



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, September 15, 1994

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### • Consumer price index, August 1994

In August 1994, the cost of the consumer price index (CPI) basket rose 0.2% from the same month last year. Compared with last month, the CPI was 0.1% higher. Between July and August, important increases were noted in gasoline prices, coffee prices and mortgage interest charges.

2

### • Composite index, August 1994

The index rose 0.4% in August for the third straight month, sustained by vigorous spending by business firms.

10

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department store sales, July 1994

12

Steel primary forms, week ending September 10, 1994

13

Business entry and exit estimates, 1993 quarterly estimates

13

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

14



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

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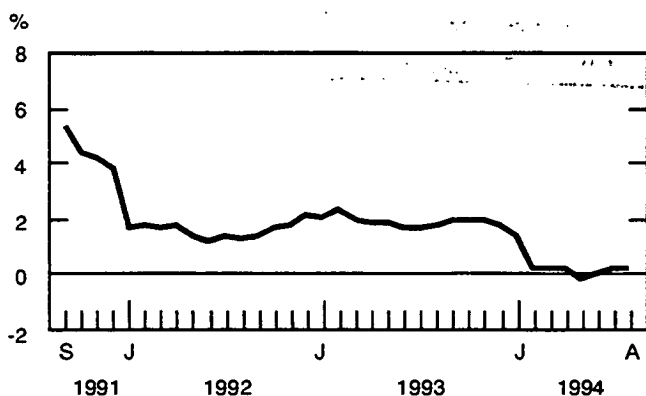
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Consumer price index

August 1994

In August 1994, the cost of the consumer basket of goods and services rose 0.2% from the same month last year. Since February, when the price of cigarettes started to decrease because of tax reductions, year-over-year changes in the consumer price index (CPI) have remained at +0.2%, except for May (-0.2%), and June (0.0%).

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



Prices increased over their August 1993 levels in all major expenditure categories except for tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. If tobacco products were excluded from the CPI basket, average consumer prices would have increased 1.6% over August last year.

For the seventh month in a row, transportation had the largest annual price increase (+5.7%) among the seven major components. Consumers paid more for new automobiles (+7.2%), auto insurance premiums (+7.7%), gasoline (+5.0%), and air fares (+15.3%) compared with August last year.

### Higher transportation costs still lead monthly price changes

The CPI basket of goods and services cost 0.1% more in August than in July. Prices of five of the seven major expenditure categories increased while two declined.

For the third month in a row, transportation charges recorded the largest contribution to the monthly rate of inflation, increasing 0.4%.

Compared with July, car drivers faced higher operating costs in August as the price of gasoline and auto insurance premiums increased 1.9% and 0.4%, respectively. Lower airline fares (-0.5%) for certain destinations in the United States eased the overall advance in transportation costs.

For the seventh consecutive month gasoline prices moved up. This was partly a result of persistent price increases in crude oil, which rose 44% from January to July. Most of the increase was attributable to continued output restrictions by OPEC countries and production slowdowns in Nigeria due to labour strikes. Price increases were not uniform across the country. Above average increases in the price of gasoline were registered in many Canadian cities, most notably Montréal (+5.5%). In contrast, gasoline prices remained steady in St. John's and Yellowknife and declined by 3.4% in Victoria reflecting a price war in that area.

Increased premiums for auto insurance in Nova Scotia (+0.8%), New Brunswick (+2.6%) and Alberta (+3.1%) explained the largest monthly movement in the index since February.

Food prices declined 0.2% in August, following a 0.6% increase in July. Canadians paid 0.5% less for their groceries, the first decrease since March this year, but faced a 0.3% increase in the price of restaurant meals.

The arrival of local crops in August brought significant price reductions for many types of fresh vegetables, most notably potatoes, cucumbers and carrots. Consumers paid less for many other food items including beef (because of excess supplies),

pork, bakery products and low-fat milk (following specials in Alberta, British Columbia and Toronto). The soft-drink index continued to edge down as competition in the cola industry intensified.

Consumers paid more for some other food items. Most notable were higher prices for fresh fruit, the result of important increases, mainly in the price of bananas and oranges. The price of coffee jumped 18.6% in August, the largest monthly increase since Statistics Canada started recording this series in 1949. The rise mainly reflected the recent freeze in Brazil which reduced the coffee crop by more than 40%. Poultry and fish also cost more than last month.

