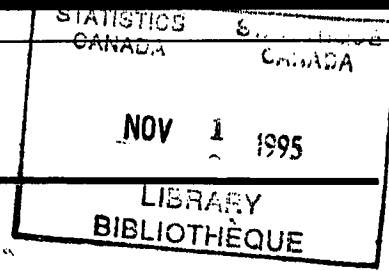




The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, November 1, 1995
For release at 8:30 a.m.



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- **Farm input price index, third quarter 1995** 2
Interest costs and the price of fertilizer and pesticides boosted the annual increase in the cost of farming in the third quarter of 1995 to its highest level in over a year.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Farm input price index

Third quarter 1995 (preliminary)

Interest costs and the price of fertilizer and pesticides boosted the annual increase in the cost of farming in the third quarter of 1995 to its highest level in over a year.

It cost farmers 4.2% more to do business in the third quarter of 1995 than it did during the same period a year earlier. That was the highest annual rate of increase since the second quarter of 1994 (+4.4%).

In Eastern Canada, prices rose 3.7%, while the hike in the West was 4.6%.

Farmers paid 21.8% more in interest costs in the third quarter compared with a year earlier, but the annual change was down from +29% in the second quarter of 1995. Interest costs fell between quarters (-0.7%) for the first time since the beginning of 1994, on the heels of a decline in both mortgage and non-mortgage loans.

Fertilizer, pesticide costs dogging farmers

Farmers paid more for inputs in seven of nine categories on a year-over-year basis. In particular, they paid more for interest and crop production inputs such as seed, fertilizer and pesticides (+12.3%).

Farm wages at the national level climbed 3.0%, while the cost of machinery and motor vehicles went up 4.7%. Lower prices for feeder cattle contributed most to a 3.1% drop in animal prices since the third quarter of 1994.

But comparing the second and third quarters of 1995, farm input prices tended to be stable, rising only

0.3%—the lowest quarterly rate of increase this year. Farmers paid more to hire farm labour in the third quarter (+3.8%). That was offset by the lower interest costs and a 1.9% decrease in the prices of building and fencing. Other input groups showed little or no change on the quarter.

Costs rose in the East and were steady in the West

Third-quarter costs rose 0.9% in Eastern Canada on the strength of higher farm labour costs; costs remained unchanged in the West.

Eastern farmers paid significantly higher wages on cattle, fruit and vegetable farms, following a quarterly drop of 5.1% in farm wages in the East in the second quarter.

Farmers in Eastern Canada also benefited from lower prices for building and fencing, as well as lower interest costs.

In the West, farmers paid slightly more for animal production, machinery and motor vehicles, and supplies and services. But costs dropped for building and fencing, interest, hired farm labour and crop production.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 550-582 (level 7) and 2050-2063.

The third quarter 1995 issue of *Farm input price indexes* (62-004, \$24/\$80) will be available in November. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606), Prices Division. ☐

Farm input price indexes
(1986=100)

	Third quarter 1994	Second quarter 1995	Third quarter 1995	Third quarter 1994 to Third quarter 1995	Second quarter 1995 to Third quarter 1995
	<hr style="width: 100%; margin: 0;"/> <div style="text-align: right;">% change</div> <hr style="width: 100%; margin: 0;"/>				
Canada					
Total farm input	117.9	122.4	122.8	4.2	0.3
Building and fencing	128.4	129.9	127.4	-0.8	-1.9
Machinery and motor vehicles	124.2	129.8	130.0	4.7	0.2
Crop production	110.2	123.6	123.7	12.3	0.1
Animal production	116.1	112.1	112.5	-3.1	0.4
Supplies and services	123.6	125.2	125.3	1.4	0.1
Hired farm labour	134.5	133.5	138.6	3.0	3.8
Property taxes	132.6	135.2	135.2	2.0	0.0
Interest	98.6	120.9	120.1	21.8	-0.7
Farm rent	110.2	111.2	111.2	0.9	0.0
Eastern Canada					
Total farm input	121.7	125.1	126.2	3.7	0.9
Building and fencing	134.3	136.3	133.9	-0.3	-1.8
Machinery and motor vehicles	128.5	135.3	135.2	5.2	-0.1
Crop production	116.0	125.8	126.5	9.1	0.6
Animal production	113.4	111.6	112.1	-1.1	0.4
Supplies and services	131.4	132.6	132.7	1.0	0.1
Hired farm labour	142.6	136.4	146.6	2.8	7.5
Property taxes	145.8	148.8	148.8	2.1	0.0
Interest	104.8	130.3	129.3	23.4	-0.8
Farm rent	145.0	146.9	146.9	1.3	0.0
Western Canada					
Total farm input	115.0	120.3	120.3	4.6	0.0
Building and fencing	121.8	122.7	120.1	-1.4	-2.1
Machinery and motor vehicles	121.9	127.0	127.2	4.3	0.2
Crop production	107.6	123.0	122.9	14.2	-0.1
Animal production	119.8	112.8	113.1	-5.6	0.3
Supplies and services	115.8	117.8	117.9	1.8	0.1
Hired farm labour	125.7	130.4	130.2	3.6	-0.2
Property taxes	129.1	131.6	131.6	1.9	0.0
Interest	94.8	115.1	114.4	20.7	-0.6
Farm rent	98.4	99.1	99.1	0.7	0.0

OTHER RELEASES

Short-term expectations survey

Every month for five years, Statistics Canada has canvassed a group of economic analysts (on average 17) for one-month-ahead forecasts of key economic indicators. Participants in this survey forecast the year-over-year changes in the consumer price index, the unemployment rate, and merchandise exports and imports. They also forecast the monthly change in gross domestic product at constant prices.

