16.9
Prince Edward Island	71	2.9	61	0.0	10	14.1
Nova Scotia	441	0.7	395	1.5	46	10.4
New Brunswick	355	2.3	315	1.9	40	11.3
Quebec	3,635	1.0	3,226	0.7	409	11.3
Ontario	5,749	0.3	5,260	0.1	489	8.5
Manitoba	562	0.9	518	0.8	44	7.8
Saskatchewan	495	0.2	460	0.2	35	7.1
Alberta	1,497	-0.1	1,380	0.1	117	7.8
British Columbia	1,945	0.2	1,766	0.3	179	9.2

Number of U.I. beneficiaries rises

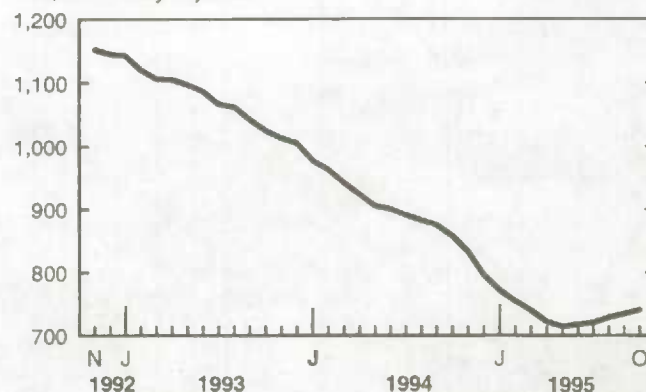
The number of Canadians receiving regular unemployment insurance (U.I.) benefits advanced 0.8% to 740,000 in October. The number of beneficiaries has been following an upward trend since June 1995. Despite the recent increases, there were fewer beneficiaries than at the beginning of 1995. The latest changes were in line with the Labour Force Survey, which showed that the unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points in October.

The number of beneficiaries increased in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island (-1.3%), Nova Scotia (-0.5%) and Alberta (-0.1%). The largest increases were in New Brunswick (3.2%) and the Yukon (3.0%).

Canadians were paid \$963.4 million (unadjusted) in U.I. benefits (regular and special) in October, down 6.5% from October 1994. Comparing the same month in previous years, this was the lowest level since October 1989, when \$827.7 million was disbursed. For the first 10 months of 1995, Canadians received \$11.6 billion in U.I. benefits, a 14.0% drop from the same period in 1994.

Number of U.I. beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

'000, seasonally adjusted



In October, 260,000 individuals submitted claims for U.I. benefits, up 1.6% from September and 5.7% higher than in October 1994. Between January and October 1995, 2,422,000 people (unadjusted) submitted claims, up 3.7% from the same period in 1994.

U.I. beneficiaries receiving regular benefits, October 1995 Seasonally adjusted

Province/territory	Total ('000)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	740	0.8	-13.7
Newfoundland	40	0.2	-15.8
Prince Edward Island	10	-1.3	-8.2
Nova Scotia	37	-0.5	-20.0
New Brunswick	44	3.2	-12.6
Quebec	255	1.0	-12.1
Ontario	174	1.0	-18.5
Manitoba	20	0.5	-12.6
Saskatchewan	16	1.8	-13.2
Alberta	52	-0.1	-13.8
British Columbia	85	2.6	-9.7
Yukon	1	3.0	-12.8
Northwest Territories	1	2.3	-7.0

Note to readers

The majority of people who collect unemployment insurance benefits receive regular benefits (73.3% in October). 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).

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.

For further information, order **Unemployment insurance statistics** (catalogue 73-001) or contact Adib Farhat, Labour Division at (613) 951-4045, fax: (613) 951-4087.

Housing recovery stalled

In November, a sharp drop in construction permits for housing caused the total value of building permits issued to fall 4.1% to \$2.0 billion.

A sharp 8.0% decline in the value of residential building permits (to \$1.1 billion) stalled hopes for recovery in this sector. Housing permits had risen in three of the previous four months, suggesting that a year-long slide may have been bottoming out. Lower housing prices and decreased mortgage costs have so far not been enough to dispel consumer pessimism over the state of the economy.