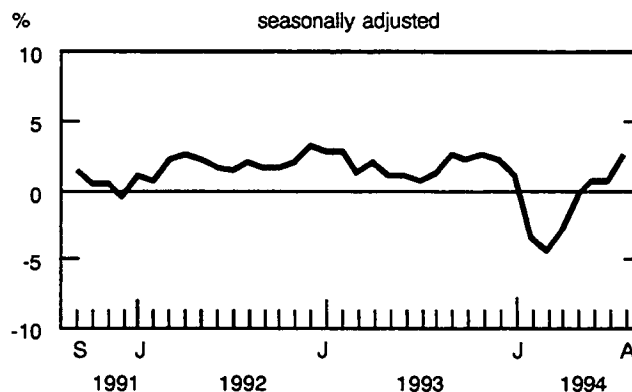
Higher restaurant meal prices were recorded in most Canadian cities, largely a result of the increase in the price of breakfasts, driven up by the higher coffee prices.

Housing costs increased 0.1% in August, following a 0.2% rise in July. Homeowners faced higher mortgage interest charges (+0.8%), the highest monthly rate of increase in four years. This marked the third consecutive monthly increase for this index. Tenants experienced higher accommodation charges as average rents edged up 0.3% in August. Most of the increases were in Québec (+0.6%) and Montréal (+0.5%) because of the traditionally large number of renewals in the province during summer.

### Seasonally adjusted movements

The seasonally adjusted CPI rose 0.2% between July and August compared to +0.1% for the unadjusted CPI, indicating that seasonal factors, such as the decline in fresh vegetable prices, slowed inflation. The three-month (May to August) compound annual rate of change for the all-items index was 2.5%. This is consistent with the rates experienced in the last three years, except for recent months when they have been low because of the reduction in cigarette taxes.

Three month percentage changes in the CPI at annualized rates



## Special aggregates

### Energy

Energy prices rose 0.9% in August, the same rate of increase as July and the fourth increase in as many months. Most of the increase was the result of higher gasoline prices (+1.9%). Since last year, energy costs have increased 3.3% because of higher prices for gasoline (+5.0%) and piped gas (+7.5%).

### All-items excluding food and energy

The all-items excluding food and energy index moved up 0.1% in August, following a 0.3% increase in July. The index was 0.2% lower compared with its level at this time last year. This was the largest annual drop since it was first calculated in 1972.

## Provincial highlights

Between July and August, movements in the CPI for the provinces varied between a low of -0.1% in Manitoba to a high of +0.3% in both Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

Compared with last year at this time, the changes in consumer prices ranged from a drop of 1.4% in Quebec to a rise of 1.9% in British Columbia. Annual changes when tobacco products are excluded from the CPI varied between +0.9% in Quebec and +2.7% in Nova Scotia.

## City highlights

Monthly changes in the CPI for published cities ranged from a drop of 0.1% in Winnipeg to a rise of 0.3% in Charlottetown/Summerside. Larger than average price decreases for groceries and housing, and smaller increases for gasoline were observed in Winnipeg. People living in Charlottetown/Summerside, however, experienced higher than average price increases for clothing and personal care supplies.

Year-over-year price changes varied between a decline of 1.3% in Montréal to a rise of 2.1% in both Victoria and Yellowknife.

### St. John's

In August, consumers experienced higher food prices, most notably for beef, fresh fruit, coffee, pork and chicken. Cigarette prices were up slightly, and housing charges advanced, particularly for mortgage

interest costs, home owners' maintenance and repairs, and pet care. Price increases were recorded for women's and girls' wear, but were offset by declines in the cost of men's and boys' wear.

Lower prices for personal care supplies and for prescribed and non-prescribed medicines had a dampening effect.

### Charlottetown/Summerside

Charlottetown/Summerside reported the highest monthly movement of all the index cities, largely due to a 3.2% rise in clothing prices.

