

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

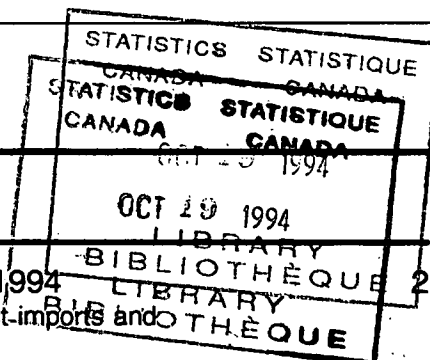
Wednesday, October 19, 1994

For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASE

- Canadian international merchandise trade, August 1994**

A return to normal production in the automotive sector helped boost imports and exports to record levels in August.



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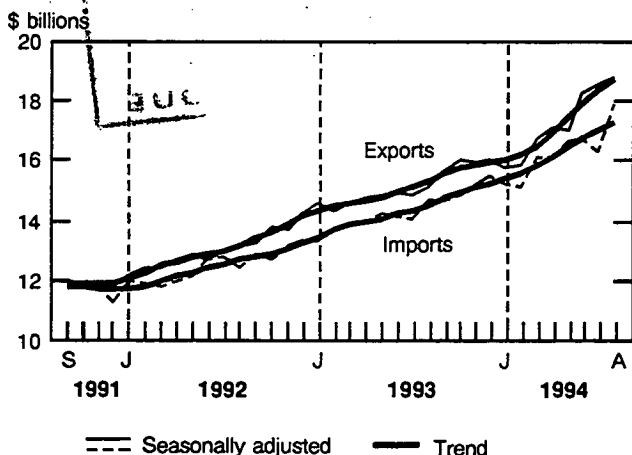
## MAJOR RELEASE

### Canadian international merchandise trade

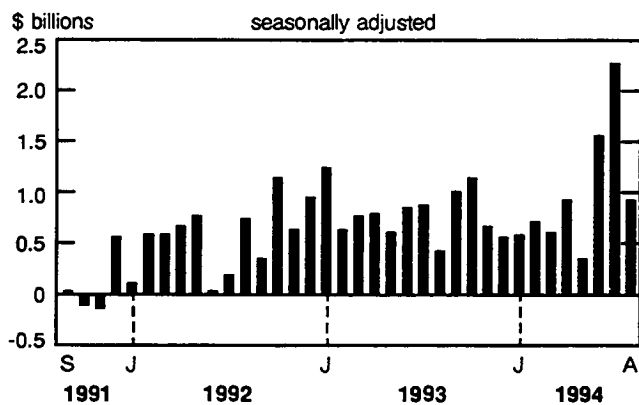
August 1994

Imports and exports grew to record levels in August, as trade in automotive products recovered from July's longer than normal shutdowns for retooling and vacations. Imports made a particularly strong comeback in the month, while exports advanced more modestly. As a result, the trade balance fell from its July record of \$2.3 billion to \$0.9 billion in August.

#### Total imports and exports



#### Balance of trade



#### Note to users

Merchandise trade is only one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments. Other components include services transactions, investment income and transfers. In the second quarter of 1994, an overall merchandise trade surplus of \$2.8 billion contrasted with a current account deficit of \$7.5 billion.

Imports were up 10.2% in August to \$17.9 billion. Growth was broadly based, with most of the increase coming from autos, energy and machinery. The bulk of these imports (74%) came from the United States.

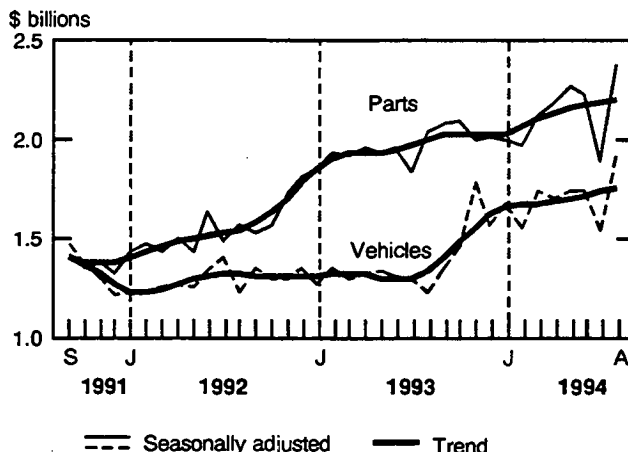
Exports grew to \$18.8 billion in August, primarily because of strength in the automotive sector. Overall, exports were up 1.6% in the month.

