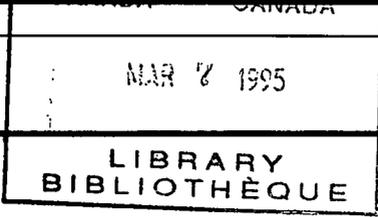


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

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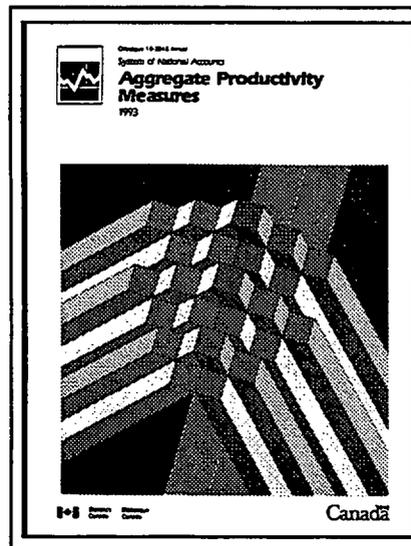
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Aggregate productivity measures 1993

The 1993 issue of *Aggregate productivity measures* updates the estimates of productivity, labour compensation and unit cost for most industries of the business sector. Highlighted is a performance comparison of Canadian and U.S. productivity and unit labour cost over the last business cycle and the 1961-1991 period (for 15 manufacturing industries).

Redesigned tables give a better perspective on sources of economic growth. Moreover, at the industry level, productivity indexes on gross output are now presented with the associated partial productivity indexes on KLEMS input classes, namely: capital, labour, energy, material and services, and a new index of total unit cost.

The KLEMS database, updated for the 1961-1991 period, gives input and output price and quantity estimates underlying the productivity indexes. This database, available on a cost recovery basis, is useful for analysis requiring industry statistics by input category.

The 1993 issue of *Aggregate productivity measures* (15-204E, \$44) is now available. See "How to order publications." For further information on this release, contact Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654), Input-Output Division.

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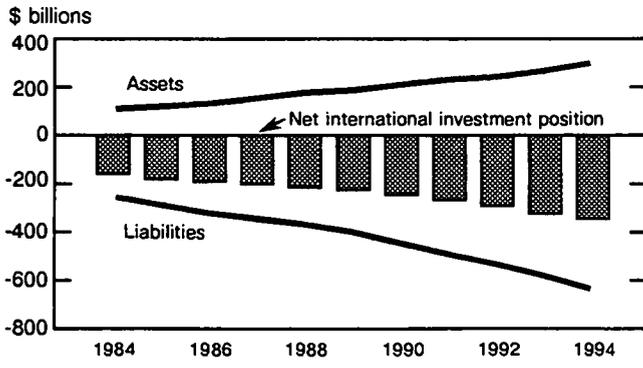
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MAJOR RELEASE

Canada's international investment position
 1994 year-end

In 1994, net foreign investment in Canada grew at its slowest pace since 1988. However, at year-end, foreign investment in Canada remained twice as large as Canadian investment abroad. Foreign investors held \$342 billion more in Canadian assets than Canadians held in foreign assets. This net figure, often described as Canada's net international investment liability, reflects the extent to which foreign saving has financed Canada's consumption and investment throughout the years. Foreigners' holdings, or Canada's liabilities, amounted to \$638 billion against Canada's assets of \$296 billion. Put another way, Canada had a liability of \$2.15 for each dollar of assets. For a second year in a row, assets grew faster than liabilities.

