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MAJOR RELEASES

- International merchandise trade of Canada, April 1994** 2
 Exports and imports grew to record levels in April; exports advanced solidly on the strength of auto shipments to the United States, while machinery and automotive parts provided impetus to imports.
- Wholesale trade, April 1994** 6
 In April sales increased for the third straight month, up 0.5% from March, to \$18.5 billion. The rise was broadly based as six of nine merchant groupings recorded higher sales.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and import price indexes, April 1994	10
Quarterly demographic statistics, January to March 1994	10
Construction type plywood, April 1994	10
Production, shipments and stocks of sawmills in British Columbia, April 1994	10

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

11

Consultation on the revision of the standard industrial classification

Statistics Canada has begun to revise the 1980 standard industrial classification (1980 SIC). The SIC is Statistics Canada's framework for collecting, compiling and disseminating economic statistics on businesses. This revision is a cooperative effort of the statistical agencies of the United States and Mexico. The three countries have agreed to create a common North American industrial classification system, of which the Canadian SIC will be a part. The three countries have set up coordinating committees to carry out the revision.

Users are invited to comment on the proposed conceptual framework for the new North American industrial classification system. Send proposals for four-digit industries as soon as possible (not later than August 31, 1994) to Shaila Nijhowne (613-951-8577, fax: 613-951-8578, the Internet: standards@statcan.ca), Director, Standards Division, Statistics Canada, 8-D8 Jean Talon Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.

The three country's agreement (that describes the conceptual framework), guidelines for making proposals, and background papers are available from Mr. Kim Farrall (613-951-4245, fax: 613-951-8578, the Internet: standards@statcan.ca), Coordinator, SIC Revision, Standards Division, Statistics Canada, 8-D2, Jean Talon Building, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6.



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MAJOR RELEASES

International merchandise trade of Canada

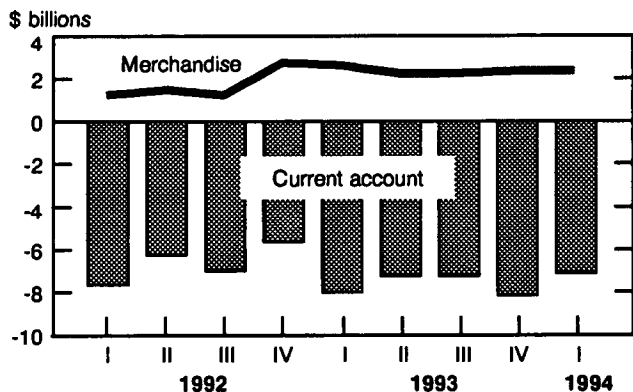
April 1994

Macroeconomic overview

On a balance of payments basis, exports increased by \$804 million, reaching a record \$17.4 billion. Strength in exports was generated mainly by robust car and truck sales in the United States.

Imports also grew to record levels (\$16.1 billion), carried by strength in imports of machinery and equipment and in automotive parts, reflecting renewed vigour in domestic production.

Trade balances (total), merchandise and current account



Canada's merchandise trade surplus grew in April, to \$1.2 billion, from \$866 million in March.

Canada's trade surplus with the United States reached \$2.3 billion in April, up \$249 million. Imports from the United States were up \$570 million, while exports increased \$819 million. Deficits remained with all other principal trading areas except Japan. So far this year, 80% of Canada's exports have been destined for the United States. On the imports side, 73% came from the United States.

Commodity detail

Exports are still setting records on the strength of auto exports to the United States

Movements among commodity groupings were mixed in April. Most export growth came from the

Note to users

Merchandise trade statistics are provided on both a customs and a balance of payments (BOP) basis at the level of total exports, total imports and trade balance (surplus or deficit) by principal trading area. Detailed commodity and geographic information is presented on a customs basis only. The equivalent BOP commodity data can be obtained from CANSIM.

Analysts interested in specific commodity flows or geographic detail are encouraged to use the customs basis data. Those interested in macroeconomic issues should use the BOP data, along with the rest of the current account, which includes service transactions, investment income and transfers.

