



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, December 20, 1994

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## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian International merchandise trade, October 1994**  
Canada's trade surplus increased in October as exports grew faster than imports.
- **Retail trade, October 1994**  
Consumers loosened their purse strings in October after pausing in September. This continues the upward trend observed since the spring of 1992.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Canadian international merchandise trade

October 1994

In October exports grew 2.9% and imports grew 1.2%. Canada's merchandise trade surplus rose from \$1.4 billion in September to \$1.7 billion in October.

The growth in exports came mainly from industrial goods (+13%) and agricultural products (+21%). Decreased exports of trucks and energy products partly offset gains elsewhere.

October's imports rallied on the strength of automobiles and energy, recovering much of September's losses.

Canada's trade surplus with the United States remained unchanged at \$2.5 billion; the surplus with Japan grew. Deficits with most other trading partners shrank in October, the only exception was the European Union (see charts 1 and 2).

#### Exports rise

Industrial goods and materials exports increased significantly (+13%) in October. These goods are shipped mainly to the United States, where the pace of manufacturing production hit a seven-year high in the month. Metals and alloys, growing for the latest year and a half, made substantial gains with the help of higher aluminum and copper prices. Chemicals made a strong showing in the month, while exports of metal ores and fertilizers slowed (see chart 3).

Agricultural exports grew 21% in October, moving up from a three-month downswing on the strength of canola, fish, and wheat shipments.

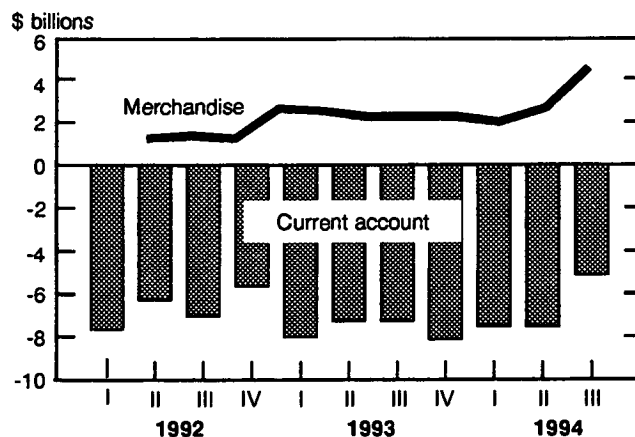
Continuing their 15-month upward trend, forestry products moved ahead 2.6%. Pulp and paper exports continued to benefit from high prices, in large part due to healthy demand in the United States and Europe. Lumber exports advanced in October despite a drop in new home construction south of the border (see chart 4).

Growing exports of machinery and equipment (+\$40 million) reflected high third-quarter business confidence in the United States. Office machines as well as special equipment and tools contributed most to the increase. Overall, machinery and equipment exports have been expanding for the latest 34 months.

#### 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 third quarter of 1994, the overall merchandise trade surplus of \$4.6 billion contrasted with a current account deficit of \$5.1 billion.

#### Balances (total), merchandise and current account



Exports lagged in the case of light trucks, parts, and energy. A \$114 million rise in car exports was more than offset by declines in trucks and parts (down a collective \$193 million). Meanwhile, sales of cars and trucks in the United States were up 8.9% over last year. Lower energy exports reflected declines in natural gas, coal, and crude petroleum.

#### Imports rally on autos and energy

Automotive products lent most strength to imports in October, growing 6.6%. Vehicle imports from the United States were off slightly in the month, but the European Union and Japan took up the slack as auto sales in Canada grew to a level 8.6% above last October. Interestingly, post-recession growth in auto sales has lagged behind that which followed the recession of the early 1980s (see chart 5).

