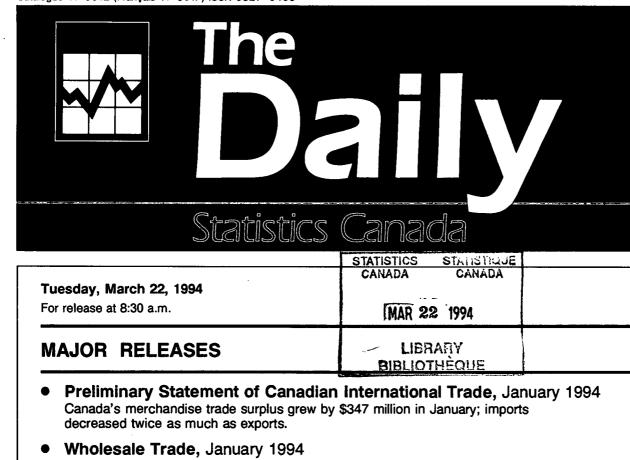
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In January, seasonally adjusted sales of wholesale merchants totalled \$18.0 billion, down 2.0% from December. This was the first drop in sales after eight straight monthly increases.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade

January 1994

Canada's merchandise trade surplus grew by \$347 million in January 1994, to \$870 million. During 1993, the trade balance fluctuated between \$524 million and \$1.6 billion. January's balance of \$870 million was well within this range. Both exports and imports decreased, with the drop in imports twice the drop in exports.

Seasonally adjusted exports declined by \$346 million to \$15.5 billion. The largest contributors to the decrease were agricultural products (-\$333 million), forestry products (-\$217 million) and television and telecommunications equipment (-\$188 million). Increased exports of industrial goods (+\$172 million) and energy products (+\$133 million) provided partial offsets.

Seasonally adjusted imports fell from record highs in the last few months of 1993. January's \$693 million decline brought imports to \$14.6 billion. Almost all commodity groupings decreased, particularly machinery and equipment (-\$377 million), and miscellaneous consumer goods (-\$163 million). But energy imports grew by \$66 million.

Imports from the United States were down \$442 million and exports were down \$92 million, so the trade surplus with the United States increased by \$350 million to \$1.9 billion in January, from \$1.6 billion in December.

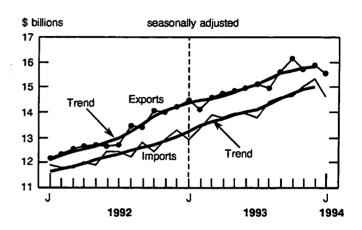
Merchandise trade is only one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments. Other components include services transactions, investment income and transfers. In 1993, the overall merchandise trade surplus of \$11.7 billion contrasted with a current account deficit of \$25.3 billion. Even so, merchandise trade with the United States was particularly strong in 1993, helping to generate a current account surplus of \$2.3 billion.

Export trends

On a trend basis, exports continued to rise in the latest period. Exports rose for the twenty-fifth consecutive month. Exports to the United Staes increased, but the trend for exports to all other major trading partners was down in the latest month.

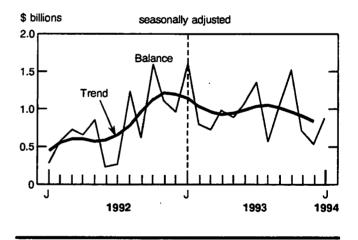


Balance of payments basis



Merchandise trade balance

Balance of payments basis



Forestry products exports rose 2.3% in the latest period, mostly a result of higher exports of lumber and sawmill products (+4.4%). Industrial goods exports increased 0.2% despite a 5% decline for metal ores. Machinery and equipment exports grew 1.5% in December, with most components increasing.

Exports of consumer goods have enjoyed the longest stretch of growth, almost doubling over the past 35 months.

Dampening the overall increase in the trend were declines for agricultural and fishing products, energy, and automotive products.

