

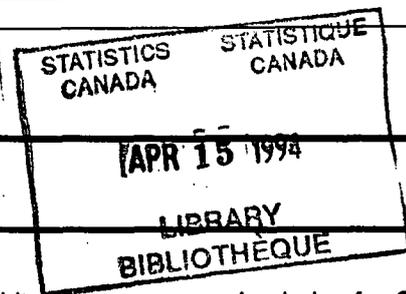


# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, April 15, 1994

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## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer price index, March 1994** 2  
 Between March 1993 and March 1994, the all-items consumer price index for Canada rose 0.2%, the same rate of increase reported in February. These increases, the smallest in 32 years, were largely explained by the sharp drop in cigarette prices (-38.3%) in February.
- **Travel between Canada and other countries, February 1994** 9  
 Same-day car trips by Canadian residents to the United States, a key indicator of cross-border shopping, remained at its lowest level in almost five years.

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- Telephone statistics, February 1994 12
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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Consumer price index

March 1994

#### National highlights

##### All-Items

Between March 1993 and March 1994, the all-items consumer price index (CPI) for Canada edged up by 0.2%, the same rate of increase reported for the period from February 1993 to February 1994. These increases, the smallest in 32 years, were largely explained by the sharp drop in cigarette prices (-38.3%) in February. If cigarette prices had not been reduced but the prices of all other goods and services behaved as they did, the all-items index would have advanced 1.5% on a year-over-year basis.

After a drop of 0.8% from January to February, the all-items index fell by 0.2% in March. As a result, the all-items index stood at 130.1 (1986 = 100). Four of the major component indexes fell, two posted increases and one remained unchanged. The largest downward pressure came from drops in the food (-0.6%) and housing (-0.1%) indexes. Advances for clothing (+0.5%) and recreation, reading and education (+0.4%) had an offsetting effect.

The energy index rose by 0.2% in March, following a sharp 1.2% advance in February. The rise in March resulted from moderate increases in the prices of gasoline (+0.3%), fuel oil (+0.4%) and electricity (+0.1%). Over the period from March 1993 to March 1994, the energy index declined by 0.2%.

The all-items excluding food and energy index fell slightly (-0.1%), compared with the 1.0% drop in February. Since March 1993, this index has risen by 0.2%, the same rate as the all-items index.

##### Movements in the major components

In March, the food index fell by 0.6% following a decline of 0.4% in February. The decline in March reflected a price decrease of 1.0% for food purchased from stores. However, the decrease in the overall food index—mainly due to lower prices for low-fat milk and tomatoes—was partially offset by an increase of 0.1% for food purchased from restaurants.

The housing index decreased by 0.1% following a 0.2% rise in February. The March decline resulted

##### Note to users

*Price collection of seasonal commodities that are not available in every month of the year poses a challenge for price index construction and estimation. More information on this subject can be found in Deborah Sussman's article "The treatment of seasonal discontinuities in consumer price indexes", which is in the March 1994 issue of Consumer price index (62-001, \$9.30/\$93), now available.*

from a number of offsetting price movements. The largest downward pressure came from a drop of 0.2% in the owned accommodation index in March—this marked the fifth continuous decline. More specifically, declines were posted for mortgage interest costs and for new-house prices. Price declines were also observed for household textiles and long-distance telephone services. Partially offsetting these downward movements were higher charges for basic telephone services and rental accommodation.

The tobacco products and alcoholic beverages index fell by 0.4% following the 17.0% drop in February. Much of the latest decline was associated with reduced provincial taxes on cigarettes in Prince Edward Island. The index for tobacco products for Canada fell by 1.3%.

The health and personal care index fell by 0.2%, as eye care charges and personal care supplies declined by 1.2% and 0.3% respectively.

The increases in the indexes for clothing (+0.5%) and recreation, reading and education (+0.4%) reduced the overall downward pull on the all-items index. Since January, the clothing index has risen constantly. The men's wear index was up 1.1%, due mainly to higher prices for men's suits and footwear. At the same time, the women's wear index rose by 0.2%.

Within recreation, reading and education, the recreation index advanced by 0.7%, largely because of a seasonal increase of 5.7% in the cost of travel tours. For example, travel tours to Florida generally reach a seasonal peak in March. Between March 1993 and March 1994, the travel tour index rose by 3.0%.

After a rise of 1.4% in February, the transportation index did not change in March. Higher seasonal charges for the rental and leasing of automobiles and higher prices for automobile insurance premiums and gasoline were offset by a decline in air fares.

### Goods and services

The goods index declined 0.3% in March, after a drop of 1.9% in February. Much of the decline in March was concentrated in the non-durable goods index (-0.6%), largely due to lower food prices. In contrast, the indexes for durables and semi-durables rose by 0.1% and 0.2% respectively. In March, the services index shifted up 0.1%, following an advance of 0.5% in February.

Over the period from March 1993 to March 1994, the goods index fell by 1.2%, while the services index rose by 1.6%. In the previous 12-month period ending in February, the goods index fell by 1.1%, while the services index rose by 1.8%.

