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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Focus on Canada series: the self-employed 1991 Census

Is being self-employed an attractive economic alternative or a condition imposed on people by circumstances beyond their control? *The self-employed*, one of 11 reports in the *Focus on Canada* series from the 1991 Census, profiles two types of self-employed workers in Canada: those with paid help and those without. The author analyzes these groups in terms of demographics, labour characteristics, industries, occupations and incomes.

The *Focus on Canada* series is distributed exclusively by Prentice Hall Canada Inc., 1870 Birchmount Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1P 2J7. Copies of *The self-employed* (96-316E, \$12) may be ordered by toll-free telephone at 1-800-567-3800 or by fax at 1-416-299-2529.



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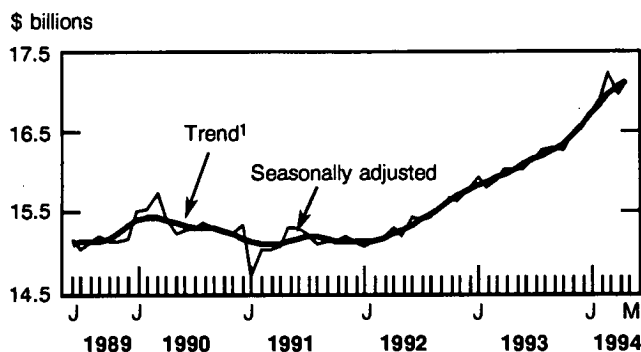
MAJOR RELEASES

Retail trade

May 1994 (preliminary)

Consumers resumed their spending on goods in May after pausing in April. Seasonally adjusted retail sales rose 1.0% to \$17.1 billion, coinciding with similar movements in employment in the trade sector over the latest two months.

Consumers resumed spending on goods in May



Data prior to 1991 have been adjusted to remove the Federal Sales Tax to be comparable to January 1991 and subsequent data.

¹ Trend represents smoothed seasonally adjusted data.

The sales increase in May was the sixth increase in seven months. The strength came from all sectors, but was led by the automotive and food retailers.

Since mid-1993, changes in total retail sales have been generally dominated by the automotive, general merchandise and food sectors. The trends in these sectors have been increasing, but they have been increasing at a slower rate over the latest three months. In 1994 the trends in all sectors of retail trade have been positive; this includes clothing and furniture stores, which reported weak sales in the fourth quarter of 1993.

Consumers resume spending on goods

All retail sectors grew in May. The largest increase was in the automotive sector (+1.2% to \$6.1 billion) after a 2.8% drop in April. Despite this increase, consumers have been slowing their

spending on automotive products in the latest three months.

Two of the three components of the automotive sector recorded higher sales in May. The largest upward influence came from a 2.3% gain in sales by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers after a drop of 4.0% in April (the number of new motor vehicles sold increased 1.2% in May). Gasoline service stations recorded higher sales in May after a 0.9% decline in April. Partly offsetting this gain in May was a 2.4% sales decline by automotive parts, accessories and services outlets after two consecutive monthly increases.

Spending in food stores increased 1.0% in May, the sixth increase in seven months. Sales by super-markets and grocery stores led this increase as a 1.0% gain more than offset the 0.4% decline reported in April. Despite these increases in recent months, sales by food retailers have experienced a slower rate of growth over the latest two months.

Mixed provincial patterns

From 1993 to the first quarter of 1994, all provinces registered fluctuating retail sales around a generally upward trend. Of the six provinces reporting higher sales in May, Quebec (+2.9%) and British Columbia (+2.4%) recorded the most significant increases. The increase in Quebec more than offset a 2.5% drop in April.

Year-to-date

Unadjusted cumulative retail sales for the first five months of 1994 totalled \$79.0 billion, up 6.5% from the corresponding period in 1993. In April, cumulative sales were 6.4% higher than in the same period of 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2299, 2398-2417 and 2420.