Chart 1  
Total imports and exports

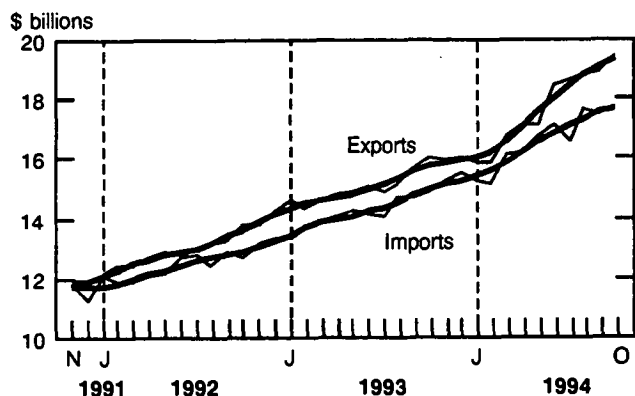


Chart 2  
Balance of trade

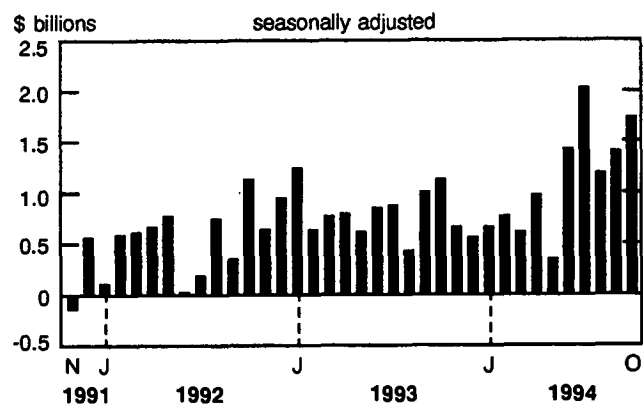


Chart 3  
Exports of industrial goods and materials

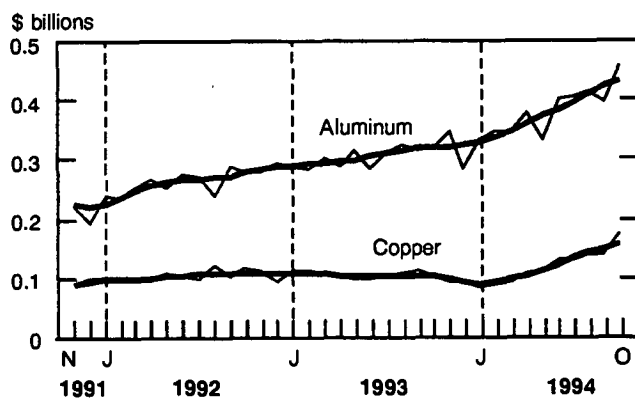


Chart 4  
Exports of forestry products

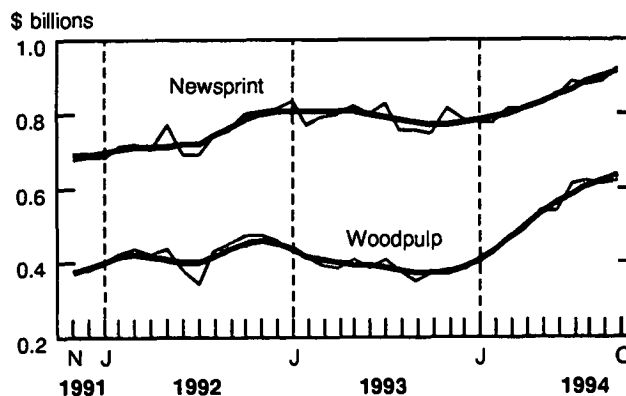
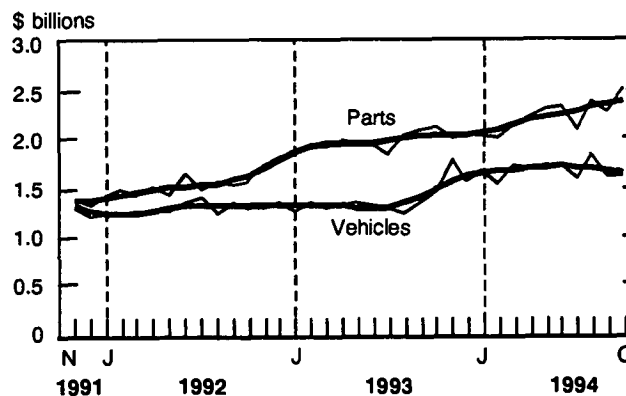


Chart 5  
Imports of automotive products



Legend  
— Seasonally adjusted — Trend

Crude petroleum imports, erratic in recent months, were up 56% in October, offsetting declines in imports of other energy products.

There were mixed movements in the machinery sector as industrial machinery and aircraft imports increased; imports of communications equipment, turbines and electrical motors, and metal working machinery declined.

Fresh vegetable imports grew in October, supplementing domestic supplies. On the whole, agricultural imports have been trending upward for nearly four years.

On the down side were imports of some industrial goods and materials. These included metals ores (-7%) as well as iron and steel products (-26%).

**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). It will include tables of commodity and country detail 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).