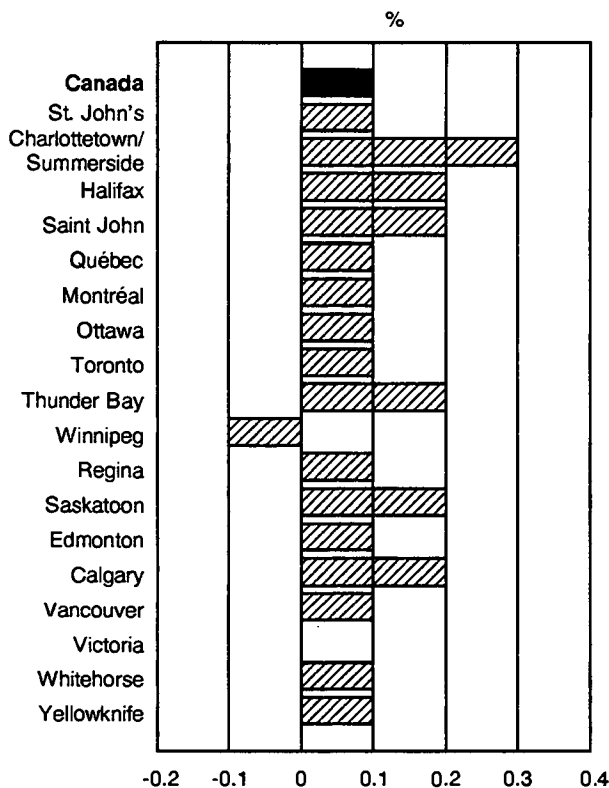
Consumers saw higher prices for men's and women's wear in August, as well as price increases for gasoline and personal care supplies. Housing costs advanced overall, reflecting increased mortgage interest costs and higher prices for new houses, electricity and household textiles. Food prices remained unchanged on average, as higher prices for fresh fruit, coffee, cereal and bakery products and dairy products were offset by lower prices for fresh vegetables, chicken and beef. Dampening the overall rise were lower prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises.

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

## Consumer price index and major components (1986 = 100)

Indexes	August 1994	July 1994	August 1993	July 1994 to August 1994	August 1993 to August 1994
	unadjusted			% change	
<b>All-items</b>	<b>130.8</b>	<b>130.7</b>	<b>130.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Food	123.7	124.0	122.9	-0.2	0.7
Housing	128.5	128.4	128.1	0.1	0.3
Clothing	132.0	131.7	131.0	0.2	0.8
Transportation	132.9	132.4	125.7	0.4	5.7
Health and personal care	135.4	135.5	135.3	-0.1	0.1
Recreation, reading and education	139.0	138.9	135.2	0.1	2.8
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	140.4	140.3	172.4	0.1	-18.6
All-items excluding food	132.4	132.2	132.3	0.2	0.1
All-items excluding food and energy	132.9	132.8	133.1	0.1	-0.2
Goods	124.5	124.4	125.8	0.1	-1.0
Services	138.5	138.3	136.2	0.1	1.7
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1986	76.5	76.5	76.6		
All-items (1981 = 100)	173.2				

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



insurance premiums explained much of the overall rise in consumer prices in August. Housing costs also advanced, particularly for homeowners' maintenance and repairs, rent and mortgage interest. On average, lower food prices were recorded, most notably for fresh vegetables and beef, but this overall decline was moderated by higher prices for fresh fruit and coffee. Cigarette prices declined.

### Québec

In August, increased housing charges were reported, most notably for rent, mortgage interest, homeowners' maintenance and repairs, and pet care. Higher prices for gasoline were noted, along with increased charges for personal care services, non-prescribed medicines and personal care supplies. Prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises advanced as well. Dampening the overall rise were lower food prices (particularly for fresh vegetables, bakery products, dairy products and beef), and a drop in clothing prices (as lower prices for men's and women's wear more than offset higher prices for girls' and boys' wear).

The year-over-year decline 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

Despite numerous price declines, an overall rise in consumer prices was reported in August. The greatest upward impact came from higher prices for gasoline, followed by increased housing costs. The rise in the latter reflected increased charges for rent, mortgage interest, household operation, and homeowners' maintenance and repairs. Food prices declined overall, particularly for fresh vegetables and beef. Lower prices for beer served in licensed premises were recorded, as were lower prices for women's and men's wear.

The year-over-year decline 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.

### Halifax

In August, consumers paid more for men's and women's clothing and food prices rose, particularly for fresh fruit and coffee. Motorists experienced higher prices for gasoline and a rise in vehicle insurance premiums. Housing costs advanced as well, most notably for mortgage interest, new houses and homeowners' maintenance and repairs.

Moderating these advances were lower prices for personal care supplies, cigarettes, and liquor purchased from stores.

### Saint John

Higher prices for men's and women's wear, increased gasoline prices and a rise in vehicle

## Ottawa

In August, consumers saw increased charges for personal care supplies and services, higher prices for beer and wine purchased from stores, and increased charges for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises. In addition, price increases were recorded for gasoline and for cablevision services. Food prices remained stable on average, as higher prices for coffee, fresh fruit, beef, dairy products and chicken were offset by lower prices for fresh vegetables, bread, soft drinks and cereal products. Housing charges were unchanged overall, as advances in mortgage interest costs and rent were neutralized by price declines for homeowners' maintenance and repairs, household operation and household textiles.

