



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Consumer price index, October 1995** 2  
Inflation held relatively stable for a fourth straight month. Consumers paid 2.4% more for goods and services in October 1995 than they did a year earlier.

## OTHER RELEASES

- Department store sales, October 1995 5
- Production and disposition of tobacco products, October 1995 5
- Railway carloadings, ten-day period ending October 31, 1995 6
- Business entry and exit estimates, first quarter 1995 6
- Construction type plywood, September 1995 6

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 7



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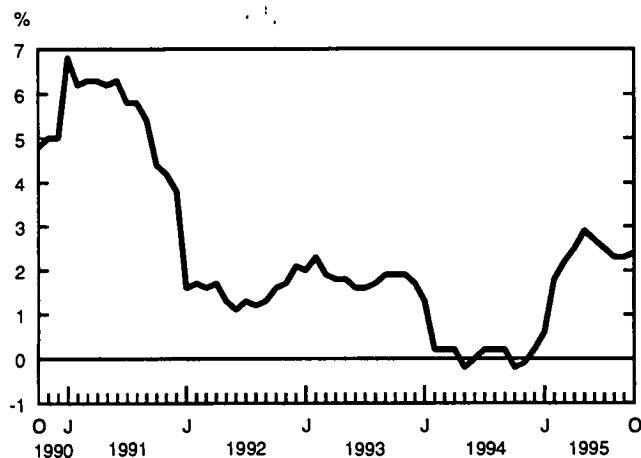
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Consumer price index

October 1995

Canadians paid 2.4% more for consumer purchases in October 1995 than in October 1994. This was largely due to price increases for new vehicles, vehicle insurance, mortgage loans and paper products.

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



The CPI's annual changes have ranged between +2.3% and +2.5% for four months in a row. Rates were lower at the beginning of the year in part because of cigarette tax reductions in 1994. Rates then surged to a peak of +2.9% in May.

New vehicle prices rose in November 1994 and January 1995, contributing significantly to the 2.4% increase in consumer inflation since last year. Vehicle insurance premiums also increased. Mortgage loans were more expensive than a year earlier, largely due to higher interest rates. Higher prices for paper products led to increased prices for household paper supplies.

In several categories, consumers benefited from lower prices than a year earlier. These included piped gas, fresh produce, women's wear and computer equipment.

### A 0.1% decline between September and October

Falling prices for traveller accommodation, gasoline, and women's clothing contributed to a 0.1% decline in the CPI between September and October. A 1.7% annual rise in property taxes prevented the CPI from declining further.

In July, rates for traveller accommodation climbed 17.9%. This exceptionally large summer increase was attributed to a noticeable increase in the number of non-resident visitors to Canada and to a decline in the number of Canadians travelling outside the country. The rates for traveller accommodation dropped 9.8% in October, a larger than normal autumn decline. Even so, rates remained well above their level of a year earlier, suggesting that demand was still high. In fact, the tourism numbers for September support this suggestion: they show that residents of overseas countries visited Canada in record numbers.

Motorists benefited from a 1.5% reduction in gasoline prices. Gasoline price was taken place in nearly all the provinces. Except for a brief interruption in September, gasoline prices have fallen without stopping since May. Crude oil prices dropped 10.2% between April and September. The early estimate for October showed a further 4.9% decline.

Prices of women's clothing fell 2.1% in October as many items went on special. Prices increased 1.2% in both August and September; higher prices for cotton, wool and polyester contributed to those increases. Even as women's wear went on special in October, prices increased for men's and children's clothing.

Piped gas rates fell for the fifth month this year. Ontario residents benefited most from the latest reductions. Maintenance and repair charges for homeowners and tenants fell. Most of this was due to price discounts on paint across the country.

Property tax increases put upward pressure on the CPI. The 1.7% annual increase was larger than the 1.3% rise of last year; however, these increases were the lowest since October 1980. Provincial averages ranged from a decline of 1.7% in Nova Scotia to a rise of 3.5% in New Brunswick.