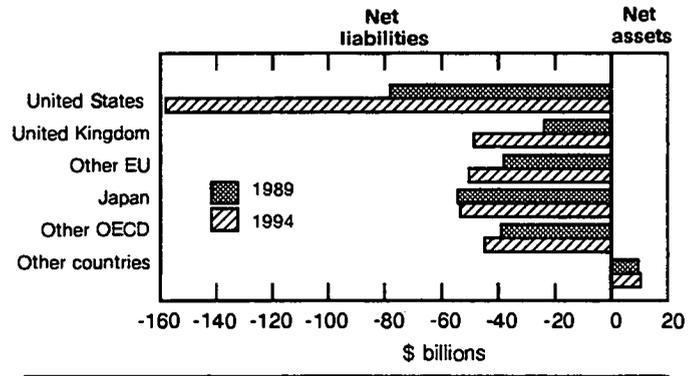
Canada's international investment position



U.S. investment has kept rising, particularly in Canadian bonds

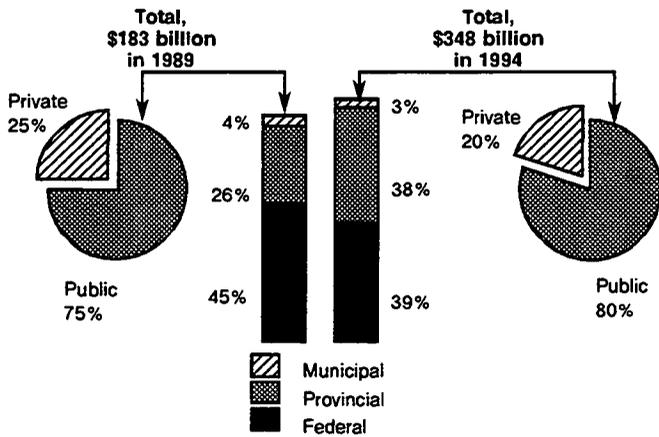
The United States has been the principal source of foreign financing in recent years, so that the U.S. share of Canada's net foreign investment increased from a low of 35% at the end of 1991 to 46% at the end of 1994. This contrasts with the drop of the U.S. share in the 1980s.

Principal sources of foreign financing



Led by the provinces, foreign-held debt of the various levels of governments in Canada (including their enterprises) increased to almost half of Canada's gross external liabilities. This share—the highest ever—has been increasing steadily from 36% at the end of 1989. Over that five-year period, non-residents nearly doubled their holdings of government debt, almost all in bonds. In 1994, they sharply increased their holdings of bonds issued by provinces and their enterprises. As for the debt of the Government of Canada, non-residents acquired treasury bills while selling bonds, edging up their holdings after the large accumulations of the previous 10 years. At the end of 1994, non-residents held 27% of the federal marketable debt, down from the 1993 record of 29%.

Foreign portfolio investment in Canadian bonds and short-term paper



11% peak at the end of 1988. The Canadian dollar has been under pressure, so monetary authorities have used reserve assets since 1991 to smooth currency fluctuations.

Foreign investment increased in Canada while foreign control remained stable

Since 1988, foreign ownership of capital employed has increased steadily while foreign control has remained stable throughout the period. At the end of 1993, foreigners owned almost one-third of the capital employed in non-financial industries in Canada, but they controlled only one-quarter of this capital. This is because a significant part of foreign financing went into operations controlled from Canada, such as foreign investment in the bonds of provincial hydro authorities.

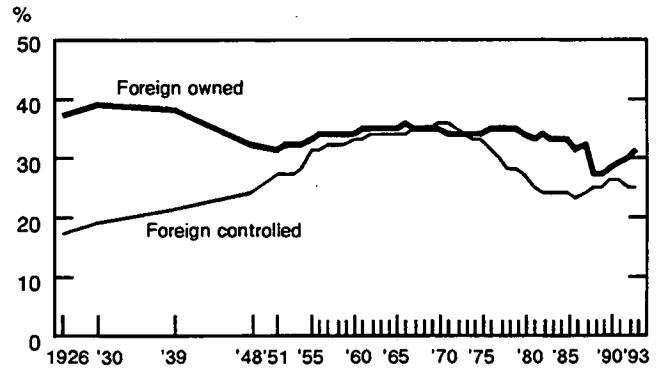
In recent years, foreign direct investment in Canada has been rising more slowly than Canada's total external liabilities. As a result, foreign direct investment in Canada fell to 23% of Canada's external liabilities at the end of 1994 from over 30% at the end of 1988.