## Toronto

Housing charges rose in August, reflecting advances in mortgage interest costs, rent and homeowners' maintenance and repairs. Consumers paid more for beer and wine, cablevision charges advanced, and motorists saw a rise in gasoline prices. Moderating these advances were lower prices for men's and girls' wear. A slight drop in food prices was recorded, as lower prices for fresh vegetables, soft drinks, bakery products, low fat milk and pork more than offset price increases for fresh fruit, chicken, coffee and beef.

## Thunder Bay

Higher prices for gasoline and food (fresh fruit, beef, coffee, chicken, and cereal and bakery products) explained most of the overall rise in consumer prices in August. Charges for personal care supplies advanced, as did prices for beer and wine. Clothing prices remained unchanged overall, as higher prices for women's and girls' wear were offset by lower prices for men's and boys' wear.

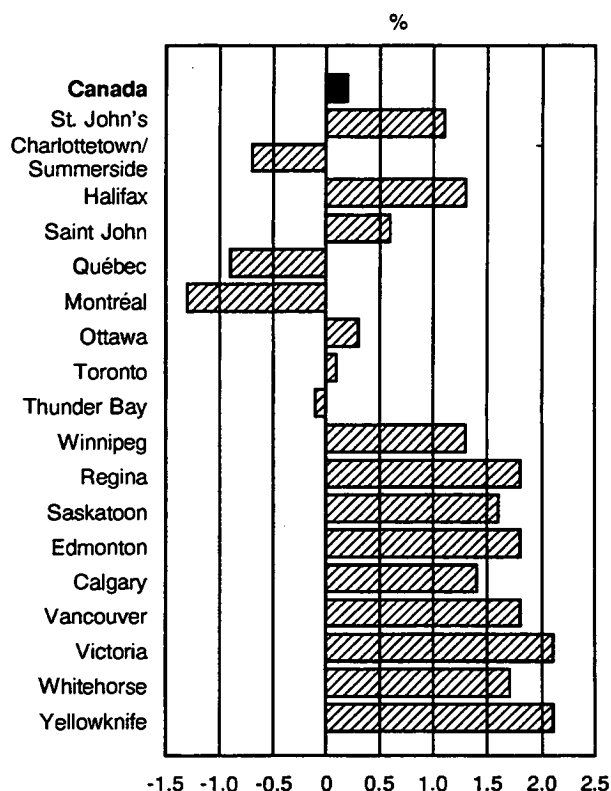
Thunder Bay was one of four cities to register a negative year-over-year movement. This decline was largely due to the drop in tobacco taxes.

## Winnipeg

Winnipeg was the only city to register a monthly decline in consumer prices.

Consumers saw an overall drop in food prices in August, particularly for fresh vegetables and beef. This decline was partially offset by higher prices for cereal and bakery products, coffee and pork. In

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



addition, lower prices were recorded for household textiles, men's wear and boys' wear. Consumers faced price increases for gasoline and alcoholic beverages, as well as for mortgage interest costs and rent.

## Regina

In August, consumers paid more for gasoline, wine and liquor from stores, and women's and girls' wear. Dampening these advances were lower overall food prices, most notably for beef, fresh vegetables, bakery products and soft drinks. Housing charges fell slightly, as lower prices for homeowners' maintenance and repairs and for household textiles more than offset increased mortgage interest costs and higher prices for new homes. Price declines were also noted for personal care supplies and for prescribed and non-prescribed medicines.

## Saskatoon

In August, higher prices were recorded for gasoline, wine and liquor from stores, women's and girls' wear, and food. The rise in food prices reflected higher charges for fresh fruit, cereal and bakery products, dairy products, prepared meats, pork, coffee and chicken. Consumers paid less for homeowners' repairs, carpeting prices fell, and lower prices were recorded for personal care supplies, as well as for prescribed and non-prescribed medicines.

## Edmonton

In August, motorists experienced higher prices for gasoline and increased premiums for vehicle insurance. Clothing prices were up as well. Largely offsetting these advances were lower food prices, particularly for beef, fresh vegetables, cured and prepared meats, poultry, cereal products, soft drinks and pork. Housing charges declined, as lower household operating expenses and a drop in household textile prices more than offset advances in mortgage interest costs and higher rental charges. Additional downward pressure came from lower prices for personal care, movie admissions, and served liquor.

## Calgary

In August, advances in gasoline prices and vehicle insurance premiums explained a large part of the overall rise in consumer prices. Clothing cost more, and higher charges were recorded for mortgage interest costs and for rent. Partially offsetting these advances were lower food prices, most notably for beef, soft drinks, prepared meats, fresh vegetables, bakery products and poultry. Additional downward pressure came from lower prices for liquor served in licensed premises, and decreased charges for prescribed medicines and personal care supplies.

