



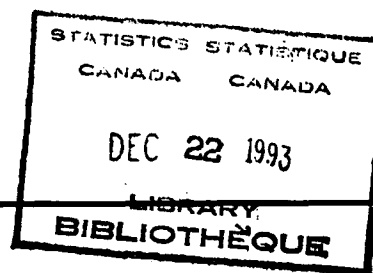
The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Wednesday, December 22, 1993

For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- Wholesale Trade, October 1993** 3
 Seasonally adjusted wholesale merchants' sales rose to \$17.6 billion in October 1993, up 1.0% from September. Of the nine trade groups, only motor vehicles, parts and accessories did not post an increase.
- Workplace Benefits and Flexibility: A Perspective on Parents' Experiences** 6
 Although 75% of parents with primary responsibility for child care were employed full time, only 34% said that full-time employment was the most desirable option for them.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employment Equity Data, 1991	8
Common Assault, 1992	8
Labour Market Activity Survey: Microdata on CD-ROM, 1986-1990	8

(continued on page 2)

Selected Economic Indicators

1994 Release Dates

Tomorrow, the *1994 Release Dates for Selected Economic Indicators* will be published as an appendix to *The Daily*. This year, the schedule provides fixed release dates for 26 series, including the Consumer Price Index, the Income and Expenditure Accounts (GDP), and the Composite Index.

For more information, contact Greg Thomson (613-951-1187), Communications Division.



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DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS - Concluded

Quarterly Demographic Statistics, July-September 1993	8
Local Government Long-term Debt, November 1993	9
Gypsum Products, November 1993	9

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED	10
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REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES	11
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MAJOR RELEASES

Wholesale Trade

October 1993 (Preliminary)

Seasonally adjusted, wholesale merchants' sales rose to \$17.6 billion in October 1993, up 1.0% from September, when wholesalers registered \$17.4 billion in sales.

Sales

October's gain (in dollar value) was led by stronger sales of "other products" (farm and paper products, agricultural supplies, industrial and household chemicals, etc.), which were up 2.3% from September, at \$2.8 billion. Wholesalers of food, beverage, drug and tobacco products also posted a notable gain (+1.4%). Although most other trade groups recorded modest gains, motor vehicles, parts and accessories was the only exception, declining a marginal 0.1%.

Regionally, the monthly movements were mixed, ranging from -1.3% in Nova Scotia to +5.7% in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Falling wholesale activities in British Columbia led to the province's first significant sales drop since September 1992. This decline (-1.2%) followed September's strong movement (+6.8%), perhaps reflecting a return to a more normal level of activity.

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.

Inventories

Inventories of wholesale merchants totalled \$26.1 billion in October, up 0.5% from the revised September level.

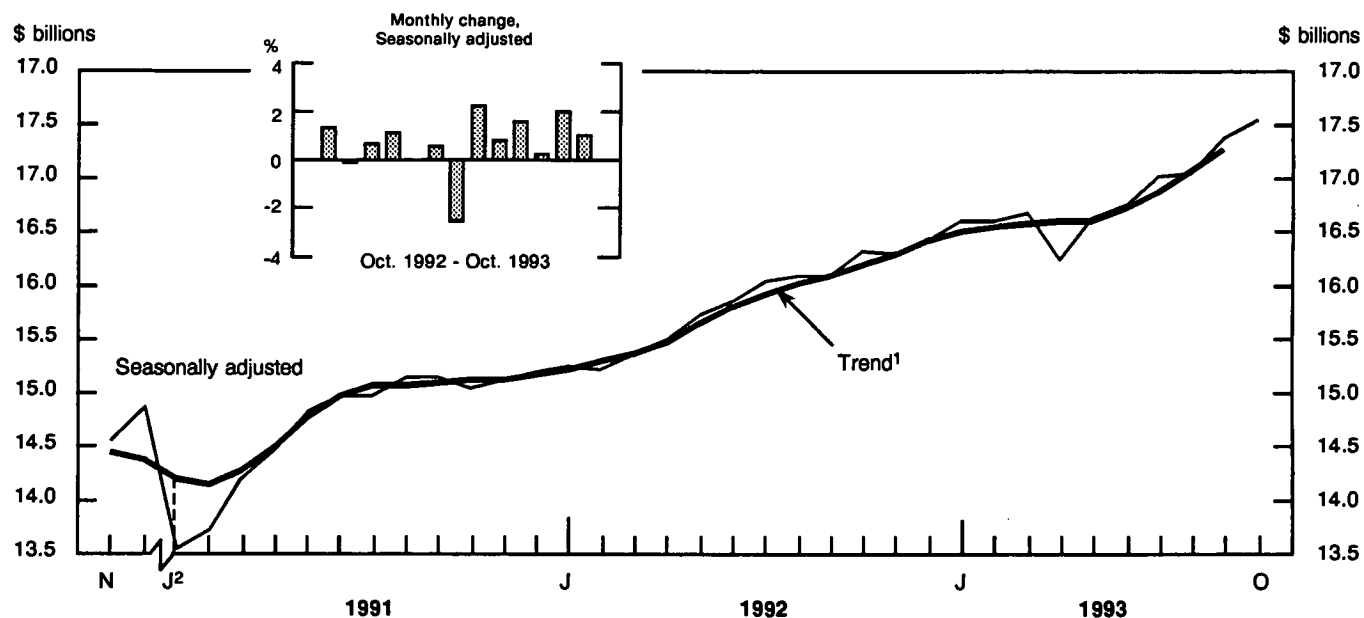
The inventories/sales ratio at the end of October remained unchanged at 1.49/1 from September's revised level.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.