Canadian investment abroad has grown strongly

Canadian pension and mutual funds have invested heavily in foreign securities, especially stocks, bringing portfolio investment to a record 26% of Canada's external assets. However, the largest share of Canadian investment abroad continues to be in the form of direct investment abroad by Canadian corporations. During 1994, Canadian corporations continued to invest heavily in their foreign affiliates. In addition, the value of their investment expressed in Canadian currency rose because of the depreciation of the Canadian dollar. Canadian direct investment abroad accounted for 42% of Canada's external assets at the end of 1994. The United States continued to account for the bulk of Canadian direct investment abroad, although its share has been declining steadily since 1984.

Canada's international reserves represented only 5% of Canada's external assets, less than half the

Capital employed in non-financial industries in Canada, percentage of foreign control and ownership



Available on CANSIM: matrices 4180-4193.

Canada's international investment position, 1994 (67-202, \$50) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments Division. □

Canada's international investment position at year-end

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
	\$ billions					
Assets						
Direct investment abroad	84.3	91.5	101.1	107.2	114.1	125.2
Portfolio investment						
Bonds	10.0	10.2	11.3	12.9	17.5	18.6
Stocks	31.7	35.5	39.9	44.1	51.0	59.8
Other debt	3.5	3.7	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.7
Government of Canada, direct and enterprises						
International reserves	19.5	21.6	19.5	15.1	16.9	14.9
Loans and subscriptions	20.1	21.8	22.4	25.8	26.3	28.5
Other	18.7	24.3	29.4	33.3	39.9	46.1
Total assets	187.8	208.6	226.0	240.5	268.5	295.8
Liabilities						
Direct investment in Canada	123.1	131.1	135.5	138.5	140.0	148.0
Portfolio investment						
Bonds	162.8	181.1	207.4	235.3	271.4	300.8
Stocks	20.6	20.6	17.6	17.9	23.0	25.3
Money market instruments	20.6	26.4	30.5	36.1	45.9	47.5
Other debt	28.3	30.6	32.4	34.5	34.1	35.0
Net foreign currency position of banks	24.3	28.7	34.0	34.3	34.9	40.7
Other liabilities	33.1	36.8	36.0	38.0	39.1	40.2
Total liabilities	412.8	455.3	493.4	534.6	588.4	637.5
Net international investment position	-225.0	-246.7	-267.4	-294.1	-319.9	-341.7

OTHER RELEASES

Short-term expectations survey

Every month for almost five years Statistics Canada has canvassed a group of economic analysts (on average 20) 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 GDP at constant prices.

An evaluation of the accuracy of the mean forecast (see the March 1993 issue of *Canadian economic observer*) showed it to be superior to mean naive forecasts, and suggested that the quality of the forecast showed signs of improvement with time.

- The forecast for February's consumer price index is 1.3%. Opinions range widely from a minimum change of 0.2% to a maximum of 2.3%. It is possible that the participants who forecast smaller changes overlooked that tobacco taxes came down in February 1994. The mean forecast for January (0.2%) underestimated the outcome of 0.6%.
- The forecasters foresee unemployment at 9.6% for February. The forecasts range from a minimum of 9.5% to a maximum of 9.8%. The forecast for January matched the actual outcome of 9.6%.
- The forecast for January exports is set at \$21.2 billion, up from \$20.1 billion for December. Opinions ranged from a minimum of \$20.0 billion to maximum of \$22.3 billion. The current forecast for January imports is \$19.2 billion (minimum, \$18.4 billion and maximum, \$20.0 billion). It is an increase of \$1.1 billion from what was expected a month earlier, when the forecast underestimated the outcome of \$19.1 billion.
- Experts believe that January's change in real GDP will run at +0.4%. Opinions range from a minimum of -0.1% to a maximum of +0.6%. December's forecast (+0.3%) underestimated the outcome (+0.5%).