In the first quarter of 1994, Canada's merchandise trade surplus of \$2.4 billion contrasted with a current account deficit of \$7.1 billion.

automotive sector, up \$441 million to a record \$4.6 billion. This increase reflected healthy demand for autos south of the border and sustained domestic production in Canada.

Export growth was also supported by a \$77 million increase for machinery and equipment, which reached a record \$3.4 billion in April. Much of the increase was concentrated in aircraft, engines and parts (+\$49 million) and in telecommunications equipment (+\$24 million).

The largest offsets to April's export gains came from energy (-\$49 million) and forestry products (-\$43 million).

A \$91 million drop in crude petroleum exports exerted great downward pressure on exports of energy products in April, overshadowing increases in natural gas and coal. As for forestry products, nearly all components declined, with lumber exports falling the most (-\$23 million).

Machinery and equipment contribute most to the overall growth in imports

More than three-quarters of the growth in imports was concentrated in the machinery and equipment (+\$167 million), automotive (+\$150 million), and energy (+\$122 million) sectors. Collectively, these sectors accounted for 59% of the value of imports in April.

The increase for machinery and equipment came in large part from communications and related equipment (\$92 million) and industrial machinery (\$69 million).

A \$169 million increase in imports of automotive parts accounted for virtually all of the gain in automotive imports; this reflects relatively high production levels among Canadian automakers. Imports of vehicles were down marginally, despite a slight increase in Canada's auto sales for April.

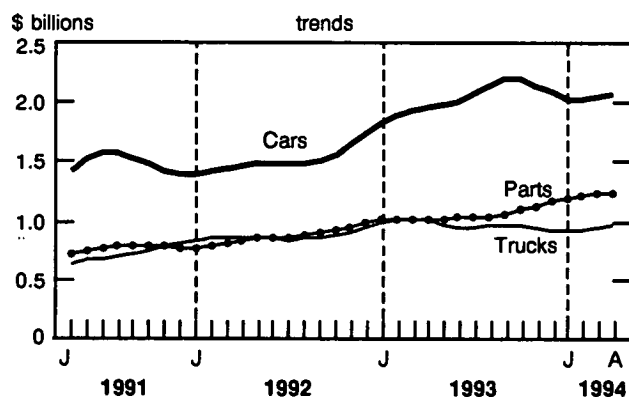
Energy product imports advanced by \$122 million, almost exclusively a result of growth in crude petroleum imports. Canadian production of refined petroleum was correspondingly high in April.

Underlying trends

Export trend gains momentum

After a lull in the fall of 1993, the trend for total exports has gained momentum each month since December. This pattern of lull and recovery seems to characterize the movements of most commodity sectors over this period.

Exports of automotive products



The trend for machinery and equipment has been accelerating since the spring of 1993. Contributing significantly to this upswing, exports of aircraft engines and parts have been growing at an increasing rate since the fourth quarter of 1993. This has also been the case with industrial machinery. Trends have picked up as well for office machines and for other equipment and tools; the latter has quadrupled its monthly growth rate since September.

Industrial goods have also contributed significantly to the rise in exports since last fall. Since December, accelerating growth in industrial goods has been largely carried by increases for chemicals, plastics and fertilizers, as well as by metals and alloys—particularly aluminum and nickel.

The trend for energy products has been positive and accelerating since December. This pattern was bolstered mainly by natural gas and, to a lesser extent, by electricity and by refined petroleum and coal products. Exports of these commodities—mostly to the United States—trended strongly upward during the cold months of winter. Declining since the fall of 1993, the trend for crude petroleum seems to be flattening.

