

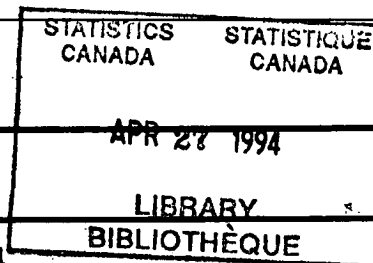


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 27, 1994

For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Unemployment insurance statistics, February 1994** 3
 In February, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits (seasonally adjusted) decreased 1.4% to 962,000. After peaking at 1,200,000 in July 1992, the trend has been downward.
- **Industrial product price index, March 1994** 5
 In March, the year-over-year change in the index rose for a fourth consecutive time, jumping to 3.6%, despite a slowdown in the month-to-month increase to 0.4%.
- **Raw materials price index, March 1994** 8
 The index rose 1.3% in March, marking its third consecutive monthly increase.

(continued on page 2)

World trade database on CD-ROM

1980-1992

Between 1980 and 1992, countries of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation regional alliance (APEC) saw their share of world exports jump to 42.3% (from 32.5%) and their share of world imports climb to 40.1% (from 31.9%). The increases in exports were led by the newly industrialized countries of the Pacific (Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand), all of which recorded average annual growth rates exceeding 17%. In comparison, the growth rates averaged 11.4% for Japan, 8.2% for Canada and 7.8% for the United States.

The *World trade database* can generate data on global trade flows, market share and sources of supply. Constructed from data reported to the United Nations, the *World trade database* provides annual trade flows (in US\$) between some 160 countries and for more than 600 commodities. Adjustments are made to the U.N. data to alleviate the substantial inconsistencies between individual countries' returns and to estimate the trade of late-reporting and non-reporting countries.

The new *World trade database CD-ROM* (\$3,500 subject to Statistics Canada licence agreement) provides data for the years 1980 to 1992 and incorporates user-friendly software by Dataware Technologies that allows for easy data access and retrieval. A 50% discount is available to educational institutions.

For further information on this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9647), International Trade Division.



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DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

Unemployment insurance statistics

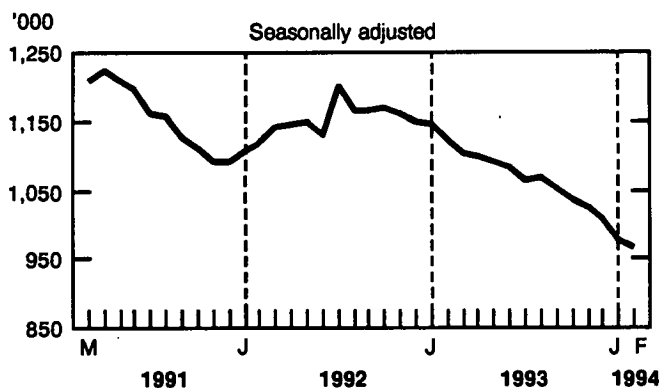
February 1994 (preliminary)

In February, the number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits (seasonally adjusted) decreased 1.4% to 962,000. After peaking at 1,200,000 in July 1992, the trend has been downward.

Seasonally adjusted

For the week ending February 19, 1994, the number of beneficiaries who received regular unemployment insurance benefits stood at an estimated 962,000, down 1.4% from a month earlier.

Beneficiaries receiving regular U. I. benefits



Between January and February 1994, the number of beneficiaries who received regular benefits declined in all jurisdictions except Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where slight increases were observed. Decreases exceeding 2% occurred in the Yukon (-3.7%), Manitoba (-3.1%), the Northwest Territories (-3.0%), Newfoundland (-2.3%) and Quebec (-2.1%).

Unadjusted

In February 1994, the estimated number of beneficiaries (including all persons qualifying for regular and special unemployment insurance benefits) was 1,397,000, down 10.4% from February 1993. Year-over-year, the number of male beneficiaries decreased 11.0% to 825,000, and the number of female beneficiaries declined 9.6% to 571,000.

Note to users

The number of beneficiaries represents persons who qualified for unemployment insurance benefits during a specific week of the reference month.