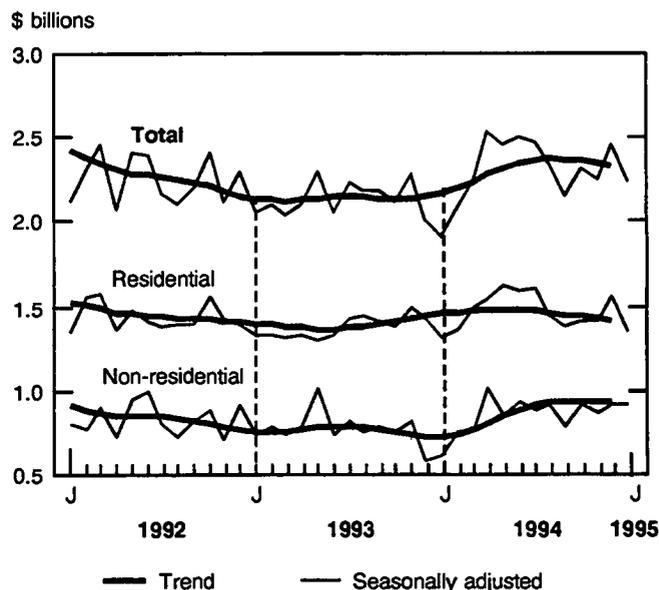
The next release will be on April 4. For a set of tables or further information on this release, contact Diane Lachapelle (613-951-0568). ■

Building permits

January 1995

A sharp drop in applications for residential permits led to a 9.1% decline in the total value of building permits issued by municipalities (\$2,231 million, seasonally adjusted).

Value of building permits issued



The residential sector tumbled to \$1,331 million in January, down 14.2% from December. January's decline, which follows December's exceptional 10.8% rise, is 17.1% below the peak reached in May 1994, reflecting higher mortgage rates.

The non-residential sector also dropped, but to a much lesser extent. It was down 0.4% (to \$900 million) compared with December 1994 because of a contraction in the commercial components of the sector. Although January's value was 50.5% higher than in same period last year, it remained 41.0% below the peak year's (1989) monthly average of \$1,526 million.

The largest contribution to January's decline in the total value of building permits came from Quebec (-29.4% to \$397 million). Quebec's overall drop was attributed to both the non-residential (-46.8%) and residential (-12.5%) sectors. To a lesser extent, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, the Yukon and Northwest Territories also posted decreases from December 1994.

British Columbia, Alberta and Prince Edward Island were the only provinces to record gains over December 1994, due mainly to non-residential construction intentions.

As for number of dwelling units, the annualized number issued in January reached 142,800 units, down 8.6% from December. January's level augurs further contraction in the residential construction sector for the first quarter of 1995.

Building permits

Type of construction	January 1995	Jan. 1994 to Jan. 1995	Dec. 1994 to Jan. 1995
seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions	% change	
Total, Canada	2,231	17.4	-9.1
Residential	1,331	2.2	-14.2
Non-residential	900	50.5	-0.4

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994, 995 and 4073.

The January 1995 issue of *Building permits* (64-001, \$24/\$240) will be released on March 13. See "How to order publications".

The February 1995 estimate of building permits will be released on April 3.

For further information on this release, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689). For analytical information, contact Nathalie Léveillé (613-951-2025), Current Investment Indicators Section, Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

Trusteed pension funds

Third quarter 1994

At book value, assets of trusteed pension funds reached \$288 billion at September 30, 1994. Weak third-quarter net income led to the smallest quarterly increase (+1.5%) in assets in survey history. These

assets, which have rarely grown by less than 2% per quarter, have done so for a second consecutive quarter. Assets held by trusteed pension funds represent one of the largest pools of capital in Canada, second only to the financial holdings of chartered banks.

On the other hand, at market value, these assets were valued at \$310 billion at September 30, 1994, up 4.3% from the previous quarter. This healthy increase is attributable to the positive effect that a decline in interest rates had on the market value of bonds, while improved stock market conditions in the third quarter of 1994 raised the market value of stocks. (Data on trusteed pension fund assets at market value, starting with the first quarter of 1993, are now available.)