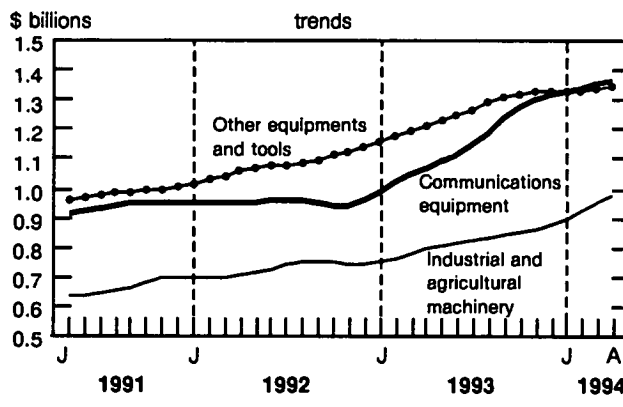
The trend for automotive products, negative from November 1993 to January 1994, has since been positive and accelerating. This decline and recovery reflected a cutback in auto production associated with retooling of assembly plants in Ontario. Parts exports have had a stabilizing affect on the trend since November. So far this year, automotive products have accounted for 26% of Canada's exports.

Imports from most sectors continue to trend upward

Growth in the import trend, which slowed slightly in December 1993, has been on an upswing since, due largely to surging imports from the United States. This pattern is characteristic of the movements in most commodity groups.

Machinery and equipment imports have contributed most significantly to the increase in the import trend in 1994. Although agricultural machinery and industrial machinery imports have been declining since late 1993, other machinery and equipment imports have more than offset these decreases. The most notable increases have been for communications and related equipment and for other equipment and tools.

Imports of machinery



Imports of industrial goods and materials have been up for over a year. After slowing somewhat in the fall of 1993, the trend accelerated again in the winter months, recovering most of its lost momentum.

Since September 1993, the growth rate in automotive imports has been positive but decelerating. The rate of growth in car and truck imports has been slowing over this period, despite improved auto sales in 1994; in fact, growth in truck imports has become almost flat in the latest few months. Imports of automotive parts, which declined during the winter and early spring, made a substantial recovery in the latest period as assembly rates in Canada began to increase.

The trend for energy products has been up for four months, after falling through the spring and fall of 1993. The series has been bolstered mainly by strong imports of crude petroleum.

Imports of consumer goods have been falling since December. In recent months, however, the rate of decline has eased considerably. This may indicate a turnaround ahead.

Price movements

On a customs basis, the price index for total exports rose 2.1% in April. Higher prices were registered for most commodity groupings, in particular energy products (+6.5%) and automotive products

(+2.5%). The only downward movement came from prices for other consumer goods (-1.8%).

The price index for total imports advanced 1.9% in April. Prices increased in all sectors, the most notable were energy products (+3.7%), forestry products (+3.1%) and automotive products (+2.4%).

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

This release summarizes the merchandise trade data that will be available next week in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182), which will include tables of commodity and country data on a customs basis. Revised data for January 1990 to March 1994 are available on CANSIM.

For more timely receipt of merchandise trade data, a fax service is available on the morning of release.

Current account data (which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, trade in services and capital account movements) are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001, \$30/\$120).

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

Merchandise trade of Canada on a customs basis

	February 1994	March 1994	April 1994	February to March 1994	March to April 1994	January to April 1993	January to April 1994	January- April 1993 to January- April 1994	April 1993 to April 1994
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change		
	seasonally adjusted, \$ current								
Exports									
United States	13,662	14,140	14,785	3.5	4.6	47,826	55,791	16.7	21.1
Other countries	2,799	3,071	2,842	9.7	-7.4	12,055	11,780	-2.3	-3.9
Total	16,461	17,211	17,628	4.6	2.4	59,881	67,571	12.8	16.2
Trade by commodity group									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,160	1,271	1,305	9.6	2.7	4,905	5,069	3.3	4.1
Energy products	1,805	1,834	1,785	1.6	-2.6	6,048	7,002	15.8	21.8
Forestry products	2,273	2,375	2,332	4.5	-1.8	8,488	9,274	9.3	9.3
Industrial goods and materials	2,917	3,046	3,039	4.4	-0.2	10,366	11,864	14.4	17.3
Machinery and equipment	3,213	3,346	3,422	4.1	2.3	10,656	13,077	22.7	27.5
Automotive products	3,978	4,148	4,589	4.3	10.6	15,742	16,741	6.3	11.4
Other consumer goods	436	445	436	2.0	-2.0	1,411	1,750	24.0	23.1
Special transactions trade	680	747	719	9.8	-3.7	2,265	2,793	23.3	25.3
Imports									
United States	10,061	10,433	11,057	3.7	6.0	36,023	41,478	15.1	20.1
Other countries	4,792	5,074	5,014	5.9	-1.2	18,115	19,840	9.5	6.4
Total	14,853	15,506	16,071	4.4	3.6	54,137	61,318	13.3	15.4
Trade by commodity group									
Agricultural and fishing products	932	979	979	5.0	0.0	3,577	3,814	6.6	5.2
Energy products	532	516	639	-2.9	23.7	2,478	2,203	-11.1	-16.9
Forestry products	130	134	132	2.9	-1.2	513	529	3.1	3.8
Industrial goods and materials	2,856	2,931	2,977	2.7	1.6	9,993	11,563	15.7	17.2
Machinery and equipment	4,756	5,017	5,183	5.5	3.3	16,561	19,675	18.8	23.5
Automotive products	3,438	3,679	3,830	7.0	4.1	12,855	14,544	13.1	16.8
Other consumer goods	1,809	1,882	1,850	4.1	-1.7	6,818	7,343	7.7	6.2
Special transactions trade	401	368	481	-8.4	30.8	1,342	1,647	22.7	42.2

