

# The Daily

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### • Consumer price index, July 1994

The price of the consumer basket of goods and services rose by 0.2% between July 1993 and July 1994. The same year-over-year rate of change was experienced in February, March and April. The CPI basket cost 0.2% less in May than it did in May 1993, and exactly the same in June as it did in June 1993.

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### • Retail trade, June 1994

Consumer spending on goods increased at a robust pace for a second consecutive month. Seasonally adjusted retail sales rose 1.2% to \$17.4 billion.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

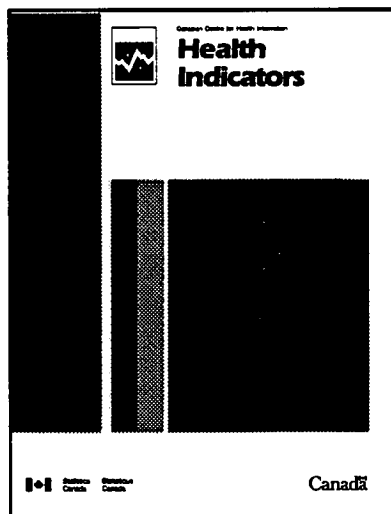
Sales of natural gas, June 1994

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Corrugated boxes and wrappers, July 1994

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### Health Indicators

Fourth edition

*Health indicators'* fourth edition is made up of 56 indicators containing the most recent data available from a wide variety of national surveys and databases relating to health determinants, status, resources and resource utilization.

The database is intended to meet the requirements of health professionals and special interest groups, especially those developing and evaluating health policies and programs.

The package includes explanatory text, tables and charts as well as personal computer diskettes containing the database and software for data retrieval and analysis.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 1001-1003, 1084-1097, 4263-4282 and tables 00060101-00060217.**

For further information, contact Deidre Gillieson (613-951-1635, fax: 613-951-0792), Health Statistics Division.



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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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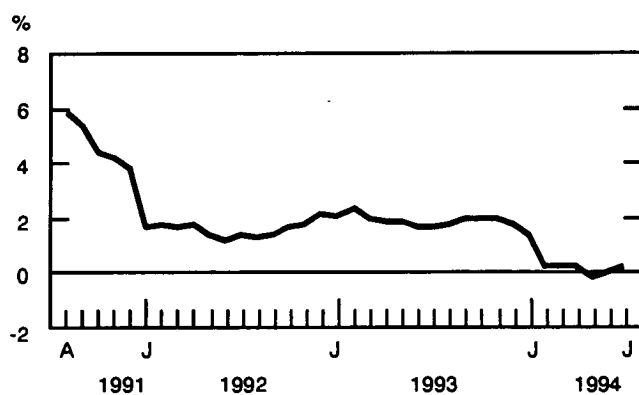
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Consumer price index

July 1994

The price of the consumer basket of goods and services rose by 0.2% between July 1993 and July 1994. The same year-over-year rate of change was experienced in February, March and April. The consumer price index (CPI) basket cost 0.2% less in May than it did in May the year before, and exactly the same in June as it did in June 1993.

Percentage change in the consumer price index from the same month of the previous year



Prices increased over July 1993 levels in all major components except tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. The largest increase was in the transportation component (+5.3%) where consumers paid significantly more for new vehicles (+7.2%), insurance premiums (+8.4%), and air fares (+17.5%). The tobacco products and alcoholic beverages component showed an 18.2% annual decline. This decrease resulted largely from a reduction in the federal excise tax on tobacco products in February and subsequent tax reductions in five provinces. These tax changes will affect the annual movements until next spring. Compared with the corresponding month last year, the July 1994 index for all-items excluding tobacco products increased 1.6%.

### Transportation price increases lead monthly movement

Consumers spent 0.4% more for the CPI basket of goods and services in July than they did in June. Most of the latest change was due to an increase of 1.1% in transportation charges. In addition, consumers paid higher prices for food (+0.6%) and housing (+0.2%). Some relief came from declines in health and personal care charges (-0.6%) and in the price of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages (-0.4%).

### Monthly price changes for major components

The travelling public faced higher transportation charges between June and July, partly as a result of seasonal factors. Notable increases were recorded for air fares (+13.0%), gasoline (+1.8%), and new vehicles (+0.6%). At the same time, motorists benefitted slightly from lower prices for tires, batteries, oil changes, and body maintenance and repairs.

Air fares rose as a result of seasonal increases for domestic flights and travel to European and Caribbean destinations, but the increase this July was the highest since the 14.0% rise observed in July 1990.

Motorists experienced another rise in gasoline prices in July, making this the sixth month in a row in which prices have risen. A contributing factor was increases in crude oil prices which, according to the raw materials price index, rose 26.3% between March and May and a further 7.8% between May and June. Supply restrictions by OPEC countries and a revival in demand associated with the economic recovery of most industrial countries appear to have contributed to the increase.

A resurgence in demand in recent months led to a 0.6% price rise for new vehicles between June and July. Unit sales of new vehicles rose 13.4% in June 1994 compared to June 1993.

Food prices jumped by 0.6% in July, the largest monthly increase since January 1993. Grocery prices rose 0.7% and restaurant prices advanced 0.3%. In spite of this latest rise, food prices were only 0.5% higher in July 1994 than they were a year ago.

The latest rise resulted mostly from higher prices for fresh fruit (notably apples and citrus fruit), coffee, low fat milk, eggs and selected bakery products. Fresh vegetable prices rose slightly as higher

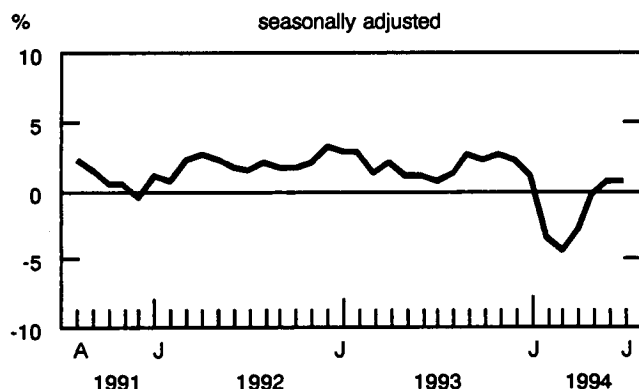
prices for potatoes and carrots were offset by lower prices for most salad type vegetables. Grocery store shoppers benefited from price declines for soft drinks and meat.

