

Thursday, February 17, 1994

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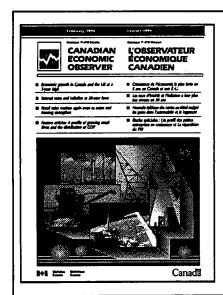
MAJOR RELEASES

LIBRARY

- Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, December 1993
 Canada's merchandise trade surplus fell by \$184 million, from \$708 million in November to \$524 million in December. Even so, the trade balance for 1993 stood at \$11.7 billion, compared with \$9.0 billion for 1992.
- Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, December 1993
 After four months of growth, the seasonally adjusted value of manufacturers' shipments was essentially flat at \$24.6 billion, only 0.1% below November's level. New and unfilled orders jumped more than 6.0% as several large contracts for long-term projects were received in the aircraft, railroad rolling-stock and machinery industries.

(continued on page 2)

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Canadian Economic Observer

February 1994

The February issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, presents a monthly summary of the economy, major economic events in January and two feature articles: "A Profile of Growing Small Firms" and "The Distribution of GDP by Sector."

A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The February 1994 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) is now available. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information, call Cindy Bloskie (613-951-3634), Current Analysis Group.

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■ End of Release

MAJOR RELEASES

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

December 1993

Canada's merchandise trade surplus fell again in December, declining to \$524 million from November's level of \$708 million. Even so, the trade balance for 1993 stood at \$11.7 billion, compared with \$9.0 billion for 1992.

Seasonally adjusted, exports grew by \$146 million to \$15.9 billion, contributing to record annual exports of \$181.0 billion, some 15.6% higher than in 1992. Increased exports of forestry products (+\$238 million), agricultural products (+\$180 million) and machinery and equipment (+\$156 million) were somewhat offset by declines for energy (-\$44 million), industrial goods (-\$125 million) and automotive products (-\$331 million).

Seasonally adjusted, imports continued to set records, rising by \$330 million in December to \$15.3 billion. Imports in 1993 totalled \$169.3 billion, 14.7% above 1992. Imports of machinery and equipment grew the most (+\$317 million). In contrast, there were lower imports of energy (-\$57 million) and automotive (-\$190 million) products.

With imports from the United States up by \$331 million (to a record \$11.3 billion), and exports up by \$89 million (to \$12.9 billion), the trade surplus with the United States decreased slightly—from \$1.8 billion in November to \$1.6 billion in December.

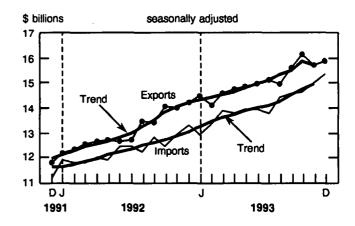
Merchandise trade is only one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments. Other components include services transactions, investment income and transfers. In the third quarter of 1993, the merchandise trade surplus of \$3.0 billion contrasted with the current account deficit of \$6.3 billion. (Current account data for the fourth quarter are not yet available. For comparison purposes, third-quarter data used for the merchandise trade balance do not reflect revisions made since September.)

Export trends

On a trend basis, exports have been rising for two years to stand 13.1% above their year-earlier level. Exports to the United States continued to provide most of the growth, rising by 17.2% over the last year. Except for energy products, the export trends for all major commodity groupings increased in the latest period.

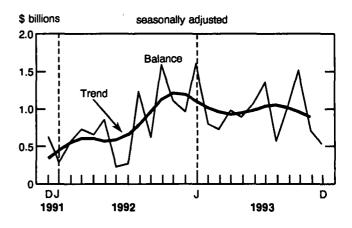
Merchandise trade

Balance of payments basis



Merchandise trade balance

Balance of payments basis



Exports of agricultural products other than wheat have been rising for 28 months—their monthly rate of growth is also continuing to increase. In contrast, wheat exports edged down for the second month in a row and were still 28.1% below their most recent peak in August 1992. Exports of forestry products rose by 3.3% in November, with lumber and sawmill products up 7.1%; newsprint and woodpulp exports continued to fall. Industrial goods grew for the seventh month in a row. With continued weakness in exports of metal ores, strength has come from exports of chemicals, plastics and fertilizers (+10.4% in the last year) and from other industrial goods (+21.2%).