### Seasonally adjusted changes

Seasonally adjusted, the all-items CPI remained unchanged in March, after declines of 0.2% in January and 0.9% in February. In March, the 0.5% decline for food was offset by a 0.1% increase in the all-items excluding food.

In the latest three-month period (from December 1993 to March 1994), the compounded annual rate of change fell a further 4.5%. For the previous three-month period ending in February, the decline was 3.6%.

### Consumer price index and its major components (1986 = 100)

| Indexes   | March<br>1994         | February<br>1994 | March<br>1993 | February 1994<br>to<br>March 1994 | March 1993<br>to<br>March 1994 |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|   | seasonally unadjusted |                  |               | % change                          |                                |
| <b>All-items</b>  | <b>130.1</b>          | <b>130.3</b>     | <b>129.9</b>  | <b>-0.2</b>                       | <b>0.2</b>                     |
| Food  | 122.5                 | 123.3            | 122.4         | -0.6                              | 0.1                            |
| Housing   | 128.5                 | 128.6            | 127.6         | -0.1                              | 0.7                            |
| Clothing  | 133.6                 | 132.9            | 131.6         | 0.5                               | 1.5                            |
| Transportation  | 129.4                 | 129.4            | 124.9         | 0.0                               | 3.6                            |
| Health and personal care  | 136.2                 | 136.5            | 133.7         | -0.2                              | 1.9                            |
| Recreation, reading and education   | 138.2                 | 137.6            | 134.1         | 0.4                               | 3.1                            |
| Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages  | 142.2                 | 142.8            | 171.0         | -0.4                              | -16.8                          |
| All-items excluding food  | 131.9                 | 131.9            | 131.6         | 0.0                               | 0.2                            |
| All-items excluding food and energy   | 132.7                 | 132.8            | 132.5         | -0.1                              | 0.2                            |
| Goods   | 124.1                 | 124.5            | 125.6         | -0.3                              | -1.2                           |
| Services  | 137.4                 | 137.3            | 135.2         | 0.1                               | 1.6                            |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar<br>expressed in cents, compared to 1986 | 76.9                  | 76.7             | 77.0          |                                   |                                |
| All-items (1981 = 100)  | 172.3                 |                  |               |                                   |                                |

### City indexes

Among cities for which a CPI is published, changes in their all-items indexes ranged from a 0.9% decline in Charlottetown/Summerside to a 0.4% increase in St. John's. In Charlottetown/Summerside, most of the overall decline was associated with a 22.9% drop in tobacco products' prices as major cuts in provincial taxes on cigarettes came into effect. In St. John's, significantly large increases were registered in its indexes for food and transportation.

Between March 1993 and March 1994, movements in the all-items indexes for cities varied between a 1.7% fall for Montréal and a 2.7% rise for Regina.

### Main contributors to monthly changes in the all-items index

#### St. John's

The all-items index rose 0.4%, largely due to advances in the transportation and food components. The rise in the transportation index reflected increased vehicle insurance premiums and higher prices for gasoline. The food index rose in response to higher prices for beef, chicken, fresh vegetables

and restaurant meals. Further upward pressure came from higher prices for travel tours. Partly offsetting these advances were price declines for clothing, long-distance telephone calls and personal care supplies. Cigarette prices dropped slightly. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 1.3%.

#### **Charlottetown/Summerside**

The all-items index fell 0.9%, largely due to a drop in cigarette prices, which reflected lower provincial taxes. Additional price declines were recorded for fuel oil, long-distance telephone calls and mortgage interest costs. Prices for new cars and air travel also declined. Partly offsetting these declines were higher prices for men's and women's wear, and a rise in food prices—most notably for chicken, fresh produce, beef and pork. Further upward pressure came from higher prices for travel tours, prescribed medicines and eye care. The all-items index was unchanged from its level in March 1993.

#### **Hallfax**

The All-items index rose 0.1%. The greatest upward impact originated in the transportation index, where price increases for gasoline and vehicle rental charges were recorded. Further upward pressure came from higher prices for clothing and increased charges for travel tours. Moderating these advances were declines in four of the seven major component indexes. The greatest downward pressure came from the housing index, where decreased charges were recorded for fuel oil, mortgage interest costs and long-distance telephone calls. The food index fell slightly, which reflected lower prices for beef, fresh produce, soft drinks and dairy products. Additional downward pressure came from price declines for cigarettes, non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 2.1%.

#### **Saint John**

No overall change was recorded in the all-items index, as advances in two of the seven major component indexes were offset by declines in the remaining five. Among those factors exerting an upward influence were higher prices for clothing and increased charges for travel tours, recreation equipment and home entertainment equipment. The greatest downward impact came from the food index, where lower prices were recorded for fresh

vegetables, bakery products, restaurant meals, dairy products, pork, cured meats and fresh fruit. The housing index also declined, reflecting lower mortgage interest costs, decreased household operating expenses (long-distance telephone calls, pet care, and paper, plastic and foil supplies) and a drop in household textile prices. Additional downward pressure came from lower prices for cigarettes and liquor. Decreased transportation costs, most notably for air travel, new car purchases and gasoline, were recorded as well. Prices for personal care supplies and non-prescribed medicines also dropped. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 0.2%.