#### Did you know?

*There are over 17,900 commodities classified at the HS10 level of detail, of which 15,229 have imports in 1994. The largest 50 commodities account for 30% of Canada's imports. Four of the top five imported commodities are automotive products.*

HS10 code	Commodity type	Import value, Jan. to Oct. 1994
\$ millions		
8708299900	Other body parts for motor vehicles	3,054
8703240064	Six-cylinder large passenger vehicles	3,030
8703230043	Four-cylinder compact passenger vehicles	2,006
8708109010	Gear boxes for passenger vehicles	1,934
2709001020	Crude petroleum oils	1,919

#### Revisions

*In accordance with International Trade Division policy, revisions are made to data for each month of the current year in order to correct for classification anomalies, to include information for late documents and, in the case of energy, to reflect differences between original estimates and actual figures.*

*For September total imports were revised upward by \$176 million. Revisions made to most commodities were minor, the largest being machinery and equipment (-\$12 million) and automotive parts (+\$40 million).*

*Revisions to September's exports were less marked than for imports, down overall by \$58 million. Some notable revisions include wheat (-\$7.3 million) and industrial goods (+\$6.2 million). Revisions to other single commodities did not exceed \$1 million.*

For further information on statistics, concepts and definitions contact Robert Gordon (613-951-9647) or Suzie Carpentier (613-951-6831), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division (toll-free: 1-800-294-5583). □

## Merchandise trade of Canada

						January to October			
	Aug. 1994	Sept. 1994	Oct. 1994	Aug. 1994 to Sept. 1994	Sept. 1994 to Oct. 1994			1993 to 1994	Oct. 1993 to Oct. 1994
seasonally adjusted, current dollars									
	\$ millions			% change		\$ millions		% change	
Principal trading areas									
Exports									
United States	15,673	15,623	15,788	-0.3	1.1	119,634	144,904	21.1	22.1
Japan	907	750	824	-17.3	9.9	6,827	7,855	15.1	23.2
European Union	690	881	981	27.7	11.4	9,038	8,811	-2.5	2.7
Other OECD countries	372	295	378	-20.7	28.1	2,681	3,227	20.4	8.3
Other countries	1,197	1,342	1,476	12.1	10.0	11,298	12,044	6.6	34.8
Total	18,839	18,892	19,447	0.3	2.9	149,479	176,840	18.3	21.5
Imports									
United States	13,144	13,074	13,271	-0.5	1.5	103,190	123,091	19.3	21.2
Japan	589	728	668	23.6	-8.2	6,937	6,804	-1.9	0.6
European Union	1,562	1,290	1,432	-17.4	11.0	11,342	13,567	19.6	15.6
Other OECD countries	744	769	740	3.4	-3.8	3,856	5,666	46.9	110.2
Other countries	1,618	1,623	1,589	0.3	-2.1	15,860	16,605	4.7	-4.0
Total	17,657	17,484	17,700	-1.0	1.2	141,185	165,732	17.4	19.1
Balance									
United States	2,529	2,549	2,517	...	...	16,444	21,813	...	...
Japan	318	22	156	...	...	-110	1,051	...	...
European Union	-872	-409	-451	...	...	-2,304	-4,756	...	...
Other OECD countries	-372	-474	-362	...	...	-1,175	-2,439	...	...
Other countries	-421	-281	-113	...	...	-4,562	-4,561	...	...
Total	1,182	1,408	1,747	...	...	8,294	11,108	...	...
Principal commodity groupings **									
Exports									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,387	1,325	1,605	-4.5	21.1	12,682	14,188	11.9	21.2
Energy products	2,071	1,897	1,743	-8.4	-8.1	16,241	18,019	10.9	1.8
Forestry products	2,723	2,694	2,763	-1.1	2.6	21,054	25,283	20.1	26.0
Industrial goods and materials	3,318	3,280	3,714	-1.1	13.2	26,928	31,997	18.8	29.9
Machinery and equipment	3,539	3,674	3,714	3.8	1.1	27,594	34,522	25.1	27.5
Automotive products	5,126	5,117	5,038	-0.2	-1.5	40,166	46,578	16.0	15.0
Other consumer goods	495	480	553	-3.0	15.2	3,789	4,723	24.7	29.8
Special transactions trade	794	833	805	4.9	-3.4	6,018	7,566	25.7	19.6
Imports									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,100	1,052	1,089	-4.4	3.5	9,095	10,152	11.6	16.2
Energy products	955	607	686	-36.4	13.0	5,849	6,156	5.2	22.1
Forestry products	153	155	167	1.3	7.7	1,292	1,475	14.2	21.9
Industrial goods and materials	3,393	3,420	3,355	0.8	-1.9	26,131	31,474	20.4	23.1
Machinery and equipment	5,608	5,748	5,804	2.5	1.0	43,469	53,224	22.4	25.1
Automotive products	4,220	3,869	4,125	-8.3	6.6	32,711	38,854	18.8	16.4
Other consumer goods	2,019	2,049	2,035	1.5	-0.7	17,609	19,325	9.7	9.1
Special transactions trade	408	426	415	4.4	-2.6	3,566	4,077	14.3	26.5