An evaluation of the accuracy of the mean forecast in the March 1993 issue of *Canadian economic observer* showed it to be superior to a mean naive forecast, and suggested that the quality of the forecasts improved over time.

- The mean forecast for October's consumer price index is a year-over-year change of +2.3%. Opinions range from a minimum change of +2.1% to a maximum of +2.7%. The mean forecast for September (+2.3%) matched the outcome.
- The forecasters estimate October's unemployment rate to be 9.4% (minimum 9.3%, maximum 9.5%). September's mean forecast (9.5%) overestimated the outcome by 0.3 percentage points.
- The mean forecast of exports in September is \$21.1 billion, up from \$19.2 billion in August. Opinions range from a minimum of \$20.0 billion to a maximum of \$22.0 billion. The mean forecast of imports for September is \$18.9 billion. Forecasts range from a minimum of \$18.4 billion to a maximum of \$19.6 billion. The current forecast is an increase of \$0.9 billion from the previous month's forecast, which underestimated the outcome of \$18.7 billion.
- The mean forecast for real GDP in September is a 0.1% increase. Opinions range widely, from a minimum of -0.2% to a maximum of +0.3%. The forecast for August, which predicted a 0.2% increase, underestimated the actual outcome of +0.3%.

The next release will be on November 30.

For a set of tables, or for further information on this release, contact Diane Lachapelle (613-951-0568). ■

Non-residential building construction price indexes

Third quarter 1995

The non-residential building construction price index for the third quarter of 1995 moved up slightly to 128.6, a 0.3% increase over the second quarter of 1995 and a 2.8% increase over the third quarter of 1994.

Toronto's index increased 0.5%, the highest quarterly change among the cities. It was followed closely by the Montréal index at 0.4%. The indexes for Calgary and Halifax both increased 0.3%, while those for Edmonton and Ottawa increased 0.2%. The Vancouver index decreased 0.1%, its first quarter-to-quarter decrease since the third quarter of 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2042 and 2043.

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. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending October 14, 1995

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending October 14, 1995, decreased 1.5% to 4.6 million tonnes. The number of cars loaded decreased 0.5% from the same period of last year.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 280 000 tonnes, a 14.6% decrease from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures showed an increase of 8.9%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 2.3% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 199.6 million tonnes, a 2.4% increase from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528, fax: 613-951-0579), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Electric storage batteries

September 1995

Manufacturers of electric storage batteries sold 272,272 automotive and heavy-duty commercial replacement batteries in September, down 3.8% from 282,926 batteries in September 1994.

For January to September 1995, shipments totalled 1,200,738 batteries, down 15.0% from 1,413,108 batteries the previous year.

Sales data for other types of storage batteries are also available.

The September 1995 issue of *Factory sales of electric storage batteries* (43-005, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

Cement

September 1995

Manufacturers shipped 1 176 801 tonnes of cement in September, down 3.5% from 1 219 729 tonnes (revised) in September 1994, and down 0.6% from 1 184 454 tonnes (revised) in August 1995.

For January to September 1995, shipments totalled 7 967 053 tonnes (revised), up 2.7% from 7 754 466 tonnes (revised) during the same period in 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 92 and 122 (series 35).

The September 1995 issue of *Cement* (44-001, \$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. ■

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products

Third quarter 1995

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products totalled \$15.8 million in the third quarter, a 7.9% decrease from \$17.1 million (revised) in the third quarter of 1994.

Data for the third quarter of 1995 on manufacturers' shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products are now available.

The third quarter 1995 issue of *Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products* (25-002, \$8/\$24) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Keith Martin (613-951-3518), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Production and inventories of process cheese and instant skim milk powder, September 1995

Catalogue number 32-024

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

Gypsum products, September 1995

Catalogue number 44-003

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

Coal and coke statistics, August 1995

Catalogue number 45-002

(Canada: \$11/\$110; United States: US\$14/US\$132; other countries: US\$16/US\$154).

Electric power statistics, August 1995

Catalogue number 57-001

(Canada: \$11/\$110; United States: US\$14/US\$132; other countries: US\$16/US\$154).

Exports by commodity, August 1995, microfiche version

Catalogue number 65-0040XMB

(Canada: \$35/\$350; United States: US\$42/US\$420; other countries: US\$49/US\$490).

Exports by commodity, August 1995, paper version
Catalogue number 65-0040XPB

(Canada: \$75/\$750; United States: US\$90/US\$900; other countries: US\$105/US\$1,050).

Causes of death, 1993

Catalogue number 84-208

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

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	September 1995	October 31, 1995
Building permits	August 1995	October 4, 1995
Canada Year Book on CD-ROM	1994	October 27, 1995
Canada's international transactions in securities	August 1995	October 25, 1995
Canadian economic observer	October 1995	October 20, 1995
Canadian international merchandise trade	August 1995	October 18, 1995
Cement	August 1995	October 4, 1995
Cereals and oilseeds review	July 1995	October 3, 1995
Civil aviation operating statistics	August 1995	October 11, 1995
Coal and coke	August 1995	October 31, 1995
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