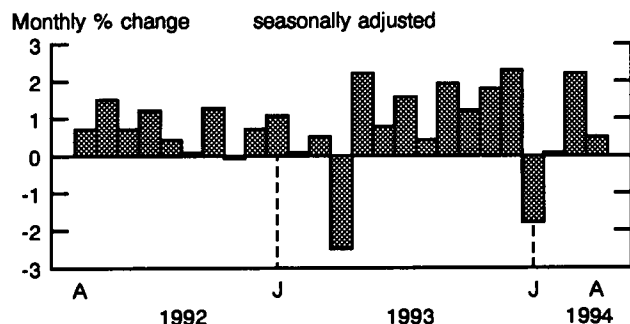
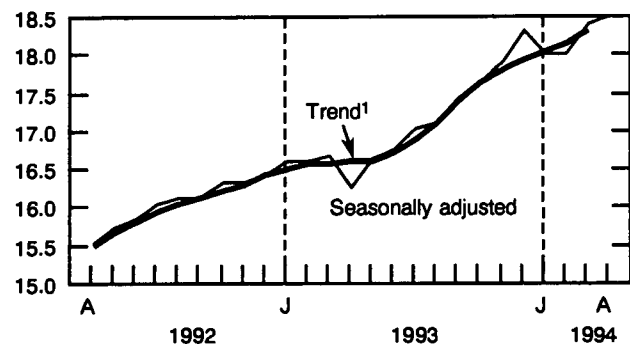
Wholesale trade

April 1994 (preliminary)

Wholesale activity continues to increase

Led by a strong performance from distributors of agricultural and industrial chemicals, books, periodicals and newspapers, newsprint and other products (for survey purposes, these distributors are collectively referred to as wholesalers of "other products") total wholesale merchants' sales rose for the third straight month. April's increase of 0.5% from March brought total sales (seasonally adjusted) to \$18.5 billion.

Wholesale merchants' sales



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

Six industry groups post higher sales

In this survey, wholesale merchants are classified into nine industry groups according to type of goods handled. In April six industry groups (accounting for

50% of total sales) posted higher sales. Wholesalers of "other products" set the pace with a 3.0% increase in sales from March, their third consecutive monthly increase.

Representing about 10% of all wholesale activity, distributors of lumber and building materials also increased sales in April (+2.8% to \$1.7 billion). This followed weak growth in March. Although exports were down in April, higher wholesale sales may be partly attributable to increased building activity; housing starts in Canada rose substantially in April.

Elsewhere, wholesalers of apparel and dry goods sold 6.3% more in April than in March. This rise followed five straight months of declines and helped place April's sales for this group above the April 1993 level. Higher sales were also reported in April by: distributors of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (+1.4%); wholesalers of motor vehicles (+0.4%); wholesalers of household goods (+0.6%).