Machinery and equipment exports grew 1.7% in November. The largest contributors to the most recent growth have been exports of transportation equipment other than aircraft (+6.8% in the latest month), telecommunications equipment (+5.1%) and miscellaneous equipment and tools (+2.8%). This last group, which includes products such as refrigeration equipment and flight simulators, has grown by almost 60% over the past two years.

In the auto sector, exports of parts have been accelerating since July, reflecting an upturn in U.S. production. By contrast, car exports increased only very slightly; this resulted from a combination of relatively high exports in September and the subsequent decline because of plant shutdowns during the fourth quarter. Exports of trucks declined for the eighth consecutive month, but were still 3.8% above a year earlier.

Exports of consumer goods have enjoyed the longest stretch of growth, almost doubling over the past 34 months. Products in this broad grouping include apparel, household goods and printed matter.

In the energy sector, crude petroleum and natural gas exports have been falling for four and five months respectively—their rates of decline are increasing. Other products such as coal and refined petroleum fell for the fifth month in a row.

Import trends

On a trend basis, imports increased for the twenty-third consecutive month to stand 16.7% higher than a year earlier. Over the last year, the largest increases have been for imports from the United States (+19.4%) and from non-OECD countries (+16.3%). As with exports, the import trends increased in November for all major commodity groups except energy.

Agricultural and fishing products imports rose 0.8%. Their rate of increase has been rising over the past three months. Imports of forestry products have been increasing for five months, but their rate of growth (+1.8% this month) has begun to fall. Industrial goods have shown considerable strength for some time now, increasing by over 1.0% per month since July 1992. Metals and ores—on an upward trend for 17 months—rose by 2.8%, chemicals and plastics by 1.6%, and other industrial goods by 0.6%. These last two groups have been increasing for the past two years, but their monthly growth rate has begun to show signs of slowing.

Machinery and equipment imports, up since February 1992, rose by a further 1.6% in November. Industrial and agricultural machinery registered the largest growth (+3.4%), followed closely by communications equipment (i.e., electronic tubes and semiconductors) and office machines-both groups were up 2.1%. Overall growth was dampened by a third monthly decline for aircraft and other transportation equipment, down by 4.0% November. This decline resulted entirely from lower imports (-10.0%); aircraft imports of transportation equipment rose by 3.4% in the latest period.

The trend for automotive imports rose for the fifth month in a row, with cars and trucks each increasing by over 5.0% in November alone. Imports of parts have been increasing for two years, but their latest monthly increase of 0.3% was significantly lower than their monthly growth rates at the end of 1992 and at the beginning of 1993. This is consistent with production decreases during the latter part of the year.

In contrast, imports of energy products fell for the seventh consecutive month, this time by 4.2%. There were continued declines in imports of crude petroleum, coal, and refined petroleum and coal products.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3620-3629, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718-3720, 3887-3913.

Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, trade in services and capital account movements) are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001, \$27.50/\$110).

For further information on international trade statistics, order *Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade* (65-001P, \$10/\$100), now available. For more timely receipt of the data, a fax service is available on the morning of release (10-002, \$250). See "How to Order Publications".

For detailed information on statistics, concepts and definitions, order the December 1993 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182), available the first week of March, or contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Client Services Section, International Trade Division. In addition to data for December 1993, the upcoming publication will review merchandise trade statistics for 1993.

The Dally, February 17, 1994

Merchandise trade, balance of payments basis

	Exports				Imports						
	December 1993	November 1993	October 1993	December 1992	December 1993	November 1993	October 1993	December 1992			
	\$ millions										
				seasona	ally adjusted			•			
United States	12,854	12,765	13,040	11,288	11,285	10,954	10,738	9,497			
Other trading areas	3,006	2,950	3,091	2,915	4,052	4,053	3,879	3,748			
Total	15,861	15,715	16,131	14,204	15,337	15,007	14,617	13,244			
Agricultural and fishing products	1,543	1,363	1,327	1,158	957	933	935	926			
Energy products	1,377	1,421	1,666	1,385	452	509	549	486			
Forestry products	2,280	2,042	2,025	1,940	140	136	138	121			
Industrial goods and materials	2,591	2,716	2,760	2,561	2,847	2,749	2,661	2,450			
Machinery and equipment	3,346	3,190	3,194	2,623	4,979	4,662	4,662	4,069			
Automotive products	3,922	4,253	4,365	3,692	3,555	3,745	3,471	3,221			
Other consumer goods	515	449	452	353	1,916	1,855	1,858	1,629			
Special transactions trade	332	323	381	532	452	383	326	341			

