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MAJOR RELEASES

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Homeowner repairs and renovations
1994

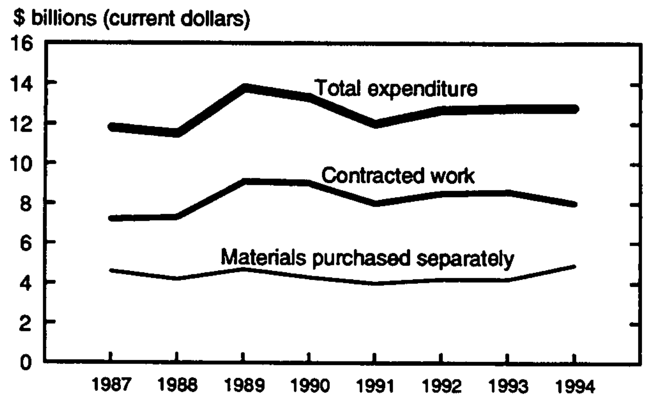
More homeowners went on a do-it-yourself kick in 1994, renovating their homes without hired help. They spent more on materials to do their own repairs and renovations, and less on contractors.

Still, spending on contractors amounted to almost $8.0 billion in 1994. But that was down 7.8% from the value of contracted work in 1993.

By contrast, the value of materials that homeowners purchased separately to do their own repairs and renovations climbed 16.6% to $4.8 billion.

Overall, even though Canadians spent $12.8 billion sprucing up their homes in 1994, it was the second consecutive year in which the renovation market remained stagnant. The 1994 spending was only marginally higher (+0.2%) than the 1993 level, and far below the pre-recession peak of $13.8 billion in 1989.

No change in homeowners' expenditure on repairs and renovations



> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey collected data from a sample of about 21,000 homeowners. The phrase "repairs and renovations" represents all types of work that improve or maintain a house. The survey estimates have been revised back to 1987 to incorporate a new population base using results from the 1991 Census. The average effect of the revisions on the estimated number of homeowners and total expenditure is about +3.5%.*

New concept stores may strengthen the do-it-yourself trend

The new concept of warehouse-type renovation stores may have helped strengthen the do-it-yourself trend. Homeowners have gained more access to supplies and consumer-oriented services.

The average expenditure on separately purchased materials was up at least 9% in all the provinces except Manitoba, where it dropped 3.5%.

Homeowners spent significantly more on materials in all repair and renovation project categories in 1994.

Meanwhile, where contractors lost out most was in the renovations and alterations category: homeowner expenditures on such contracted work fell 22.1%.

Homeowners cautious in their renovation plans

Homeowners' reluctance to make major expenditures may have contributed to an 11.9% decline in 1994 on renovations and alterations. These projects are usually ambitious and include jobs such as remodelling rooms and adding or replacing doors and windows.

Even though homeowners showed some constraints on large-scale projects, they spent 15.6% more in 1994 on additions. This may reflect the fact that homeowners often choose to add a new room instead of buying a new house.

Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure, by category

	1993	1994	1993 to 1994
			% change
Number of homeowners	6,922,000	7,122,000	2.9
	$ millions		% change
Repairs and renovations, total	**12,794**	**12,814**	**0.2**
Contract	8,622	7,951	-7.8
Materials	4,172	4,863	16.6
Renovations and alterations	5,413	4,771	-11.9
Contract	3,744	2,917	-22.1
Materials	1,669	1,854	11.1
Additions	2,697	3,117	15.6
Contract	1,676	1,858	10.9
Materials	1,021	1,259	23.3
Repairs and maintenance	2,598	2,691	3.6
Contract	1,655	1,634	-1.3
Materials	943	1,058	12.2
Replacements of equipment	1,393	1,447	3.9
Contract	1,071	1,008	-5.9
Materials	322	439	36.3
New installations of equipment	694	788	13.5
Contract	477	534	11.9
Materials	218	254	16.5

Average spending is down

The 7.1 million homeowners in Canada spent an average $1,799 fixing and upgrading their homes in 1994, down 2.7% from 1993.