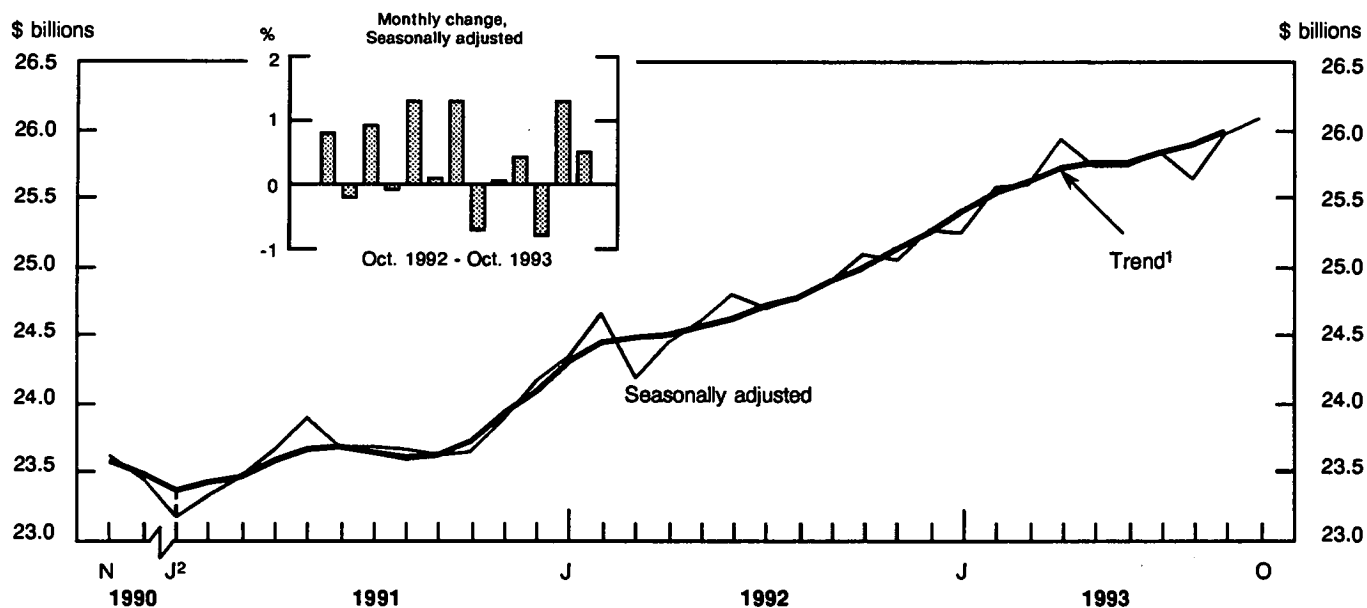
The October issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$14.40/\$144) will be available the second week of January 1994. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540) or Gilles Simard (613-951-3541), Industry Division. □

Wholesale merchants' sales



Wholesale merchants' inventories



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

² Before 1991 data include Federal Sales Tax. Its successor, the Goods and Services Tax, is not included in the 1991 and later data.

