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MAJOR RELEASE

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The ownership of "high-tech" items increased among all income groups despite falling average income.

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MAJOR RELEASE

Household facilities by income and other characteristics

1994

Households have continued to acquire leisure and time-saving items for the home despite a 7% decline in average real income since its peak in 1989. This trend appeared across all income groups and among different household types.

For example, over half (53.8%) of households in the lowest quintile (the 20% with lowest incomes) had a VCR in 1994, compared with 29.1% in 1989. By comparison, 93.4% of households in the highest quintile had a VCR in 1994 compared to 81.3% in 1989.

These trends can be explained by several factors. Over the last several years consumer credit has grown and the savings rate has declined. More recently, improved labour market conditions in 1994 may have contributed to consumer confidence and, therefore, increased purchases of items for the home. As well, prices for 'high-tech' equipment have tended to decrease over time.

Higher income households have a jump start on the information highway

Computer ownership varied widely according to household income and by type of household. Households in the highest income quintile were five times more likely to have a home computer than those in the lowest quintile (46.1% vs 9.2%).

Single-family households with children under 18 years of age were three times more likely to have a computer than one-person households (34.8% vs 11.7%). Computers remained a rare item for elderly households; only seven in 100 households whose head was 65 years or over had a computer in 1994.

Subscribing to cable television, potentially a key component in the information highway, varied more by location than by income or household type. While 74.1% of all homes had cable television in 1994, only 34.4% of rural homes had the service, reflecting the overall lack of availability to non-urban areas.

Note to users

On November 2, 1994, Household Surveys Division released data from the household facilities and equipment (HFE) survey showing that Canadian households are entering the high-tech world more and more. Today, the division releases data linking demographic, housing, and facilities information from the HFE survey to income data from the survey of consumer finances. Both surveys were done in Spring 1994 and used the same sample of households. They represent virtually all private households in Canada, except for those in the Yukon and Northwest Territories and households on Indian reserves.

Detailed analysis of the income data, which were released December 21, 1994 can be found in Income distributions by size in Canada, 1993 (Catalogue 13-207).

Kids and gadgets go together

Two-parent households with children under 18 years of age had a 1993 average income of \$59,348 considerably higher than the overall household average of \$46,559. This household type also had higher ownership rates for most types of equipment than did other household types.

Time-saving appliances were particular favourites of these families: 92.1% had a microwave and 61.4% a dishwasher. By comparison, 63.6% of one-person households had a microwave and 23.3% a dishwasher.

Leisure equipment was another popular item for two-parent families with children: 65.0% had two or more colour televisions, 94.0% a VCR, 53.2% a compact disc player and 26.2% a camcorder. Meanwhile, lower incomes and differing lifestyles meant one-person households had fewer of the entertainment items; 19.1% had two or more colour televisions, 55.5% a VCR, 25.3% a CD player and only 4.2% had a camcorder.

A two-parent family with children under 18 years of age was also more likely than other household types to own a van or truck. In 1994, 43.3% of these families could pack up the kids in a van or truck. By comparison, 33.6% of families consisting of only a married couple owned this type of vehicle.

Rent takes a bigger slice of income

The proportion of renters spending 30% or more of their income on rent increased to 34.9% in 1994 from 31.5% in 1993 and 29.5% in 1992. The 1983 proportion was substantially lower at 24.0%. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation considers households who spend 30% or more of their income on shelter to be spending more than the norm.

Owning a home becomes more popular among one-person households

In 1994, 39.8% of one-person households owned their home compared to 38.1% in 1993, and 34.3% in 1989. This increase was concentrated in the 35-to-44 and 65-and-over age groups. Among the elderly, this increase was more likely due to changes in family

composition, such as the death of a spouse, rather than an increased propensity to own as was probably the case in the 35-to-44 age group.

The home ownership rate for households consisting of only a married couple increased from 70.8% in 1989 to 75.4% in 1993 and remained at the same level in 1994 (75.1%).