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

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

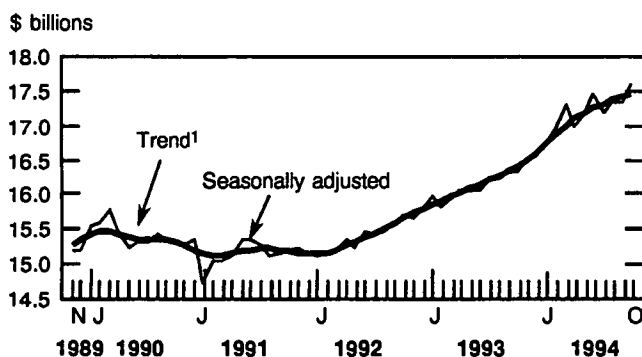
## Retail trade

October 1994 (preliminary)

Consumers loosened their purse strings in October after pausing in September. This continues the upward trend observed since the spring of 1992.

Retail sales rose sharply in October (+1.6% to \$17.6 billion, seasonally adjusted) after a 0.1% dip in September. Since October 1993 overall growth has been 8.0% even though monthly movements have been relatively volatile, particularly in the latest few months.

### Retail sales



Data prior to 1991 have been adjusted to remove the Federal Sales Tax to be comparable to January 1991 and subsequent data.

<sup>1</sup> Trend represents smoothed seasonally adjusted data.

The improvement in retail sales was felt in six of seven sectors, accounting for 94% of total sales. The largest increases in dollars terms were in food, general merchandise and automotive.

### Most sectors report buoyant sales

In the automotive sector (accounts for over one-third of total retail trade) movements were varied. Motor and recreational vehicle dealers and sellers of automotive parts, accessories and services reported increases of 1.3% and 1.6% respectively. Gasoline service stations posted a 1.1% decline.

Spending in the food sector (accounts for 25% of total retail trade) increased 1.9% in October, partly offsetting the 2.2% drop in September. This gain was the third increase in four months.

The general merchandise sector (accounts for 10% of total retail trade and includes stores selling a wide range of commodities such as furniture, appliances, clothing, hardware and cosmetics) advanced 3.4% in October after a 4.0% decline in September. Sales by general merchandise stores have slowed in recent months after steady growth since mid-1993.

### Sales climb in most provinces

British Columbia was the only province to report lower sales in October (-0.7%). However, this was only the second decline this year. Sales by retailers in B.C. were 12.0% higher than in the same period last year. Increases in the other provinces and territories ranged from 0.7% in the Yukon Territory to 6.0% in New Brunswick.

### Early Indications of November sales are positive

Early indications of November retail sales figures are positive. Department store sales were 5.6% higher (unadjusted) than in November 1993. According to the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers' Association, the number of new motor vehicles sold increased 2.4% from the previous year. Employment in trade (seasonally adjusted) increased 0.8% from October 1994.

Retail sales in the United States, which are usually similar to Canadian retail sales, rose 1.3% in October; advance estimates for November are up 1.2%.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2299, 2398-2417 and 2420.**

The October 1994 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005, \$20/\$200) will be available the second week of January 1995. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Pierre Desjardins (613-951-9682), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