Wholesale merchants' sales

Trade group	Oct. 1992	Sept. 1993 ^r	Oct. 1993 ^p	Oct. 1992 to Oct. 1993	Oct. 1992	July 1993 ^r	Aug. 1993 ^r	Sept. 1993 ^r	Oct. 1993 ^p	Sept. 1993 to Oct. 1993	Oct. 1992 to Oct. 1993			
	\$millions				% change				\$millions				% change	
	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted									
Canada														
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	4,454	4,661	4,630	3.9	4,304	4,462	4,408	4,458	4,518	1.4	5.0			
Apparel and dry goods	446	561	501	12.3	408	435	450	462	474	2.6	16.2			
Household goods	711	699	704	-1.1	589	599	582	591	594	0.5	0.9			
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,892	2,056	2,035	7.6	1,724	1,874	1,899	1,899	1,897	-0.1	10.1			
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,196	1,336	1,328	11.0	1,139	1,204	1,215	1,255	1,260	0.4	10.6			
Lumber and building materials	1,633	1,874	1,769	8.4	1,501	1,570	1,582	1,638	1,645	0.4	9.6			
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	387	407	438	13.0	354	372	382	385	400	3.8	12.9			
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,688	4,133	3,888	5.4	3,760	3,761	3,825	3,962	3,973	0.3	5.7			
Other products	2,627	2,791	2,897	10.3	2,544	2,739	2,706	2,737	2,801	2.3	10.1			
Total, all trades	17,033	18,517	18,190	6.8	16,322	17,018	17,049	17,387	17,561	1.0	7.6			
Provinces and territories														
Newfoundland	189	196	195	3.1	167	176	174	174	176	1.2	5.5			
Prince Edward Island	46	39	39	-15.2	43	39	36	38	37	-0.6	-13.2			
Nova Scotia	360	405	379	5.2	359	373	370	384	379	-1.3	5.7			
New Brunswick	262	255	256	-2.3	241	237	234	238	239	0.4	-0.6			
Quebec	4,366	4,588	4,450	1.9	4,067	4,088	4,056	4,118	4,163	1.1	2.3			
Ontario	7,036	7,575	7,451	5.9	6,806	7,025	7,083	7,158	7,267	1.5	6.8			
Manitoba	582	578	583	0.1	559	601	565	558	571	2.4	2.2			
Saskatchewan	497	546	549	10.5	471	519	526	517	533	3.1	13.2			
Alberta	1,486	1,671	1,682	13.2	1,457	1,573	1,588	1,622	1,643	1.3	12.7			
British Columbia	2,183	2,637	2,580	18.2	2,128	2,366	2,394	2,557	2,528	-1.2	18.8			
Yukon and Northwest Territories	26	27	27	4.7	24	22	22	23	25	5.7	4.0			

Wholesale merchants' inventories

Trade group	Oct. 1992	Sept. 1993 ^r	Oct. 1993 ^p	Oct. 1992 to Oct. 1993	Oct. 1992	July 1993 ^r	Aug. 1993 ^r	Sept. 1993 ^r	Oct. 1993 ^p	Sept. 1993 to Oct. 1993	Oct. 1992 to Oct. 1993			
	\$millions				% change				\$millions				% change	
	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted									
Canada														
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,233	3,317	3,342	3.4	3,160	3,320	3,289	3,274	3,281	0.2	3.9			
Apparel and dry goods	859	1,057	991	15.3	930	1,021	1,026	1,063	1,062	-0.1	14.1			
Household goods	1,246	1,344	1,356	8.8	1,246	1,375	1,353	1,344	1,356	0.8	8.8			
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	3,477	3,592	3,418	-1.7	3,548	3,697	3,676	3,629	3,558	-2.0	0.3			
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,124	2,275	2,244	5.6	2,156	2,161	2,189	2,250	2,266	0.7	5.1			
Lumber and building materials	2,268	2,638	2,608	15.0	2,413	2,590	2,595	2,726	2,783	2.1	15.4			
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,227	1,152	1,157	-5.7	1,301	1,245	1,227	1,207	1,228	1.7	-5.6			
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,119	6,945	7,011	-1.5	7,109	7,091	6,999	7,006	7,020	0.2	-1.3			
Other products	3,191	3,427	3,544	11.1	3,220	3,346	3,290	3,471	3,546	2.2	10.1			
Total, all trades	24,744	25,747	25,670	3.7	25,083	25,846	25,644	25,970	26,099	0.5	4.0			

^r Revised figures.^p Preliminary figures.

Workplace Benefits and Flexibility: A Perspective on Parents' Experiences

When asked to indicate their preferred employment status, considering their own needs and those of their family, parents indicated a preference for part-time work.

Although 75% of parents with primary responsibility for child care were employed full time, only 34% said that full-time employment was the most desirable option for them: 53% preferred part-time employment, while 13% preferred not to be employed.

Only 42% of parents with primary responsibility for child care who were employed full time preferred full-time employment. Least likely to prefer full-time employment were those with children under three years of age.