## Annual percentage change in property taxes

|                      | 1993       | 1994       | 1995       |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Canada</b>        | <b>3.0</b> | <b>1.3</b> | <b>1.7</b> |
| Newfoundland         | 0.6        | 0.2        | 2.5        |
| Prince Edward Island | 6.9        | 3.5        | 1.8        |
| Nova Scotia          | 4.1        | 0.4        | -1.7       |
| New Brunswick        | 4.1        | 5.7        | 3.5        |
| Quebec               | 1.7        | 0.6        | 2.1        |
| Ontario              | 3.0        | 0.6        | 1.5        |
| Manitoba             | 8.5        | 5.4        | 3.3        |
| Saskatchewan         | 2.0        | 1.6        | 1.6        |
| Alberta              | 4.0        | 2.2        | 1.0        |
| British Columbia     | 3.3        | 3.2        | 1.6        |

**Note:** The reported property tax changes take into account changes in mill rates as well as revisions to the assessed values of properties. Property taxes include payments to municipalities, regional governments and school boards as well as special levies.

Significant price advances for paper supplies, personal care supplies and beer purchased from stores occurred in October. Prices of household paper supplies, which increased every month this year, rose a further 2.6%. As a result, prices in October stood 19.7% above their levels of a year earlier. Prices increased for personal care supplies as September's sale prices returned to regular levels. Prices of beer purchased from stores rose, most notably in Ontario and Quebec. These increases were due mostly to higher costs for raw materials and packaging.

Prices for food from stores were unchanged overall. Fresh fruit, beef, turkey, lettuce and coffee prices all fell in October. Higher prices for bakery products, chicken

and tomatoes offset these declines. Upward pressure on wheat prices because of a smaller crop in 1995 was a factor behind the rise in the bakery products index.

## Provinces at a glance

The increases in provincial CPIs from October 1994 ranged from 1.2% in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to 2.7% in Ontario. A sharp decline in food prices, accompanied by a below-average rise in household operations and furnishings costs and transportation charges, explained the low inflation rate in Nova Scotia. In New Brunswick, sharp declines in the indexes for food and clothing were accompanied by smaller than average increases in transportation costs and prices for household operations and furnishings. In Ontario, consumers saw above-average advances in food prices and transportation charges.

Between September and October, the CPI increased in only three provinces: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 7440-7453 and 7477-7478.**

The October 1995 issue of *The consumer price index* (62-001, \$10/\$100) is now available. See "How to order publications".

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

**Consumer price index and its major components**  
(1986=100)

|  | Oct.<br>1995 | Sept.<br>1995 | Oct.<br>1994 | Sept.<br>1995<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1995 | Oct.<br>1994<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1995 |
|--|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| unadjusted   |              |               |              |                                     |                                    |
|  |              |               |              | % change                            |                                    |
| <b>All-items</b>   | <b>133.8</b> | <b>133.9</b>  | <b>130.7</b> | <b>-0.1</b>                         | <b>2.4</b>                         |
| Food   | 125.6        | 125.5         | 123.2        | 0.1                                 | 1.9                                |
| Shelter  | 134.0        | 134.1         | 132.9        | -0.1                                | 0.8                                |
| Household operations and furnishings   | 122.4        | 122.2         | 119.3        | 0.2                                 | 2.6                                |
| Clothing and footwear  | 132.3        | 132.7         | 131.4        | -0.3                                | 0.7                                |
| Transportation   | 138.2        | 138.7         | 131.3        | -0.4                                | 5.3                                |
| Health and personal care   | 135.8        | 135.4         | 135.8        | 0.3                                 | 0.0                                |
| Recreation, education and reading  | 145.0        | 146.2         | 139.8        | -0.8                                | 3.7                                |
| Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products                                       | 144.7        | 144.2         | 140.6        | 0.3                                 | 2.9                                |
| Goods  | 126.5        | 126.6         | 123.8        | -0.1                                | 2.2                                |
| Services   | 142.7        | 142.9         | 139.1        | -0.1                                | 2.6                                |
| All-items excluding food and energy  | 136.7        | 136.8         | 133.2        | -0.1                                | 2.6                                |
| Energy   | 126.1        | 127.6         | 125.2        | -1.2                                | 0.7                                |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1986 | 74.7         | 74.7          | 76.5         |                                     |                                    |
| All-items (1981=100)   | 177.2        |               |              |                                     |                                    |