Housing charges rose in response to a largely seasonal rise of 9.2% in hotel and motel rates. Rented accommodation charges increased slightly, while homeownership charges were unchanged as a drop in the cost of maintenance and repairs was offset by a small rise in mortgage interest costs. Prices of most household textiles fell, and pet expenses increased.

Increases in the indexes for recreation, reading and education (+0.1%) and for clothing (+0.1%) contributed minimally to the overall rise in consumer prices. In the former, higher prices were noted for newspapers and for tickets to football games. In the latter, higher prices were experienced for women's sportswear and for men's suits and watches but the impact of these was largely eroded by lower prices for women's foundation garments, girls' wear and boys' wear.

Declines were observed in health and personal care charges (-0.6%) and in the prices of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages (-0.4%). In the first case, prices of personal care supplies fell noticeably. In the other case, prices of alcoholic beverages declined by 0.5%, mostly due to price reductions on wine in Quebec.

**Three month percentage changes in the CPI at annualized rates**



## Seasonally adjusted movements

In seasonally adjusted terms, the CPI rose by 0.2% between June and July, the same rate as between May and June. The food index increased by 0.6% while the CPI excluding food edged up 0.1%. The compounded annual rate of change in the latest 3-month period (April to July) was 0.6%, the same as in the three-month period ending in June.

## Special aggregates

### Energy

Energy prices rose by 0.9% between June and July, the third increase in as many months. Most of this increase was associated with the 1.8% rise in gasoline prices. Since July last year, the energy index has risen by 1.7% driven mostly by advances of 1.8% in gasoline prices and 7.4% in piped gas rates.

### All-items excluding food and energy

The index showed a monthly increase of 0.3% in July following a rise of 0.2% in June. These increases followed six months of continuous declines. The index fell by 0.1% from its level in July 1993. A similar drop was seen in May. The June index was at the same level as in June 1993.

### Goods and services

The goods index moved up by 0.2% in July following a 0.3% rise in June. The latest increase resulted from advances of 0.3% and 0.4% in the prices of durables and non-durables respectively, while the prices of semi-durables fell by a slight 0.1%. The services index rose by 0.4%, the highest month-to-month change since February.

Since July last year, the goods index fell by 1.3%, extending year-over-year declines to six months in a row. The services index, in contrast, rose by 1.7% over its level of July 1993. Since January, year-over-year increases in this index have varied between 1.5% and 1.8%.

### All-items excluding tobacco products

Federal and provincial tax changes applicable to tobacco products were introduced in the spring. The following table indicates the year-over-year rates of change in the CPI and the CPI excluding tobacco products for Canada, the provinces and the territories.

# Year-over-year percentage change in the July CPI

|                      | All-items  | All-items excluding tobacco products |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Canada</b>        | <b>0.2</b> | <b>1.6</b>                           |
| Newfoundland         | 1.1        | 1.5                                  |
| Prince Edward Island | -0.8       | 1.3                                  |
| Nova Scotia          | 1.1        | 2.7                                  |
| New Brunswick        | 0.6        | 2.1                                  |
| Quebec               | -1.5       | 0.9                                  |
| Ontario              | 0.0        | 1.5                                  |
| Manitoba             | 1.4        | 1.8                                  |
| Saskatchewan         | 1.8        | 2.2                                  |
| Alberta              | 1.4        | 1.9                                  |
| British Columbia     | 2.1        | 2.5                                  |
| Whitehorse           | 2.1        | 2.6                                  |
| Yellowknife          | 2.1        | 1.9                                  |

## Provincial highlights

Between June and July 1994, movements in provincial CPIs varied between no change in Quebec to increases of 0.6% reported for New Brunswick and Alberta.

## The consumer price index and major components (1986 = 100)

| Indexes  | July 1994    | June 1994    | July 1993    | June 1994 to July 1994 | July 1993 to July 1994 |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|  | unadjusted   |              |              | % change               |                        |
| <b>All-items</b>   | <b>130.7</b> | <b>130.2</b> | <b>130.5</b> | <b>0.4</b>             | <b>0.2</b>             |
| Food   | 124.0        | 123.3        | 123.4        | 0.6                    | 0.5                    |
| Housing  | 128.4        | 128.1        | 128.1        | 0.2                    | 0.2                    |
| Clothing   | 131.7        | 131.6        | 130.4        | 0.1                    | 1.0                    |
| Transportation   | 132.4        | 130.9        | 125.7        | 1.1                    | 5.3                    |
| Health and personal care   | 135.5        | 136.3        | 135.0        | -0.6                   | 0.4                    |
| Recreation, reading and education  | 138.9        | 138.7        | 135.1        | 0.1                    | 2.8                    |
| Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages                                     | 140.3        | 140.9        | 171.6        | -0.4                   | -18.2                  |
| All-items excluding food   | 132.2        | 131.8        | 132.1        | 0.3                    | 0.1                    |
| All-items excluding food and energy  | 132.8        | 132.4        | 132.9        | 0.3                    | -0.1                   |
| Goods  | 124.4        | 124.1        | 126.0        | 0.2                    | -1.3                   |
| Services   | 138.3        | 137.7        | 136.0        | 0.4                    | 1.7                    |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1986 | 76.5         | 76.8         | 76.6         |                        |                        |
| All-items (1981 = 100)   | 173.0        |              |              |                        |                        |