Food, beverage, drug and tobacco wholesalers recorded a 1.7% decline in April. This followed a 1.1% increase in March and declines in February (-1.1%) and January (-1.4%).

Regional sales movements vary

Regionally, sales movements were mixed. The largest increases came in British Columbia (+1.8%), Ontario (+0.6%) and New Brunswick (+4.1%). Accounting for approximately 15% of all sales, British Columbia continued to show strong growth, recording its fourth consecutive monthly increase since December 1993.

Inventories

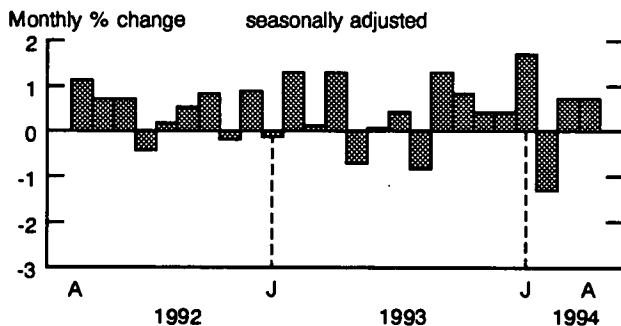
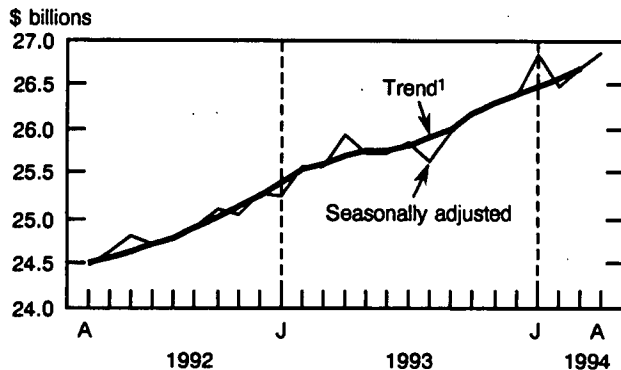
Inventory levels rose for the second month in a row (+0.7% to \$26.9 billion). The largest increases were by distributors of other products (+2.8%) and wholesalers of food (+2.1%).

The inventories to sales ratio remained at 1.45:1 for the second month in a row.

Unadjusted

Total sales stood 11.8% higher than a year earlier, led by strong growth in other machinery, equipment and supplies (includes commodities such as computers, office machines, etc.), up 22.5%. Inventory levels stood 4.1% above levels in April 1993.

Wholesale merchants' Inventories



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

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

The April 1994 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008, \$16/\$160) will be available the second week of July. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Catherine Mamay (613-951-9683) or Gilles Simard (613-951-3541), Industry Division. □

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Friday, September 16, 1993
For release at 9:00 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Laborer Payroll Survey, August 1993**
The unemployment rate fell 0.2 to 11.3 in August 1993. 2
- **Price Product Price Index, July 1993**
The Price Product Price Index rose 0.2% in July. The price index continued to track the price index in July 1993. 4
- **Annualized Statistics of Education, 1992-93**
Statistics Canada, September 16, 1993. The 5.4% increase in 1992-93 was the greatest increase in 10 years. 6

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department Store Sales for February and March 1993
Retail Store Sales for February and March 1993
Retail Store Sales for February and March 1993
Retail Store Sales for February and March 1993
Retail Store Sales for February and March 1993

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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Wholesale merchants' sales