Data on benefit payments, number of benefit weeks, and number of claims received relate to a complete calendar month and are usually final estimates. These estimates are affected by the number of working days in the reference month to process claims and pay benefits. It is common when making short-term comparisons to observe different trends between these data and the number of beneficiaries.

Benefits shown here include payments to schools and colleges to train beneficiaries (since February 1991) and payments to claimants as self-employment assistance (since June 1992).

Unemployment insurance disbursements in February 1994 totalled \$1.6 billion, down 10.0% from February 1993. For the first two months of 1994, \$3.3 billion was paid in benefits, down 8.8% from the same period in 1993. For the same two-month period, the average weekly payment remained virtually unchanged at \$264.99, but the number of benefit weeks decreased 9.8% to 12.0 million.

Number of beneficiaries (all types of benefits)

	February 1994	February 1993 to February 1994
		% change
Census metropolitan area		
St. John's	13,470	-20.3
Halifax	15,400	-5.1
Saint John	6,240	-12.2
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	12,110	-8.2
Québec	38,110	-4.6
Sherbrooke	7,960	-10.0
Trois-Rivières	9,260	-17.1
Montréal	155,930	-12.4
Hull	11,760	-7.8
Ottawa	17,970	-16.6
Oshawa	10,280	16.2
Toronto	131,140	-16.1
Hamilton	19,250	-17.7
St. Catharines-Niagara	17,270	-13.4
Kitchener	11,650	-14.9
London	11,140	-27.3
Windsor	8,620	-11.3
Sudbury	10,610	25.9
Thunder Bay	6,010	-6.8
Winnipeg	23,370	-11.6
Regina	5,600	-12.9
Saskatoon	7,570	-11.4
Calgary	27,920	-16.6
Edmonton	33,060	-5.5
Vancouver	62,040	-14.8
Victoria	9,410	-13.0

A total of 211,000 claims (applications) for unemployment insurance benefits were received in February 1994, down 6.4% from a year earlier. Since the beginning of 1994, 552,000 claims have been received. This is a decrease of 4.9% from the year-earlier period.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717 and 5735-5736.

The February 1994 issue of *Unemployment insurance statistics* (73-001, \$14.70/\$147), containing data for December 1993, January 1994 and February 1994, will be available in May. See "How to order publications".

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

Unemployment insurance statistics

		February 1993	December 1993	January 1994	February 1994	January 1994 to February 1994
Regular benefits		seasonally adjusted				% change
Beneficiaries	'000	1,120	1,008 ^r	976 ^p	962 ^p	-1.4
Amount paid	\$'000	1,257,512	1,145,622	1,117,022	1,103,974	-1.2
Weeks of benefits	'000	4,895	4,481	4,392	4,328	-1.5
		February 1993	December 1993	January 1994	February 1994	February 1993 to February 1994
		unadjusted				% change
All beneficiaries	'000	1,559	1,275 ^r	1,383 ^p	1,397 ^p	-10.4
Regular beneficiaries	'000	1,312	1,036 ^r	1,151 ^p	1,145 ^p	-12.8
Claims received	'000	225	350	340	211	-6.4
Amount paid	\$'000	1,768,434	1,475,611	1,693,509	1,591,701	-10.0
Weeks of benefits	'000	6,448	5,436	6,181	5,798	-10.1
Average weekly benefit	\$	266.02	262.01	264.18	265.86	-0.1
		January to February				1993 to 1994
		1993	1994			% change
Year-to-date						
Beneficiaries, average	'000	1,560	1,390 ^p			-10.9
Claims received	'000	580	552			- 4.9
Amount paid	\$'000	3,603,271	3,285,210			-8.8
Weeks of benefits	'000	13,282	11,979			-9.8
Average weekly benefit	\$	265.14	264.99			-0.1

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

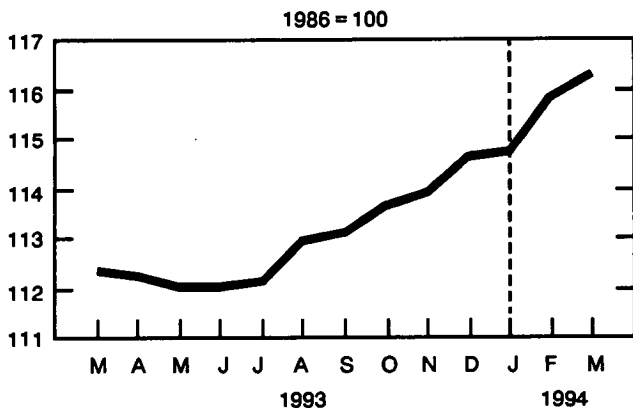
"All beneficiaries" includes all claimants who receive regular benefits (e.g., because of lay-off) or special benefits (e.g., in case of sickness).

