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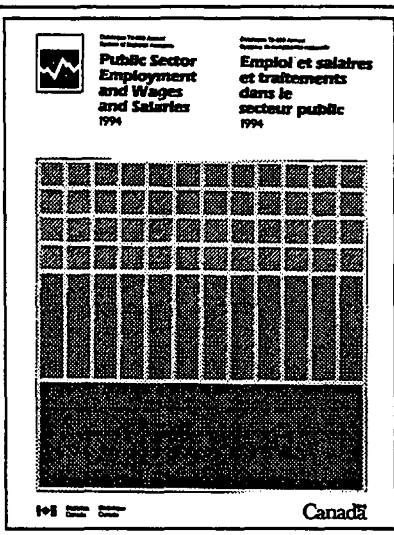
Statistics Canada

Tuesday, October 17, 1995
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

(continued on following page)



Public sector employment, wages and salaries
1994 (with historical data from 1990)

The 1994 edition of *Public sector employment and wages and salaries* presents employment, wage and salary data for the total public sector as well as for the federal, provincial-territorial and local governments and government business enterprises. The publication also includes data for public hospitals and local government school boards.

The public sector includes all organizations, both commercial and non-commercial, under the control of a governmental body.

Public sector employment and wages and salaries, 1994 (72-209, $42) is now available. See "How to order publications".

Please note that data released on CANSIM in July 1995 (matrices 2860, 2862 and 2863) have been revised and that data on matrices 2861 and 2865 are now available.

For further information on this release, contact the Data Dissemination and External Relations Section (613-951-0767) or the Public Employment Section (613-951-1843), Public Institutions Division.

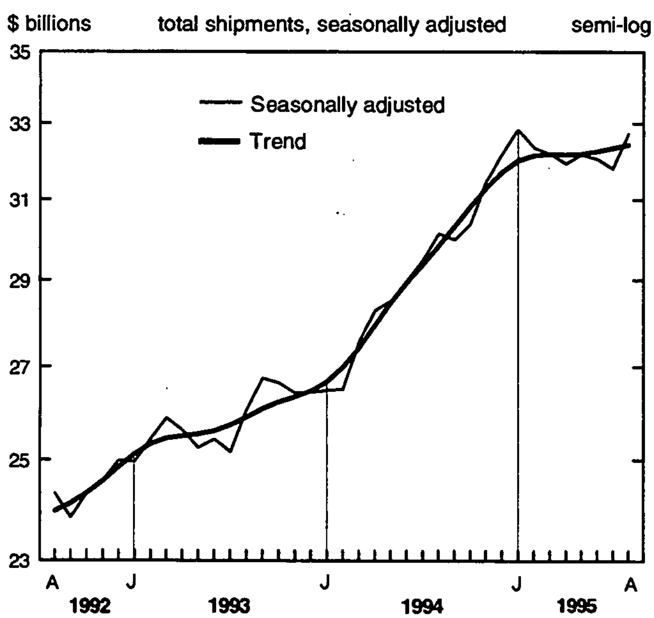
OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly survey of manufacturing
August 1995

A very strong month in the auto sector pushed total manufacturers' shipments to $32.7 billion (+2.9%) in August, the highest level since the peak in January 1995. The increase in shipments was found in 11 of 22 major groups (representing 44% of total shipments). By far the largest monthly increase was in motor vehicles (+30.6%), as re-tooling ended and the new model year was launched, causing a dramatic turnaround after persistent weakness in recent months. Significant increases were also recorded in motor vehicle parts and accessories and in aircraft and parts.

Motor vehicles drove shipments up in August



Significant declines were observed in primary metals; other transportation equipment; and refined petroleum and coal products. Overall, monthly shipments remained 8.7% higher than in August 1994, and were only just short of the all-time high of $32.8 billion recorded in January 1995.

Unfilled orders decreased for the third time in four months in August (-1.2%), contrasting with last year's strong growth, while inventories grew moderately.