#### **Québec**

The 0.1% rise in the all-items index reflected increased prices for travel tours and reading materials, and higher prices for food, most notably for milk, prepared meats, restaurant meals, fresh fruit, pork and soft drinks. Price increases for clothing were recorded as well. Largely offsetting these advances were lower housing charges, particularly for household textiles, mortgage interest costs, new house prices and long-distance telephone charges. Further downward pressure came from lower prices for non-prescribed medicines, personal care supplies, eye care, beer and cigarettes. The transportation index remained unchanged as higher prices for gasoline offset declines in new-car prices, vehicle insurance premiums, vehicle rental charges and air fares. Since March 1993, the all-items index has fallen 1.0%.

#### **Montréal**

The all-items index remained unchanged overall, as a number of offsetting effects took place. Among those factors exerting an upward influence were higher prices for travel tours and clothing. The housing index rose slightly, as higher prices for fuel oil and increased charges for basic telephone service were dampened by lower prices for household textiles and decreased charges for long-distance telephone service. The food index was also up slightly, mainly due to higher prices for fresh fruit, dairy products, cereal and bakery products, and prepared meats. The transportation index remained unchanged as higher prices for gasoline and increased vehicle rental charges were offset by lower air fares and decreased vehicle insurance premiums. Lower prices for cigarettes and beer and decreased charges for eye care had a dampening effect. Since March 1993, the all-items index has fallen 1.7%.

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### Ottawa

The all-items index rose 0.2%. The greatest upward influence came from a rise in the food index, and reflected higher prices for restaurant meals, soft drinks, fresh vegetables and cereal products. Price increases for travel tours, clothing, gasoline and vehicle insurance were also recorded. Additional price increases were registered for personal care supplies, eye care and liquor. The housing index fell, reflecting declines in mortgage interest costs, household textile prices and long-distance telephone charges. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 0.3%.

### Toronto

Declines in the food and housing indexes accounted for a large part of the 0.3% drop in the all-items index. Within the food index, lower prices were recorded for 2% milk, fresh fruit, cereal and bakery products, beef and poultry. The drop in the housing index reflected declines in mortgage interest costs, new-house prices, long-distance telephone charges and household textile prices. Further downward pressure came from lower prices for personal care supplies and decreased air fares. Partly offsetting these declines were higher prices for travel tours, liquor and cigarettes. Since March 1993, the all-items index has fallen 0.1%.

### Thunder Bay

Among the main contributors to the 0.1% rise in the all-items index were higher prices for travel tours, recreation equipment, and men's and boys' wear. Increased housing charges were also recorded, most notably for household equipment, new houses and household textiles. But these increases were largely offset by decreased mortgage interest costs and lower charges for long-distance telephone calls. Charges for non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies advanced as well. The transportation index remained unchanged, as declines in air fares and new-car prices offset increased vehicle insurance premiums, higher prices for gasoline, and increased charges for vehicle rentals. The food index was also unchanged, while cigarette prices declined. Since March 1993, the all-items index has fallen 0.2%.

### Winnipeg

The 0.1% rise in the all-items index was largely attributable to advances in the food, clothing and health and personal care indexes. Within the food

component, higher prices were recorded for fresh vegetables, chicken, beef, dairy products, restaurant meals, sugar and cured meats. The clothing index rose in response to higher prices for men's wear, while the health and personal care index was up due to increased charges for personal care supplies and non-prescribed medicines. Largely reducing these advances were declines in the transportation and housing indexes. Within transportation, decreased charges were recorded for vehicle registration, air fares, new cars and vehicle insurance. The drop in the housing index reflected lower charges for household textiles, household equipment and long-distance telephone calls. Additional downward pressure came from lower prices for recreation equipment and reading materials. Prices for wine and liquor declined as well. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 1.5%.

### Regina

The all-items index rose 0.2%. The greatest upward impact originated in the food index, where higher prices were recorded for cereal and bakery products, cured and prepared meats, restaurant meals, sugar, fresh vegetables, coffee and tea, dairy products and poultry. Further upward pressure came from the clothing index, where higher prices were reported for men's and boys' wear. The housing index rose slightly as increased charges for homeowners' maintenance and repairs and higher prices for new houses were largely reduced by lower mortgage interest costs and decreased charges for long-distance telephone service. Declines in four of the seven major component indexes exerted a considerable dampening effect on the all-items index. The greatest downward influence came from the transportation index, where price declines were recorded for air travel, vehicle rentals and new cars. Additional downward pressure came from lower prices for liquor, cigarettes, reading materials and personal care supplies. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 2.7%.

### Saskatoon

The all-items index fell 0.1%. The greatest downward pressure came from the housing index, where decreased charges were recorded for household textiles, mortgage interest costs, long-distance telephone service and homeowners' maintenance and repairs. Further downward pressure came from lower prices for liquor and personal care supplies. The transportation index remained unchanged, as higher

prices for gasoline offset lower prices for air travel and new cars. Among those factors exerting an upward influence were increased charges for recreation equipment and higher prices for travel tours, men's wear and food. The rise in the food index was slight and reflected higher prices for fresh produce, fruit juice, sugar, fats and oils, coffee and tea. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 1.8%.