The decrease in agricultural exports was the first since January 1993, and was entirely attributable to lower exports of wheat.

Energy exports declined 1.2%, mostly because of a 4.4% drop for crude petroleum. Exports of refined petroleum and coal products also remained weak. By contrast, the export trends for natural gas and other energy products seem to have turned around. Electricity exports were particularly strong (+6.8%). Exports of coal grew, rising by over 5% in December.

Automotive exports were down for the second month in a row. Export declines for both cars (-2.4%) and trucks (-3.7%) reflected plant shutdowns during the fourth quarter. Exports of parts, however, have been increasing at an accelerated rate since July they increased by 3.9% in the latest period.

Import trends

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On a trend basis, imports have increased by almost 30% in the past two years to stand 15.4% higher than 12 months earlier. Imports from the United States have been up for 25 months. Imports from the European Community have also shown sustained growth, rising for 11 months. Moderating the upward movement were imports from Japandown for the first time since last June-and imports from non-OECD countries, which fell for the third month in a row.

The import trend increased in December for all major commodity groups except energy and consumer goods.

Imports of agricultural and fishing products, which have risen over the past 28 months, were up a marginal 0.4%. Forestry products imports also grew, but only slightly.

Industrial goods, which have been trending upward for over two years, grew a further 1.3% in the latest month. Imports of metals and ores, which have been increasing for 18 months, rose by 1.7%. Imports of chemicals and plastics and imports of other industrial goods were up 2.0% and 0.4% respectively. The monthly rates of growth for all three groups have begun to decelerate.

As for machinery and equipment, agricultural machinery registered the largest growth (+5.3%), followed by transportation equipment other than aircraft (+2.5%). Imports of office machines have also shown strong and sustained growth (+40% in two years). Overall growth was dampened by a fourth monthly decline for aircraft (-1.2% in the latest period).

The trend for automotive imports rose for the sixth month in a row, with cars increasing by 5.8% and trucks by 3.1% in December alone. Imports of parts had been increasing for about two years, but turned downward three months ago-consistent with auto plant closures in the fall.

Imports of energy products have fallen by 23.4% in the latest eight months. Consumer goods declined for the first time in three years; the trend increased by 43% over that period.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3620-3629, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718-3720 and 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 further information on statistics, concepts and definitions, order the January 1994 issue of *Summary* of *Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182), available the first week of April, or contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), Client Services Section, International Trade Division.

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Merchandise trade, balance of payments basis

		E	xports			Impo	rts	
	January 1994	December 1993	November 1993	January 1993	January 1994	December 1993	November 1993	January 1993
				\$ m	illions			
			Ann 2008 - 200 Ann 200	seasonal	ly adjusted			
United States	12,762	12,854	12,765	11.273	10,842	11,285	10,954	9,345
Other trading areas	2,752	3,006	2,950	3,211	3,802	4,052	4,053	3,532
Total	15,514	15,861	15,715	14,484	14,644	15,337	15,007	12,877
Agricultural and fishing								
products	1,210	1,543	1,363	1,187	927	957	933	881
Energy products	1,510	1,377	1,421	1,440	518	452	509	645
Forestry products	2,063	2,280	2,042	1,917	129	140	136	126
Industrial goods and materials	2,763	2,591	2,716	2,690	2,781	2,847	2,749	2,397
Machinery and equipment	3,288	3,346	3,190	2,961	4,601	4,979	4,662	3,866
Automotive products	3,937	3,922	4,253	3,657	3,505	3,555	3,745	3,032
Other consumer goods	436	515	449	366	1,754	1,916	1,855	1,625
Special transactions trade	338	332	323	304	397	452	383	309