Third-quarter net income of trusteed pension funds was estimated at \$3.9 billion, the lowest level of the past 12 quarters. The decline in net income is largely attributable to reduced employee and employer contributions as well as lower investment income.

Stocks and bonds continued to be the cornerstones of the trusteed pension funds' portfolio. Although bonds have traditionally accounted for the largest share of total assets, since 1980 their proportion at book value has slowly declined from 49% to the current low of 42%. The proportion invested in stocks, on the other hand, has increased by more than 17 percentage points (from 19% to 36%). Short-term investments accounted for another 9%. Mortgages, real estate and some pooled investments constituted the balance of the portfolio (13%).

Investment outside Canada approached \$37 billion (book value) at September 30, 1994, up 5.0% from the previous quarter, once again surpassing the growth rate for total assets (+1.5%). The foreign content of trusteed pension funds' portfolio stands at 13%; at market value, this proportion rises to slightly more than 14%.

These estimates are derived from a quarterly sample of 181 funds holding 86% of total assets, supplemented by data from an annual census of all trusteed pension funds.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5749.

The third quarter 1994 issue of *Quarterly estimates of trusteed pension funds* (74-001, \$15/\$60) will be available in April. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Thomas Dufour (613-951-2088), Pensions Section, Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087). ■

Hospital morbidity

1992-93

In 1992-93, general and allied special hospitals reported over 3.5 million separations (discharges), representing 39.7 million days of care. The average length of stay was 11.2 days. Separations per 100,000 population decreased 4% from the previous year. The total number of hospital days decreased 5%.

On a provincial basis, separation rates per 100,000 population were highest in Saskatchewan (19,379) and Prince Edward Island (17,621); the lowest rates were in Ontario (12,438) and Quebec (11,360).

During the last decade, the hospitalization rate in Canada, as measured by both the separation rate and the total number of hospital days, has decreased substantially. Separation rates per 100,000 population decreased 11% from 14,603 in 1982-83 to 12,966 in 1992-93. In terms of hospital days, the decrease amounts to 16% for the same period, from 173,007 per 100,000 population to 144,684.

Hospital morbidity, 1992-93 (82-216, \$20) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information Requests Unit (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division. ■

Surgical procedures

1992-93

There were 1,736,353 separations involving surgery in 1992-93, an overall decrease of 51,148 separations or almost 3% less than in 1991-92. The average length of stay for surgery in 1992-93 was 8.3 days.

Provincially, separation rates per 100,000 population for surgical procedures ranged from a low of 5,387 in Prince Edward Island to a high of 7,351 in Saskatchewan.

During the last decade, the number of separations involving surgical procedures has decreased a marginal 3%. However, in terms of rates per 100,000 population, this translates into a 13% decrease during the same period.

Surgical procedures and treatments, 1992-93 (82-217, \$20) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information Requests Unit (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division. ■

Mental health statistics

1991-92 and 1992-93

In 1992-93, there were 200,031 separations for mental disorders from general hospitals and psychiatric hospitals in Canada, of which 53% were women and 47% were men. Of these separations, 85% were from general hospitals and 15% were from psychiatric hospitals. Average length of stay was 33 days in the general hospitals and 274 days in the psychiatric hospitals.

Since 1982-83, the number of separations for mental disorders from general hospitals has increased 10% from 155,261 to 170,040. For psychiatric hospitals, it has decreased 18% from 36,396 to 29,991. This trend reflects the shift toward greater use of general hospitals for treatment of mental disorders.

Mental health statistics, 1991-92 and 1992-93 (83-245, \$15) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact the Information Requests Unit (613-951-1746), Health Statistics Division. ■

Plastic bag industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the plastic bag industry (SIC 1691) totalled \$826.0 million, up 4.2% from \$792.4 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5417.

Data for this industry will be released in *Rubber and plastic products industries* (33-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-951-3513), Industry Division. ■

Luggage, purse and handbag industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the luggage, purse and handbag industry (SIC 1713) totalled \$70.5 million, down 20.6% from \$88.9 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5422.