Homeowners in Newfoundland, who did most of their work themselves, spent the most at $1,977, followed by homeowners in Ontario ($1,929), British Columbia ($1,927) and Quebec ($1,794).

Ontario's homeowners relied the most on hired help. They spent an average $1,333 on contracted work, by far the largest provincial average.

Preliminary tables from the Homeowner Repair and Renovation Survey of 1994 are now available. Data are presented by level of expenditure, province, size of area of residence, and type of dwelling.

Additional tables by income and other characteristics of homeowner households and their dwellings will be available in *Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure in Canada, 1994* (62-201, $30), which will be released in February 1996.

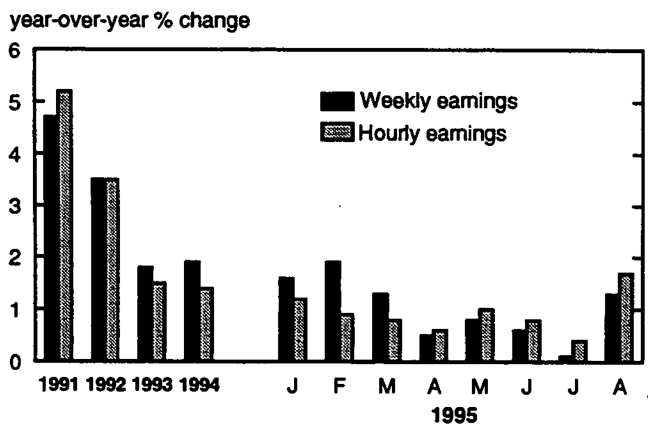
For further information on this release, contact the Data Dissemination Unit (613-951-4633, the Internet: nevrau@statcan.ca). For analytical information, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-4165), Family Expenditure Surveys Section, Household Surveys Division. ■

Employment, earnings and hours

August 1995 (preliminary)

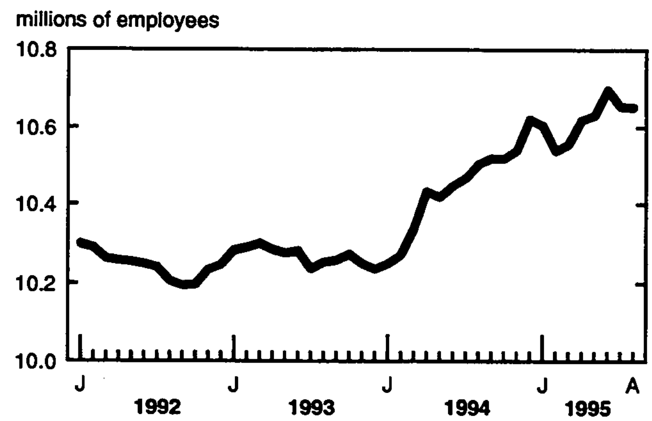
Employee's weekly earnings grew 0.9% in August to $574.48, more than offsetting July's decrease. Earnings increased substantially for employees in logging and forestry; durable goods manufacturing; and finance, insurance and real estate. By class of employee, the weekly earnings of commissioned agents and working owners increased 2.0%, while a 1.0% increase for salaried employees also contributed to the overall growth.

Weekly earnings rebounded in August



The number of employees employed by businesses was almost unchanged in August at 10,652,000. This followed a drop of 43,000 in July. Despite fluctuations since the beginning of the year, the number of employees was 47,000 higher than in January 1995. Notable in August were widespread increases by wholesalers, which increased the number of employees in wholesale trade by 6,000; accommodation, food and beverage service establishments reduced employment by 8,000.

Employment growth stalled in August



Provincially, a gain of 15,000 employees in Ontario in August was offset by marginal declines in most of the other provinces. The gain in Ontario was led by durable goods manufacturers, who increased employment by 13,000.