Merchandise trade, monthly variation of the trend

		Ex	ports			Import	s	
	December 1993	November 1993	October 1993	December 1992	December 1993	November 1993	October 1993	December 1992
				%	change			
Agricultural and fishing								
products	-0.1	0.5	0.9	-2.0	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.2
Energy products	-1.1	-1.5	-2.1	-1.2	-1.9	-2.8	-4.1	3.1
Forestry products	2.3	2.8	3.0	2.3	0.1	0.8	1.8	1.7
Industrial goods and materials	0.2	0.4	0.7	-0.6	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.2
Machinery and equipment	1.5	1.7	1.8	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.5	0.9
Automotive products	-1.0	-0.4	0.7	4.3	1.4	2.0	2.5	2.6
Other consumer goods	1.7	2.4	3.2	1.6	-0.0	0.4	1.1	0.2
Special transactions trade	-0.6	-0.3	0.4	0.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	-1.1
						<u></u>		

Wholesale Trade

January 1994 (Preliminary)

In January, seasonally adjusted sales of wholesale merchants totalled \$18.0 billion, down 2.0% from December. This was the first drop in sales after eight straight monthly increases.

Sales

In January, sales were lower for seven of the nine trade groups. Large decreases for some trade groups in January partly reflected the end, in December, of temporary small business investment tax credits, which spurred buying of new machinery and equipment during the last months of 1993.

In dollars, lower sales of other machinery, equipment and supplies (which account for nearly one-quarter of total sales) contributed most to January's overall decline (-2.2%). Sales of lumber and building materials also fell significantly (-5.1%), reflecting to some extent a drop in exports. Farm machinery, equipment and supplies sharply declined (-12.0%) after unusually high sales in late 1993. Other decreases included sales of other products (farm and paper products, agricultural supplies, industrial and household chemicals, etc.), which dropped 1.5%, and sales of food, beverages, drug and tobacco products, down 0.8% following four months of steady growth. Lower sales of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (-2.2%) erased any gains made over the last few months. Sales of household goods continued to drop (-2.2%), decreasing for the third consecutive month.

Wholesalers of motor vehicles, parts and accessories recorded sales of \$2.0 billion, which was relatively unchanged from December following three months of growth. Apparel and dry goods—the only trade group to post higher sales—rose 0.8% after declining in November (-1.5%) and December (-4.3%).

Regionally, eight of 11 regions posted sales declines that varied between -0.1% in British Columbia and -10.8% in Saskatchewan. The other three regions posted higher sales; this includes Quebec (+0.5%), which accounts for nearly one-quarter of total sales.

Inventories

Wholesale merchants' inventories totalled \$26.9 billion in January, up 1.3% from December's revised level.

The inventories to sales ratio at the end of January 1994 increased to 1.49:1, from 1.45:1 at the end of December 1993.

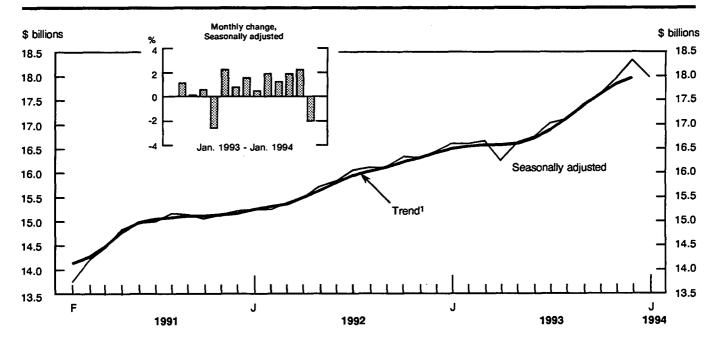
Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.

The January issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$14.40/\$144) which includes supplementary appendices on definitions and survey concepts, will be available the second week of April. See "How to Order Publications".