The May 1994 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005, \$20/\$200) will be available the first week of August. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Sonia Demers (613-951-3551), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

Retail sales

Trade group	May 1993	February 1994 ^r	March 1994 ^r	April 1994 ^r	May 1994 ^p	April 1994 ^r to May 1994 ^p	May 1993 to May 1994 ^p
	\$ millions					% change	
	seasonally adjusted						
Food	4,243	4,387	4,429	4,393	4,436	1.0	4.6
Supermarkets and grocery stores	3,955	4,107	4,137	4,120	4,163	1.0	5.3
All other food stores	288	281	292	273	274	0.1	-5.1
Drug and patent medicine stores	980	1,006	1,022	1,016	1,017	0.1	3.8
Clothing	952	970	983	975	982	0.7	3.2
Shoe stores	133	147	145	144	150	4.8	13.2
Men's clothing stores	145	152	156	156	154	-1.3	6.6
Women's clothing stores	321	321	325	317	320	1.2	-0.1
Other clothing stores	353	350	357	359	357	-0.4	1.1
Furniture	878	881	897	899	916	1.9	4.3
Household furniture and appliance stores	693	687	702	707	723	2.3	4.4
Household furnishings stores	185	194	196	193	193	0.2	4.2
Automotive	5,469	5,985	6,184	6,013	6,084	1.2	11.2
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	3,398	3,838	4,014	3,850	3,938	2.3	15.9
Gasoline service stations	1,176	1,172	1,181	1,171	1,178	0.6	0.2
Automotive parts, accessories and services	896	975	989	992	968	-2.4	8.1
General merchandise stores	1,703	1,808	1,836	1,773	1,783	0.5	4.6
Retail stores not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.)	1,825	1,872	1,902	1,887	1,916	1.5	5.0
Other semi-durable goods stores	558	560	561	578	579	0.2	3.7
Other durable goods stores	434	459	486	464	473	2.0	9.2
All other retail stores n.e.c.	833	853	855	845	863	2.1	3.6
Total, retail sales	16,050	16,908	17,254	16,957	17,134	1.0	6.8
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	12,653	13,070	13,240	13,107	13,196	0.7	4.3
Department store type merchandise	5,505	5,683	5,786	5,706	5,750	0.8	4.5
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland	274	280	288	283	284	0.3	3.3
Prince Edward Island	70	72	74	72	73	1.0	3.4
Nova Scotia	533	543	567	543	536	-1.3	0.6
New Brunswick	412	426	417	408	413	1.1	0.3
Quebec	3,911	4,166	4,189	4,087	4,204	2.9	7.5
Ontario	5,916	6,203	6,397	6,268	6,306	0.6	6.6
Manitoba	547	585	586	575	554	-3.6	1.4
Saskatchewan	471	500	507	523	512	-2.1	8.6
Alberta	1,690	1,771	1,852	1,822	1,820	-0.1	7.7
British Columbia	2,175	2,306	2,322	2,322	2,378	2.4	9.3
Yukon	17	17	17	16	17	1.2	-2.7
Northwest Territories	33	38	39	39	39	-0.6	15.7

^p Preliminary figures.^r Revised figures.

Retail sales

Trade group	May 1993	April 1994 ^r	May 1994 ^p	May 1993 to May 1994 ^p
	\$ millions			% change
	unadjusted			
Food	4,366	4,444	4,447	1.8
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,064	4,174	4,161	2.4
All other food stores	302	271	286	-5.4
Drug and patent medicine stores	961	989	995	3.6
Clothing	962	943	980	1.9
Shoe stores	145	150	160	10.5
Men's clothing stores	147	145	150	2.2
Women's clothing stores	337	315	332	-1.6
Other clothing stores	333	333	338	1.5
Furniture	815	838	854	4.8
Household furniture and appliance stores	633	657	662	4.7
Household furnishings stores	182	181	192	5.1
Automotive	6,253	6,516	7,108	13.7
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	4,067	4,415	4,830	18.7
Gasoline service stations	1,196	1,094	1,199	0.3
Automotive parts, accessories and services	989	1,008	1,079	9.0
General merchandise stores	1,648	1,649	1,703	3.3
Retail stores not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.)	1,899	1,735	1,973	3.9
Other semi-durable goods stores	625	528	649	3.8
Other durable goods stores	424	415	457	7.7
All other retail stores n.e.c.	850	792	868	2.1
Total, retail sales	16,903	17,114	18,060	6.8
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	12,836	12,700	13,230	3.1
Department store type merchandise	5,435	5,362	5,638	3.7
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland	278	281	288	3.5
Prince Edward Island	72	68	75	4.7
Nova Scotia	555	543	555	--
New Brunswick	424	407	431	1.5
Quebec	4,309	4,359	4,634	7.5
Ontario	6,203	6,214	6,601	6.4
Manitoba	569	574	581	2.2
Saskatchewan	488	525	526	7.8
Alberta	1,743	1,827	1,884	8.1
British Columbia	2,209	2,262	2,429	9.9
Yukon	18	16	17	-6.6
Northwest Territories	34	38	39	13.2

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Attitudes of graduates with bachelor's degrees toward their programs

1992

Two years after graduation, 70% of university graduates with bachelor's degrees would select the same field again and 80% would return to the same school.