Canada's trade surplus with the United States fell to \$2.5 billion in August. Canada continued to run a surplus with Japan, although the trade balance did fall in the recent month. Deficits with all other major trading partners widened.

#### Imports surge as auto production resumes

August marked the end of auto-assembly plant shutdowns in both Canada and the United States. As production resumed in Canada, demand for imported vehicle parts increased 26%. Higher U.S. production in August increased the availability of light vehicles, imports of which grew 25%.

#### Imports of automotive products



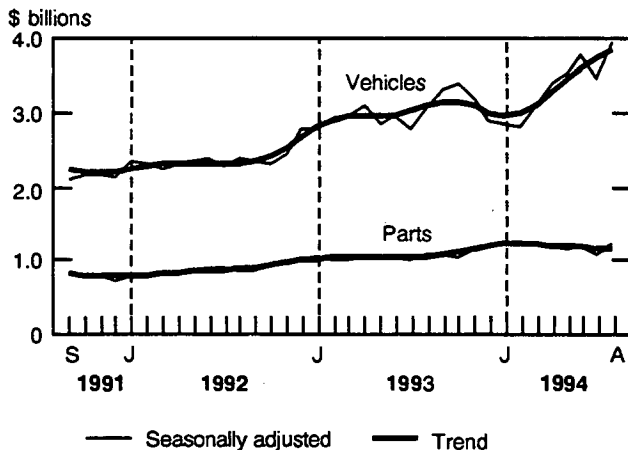
Within the energy sector, imports of crude petroleum have increased. Much of this is stored in Canada for future re-export to the United States. Refined petroleum imports were up in August as well, growing in response to increased demand for diesel fuel and other refined products. Imports of crude petroleum and refined petroleum products have increased by 89% and 79% respectively over the past year.

Machinery and equipment imports continued to grow in August, reflecting a more positive outlook by Canadian manufacturers. Much of the increase was in communications equipment and in specialized equipment and tools.

### Exports up on strength of autos and energy

A return to normal production levels among automakers in Canada and the United States, coupled with a rise in U.S. auto sales, led to a 15% increase in exports of automotive products in August over July. Exports of trucks have been growing at a steady rate since spring, while exports of passenger cars have been increasing at a somewhat slower pace. Parts exports grew 14% in August, reflecting the end of retooling in the United States.

### Exports of automotive products

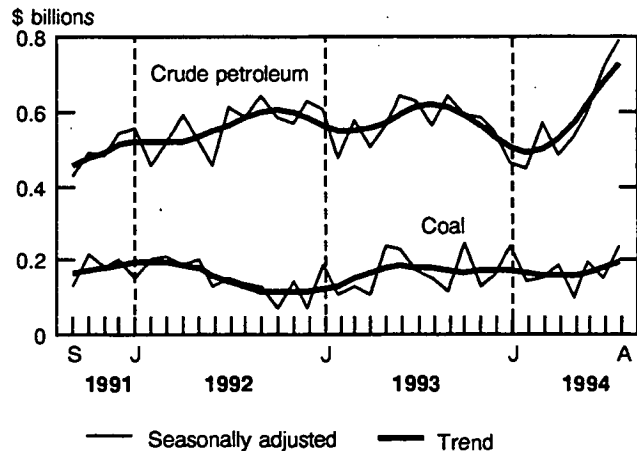


Exports of energy products increased by more than 12% in August. Growth was concentrated in coal exports as well as in crude and refined petroleum exports. Natural gas exports were up, as were Canadian production levels and U.S. demand.

### Did you know?

Both imports and exports have been increasing in absolute terms and as a percentage of total (manufacturing) activity over the past three years. Imports of manufactured goods as a percentage of domestic manufacturing output have risen from 40% in 1988 to 52% today. For exports, the share has moved from 37% in 1988 to 50% today.