Industrial product price index

March 1994 (preliminary)

The year-over-year change in the industrial product price index (IPPI, 1986=100), continued to rise in March, jumping to 3.6% from February's revised figure of 3.3%. However, 3.6% is still below the year-over-year change observed in the first four months of 1993, when it ranged from 3.7% to 4.4%. The IPPI climbed to 116.3 from 115.8 as the month-to-month change in the index fell back to 0.4% compared to February's increase of 1.0%.

Industrial product price index



In March, price increases were broadly based as the price indexes for 16 of the 21 major groups of products rose, while three remained unchanged and two declined. The most significant price increases in order of their importance were: primary metal products (+1.7%), autos, trucks and other transport equipment (+0.4%), and paper and paper products (+1.0%). The two indexes that edged downward were electric and communications products (-0.2%) and textile products (-0.1%).

Between mid-February and mid-March, the value of the U.S. dollar continued to rise against the Canadian dollar, increasing the value of export prices quoted in U.S. dollars by 0.7%. This particularly affected the indexes for automobiles, trucks and other transport equipment; paper and paper products; and (to a lesser extent), lumber, sawmill and other wood products. In March 1994, the U.S. dollar was 9.4% higher against the Canadian dollar than in March 1993.

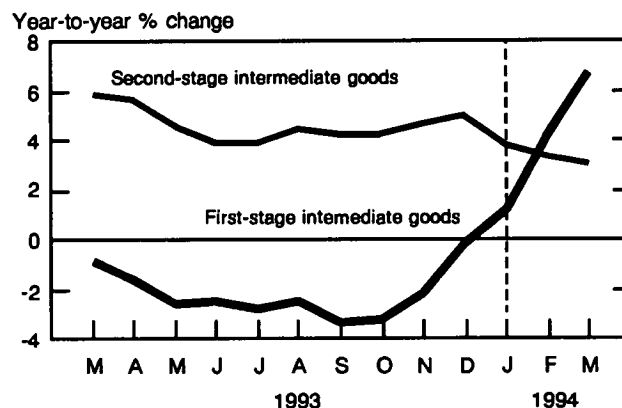
Note to users

Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods. First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods. This category is dominated by primary metals, chemicals, and pulp. Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods. Almost half the commodities tracked in the IPPI, and part of every commodity group, fall into this category.

Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment. These are divided into foods and feeds (which covers about two-thirds of food, feed, and beverage products), capital equipment (which is dominated by transport equipment, other machinery, and electrical and electronic products) and other final goods (of which the largest components are automobiles, gasoline, clothing, various chemical products, and most furniture).

The increase in the year-over-year change in the IPPI was the result of increases in the year-over-year changes for first-stage intermediate goods, foods and feeds, capital equipment, and other finished goods. The only category where the year-over-year change in prices declined was second-stage intermediate goods.

Intermediate goods price indexes



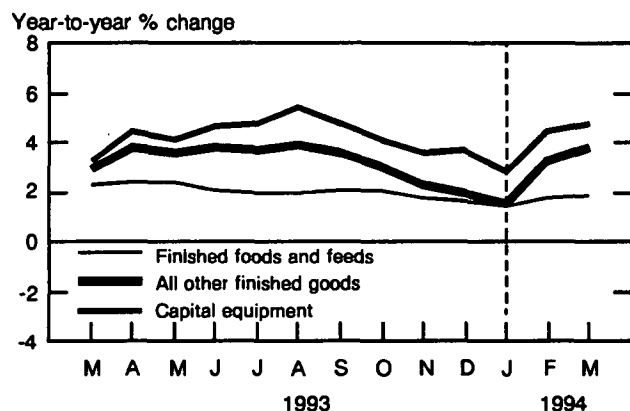
The price index for first-stage intermediate goods continued to increase in March, rising by 1.4% compared to 2.3% in February. Price increases for aluminum products, wood pulp, and copper and copper alloy products were the most important contributors to the increase.

