

- Wholesale trade, August 1995

Wholesale merchants' sales rebounded in August after five consecutive monthly declines. However, the inventory-to-sales ratio remained at its 1995 high because inventory levels continued to rise.

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## Touriscope: International travel 1994

The 1994 issue of Touriscope: International travel summarizes the annual data on travel to and from Canada in tables, charts and an analytical review. The publication profiles intemational travellers by their province or country of residence, area of destination, mode of transportation, purpose of trip, length of stay, expenditures, age group and sex.

The 1994 issue of Touriscope: International travel (66-201, \$40) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ruth Martin (613-951-1791), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

## Wholesale trade

August 1995 (preliminary)
Wholesale merchants' sales grew $0.9 \%$ to $\$ 20.2$ billion in August-the first increase in six months. Although wholesalers' sales were $2.8 \%$ or $\$ 553$ million higher than a year earlier, sales were $2.1 \%$ or $\$ 435$ million lower than in January 1995. This decline illustrates 1995's economic slowdown and the weak demand experienced by wholesalers and their manufacturing counterparts.


Compared with July, sales were higher in 8 of the 11 trade groups (accounting for nearly $65 \%$ of all sales in August). Wholesalers of industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies made the largest current-dollar contribution to the upswing ( $+1.9 \%$ or $+\$ 58$ million). The computers and packaged sottware group was a very close second ( $+3.5 \%$ or $+\$ 57$ million).

Wholesalers of other products (pulp, paper and other paper products; agricultural and industrial chemicals; etc.) posted a third consecutive monthly sales increase ( $+1.2 \%$ or $+\$ 44$ million). Sales have remained strong in 1995 for wholesalers of other products. By August their sales had grown 7.2\% or $\$ 242$ million since January 1995 and $13.0 \%$ or $\$ 417$ million since August 1994. The group's solid performance since August 1994 has been due in part to higher prices- $39.3 \%$ higher for paper and paper products and $7.9 \%$ for chemical and chemical products-and increased exports of newsprint, other


#### Abstract

Note to readers In recent months, substantial improvements have been made to the monthly publication Wholesale trade (63-008), which is now made available shortly after release of wholesale trade data in The Daily. Also, the unadjusted wholesale trade data no longer appear in The Daily. Readers who need unadjusted data may refer to the above-noted publication or contact the Wholesale Trade Section (613-951-3536).


paper and paperboard ( $+36.0 \%$ ) and chemicals, plastics and fertilizers (+22.4\%).

Sales of other products have been strong in 1995 due in part to price increases and exports


Wholesalers of food products saw sales drop 2.2\% or $\$ 77$ million in August. This group alone accounted for more than $80 \%$ of the combined decrease in the three groups that posted declines in the month. Wholesaling of food products has slowed appreciably since the peak attained in March 1995. By August, sales had fallen by $\$ 253$ million or $6.8 \%$. Over the same period (March to August), fruit and vegetable imports dropped $4.5 \%$. Sales by food retailers and shipments by food manufacturers have also slipped since spring.

## Inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio still rising

In August, wholesalers' inventories rose for an 18th consecutive month, climbing $1.0 \%$ to $\$ 31.3$ billion. One of the most significant increases in current dollar terms was in computers and packaged software, as inventories jumped $5.6 \%$ or $\$ 92$ million from July levels.

The increase was related partly to the Windows 95 launch in late August.

Despite August's substantial growth in sales, the inventory-to-sales ratio remained high and unchanged at July's level of 1.55. In the 12 months to August, its lowest level was 1.42 (December 1994). The ratio indicates that for every $\$ 100$ worth of sales in August, wholesalers held goods valued at $\$ 155$ as inventory. An increase in the ratio implies a slower rate of inventory turnover and higher costs for wholesalers.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.
The August edition of Wholesale trade ( $63-008, \$ 18 / \$ 180$ ) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540) or Catherine Marnay (613-951-9683), Industry Division.