Of parents who relied on non-parental child care arrangements while at work, 39% would prefer to change their work schedules. Parents who worked non-standard shifts (fixed late day, night or irregular shifts) were most likely to want to change their work schedules, indicating that working only during school hours would be desirable.

Parents would prefer a better balance

Nearly 70% of parents said that a change in workplace policy or practices would help them better balance work and family responsibilities. The two family-supportive arrangements most preferred by parents were workplace child care facilities (23%) and flexible work hours (19%).

Parents of younger children (less than 3 years-old) were more likely to prefer workplace child care. Parents of children aged 6 to 12 were more likely to prefer flexible work hours.

Sources of tension

An estimated 90% of parents who worked for pay outside the home while assuming primary responsibility for arranging child care said that they experienced some tension on a day-to-day basis from juggling work and family responsibilities.

More than half (57%) experienced moderate amounts or a great deal of work-family tension. Almost two-thirds of employed parents said that they

Note to users

This report focuses on parents' perceptions of the availability of family-supportive workplace arrangements; their experiences in balancing paid work and family commitments; and their preferences for changes in the workplace that could help them harmonize work and family life.

Data on the availability of family-supportive workplace benefits and arrangements were collected through the 1988 National Child Care Survey from a nationally representative sample of employed parents with one or more children under 13 years of age.

Estimates pertain to approximately 1.4 million parents who worked for pay outside the home in the fall of 1988 while assuming primary responsibility for child care. Of such parents: approximately 94% were women; 81% were part of a dual-earner couple; 14% were lone parents; and 5% were sole earners with a spouse who was unemployed or not in the labour force.

(Estimates are also provided for parents who did not have primary responsibility for child care, for men and women separately, and for parents employed in particular occupations.)

The data in this study were collected in 1988 as part of the largest survey conducted on child care. The data in the report do not reflect changes that may have occurred to workplace benefits and flexibility since the fall of 1988.

felt moderate or severe amounts of tension—from feeling tired and overloaded or as a result of difficulty in maintaining a balance between work and family.

Other sources of tension were: total number of hours parents worked; work schedules; difficulty managing the cost of high-quality child care; and concerns about children's safety and well-being.

Do benefits and work arrangements match the need?

Parents employed part time were more likely to be able to work flexible hours than those employed full time, but less likely to have access to paid leave.

Highly specialized occupations (professionals, semi-professionals and technicians) were more likely to report access to part-time work or job-sharing options than other types of occupations.

Senior and middle managers, meanwhile, were most likely to have access to flexible work schedules and to paid family-responsibility leave.

The most commonly available benefits and arrangements were extended (unpaid) maternity leave and the opportunity to work part time—each was available to 53% of parents with primary responsibility for child care.

Of the other types of arrangements: 32% of parents could work flexible hours; 24% had employers who permitted job-sharing; 23% could take paid family-responsibility leave (if children were sick or if regular child care arrangements were not available); 12% had employers who provided funds to "top-up" unemployment insurance maternity leave benefits; and 6% had employers who provided workplace child care facilities.

In general, access to (or awareness of) family-supportive work arrangements was unrelated to the extent to which parents were shouldering heavy child-rearing demands.

As a result: nearly two-thirds of parents with three or more children had no flexibility in their hours of work; more than three-quarters of parents with

preschoolers had no access to paid short-term leave when their children were sick or when child care arrangements fell through; and single parents were considerably less likely than other parents to be able to reduce their work hours to part time.

Workplace Benefits and Flexibility: A Perspective on Parents' Experiences (89-530E, \$25) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information about this report from the Canadian National Child Care Study, contact either Dr. Donna Lero (519-824-4120, extension 3914), Department of Family Studies, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1 or T. Scott Murray (613-951-9476), Special Surveys Group, Household Surveys Division. ■

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Employment Equity Data

1991

A preliminary information package on the 1991 employment equity data is available. The package contains highlights of the new data on the four designated groups (women, visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities) which are drawn from the 1991 Census and the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

This preliminary information serves as a preview to the *Employment Equity Data Report* which will be released by Human Resources Development early in 1994. The Report will be distributed to employers who are covered under the Employment Equity Act and the Federal Contractors Program.

For more information, contact Ida Trachtenberg, (613-951-2559), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

Common Assault

1992

Police-reported crime data indicate that the rate of adults charged with common assault almost tripled between 1974 and 1992. However, all of the increase in charge rates occurred after the 1983 introduction of Bill C127, which revised Criminal Code assault laws.

The large increases in common assault rates over the past decade are not totally reflective of increases in the level of violence in Canada. Rates may have been influenced by increased public reporting, as well as by changes in Criminal Code assault laws and by related changes in police charging practices.