### Exports of energy products



In the industrial goods and materials sector, exports of most base-metals and steel products were strong in August. These exports have been trending upward over the past year, thanks largely to the healthy state of manufacturing in the United States (especially in transportation).

Lumber exports were down 6% in August, reflecting declines in both price and volume. Fearing strike action in British Columbia, buyers in the United States may have stockpiled lumber in July for use in later months. This may help explain falling exports in August.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3611-3616, 3618-3629, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718-3720 and 3887-3913.**

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data that will be available next week in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001, \$19/\$182). The publication will include tables of commodity and country data on a customs basis.

For more timely receipt of the merchandise trade data, a fax service is available on the morning of release. Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, services transactions, investment income and transfers) are available on a

quarterly basis in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001, \$30/\$120).

For further information on this release, contact Robert Gordon (613-951-9647), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. □

## Merchandise trade of Canada

	June 1994	July 1994	August 1994	June 1994 to July 1994	July 1994 to August 1994	January to August		Aug. 1993 to Aug. 1994	
						1993	1994	1993 to 1994	
seasonally adjusted, current dollars									
	\$ millions			% change		\$ millions		% change	
<b>Principal trading areas</b>									
<b>Exports</b>									
United States	14,842	14,941	15,824	0.7	5.9	94,055	113,391	20.6	29.8
Japan	974	922	875	-5.3	-5.1	5,465	6,199	13.4	32.1
European Union	854	950	666	11.2	-29.9	7,168	6,884	-4.0	-27.9
Other OECD	300	467	354	55.7	-24.2	2,100	2,488	18.5	89.3
Other countries	1,337	1,253	1,106	-6.3	-11.7	9,040	9,058	0.2	-1.4
Total	18,308	18,534	18,825	1.2	1.6	117,828	138,021	17.1	24.8
<b>Imports</b>									
United States	12,294	12,098	13,312	-1.6	10.0	81,403	96,326	18.3	22.4
Japan	776	537	589	-30.8	9.7	5,576	5,358	-3.9	-14.8
European Union	1,332	1,498	1,607	12.5	7.3	8,970	10,881	21.3	38.0
Other OECD	570	733	858	28.6	17.1	3,153	4,225	34.0	157.6
Other countries	1,778	1,399	1,551	-21.3	10.9	12,566	13,304	5.9	-3.6
Total	16,750	16,265	17,916	-2.9	10.2	111,669	130,095	16.5	22.1
<b>Balance</b>									
United States	2,548	2,843	2,512	...	...	12,652	17,065	...	...
Japan	198	385	286	...	...	-111	841	...	...
European Union	-478	-548	-941	...	...	-1,802	-3,997	...	...
Other OECD	-270	-266	-504	...	...	-1,053	-1,737	...	...
Other countries	-441	-146	-445	...	...	-3,526	-4,246	...	...
Total	1,558	2,269	909	...	...	6,159	7,926	...	...
<b>Principal commodity groupings **</b>									
<b>Exports</b>									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,684	1,651	1,359	-2.0	-17.7	10,051	11,204	11.5	5.2
Energy products	1,926	1,839	2,067	-4.5	12.4	12,866	14,361	11.6	29.9
Forestry products	2,584	2,801	2,740	8.4	-2.2	16,741	19,842	18.5	36.0
Industrial goods and materials	3,325	3,507	3,311	5.5	-5.6	21,268	25,008	17.6	22.3
Machinery and equipment	3,462	3,527	3,466	1.9	-1.7	21,797	27,034	24.0	24.2
Automotive products	4,973	4,497	5,166	-9.6	14.9	31,440	36,234	15.2	25.2
Other consumer goods	484	472	499	-2.5	5.7	2,939	3,691	25.6	24.6
Special transactions trade	768	772	795	0.5	3.0	4,712	5,926	25.8	23.5
<b>Imports</b>									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,033	1,047	1,107	1.4	5.7	7,242	8,014	10.7	20.7
Energy products	725	436	938	-39.9	115.1	4,830	4,867	0.8	76.5
Forestry products	149	151	149	1.3	-1.3	1,018	1,141	12.1	14.5
Industrial goods and materials	3,202	3,265	3,443	2.0	5.5	20,707	24,665	19.1	27.8
Machinery and equipment	5,343	5,521	5,798	3.3	5.0	34,223	41,818	22.2	22.7
Automotive products	3,961	3,418	4,293	-13.7	25.6	25,745	30,578	18.8	31.9
Other consumer goods	1,949	1,920	2,027	-1.5	5.6	13,885	15,206	9.5	11.2
Special transactions trade	358	469	438	31.0	-6.6	2,846	3,311	16.3	-2.8