Graduates' university experiences may not have met their expectations

Overall, graduates rated general self-improvement as the most important reason for enrolling. Business graduates rated improved chances of a good income first in importance. Education, engineering and applied sciences graduates rated development of job skills as most important.

But graduates' university experiences may not have met their expectations. Graduates rated their programs lower at providing them with skills, knowledge and opportunities than the level of importance they had assigned to each reason for enrolling. The largest gap between expectations and results was for the acquisition of job skills: rated at 2.47 (out of a possible 3) in importance at enrolment, but rated at only 2.01 in extent to which the program provided these skills. The next largest deviation was for improved chances of a good income: rated at 2.50 in importance, but rated at only 2.15 in extent to which the program delivered.

Graduates are generally satisfied with the delivery of programs

Graduates of all programs reported about the same level of satisfaction with faculty availability, institutional facilities (libraries, labs, computers, etc.), class size and quality of teaching. Humanities, general arts and sciences, part-time and co-op students were more satisfied than the average in all four aspects. Agriculture and biological sciences graduates rated their satisfaction below average in all four aspects.

Eighty-six percent of graduates were satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of teaching in their program. Satisfaction with the quality of teaching was highest among humanities graduates and lowest among engineering and applied sciences graduates.

Note to users

The National Graduates Survey of students who graduated in 1990 was conducted in 1992. It is the first national survey to ask graduates about their satisfaction with their schooling after two years in the labour force. The survey also looked at graduates' reasons for enrolling, the knowledge they gained about career opportunities while at school, and how well they were integrated into the labour market. Over 36,000 graduates were interviewed, of which 11,000 were graduates with bachelor's degrees.

Developing independent thinking skills rates highest

The extent to which their program developed independent thinking skills scored highest among graduates (2.41 out of a possible 3). Development of decision-making skills ranked second (2.25), followed by good writing skills (1.97) and good speaking skills (1.95). There was a wide variation between disciplines for writing and speaking skills and much less variation for independent thinking and decision-making skills.

Humanities, general arts and sciences, and social sciences graduates ranked their programs highest at developing good writing skills. Mathematics and physical sciences and engineering and applied sciences graduates ranked their programs lowest.

Graduates want employment related to field of study

Overall, 82% of graduates with bachelor's degrees considered it important to have employment related to their field of study. But only 61% believed that their program provided them to at least some extent with knowledge about career opportunities. The health professions, engineering and applied sciences, business, education, and co-op programs were rated highest by graduates in providing knowledge of career opportunities. Humanities, general arts and sciences, fine and applied arts, and social sciences were rated lowest.

These and other findings of a unique survey of postsecondary graduates were released today in an article in the summer 1994 (vol. 1, no. 2) issue of *Education quarterly review* (81-003, \$15/\$60), which is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Jim Seidle (613-951-1500, fax: 613-951-9040), Education Subdivision, Education, Culture and Tourism Division. ■

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Federal government and government business enterprises employment and remuneration

Fourth quarter 1993 (unadjusted)

Data for the fourth quarter of 1993 on federal government and government business enterprises employment and remuneration are now available. Employment data are quarterly averages. Remuneration data are quarterly totals.

Federal government

Total government employment (which excludes government business enterprises) averaged 396,800 employees in the fourth quarter 1993, a 1.9% decrease from the fourth quarter 1992. Remuneration totalled \$4.3 billion in the fourth quarter of 1993, a 1.6% decrease from the fourth quarter of 1992.

Federal government business enterprises

For federal government business enterprises, employment decreased 1.5% from the fourth quarter of 1992, to average 148,200 employees. Total remuneration was \$1.5 billion in the fourth quarter 1993, a 1.5% increase from a year earlier.

Note: The number of employees are shown as "on strength" and include all employees within and outside Canada who are full-time, part-time and casual employees. "On strength" includes paid employees who report to work and persons who are not being paid but who are considered employees (such as those on strike or on unpaid leave). Remuneration data are presented on a cash basis as compared to an accrual basis.