The index for first-stage intermediate goods was 6.7% higher in March than a year earlier. This was the largest 12-month increase since April 1989. Price levels have been rising strongly in the last four months, as they did in early 1992. However, the March level was only about the same as in May 1991.

In March, the price index for second-stage intermediate goods rose by only 0.3%, down from 0.7% in February. This saw the year-over-year change in second-stage intermediate goods continue to decline to 3.0%, from 3.3%.

In March, prices for finished goods rose 0.3%, compared to 0.9% in February. In all three categories of finished goods, smaller price increases occurred in March than in February. The price index for foods and feeds rose by 0.3% in March, down from 0.7% in February. The index for capital equipment rose by 0.3% compared to 0.9%, and the index for all other finished goods also rose by 0.3% compared to 1.0%. In both February and March, meat products dominated the increase for foods and feeds. Similarly, the price movements of motor vehicles dominated the increase for capital equipment in both months.

Finished goods price indexes



The year-over-year change in the finished goods price index, however, rose to 3.4% in March compared to 3.1% in February. The year-over-year change in all three major finished goods categories

increased in March. The year-over-year changes for both the capital equipment index and the other finished goods index tended to increase from March 1993 to August 1993, only to decline again from September to January. In the first quarter of 1994, however, the year-over-year changes in these two indexes have again increased.

Primary metal products, automobiles and pulp

The primary metal products index rose 1.7% in March, less than the 2.7% in February. March's increase was primarily due to price increases for aluminum products (+4.9%) and copper and copper alloy products (+4.4%). The continued increase in the price for aluminum is attributable to the current international agreement to cut production. The boom in copper prices is attributable to the beginning of world recovery and seasonal trends. After four months of strong increases in nickel prices, nickel product prices rose by only 0.9%; the increase in aluminum prices, although strong, was a little less than in February.

The automobiles, trucks, and other transport equipment index rose by 0.4% in March, about one-quarter of its February increase. March's increase was primarily attributable to the decline in the value of the Canadian dollar as the export automobile index rose by 0.8%. Domestic automobile prices, however, saw a 0.1% decline.

In March, the paper and paper products index rose 1.0% as both pulp and newsprint prices increased. Domestic sulphate-woodpulp prices rose by 1.2%, export sulphate-woodpulp prices rose by 3.4%, and newsprint prices rose by 1.6%. American newsprint consumption is rising and most U.S. mills are at or near capacity. In addition, woodpulp consumption is rising around the world, although international markets remain very competitive as much capacity remains available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2000-2008.

The March 1994 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011, \$20/\$200) will be available at the end of May. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-3350, fax: 613-951-2848), Prices Division. □