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

\*\* Figures not adjusted to balance of payments basis.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Export and import price indexes

August 1994

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1986 = 100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to August 1994 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Customs-based current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1986 = 100) are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to August 1994. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only SITC section indexes.

New indexes on customs basis for the five commodity sections and the 62/61 major commodity groups are now available on CANSIM.

**Available on CANSIM:** matrices 3611-3616 3618-3629, 3651 and 3685.

The August 1994 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001, \$19/\$182) will be available the last week of October. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division. ■

### Department store sales

September 1994 (preliminary)

Department store sales including concessions totalled \$1,030 million in September, down 1.2% from September 1993. Sales by major department stores amounted to \$547 million (-4.4%), while sales by the junior category totalled \$482 million (+2.7%).

The September 1994 issue of *Department store sales and stocks* (63-002, \$16/\$160) will be available in November.

For further information on this release, contact Janet Sear (613-951-3551), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. ■

### Postcensal estimates of population by age and sex for Canada, the provinces and territories

July 1, 1994

Preliminary postcensal estimates by age and sex at July 1, 1994, as well as updated postcensal figures at July 1, 1993 and final postcensal estimates at July 1, 1992 and 1991, are now available. The corresponding components of population growth for the year ending June 30, 1991 to 1994 are also now available.

These data can be found in the following matrices on CANSIM: population (6367-6379); births by sex (6380); deaths (6381-6393); immigrants (6270-6282); non-permanent residents (6316-6328); returning Canadians (6329-6341); emigrants (6283-6295); and interprovincial migrants (6303-6315).

**Available on CANSIM:** 6270-6295, 6303-6341 and 6367-6393.

These estimates will appear in *Annual demographic statistics, 1994* (91-213, \$40), which will be available in March 1995.

For further information on this release, contact the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or Lise Champagne (613-951-2320), Demography Division. ■

### Sales of natural gas

August 1994 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 3 378 million cubic metres in August, up 4.3% from August 1993. The surge was broadly based with all three major sectors (residential, commercial and industrial) recording higher sales. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) climbed 4.3% from August 1993, largely due to increased use of natural gas for generation of electricity.

Year-to-date sales were up 2.9% from the same period in 1993. Sales to the residential sector rose a strong 8.7%, due to unseasonably cold temperatures in January and February and to continuing growth in the number of customers. Commercial sales increased 3.9%, while sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) were unchanged from the same period last year.

## Sales of natural gas

	August 1994 <sup>P</sup>	August 1993 to August 1994
	thousands of cubic metres	% change
Total	3 377 610	4.3
Residential	393 258	4.0
Commercial	328 198	4.9
Industrial	1 961 166	4.3
Direct	694 988	
	Jan. to Aug. 1994 <sup>P</sup>	Jan.-Aug. 1993 to Jan.-Aug. 1994
	thousands of cubic metres	% change
Total	40 678 686	2.9
Residential	10 731 718	8.7
Commercial	8 012 112	3.9
Industrial	16 184 365	--
Direct	5 750 491	

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

-- Amount too small to be expressed

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

The August 1994 issue of *Gas utilities* (55-002, \$14/\$140) will be available the third week of November. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

## Deliveries of major grains

August 1994

Western Canadian grain deliveries in August 1994, the first month of the 1994/95 crop year, were back to more normal levels compared to August 1993, when the harvest was delayed by cool and wet weather. The increase in 1994 deliveries also reflects a methodological change by the Canadian Grain

Commission in the treatment of deliveries of Canadian Wheat Board grains made under deferred delivery permits.