Employment levels stabilized in manufacturing

After two consecutive monthly declines, the number of employees in manufacturing was unchanged in August at 1,661,000. Durable goods manufacturers expanded employment, offsetting a similar drop among manufacturers of non-durables. The gain in durables resulted from increased employment by manufacturers in the automotive sector in Ontario. This corresponded with increased shipments from the automobile sector. The employment drop in non-durable goods manufacturing occurred mainly among food and clothing producers.

The average number of weekly hours for manufacturing employees was unchanged in August, but employees' weekly earnings rose 1.0% to $693.93. After fluctuating for many months, weekly earnings for manufacturing employees were $1.01 higher than in January 1995.

Wholesalers regained momentum

Wholesalers expanded employment by 6,000 in August, offsetting declines in June and July and continuing a generally upward trend that has been evident since February 1994. This employment gain coincided with wholesale trade volumes, which increased for the first time in six months in August.

Weekly earnings for wholesale trade employees rose by $4.59. Eamings rose for salaried employees and employees paid by the hour. For the employees paid by the hour, the increase resulted from both higher average hourly eamings and more weekly hours.

Public administration employment continued to fall

The declining employment trend in public administration has accelerated since the start of the year; the decline since January totalled 21,000 in August. Staff reductions continued in August in federal public administration, with a loss of 2,000 employees. The losses were concentrated in Ontario and Quebec. Weekly earnings for public administration employees were 0.3% lower in August 1995 than in August 1994.

Health and business services employment declined following months of growth

In recent years, employers in health and social services as well as business services have contributed significantly to the employment growth in the economy. In August, this trend was countered with a drop of 5,000 employees in health and social services and 4,000 fewer employees in business services. The decline in health and social services was concentrated mainly in Ontario and to a lesser extent in Alberta. For business services, it was mainly establishments in British Columbia that accounted for the decline.

Weekly eamings for employees in health and social services rose $2.43, while eamings for employees in business services were unchanged. In both industries, employees paid by the hour worked slightly longer hours per week.

Recent resurgence in finance, insurance and real estate

The number of employees in finance, insurance and real estate grew slightly in August, with significant increases in investment intermediaries and real estate operators. This followed similar gains in June and July, so that the total gain during the three months was 15,000 employees. These recent gains bucked the industry's long-term trend, which shows a slow but steady decline in the number of employees since the spring of 1993.

Weekly eamings for employees in this industry have also increased in recent months. Employees' average weekly eamings grew by $7.71 to $654.79 in August. The eamings growth was most pronounced for employees in investment intermediaries and real estate operators.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.

Detailed industry data and other labour market indicators are available from the standard tables in *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002, $31/$310) and *Annual estimates of employment, eamings and hours, 1983-1994* (paper version: 72F0002XPB, $75; diskette: 72F0002XDB, $100; paper and diskette: 10-3000XZB, $150), as well as by custom tabulation.

For further information on this release, contact Stephen Johnson (613-951-4090, fax: 613-951-4087, the Intemet: philpat@statcan.ca), Labour Division. □

Average weekly earnings[1]

