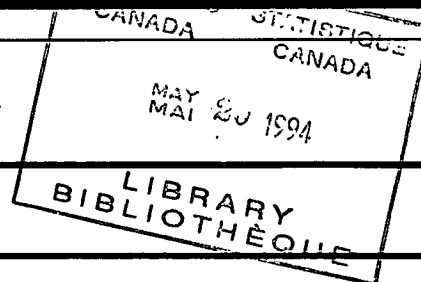


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, May 20, 1994

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MAJOR RELEASES

• Wholesale trade, March 1994

In March wholesale merchants' sales (seasonally adjusted) reached \$18.4 billion, up 2.0% from February's revised level. After two months of weakness, this was the first significant increase since December 1993.

2

• Sales of natural gas, March 1994

Warmer temperatures and decreased demand by the industrial sector led to a 3.2% decline from March 1993 in the domestic sales of natural gas. Sales had increased strongly in January and February 1994.

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MAJOR RELEASES

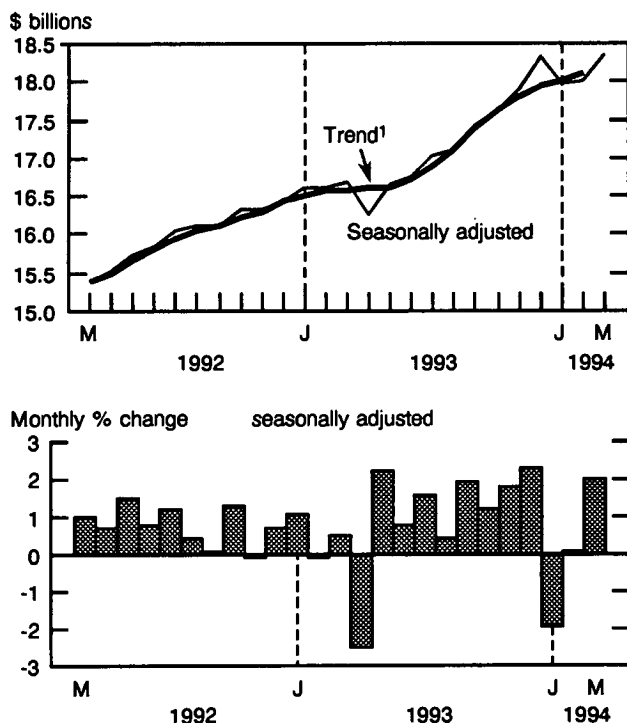
Wholesale trade

March 1994

Sales show first significant increase of 1994, up 2.0% in March

In March, wholesale merchants' sales (seasonally adjusted) reached \$18.4 billion, up 2.0% from February's revised level. After two months of weakness, this was the first significant increase since December 1993.

Wholesale merchants' sales



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

As key intermediaries in the supply and distribution of goods, wholesale merchants' activities are closely linked to developments in other sectors of the economy. The stronger performance in the manufacturing, international trade and retail trade sectors in March was also evident in wholesale merchants' sales.

Note to users

Estimates since February 1994 are based on a renewed sample of wholesale businesses. The new sample was drawn to maintain overall data quality and to allow introduction of two new trade groups later this year.

Higher sales for seven of the nine industry groups

Wholesale merchants, in this survey, are grouped into nine categories according to the similarity of goods handled. In March, seven of these nine groups (accounting for 95% of sales) recorded higher levels. The most notable (other machinery, equipment and supplies) increased sales by \$169 million from February's level—a 4.0% jump. This group, which in 1993 represented nearly one-quarter of all wholesale sales, includes goods such as computers and software, office machines (calculators, photocopiers, facsimile machines, etc.) and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies.

Of the remaining groups that contributed to the gain in March, sales of "other products" were up 2.8% from February, this group's second consecutive monthly increase. Accounting for just over 16% of all goods handled by wholesalers, this group includes commodities such as: household, agricultural and industrial chemicals; newsprint; and other paper and paper products.

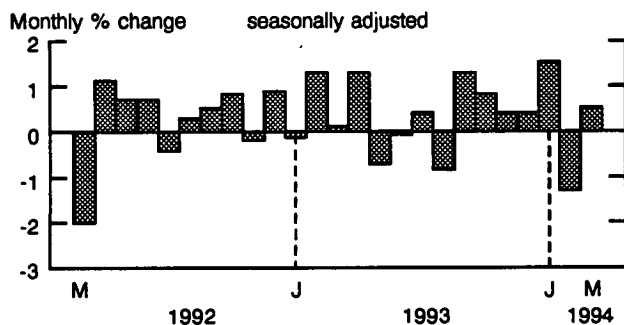
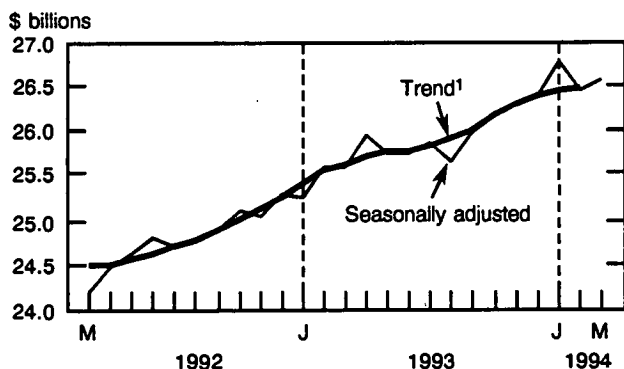
Quarterly perspective