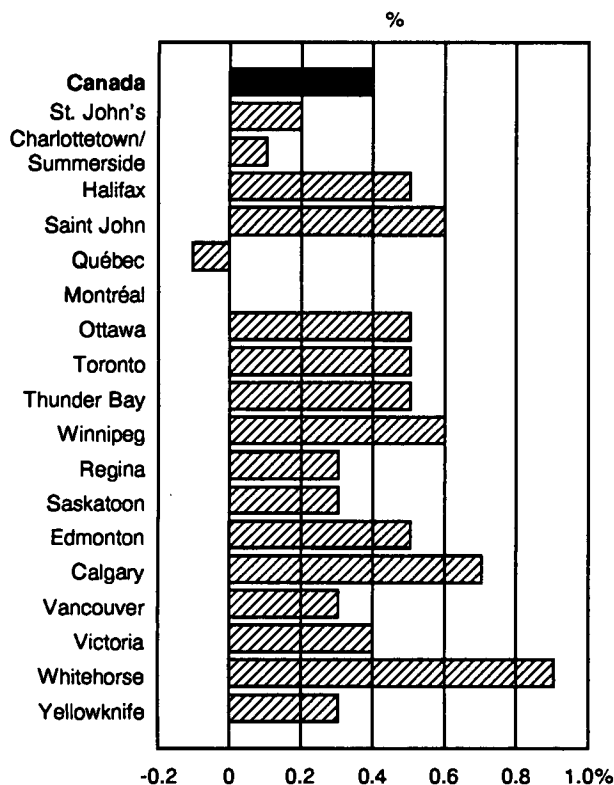
Between July 1993 and July 1994, the changes ranged from a decline of 1.5% in Quebec to a rise of 2.1% in British Columbia. Annual changes in provincial CPIs excluding tobacco products varied from a low of 0.9% in Quebec to a high of 2.7% in Nova Scotia.

## City highlights

Monthly changes in the CPIs for cities for which price indexes are published ranged from a drop of 0.1% in Québec to a rise of 0.9% in Whitehorse. In Québec, significant declines were observed in the prices of food, clothing, and alcoholic beverages. In Whitehorse, above average price increases were noted for housing and transportation.

Between July 1993 and July 1994, movements in city CPIs ranged between a decline of 1.5% in Montréal to a rise of 2.3% in Victoria.

**Percentage change in the all-items index  
June 1994 to July 1994**



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

### St. John's

In July, consumers saw higher food prices, particularly for fresh vegetables, chicken, cereal and bakery products, and coffee. Air fares were up, along with prices for men's and girls' wear. Housing charges remained unchanged overall as increased charges for electricity and for traveller accommodation were offset by a drop in new house prices. Lower prices for personal care supplies and cigarettes moderated the overall advance.

### Charlottetown/Summerside

Consumers faced higher transportation costs in July, as prices rose for new vehicles, air travel, gasoline and vehicle insurance. Food prices were

also up, particularly for chicken, cured and prepared meats, and cereal products. Travellers paid higher rates for hotel and motel accommodation. Rent increases were recorded, and homeowners saw a rise in mortgage interest costs. Cigarette prices were also up. Moderating these advances were lower charges for clothing, personal care supplies, eye care and electricity.

The year-over-year decline in prices largely reflects the drop in tobacco taxes. Three other cities reported negative year-over-year movements.

### Halifax

In July, consumers experienced higher transportation costs, particularly for air fares, gasoline, automotive vehicles, vehicle insurance and local bus fares. Food prices were also up, most notably for fresh produce, cereal and bakery products, sugar and coffee. In addition, travellers saw a rise in charges for hotel and motel accommodation. Clothing prices showed a slight drop.

### Saint John

Food prices rose sharply in July following a price decline in June. Increased prices were recorded for fresh produce, cereal and bakery products, beef, sugar and soft drinks. Motorists paid more in insurance premiums as well as for new vehicles. Air fares advanced but taxi fares declined. Lower prices for men's wear, cigarettes and personal care supplies had a dampening effect.

### Québec

Québec was the only city to register a monthly decline in prices. In July, consumers saw wine prices drop along with clothing, food and personal care supplies. The drop in food prices reflected price declines for fresh produce, chicken, pork, bread and prepared meats.

Motorists, however, faced higher costs for new vehicles, gasoline and maintenance and repairs, while travellers saw price increases for air fares and for hotel and motel accommodation. Mortgage interest costs were up, as were charges for rented accommodation.

The year-over-year decline in prices was largely due to lower prices for tobacco products and changes in the Quebec provincial retail sales tax. Of the four cities registering declines in their annual movements, only Montréal showed a greater drop in consumer prices.

## Montréal

In July, consumers saw a number of offsetting price movements. Lower prices for wine and cigarettes were recorded, along with price declines for clothing and personal care supplies.

Offsetting these declines were higher prices for traveller accommodation and household textiles, and increased mortgage interest costs. Prices for automotive vehicles were up, as were gasoline prices, vehicle insurance premiums and air fares. Food prices rose slightly, most notably for fresh produce, coffee and bakery products.

The year-over-year decline in prices was mainly due to lower tobacco taxes and changes in the provincial retail sales tax. Montréal had the largest decline of any of the four cities registering negative annual movements.

## Ottawa

Transportation costs rose in July, reflecting advances in air fares, gasoline and the cost of new vehicles. Consumers faced higher food prices, particularly for fresh fruit, coffee and eggs. In addition, price increases were recorded for traveller accommodation, rented accommodation, women's wear and admission to football games.

## Toronto

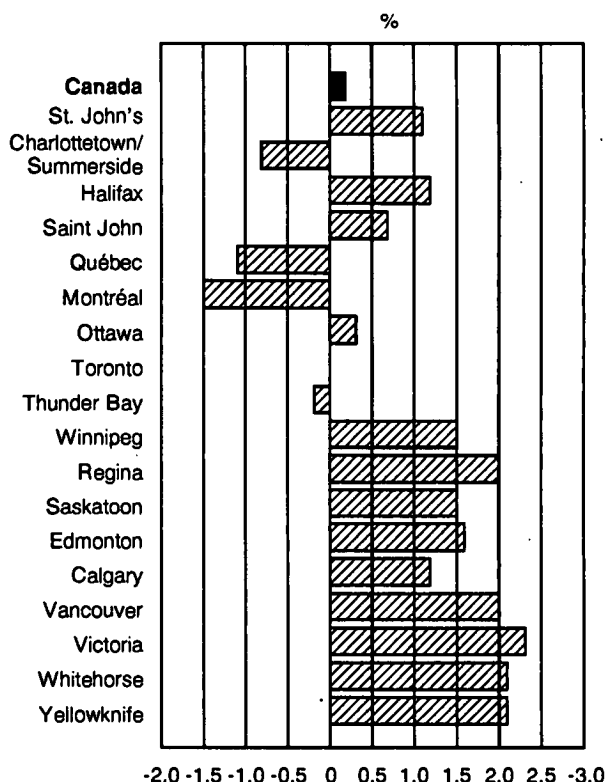
In July, transportation costs were up, most notably for air fares, new vehicles and gasoline. Consumers paid more for food, especially fresh produce, low-fat milk, restaurant meals and coffee. In addition, price advances were recorded for men's and women's wear, traveller accommodation, pet care, new houses and rented accommodation.