### Edmonton

Declines in six of the seven major component indexes explained the 0.4% drop in the all-items index. Decreased transportation charges (gasoline and air fares) exerted a notable downward impact, as did lower prices for household furnishings and equipment, decreased mortgage interest costs, and lower charges for long-distance telephone service. Further downward pressure came from lower prices for alcoholic beverages, food (fresh produce, and cured and prepared meats) and reading materials. Decreased charges for eye care and for non-prescribed medicines were recorded as well. The clothing index advanced, reflecting higher prices for men's wear. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 1.7%.

### Calgary

Declines in four of the seven major component indexes explained the 0.2% drop in the all-items index. Lower prices for air travel and gasoline, decreased charges for personal care supplies and lower prices for cigarettes (slightly compensated with higher prices for alcoholic beverages) were the main contributors to the overall decline. Further downward pressure came from a drop in the housing index, where declines were recorded for mortgage interest costs, household textile prices and long-distance telephone calls. Partially offsetting these declines were higher food prices, most notably for cereal products, pork, chicken, restaurant meals, dairy products, cured and prepared meats, and beef. Additional upward pressure came from higher prices for men's wear and increased charges for recreation equipment and travel tours. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 2.0%.

### Vancouver

The all-items index fell 0.1%, reflecting lower prices for food, cigarettes and wine. The drop in the food index was due to lower prices for fresh produce, chicken, beef, soft drinks, dairy products and bread.

Partially offsetting these declines were increased charges for vehicle rentals and higher prices for gasoline, men's wear and boys' wear. Fees for the use of sporting facilities advanced as well. In addition, increased charges for personal care supplies were noted. The housing index remained unchanged, as lower prices for household textiles and long-distance telephone calls offset higher charges for household equipment, homeowners' maintenance and repairs, and rented accommodation. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 2.4%.

### Victoria

The all-items index rose 0.1%. Higher gasoline prices had a major upward influence, as did price increases for food, notably for fresh produce, restaurant meals, beef, cereal and bakery products, and coffee. Price advances for clothing and personal care supplies were recorded as well. This overall advance was partly counterbalanced by decreased housing charges (mortgage interest, household textiles and long-distance telephone calls) and by lower prices for cigarettes and wine. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 1.7%.

### Whitehorse

Despite declines in four of the seven major component indexes, the all-items index rose 0.1%. Among those factors exerting an upward influence were increased charges for personal care supplies, higher prices for men's and women's wear, and increased prices for reading materials. Largely reducing these advances were lower food prices, most notably for fresh produce, beef, restaurant meals, prepared meats, concentrated fruit juice, soft drinks, and eggs. Further downward pressure came from lower air fares and decreased charges for vehicle rentals and new cars. In addition, price declines were registered for cigarettes and liquor. The housing index also declined, reflecting decreased charges for long-distance telephone service and lower prices for household equipment. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 2.2%.

### Yellowknife

Declines in four of the seven major component indexes resulted in a drop of 0.2% in the all-items index. The greatest downward impact came from decreased housing charges, particularly for long-distance telephone service, household textile prices, and mortgage interest costs. Lower prices for

cigarettes, decreased air fares, and lower prices for men's and women's wear also exerted a notable downward influence. Partly compensating these declines were higher food prices (restaurant meals, fruit juice, coffee and turkey) and increased charges for personal care supplies, non-prescribed medicines, reading materials and travel tours. Since March 1993, the all-items index has risen 1.2%.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2201-2230.

The March 1994 issue of *Consumer price index* (62-001, \$9.30/\$93) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