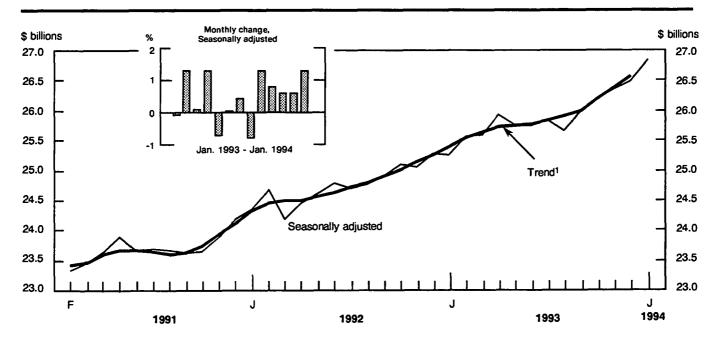
For further information on this release, contact Catherine Mamay (613-951-9683) or Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540), Industry Division.

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Wholesale merchants' inventories



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

Wholesale merchants' sales

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Trade group	Jan. 1993	Dec. 1993 ^r	Jan. 1994P	Jan. 1993 to Jan. 1994	Jan. 1993	Oct. 1993 ^r	Nov. 1993 ^r	Dec. 1993 ^r	Jan. 1994P	Dec. 1993 to Jan. 1994	Jan. 1993 to Jan. 1994
- <u> </u>		\$ millions	· %	change			\$ mill	ions		% ch	ange
		unad	ljusted				season	ally adjus	ted		
Canada Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3.953	4,874	4,185	5.9	4,395	4,533	4,612	4,715	4.676	-0.8	6.4
Apparel and dry goods	3,953	4,874	369	-1.2	4,395	4,555	4,012	442	4,070	0.8	-1.0
Household goods	473	555	438	-7.3	592	596	583	568	556	-2.2	-6.1
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1.481	1,696	1,680	13.4	1.801	1,924	1,981	2.017	2,017	-2.2	12.0
Metals, hardware, plumbing and	1,401	1,030	1,000	13.4	1,001	1,024	1,301	2,017	2,017		12.0
heating equipment and supplies	1,073	1,090	1,125	4.9	1,178	1,240	1,251	1,264	1,236	-2.2	4.9
Lumber and building materials	1,073	1.355	1,125	4. 9 9.2	1,603	1,638	1,695	1,802	1,711	-5.1	4.5
Farm machinery, equipment	1,093	1,000	1,193	9.2	1,005	1,000	1,000	1,002	1,7 1 1	-0.1	0.7
and supplies	221	482	292	32.1	354	412	435	516	454	-12.0	28.2
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3.237	4.599	3.607	11.4	3.618	3.992	4,101	4,185	4.093	-2.2	13.1
Other products	2,217	2,760	2,362	6.5	2.608	2,804	2,819	2,823	2,779	-1.5	6.6
Total, all trades	14,120	17,672	15,251	8.0	16,599	17,609	17,939	18,332	17,967	-2.0	8.2
Provinces and territories											
Newfoundland	142	184	164	15.4	171	179	174	183	193	5.7	13.1
Prince Edward Island	35	43	37	4.6	42	35	37	40	42	3.3	-1.5
Nova Scotia	314	418	332	5.6	376	372	375	432	394	-8.8	4.9
New Brunswick	204	232	185	-9.5	245	231	231	236	226	-4.4	-7.7
Quebec	3,289	3,877	3,477	5.7	3,968	4,178	4,245	4,210	4,233	0.5	6.7
Ontario	5,988	7,488	6,438	7.5	6,951	7,300	7,443	7,654	7,449	-2.7	7.2
Manitoba	460	583	473	2.7	575	573	591	627	589	-6.1	2.4
Saskatchewan	398	586	433	8.9	492	543	543	606	540	-10.8	9.8
Alberta	1,313	1,786	1,506	14.8	1,515	1,668	1,734	1,806	1,765	-2.2	16.6
British Columbia	1,959	2,456	2,189	11.7	2,242	2,508	2,544	2,517	2,514	-0.1	12.1
Yukon and Northwest Territories	18	19	18	-3.5	23	22	23	22	21	-3.4	-5.6