Industry group (1980 SIC)	August 1994	July 1995[r]	August 1995[p]	July 1995 to August 1995	August 1994 to August 1995
	seasonally adjusted				
	$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	**567.34**	**569.53**	**574.48**	**0.9**	**1.3**
Logging and forestry	740.98	719.27	743.57	3.4	0.3
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	968.35	996.59	998.24	0.2	3.1
Manufacturing	680.23	687.05	693.93	1.0	2.0
Construction	663.70	670.87	673.88	0.4	1.5
Transportation, communication and other utilities	716.02	732.39	732.15	0.0	2.3
Wholesale trade	603.39	618.37	622.96	0.7	3.2
Retail trade	339.92	339.46	344.61	1.5	1.4
Finance, insurance and real estate	631.16	647.08	654.79	1.2	3.7
Business services	611.62	618.84	619.04	0.0	1.2
Education-related services	673.56	675.16	675.29	0.0	0.3
Health and social services	504.54	496.25	498.68	0.5	-1.2
Accommodation, food and beverage services	226.55	232.52	233.25	0.3	3.0
Public administration	753.86	750.08	751.27	0.2	-0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	522.95	526.57	533.87	1.4	2.1
Prince Edward Island	442.49	464.15	468.74	1.0	5.9
Nova Scotia	492.24	487.38	489.01	0.3	-0.7
New Brunswick	497.66	506.82	508.32	0.3	2.1
Quebec	542.71	542.84	545.18	0.4	0.5
Ontario	604.66	604.39	611.46	1.2	1.1
Manitoba	496.14	505.20	505.29	0.0	1.8
Saskatchewan	490.13	494.00	495.70	0.3	1.1
Alberta	554.64	552.21	552.89	0.1	-0.3
British Columbia	579.58	594.66	600.84	1.0	3.7
Yukon	689.50	658.97	672.57	2.1	-2.5
Northwest Territories	707.15	721.09	717.57	-0.5	1.5

1 *For all employees*
r *Revised estimates.*
p *Preliminary estimates.*

Number of employees

Industry group (1980 SIC)	June 1995	July 1995[r]	August 1995[p]	June 1995 to July 1995	July 1995 to August 1995
	seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	**10,697**	**10,654**	**10,652**	**-0.4**	**-0.0**
Logging and forestry	66	68	66	3.0	-2.9
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	130	131	131	0.8	0.0
Manufacturing	1,665	1,661	1,661	-0.2	0.0
Construction	441	438	435	-0.7	-0.7
Transportation, communication and other utilities	844	844	845	0.0	0.1
Wholesale trade	649	646	652	-0.5	0.9
Retail trade	1,383	1,389	1,390	0.4	0.1
Finance, insurance and real estate	639	644	645	0.8	0.2
Business services	603	607	603	0.7	-0.7
Education-related services	947	935	929	-1.3	-0.6
Health and social services	1,194	1,198	1,193	0.3	-0.4
Accommodation, food and beverage services	764	761	754	-0.4	-0.9
Public administration	686	683	682	-0.4	-0.1
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	147	147	145	0.0	-1.4
Prince Edward Island	44	43	44	-2.3	2.3
Nova Scotia	301	300	299	-0.3	-0.3
New Brunswick	239	240	239	0.4	-0.4
Quebec	2,578	2,547	2,544	-1.2	-0.1
Ontario	4,183	4,189	4,204	0.1	0.4
Manitoba	404	404	405	0.0	0.2
Saskatchewan	315	316	314	0.3	-0.6
Alberta	1,046	1,034	1,035	-1.1	0.1
British Columbia	1,401	1,397	1,395	-0.3	-0.1
Yukon	12	12	12	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	23	23	23	0.0	0.0

[r] *Revised estimates.*
[p] *Preliminary estimates.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Sales of refined petroleum products

September 1995 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 112 000 cubic metres in September, up 0.4% from September 1994. The largest sales increases were recorded for petrochemical feedstocks (+152 500 cubic metres or +98.2%) and heavy fuel oil (+34 000 cubic metres or +7.0%). It is important to note that the sales increase for petrochemical feedstocks was due to a temporary plant shutdown in September 1994, and not a rise in current sales. Partly offsetting these advances was a decline in the demand for all other refined products (-80 000 cubic metres or -8.3%) and light fuel oil (-18 500 cubic metres or -6.1%).

During the first three quarters of 1995, sales increased for five of the seven major product groups. Strong sales of diesel fuel oil reflected higher demand by railways and the truck transport industry. Increased sales of petrochemical feedstocks reflected greater demand by the petrochemical industry; the sales of this product rose over the 20-month period ending in September.