Industrial product price indexes

	Relative importance ¹	March 1993	February 1994 ^r	March 1994 ^p	March 1993 to March 1994	February 1994 to March 1994
					% change [*]	
Industrial product price index - total	100.0	112.3	115.8	116.3	3.6	0.4
Total IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	93.6	113.7	118.0	118.5	4.2	0.4
Intermediate goods	60.4	111.0	114.6	115.2	3.8	0.5
First-stage intermediate goods	13.4	102.4	107.8	109.3	6.7	1.4
Second-stage intermediate goods	47.0	113.5	116.5	116.9	3.0	0.3
Finished goods	39.6	114.1	117.7	118.0	3.4	0.3
Finished foods and feeds	9.9	117.9	119.7	120.0	1.8	0.3
Capital equipment	10.4	114.7	119.8	120.1	4.7	0.3
All other finished goods	19.3	111.8	115.6	115.9	3.7	0.3
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	7.4	114.5	117.0	117.6	2.7	0.5
Fruit, vegetable, feed, miscellaneous food products	6.3	115.0	120.5	120.7	5.0	0.2
Beverages	2.0	124.2	123.9	123.9	-0.2	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.7	154.7	164.2	164.3	6.2	0.1
Rubber, leather, plastic fabric products	3.1	113.9	115.6	115.6	1.5	0.0
Textile products	2.2	109.5	110.7	110.6	1.0	-0.1
Knitted products and clothing	2.3	114.1	115.4	115.5	1.2	0.1
Lumber, sawmill, other wood products	4.9	152.4	157.7	158.6	4.1	0.6
Furniture and fixtures	1.7	118.8	120.1	120.1	1.1	0.0
Paper and paper products	8.1	103.8	105.7	106.8	2.9	1.0
Printing and publishing	2.7	130.1	137.9	138.0	6.1	0.1
Primary metal products	7.7	100.0	107.3	109.1	9.1	1.7
Metal fabricated products	4.9	112.8	116.3	116.6	3.4	0.3
Machinery and equipment	4.2	118.4	120.7	120.9	2.1	0.2
Autos, trucks, other transportation equipment	17.6	107.7	115.1	115.6	7.3	0.4
Electrical and communications products	5.1	112.3	113.3	113.1	0.7	-0.2
Non-metallic mineral products	2.6	110.4	113.7	114.2	3.4	0.4
Petroleum and coal products ²	6.4	90.9	84.8	84.9	-6.6	0.1
Chemicals and chemical products	7.2	115.4	119.2	119.4	3.5	0.2
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.5	113.4	116.8	117.0	3.2	0.2
Miscellaneous non-manufactured commodities	0.4	78.0	82.8	83.7	7.3	1.1

¹ Weights are derived from the "make" matrix of the 1986 Input/Output table.

² This index is estimated for the current month.

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

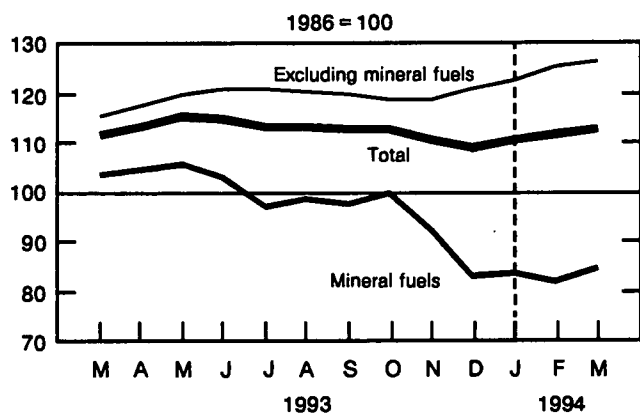
^{*} Figure is rounded.

Raw materials price index

March 1994 (preliminary)

The raw materials price index (RMPI, 1986=100) rose 1.3% in March 1994, to a level of 112.8, marking its third consecutive monthly increase. Major contributors were the price increases of 2.9% for mineral fuels, 2.8% for non-ferrous metals, and 1.4% for wood. All other components showed minor price increases, except vegetable products, which did not change. The RMPI excluding mineral fuels was up 1.0% from the previous month, continuing the upward trend that began in October 1993.

Raw materials price index



In March 1994, the RMPI was 1.1% higher than in March 1993. This modest overall change masked large movements among some groups of commodities. Major increases in the indexes for wood (+13.9%), vegetable products (+16.9%), non-ferrous metals (+10.1%), and ferrous materials (+20.3%) were largely offset by the decline in the mineral fuels index (-18.6%). The RMPI excluding mineral fuels rose 9.4% from March 1993 to March 1994. Since October 1993, the RMPI excluding mineral fuels has increased 6.7%.

The mineral fuels index has declined gradually from May 1993 (105.5) to March 1994 (84.1), with occasional monthly increases. This March saw one of these, up 2.9%. The decrease in the mineral fuels index since March 1993 was due mainly to a 21% decline in crude oil prices.

In March 1994, wood prices posted a fifth consecutive monthly increase (+1.4%). This increase was caused mainly by logs and bolts prices (+1.6%). Year-over-year wood prices were up almost 14%, also due to higher logs and bolts prices (+16.6%). The logs and bolts index reached its all-time high in July 1993 (228.9), declined until October, and then increased steadily to a level of 225.1 in March 1994.