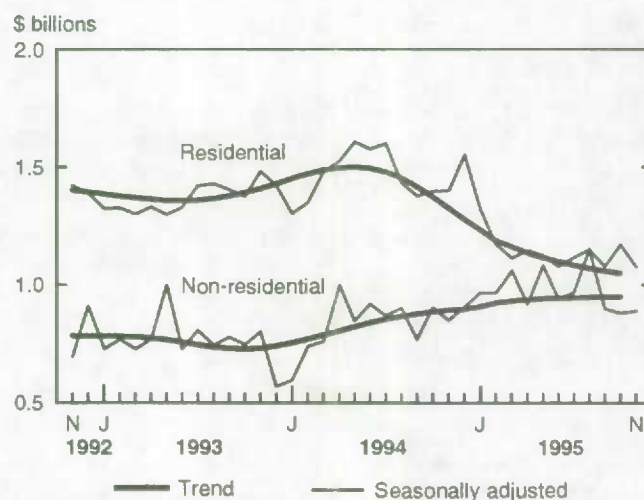
The decline in new housing intentions was due primarily to a 26.9% plunge in multi-family dwelling intentions, which more than offset a marginal 0.2% gain in single-family dwelling plans.

Building permit applications in the non-residential sector rose 1.2% to \$0.9 billion in November. Although this was 6.1% above 1994's monthly average, it was 41.8% below the monthly average of \$1.5 billion in 1989, the peak year for non-residential applications. November's increase resulted from a surge in industrial construction, particularly in the motor vehicle industry. The gain in industrial and commercial construction intentions was practically offset by a sharp drop in institutional construction permits.

Among the provinces, the decline in residential permits was particularly significant in British Columbia. Ontario was the main contributor to the advance in non-residential construction, while Quebec recorded a substantial drop in all components of non-residential construction intentions.

For further information, order **Building permits** (catalogue 64-001) or contact Joanne Bureau, Investment and Capital Stock Division at (613) 951-9689.

Building permits



Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data. The monthly Buildings and Demolitions Permits Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 93% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The value of planned construction activities excludes engineering projects and land.

(continued on page 4)

Building permits, November 1995
Seasonally adjusted

Province/Territory	Total		Residential		Non-residential	
	(\$ millions)	% change, previous month	(\$ millions)	% change, previous month	(\$ millions)	% change, previous month
Canada	1,964	-4.1	1,075	-8.0	888	1.2
Newfoundland	14	-23.4	11	-18.1	3	-38.1
Prince Edward Island	8	14.1	4	6.5	4	22.2
Nova Scotia	55	-0.4	39	2.0	16	-5.9
New Brunswick	32	-0.7	19	-3.5	12	-6.6
Quebec	346	-14.2	178	-1.8	169	-24.3
Ontario	819	5.8	415	-5.2	404	20.3
Manitoba	44	0.9	23	-17.4	22	31.4
Saskatchewan	31	20.1	12	-6.0	19	46.7
Alberta	212	-0.2	122	-0.2	90	-0.3
British Columbia	399	-15.1	249	-19.7	149	-6.2
Yukon	3	-44.8	2	-45.2	1	-44.1
Northwest Territories	2	5.3	1	6,073.9	0	-75.2

Wages and salaries drop

Following strong growth in the previous two months, wages and salaries fell 0.3% in October. Despite this decline, wages and salaries remained 2.5% above their year-earlier level.

The weakness was widespread, with the largest declines occurring in construction; transportation, storage, communications and other utilities; education and related services; commercial and personal services; and trade. Drops in employment contributed to the decrease in these industries.

Growth in both employment and average earnings has caused wages and salaries in manufacturing to rise sharply since July;