## Vancouver

Higher prices for gasoline and clothing were recorded in August. Consumers paid more for wine purchased from stores and for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises. Further upward pressure came from increased charges for cablevision services and for personal care services. Food prices fell on average, as lower prices for fresh vegetables, beef, bakery products, pork and poultry more than offset higher prices for coffee, fresh fruit, cereal products

and soft drinks. A drop in housing charges reflected price declines for new houses, household textiles and household operating expenses. These declines, however, were partly offset by higher mortgage interest costs and increased rented accommodation charges.

## Victoria

No overall change was recorded in consumer prices in August. Gasoline and food prices declined, as did recreation expenses. The drop in food prices reflected lower prices for beef, soft drinks, fresh vegetables, milk, prepared meats and pork. The fall was partly offset by higher prices for coffee, cereal products, fresh fruit and chicken.

Charges for clothing, housing and alcoholic beverages advanced. The rise in housing charges was mainly due to advances in mortgage interest costs, household operating expenses, new house prices, rented accommodation charges and homeowners' maintenance and repair costs. Consumers paid more for wine purchased from stores and for alcoholic beverages served in licensed premises.

Victoria and Yellowknife registered the largest year-over-year price movements of the 18 index cities.

## Whitehorse

Higher prices for clothing, gasoline, household textiles and mortgage interest explained most of the advance in consumer prices in August. Moderating these increases were lower food prices, most notably for soft drinks, chicken, fresh vegetables, pork, bread and eggs. Charges for prescribed and non-prescribed medicines declined as well.

## Yellowknife

Despite a large number of price declines, consumers saw a slight overall rise in prices in August. Higher food prices explained the overall advance, and reflected price increases for coffee, cured and prepared meats, fresh fruit, dairy products, fresh vegetables and fish. Largely offsetting these increases were lower prices for cigarettes and household textiles, decreased household operating expenses, and lower prices for personal care supplies. Clothing prices remained unchanged on average, as lower prices for men's wear offset price increases for women's, girls' and boys' wear.

Yellowknife and Victoria registered the largest year-over-year price movements of the 18 index cities.

The August 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.

Available on CANSIM at 7 a.m.: matrices 2201-2230.

### 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>								
August 1994 index	126.4	122.3	118.1	134.0	130.2	125.5	138.3	145.5
% change from July 1994	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	-1.0	0.0	0.2
% change from August 1993	1.1	3.0	-0.6	-1.0	7.1	-2.4	4.4	-4.2
<b>Charlottetown/Summerside</b>								
August 1994 index	128.9	131.0	120.9	131.0	125.5	140.6	138.0	150.2
% change from July 1994	0.3	0.0	0.1	3.2	0.3	0.6	0.1	-0.7
% change from August 1993	-0.7	1.4	-0.4	2.3	5.1	0.1	2.2	-22.3
<b>Halifax</b>								
August 1994 index	129.2	135.9	120.6	130.6	129.2	131.4	135.7	145.1
% change from July 1994	0.2	0.4	0.1	1.7	0.3	-0.3	0.0	-0.4
% change from August 1993	1.3	5.3	0.3	0.9	7.0	-0.2	4.1	-16.0
<b>Saint John</b>								
August 1994 index	128.0	131.6	120.3	134.1	127.5	131.2	134.0	144.0
% change from July 1994	0.2	-0.3	0.1	1.5	0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.3
% change from August 1993	0.6	3.9	-0.6	1.3	5.0	-1.6	4.0	-16.4
<b>Québec</b>								
August 1994 index	127.9	120.8	127.7	134.5	122.2	136.2	141.1	125.0
% change from July 1994	0.1	-0.2	0.2	-0.2	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3
% change from August 1993	-0.9	2.1	-0.2	-0.8	3.1	-0.4	2.5	-25.9
<b>Montréal</b>								
August 1994 index	129.0	121.2	131.1	134.3	125.3	137.1	143.7	120.3
% change from July 1994	0.1	-0.8	0.2	-0.3	0.8	-0.1	0.1	-0.6
% change from August 1993	-1.3	1.3	0.4	-1.0	4.9	0.7	1.5	-31.1
<b>Ottawa</b>								
August 1994 index	131.1	125.4	128.7	132.1	132.7	143.2	138.6	135.7
% change from July 1994	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.6
% change from August 1993	0.3	0.0	0.2	1.2	5.4	1.3	3.0	-18.1
<b>Toronto</b>								
August 1994 index	132.1	122.9	131.1	130.7	136.6	137.3	140.0	132.9
% change from July 1994	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.2	0.3
% change from August 1993	0.1	-1.4	0.2	1.4	6.0	-0.9	2.7	-19.8
<b>Thunder Bay</b>								
August 1994 index	129.9	121.0	127.6	134.3	136.4	132.6	136.4	131.4
% change from July 1994	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.3
% change from August 1993	-0.1	0.5	0.0	0.5	6.9	2.2	1.4	-23.0