Definitions

***Unfilled orders** are the stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments, assuming orders are not cancelled.*

***New orders** are the sum of shipments for the current month (that is, orders received and shipped in the same month) plus the change in unfilled orders.*

Motor vehicles drove total shipments up

The jump was largely caused by a burst of activity in the auto sector. Shipments of motor vehicles and parts were up 22.3%. Firmer demand in the United States and an end to a particularly pronounced summer slowdown for retooling rejuvenated this sector. The lion's share of the increase was in motor vehicles, which increased 30.6% from July. The rise was very pronounced and came on the heels of a string of monthly declines that were caused by sluggish North American demand.

Increases were also recorded in motor vehicle parts and accessories (+5.6%) and in aircraft and parts (+15.5%). The transportation sector as a whole put in a strong performance.

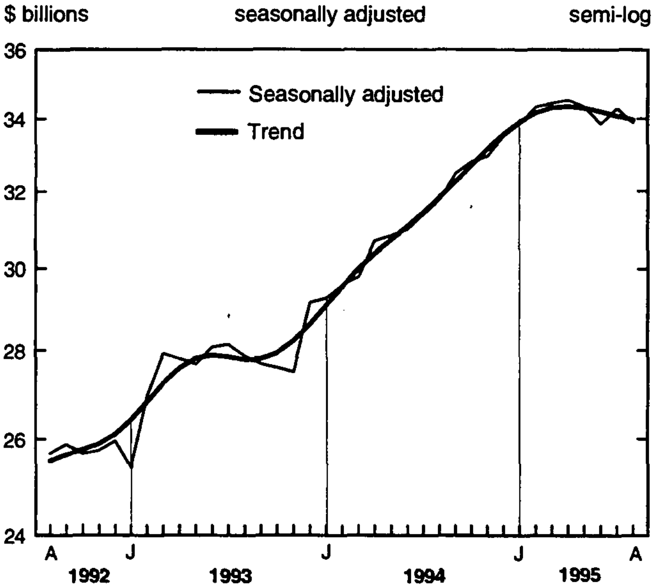
These increases were partly offset by substantial decreases in primary metals (-4.4%), other transportation equipment (-47.2%) and refined petroleum and coal products (-4.4%).

But unfilled orders fell again

Manufacturers once again reduced their backlog in August as unfilled orders dropped 1.2%. The decrease followed significant declines in May and June, which had interrupted 17 months of growth. Most of the decrease was in aircraft and parts (-1.4%), but a significant decline was observed in motor vehicle parts and accessories (-7.7%), while unfilled orders of motor vehicles edged down slightly (-0.1%).

The latest Business Conditions Survey (July 1995), in stark contrast with previous surveys, reported a significant increase in the number of manufacturers who believed that the backlog of unfilled orders was lower than normal.

Weakness in unfilled orders persisted



After July's positive showing, new orders were virtually flat in August, rising only 0.2%. The largest increase was in motor vehicles, but this was largely offset by decreases in aircraft and parts and in primary metals.

Inventories grew at a more moderate pace

Inventories rose 0.5% in August, the second month of growth after a pause in June that interrupted 20 months of rapid increases. The increases since June have been less pronounced, indicating that inventories may have settled into a pattern of more moderate growth.

August's rise in inventories was widespread. The largest increase was in the aircraft and parts industry (+3.9%), as fewer planes were shipped than expected. Increases were also recorded in non-electrical machinery (+3.5%) and railroad rolling stock (+6.6%).

The largest drops came from refined petroleum and coal products (-8.1%) and motor vehicles (-3.2%). The decline in motor vehicle inventories followed July's sharp increase, as manufacturers geared up for August's expansion of activity.

The moderate rise in inventories combined with the much larger increase in shipments caused the inventories-to-shipments ratio to fall from 1.40 to 1.37 in August.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9579 and 9581-9582.