Wholesale merchants' inventories

Trade group	Jan. 1993	Dec. 1993 ^r	Jan. 1994P	Jan. 1993 to Jan. 1994	Jan. 1993	Oct. 1993 ^r	Nov. 1993 ^r	Dec. 1993 ^r	Jan. 1994P	Dec. 1993 to Jan. 1994	Jan 1993 to Jan 1994
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		\$ millions	; %	change			\$ mill	ions		% ch	ange
		unac	ljusted				season	ally adjus	ted		
Canada										211127	
Food, beverage, drug and											
tobacco products	3,208	3,325	3,304	3.0	3,288	3,290	3,333	3,327	3,364	1.1	2.3
Apparel and dry goods	944	1,003	1,075	13.9	952	1,038	1,061	1,068	1,074	0.6	12.9
Household goods	1,112	1,223	1,229	10.5	1,112	1,299	1,283	1,275	1,313	3.0	18.1
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	3,544	3,261	3,476	-1.9	3,560	3,568	3,543	3,387	3,505	3.5	-1.5
Metals, hardware, plumbing and	0 100	0.007	0.005	40.0	0 400	0.007	0 000	0.400	0 400	~ ~	
heating equipment and supplies	2,106	2,367	2,385	13.3	2,188	2,297	2,383	2,423	2,430	0.3	11.1
Lumber and building materials Farm machinery, equipment	2,407	2,701	2,838	17.9	2,525	2,790	2,783	2,897	2,937	1.4	16.3
and supplies	1,260	1,224	1,249	-0.9	1,272	1,238	1,245	1,258	1.252	-0.5	-1.6
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	6.840	7,127	7.267	6.2	7.061	7.094	7.203	7.328	7,406	1.1	4.9
Other products	3,263	3,501	3,575	9.5	3,285	3,578	3,514	3,534	3,571	1.0	8.7
Total, all trades	24,683	25,732	26,398	6.9	25,243	26 ,192	26,349	26,496	26,853	1.3	6.4

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Revised figures. Preliminary figures. Amount too small to be expressed.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unemployment Insurance Statistics: Number of Contributors and their Contributions

In 1992, 12.8 million people contributed to unemployment insurance, down 2.4% from 1991. This was the second consecutive year that the number of contributors decreased after peaking at 13.4 million in 1990. Between 1991 and 1992, the number of male contributors decreased 2.8% to 6.9 million, while the number of female contributors decreased 2.0% to 6.0 million.

Of the 12.8 million contributors to the Unemployment Insurance Program in 1992, nearly 3.7 million (28.5%) received benefits.

Employee contributions to unemployment insurance in 1992 amounted to \$7,618 million, up 17.3% from 1991. The advance in 1992 resulted from a premium rate increase to \$3.00 per \$100 of insurable earnings (the premium rate was \$2.25 for the first half of 1991 and \$2.80 for the second half). In 1992, the maximum annual employee contribution was \$1,162 (employers generally paid 1.4 times the employee rate). During the same period, the average contribution per employee was \$595.

Data for 1992 on the number of people who made unemployment insurance contributions and the amount of their contributions are now available. Data are also available on insurable earnings and on work earnings.

The data will be published in the 1994 edition of Annual Supplement to Unemployment Insurance Statistics (73-202S, \$38), which will be available in June.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5718-5719 and 5729-5730.

For further information on this release, contact Carole Lacroix (613-951-4039) or André Picard (613-951-4045), Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087).

Export and Import Price Indexes January 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 January 1994 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

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Customs-based current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1986 = 100) are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to January 1994. 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.

The January 1994 issue of *Summary of Canadian International Trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of April. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation

February 1994

Manufacturers shipped 2 011 767 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in February 1994, up 37.7% from 1 460 752 square metres a year earlier but down 7.6% from 2 177 603 square metres the previous month.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of February 1994 totalled 4 189 370 square metres, a 6.6% decrease from a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32 and 33).

The February 1994 issue of *Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation* (44-004, \$5/\$50) will be available later.