The non-ferrous metals index rose 2.8% in March, mainly because of higher prices for copper concentrates (+7.5%), aluminum materials (+3.1%) and gold (+1.4%). Since October 1993, prices for most of the major non-ferrous metals rose: copper concentrates (+26%), aluminum materials (+24%), gold (+10%), nickel concentrates (+41%) and lead concentrates (+6%). Partially offsetting these increases were prices for zinc concentrates (which showed no change) and radio-active concentrates (which declined 6%). The total non-ferrous index has risen 15.3% since October 1993, after falling almost 8% in the preceding nine months.

The vegetable products index showed no change in March. However, since March 1993, higher prices for grains (+28%), oilseeds (+25.7%) and unrefined sugar (+23.6%) have increased the vegetable products index (+16.9%).

In March 1994, ferrous material prices edged up again (+0.6%). Ferrous material prices were up 20.3% from March 1993, due mainly to higher prices for iron and steel scrap (+32.1%) and iron ore (+9.5%).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2009.

The March 1994 issue of *Industry price indexes* (62-011, (\$20/\$200)) will be available at the end of May. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information and Current Analysis Unit (613-951-3350, fax: 613-951-2848), Prices Division. □

Raw materials price index

	Relative importance ¹	March 1993	February 1994 ^r	March 1994 ^p	March 1993 to March 1994	February 1994 to March 1994
					% change	
Raw materials total	100	111.6	111.3	112.8	1.1	1.3
Mineral fuels	32	103.3	81.7	84.1	-18.6	2.9
Vegetable products	10	94.5	110.5	110.5	16.9	0.0
Animals and animal products	26	109.7	111.6	111.7	1.8	0.1
Wood	13	170.8	191.9	194.6	13.9	1.4
Ferrous materials	4	99.0	118.4	119.1	20.3	0.6
Non-ferrous metals	13	95.6	102.4	105.3	10.1	2.8
Non-metallic minerals	3	99.2	100.7	101.0	1.8	0.3
Total excluding mineral fuels	68	115.4	125.0	126.2	9.4	1.0

¹ Rounded figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cereals and oilseeds review

March 1994

For most of March 1994, grain markets traded on concerns about weather and continuing poor export markets. Discussions about poor grain movement in Canada due to a strike at the Port of Vancouver and a railcar shortage overshadowed a falling dollar and increased interest rates.

The end of Alberta's crow offset program resulted in heavy purchases of barley and feed-wheat in Alberta and some price strength for the western barley futures contracts. In other price news, increases were announced in 1993/94 Canadian Wheat Board initial payments for spring wheat (most grades) and feed barley. Canola prices continued volatile.

Toward the end of March, traders' interests shifted to 1994 crop areas. Release of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's *Planting intentions* gave markets their first official indicator of U.S. farmers' plans for the new growing season. Statistics Canada will release the seeding intentions of Canadian farmers on April 28.

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

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

Mortality statistics

1921-1990

From 1921 to 1990, the overall rate of mortality in Canada fell substantially, despite a marked shift to a more aged population. During this period, the

proportion of the population under 25 declined to 35% (from 52%), while the proportion of those aged 65 and over more than doubled to 12% of the total population (from 5%). Given these changes, the decrease in the crude death rate to 7.2 deaths per 1000 population (from 11.6) is particularly remarkable.

The decline in mortality over the 70-year period from 1921 to 1990 is attributable to many factors that include: improved public health and hygiene; industrial and economic development; increased urbanization; greater health consciousness; increased availability and use of health-care facilities; decreases in socioeconomic inequities; greater economic security over the entire life cycle; new therapeutic developments; better education; improved nutrition; and healthier lifestyles.

Dramatic declines in infant mortality (from 102.1 deaths per 1000 live births in 1921 to 6.8 in 1990) contributed significantly to the decrease in the overall death rate. Declines in death rates due to infectious disease (during the 1940s and 1950s) and cardiovascular disease (from the 1970s onward) also helped bring down the mortality rate.

By 1990, the average age at death for males had increased to 67.9 years (from 39.0 years in 1921), while the average age at death for females had increased to 73.6 years (from 41.1 years in 1921).