### Consumer price indexes for urban centres

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.<sup>1</sup>

|                                 | All-items | Food  | Housing | Clothing | Transportation | Health and Personal care | Recreation Reading and Education | Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|----------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>St. John's</b>               |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index                | 125.4     | 119.0 | 117.9   | 135.7    | 126.2          | 128.5                    | 138.1                            | 146.5                                    |
| % change from February 1994     | 0.4       | 1.4   | -0.1    | -0.6     | 1.8            | -0.9                     | 0.6                              | -0.1                                     |
| % change from March 1993        | 1.3       | 1.6   | -0.3    | 1.3      | 5.3            | 1.0                      | 4.6                              | -2.5                                     |
| <b>Charlottetown/Summerside</b> |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index                | 128.8     | 130.4 | 120.9   | 131.1    | 121.9          | 142.7                    | 136.7                            | 161.4                                    |
| % change from February 1994     | -0.9      | 0.3   | -0.4    | 3.4      | -0.2           | 0.1                      | 0.1                              | -12.2                                    |
| % change from March 1993        | 0.0       | 2.5   | 0.0     | 2.8      | 1.8            | 2.4                      | 2.2                              | -14.1                                    |
| <b>Halifax</b>                  |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index                | 129.0     | 131.4 | 120.2   | 131.9    | 125.5          | 131.9                    | 134.9                            | 166.6                                    |
| % change from February 1994     | 0.1       | -0.2  | -0.4    | 1.3      | 0.8            | -0.2                     | 0.9                              | -0.1                                     |
| % change from March 1993        | 2.1       | 2.2   | 1.1     | 1.6      | 5.3            | 1.0                      | 4.6                              | -2.9                                     |
| <b>Saint John</b>               |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index                | 126.7     | 127.9 | 120.6   | 135.5    | 122.8          | 132.8                    | 132.4                            | 145.8                                    |
| % change from February 1994     | 0.0       | -0.5  | -0.2    | 1.3      | -0.1           | -0.2                     | 0.7                              | -0.4                                     |
| % change from March 1993        | 0.2       | 1.3   | 0.1     | 3.5      | 2.1            | 0.2                      | 3.8                              | -15.6                                    |
| <b>Québec</b>                   |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index                | 127.8     | 120.1 | 127.5   | 138.4    | 120.0          | 136.5                    | 140.5                            | 128.5                                    |
| % change from February 1994     | 0.1       | 0.3   | -0.3    | 0.5      | 0.0            | -0.2                     | 0.9                              | -0.2                                     |
| % change from March 1993        | -1.0      | 0.9   | 0.2     | 0.5      | 1.2            | 0.9                      | 2.2                              | -23.8                                    |
| <b>Montréal</b>                 |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index                | 129.1     | 120.6 | 131.0   | 138.4    | 123.4          | 137.6                    | 143.7                            | 125.0                                    |
| % change from February 1994     | 0.0       | 0.1   | 0.1     | 0.4      | 0.0            | -0.4                     | 0.8                              | -1.3                                     |
| % change from March 1993        | -1.7      | -0.5  | 0.2     | 0.5      | 2.4            | 1.3                      | 2.4                              | -28.1                                    |
| <b>Ottawa</b>                   |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index                | 130.5     | 124.8 | 128.3   | 133.6    | 130.7          | 143.6                    | 137.5                            | 135.5                                    |
| % change from February 1994     | 0.2       | 0.4   | -0.2    | 0.5      | 0.2            | 0.6                      | 0.5                              | 0.1                                      |
| % change from March 1993        | 0.3       | -0.2  | 0.5     | 1.8      | 4.2            | 3.6                      | 2.8                              | -17.9                                    |
| <b>Toronto</b>                  |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index                | 131.5     | 122.0 | 131.3   | 132.0    | 133.6          | 138.6                    | 138.7                            | 133.2                                    |
| % change from February 1994     | -0.3      | -1.9  | -0.2    | 0.6      | -0.1           | -0.3                     | 0.4                              | 0.4                                      |
| % change from March 1993        | -0.1      | -2.0  | 0.2     | 1.5      | 5.1            | 0.9                      | 2.6                              | -19.5                                    |
| <b>Thunder Bay</b>              |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index                | 128.8     | 119.3 | 127.8   | 136.2    | 132.0          | 130.5                    | 136.4                            | 130.8                                    |
| % change from February 1994     | 0.1       | 0.0   | 0.1     | 0.4      | 0.0            | 0.3                      | 0.4                              | -0.8                                     |
| % change from March 1993        | -0.2      | -2.1  | 1.3     | 3.2      | 5.0            | 0.4                      | 2.5                              | -23.1                                    |

**Consumer price indexes for urban centres – concluded**

The indexes in this table measure within each city the percentage change in consumer prices from the base period to subsequent time periods. They cannot be used to compare levels of prices between cities.<sup>1</sup>