### 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>Winnipeg</b>								
August 1994 index	132.2	130.6	125.9	133.2	133.8	133.4	140.6	156.3
% change from July 1994	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.4
% change from August 1993	1.3	1.0	1.0	0.2	5.4	-1.3	1.7	-5.1
<b>Regina</b>								
August 1994 index	134.2	134.0	122.3	140.7	141.4	143.7	136.6	166.7
% change from July 1994	0.1	-0.4	-0.1	0.5	0.7	-0.7	0.1	0.8
% change from August 1993	1.8	2.1	1.2	0.3	6.7	-1.4	2.5	-5.6
<b>Saskatoon</b>								
August 1994 index	132.4	131.8	121.2	140.0	134.8	158.6	136.5	156.3
% change from July 1994	0.2	0.3	-0.2	0.7	0.7	-0.3	0.0	0.9
% change from August 1993	1.6	1.7	0.8	0.3	6.1	0.4	3.6	-4.8
<b>Edmonton</b>								
August 1994 index	130.3	114.1	126.1	129.2	134.4	132.5	139.3	175.1
% change from July 1994	0.1	-1.0	-0.2	1.2	1.1	-0.6	-0.3	-0.1
% change from August 1993	1.8	0.1	1.0	-0.3	6.4	0.9	4.3	-4.2
<b>Calgary</b>								
August 1994 index	130.2	118.4	124.3	130.2	130.9	131.4	139.3	178.3
% change from July 1994	0.2	-0.6	0.0	1.3	0.8	-0.7	-0.1	-0.8
% change from August 1993	1.4	0.1	0.2	-0.1	5.6	-0.5	4.0	-2.3
<b>Vancouver</b>								
August 1994 index	135.0	131.4	126.5	130.1	146.6	132.6	139.6	165.2
% change from July 1994	0.1	-0.5	-0.1	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4
% change from August 1993	1.8	0.2	0.1	3.0	6.9	2.3	4.6	-3.7
<b>Victoria</b>								
August 1994 index	133.2	131.2	124.0	131.1	142.0	131.4	137.7	167.7
% change from July 1994	0.0	-0.2	0.1	0.8	-0.5	0.0	-0.1	0.3
% change from August 1993	2.1	2.1	0.5	2.6	6.3	1.5	3.7	-1.8
<b>Whitehorse</b>								
August 1994 index	129.1	120.0	128.5	130.6	122.4	132.0	129.8	162.3
% change from July 1994	0.1	-0.8	0.1	2.1	0.4	-0.2	0.0	0.0
% change from August 1993	1.7	-0.8	2.2	-0.5	4.9	3.9	3.6	-1.9
<b>Yellowknife</b>								
August 1994 index	129.3	123.1	121.5	129.8	130.3	123.5	132.6	170.9
% change from July 1994	0.1	1.7	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.9	-0.2	-0.5
% change from August 1993	2.1	4.3	0.4	-3.0	7.1	0.1	1.8	2.5

<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).

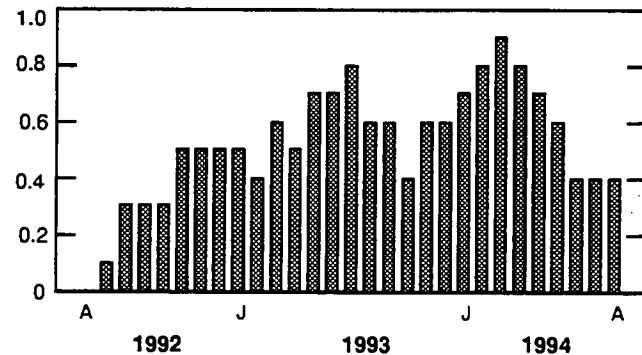
## Composite index

August 1994

In August, the composite index rose 0.4% for the third month in a row. Six of the 10 components were up, the same as June and July. Spending by business firms remained vigorous. Three components mostly related to household demand continued to check the growth of the overall index compared to its peak rates set in February, while one was unchanged.