## Thunder Bay

Transportation costs rose in July, particularly for air travel, vehicle purchases and vehicle maintenance and repairs. Consumers saw food prices rise, most notably for fresh produce and coffee. Clothing prices were up, as were charges for hotel and motel accommodation.

Thunder Bay was one of four cities to register a negative year-over-year movement. This decline was largely due to the drop in tobacco taxes.

Percentage change in the all-items index  
July 1993 to July 1994



## Winnipeg

Between June and July of this year, consumers saw higher transportation costs, most notably for gasoline, air travel, and new vehicles. Clothing prices advanced, as did charges for hotel and motel accommodation. Food prices also rose, reflecting higher prices for coffee, cereal products, prepared meats and fresh fruit.

## Regina

Higher transportation costs, particularly for air travel and new vehicles, were among the main contributors to the overall price rise in July. Prices for men's and women's wear advanced as well. Consumers paid a little more for food, as higher

prices were recorded for beef, cereal and bakery products, chicken, coffee and soft drinks. Travellers paid more for hotel and motel accommodation while homeowners faced higher mortgage interest costs. In addition, higher charges were noted for pet care and household textiles.

### Saskatoon

In July, consumers spent more for transportation, particularly for air travel and new vehicles. Prices for men's and women's clothing advanced, and increased charges were recorded for traveller accommodation and rented accommodation. Food prices were up as well, mainly due to higher prices for cereal and bakery products, coffee and fresh fruit.

### Edmonton

The monthly rise in consumer prices was mainly due to higher transportation costs (air travel and new vehicles) and increased charges for traveller accommodation. In addition, price increases were recorded for liquor, newspapers, cablevision services and women's wear. Food prices rose slightly, most notably for fresh fruit, cereal and bakery products and eggs.

### Calgary

Higher transportation costs (air fares, gasoline and new vehicles) and increased charges for hotel and motel accommodation explained most of the month-to-month advance in prices.

Consumers saw higher food prices, particularly for fresh produce, coffee, and cereal and bakery products. Prices also rose for liquor and football tickets.

### Vancouver

In July, consumers experienced higher transportation costs, particularly for air travel, new vehicles, gasoline, and vehicle maintenance and repairs. Charges for hotel and motel accommodation were up, as was the cost of pet care.

Food prices rose slightly, especially for coffee, bakery products, fresh fruit, milk and chicken. Higher

prices were also recorded for admission to football games. Moderating these advances were lower prices for clothing and wine.

### Victoria

Despite lower prices for food, clothing, new houses and wine, consumers saw an overall rise in prices in July. Transportation costs were up, most notably for air fares and gasoline. It also cost more to stay in hotels and motels, and more to purchase liquor and household textiles.

Victoria registered the largest year-over-year movement of the 18 index cities.

### Whitehorse

Whitehorse registered the largest month-to-month movement of the 18 index cities in July. Consumers faced higher electricity charges and paid more to stay in hotels and motels. Transportation costs were up, mainly due to advances in air fares, new vehicle prices and vehicle maintenance and repair charges. Food prices rose slightly, most notably for chicken, soft drinks, fresh fruit and pork. Clothing prices fell, exerting a moderating effect.

### Yellowknife

In July, higher transportation charges explained most of the overall rise in consumer prices. It cost more to travel by air, gasoline prices were up, and the cost of new vehicles advanced. In addition, travellers paid more for hotel and motel accommodation. Charges for personal care supplies and eye care services were up as well. Moderating these advances were lower prices for food (chicken, fresh vegetables, cured meats, fish and eggs) and a drop in clothing prices.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2201-2230.**