|                             | All-items | Food  | Housing | Clothing | Transportation | Health and Personal care | Recreation Reading and Education | Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Beverages |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|----------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Winnipeg</b>             |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index            | 131.5     | 129.8 | 125.9   | 135.7    | 128.9          | 136.4                    | 140.5                            | 156.7                                    |
| % change from February 1994 | 0.1       | 0.3   | -0.1    | 0.4      | -0.2           | 0.6                      | -0.1                             | 0.0                                      |
| % change from March 1993    | 1.5       | 2.7   | 1.1     | 2.9      | 1.3            | 3.1                      | 3.8                              | -5.5                                     |
| <b>Regina</b>               |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index            | 132.8     | 131.8 | 121.9   | 140.7    | 136.1          | 146.4                    | 135.9                            | 166.5                                    |
| % change from February 1994 | 0.2       | 0.7   | 0.1     | 0.4      | -0.2           | -0.2                     | -0.1                             | -0.4                                     |
| % change from March 1993    | 2.7       | 2.2   | 1.9     | 7.0      | 4.9            | 2.3                      | 3.4                              | -4.9                                     |
| <b>Saskatoon</b>            |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index            | 130.9     | 130.0 | 120.8   | 139.7    | 129.3          | 159.3                    | 136.0                            | 155.5                                    |
| % change from February 1994 | -0.1      | 0.1   | -0.3    | 0.2      | 0.0            | -0.1                     | 0.2                              | -0.3                                     |
| % change from March 1993    | 1.8       | 1.2   | 1.2     | 6.9      | 2.3            | 1.9                      | 3.6                              | -3.2                                     |
| <b>Edmonton</b>             |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index            | 128.2     | 113.5 | 125.4   | 127.9    | 126.9          | 132.7                    | 138.8                            | 175.3                                    |
| % change from February 1994 | -0.4      | -0.2  | -0.2    | 0.3      | -0.9           | -0.1                     | -0.1                             | -1.2                                     |
| % change from March 1993    | 1.7       | 4.5   | 2.2     | -0.9     | 0.8            | 1.1                      | 4.2                              | -3.4                                     |
| <b>Calgary</b>              |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index            | 128.6     | 117.5 | 124.1   | 128.7    | 124.0          | 131.5                    | 138.9                            | 180.1                                    |
| % change from February 1994 | -0.2      | 0.3   | -0.1    | 0.3      | -0.9           | -1.8                     | 0.2                              | -0.4                                     |
| % change from March 1993    | 2.0       | 3.9   | 2.1     | -1.0     | 1.6            | 0.9                      | 4.0                              | -0.5                                     |
| <b>Vancouver</b>            |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index            | 134.0     | 130.5 | 127.5   | 130.0    | 141.6          | 132.4                    | 138.1                            | 163.2                                    |
| % change from February 1994 | -0.1      | -1.1  | 0.0     | 0.4      | 0.5            | 0.5                      | 0.3                              | -0.9                                     |
| % change from March 1993    | 2.4       | 0.5   | 2.2     | 2.9      | 4.5            | 4.8                      | 4.2                              | -1.4                                     |
| <b>Victoria</b>             |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index            | 131.6     | 131.1 | 122.9   | 131.1    | 136.8          | 130.7                    | 136.6                            | 165.8                                    |
| % change from February 1994 | 0.1       | 0.2   | -0.1    | 0.5      | 0.3            | 0.3                      | 0.0                              | -0.2                                     |
| % change from March 1993    | 1.7       | 1.2   | 1.1     | 2.3      | 2.5            | 2.3                      | 3.5                              | 1.1                                      |
| <b>Whitehorse</b>           |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index            | 127.4     | 120.7 | 125.7   | 130.2    | 119.2          | 130.7                    | 128.3                            | 161.7                                    |
| % change from February 1994 | 0.1       | -0.5  | -0.1    | 1.8      | -0.3           | 3.6                      | 0.4                              | -0.4                                     |
| % change from March 1993    | 2.2       | 1.3   | 1.6     | -1.8     | 1.9            | 4.7                      | 2.7                              | 7.9                                      |
| <b>Yellowknife</b>          |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| March 1994 index            | 127.8     | 121.9 | 120.7   | 131.6    | 125.0          | 124.3                    | 132.9                            | 165.5                                    |
| % change from February 1994 | -0.2      | 0.2   | -0.3    | -0.1     | -0.4           | 0.6                      | 0.1                              | -0.7                                     |
| % change from March 1993    | 1.2       | 4.3   | -0.2    | -1.4     | 2.5            | 1.8                      | 2.6                              | 0.2                                      |

<sup>1</sup> For inter-city indexes of retail price differentials, refer to Table 23 of the July-September 1993 issue of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (62-010, \$18.00/\$72.00).

## Travel Between Canada and Other Countries

February 1994

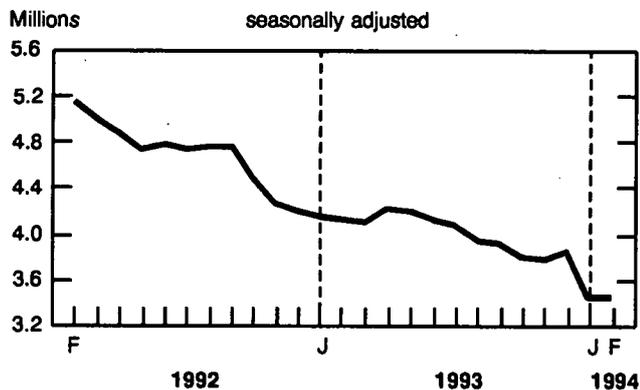
Same-day car trips by Canadian residents to the United States, a key indicator of cross-border shopping, remained at its lowest level since April 1989. The weakening Canadian dollar and rising U.S. gasoline prices have together contributed to the downtrend in same-day cross-border car trips. Meanwhile, visits to Canada by residents of overseas countries increased substantially.

### Car trips to the United States nears five-year low

Canadian residents made 3.4 million same-day car trips (seasonally adjusted) to the United States in February, unchanged from January but well below the February 1993 figure.

Same-day car trips by Canadians across the border have been declining steadily since February 1992, after peaking at 5.3 million (seasonally adjusted) in November 1991. January's and February's figures were the lowest seasonally adjusted monthly levels since April 1989.

### Same-day car trips by Canadian residents to the United States



Data collected through the International travel survey for the first nine months of 1993 indicate that 87.0% of Canadians shopped in the United States during their same-day car trips.

#### Note to users

Month-to-month comparisons in international travel are made using seasonally adjusted data: the data have been adjusted for variations that repeat annually and for variability caused by the different volumes of travellers associated with different days of the week.

Year-over-year comparisons are made using unadjusted data, which are the actual traffic counts.

A major factor in the downtrend in same-day cross-border car trips by Canadians has been the weakening Canadian dollar, which has fallen to about 75 U.S. cents, from more than 88 U.S. cents in November 1991. Another factor is the rising price of gasoline in the United States, which, combined with the falling Canadian dollar, has narrowed the gap between Canadian and U.S. gas prices to only 12 Cdn. cents per litre.