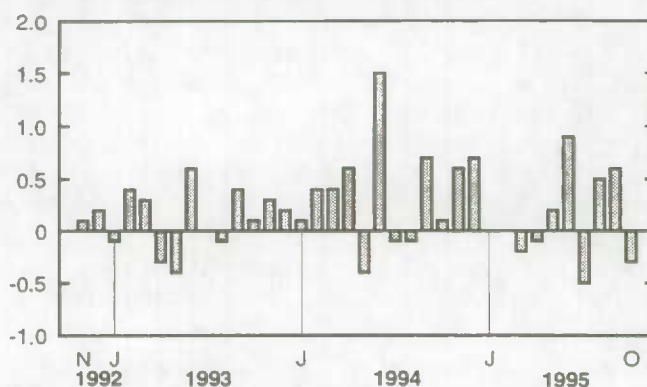
Wages and salaries, October 1995

Seasonally adjusted

Province/territory	Wages and salaries (\$ millions)	% change, previous month	% change, previous year
Canada	30,579	-0.3	2.5
Newfoundland	399	-1.6	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	117	1.0	20.8
Nova Scotia	734	-1.2	0.2
New Brunswick	613	-1.1	3.6
Quebec	6,774	-0.3	1.2
Ontario	12,693	-0.4	2.3
Manitoba	1,024	-0.7	3.6
Saskatchewan	779	-0.9	3.6
Alberta	3,061	1.1	2.5
British Columbia	4,209	-0.6	5.2
Yukon and Northwest Territories/Abroad	184	0.1	3.8

Total wages and salaries

% change, previous month, seasonally adjusted



Note to readers

Labour income consists of wages and salaries (87%), plus supplementary labour income (13%). Wages and salaries include items such as bonuses, gratuities, taxable allowances and retroactive wage payments. Supplementary labour income is composed of employer contributions to employee welfare, pension, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance plans.

they rose by 0.2% in October. Wages and salaries also rose in finance, insurance and real estate.

For further information, contact Jean Lambert, Labour Division at (613) 951-4090; fax: (613) 951-4087.

Industrial prices advance

Industrial prices rose 0.3% in November. If the drop in the value of the Canadian dollar against the U.S. dollar were ignored, industrial prices would have remained almost unchanged. Exporters of motor vehicles, lumber, pulp, paper, and non-ferrous metal products were most affected by the drop in the Canadian dollar.

The most significant monthly price increases came from transportation equipment, non-ferrous metal products, paper, and pulp. Demand for pulp has eased somewhat as buyers have built up inventories and as some new capacity in Asia has come on stream. Newsprint demand has remained strong.

The 12-month change slowed to +5.5% from its January peak of +10.3%. Prices changes during this period declined noticeably for primary non-ferrous metals; lumber, sawmill and other wood products; chemicals and chemical products; and printing and publishing.

Canadian industrial prices are being affected by economic weakness at home and abroad. Exports, capacity utilization and employment have all declined recently. The United States, Canada's main export market, is not showing signs of rapid growth and there is evidence of economic weakness in Western Europe. Japan's industrial production still fluctuates in the same range as in the previous five quarters.

For further information, order **Industry price indexes** (catalogue 62-011) or contact Paul-Roméo Danis, Prices Division at (613) 951-3350; fax: (613) 951-2848.

Manufacturers pay more for raw materials

In November, manufacturers paid significantly more for their raw materials. Overall prices increased 1.8%, mainly due to crude oil, metals and vegetable products. This marked the first month of increasing prices after four successive months of decline.

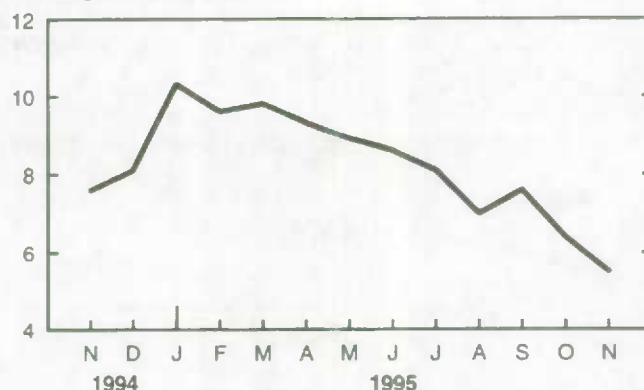
On an annual basis, raw material prices have been declining since January 1995. In November, the 12-month change was only +1.0%, compared with +18.4% in January. Commodity prices have tended to weaken overall with the economic slowdown, particularly in Western Europe and Japan.

After falling 15% over the previous seven months, crude oil prices rose 4.1% in November as OPEC agreed to maintain the production status quo for at least the next six months. As well, tropical storms in the Gulf of Mexico and a rupture in the interprovincial pipeline in Manitoba – the world's largest pipeline – caused supply problems.

Metal prices rebounded in November (3.2%) after three months of declining prices. Higher prices for copper, lead, gold and nickel were somewhat offset by lower prices for aluminum.