The July 1994 issue of *The consumer price index* (62-001, \$10/\$100) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information, 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>               |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 126.3     | 121.5 | 118.0   | 134.0    | 130.2          | 126.8                    | 138.3                            | 145.2                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.2       | 0.8   | 0.0     | 0.1      | 0.6            | -1.2                     | 0.1                              | -0.3                                     |
| % change from July 1993         | 1.1       | 2.5   | -0.8    | -0.5     | 7.1            | -1.5                     | 4.4                              | -4.2                                     |
| <b>Charlottetown/Summerside</b> |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 128.5     | 131.0 | 120.8   | 126.9    | 125.1          | 139.7                    | 137.9                            | 151.3                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.1       | 0.4   | 0.1     | -3.9     | 2.2            | -2.2                     | 0.1                              | 0.3                                      |
| % change from July 1993         | -0.8      | 1.6   | -0.5    | 1.3      | 5.2            | -0.6                     | 2.5                              | -21.8                                    |
| <b>Halifax</b>                  |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 128.9     | 135.3 | 120.5   | 128.4    | 128.8          | 131.8                    | 135.7                            | 145.7                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.5       | 1.4   | -0.1    | -0.4     | 1.4            | 0.2                      | 0.2                              | 0.0                                      |
| % change from July 1993         | 1.2       | 4.7   | 0.2     | 0.8      | 6.4            | 0.5                      | 4.1                              | -15.2                                    |
| <b>Saint John</b>               |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 127.8     | 132.0 | 120.2   | 132.1    | 126.9          | 131.8                    | 134.0                            | 144.4                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.6       | 2.2   | -0.1    | -0.4     | 1.9            | -0.6                     | 0.4                              | -0.4                                     |
| % change from July 1993         | 0.7       | 3.6   | -0.5    | 1.4      | 5.1            | -0.7                     | 4.0                              | -15.9                                    |
| <b>Québec</b>                   |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 127.8     | 121.1 | 127.4   | 134.8    | 121.8          | 135.7                    | 141.1                            | 124.6                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | -0.1      | -0.3  | 0.2     | -0.9     | 0.8            | -0.4                     | 0.2                              | -2.0                                     |
| % change from July 1993         | -1.1      | 0.6   | -0.2    | 0.5      | 2.4            | -0.7                     | 2.7                              | -26.0                                    |
| <b>Montréal</b>                 |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 128.9     | 122.2 | 130.9   | 134.7    | 124.3          | 137.2                    | 143.6                            | 121.0                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.0       | 0.1   | 0.2     | -0.8     | 0.8            | -0.7                     | 0.0                              | -1.9                                     |
| % change from July 1993         | -1.5      | 1.3   | 0.5     | 0.5      | 2.8            | 0.8                      | 1.4                              | -30.4                                    |
| <b>Ottawa</b>                   |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 131.0     | 125.4 | 128.7   | 132.1    | 132.5          | 142.1                    | 138.5                            | 134.9                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.5       | 0.8   | 0.2     | 0.1      | 1.0            | -1.0                     | 0.4                              | 0.1                                      |
| % change from July 1993         | 0.3       | -0.2  | 0.4     | 1.9      | 5.1            | 1.6                      | 2.7                              | -18.4                                    |
| <b>Toronto</b>                  |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 132.0     | 123.0 | 131.0   | 130.8    | 136.6          | 137.4                    | 139.7                            | 132.5                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.5       | 1.1   | 0.2     | 0.9      | 1.1            | -0.8                     | 0.1                              | -0.1                                     |
| % change from July 1993         | 0.0       | -1.6  | -0.2    | 1.5      | 6.6            | -0.6                     | 2.6                              | -19.7                                    |
| <b>Thunder Bay</b>              |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 129.6     | 120.6 | 127.6   | 134.3    | 135.6          | 132.0                    | 136.3                            | 131.0                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.5       | 0.8   | 0.2     | 1.1      | 1.3            | -1.0                     | 0.0                              | 0.1                                      |
| % change from July 1993         | -0.2      | 0.3   | 0.1     | 1.3      | 6.5            | 1.6                      | 1.5                              | -23.1                                    |
| <b>Winnipeg</b>                 |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 132.3     | 131.3 | 126.0   | 133.4    | 133.6          | 133.6                    | 140.5                            | 155.7                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.6       | 0.4   | 0.2     | 1.1      | 2.1            | -1.1                     | 0.0                              | -0.1                                     |
| % change from July 1993         | 1.5       | 0.9   | 1.2     | 0.8      | 5.2            | -0.1                     | 2.2                              | -5.1                                     |
| <b>Regina</b>                   |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index                 | 134.1     | 134.5 | 122.4   | 140.0    | 140.4          | 144.7                    | 136.5                            | 165.4                                    |
| % change from June 1994         | 0.3       | 0.2   | 0.1     | 0.6      | 0.8            | -1.0                     | 0.1                              | -0.1                                     |
| % change from July 1993         | 2.0       | 2.6   | 1.6     | 0.4      | 6.2            | -0.4                     | 2.6                              | -6.4                                     |

### 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>Saskatoon</b>        |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index         | 132.1     | 131.4 | 121.4   | 139.0    | 133.8          | 159.0                    | 136.5                            | 154.9                                    |
| % change from June 1994 | 0.3       | 0.2   | 0.2     | 0.7      | 0.8            | 0.1                      | 0.0                              | -0.1                                     |
| % change from July 1993 | 1.5       | 1.8   | 0.8     | 0.3      | 5.3            | 1.3                      | 3.7                              | -5.1                                     |
| <b>Edmonton</b>         |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index         | 130.2     | 115.2 | 126.4   | 127.7    | 132.9          | 133.3                    | 139.7                            | 175.2                                    |
| % change from June 1994 | 0.5       | 0.1   | 0.7     | 0.1      | 1.3            | -0.4                     | 0.4                              | 0.6                                      |
| % change from July 1993 | 1.6       | -0.4  | 1.4     | -0.9     | 5.3            | 0.8                      | 4.7                              | -3.9                                     |
| <b>Calgary</b>          |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index         | 130.0     | 119.1 | 124.3   | 128.5    | 129.8          | 132.3                    | 139.4                            | 179.8                                    |
| % change from June 1994 | 0.7       | 1.3   | 0.6     | 0.0      | 1.4            | -0.5                     | 0.1                              | 0.3                                      |
| % change from July 1993 | 1.2       | 0.7   | 0.0     | -1.1     | 4.8            | 0.8                      | 4.3                              | -0.8                                     |
| <b>Vancouver</b>        |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index         | 134.8     | 132.0 | 126.6   | 128.9    | 146.0          | 132.3                    | 139.3                            | 164.5                                    |
| % change from June 1994 | 0.3       | 0.2   | 0.4     | -0.8     | 1.3            | -0.2                     | 0.1                              | -0.1                                     |
| % change from July 1993 | 2.0       | 1.1   | 0.7     | 1.7      | 6.6            | 2.2                      | 4.5                              | -3.5                                     |
| <b>Victoria</b>         |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index         | 133.2     | 131.4 | 123.9   | 130.1    | 142.7          | 131.4                    | 137.8                            | 167.2                                    |
| % change from June 1994 | 0.4       | -0.8  | 0.4     | -0.7     | 2.1            | -0.5                     | 0.2                              | 0.2                                      |
| % change from July 1993 | 2.3       | 1.5   | 0.6     | 1.4      | 7.7            | 1.9                      | 4.0                              | -1.1                                     |
| <b>Whitehorse</b>       |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index         | 129.0     | 121.0 | 128.4   | 127.9    | 121.9          | 132.3                    | 129.8                            | 162.3                                    |
| % change from June 1994 | 0.9       | 0.6   | 1.4     | -1.8     | 2.1            | 0.3                      | 0.1                              | 0.0                                      |
| % change from July 1993 | 2.1       | 1.2   | 2.1     | -1.8     | 4.9            | 4.6                      | 3.7                              | -0.7                                     |
| <b>Yellowknife</b>      |           |       |         |          |                |                          |                                  |  |
| July 1994 index         | 129.2     | 121.1 | 121.7   | 129.8    | 130.4          | 124.6                    | 132.8                            | 171.8                                    |
| % change from June 1994 | 0.3       | -1.6  | 0.5     | -1.5     | 3.3            | 1.1                      | 0.2                              | 0.0                                      |
| % change from July 1993 | 2.1       | 2.8   | 0.5     | -2.7     | 7.5            | 0.5                      | 2.2                              | 3.3                                      |

<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, \$20/\$80).