Sales of heavy fuel oil have declined mainly because of decreased use of the product by electric utilities. Lower priced natural gas is displacing heavy fuel oil in the production of electricity.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

The September 1995 issue of *Refined petroleum products* (45-004, $20/$200) will be available the third week of December. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	Sept. 1994	Sept. 1995	Sept. 1994 to Sept. 1995
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	**7 082.4**	**7 112.0**	**0.4**
Motor gasoline	3 048.0	2 952.3	-3.1
Diesel fuel oil	1 710.0	1 721.6	0.7
Light fuel oil	304.5	286.0	-6.1
Heavy fuel oil	486.9	520.9	7.0
Aviation turbo fuels	419.6	445.3	6.1
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	155.3	307.8	98.2
All other refined products	958.1	878.1	-8.3
	Jan.-Sept. 1994	Jan.-Sept. 1995	Jan.-Sept. 1994 to Jan.-Sept. 1995
Total, all products	**61 800.6**	**62 877.1**	**1.7**
Motor gasoline	26 379.0	26 445.4	0.3
Diesel fuel oil	13 532.4	14 111.8	4.3
Light fuel oil	4 222.4	3 758.0	-11.0
Heavy fuel oil	4 794.2	4 684.2	-2.3
Aviation turbo fuels	3 575.7	3 813.9	6.7
Petrochemical feedstocks[1]	2 677.3	3 344.0	24.9
All other refined products	6 619.6	6 719.8	1.5

1 *Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce petroleum-based chemicals.*

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Gypsum products

September 1995

Manufacturers shipped 18 951 000 square metres of plain gypsum wallboard in September, down 16.0% from 22 560 000 square metres in September 1994 and down 15.9% from 22 526 000 (revised) square metres in August 1995.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of September 1995 totalled 172 778 000 (revised) square metres, down 9.1% from a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 39 and 122 (series 11).

The September 1995 issue of *Gypsum products* (44-003, $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. ■

Process cheese and instant skim milk powder

September 1995

Production of process cheese in September totalled 8 571 090 kilograms, up 33.0% from August 1995, but down 4.4% from September 1994. Year-to-date production at the end of September 1995 totalled 58 347 362 kilograms, up from 57 269 428 (revised) kilograms the previous year.

Year-to-date production of instant skim milk powder for 1995 totalled 2 610 912 kilograms, compared with 2 648 195 kilograms the year before.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 188 (series 1.10).

The September 1995 issue of *Production and inventories of process cheese and instant skim milk powder* (32-024, $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. ■

Retail chain and department stores

1993

Retail chain organizations (firms operating four or more retail outlets in the same industry class under the same legal ownership) reported annual sales totalling $62.6 billion in 1993, a 6.7% increase from $58.7 billion in 1992.

In 1993, the number of retail chains increased by 106 to 1,211. The increase of 106 was mainly due to the survey's improved coverage beginning with the 1993 survey year. The maximum number of chain outlets operating during the year decreased from 38,805 to 38,026 stores.

Chain store sales increased in all provinces and territories in 1993. The increases ranged from 3.3% in Ontario to 14.2% in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Department store organizations reported sales of $12.7 billion in 1993, a 3.2% decrease from 1992. The number of such organizations decreased to 9, while their number of outlets dropped to 897.

The 1993 data on retail chains and department store organizations (including sales by industrial class, floor area data and certain financial statistics) are now available.

Retail chain and department stores, 1993 (63-210, $37) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information about this release, contact Mamady Kaba (613-951-3550), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

The sugar situation, September 1995
Catalogue number 32-013
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Corrugated boxes and wrappers, September 1995
Catalogue number 36-004
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes), September 1995
Catalogue number 43-009
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Electrical and electronic products industries, 1993
Catalogue number 43-250
(Canada: $38; United States: US$46; other countries: US$54).

Air passenger origin and destination, Canada-United States report, 1994
Catalogue number 51-205
(Canada: $45; United States: US$54; other countries: US$63).

Wholesale trade, August 1995
Catalogue number 63-008
(Canada: $18/$180; United States: US$22/US$216; other countries: US$26/US$252).

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