## Deliveries of major grains

	August 1993	August 1994
	thousand tonnes	
Total major grains	464.9	2,349.8
Wheat (excluding durum)	202.2	1,172.4
Durum wheat	39.5	228.1
Total wheat	241.7	1,400.4
Oats	33.0	120.4
Barley	90.9	356.1
Rye	16.6	53.7
Flaxseed	16.9	18.3
Canola	65.7	401.0

### Available on CANSIM: matrices 976-981.

The August 1994 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007, \$15/\$144) is scheduled for release in November. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Alain Y. Bertrand (613-951-3859) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856), Agriculture Division. ■

## Soft drinks

September 1994

Data on soft drink production for September 1994 are now available.

### Available on CANSIM: matrix 196.

*Monthly production of soft drinks* (32-001, \$3/\$30) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Cereals and oilseeds review, July 1994.

Catalogue number 22-007

(Canada: \$15/\$144; United States: US\$18/US\$173;  
other countries: US\$21/US\$202).

New motor vehicle sales, April 1994.

Catalogue number 63-007

(Canada: \$16/\$160; United States: US\$20/US\$192;  
other countries: US\$23/US\$224).

Canada's balance of international payments,  
second quarter 1994.

Catalogue number 67-001

(Canada: \$30/\$120; United States: US\$36/US\$144;  
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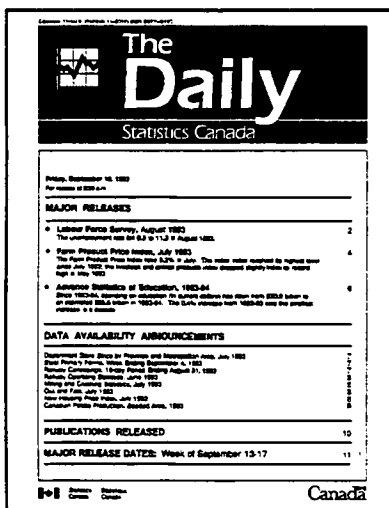
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Editor: Tim Prichard (613-951-1103)

Head of Official Release: Jacques Lefebvre (613-951-1088)

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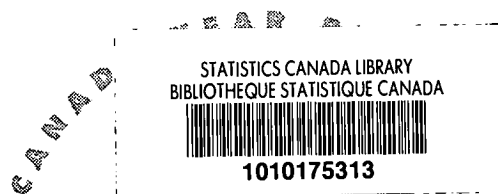
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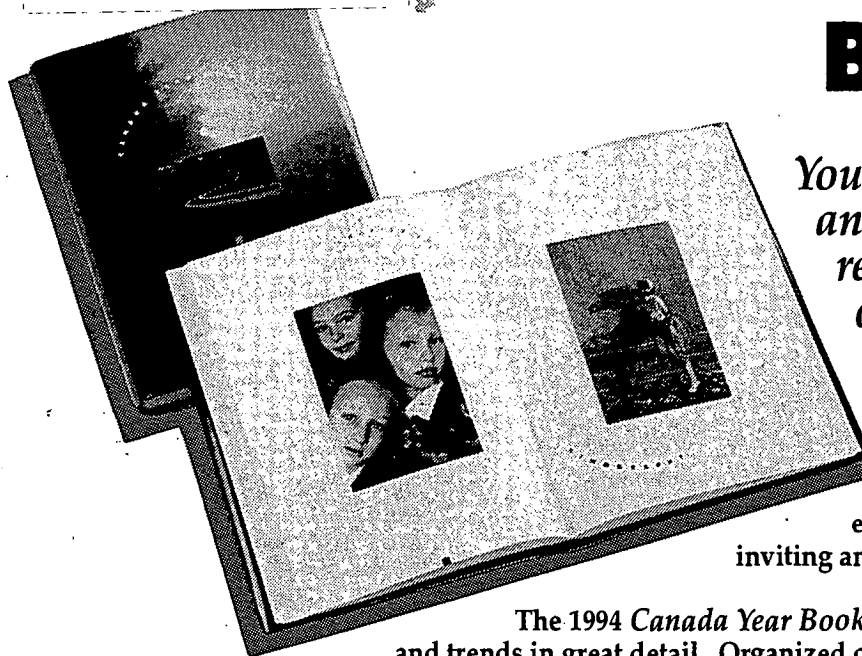
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