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

Production, Shipments and Stocks of Sawmills in British Columbia January 1994

Sawmills in British Columbia produced 2 986 122 cubic metres of lumber and ties in January 1994, a 15.8% increase from 2 578 753 cubic metres in January 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 53 (series 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2).

The January 1994 issue of *Production, Shipments* and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia (35-003, \$7.10/\$71) will be available later. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ted Brown (604-666-3694), Statistics Canada, Pacific Region, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3C9.

Construction Type Plywood January 1994

In January, production of construction type plywood totalled 147 686 cubic metres, a 3.8% increase from 142 224 cubic metres in January 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The January 1994 issue of *Construction Type Plywood* (35-001, \$5/\$50) will be available later. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ted Brown (604-666-3694), Pacific Region, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3C9.

Folding Carton and Set-up Box Industry 1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the folding carton and set-up box industry (SIC 2731) totalled \$1,061.4 million, up 6.4% from \$997.9 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrlx 5489.

Data for this industry will be released in Paper and Allied Products Industries (36-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division.

Stationery Paper Products Industry

1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the stationery paper products industry (SIC 2792) totalled \$396.6 million, down 7.1% from \$426.7 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5493.

Data for this industry will be released in Paper and Allied Products Industries (36-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division.

Business Forms Printing Industry

1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the business forms printing industry (SIC 2811) totalled \$927.9 million, down 13.3% from \$1,070.6 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5497.

Data for this industry will be released in *Printing*, *Publishing and Allied Industries* (36-251, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Suzanne Pépin (613-951-3514), Industry Division.

Other Machinery and Equipment Industries

1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other machinery and equipment industries not elsewhere classified (SIC 3199) totalled \$3,109.8 million, down 0.8% from \$3,135.8 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5547.

Data for this industry will be released in *Machinery Industries (except electrical machinery)* (42-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division.

Motor Vehicle Wiring Assemblies Industry

1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the motor vehicle wiring assemblies industry (SIC 3252) totalled \$431.7 million, up 14.1% from \$378.6 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5556.

Data for this industry will be released in *Transportation Equipment Industries* (42-251, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515), Industry Division.

Motor Vehicle Stampings Industry

1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the motor vehicle stampings industry (SIC 3253) totalled \$2,361.4 million, up 9.5% from \$2,156.4 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5557.

Data for this industry will be released in *Transportation Equipment Industries* (42-251, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515), Industry Division. ■

Motor Vehicle Steering and Suspension Parts Industry

1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the motor vehicle steering and suspension parts industry (SIC 3254) totalled \$849.3 million, up 22.0% from \$695.9 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5558.

Data for this industry will be released in *Transportation Equipment Industries* (42-251, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515), Industry Division. ■

Major Appliance Industry (electric and non-electric)

1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the major appliance industry (electric and non-electric) (SIC 3321) totalled \$828.7 million, down 3.1% from \$855.0 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5569.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical* and *Electronic Products Industries* (43-250, \$38).

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For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division.

Lighting Fixture Industry

1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the lighting fixture industry (SIC 3331) totalled \$431.6 million, down 10.3% from \$481.4 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5570.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical* and *Electronic Products Industries* (43-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division.

Electric Lamp and Shade Industry (except bulb and tube)

1992 Annual Survey of Manufactures

In 1992, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the electric lamp and shade industry (except bulb and tube) (SIC 3332) totalled \$73.2 million, down 19.7% from \$91.2 million in 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5571.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical* and *Electronic Products Industries* (43-250, \$38). For further information on this release, contact

Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Aviation Statistics Centre Service Bulletin, Vol. 26, No. 3. Catalogue number 51-004 (Canada: \$9.30/\$93; United States: US\$11.20/US\$112; Other Countries: US\$13/US\$130).

Preliminary Statement of Canadian International Trade, January 1994. Catalogue number 65-001P (Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120; Other Countries: US\$14/US\$140). 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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- recycle and compost waste
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