**Consumer price index for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife**  
(1986=100)

|                      | Oct.<br>1995 | Sept.<br>1995 | Oct.<br>1994 | Sept.<br>1995<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1995 | Oct.<br>1994<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1995 |
|----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| unadjusted           |              |               |              |                                     |                                    |
|                      |              |               |              | % change                            |                                    |
| Newfoundland         | 127.8        | 127.4         | 125.8        | 0.3                                 | 1.6                                |
| Prince Edward Island | 132.6        | 132.0         | 129.5        | 0.5                                 | 2.4                                |
| Nova Scotia          | 130.3        | 130.5         | 128.7        | -0.2                                | 1.2                                |
| New Brunswick        | 129.4        | 129.5         | 127.9        | -0.1                                | 1.2                                |
| Quebec               | 131.2        | 131.4         | 128.2        | -0.2                                | 2.3                                |
| Ontario              | 134.8        | 135.1         | 131.3        | -0.2                                | 2.7                                |
| Manitoba             | 135.9        | 135.9         | 132.5        | 0.0                                 | 2.6                                |
| Saskatchewan         | 136.1        | 135.8         | 133.6        | 0.2                                 | 1.9                                |
| Alberta              | 133.2        | 133.2         | 130.4        | 0.0                                 | 2.1                                |
| British Columbia     | 137.5        | 137.5         | 134.9        | 0.0                                 | 1.9                                |
| Whitehorse           | 130.4        | 131.0         | 129.2        | -0.5                                | 0.9                                |
| Yellowknife          | 133.6        | 134.1         | 129.4        | -0.4                                | 3.2                                |

## OTHER RELEASES

## Department store sales

October 1995

Seasonally adjusted department store sales rose a slight 0.3% in October, following a 0.8% decline in September. Sales for the first 10 months of 1995 were up 4.6% over the same period last year.

## Department store sales

|       | Sept.<br>1995 <sup>r</sup> | Oct.<br>1995 <sup>p</sup> | Sept.<br>1995<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1995 | Oct.<br>1994<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1995 |
|-------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|       | seasonally adjusted        |                           |                                     |                                    |
|       | \$ millions                |                           | % change                            |                                    |
| Sales | 1,172.3                    | 1,175.9                   | 0.3                                 | 5.3                                |

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures

Consumers spent more money on goods and services from department stores in October, up 2.3% from a year earlier (unadjusted). Except for February and March, year-over-year sales have increased in each month of 1995 due to gains by the discount department stores.

The major stores rang up sales of \$536.9 million in October, a 9.3% drop from October 1994. This decrease followed the small September increase, which was the first year-over-year increase in 1995 for the major stores.

Consumer spending in the discount stores totalled \$639.4 million, a 14.6% increase over October 1994. Year-over-year, discount stores sales have increased in every month of 1995 except February. In October, the discounters took in 54.4% of the total department store sales.

Department store retailers in Saskatchewan posted an 8.8% sales increase compared with October 1994, the largest increase at the provincial level. Sales in British Columbia declined 0.1% after six consecutive months of year-over-year increases.

## Department store sales including concessions

|   | Oct.<br>1995 | Oct.<br>1994<br>to<br>Oct.<br>1995 |
|---|--------------|------------------------------------|
|   | unadjusted   |                                    |
|   | \$ millions  | % change                           |
| Canada  | 1,176.3      | 2.3                                |
| Newfoundland  | x            | x                                  |
| Prince Edward Island                                      | x            | x                                  |
| Nova Scotia   | 39.3         | 2.2                                |
| New Brunswick   | 30.8         | 2.9                                |
| Quebec  | 212.3        | 2.0                                |
| Ontario   | 488.3        | 2.4                                |
| Manitoba  | 50.4         | 2.5                                |
| Saskatchewan  | 37.5         | 8.8                                |
| Alberta   | 128.6        | 3.8                                |
| British Columbia, the Yukon, the<br>Northwest Territories | 165.9        | -0.1                               |

<sup>x</sup> Confidential data.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111, 112 (series 1, levels 10-12) and 113 (series 3).

The October 1995 issue of *Department store sales and stocks* (63-002, \$16/\$160) will be available in December. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Leslie Kiss (613-951-3556), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. ■

## Production and disposition of tobacco products

October 1995

Canadian manufacturers made 4.29 billion cigarettes in October, a 14.2% decrease from October 1994. They shipped 3.96 billion cigarettes in October 1995, a 2.8% drop from a year earlier.

Domestic sales (89% of total shipments) gained 3.5% compared with October 1994; exports declined 37.7%. With production higher than shipments, inventories expanded to 4.93 billion cigarettes.