Data for this industry will be released in *Leather and allied products industries* (33-251, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-3510), Industry Division. ■

Industrial fastener industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the industrial fastener industry (SIC 3053) totalled \$521.7 million, up 17.5% from \$444.2 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5529.

Data for this industry will be released in *Fabricated metal products industries* (41-251, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact Bruno Pépin (613-951-9837), Industry Division. ■

Lighting fixture industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the lighting fixture industry (SIC 3331) totalled \$434.0 million, up 0.5% from \$431.6 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5570.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical and electronic products industries* (43-250, \$38).

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

Electric lamp (bulb and tube) industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the electric lamp (bulb and tube) industry (SIC 3333) totalled \$147.8 million, down 12.9% from \$169.6 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5572.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical and electronic products industries* (43-250, \$38).

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

Telecommunications equipment industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the telecommunications equipment industry (SIC 3351) totalled \$3,811.2 million, an increase over 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5574.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical and electronic products industries* (43-250, \$38).

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

Electronic parts and components industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the electronic parts and components industry (SIC 3352) totalled \$3,568.1 million, an increase over 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5575.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical and electronic products industries* (43-250, \$38).

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

Non-current-carrying wiring devices industry

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the non-current-carrying wiring devices industry (SIC 3392) totalled \$149.7 million, down 9.9% from \$166.2 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5585.

Data for this industry will be released in *Electrical and electronic products industries* (43-250, \$38).

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

**Refined petroleum products industry
(except lubricating oil and grease)**

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the refined petroleum products industry (except lubricating oil and grease) (SIC 3611) totalled \$16,388.1 million, down 3.2% from \$16,936.7 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6866.

Data for this industry will be released in *Refined petroleum and coal products industries* (45-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-951-3513), Industry Division. ■

**Other chemical products industries not
elsewhere classified**

1993 annual survey of manufactures

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the other chemical products industries not elsewhere classified (SIC 3799) totalled \$2,114.9 million, up 1.8% from \$2,076.5 million in 1992.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 6882.

Data for this industry will be released in *Chemical and chemical products industries* (46-250, \$38).

For further information on this release, contact T. Raj Sehdev (613-951-3513), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Family incomes, census families, 1993
Catalogue number 13-208
(Canada: \$27; United States: US\$33; other countries: US\$38)

Aggregate productivity measures, 1993
Catalogue number 15-204E
(Canada: \$44; United States: US\$53; other countries: US\$62).

Cement, January 1995
Catalogue number 44-001
(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84)

Gypsum products, January 1995
Catalogue number 44-003
(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84)

Electric power statistics, December 1994
Catalogue number 57-001
(Canada: \$11/\$110; United States: US\$14/US\$132; other countries: US\$16/US\$154)

New motor vehicle sales, December 1994
Catalogue number 63-007
(Canada: \$16/\$160; United States: US\$20/US\$192; other countries: US\$23/US\$224)

Imports by commodity, December 1994
Catalogue number 65-007
(Canada: \$60/\$600; United States: US\$72/US\$720; other countries: US\$84/US\$840)

Unemployment insurance statistics, December 1994
Catalogue number 73-001
(Canada: \$16/\$160; United States: US\$20/US\$192; other countries: US\$23/US\$224)

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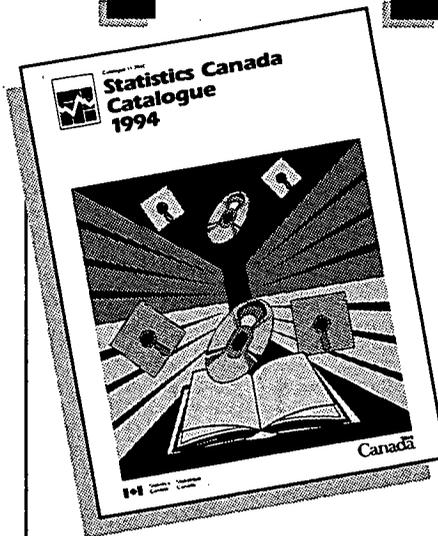
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