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

|  | Aug. <br> 1994 | $\begin{gathered} \text { May } \\ 1995^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June }{ }^{r} \\ & 1995^{\prime} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 1995 \text { r } \end{gathered}$ | Aug. $1995^{p}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { July } \\ 1995 \\ \text { to } \\ \text { Aug. } \\ 1995 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Aug. 1994 to Aug. 1995 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions |  |  |  |  | \% change |  |
| Sales, all trade groups | 19,631 | 20,175 | 20,169 | 20,007 | 20,184 | 0.9 | 2.8 |
| Food products | 3,579 | 3,671 | 3,597 | 3,545 | 3,468 | -2.2 | -3.1 |
| Beverage, drug and tobacco products | 1,110 | 1,161 | 1,159 | 1,166 | 1,205 | 3.3 | 8.6 |
| Apparel and dry goods | 468 | 442 | 432 | 437 | 456 | 4.4 | -2.6 |
| Household goods | 642 | 655 | 646 | 650 | 668 | 2.7 | 3.9 |
| Motor vehicles, parts and accessories | 2,264 | 2,204 | 2,220 | 2,199 | 2,187 | -0.6 | -3.4 |
| Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies | 1,563 | 1,631 | 1,638 | 1,592 | 1,587 | -0.4 | 1.5 |
| Lumber and building materials | 1,790 | 1,668 | 1,683 | 1,620 | 1,645 | 1.5 | -8.1 |
| Farm machinery, equipment and supplies | 459 | 487 | 486 | 493 | 507 | 2.8 | 10.3 |
| Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies | 2,993 | 3,149 | 3,078 | 3,096 | 3,154 | 1.9 | 5.4 |
| Computers and packaged software | 1,558 | 1,601 | 1,673 | 1,630 | 1,687 | 3.5 | 8.3 |
| Other products | 3,204 | 3,505 | 3,555 | 3,577 | 3,621 | 1.2 | 13.0 |
| Newfoundland | 179 | 186 | 187 | 189 | 192 | 1.5 | 6.9 |
| Prince Edward Island | 47 | 48 | 50 | 37 | 40 | 7.8 | -14.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 415 | 446 | 431 | 452 | 449 | -0.5 | 8.2 |
| New Brunswick | 267 | 287 | 293 | 289 | 286 | -1.2 | 7.1 |
| Quebec | 4,374 | 4,502 | 4,478 | 4,421 | 4,436 | 0.4 | 1.4 |
| Ontario | 8,361 | 8,795 | 8,767 | 8,783 | 8,806 | 0.3 | 5.3 |
| Manitoba | 651 | 681 | 693 | 633 | 689 | 8.8 | 5.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 597 | 681 | 663 | 600 | 660 | 10.0 | 10.5 |
| Aberta | 1,888 | 1,849 | 1,848 | 1,861 | 1,891 | 1.6 | 0.2 |
| British Columbia | 2,830 | 2,673 | 2,733 | 2,718 | 2,709 | -0.4 | -4.3 |
| Yukon | 9 | 12 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 8.1 | 31.4 |
| Northwest Territories | 13 | 14 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 2.7 | 8.8 |
| Inventories, all trade groups | 28,588 | 30,549 | 30,856 | 30,968 | 31,273 | 1.0 | 9.4 |
| Food products | 2,188 | 2,306 | 2,287 | 2,230 | 2,267 | 1.7 | 3.6 |
| Beverage, drug and tobacco products | 1,466 | 1,403 | 1,398 | 1,415 | 1,421 | 0.4 | -3.1 |
| Apparel and dry goods | 1,124 | 1,017 | 1,030 | 1,027 | 1,021 | -0.6 | -9.1 |
| Household goods | 1,290 | 1,495 | 1,493 | 1,499 | 1,515 | 1.1 | 17.4 |
| Motor vehicles, parts and accessories | 3,675 | 4,091 | 4,350 | 4,237 | 4,264 | 0.6 | 16.0 |
| Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies | 2,548 | 2,836 | 2,866 | 2,888 | 2,889 | - | 13.4 |
| Lumber and building materials | 2,898 | 3,144 | 3,151 | 3,226 | 3,213 | -0.4 | 10.9 |
| Farm machinery, equipment and supplies | 1,571 | 1,529 | 1,500 | 1,502 | 1,483 | -1.2 | -5.6 |
| Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies | 6,216 | 6,649 | 6,701 | 6,778 | 6,873 | 1.4 | 10.6 |
| Computers and packaged software | 1,781 | 1,625 | 1,628 | 1,637 | 1,729 | 5.6 | -2.9 |
| Other products | 3,829 | 4,454 | 4,452 | 4,530 | 4,598 | 1.5 | 20.1 |

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## OTHER RELEASES

## Production and disposition of tobacco products <br> September 1995

Canadian manufacturers made 5.26 billion cigarettes in September, a 3.4\% decrease from 5.45 billion in September 1994. Shipments totalled 4.52 billion cigarettes, a $9.2 \%$ drop from September 1994. Because manufacturers produced more cigarettes than they shipped, inventories expanded to 4.38 billion cigarettes.

Domestic sales (88\% of total shipments) fell 8.2\% compared with September 1994, and exports declined 17.5\%.

Data on domestic shipments are an aggregate of shipments reported by Canadian manufacturers, and are not data on retail sales or final consumption.

## Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The September 1995 issue of Production and disposition of tobacco products ( $32-022, \$ 6 / \$ 60$ ) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

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

## Telephone statistics <br> August 1995

The 13 major telephone systems reported monthly revenues of $\$ 1,186.5$ million in August, down $1.5 \%$ from August 1994.

Operating expenses amounted to $\$ 912.8$ million, up 2.1\% from August 1994. Net operating revenue totalled \$273.7 million, a 12.3\% decrease from August 1994.

## Available on CANSIM: matrix 355.

The August 1995 issue of Telephone statistics ( $56-002, \$ 9 / \$ 90$ ) will be released shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact J.R. Slattery (613-951-2205), Services, Science and Technology Division.

## Construction type plywood <br> August 1995

Manufacturers produced 153371 cubic metres of construction type plywood in August, a 4.1\% decrease from 159919 cubic metres in August 1994.

For January to August 1995, production totalled 1220107 cubic metres, a $0.7 \%$ decrease from the 1229033 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).
The August 1995 issue of the Construction type plywood (35-001, $\$ 6 / \$ 60$ ) will be available shortly. See "How to order publication".

For further information on this release, contact Ted Brown (604-666-3694), Pacific Region.

## Production, shipments and stocks of sawmills in British Columbia <br> August 1995

Sawmills in British Columbia made 2455235 cubic metres of lumber and ties in August, a 3.5\% decrease from 2544287 cubic metres in August 1994.

For January to August 1995, production totalled 21928449 cubic metres, a $4.8 \%$ decrease from 23044269 cubic metres during the same period in 1994.

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

The August 1995 issue of Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills in British Columbia ( $35-003, \$ 8 / \$ 80$ ) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ted Brown (604-666-3694), Pacific Region.

## Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

September 1995
Manufacturers shipped 2634444 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in September, down $34.1 \%$ from 3997703 square metres (revised)
a year earlier, but up $50.0 \%$ from 1756148 square metres a month earlier.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of September 1995 totalled 18813005 square metres, a $22.6 \%$ decrease from the same period in 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32-33).

The September 1995 issue of Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation (44-004, $\$ 6 / \$ 60$ ) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division.

## Pack of processed strawberries 1995

Data for 1995 on the pack of processed strawberries are now available.

Pack of selected processed fruits (excluding apples), 1995 ( $32-234, \$ 14$ ) will be released shortly. See "How to order publications".

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

## Air charter statistics

First quarter 1995
Preliminary data for the first quarter 1995 on the air charter business are now available.

The October issue of Aviation service bulletin ( $51-004, \$ 11 / \$ 105$ ) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Francsca Thibeault (819-997-6173), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division.

## Consumer price index-correction September 1995

Readers should note two corrections to this release, which appeared in The Daily of October 20.

On page 3, the text said "fees remained virtually unchanged" at Quebec universities. It should have read "fees remained unchanged".

On page 4, the text said "Grocery shoppers gained purchasing power as prices fell for fresh fruits ( $+7.3 \%$ ) and vegetables ( $+7.6 \%$ )". It should have read "Grocery shoppers gained purchasing power as prices fell for fresh fruits ( $-7.3 \%$ ) and vegetables ( $-7.6 \%$ )".

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Particleboard, waferboard and fibreboard, August 1995
Catalogue number 36-003
(Canada: $\$ 6 / \$ 60$; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84).

Railway operating statistics, May 1995, vol. 75, no. 5
Catalogue number 52-003
(Canada: $\$ 12 / \$ 120$; United States: US\$15/US\$144; other countries: US\$17/US\$168).

Gas utilities, 1994
Catalogue number 57-205
(Canada: \$29; United States: US\$35; other countries: US\$41).

Energy statistics handbook, October 1995 Catalogue number 57-601
(Canada: \$330; United States: US\$400; other countries: US\$460).

Touriscope: International travel, advance
information, August 1995, vol. 11, no. 8 Catalogue number 66-001P
(Canada: \$7/\$70; United States: US\$9/US\$84; other countries: US\$10/US\$98).

## Touriscope: International travel, 1994 <br> Catalogue number 66-201

(Canada: \$40; United States: US\$48; other countries: US\$56).

Science statistics service bulletin: Scientific and technological activities of provincial governments, 1986-87 to 1994-95. Vol. 19, no. 5 Catalogue number 88-001
(Canada: $\$ 8 / \$ 76$; United States: US\$10/US\$92; other countries: US\$12NS\$107).

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[^0]:    $r$ Revised figures.
    P Preliminary figures.

    - Amount too small to be expressed.