Data on households by income, province, household type, age of head and other characteristics are presented in *Household facilities by income and other characteristics, 1994* (13-218, \$35), which is now available. See "How to order publications".

For more information concerning these data or on the availability of special request tabulations or microdata files, contact the Income and Housing Surveys Section [613-951-4633 or 613-951-4643], Household Surveys Division.

Time-saving and leisure items become more prevalent despite falling average income

	Lowest quintile	Middle quintile	Highest quintile	All households
	per cent of households			
Dishwasher				
1989	17.5	40.9	69.6	42.5
1994	20.0	45.8	73.8	46.4
Microwave oven				
1989	39.8	66.6	81.5	63.4
1994	63.5	85.2	91.9	81.5
Colour television				
1989	91.3	97.4	98.9	96.2
1994	95.7	98.9	99.5	98.2
Video cassette recorder				
1989	29.1	63.5	81.3	58.8
1994	53.8	85.8	93.4	79.2
Compact disc player				
1989	4.3	11.0	20.4	11.6
1994	20.5	41.3	61.1	40.8
Home computer				
1990 ¹	5.9	14.1	32.4	16.3
1994	9.2	22.3	46.1	25.0

¹ not available for 1989.

OTHER RELEASES

Machinery and equipment price indexes

Fourth quarter 1994

The machinery and equipment price index (MEPI, 1986=100) by industry of purchase was at a preliminary level of 115.4 in the fourth quarter of 1994, up 1.1% from the third quarter. The domestic component increased by 0.9%, while the import component rose 1.1%.

Among the industry divisions, the largest contributors to the overall quarterly price increase, according to their relative importance, were agriculture (+2.8%), manufacturing (+0.6%) and community, business and personal services (+2.3%). Comparing the fourth quarters of 1993 and 1994, the manufacturing (+4.0%), agriculture (+9.8%), and transportation, communication, storage and utilities (+2.6%) industry divisions were the largest contributors to the annual price increase.

Machinery and equipment price indexes (1986 = 100)

	Fourth quarter 1994 ^P	Third quarter 1994 to fourth quarter 1994	Fourth quarter 1993 to fourth quarter 1994
	% change		
Machinery and equipment price index	115.4	1.1	4.4
Industry			
Agriculture	135.8	2.8	9.8
Forestry	124.8	0.9	3.7
Fishing	117.6	0.9	5.2
Mines, quarries and oil wells	114.7	0.8	4.1
Manufacturing	118.3	0.6	4.0
Construction	117.3	0.5	4.5
Transportation, communication, storage and utilities	110.5	0.4	2.6
Trade	108.0	1.2	3.8
Finance, insurance and real estate	102.9	0.7	2.3
Community, business and personal services	102.1	2.3	4.4
Public administration	114.6	0.8	4.2

^P Preliminary figures. ■

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2023-2025.

The fourth quarter 1994 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007, \$19/\$76) will be available in March. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Steel, primary forms

December 1994

Steel, primary forms, production for December 1994 totalled 1 157 754 tonnes, a decrease of 4.0% from 1 205 465 metric tonnes the previous year.

Year-to-date production reached 13 800 328 metric tonnes, down 3.5% from 14 296 355 tonnes a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

The December 1994 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel* (41-001, \$6/\$60) will be available at a later date.

For further information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division. ■

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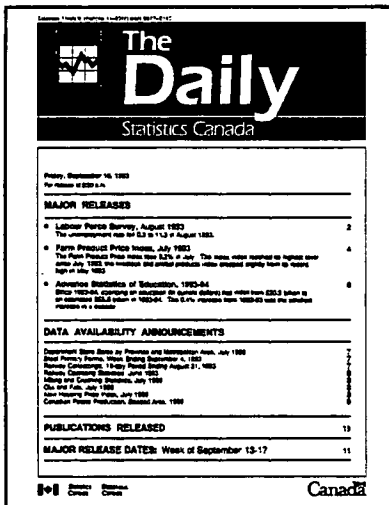
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