Industrial product prices

% change, previous year



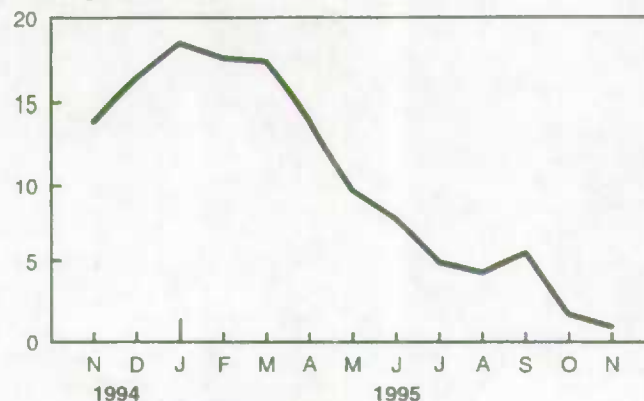
Note to readers

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 until 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%.

Raw material prices

% change, previous year



Note to readers

The raw materials price index (RMPI) reflects the prices that Canadian manufacturers pay for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in world markets. Unlike the industrial product price index, the RMPI includes goods that are not made in Canada.

(continued on page 6)

... Manufacturers pay more for raw materials

Wood prices increased almost 1% in November, due to higher prices for logs and pulpwood. Future price changes for wood will depend on how much the lumber inventories are replenished for the 1996 construction season, and on demand for pulp by papermakers.

Higher prices for barley, wheat and corn pushed grain prices up almost 4% in November. Rubber and raw tobacco prices also

rose significantly. Hog prices fell almost 13%, following significant growth over the previous few months; however, they were still 28% above their year-earlier level. Higher cattle prices dampened the overall monthly price decline for animals and animal products.

For further information, order *Industry price indexes* (catalogue 62-011) or contact Paul-Roméo Danis, Prices Division at (613) 951-3350; fax: (613) 951-2848.

Help-wanted index continues to slide

In December 1995, the help-wanted index decreased 1% to 92. After gaining 15% in 1994, the index stalled at 102 between November 1994 and March 1995. Since April, the index has been on a downward trend.

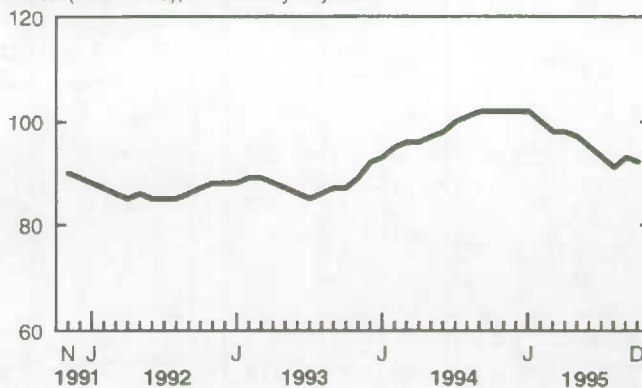
This falling trend during recent months may be due to a weakening economy: retail sales have dropped as have manufacturers' shipments and unfilled orders.

Compared with December 1994, the index for Canada dropped 10%. It declined in all regions except the Atlantic provinces where it remained unchanged. The decreases were as follows: British Columbia (-13%), the Prairie provinces (-11%), Ontario (-9%) and Quebec (-4%).

For further information, contact Ruth Barnes at (613) 951-4046 or Carole Fraser at (613) 951-4039, Labour Division. Fax (613) 951-4087; the Internet: labour@statcan.ca.

Help-wanted index

Index (1991=100), seasonally adjusted



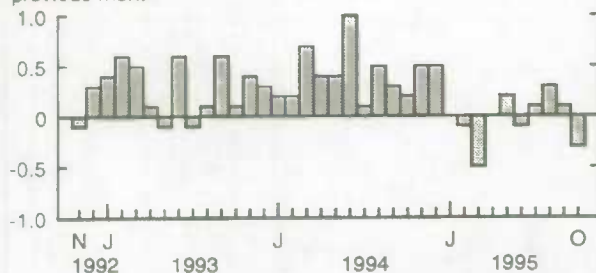
Note to readers

The help-wanted index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is an indicator of the intent of employers to hire new workers. The help-wanted indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Current trends