At the end of the first quarter of 1994, total wholesale merchants' sales reached \$54.3 billion, slightly higher (+0.9%) than in the fourth quarter of 1993. The group showing the strongest quarterly growth was other machinery and equipment (+3.3%).

Sales up in all regions

Wholesale merchants' in all regions recorded higher sales in March. Accounting for approximately 15% of all sales, British Columbia has been the only province to record three consecutive monthly increases since the end of 1993. All other regions have experienced at least one monthly sales decline since the beginning of 1994.

Wholesale merchants' inventories



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

Inventories

Wholesalers of food, beverage, drug and tobacco products posted the strongest increase in inventory (+2.2). The overall inventory level increased a moderate 0.5% in March, to total \$26.6 billion.

The inventories to sales ratio at the end of March 1994 was 1.45:1, down from February's 1.47:1.

Unadjusted

Total sales stood 12.4% higher than a year earlier, reflecting considerably higher trading volumes. Inventory levels were 4.0% above March 1993 levels.

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

The March 1994 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008, \$16/\$160) will be available the second week of June. 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. □

Wholesale merchants' sales

Trade group	Mar. 1993	Feb. 1994 ^r	Mar. 1994 ^p	Mar. 1993 to Mar. 1994	Mar. 1993	Dec. 1993 ^r	Jan. 1994 ^r	Feb. 1994 ^r	Mar. 1994 ^p	Feb. 1994 to Mar. 1994	Mar. 1993 to Mar. 1994	
	\$ millions			% change	\$ millions				% change			
	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted							
Canada												
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	4,245	4,009	4,533	6.8	4,422	4,690	4,628	4,583	4,619	0.8	4.5	
Apparel and dry goods	557	468	519	-6.8	436	435	434	417	412	-1.0	-5.3	
Household goods	588	458	580	-1.5	596	571	561	563	575	2.2	-3.4	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	2,110	1,735	2,434	15.3	1,810	2,021	2,022	2,026	2,061	1.7	13.9	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,165	1,174	1,394	19.7	1,148	1,274	1,273	1,308	1,343	2.7	17.1	
Lumber and building materials	1,503	1,209	1,562	3.9	1,670	1,795	1,695	1,657	1,660	0.2	-0.6	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	324	285	415	28.0	349	511	443	436	434	-0.6	24.2	
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,215	3,744	5,084	20.6	3,665	4,210	4,139	4,201	4,370	4.0	19.2	
Other products	2,684	2,433	3,035	13.1	2,577	2,828	2,790	2,802	2,880	2.8	11.7	
Total, all trades	17,391	15,514	19,555	12.4	16,673	18,335	17,985	17,992	18,355	2.0	10.1	
Provinces and territories												
Newfoundland	152	142	163	7.2	171	179	180	175	183	4.5	6.6	
Prince Edward Island	35	37	39	10.4	41	41	43	42	44	3.2	6.0	
Nova Scotia	344	325	392	14.0	361	433	412	392	407	3.8	12.8	
New Brunswick	227	192	232	2.6	239	238	243	233	240	3.2	0.6	
Quebec	4,098	3,583	4,396	7.3	4,025	4,204	4,222	4,214	4,229	0.3	5.1	
Ontario	7,489	6,565	8,360	11.6	6,938	7,657	7,431	7,469	7,597	1.7	9.5	
Manitoba	556	470	615	10.6	590	628	595	596	625	4.8	6.0	
Saskatchewan	459	440	553	20.5	512	607	548	555	591	6.4	15.4	
Alberta	1,541	1,508	1,866	21.1	1,505	1,807	1,764	1,758	1,802	2.5	19.7	
British Columbia	2,470	2,236	2,916	18.1	2,270	2,520	2,524	2,536	2,617	3.2	15.3	
Yukon and Northwest Territories	19	18	22	13.8	20	22	21	21	22	1.0	7.6	

^p Preliminary figures.^r Revised figures.