# Retail sales

Trade group	October 1993	July 1994 <sup>r</sup>	August 1994 <sup>r</sup>	September 1994 <sup>r</sup>	October 1994 <sup>p</sup>	September 1994 <sup>r</sup> to October 1994 <sup>p</sup>	October 1993 to October 1994 <sup>p</sup>
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Food</b>	4,279	4,487	4,506	4,406	4,491	1.9	5.0
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,002	4,170	4,173	4,083	4,153	1.7	3.8
All other food stores	277	317	333	324	338	4.5	22.2
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	1,001	1,009	1,012	1,014	1,009	-0.5	0.8
<b>Clothing</b>	964	1,016	1,053	1,012	1,029	1.7	6.8
Shoe stores	139	148	161	141	149	6.3	7.6
Men's clothing stores	151	153	155	151	155	2.5	3.0
Women's clothing stores	315	332	337	331	340	2.7	7.9
Other clothing stores	359	383	399	389	385	-1.2	7.1
<b>Furniture</b>	891	915	920	919	949	3.2	6.5
Household furniture and appliance stores	703	721	724	725	754	4.1	7.3
Household furnishings stores	187	195	196	194	194	0.0	3.9
<b>Automotive</b>	5,637	5,949	5,990	6,216	6,271	0.9	11.2
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	3,532	3,735	3,778	4,025	4,078	1.3	15.4
Gasoline service stations	1,185	1,217	1,217	1,219	1,206	-1.1	1.8
Automotive parts, accessories and services	920	997	995	972	988	1.6	7.3
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	1,712	1,781	1,825	1,751	1,810	3.4	5.7
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified (n.e.c)</b>	1,802	1,986	2,007	1,978	2,021	2.2	12.1
Other semi-durable goods stores	555	599	610	605	616	1.7	11.0
Other durable goods stores	430	474	478	459	468	1.9	8.7
All other retail stores n.e.c.	817	914	919	914	937	2.6	14.7
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>16,285</b>	<b>17,145</b>	<b>17,312</b>	<b>17,297</b>	<b>17,580</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	12,753	13,410	13,533	13,272	13,502	1.7	5.9
Department store type merchandise	5,552	5,795	5,896	5,761	5,881	2.1	5.9
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland	281	287	286	289	294	1.5	4.5
Prince Edward Island	72	71	71	72	76	5.3	5.8
Nova Scotia	539	543	536	539	552	2.3	2.4
New Brunswick	421	412	409	391	414	6.0	-1.7
Quebec	3,958	4,157	4,212	4,149	4,217	1.6	6.5
Ontario	5,983	6,259	6,367	6,413	6,497	1.3	8.6
Manitoba	568	574	582	566	590	4.2	3.9
Saskatchewan	486	526	523	530	548	3.3	12.6
Alberta	1,702	1,839	1,845	1,784	1,847	3.5	8.5
British Columbia	2,223	2,421	2,426	2,508	2,490	-0.7	12.0
Yukon	17	16	16	16	16	0.7	-5.2
Northwest Territories	36	39	39	39	40	3.1	12.8

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

## Retail sales

Trade group	October 1993	September 1994 <sup>r</sup>	October 1994 <sup>p</sup>	October 1993 to October 1994 <sup>p</sup>
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Food</b>	4,378	4,499	4,392	0.3
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,101	4,172	4,064	-0.9
All other food stores	277	328	327	18.0
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	1,016	1,005	1,007	-0.9
<b>Clothing</b>	1,033	1,097	1,072	3.7
Shoe stores	156	160	162	3.9
Men's clothing stores	156	142	159	1.9
Women's clothing stores	331	360	349	5.6
Other clothing stores	390	435	401	2.9
<b>Furniture</b>	916	969	975	6.5
Household furniture and appliance stores	722	766	775	7.3
Household furnishings stores	193	203	200	3.7
<b>Automotive</b>	5,542	6,195	6,168	11.3
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	3,373	3,983	3,929	16.5
Gasoline service stations	1,232	1,256	1,248	1.2
Automotive parts, accessories and services	936	956	992	5.9
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	1,807	1,705	1,879	4.0
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.)</b>	1,734	1,990	1,902	9.7
Other semi-durable goods stores	530	601	588	11.0
Other durable goods stores	391	456	416	6.4
All other retail stores n.e.c.	813	933	898	10.5
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>16,425</b>	<b>17,462</b>	<b>17,395</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	13,052	13,478	13,466	3.2
Department store type merchandise	5,692	5,834	5,937	4.3
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland	282	292	287	1.8
Prince Edward Island	70	74	72	2.7
Nova Scotia	538	547	541	0.7
New Brunswick	427	400	409	-4.3
Quebec	4,033	4,202	4,124	2.3
Ontario	6,019	6,480	6,475	7.6
Manitoba	577	570	586	1.6
Saskatchewan	490	520	550	12.2
Alberta	1,711	1,800	1,825	6.7
British Columbia	2,226	2,520	2,469	10.9
Yukon	17	16	16	-4.7
Northwest Territories	36	39	41	13.4

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Export and Import price indexes

October 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 October 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 October 1994. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only SITC section indexes.