Trade group	April 1993	March 1994 ^r	April ^p 1994	April 1993 to April 1994	April 1993	Jan. 1994 ^r	Feb. 1994 ^r	March 1994 ^r	April 1994 ^p	March 1994 to April 1994	April 1993 to April 1994	
	\$ millions				% change		\$ millions				% change	
	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted							
Canada												
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	4,302	4,576	4,409	2.5	4,315	4,622	4,570	4,622	4,546	-1.7	5.3	
Apparel and dry goods	408	522	410	0.4	428	437	421	420	447	6.3	4.4	
Household goods	551	585	546	-1.0	580	558	566	583	586	0.6	1.0	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,904	2,450	2,240	17.6	1,781	2,026	2,030	2,074	2,083	0.4	16.9	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,147	1,394	1,361	18.6	1,144	1,277	1,312	1,350	1,369	1.4	19.7	
Lumber and building materials	1,638	1,565	1,736	6.0	1,597	1,701	1,666	1,677	1,723	2.8	7.9	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	429	408	472	10.1	355	440	431	424	413	-2.6	16.3	
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,397	5,050	4,160	22.5	3,429	4,132	4,188	4,341	4,332	-0.2	26.3	
Other products	2,711	3,037	3,100	14.4	2,630	2,806	2,823	2,912	2,999	3.0	14.0	
Total, all trades	16,487	19,589	18,434	11.8	16,259	17,998	18,007	18,404	18,497	0.5	13.8	
Provinces and territories												
Newfoundland	156	167	164	5.4	176	181	173	186	186	-0.2	5.5	
Prince Edward Island	36	41	44	24.2	40	44	43	46	48	4.5	20.6	
Nova Scotia	345	400	403	16.9	343	411	393	412	411	-0.2	20.0	
New Brunswick	223	235	248	11.0	231	245	231	245	255	4.1	10.5	
Quebec	3,911	4,393	4,039	3.3	3,941	4,217	4,210	4,216	4,210	-0.1	6.8	
Ontario	6,843	8,385	7,734	13.0	6,638	7,440	7,488	7,627	7,669	0.6	15.5	
Manitoba	583	620	622	6.6	588	596	597	628	619	-1.4	5.3	
Saskatchewan	495	550	586	18.5	519	550	558	593	600	1.1	15.5	
Alberta	1,515	1,860	1,804	19.1	1,494	1,763	1,757	1,796	1,796	--	20.2	
British Columbia	2,360	2,916	2,768	17.3	2,268	2,531	2,534	2,633	2,679	1.8	18.1	
Yukon and Northwest Territories	20	22	22	7.7	21	21	22	22	24	7.2	10.1	

^r Revised figures.^p Preliminary figures.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Wholesale merchants' inventories

Trade group	April 1993	March 1994 ^r	April ^p 1994	April 1993 to April 1994	April 1993	Jan. 1994 ^r	Feb. 1994 ^r	March 1994 ^r	April 1994 ^p	March 1994 to April 1994	April 1993 to April 1994	
	\$ millions				% change		\$ millions				% change	
	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted							
Canada												
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,276	3,185	3,449	5.3	3,308	3,336	3,236	3,358	3,430	2.1	3.7	
Apparel and dry goods	936	1,041	1,047	11.9	931	1,063	1,062	1,047	1,055	0.7	13.3	
Household goods	1,260	1,229	1,239	-1.7	1,260	1,299	1,283	1,268	1,259	-0.7	-0.1	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	4,178	3,657	3,680	-11.9	4,022	3,511	3,470	3,495	3,515	0.6	-12.6	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,231	2,561	2,642	18.4	2,159	2,466	2,509	2,548	2,550	0.1	18.1	
Lumber and building materials	2,897	3,055	3,088	6.6	2,634	2,907	2,852	2,832	2,806	-0.9	6.5	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,266	1,359	1,418	12.0	1,203	1,265	1,283	1,297	1,326	2.2	10.2	
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,193	7,337	7,446	3.5	7,040	7,427	7,260	7,278	7,279	--	3.4	
Other products	3,479	3,683	3,812	9.6	3,380	3,570	3,546	3,571	3,670	2.8	8.6	
Total, all trades	26,718	27,107	27,821	4.1	25,936	26,843	26,502	26,694	26,889	0.7	3.7	

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

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DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Export and Import price Indexes

April 1994

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1986 = 100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to April 1994 for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups.

Customs-based current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1986 = 100) are also available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to April 1994. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only SITC section indexes.

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

The April 1994 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the last week of June. See "How to order publications".

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

Quarterly demographic statistics

January to March 1994

Preliminary postcensal estimates of population for Canada, the provinces and territories as of April 1, 1994 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1-6, 397, 5731, 6470, 6516 and 6982.