Unadjusted same-day car trips by Canadians to the United States dropped 18.5% from February 1993, to 2.7 million.

### Same-day car trips by Canadian residents to the United States

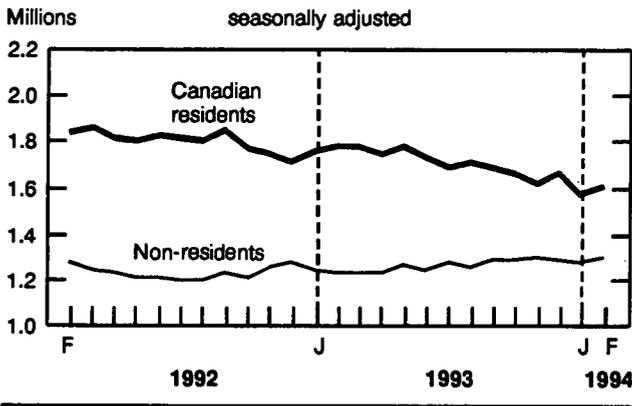
| Province of re-entry | February 1994 <sup>P</sup> | February 1993 to February 1994 <sup>P</sup> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
|                      | '000                       | % change                                    |
|                      | unadjusted                 |   |
| New Brunswick        | 435                        | -16.9                                       |
| Quebec               | 241                        | -17.9                                       |
| Ontario              | 1,226                      | -17.0                                       |
| Manitoba             | 47                         | -22.1                                       |
| Saskatchewan         | 19                         | -37.9                                       |
| Alberta              | 11                         | -23.2                                       |
| British Columbia     | 692                        | -21.1                                       |
| Yukon                | 1                          | +8.8  |
| <b>Canada</b>        | <b>2,673</b>               | <b>-18.5</b>                                |

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

### Canadian travel abroad increases from January

Overall, Canadians made more trips abroad of one or more nights in February, although longer car trips (two or more nights) to the United States continued to decrease.

**Trips of one or more nights between Canada and other countries**



In terms of all modes of travel, Canadian trips to all countries of one or more nights increased 2.4% from the previous month, to 1.6 million (seasonally adjusted).

Canadians made 1.3 million trips to the United States of one or more nights, including all modes of transportation, up 2.4% from the previous month. In February, car trips of one or more nights to the United States increased 0.8% from January, to 896,000 (seasonally adjusted), although the level remained well below the February 1993 figure. The most significant year-over-year decreases occurred in New Brunswick (-31.1% to 12,000), Saskatchewan (-28.0% to 12,000) and Alberta (-22.0% to 18,000).

Trips of one or more nights to all other countries increased 2.8% from the previous month, to 284,000.

**Visits to Canada hold steady over seven years**

Overnight travel into Canada increased 2.0% in February, to 1.3 million trips (seasonally adjusted). The level of this type of travel has been relatively consistent since late 1986.

Residents of the United States made 1.0 million trips (seasonally adjusted) of one or more nights to Canada, unchanged from January. As for the various modes of transportation, bus and plane travel were significantly more popular among visitors from the United States in February 1994, increasing 12.3% and 4.6% respectively from February 1993.

Meanwhile, trips of one or more nights to Canada by residents of all other countries increased 9.6% from the previous month, to 289,000. Visits from a number of countries were up substantially from February 1993, including Germany (+24.3% to 11,000), France (+17.2% to 15,000) and the United Kingdom (+13.8% to 18,000).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697.**

The February 1994 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information* (66-001P, \$6.10/\$61) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ruth McMillan (613-951-1791), International Travel Section, Education, Culture and Tourism Division. □

**Travel between Canada and other countries**

|  | December<br>1993 <sup>r</sup> | January<br>1994 <sup>r</sup>                   | February<br>1994 <sup>p</sup>            | January 1994<br>to February 1994 <sup>p</sup>                      |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
|  | '000                          |  |  | % change   |
| seasonally adjusted                    |                               |  |  |  |
| <b>Canadian trips abroad</b>           |                               |  |  |  |
| Auto trips to the United States        |                               |  |  |  |
| Same-day                               | 3,831                         | 3,434  | 3,435                                    | 0.0  |
| One or more nights                     | 938                           | 888  | 896                                      | 0.8  |
| <b>Total trips, one or more nights</b> |                               |  |  |  |
| United States <sup>1</sup>             | 1,375                         | 1,287  | 1,318                                    | 2.4  |
| Other countries                        | 289                           | 276  | 284                                      | 2.8  |
| <b>Travel to Canada</b>                |                               |  |  |  |
| Auto trips from the United States      |                               |  |  |  |
| Same-day                               | 1,631                         | 1,476  | 1,568                                    | 6.2  |
| One or more nights                     | 716                           | 696  | 694                                      | -0.3   |
| <b>Total trips, one or more nights</b> |                               |  |  |  |
| United States <sup>1</sup>             | 1,024                         | 1,004  | 1,004                                    | 0.1  |
| Other countries <sup>2</sup>           | 262                           | 264  | 289                                      | 9.6  |
|  | February<br>1994 <sup>p</sup> | February 1993<br>to February 1994 <sup>p</sup> | January to<br>February 1994 <sup>p</sup> | January-February<br>1993 to January-<br>February 1994 <sup>p</sup> |
|  | '000                          | % change                                       | '000                                     | % change   |
| unadjusted                             |                               |  |  |  |
| <b>Canadian trips abroad</b>           |                               |  |  |  |
| Auto trips to the United States        |                               |  |  |  |
| Same-day                               | 2,673                         | -18.5  | 5,537                                    | -18.5  |
| One or more nights                     | 466                           | -15.4  | 1,001                                    | -15.9  |
| <b>Total trips, one or more nights</b> |                               |  |  |  |
| United States <sup>1</sup>             | 873                           | -12.6  | 1,856                                    | -12.5  |
| Other countries                        | 307                           | 6.6  | 704                                      | 3.5  |
| <b>Travel to Canada</b>                |                               |  |  |  |
| Auto trips from the United States      |                               |  |  |  |
| Same-day                               | 1,088                         | 0.4  | 2,149                                    | -5.0   |
| One or more nights                     | 312                           | 0.4  | 576                                      | -2.3   |
| <b>Total trips, one or more nights</b> |                               |  |  |  |
| United States <sup>1</sup>             | 478                           | 1.9  | 888                                      | -0.6   |
| Other countries <sup>2</sup>           | 125                           | 16.5   | 234                                      | 6.1  |