The August 1995 issue of *Monthly survey of manufacturing* (31-001, $19/$190) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

Detailed data on shipments by province are available on request. For further information, or to order, contact Robert Traversy, Information and Classification Section (613-951-9497), or the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section (613-951-9832), Industry Division. □

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories-to shipments-ratio
	seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	$ millions	% change	
August 1994	30,116	2.1	38,528	1.0	31,762	1.2	30,504	2.1	1.28
September 1994	29,978	-0.5	39,128	1.6	32,483	2.3	30,699	0.6	1.31
October 1994	30,363	1.3	39,372	0.6	32,796	1.0	30,676	-0.1	1.30
November 1994	31,463	3.6	39,682	0.8	32,948	0.5	31,615	3.1	1.26
December 1994	32,180	2.3	40,439	1.9	33,505	1.7	32,737	3.5	1.26
January 1995	32,830	2.0	41,055	1.5	33,848	1.0	33,173	1.3	1.25
February 1995	32,353	-1.5	42,036	2.4	34,323	1.4	32,828	-1.0	1.30
March 1995	32,177	-0.5	42,774	1.8	34,428	0.3	32,281	-1.7	1.33
April 1995	31,927	-0.8	43,547	1.8	34,519	0.3	32,018	-0.8	1.36
May 1995	32,164	0.7	44,071	1.2	34,343	-0.5	31,987	-0.1	1.37
June 1995	32,053	-0.3	44,052	0.0	33,844	-1.5	31,554	-1.4	1.37
July 1995	31,804	-0.8	44,522	1.1	34,287	1.3	32,247	2.2	1.40
August 1995	32,731	2.9	44,737	0.5	33,879	-1.2	32,323	0.2	1.37

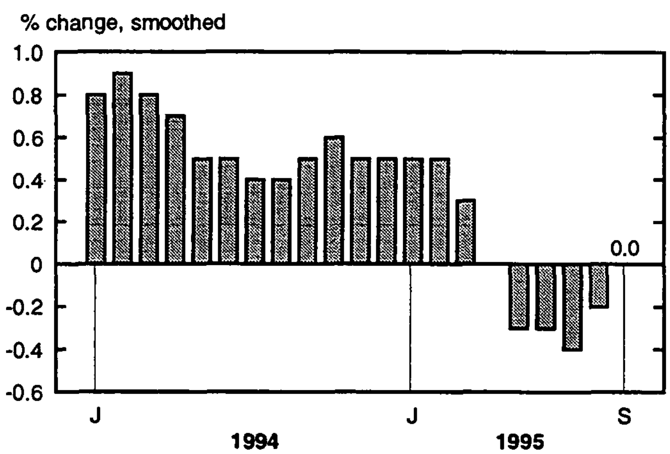
■

Composite index

September 1995

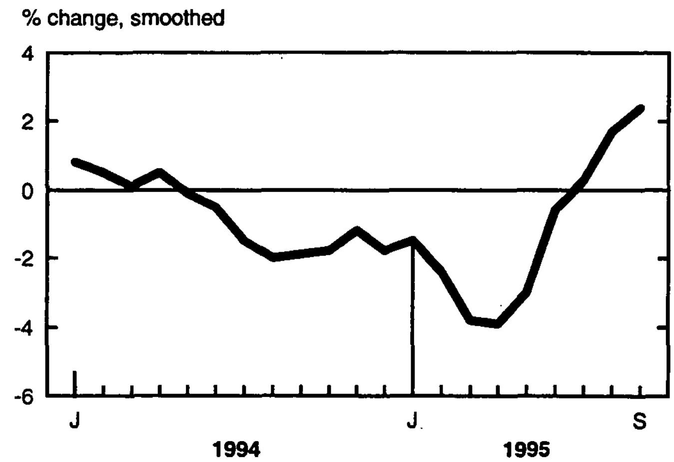
The leading indicator was unchanged in September, putting an end to four straight monthly declines. Final demand showed signs of growth, notably in the beleaguered housing sector, although important sources of weakness in the demand for durable goods remained. Five of the ten components were up, one more than in August. The unsmoothed index has been rising steadily since May.

Composite index



Household demand picked up in September. The housing index posted a solid 2.4% gain, its largest since late 1991. The sharp uptum of house sales in recent months has paved the way for a slight recovery in housing starts.

Housing index



Elsewhere, personal services buttressed job growth in the services sector. Furniture and appliance sales fell at a slower rate than in August.