Wholesale merchants' inventories

Trade group	Mar. 1993	Feb. 1994 ^r	Mar. 1994 ^p	Mar. 1993 to Mar. 1994	Mar. 1993	Dec. 1993 ^r	Jan. 1994 ^r	Feb. 1994 ^r	Mar. 1994 ^p	Feb. 1994 to Mar. 1994	Mar. 1993 to Mar. 1994
	\$ millions			% change	\$ millions					% change	
	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted						
Canada											
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,065	3,138	3,163	3.2	3,193	3,305	3,318	3,221	3,291	2.2	3.1
Apparel and dry goods	951	1,087	1,049	10.2	943	1,062	1,062	1,061	1,049	-1.1	11.2
Household goods	1,188	1,221	1,226	3.2	1,188	1,268	1,300	1,284	1,267	-1.3	6.7
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	3,970	3,642	3,649	-8.1	3,790	3,385	3,508	3,461	3,478	0.5	-8.2
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,134	2,440	2,552	19.6	2,153	2,431	2,466	2,508	2,542	1.4	18.1
Lumber and building materials	2,805	2,902	3,073	9.6	2,628	2,876	2,904	2,857	2,857	--	8.7
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,299	1,312	1,338	3.0	1,241	1,259	1,257	1,269	1,267	-0.1	2.1
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,139	7,236	7,351	3.0	7,099	7,293	7,433	7,261	7,286	0.4	2.6
Other products	3,487	3,649	3,679	5.5	3,365	3,523	3,551	3,524	3,540	0.5	5.2
Total, all trades	26,038	26,627	27,079	4.0	25,599	26,404	26,799	26,445	26,577	0.5	3.8

^p Preliminary figures.^r Revised figures.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Sales of natural gas

March 1994

Warmer temperatures and decreased demand by the industrial sector led to a decline in the domestic sales of natural gas. In March 1994, sales were down 3.2% from March 1993, to 6 362 million cubic metres. Sales had increased strongly in January and February 1994, due to unseasonably cold temperatures.

On the basis of rate structure, March sales were as follows, with the percentage changes from March 1993 in brackets: residential sales, 1 905 million cubic metres (-1.8%); commercial sales, 1 427 million cubic metres (-5.7%) and industrial sales (including direct sales), 3 030 million cubic metres (-2.9%).

In March temperatures throughout most of Canada were warmer than in March 1993. This resulted in declining sales to the residential and commercial sectors. Decreased sales to the industrial sector resulted primarily from the replacement of natural gas by heavy fuel-oil—which is priced lower—in the pulp and paper industry in Eastern Canada.

At the end of March 1994, year-to-date sales of natural gas amounted to 21 864 million cubic metres, up 4.4% from the same period in 1993. Residential sales rose a strong 11.2% from the first three months of 1993.

The March 1994 issue of *Gas utilities* (55-002, \$14/\$140) will be available the third week of June. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Gerry O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Sales of natural gas in Canada

Rate structure	March 1993	March 1994 ^P	March 1993 to March 1994	January to March 1993	January to March 1994 ^P	Year-to-date 1993 to 1994
	thousands of cubic metres		% change	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total	6 573 278	6 361 521	-3.2	20 943 162	21 863 905	+ 4.4
Residential	1 940 036	1 904 483	-1.8	6 609 618	7 347 294	+ 11.2
Commercial	1 513 349	1 427 146	-5.7	5 131 244	5 360 321	+ 4.5
Industrial	2 365 465	2 217 825	-2.9	7 053 765	6 710 509	-0.5
Direct ¹	754 428	812 067		2 148 535	2 445 781	

Sales of natural gas by province

Rate structure	Canada	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta	British- Columbia
	thousands of cubic metres						
Total	6 361 521	606 746	2 807 259	189 543	430 573	1 653 808	673 592
Residential	1 904 483	94 745	1 061 532	73 301	109 589	362 704	202 612
Commercial	1 427 146	200 487	690 709	83 273	72 147	227 168	153 362
Industrial	2 217 825	308 468	749 585	9 710	6 299	1 063 936	79 827
Direct ¹	812 067	3 046	305 433	23 259	242 538	-	237 791
Degree days²							
March 1993	...	683	558	729	614	572	331
March 1994	...	651	529	631	606	504	335
Normal	...	634	528	778	653	716	363

¹ Represents direct sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

² A unit measuring the extent to which the outdoor mean temperature (the average of the maximum and minimum) falls below 18 degrees celsius. One degree day is counted for each degree below 18 degrees celsius for each calendar day. A high value indicates a cold month and a low value indicates a warm month. Normal temperature is defined as the average temperature during the 30-year period 1961-1990.

... Figures not applicable.

- Nil or zero.