Merchandise trade, monthly variation of the trend

	Exports				Imports							
	November 1993	October 1993	September 1993	November 1992	November 1993	October 1993	September 1993	November 1992				
	% change											
Agricultural and fishing products	2.4	2.0	1.8	-2.4	0.8	0.7	0.4	1.6				
Energy products	-2.4	-2.2	-2.1	-0.9	-4.1	-4.6	-5.1	0.7				
Forestry products	3.3	3.1	2.4	3.4	1.8	2.3	2.6	1.4				
Industrial goods and materials	0.1	0.6	1.0	0.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2				
Machinery and equipment	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.1	0.4				
Automotive products	0.4	1.1	1.7	4.2	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.5				
Other consumer goods	3.6	3.9	3.9	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.8	0.4				
Special transactions trade	-0.0	0.6	1.2	4.6	2.0	1.9	2.2	-0.4				

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing December 1993

After four months of growth, the seasonally adjusted value of manufacturers' shipments was essentially flat at \$24.6 billion in December, only 0.1% below November's level. Strong increases in wood, electrical and electronic products, and machinery almost offset drops in the auto sector (due to

continued plant shutdowns for retooling to new models) and in the refined petroleum and coal products industries.

Despite December's small decline, the value of shipments in 1993 (in current dollars) grew 8.4%, the strongest year-over-year growth since 1988 (+9.4%). Strong American demand contributed to double-digit increases in a number of export-oriented industries—led by wood, transportation equipment, machinery,

December shipments were down slightly

primary metals, and rubber products.

The value of manufacturers' shipments was essentially flat, down only 0.1% to \$24.6 billion. Increases in wood (+4.6% to \$1.9 billion), electrical and electronic products (+4.7% to \$1.6 billion) and machinery (+3.9% to \$858 million) helped to offset drops in the auto sector (-2.5% to \$4.5 billion) and in refined petroleum and coal products (-3.6% to \$1.3 billion).

The short-term trend for shipments (which smooths the effects of irregular influences) has had uninterrupted growth for 21 months. The rate of increase, however, has slowed in recent months, largely the result of a slowing trend in transportation equipment (reflecting the temporary plant shutdowns in the auto sector). Other industries have been compensating for this slowdown—notably primary and fabricated metal products, electrical and electronic products, wood, and machinery (see accompanying Chart).

Orders

New orders jumped 6.2% to \$27.9 billion in December. Large contracts for long-term projects—mostly from outside Canada—were received in the aircraft, railroad rolling—stock and machinery industries.

New orders are the sum of shipments for the current month (i.e., orders received and shipped within the same month) plus the change in unfilled orders.

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments, assuming orders are not cancelled.

The backlog of unfilled orders leapt 6.4% to \$25.2 billion, their highest level since April 1991. Transportation equipment industries accounted for most of the increase—notably in aircraft, railroad rolling-stock and motor vehicles.

Inventories (owned)

Inventories (owned) declined 0.3% in December to \$35.3 billion. Losses in transportation equipment (-2.4%) and refined petroleum and coal (-4.7%) more than offset gains in wood (+1.9%) and food (+1.6%).

The inventories to shipments ratio, at 1.33 for December, has been relatively stable over the last four months.