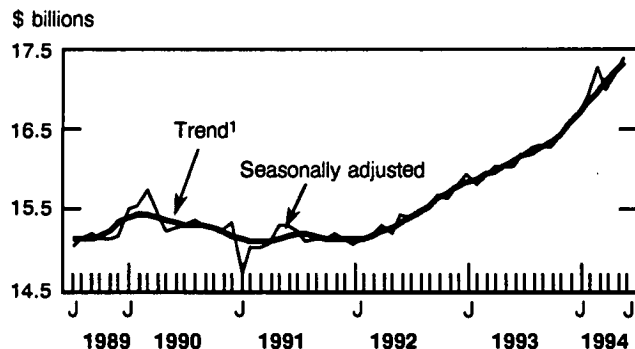
## Retail trade

June 1994 (preliminary)

Consumer spending on goods increased at a robust pace for a second consecutive month. Seasonally adjusted retail sales rose 1.2% to \$17.4 billion. This gain contrasts with a decline of 1.0% in employment in the retail trade sector after a 1.9% increase in May.

The sales increase in June was the seventh increase in eight months. The strength came from five sectors, accounting for almost 70% of total sales, and was led by automotive and clothing retailers. This gain was widespread among regions, as only Prince Edward Island and the territories reported lower sales in June.

### Consumer spending on goods continued to rise



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

<sup>1</sup> Trend represents smoothed seasonally adjusted data.

From mid-1993 until the first quarter of 1994, total retail sales were led by the automotive, general merchandise and food sectors. In recent months, the clothing sector has recorded strong increases and has also contributed to the growth of total retail sales. In contrast, after strong and steady growth up to February 1994, sales by the general merchandise sector have levelled off.

### Automotive and clothing retailers led the strength

Of the five sectors reporting higher sales in June, the largest increase was in the automotive sector, up 2.4% to \$6.3 billion following a 1.2% gain in May. All three components of the automotive sector recorded higher sales in June. Sales by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers rose 3.0% after a 2.1% increase in May. The number of new motor vehicles sold increased 4.3% in June and returned to levels not recorded since early 1992. Sales by automotive parts, accessories and services outlets advanced 2.0%, mostly offsetting a 2.3% decline in May. Gasoline service stations recorded higher sales in June for a second consecutive month.

Spending in clothing stores increased 3.2% in June, the largest monthly increase in the last two years. Sales by clothing stores have been demonstrating strength since the beginning of the year after declining during the last half of 1993.

Three of the four components of the clothing sector increased in June: other clothing stores (+5.4%), women's clothing stores (+4.2%) and men's clothing stores (+1.5%). Partly offsetting these gains was a 2.6% sales decline by shoe stores after a strong 5.0% increase in May.

### Sales higher in most provinces

From 1993 to the second quarter of 1994, retail sales in all provinces have been fluctuating around a generally upward trend. In June all provinces except Prince Edward Island reported higher sales, ranging from +0.4% in British Columbia to +4.4% in Manitoba. In Prince Edward Island, sales declined 0.7%, offsetting a 0.7% gain in May.

### Quarterly sales

Total seasonally adjusted retail sales increased 1.5% in the second quarter of 1994. This gain was weaker than the 3.2% increase during the first quarter of 1994, mostly due to lower sales in April. Of the six sectors reporting higher sales in the second quarter of 1994, clothing, furniture and automotive retailers were the main contributors to the growth. Only the general merchandise sector reported lower quarterly sales.

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**Year-to-date**

Unadjusted cumulative retail sales for the first six months of 1994 totalled \$97.6 billion, up 7.3% from the corresponding period in 1993. In May, cumulative sales were 6.4% higher than in the same period of 1993.

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

For further information, contact Pierre Desjardins (613-951-9682), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