### Composite index

% change, smoothed



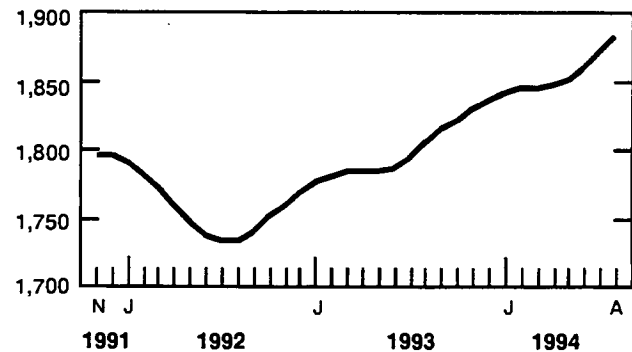
There are few signs of a reversal of the slowdown in household demand that followed higher interest rates. The drop in the housing index worsened to -2.3% in August, as the housing starts component tumbled again. Starts of single-family dwellings replaced multiple units as the source of weakness. Durable goods sales continued to soften in line with car sales. Furniture and appliance sales stayed slow.

New orders for manufactured durable goods recorded a tenth straight gain, up 1.1%. New orders continue to outstrip the level of shipments, especially for export and capital goods, implying that production will remain strong. Inventories rose from historically

low levels, especially in the auto industry, leaving the ratio of stocks to shipments stable for the fourth consecutive month. Manufacturers also rebuilt their stocks of consumer goods. The average workweek posted a second straight decline. Employment in business services, however, remained buoyant at a time of robust profit growth.

### Employment in business and personal services

thousands of persons



Doubts about the sustainability of the June jump in Canada's exports are raised by the sluggishness of the United States' leading indicator in July. New orders fell sharply after a gain in June, and industrial production itself grew at a considerably slower pace. Subsequently, employment in August posted its smallest gain since the new year under the weight of continued weak household demand.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

The September issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) will be available next week. See "How to order publications".

For further information or release dates, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Division. □

## Composite index

Data used in the composite index calculation for:	March 1994	April 1994	May 1994	June 1994	July 1994	August 1994	Last month of data available
							% change
<b>Composite leading indicator (1981 = 100)</b>	<b>163.5</b>	<b>164.7</b>	<b>165.7</b>	<b>166.4</b>	<b>167.1</b>	<b>167.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Housing index <sup>1</sup>	129.8	130.4	130.2	129.7	127.7	124.8	-2.3
Business and personal services employment (thousands)	1,845	1,847	1,850	1,859	1,871	1,883	0.6
TSE 300 stock price index (1975 = 1000)	4,386	4,393	4,388	4,337	4,286	4,264	-0.5
Money supply (M1) (millions of 1981 \$) <sup>2</sup>	28,929	29,339	29,670	29,946	30,196	30,407	0.7
United States composite leading index (1967 = 100) <sup>3</sup>	211.7	212.6	213.4	214.1	214.6	215.1	0.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average workweek	38.8	38.9	38.9	38.9	38.8	38.7	-0.3
New orders durables (millions of 1981 \$) <sup>4</sup>	10,545.0	10,650.4	10,726.5	10,858.3	10,981.9	11,107.3	1.1
Shipments/inventories ratio <sup>4</sup>	1.56	1.57	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	0.00*
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (millions of 1981 \$) <sup>4</sup>	1,104.6	1,106.4	1,110.6	1,115.5	1,122.1	1,128.0	0.5
Other durable goods sales (millions of 1981 \$) <sup>4</sup>	3,762.7	3,806.5	3,873.1	3,924.5	3,966.0	4,007.6	1.0
Unsmoothed composite	165.3	167.2	166.6	167.2	167.6	169.5	1.1

<sup>1</sup> Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (MLS).

<sup>2</sup> Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.

<sup>3</sup> The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated but the figures themselves refer to data for the immediately preceding month.

<sup>4</sup> The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated but the figures themselves refer to data for two months preceding.

\* Difference from previous month.

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Department store sales

July 1994

Seasonally adjusted department store sales declined in July following a 1.7% increase in June. Cumulative retail sales for the first seven months of 1994 amounted to \$7.7 million, up 2.5% from the corresponding period in 1993.