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

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

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

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

### Federal government finance: assets and liabilities

March 31, 1994

The federal government's net debt (the excess of liabilities over financial assets) reached \$503.8 billion at March 31, 1994, a \$42.1 billion increase (+9.1%) over March 31, 1993. The financial assets stood at \$54.9 billion, while total liabilities reached \$558.7 billion.

The net debt represented 70.8% of gross domestic product. On a per capita basis it rose \$1,226 over the previous year to reach \$17,332.

These figures are presented on a financial management system (FMS) basis.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3199 and 3200.**

Data are available through custom and special tabulation. For more information or general inquiries on Public Institutions Division's products or services, contact Susan Stobert (613-951-1781).

For further information on this release, contact A.J. Gareau (613-951-1826) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division. ■

### Civil aviation statistics

October 1994

Spurred by increasing demand for air services, Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. (CAIL)—the major Canadian air carriers—have reported uninterrupted gains in passenger-kilometres flown on scheduled routes from early 1994 to October 1994. On a year-over-year basis, in the international market they reported average growth of 10% for the months of February through October (+13% in October). In the domestic market, for the months of March through October, they averaged 4% growth per month (+9% in October).

In both markets taken together, for the period January to October 1994 they flew 37.4 billion passenger-kilometres, the second highest level ever; in the last three years, for the comparable period, they flew an average of 34.8 billion. Operations peaked in 1990, the year after CAIL's parent (PWA Corporation) purchased Wardair. At the time this greatly increased the total capacity of the combined fleets of Air Canada and CAIL.

Preliminary civil aviation data for September 1994 will be published in the January 1995 issue of *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004, \$10/\$99). See "How to order publications".

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 385.**

For further information on this release, contact Robert Lund (819-997-6188), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

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## **Rigid insulating board**

November 1994

Shipments of rigid insulating board totalled 3,016 thousand square metres (12.7 mm basis) in November, a 5.1% increase from 2,869 thousand square metres in November 1993.

For January to November 1994, shipments totalled 34,893 thousand square metres, a 10.7% increase from 31,519 thousand square metres in 1993.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 31 (series 1) and 122 (series 4-7).**

The November 1994 issue of *Rigid insulating board* (36-002, \$6/\$60) will be available later.

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3516), Industry Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Industrial capacity utilization rates in Canada,**  
third quarter 1994.

**Catalogue number 31-003**

(Canada: \$12/\$48; United States: US\$15/US\$58;  
other countries: US\$17/US\$68).

**Apparent per capita food consumption in Canada,**  
1993 part II.

**Catalogue number 32-230**

(Canada: \$30; United States: US\$26; other countries:  
US\$42).

**The Labour Force, November 1994.**

**Catalogue number 71-001**

(Canada: \$20/\$200; United States: US\$24/US\$240;  
other countries: US\$28/US\$280).

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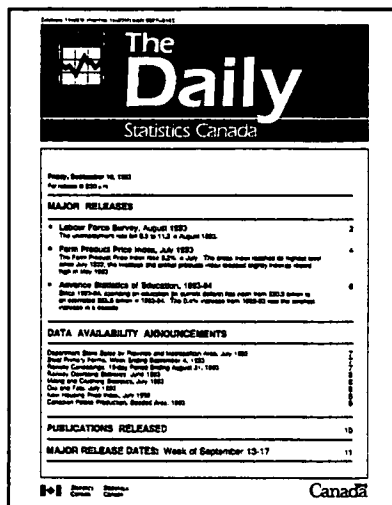
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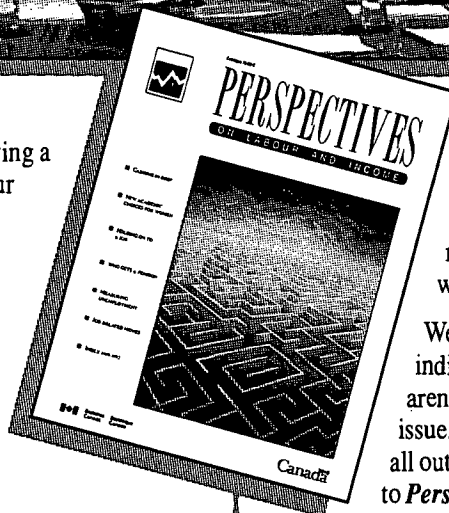
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