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: Revised figures will be available in *Gas utilities* (55-002) and on CANSIM.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Construction union wage rate indexes

April 1994

The construction union wage rate index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in April, from March's level of 135.0 (1986=100). On a year-over-year basis, the composite index increased 2.4% to 135.0 in April, from 131.9 in April 1993. This was the smallest April-over-April index movement since 1985, when a 0.5% increase was recorded.

Construction union wage rates and indexes comprise union wage rates for 16 trades in 22 metropolitan areas (including the basic rate and rates that include selected supplementary payments) and indexes for those cities where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 956, 958 and 2033-2038.

The second quarter 1994 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007, \$19/\$76) will be available in September. See "How to order publications".

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

Selected financial indexes

April 1994

Data for April 1994 are now available for the selected financial indexes (1986=100).

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2031.

The second quarter 1994 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007, \$19/\$76) will be available in September. See "How to order publications".

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

Production and apparent per capita consumption of poultry-meat and eggs

1993 annual

Poultry meat (chickens, stewing hens and turkeys) production in 1993 reached a record 766.3 thousand tonnes, a 4.6% increase from 1992. This upward trend in production was due mainly to higher chicken production.

In 1993 egg production reached 474.1 million dozen, up 0.3% from 1992.

Apparent per capita consumption of poultry meat reached a record 29.2 kg in 1993. Egg consumption, at 14.60 dozen, decreased a slight 0.6% from 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1136, 1137, 1139-1141 and 1144.

Production of poultry and eggs, 1993 (23-202, \$36) will be released on June 6th. See "How to order publications".

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

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Monthly survey of manufacturing, March 1994.
Catalogue number 31-001
(Canada: \$19/\$190; United States: US\$23/US\$230;
other countries: US\$27/US\$270).

Primary iron and steel, March 1994.
Catalogue number 41-001
(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$7/US\$70;
other countries: US\$8/US\$80).

Farm product price index, March 1994.
Catalogue number 62-003
(Canada: \$8/\$76; United States: US\$10/US\$92;
other countries: US\$12/US\$107).

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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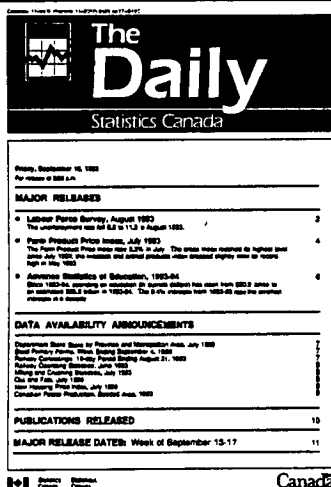
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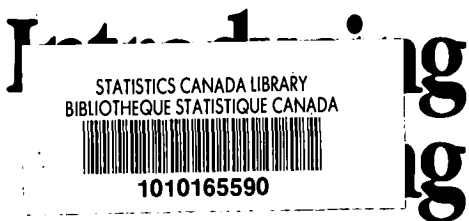
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MAJOR RELEASE DATES

Week of May 23-27
(Release dates are subject to change)

Release date	Title	Reference period
May		
25	Canada's International transactions in securities	March 1994
25	Unemployment Insurance statistics	March 1994
27	International travel account	January-March 1994
27	Industrial product price index and raw materials price index	April 1994

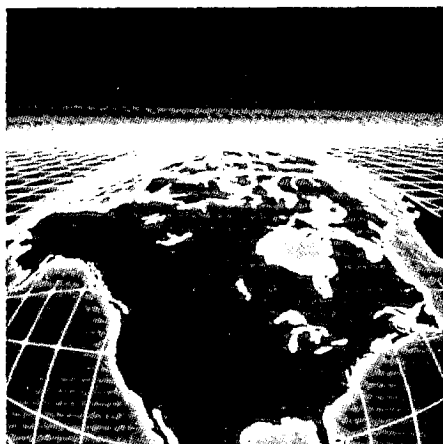


new publication that examines trade patterns between Canada and the United States!



Catalogue 65-504E Occasional

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Canada - United States**
The Manufacturing Industries
1981-1991



Statistics Canada

Canada

Since the discussions of the North American Free Trade Agreement began, there has been debate about the effects of the original Free Trade Agreement and speculation on future changes in the patterns of North American production and trade.

For these reasons, Statistics Canada conducted an in-depth study on the trade patterns between Canada and the United States. From this study, an important analytical publication entitled ***Trade Patterns: Canada - United States, The Manufacturing Industries 1981-1991*** was developed.

At the core of this report is material drawn from a number of Statistics Canada databases, as well as information from the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The publication links trade and manufacturing data to provide the most comprehensive source available on trade patterns.

In 70 pages, ***Trade Patterns*** presents an in-depth analysis of over 10 years of North American trade data, so you can track the import/export trends over the last decade.

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This publication will be invaluable to those working in manufacturing, finance and education sectors and anyone with an interest in American and Canadian trading patterns.

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