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

**Retail sales**

| Trade group  | June<br>1993        | March<br>1994 <sup>r</sup> | April<br>1994 <sup>r</sup> | May<br>1994 <sup>r</sup> | June<br>1994 <sup>p</sup> | May 1994 <sup>r</sup><br>to June<br>1994 <sup>p</sup> | June 1993<br>to June<br>1994 <sup>p</sup> |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
|  | \$ millions         |                            |                            |                          |                           | % change  |   |
|  | seasonally adjusted |                            |                            |                          |                           |   |   |
| <b>Food</b>  | <b>4,222</b>        | <b>4,429</b>               | <b>4,392</b>               | <b>4,442</b>             | <b>4,432</b>              | <b>-0.2</b>   | <b>5.0</b>                                |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores                                | 3,938               | 4,136                      | 4,118                      | 4,163                    | 4,153                     | -0.2  | 5.5                                       |
| All other food stores  | 284                 | 292                        | 274                        | 279                      | 279                       | -0.2  | -1.9                                      |
| <b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>                         | <b>988</b>          | <b>1,022</b>               | <b>1,015</b>               | <b>1,017</b>             | <b>1,019</b>              | <b>0.3</b>  | <b>3.1</b>                                |
| <b>Clothing</b>  | <b>950</b>          | <b>987</b>                 | <b>981</b>                 | <b>990</b>               | <b>1,022</b>              | <b>3.2</b>  | <b>7.5</b>                                |
| Shoe stores  | 133                 | 145                        | 144                        | 151                      | 147                       | -2.6  | 10.3                                      |
| Men's clothing stores  | 143                 | 156                        | 157                        | 155                      | 157                       | 1.5   | 10.2                                      |
| Women's clothing stores  | 322                 | 326                        | 318                        | 323                      | 337                       | 4.2   | 4.5                                       |
| Other clothing stores  | 352                 | 360                        | 362                        | 361                      | 381                       | 5.4   | 8.2                                       |
| <b>Furniture</b>   | <b>885</b>          | <b>897</b>                 | <b>899</b>                 | <b>913</b>               | <b>906</b>                | <b>-0.8</b>   | <b>2.4</b>                                |
| Household furniture and appliance stores                       | 697                 | 702                        | 706                        | 721                      | 718                       | -0.4  | 3.1                                       |
| Household furnishings stores                                   | 188                 | 195                        | 192                        | 192                      | 188                       | -2.2  | 0.2                                       |
| <b>Automotive</b>  | <b>5,479</b>        | <b>6,194</b>               | <b>6,047</b>               | <b>6,121</b>             | <b>6,269</b>              | <b>2.4</b>  | <b>14.4</b>                               |
| Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers                 | 3,404               | 4,020                      | 3,880                      | 3,961                    | 4,081                     | 3.0   | 19.9                                      |
| Gasoline service stations                                      | 1,187               | 1,184                      | 1,174                      | 1,189                    | 1,198                     | 0.8   | 0.9                                       |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services                     | 888                 | 990                        | 994                        | 971                      | 990                       | 2.0   | 11.5                                      |
| <b>General merchandise stores</b>                              | <b>1,697</b>        | <b>1,841</b>               | <b>1,777</b>               | <b>1,787</b>             | <b>1,815</b>              | <b>1.6</b>  | <b>6.9</b>                                |
| <b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.)</b>         | <b>1,813</b>        | <b>1,899</b>               | <b>1,896</b>               | <b>1,930</b>             | <b>1,951</b>              | <b>1.1</b>  | <b>7.6</b>                                |
| Other semi-durable goods stores                                | 554                 | 558                        | 579                        | 583                      | 584                       | 0.2   | 5.3                                       |
| Other durable goods stores                                     | 431                 | 486                        | 465                        | 474                      | 478                       | 0.8   | 10.9                                      |
| All other retail stores n.e.c.                                 | 828                 | 855                        | 851                        | 873                      | 889                       | 1.8   | 7.4                                       |
| <b>Total, retail sales</b>                                     | <b>16,035</b>       | <b>17,268</b>              | <b>17,008</b>              | <b>17,200</b>            | <b>17,414</b>             | <b>1.2</b>  | <b>8.6</b>                                |
| Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers | 12,631              | 13,248                     | 13,128                     | 13,239                   | 13,333                    | 0.7   | 5.6                                       |
| Department store type merchandise                              | 5,506               | 5,790                      | 5,717                      | 5,764                    | 5,824                     | 1.0   | 5.8                                       |
| <b>Provinces and territories</b>                               |                     |                            |                            |                          |                           |   |   |
| Newfoundland   | 276                 | 287                        | 284                        | 285                      | 288                       | 0.8   | 4.1                                       |
| Prince Edward Island   | 69                  | 74                         | 72                         | 72                       | 72                        | -0.7  | 3.6                                       |
| Nova Scotia  | 539                 | 566                        | 543                        | 532                      | 537                       | 0.8   | -0.4                                      |
| New Brunswick  | 415                 | 417                        | 408                        | 415                      | 419                       | 1.1   | 1.0                                       |
| Quebec   | 3,912               | 4,200                      | 4,111                      | 4,247                    | 4,285                     | 0.9   | 9.5                                       |
| Ontario  | 5,897               | 6,399                      | 6,288                      | 6,305                    | 6,419                     | 1.8   | 8.8                                       |
| Manitoba   | 540                 | 587                        | 577                        | 555                      | 580                       | 4.4   | 7.5                                       |
| Saskatchewan   | 466                 | 506                        | 524                        | 512                      | 516                       | 0.8   | 10.8                                      |
| Alberta  | 1,685               | 1,852                      | 1,826                      | 1,827                    | 1,841                     | 0.7   | 9.2                                       |
| British Columbia   | 2,184               | 2,324                      | 2,319                      | 2,393                    | 2,403                     | 0.4   | 10.0                                      |
| Yukon  | 17                  | 17                         | 16                         | 17                       | 17                        | -1.0  | -2.7                                      |
| Northwest Territories  | 34                  | 39                         | 39                         | 39                       | 38                        | -1.0  | 14.5                                      |