1993 in review

Shipments

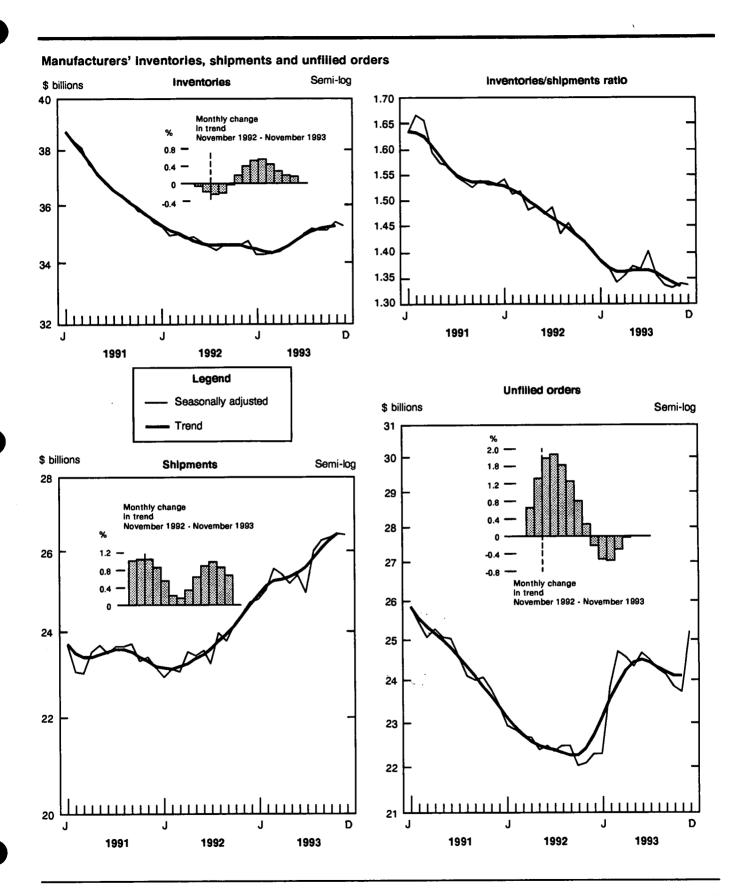
The value of manufacturers' shipments (in current dollars) rose 8.4% to \$307.4 billion, compared with a 0.9% increase in 1992 and a 6.1% drop in 1991. The 1993 value is slightly below the peak reached in 1989, the year when manufacturing began its downturn. These values, however, are in current dollars and do not account for inflation.

Nineteen of the 22 major groups (accounting for 93% of total 1993 shipments) posted increases from 1992 levels.

America's strengthening economy and their demand for certain Canadian products contributed to double-digit increases in a number of export-oriented industries. In terms of percentage change, wood rose 28.0% to \$19.5 billion, followed by transportation equipment (+18.4% to \$64.0 billion), machinery (+16.8% to \$9.4 billion), primary metals (+11.4% to \$20.3 billion) and rubber products (+11.3% to \$3.0 billion).

Only three major groups declined in 1993: refined petroleum and coal (-2.6% to \$16.6 billion); furniture (-1.4% to \$3.9 billion); and primary textiles (-0.3% to \$2.8 billion).

Overall, the trend for shipments has been upward at a rapid rate since early 1992. There were two exceptions to the upward movement. From February 1993 to May 1993, the trend slowed as wood prices dropped and motor vehicle sales stalled. A further slowdown occurred in the last quarter of 1993, reflecting temporary plant closings in the motor vehicle industry.



Orders

The value of new orders (in current dollars) was up 9.9% from 1992, to \$310.5 billion. Contracts were received in many industries: the largest were in export-oriented industries such as wood (+28.9%), transportation equipment (+25.3%), machinery (+14.8%) and primary metals (+12.6%).

The backlog of unfilled orders rose to \$25.2 billion by year-end, 13.1% higher than at 1992 year-end. This was still below the \$30.7 billion peak recorded in March 1989.

Inventories (owned)

Inventories stood at \$35.3 billion, 1.7% higher than in December 1992. Despite this increase, the inventories to shipments ratio fell—from 1.40 in December 1992 to 1.33 in December 1993—as the

growth in shipments outpaced the growth in inventories.

Provincial data

Nine provinces posted increased shipments in 1993, compared with five in 1992 and only two in 1991.

New Brunswick led the way in 1993, up 14.4%, followed by Prince Edward Island (+11.9%), British Columbia (+10.6%) and Alberta (+9.6%).

Quebec rose 8.1% after three years of declines; Ontario posted an 8.5% gain in 1993. Shipments for both provinces, however, were still below the peaks reached in 1989.