Manufacturing showed signs of snapping out of its recent slump. The average work week posted its first increase since November 1994, a harbinger of increased demand for labour. The drop in demand for durable goods slowed, reflecting an uptum for export-oriented industries.

The U.S. leading indicator continued to decrease (-0.1%), held down principally by a fall in commodity prices, their first since late 1993. Several of Canada's key export markets picked up in tandem with consumer spending in the United States, following the strong gains in disposable income since July.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For more information on the economy, the October 1995 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010, $22/$220) will be available this week. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627) or Dominique Pérusse (613-951-1789), Current Economic Analysis Division.□

Composite index

Data used in the composite index calculation for:	April 1995	May 1995	June 1995	July 1995	August 1995	September 1995	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1981=100)	**173.7**	**173.2**	**172.6**	**171.9**	**171.6**	**171.6**	**0.0**
Housing index[1]	103.9	100.8	100.2	100.5	102.2	104.7	2.4
Business and personal services employment ('000)	1,944	1,946	1,948	1,953	1,960	1,967	0.4
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	4,179	4,225	4,293	4,376	4,443	4,495	1.2
Money supply (M1) ($ millions, 1981)[2]	30,263	30,234	30,309	30,423	30,548	30,646	0.3
U.S. composite leading indicator (1967=100)[3]	217.1	216.7	216.1	215.6	215.1	214.8	-0.1
Manufacturing							
Average work week	38.8	38.7	38.6	38.5	38.4	38.5	0.3
New orders, durables ($ millions 1981)[4]	12,783	12,808	12,756	12,677	12,539	12,454	-0.7
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.77	1.75	1.71	1.66	1.62	1.58	-0.04[•]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions 1981)[4]	1,162.8	1,164.8	1,163.3	1,157.2	1,149.2	1,142.5	-0.6
Other durable goods sales ($ millions 1981)[4]	4,015.1	4,002.5	3,978.2	3,950.8	3,934.5	3,922.9	-0.3
Unsmoothed composite	171.0	170.1	170.7	170.7	172.4	172.7	0.2

1 *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2 *Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.*
3 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.*
• *Difference from previous month.*

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OTHER RELEASES

Telecommunications plant price indexes
1993 (final) and 1994 (preliminary)

The final 1993 and preliminary 1994 estimates of the telecommunications plant price indexes (1986=100) are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2021.

The third quarter 1995 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007, $23/$76) will be available in December. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350, fax: 613-951-2848), Client Services Unit, Prices Division.

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Soft drinks
September 1995

Data for September 1995 on production of soft drinks are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 196.

Monthly production of soft drinks (32-001, $3/$30) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division.

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Computer hardware

Data from the Survey of Computer Hardware Manufacturers are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-5056), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

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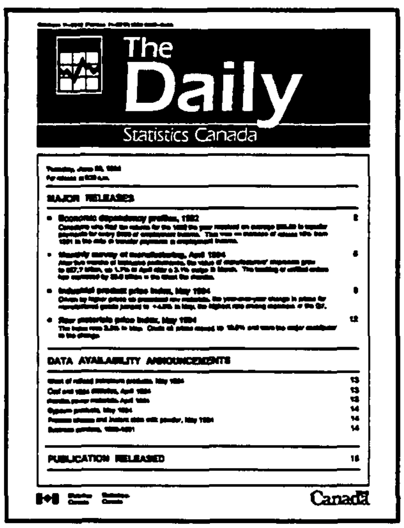

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Editor: Tim Prichard (613-951-1103)
Head of Official Release: Jacques Lefebvre (613-951-1088)

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

General review of the mineral industries, 1993
Catalogue number 26-201
(Canada: $24; United States: US$29; other countries: US$34).

Oil pipeline transport, July 1995
Catalogue number 55-001
(Canada: $11/$110; United States: US$14/US$132; other countries: US$16/US$154).

Public sector employment and wages and salaries, 1994
Catalogue number 72-209
(Canada: $42; United States: US$51; other countries: US$59).

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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How to order publications

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