Further information on deaths in Canada over the 70-year period from 1921 to 1990 is available in *Selected mortality statistics, Canada, 1921-1990* (82-548, \$40). Major topics covered by the tables in this publication include: numbers and rates of deaths, age-specific and age-standardized death rates, natural increase of the population, average and median age at death, life expectancy at birth, and life expectancy at selected ages. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information Requests Unit (613-951-1746), Canadian Centre for Health Information. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Monthly production of soft drinks, March 1994.

Catalogue number 32-001

(Canada: \$2.70/\$27; United States: US\$3.20/US\$32; other countries: US\$3.80/US\$38).

Gas utilities, January 1994.

Catalogue number 55-002

(Canada: \$12.70/\$127; United States: US\$15.20/US\$152; other countries: US\$17.80/US\$178).

New motor vehicle sales, December 1993.

Catalogue number 63-007

(Canada: \$14.40/\$144; United States: US\$17.30/US\$173; other countries: US\$20.20/US\$202).

Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics

February 1994.

Catalogue number 63-011

(Canada: \$6.10/\$61; United States: US\$7.30/US\$73; other countries: US\$8.50/US\$85).

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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ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES

Every one is concerned about the depletion of the ozone layer, contamination of our environment with toxic wastes and the loss of species. But, how much do you really know about some of the major environmental interactions in Canada?

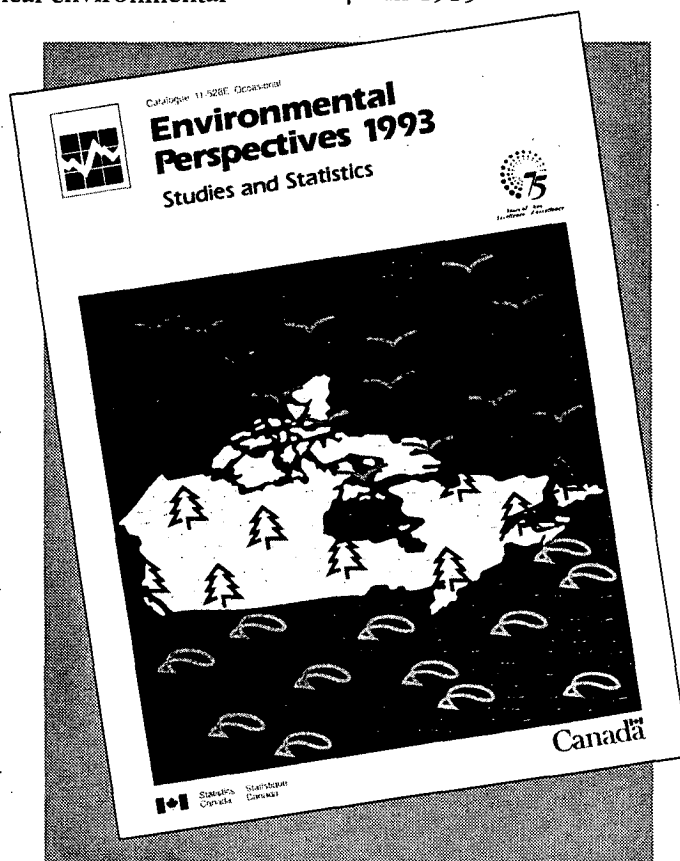
Statistics Canada has just released a new publication entitled *Environmental Perspectives 1993: Studies and Statistics*. Based on results of recently conducted surveys and studies, this new release is written to help you understand some of today's most topical environmental concerns. This 100-page publication explores five themes:

- industrial impacts on the environment
- agricultural land use
- household environmental behaviour
- waste management and recycling
- natural resource accounting

Its 13 chapters are filled with **in-depth analysis** which is augmented by explanatory tables and charts for easy understanding. Findings from a special land-use study conducted at Riding Mountain National Park in Manitoba are also included as an example of how socio-economic activities and natural eco-systems are in conflict.

In this one-of-a-kind report, you will discover such provoking facts as:

- 9% (by weight) of waste collected by municipalities with a population greater than 50,000 was recycled in 1990
- only 15% of Canadian households report that at least one member uses public transit to travel to and from work
- the generation of electricity was the single largest source of greenhouse gases of all industrial activity in 1985



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