Also significant is the finding that almost 40% of common assault victims were assaulted by family members, indicating that family violence is a major component in common assault incidents.

The study released today looks at the factors which may be contributing to large increases in common assault rates. Changes in these rates are important because common assaults represent more than half of all violent offences and, as a result, have a major impact on public perceptions about the level of violent crime. This report presents a more detailed analysis of crime data that were released in August 1993.

The Vol. 13, No. 6 issue of *Juristat Service Bulletin: Common Assault in Canada* (85-002, \$3.60) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231 or 1-613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Quarterly Demographic Statistics

July-September 1993

The preliminary postcensal estimates of population for Canada, the provinces and territories on October 1, 1993 are now available.

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

These estimates will appear in *Quarterly Demographic Statistics* (91-002, \$7.50/\$30) in a few weeks. For detailed information, please contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or the relevant division.

For vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages), contact Nelson Nault (613-951-2990), Canadian Center for Health Information; for other demographic estimates, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320), Demography Division. ■

Labour Market Activity Survey: Microdata on CD ROM

1986-1990

This rich source of demographic and labour-market activity information is now available for the first time in CD-ROM format.

The data covers all the important demographic variables (such as province, age, sex, marital status, education, visible minority membership, disability and immigration status) from a representative sample of 60,000 persons for the years 1986 to 1990. Coverage includes data on: jobs (type of activity, schedules, wages, earnings, unionization, pension coverage, and self-employment); unemployment spells; unpaid absences; training and schooling; sources of income; and some family characteristics. Any of the variables can be combined to create virtually an unlimited number of tables.

Analyses that can be performed with these annual and longitudinal microdata files can be updated in the future with more current data from the new Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics.

The disk contains full documentation of the Labour Market Activity Survey and a software tool to search the documentation. It also contains a data extraction tool for downloading variables and cases. Users can then apply their own analysis software (e.g., SAS, SPSS, or dBase).

The basic price for this set of three CDs is \$2,000. Discounts are available for educational institutions and students. To order, contact Michael Sivyer (613-951-4598 or 1-800-461-9050). For more information about the files, contact Stephan Roller (613-951-4625), Labour and Household Surveys Division. ■

Local Government Long-term Debt

November 1993

Estimates of the accumulated long-term debt of local governments for all provinces except Ontario are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Marlene Vollmer (613-951-1830), Public Institutions Division.

Data are also available through custom and special tabulations. For more information or general

inquiries on Public Institutions Division products or services, contact Jo-Anne Thibault, Data Dissemination and External Relations Co-ordinator (613-951-0767). ■

Gypsum Products

November 1993

Manufacturers shipped 18 537 thousand square metres of plain gypsum wallboard in November 1993, down 7.6% from 20 061 thousand square metres in November 1992 and down 25.3% from 24 811 thousand square metres in October 1993.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of November 1993 totalled 209 761 thousand square metres, up 1.3% from a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 39 and 122 (series 19).

The November 1993 issue of *Gypsum Products* (44-003, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date.

For detailed information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, October 1993.

Catalogue number 35-003

(Canada: \$7.10/\$71; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85; Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99).

Juristat Service Bulletin: Common Assault in Canada, 1990-1991. Vol. 13, No. 6.

Catalogue number 85-002

(Canada: \$3.60/\$65; United States: US\$4.30/US\$78; Other Countries: US\$5/US\$91).

Workplace Benefits and Flexibility: A Perspective on Parents' Experiences, 1988 National Child Care Survey.

Catalogue number 89-530E

(Canada: \$25; United States: US\$30; Other Countries: US\$35).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.



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Friday, December 15, 1993
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MAJOR RELEASES

- Labour Force Survey, August 1993
The unemployment rate fell 0.2 to 11.2 in August 1993.
- Form Product Price Index, July 1993
The Form Product Price Index rose 0.2% in July. The index index reported in August rose 0.1% in July 1993, and increased and annual percentage index reported in August 1993.
- Advertiser Statistics of Statistics, 1993-94
Since 1983-84, advertising in newspapers in Canada has risen from \$50.3 billion to \$100.3 billion in 1993-94. The 50% increase from 1983-84 with the greatest increase in a decade.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department of Statistics by Province and Metropolitan Area, July 1993
Retail Prices of Farm, House, Building, and 1993
Annual Compendium: 1993-94 (July 1993)
Annual Compendium: 1993-94 (July 1993)
Our New Year, July 1993
Our New Year, July 1993
Canadian Press Publications, August 1993

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASE DATES: Week of September 13-17

Canada

Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E. (Canada: \$120; United States: US\$144; Other Countries: US\$168.)

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