<sup>1</sup> Estimates for the United States include counts of car and bus, and estimated numbers for plane, train, boat and other methods.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for "Other countries" exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Telephone statistics

February 1994

The 13 major telephone systems reported monthly revenues of \$1,121.9 million in February 1994, up 1.5% from February 1993.

Operating expenses totalled \$865.3 million, down 4.7% from February 1993. Net operating revenue totalled \$256.6 million, a 30.9% increase from February 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 355.

The February 1994 issue of *Telephone statistics* (56-002, \$8.30/\$83) will be released shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact J.R. Slattery (613-951-2205), Services, Science and Technology Division. ■

### Restaurants, caterers and taverns

February 1994

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1,424 million in February 1994, up 3.4% from \$1,377 million in February 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.

The February 1994 issue of *Restaurants, caterers and taverns* (63-011, \$6.10/\$61) will be available in three weeks. See "How to order publications".

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

### Shipments of rolled steel

February 1994

Rolled steel shipments for February 1994 totalled 1 029 434 tonnes, down 3.0% from 1 061 803 tonnes in January 1994 and down 4.4% from 1 076 573 tonnes in February 1993.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of February 1994 totalled 2 091 237 tonnes, down 1.7% from 2 126 743 tonnes the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).

The February 1994 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001, \$5/\$50) will be available later.

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

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Gross domestic product by Industry, January 1994.**

**Catalogue number 15-001**

(Canada: \$12.70/\$127; United States:

US\$15.20/US\$152;

other countries: US\$17.80/US\$178).

**Passenger bus and urban transit statistics, February 1994, vol. 46, no. 2.**

**Catalogue number 53-003**

(Canada: \$7.10/\$71; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85;

other countries: US\$9.90/US\$99).

**Unemployment Insurance statistics, January 1994. Catalogue number 73-001**

(Canada: \$14.70/\$147; United States:

US\$17.60/US\$176;

other countries: US\$20.60/US\$206).

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.



### How to order publications

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| The Daily<br>Statistics Canada  |    |
|---|----|
| Friday, September 16, 1993<br>For release at 9:30 a.m.  |    |
| <b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>   |    |
| • Labour Force Survey, August 1993<br>The unemployment rate of 8.3 to 11.3 in August 1993.  | 2  |
| • Paper Production Price Index, July 1993<br>The Paper Production Price Index rose 0.2% in July 1993. The index also includes the paper price index for newsprint and other products. | 4  |
| • Advances in Science, 1993-94<br>Since 1982, spending on research and development has risen from 0.8% of GDP to 1.2% of GDP. The 1.2% increase was for research and development.     | 6  |
| <b>DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>  |    |
| Department Store Sales by Province and Metropolitan Area, July 1993   | 7  |
| Steel Rolling Mills, News, Spring 1993  | 7  |
| Business Conference, 1993, June 1993  | 7  |
| Shipping and Carriage, July 1993  | 7  |
| Oil and Gas, July 1993  | 7  |
| Long-Term Price Index, July 1993  | 7  |
| Canadian Paper Production, August, July 1993  | 7  |
| <b>PUBLICATIONS RELEASED</b>  |    |
| MAJOR RELEASE DATES: Week of September 13-17  | 10 |
|   | 11 |

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-M, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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## MAJOR RELEASE DATES

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**Week of April 18-22**  
(Release dates are subject to change)

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| Release date | Title                                  | Reference period |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| <b>April</b> |  |                  |
| 18           | Building permits                       | February 1994    |
| 19           | Composite index                        | March 1994       |
| 19           | Canadian international trade           | February 1994    |
| 19           | Monthly survey of manufacturing        | February 1994    |
| 19           | Department store sales advance release | March 1994       |
| 20           | Sales of natural gas                   | February 1994    |
| 22           | Retail trade                           | February 1994    |

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