These estimates will appear in *Quarterly demographic statistics* (91-002, \$8/\$32) in a few weeks.

For further information on this release, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre or the relevant division.

For further information on vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages), contact Nelson Nault (613-951-2990), Health Statistics Division.

For further information on other demographic estimates, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320), Demography Division. ■

Construction type plywood

April 1994

In April, production of construction type plywood totalled 162 770 cubic metres, a 5.7% increase from 153 921 cubic metres in April 1993.

For January to April 1994, production totalled 622 485 cubic metres, a 0.03% increase from 622 281 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The April 1994 issue of *Construction type plywood* (35-001, \$6/\$60) will be available later. See "How to order publications".

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

Production, shipments and stocks of sawmills in British Columbia

April 1994

Sawmills in British Columbia produced 2 911 993 cubic metres of lumber and ties in April 1994, a 2.0% decrease from 2 971 442 cubic metres in April 1993.

For January to April 1994, production totalled 12 024 752 cubic metres, up 2.3% from 11 749 947 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1993.

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

The April 1994 issue of *Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills in British Columbia* (35-003, \$8/\$80) will be available later. See "How to order publications".

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

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North American Life Centre
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Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3M3

Local calls: (902) 426-5331
Toll free: 1-800-565-7192
Fax: 1-902-426-9538

Quebec

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Statistics Canada
Suite 412, East Tower
Guy Favreau Complex
200 René Lévesque Blvd. W.
Montréal, Québec
H2Z 1X4

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National Capital Region

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K1A 0T6

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M4T 1M4

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Advisory Services
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Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 3L9

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Fax: 1-204-983-7543

Saskatchewan

Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Avord Tower, 9th Floor
2002 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 0R7

Local calls: (306) 780-5405
Toll free: 1-800-667-7164
Fax: 1-306-780-5403

Southern Alberta

Advisory Services
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First Street Plaza, Room 401
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Calgary, Alberta
T2G 4Z6

Local calls: (403) 292-6717
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Fax: 1-403-292-4958

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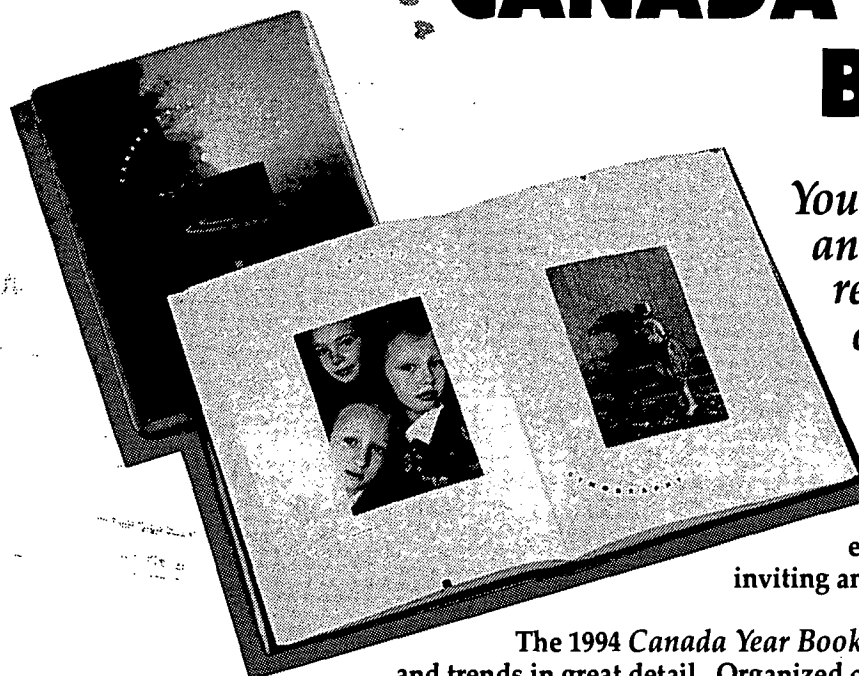
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