Shipments (in current dollars) for most of the provinces hit their peaks in 1989, the year when manufacturing began its downturn. Newfoundland

Shipments by province

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993				
		\$ millions in current dollars								
Canada	297,692	308,987	299,195	280,968	283,612	307,440				
Newfoundland	1,731	1,658	1,549	1,465	1,366	1,315				
Prince Edward Island	391	417	396	404	407	456				
Nova Scotia	4,799	5,204	5,139	5,167	4,989	5,016				
New Brunswick	5,636	5,890	5,879	5,326	5,590	6,395				
Quebec	73,673	75,526	74,228	69,080	68,678	74,213				
Ontario	157,733	163,767	156,026	146,726	149,114	161,717				
Manitoba	6,686	6,997	6,739	5,977	6,153	6,363				
Saskatchewan	3,380	3,749	3,786	3,598	3,530	3,744				
Alberta	18,091	19,117	20,048	19,606	19,410	21,269				
British Columbia	25,516	26,596	25,329	23,553	24,322	26,892				
	1987 to 1988	1988 to 1989	1989 to 1990	1990 to 1991	1991 to 1992	1992 to				
		% change								
Canada	9.4	3.8	-3.2	-6.1	0.9	8.4				
Newfoundland	4.6	-4.2	-6.6	-5.4	-6.8	<i>-</i> 3.7				
Prince Edward Island	7.9	6.6	-5.0	1.8	0.8	11.9				
Nova Scotia	0.7	8.4	-1.2	0.5	-3.4	0.5				
New Brunswick	-0.1	4.5	-0.2	-9.4	5.0	14.4				
Quebec	10.7	2.5	-1.7	-6.9	-0.6	8.1				
Ontario	9.8	3.8	-4.7	-6.0	1.6	8.5				
Manitoba	7.3	4.7	-3.7	-11.3	3.0	3.4				
Saskatchewan	2.9	10.9	1.0	-5.0	-1.9	6.0				
Alberta	10.2	5.7	4.9	-2.2	-1.0	9.6				
British Columbia	9.2	4.2	-4.8	-7.0	3.3	10.6				

has been the hardest hit as shipments fell for the fifth consecutive year—reflecting the difficulties in the fish industry. Alberta was least affected by the downturn in manufacturing as it experienced only two years of small declines before rebounding strongly in 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.

For further information, consult the December 1993 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001, \$17.30/\$173), available shortly.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail may be available on request. For further information, contact Bob Traversy, Information and Classification Section (613-951-9497) or the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section (613-951-9832), Industry Division.

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

Period	_	Shipments	Inven- tories	Unfilled orders	Nev order		ents	Inven- tories	Unfilled orders	New orders		
			\$ millions									
			unadjusted					seasonally adjusted				
December 1992		23,088	33,986	21,912	23,14		711	34,656	22,309	24,919		
January 1993		21,677	34,451	22,249	22,01		747	34,212	22,323	24,761		
February 1993		23,254	34,854	23,875	24,88		003	34,211	23,864	26,544		
March 1993		27,361	34,985	24,893	28,37		567	34,263	24,723	26,426		
April 1993		25,807	34,771	24,823	25,73	B 25	412	34,322	24,595	25,284		
May 1993		26,218	34,617	24,447	25,84		188	34,496	24,354	24,946		
June 1993		27,443	34,432	24,718	27,71		392	34,667	24,679	25,717		
July 1993		22,412	34,546	24,614	22,30		,936	34,911	24,525	24,782		
August 1993		25,874	34,986	24,382	25,64	2 25	994	35,142	24,300	25,769		
September 1993		27,863	34,704	24,130	27,61	2 26	294	35,062	24,167	26,160		
October 1993		27,592	34,653	23,599	27,06	1 26	,368	35,051	23,871	26,073		
November 1993		27,357	35,066	23,414	27,17	1 26	446	35,347	23,730	26,304		
December 1993		24,582	34,680	24,979	26,14	7 26	,429	35,252	25,239	27,938		
	Ship	ipments Inventories			Inventories to shipments ratio		Unfi	lled orders	New orders			
	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend		
		month-to-mor	ratio		-month % change							
					asonally ad	justed						
Danambar 1000	4.0	4.4	0.0	-0.2		•	0.9	1.3	2.0	4 7		
December 1992	1.3	1.1	0.2	-0.2 -0.2	1.40 1.38	1.40 1.38	0.9	1.3	-0.6	1.7 1.5		
January 1993	0.1 1.0	1.1 0.9	-1.3 0.0	-0.2 -0.2	1.36	1.36	6.9		-0.6 7.2	1.0		
February 1993 March 1993	2.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	1.34	1.36	3.6	1.9 1.6	-0.4	0.3		
April 1993	-0.6	0.2	0.2	0.0	1.35	1.36	-0.5	1.3	-0.4 -4.3	-0.1		
May 1993	-0.9	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.37	1.36	-1.0	0.8	-1.3	-0.3		
June 1993	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.37	1.36	1.3		3.1	-0.2		
July 1993	-1.8	0.7	0.7	0.5	1.40	1.36	-0.6	-0.2	-3.6	0.2		
August 1993	4.2	0.9	0.7	0.4	1.35	1.36	-0.9	-0.5	4.0	0.6		
September 1993	1.2	1.0	-0.2	0.3	1.33	1.35	-0.6	-0.5	1.5	1.0		
October 1993	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.2	1.33	1.34	-1.2		-0.3	1.1		
		0.7	0.8	0.1	1.34	1.33	-0.6	-	0.9	0.9		
November 1993	0.3	0.7	V.0	0.1	1.34	1.33	٠,0	0.0	0.3	U.E		