Gross domestic product

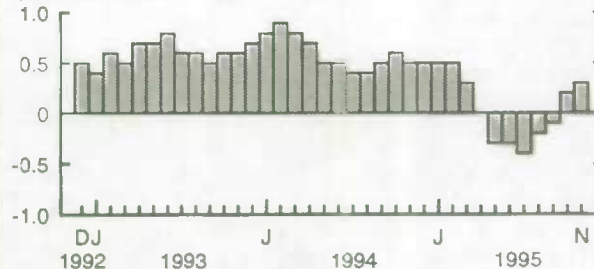
% change,
previous month



Real gross domestic product at factor cost fell 0.3% in October.

Composite index

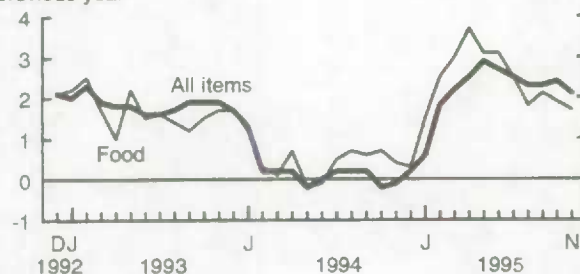
% change,
previous month



The composite index edged up 0.3% in November.

Consumer price index

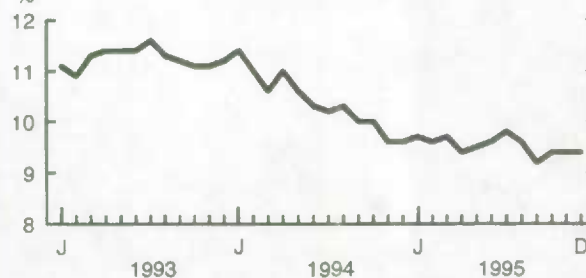
% change,
previous year



Consumers paid 2.1% more for goods and services in November 1995 than the year before. Food prices rose by 1.7%.

Unemployment rate

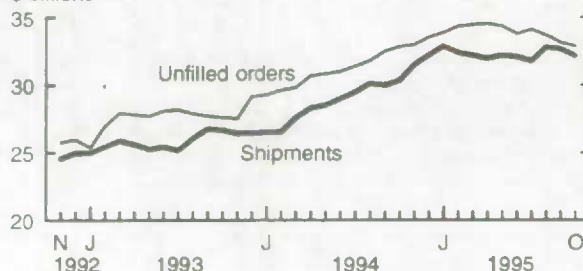
%



In December, for the third straight month, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 9.4%.

Manufacturing

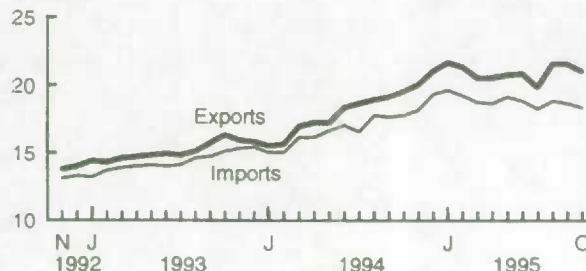
\$ billions



Manufacturers' shipments fell 1.6% to \$32.1 billion in October. The level of unfilled orders fell 0.8% to \$32.9 billion.