Cigarette production for the first 10 months of 1995 stood at 42.78 billion cigarettes, down 6.6% from the same period a year earlier. Year-to-date shipments fell marginally (-0.5%) from the same period in 1994.

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 October 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. ■

## **Railway carloadings**

Ten-day period ending October 31, 1995

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the 10-day period ending October 31, 1995, increased 7.8% to 6.7 million tonnes. The number of cars loaded increased 4.8% from the same period of last year.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 438 000 tonnes, a 4.2% decrease from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures showed an increase of 8.0%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 6.9% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 212.1 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. ■

## **Business entry and exit estimates**

First quarter 1995

The Business Register's estimates from the Business Entry and Exit Survey are now available for the first quarter of 1995. The business entry and business exit estimates have declined since the first quarter

of 1994 (-1.8% and -4.7% respectively). Most of this decline can be attributed to the construction, retail trade, and the accommodation, food and beverage services industries. In these industries, the combined net business formation shortfall was about 1,950 businesses. By contrast, the business services industry has remained buoyant, with a positive net business formation of almost 1,000 businesses during the first quarter of 1995.

The entry and exit estimates are available quarterly (by region and industry), covering the first quarter of 1993 through the first quarter of 1995. To facilitate comparisons within industries or regions, estimates of business formations and closures are also available for the same periods.

Due to budgetary constraints, the Business Register program will suspend production of the Business Entry and Exit Survey estimates. If another funding source becomes available, the survey might resume, either on a regular or an ad hoc basis.

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

## **Construction type plywood**

September 1995

Manufacturers made 158 673 cubic metres of construction type plywood in September, a 2.4% increase from 154 879 cubic metres in September 1994.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).**

The September 1995 issue of *Construction type plywood* (35-001, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

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

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Monthly survey of manufacturing, September 1995**  
**Catalogue number 31-001**

(Canada: \$19/\$190; United States: US\$23/US\$228;  
other countries: US\$27/US\$266).

**Printing, publishing and allied industries, 1993**

**Catalogue number 36-251**

(Canada: \$38; United States: US\$46; other countries:  
US\$54).

**Primary iron and steel, September 1995**

**Catalogue number 41-001**

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

**The consumer price index, October 1995**

**Catalogue number 62-001**

(Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120;  
other countries: US\$14/US\$140).

**Available at 7:00 a.m. today**

**Imports by commodity, September 1995, paper  
version**

**Catalogue number 65-0070XPB**

(Canada: \$75/\$750; United States: US\$90/US\$900;  
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**Imports by commodity, September 1995, microfiche  
version**

**Catalogue number 65-0070XMB**

(Canada: \$35/\$350; United States: US\$42/US\$420;  
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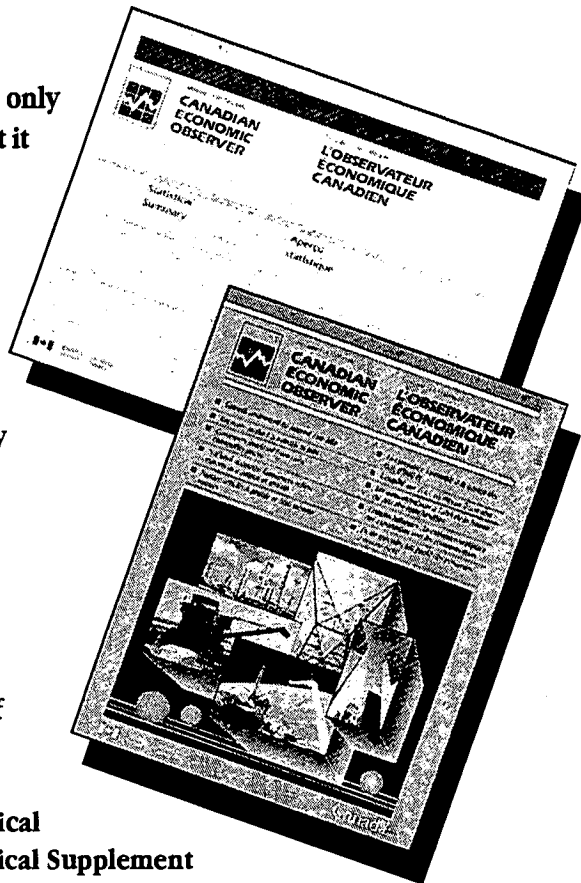


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