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

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import Price Indexes

December 1993

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 December 1993 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 December 1993. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only SITC section indexes.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3620-3629, 3651 and 3685.

The December 1993 issue of Summary of Canadian International Trade (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of March. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Steel Primary Forms

Week Ending February 12, 1994 (Preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending February 12, 1994 totalled 246 071 tonnes, down 7.8% from the week-earlier 266 846 tonnes and down 11.2% from the year-earlier 277 021 tonnes.

The cumulative total at the end of the week was 1 516 055 tonnes, a 7.1% decrease from 1 631 345 tonnes for the same period in 1993.

For detailed information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division.

Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending February 7, 1994

The number of railway cars loaded in Canada during the seven-day period decreased by 6.9% from the year-earlier period; revenue-freight loaded decreased by 7.5% to 4.1 million tonnes. Piggyback traffic tonnage, which is included in total carload traffic, increased by 1.7% during the same period.

Tonnage of revenue-freight loaded as of February 7, 1994 increased by 0.2% from the previous year.

Cumulative data for 1993 have been revised.

For further information, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528, fax: 613-951-0579), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division.

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns

December 1993

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,658 million for December 1993, a 4.5% increase from \$1,586 million for December 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.

The December 1993 issue of Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns (63-011, \$6.10/\$61) will be available in three weeks. See "How to Order Publications".

For detailed information on this release, contact William Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services, Science and Technology Division.

Stocks of Frozen Poultry Products

February 1, 1994 (Preliminary)

Data on the stocks of frozen poultry products in cold storage as of February 1, 1994 are now available. Revised data as of January 1, 1994 are also now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

For detailed information on this release, contact Jacqueline LeBlanc (613-951-8715), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian Economic Observer, February 1994. Catalogue number 11-010

(Canada: \$22/\$220; United States: US\$26/US\$260;

Other Countries: US\$31/US\$310).

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, December 1993.

Catalogue number 65-001P

(Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120;

Other Countries: US\$14/US\$140).

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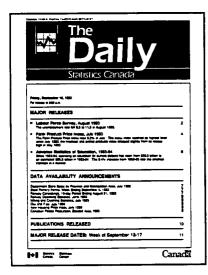
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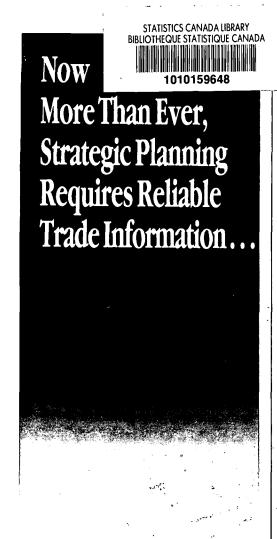
Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin

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