Merchandise trade

\$ billions



The value of merchandise exports fell 2.5% to \$21.0 billion in October. Imports fell 1.9% 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)	October	542.3	-0.3%	0.7%
Composite index (1981=100)	November	172.2	0.3%	1.0%
Operating profits of enterprises (\$ billion)	3 rd quarter	25.0	3.2%	20.3%
DOMESTIC DEMAND				
Retail trade (\$ billion)	October	17.7	-0.7%	0.8%
New motor vehicle sales ('000 units)	October	96.5	-7.4%	-10.4%
LABOUR				
Employment (millions)	December*	13.6	0.4%	0.7%
Unemployment rate (%)	December*	9.4	0.0†	-0.2†
Participation rate (%)	December*	64.7	0.3†	-0.5†
Labour income (\$ billion)	October*	35.1	-0.2%	2.7%
Average weekly earnings (\$)	October	574.49	0.0%	1.0%
INTERNATIONAL TRADE				
Merchandise exports (\$ billion)	October	21.0	-2.5%	7.3%
Merchandise imports (\$ billion)	October	18.3	-1.9%	3.3%
Merchandise trade balance (all figures in \$ billion)	October	2.7	-0.2	0.8
MANUFACTURING				
Shipments (\$ billion)	October	32.1	-1.6%	5.8%
New orders (\$ billion)	October	31.9	-0.6%	3.9%
Unfilled orders (\$ billion)	October	32.9	-0.8%	0.2%
Inventory/ shipments ratio	October	1.41	0.04	0.11
Capacity utilization (%)	3 rd quarter	83.1	-0.3†	-1.4†
PRICES				
Consumer price index (1986=100)	November	134.1	0.2%	2.1%
Industrial product price index (1986=100)	November*	129.5	0.3%	5.5%
Raw materials price index (1986=100)	November*	126.8	1.8%	1.0%
New housing price index (1986=100)	October	133.5	-0.5%	-1.9%

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

* new this week

† percentage point

Infomat

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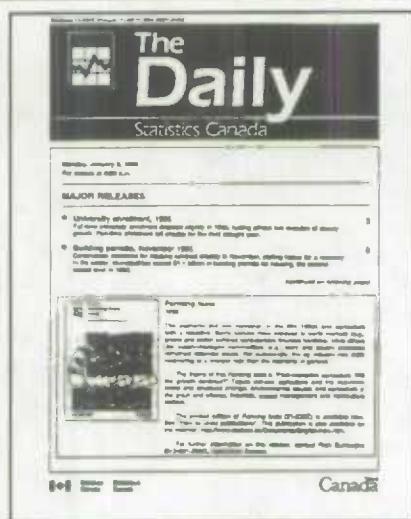
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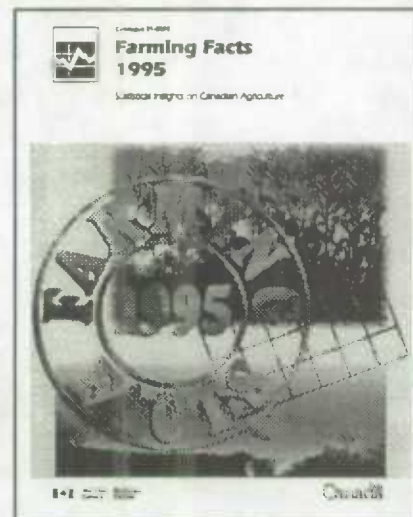
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Farming Facts 1995

While the economy slid into recession in the late 1980's, agriculture took a nose-dive. Some sectors more exposed to world markets (e.g. grains and cattle) suffered considerable financial hardship, while others like supply-managed commodities (e.g. dairy and poultry products) remained relatively stable. Not surprisingly, the agriculture industry is recovering at a faster rate than the economy in general.

The theme of this edition of *Farming Facts* is "Post-recession agriculture: Will the growth continue?" Topics include: agriculture and the economy; social and structural change; environmental issues; conditions in the grain and oilseed, livestock, supply management, and horticulture sectors.

The printed edition of *Farming Facts* (catalogue 21-522E) is available now. This publication is also available on the Internet: <http://www.statcan.ca/Documents/English/new.htm>. For further information, contact Rick Burroughs at (613) 951-2890, Agriculture Division.



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AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture economic statistics	November 1995	21-603UPE	25/50	30/60	35/70
Farming facts	1995	21-522E	Free	Free	Free
HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS					
Labour force information	December 1995	71-001P	10/100	12/120	14/140
INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE					
Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	Third quarter 1995	61-008	33/110	40/132	47/154
INDUSTRY					
Coal and coke statistics	October 1995	45-002	11/110	14/132	16/154
Crude petroleum and natural gas production	September 1995	26-006	18/180	22/216	26/252
Department store sales and stocks	October 1995	63-002	16/160	20/192	23/224
Electric power statistics	October 1995	57-001	11/110	14/132	16/154
Energy statistics handbook	December 1995	57-601	330	400	460
Logging industry	1993	25-201	33	40	47
Manufacturing industries of Canada: national and provincial areas	1993	31-203	66	80	93
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