### Department store sales and stocks

	May 1994 <sup>r</sup>	June 1994 <sup>r</sup>	July 1994 <sup>P</sup>	June 1994 to July 1994	July 1993 to July 1994
seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions		% change		
Sales	1,081.1	1,099.0	1,080.2	-1.7	2.3
Stocks	5,237.6	5,139.9	5,018.6	-2.4	-0.6

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

Sales totalled \$1,080.2 million in July, a decrease of 1.7% from the previous month's revised total of \$1,099.0 million. Inventories totalled \$5,018.6 million at the end of July, a decline of 2.4% from the June value of \$5,139.9 million.

### Unadjusted

Department store sales totalled \$945.8 million in July, up 0.4% from the July 1993 level. Concession sales were \$38.8 million, 4.1% of total department store sales.

Compared to July 1993, seven provinces recorded sales increases ranging from 0.8% in Prince Edward Island to 9.0% in Newfoundland. Decreases were reported in Ontario (-0.6%), Quebec (-3.4%) and Nova Scotia (-5.8%).

### Department store sales including concessions

	July 1994	July 1993 to July 1994
unadjusted		
	\$ millions	% change
<b>Province</b>		
Newfoundland	15.3	9.0
Prince Edward Island	4.4	0.8
Nova Scotia	31.2	-5.8
New Brunswick	23.7	5.3
Quebec	173.4	-3.4
Ontario	390.8	-0.6
Manitoba	38.5	1.2
Saskatchewan	27.5	1.9
Alberta	101.3	2.8
British Columbia	139.6	6.3
<b>Metropolitan area</b>		
Calgary	38.1	11.2
Edmonton	40.8	1.9
Halifax-Dartmouth	16.1	-2.8
Hamilton	26.9	-1.5
Montréal	95.6	0.6
Ottawa-Hull	40.0	-3.4
Québec	21.7	-10.1
Toronto	150.5	-0.2
Vancouver	74.0	11.4
Winnipeg	33.8	-

- Nil or zero.

Information on department store sales and stocks by major commodity lines is also available.

**Note:** this release replaces the department store sales by province and metropolitan area, and sales and stocks releases. In the future, these data will be available around the 15th of each month.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.**

The July 1994 issue of *Department store sales and stocks* (63-002, \$16/\$160) will be available in October.

For further information, contact Diane Lake (613-951-9824), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. ■

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## Steel primary forms

Week ending September 10, 1994 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending September 10, 1994 totalled 280 606 tonnes, up 14.9% from the week-earlier 244 190 tonnes and up 2.8% from the year-earlier 272 996 tonnes.

The cumulative total at the end of the week was 9 505 727 tonnes, a 4.8% decrease from 9 983 118 tonnes for the same period in 1993.

For further information, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division. ■

## Business entry and exit estimates

1993 quarterly estimates

Business Register's entry and exit survey estimates for business entries and exits are available for all four quarters of 1993.

Business entry estimates fell short of business exits during the first two quarters of 1993, but rebounded and overtook business exits during the latter half of 1993.

For further information, contact Stewart Taylor (613-951-0389, fax: 613-951-0104), Product Analysis and Data Dissemination Section, Business Register Division. ■



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The Daily, September 15, 1994

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, July 1994.**

**Catalogue number 25-001**

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

**Exports by country, January-June 1994.**

**Catalogue number 65-003**

(Canada: \$90/\$360; United States: US\$108/US\$432;  
other countries: US\$126/US\$504).

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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**The Daily**  
Statistics Canada

Friday, September 15, 1994  
For release at 9:00 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Labour Force Survey, August 1993**  
The unemployment rate fell 0.2 to 13.2 in August 1993. 2
- **Price Product Price Index, July 1993**  
The Price Product Price Index rose 0.2% in July. The index is used to measure the rate of inflation. 4
- **Admission Statistics of Education, 1993-94**  
About 100,000 students entered post-secondary education in 1993-94. The daily enrolment rose 100,000 and the enrolment rose 100,000. 6

**DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Department Store Sales for November and December 1993**  
Department Store Sales for November and December 1993. 10
- **Small Business Survey, Spring 1993**  
Small Business Survey, Spring 1993. 10
- **Business Operating in Spring 1993**  
Business Operating in Spring 1993. 10
- **City and Town, July 1993**  
City and Town, July 1993. 10
- **Urban Housing Survey, July 1993**  
Urban Housing Survey, July 1993. 10
- **Canadian Public Opinion, Summer 1993**  
Canadian Public Opinion, Summer 1993. 10

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED**  
10

**MAJOR RELEASE DATES: Week of September 13-17**  
11

Canada

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E. (Canada: \$175; United States: US\$210; other countries: US\$245.)

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To receive *The Daily* from the Internet, send an E-mail message to [listproc@statcan.ca](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Mary Beth Lozinski (613-951-1092)

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