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

# Retail sales

| Trade group  | June 1993     | May 1994 <sup>r</sup> | June 1994 <sup>p</sup> | June 1993<br>to<br>June 1994 <sup>p</sup> |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|
|  | \$ millions   |                       |                        | % change                                  |
|  | unadjusted    |                       |                        |   |
| <b>Food</b>  | <b>4,291</b>  | <b>4,457</b>          | <b>4,582</b>           | <b>6.8</b>                                |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores                                | 3,988         | 4,164                 | 4,285                  | 7.4                                       |
| All other food stores  | 303           | 293                   | 297                    | -1.8                                      |
| <b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>                         | <b>976</b>    | <b>996</b>            | <b>1,015</b>           | <b>4.1</b>                                |
| <b>Clothing</b>  | <b>927</b>    | <b>980</b>            | <b>1,015</b>           | <b>9.5</b>                                |
| Shoe stores  | 137           | 160                   | 151                    | 10.7                                      |
| Men's clothing stores  | 143           | 150                   | 162                    | 12.8                                      |
| Women's clothing stores  | 319           | 333                   | 337                    | 5.6                                       |
| Other clothing stores  | 328           | 337                   | 365                    | 11.5                                      |
| <b>Furniture</b>   | <b>876</b>    | <b>850</b>            | <b>917</b>             | <b>4.6</b>                                |
| Household furniture and appliance stores                       | 675           | 659                   | 714                    | 5.9                                       |
| Household furnishings stores                                   | 202           | 191                   | 202                    | 0.3                                       |
| <b>Automotive</b>  | <b>6,292</b>  | <b>7,099</b>          | <b>7,251</b>           | <b>15.2</b>                               |
| Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers                 | 4,060         | 4,809                 | 4,875                  | 20.1                                      |
| Gasoline service stations                                      | 1,238         | 1,209                 | 1,266                  | 2.3                                       |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services                     | 994           | 1,080                 | 1,110                  | 11.6                                      |
| <b>General merchandise stores</b>                              | <b>1,598</b>  | <b>1,701</b>          | <b>1,752</b>           | <b>9.6</b>                                |
| <b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified (n.e.c.)</b>         | <b>1,875</b>  | <b>1,982</b>          | <b>2,066</b>           | <b>10.2</b>                               |
| Other semi-durable goods stores                                | 593           | 654                   | 631                    | 6.4                                       |
| Other durable goods stores                                     | 423           | 456                   | 479                    | 13.2                                      |
| All other retail stores n.e.c.                                 | 859           | 872                   | 956                    | 11.3                                      |
| <b>Total, retail sales</b>                                     | <b>16,835</b> | <b>18,066</b>         | <b>18,597</b>          | <b>10.5</b>                               |
| Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers | 12,775        | 13,257                | 13,723                 | 7.4                                       |
| Department store type merchandise                              | 5,393         | 5,637                 | 5,809                  | 7.7                                       |
| <b>Provinces and territories</b>                               |               |                       |                        |   |
| Newfoundland   | 287           | 290                   | 299                    | 4.4                                       |
| Prince Edward Island   | 76            | 75                    | 79                     | 3.3                                       |
| Nova Scotia  | 566           | 551                   | 576                    | 1.7                                       |
| New Brunswick  | 435           | 432                   | 445                    | 2.2                                       |
| Quebec   | 4,196         | 4,664                 | 4,669                  | 11.3                                      |
| Ontario  | 6,148         | 6,565                 | 6,877                  | 11.9                                      |
| Manitoba   | 564           | 581                   | 614                    | 8.8                                       |
| Saskatchewan   | 490           | 527                   | 548                    | 11.7                                      |
| Alberta  | 1,756         | 1,889                 | 1,941                  | 10.5                                      |
| British Columbia   | 2,260         | 2,437                 | 2,488                  | 10.1                                      |
| Yukon  | 20            | 17                    | 20                     | -1.5                                      |
| Northwest Territories  | 36            | 39                    | 42                     | 17.7                                      |

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sales of natural gas

June 1994 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales in Canada totalled 3 352 million cubic metres in June, up 1.5% from June 1993. The increase was broadly based with all three major sectors—residential, commercial and industrial—recording higher sales. The 1.1% gain in sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) was due to higher demand for natural gas by the chemical industry and increased use in the generation of electricity.

Year-to-date sales were up 3.0% from the same period in 1993. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) were down 1.0% from 1993, while residential sales increased 9.5%.

### Sales of natural gas

|              | June 1994 <sup>P</sup>               | June 1993 to<br>June 1994                 |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---|
|              | thousands of<br>cubic metres         | % change                                  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>3 351 531</b>                     | <b>1.5</b>                                |
| Residential  | 503 356                              | 3.4                                       |
| Commercial   | 374 303                              | 1.3                                       |
| Industrial   | 1 826 695                            | 1.1                                       |
| Direct       | 647 177                              |   |
|              | January to<br>June 1994 <sup>P</sup> | January-June 1993 to<br>January-June 1994 |
|              | thousands of<br>cubic metres         | % change                                  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>34 158 710</b>                    | <b>3.0</b>                                |
| Residential  | 9 959 811                            | 9.5                                       |
| Commercial   | 7 386 830                            | 4.4                                       |
| Industrial   | 12 360 046                           | -1.0                                      |
| Direct       | 4 452 023                            |   |

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.**

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

For further information, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

### Corrugated boxes and wrappers

July 1994

Domestic shipments of corrugated boxes and wrappers totalled 180 094 thousand square metres in July 1994, an increase of 6.8% from the 168 568 thousand square metres (revised) shipped a year earlier.

Domestic shipments for January to July 1994 totalled 1 362 235 thousand square metres, an increase of 8.7% from the 1 252 776 thousand square metres for the same period in 1993.

The July 1994 issue of *Corrugated boxes and wrappers* (36-004, \$6/\$60) will be available at a later date.

For further information, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3516), Industry Division.

### Construction union wage rate index

July 1994

The construction union wage rate index (including supplements) for Canada (1986=100) remained unchanged in July 1994 from June's level of 136.3. On a year-over-year basis, the composite index increased 1.8% to 136.3 in July 1994 (from 133.9 in July 1993). This was the smallest July-over-July index movement 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 third quarter 1994 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007, \$19/\$76) will be available in December. See "How to order publications".

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

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## **Selected financial indexes**

July 1994

July 1994 figures are now available for the selected financial indexes (1986 = 100).

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 2031.**

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

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



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Primary Iron and steel, June 1994.**

**Catalogue number 41-001**

(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84).

**The labour force, July 1994.**

**Catalogue number 71-001**

(Canada: \$20/\$200; United States: US\$24/US\$240; other countries: US\$28/US\$280).

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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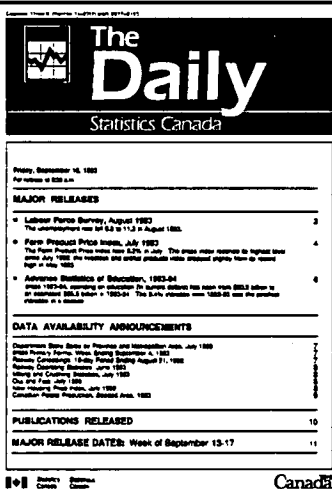
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The Daily, August 19, 1994

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## MAJOR RELEASE DATES

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**Week of August 22-26**  
(Release dates are subject to change)

| Release date  | Title  | Reference period |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| <b>August</b> |  |                  |
| 22            | Wholesale trade  | June 1994        |
| 23            | Crime statistics   | 1993             |
|               | Homicides in Canada  | 1993             |
| 24            | Field crop reporting series: July 31 crop production estimates |                  |
| 25            | Canada's international transactions in securities              | June 1994        |
| 26            | International travel account                                   | April-June 1994  |
|               | Industrial product price index and Raw materials price index   | July 1994        |