Government includes departments, agencies, boards, commissions, municipalities, and funds established and controlled by governments, public educational institutions, cultural facilities, hospitals and social agencies, and the bodies administering universal pension plans.

Government business enterprises are organizations engaged in commercial operations. Such enterprises are similar in motivation to private business enterprises and either compete with private enterprises or monopolize markets that would otherwise be serviced by the private sector.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2717-2720.

For further information on this release, contact Ferhana Ansari (613-951-1843) or Yves Gauthier (613-951-1845), Public Employment Section, Public Institutions Division.

Data are also available through custom and special tabulation. For further information or general inquiries on the Public Institutions Division's products or services, contact Susan Stobert, Data Dissemination and External Relations Unit (613-951-0767, fax: 613-951-0661). ■

Local government long-term debt

June 1994

Estimates of the accumulated long-term debt of local governments for all provinces except Ontario are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Marlene Vollmer (613-951-1830), Public Institutions.

Data are also available through custom and special tabulations. For further information or general inquiries on Public Institutions Division products or services, contact Jo-Anne Thibault, Data Dissemination and External Relations Co-ordinator (613-951-0767). ■

Construction union wage rate index

June 1994

The construction union wage rate index (including supplements) for Canada (1986=100) remained unchanged in June 1994 from May's revised level of 136.3. Year-over-year, the composite index increased 1.8% to 136.3 in June 1994, from 133.9 in June 1993. This was the smallest June-over-June movement in the index since 1984, when a 1.4% 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-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350), Information and Current Analysis Unit, Prices Division (fax: 613-951-2848).

Selected financial indexes

June 1994

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

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-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350), Information and Current Analysis Unit, Prices Division (fax: 613-951-2848).

Preliminary boundaries of census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations

1996 Census

Two reports showing preliminary boundaries for the 1996 census metropolitan areas and census-tracked

census agglomerations with urban core populations of at least 50,000 are now available. The reports outline the methodology used in defining the census metropolitan areas and census-tracked census agglomerations. As well, each census metropolitan area and census-tracked census agglomeration is presented on a map showing its component municipalities (census subdivisions) along with a table showing the 1991 and 1996 inclusion criteria by census subdivision.

Preliminary 1996 census metropolitan areas and Preliminary 1996 census agglomerations with urban core populations of at least 50,000 are now available from GEO-Help for \$30 each (613-951-3889, fax: 613-951-0569).

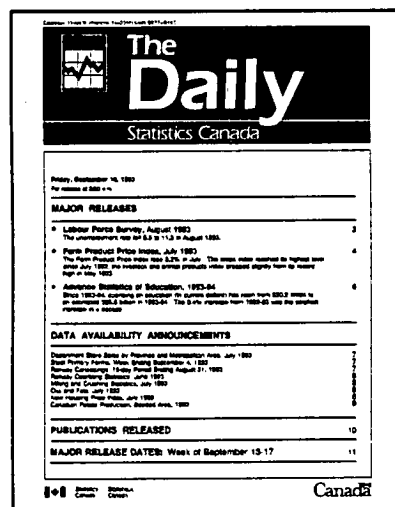
Stocks of frozen poultry meat

July 1, 1994

Preliminary data on the stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage for July 1, 1994 are now available. Revised data for June 1, 1994 are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.

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



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Monthly survey of manufacturing, May 1994.

Catalogue number 31-001

(Canada: \$19/\$190; United States: US\$23/US\$228;
other countries: US\$27/US\$266).

Average prices of selected farm inputs, June 1994.

Catalogue number 62-012

(Canada: \$8/\$48; United States: US\$10/US\$58; other
countries: US\$12/US\$68).

Department store sales and stocks, March 1994.

Catalogue number 63-002

(Canada: \$16/\$160; United States: US\$20/US\$192;
other countries: US\$23/US\$224).

**Touriscope: International travel—advance
Information, May 1994, vol. 10, no. 5.**

Catalogue number 66-001P

(Canada: \$7/\$70; United States: US\$9/US\$84; other
countries: US\$10/US\$98).

**Education quarterly review, summer 1994,
vol. 1, no. 2.**

Catalogue number 81-003

(Canada: \$15/\$60; United States: US\$18/US\$72;
other countries: US\$21/US\$84).

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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