

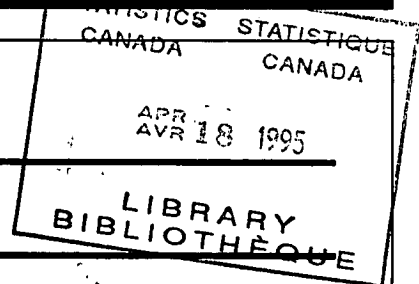


# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 18, 1995

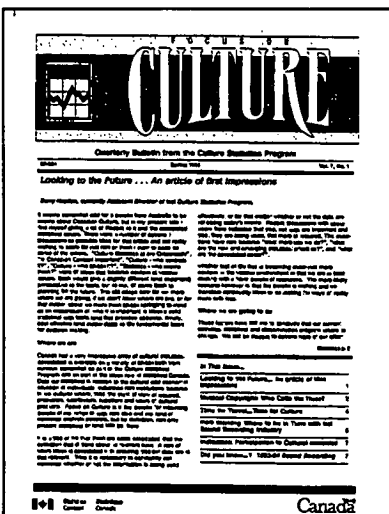
For release at 8:30 a.m.



## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly survey of manufacturing, February 1995** 3  
Manufacturers cut shipments, notably of motor vehicles and wood products, in response to weakening demand in Canada and the United States. Consequently, shipments fell in February (-1.3%) for only the second time in a year.
- **Travel between Canada and other countries, February 1995** 6  
Overnight travel to Canada by foreigners reached a new high in February.

(continued on following page)



### Focus on culture Spring 1995

A feature article in the Spring 1995 issue of *Focus on culture*, a quarterly bulletin, focusses on Canadians' attendance at cultural events here and abroad. The likelihood of a traveller attending a play or concert is looked at in relation to trip length, purpose of trip, and destination.

Additional articles discuss the new direction of the Culture Statistics Program, assessing the importance of Statistics Canada's data to the work of the Copyright Board of Canada. As well, highlights from the 1993-94 data on sound recording are featured. As usual, selected cultural indicators appear: this issue covers participation in cultural activities.

The Spring 1995 (vol. 7, no. 1) issue of *Focus on culture* (87-004, \$7/\$26) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Mary Cromie (613-951-6864), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.



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Sales of natural gas, February 1995 9

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Monthly survey of manufacturing

February 1995

Manufacturers curtailed shipments for only the second time since March 1994, as higher interest rates and lower consumer confidence softened demand for certain products. Consequently, the seasonally adjusted value of shipments dropped 1.3% in February to \$32.6 billion.

Manufacturers cut shipments of motor vehicles (-3.8%) and wood products (-7.6%) because of declining car sales and plummeting housing starts in Canada and the United States. Overall, manufacturers in 10 of the 22 major groups (accounting for 65% of shipments) recorded declines in February; those in the remaining 12 major groups posted increases.

Despite the decline, monthly shipments were still 23% higher (+\$6.2 billion) in February than a year earlier. The backlog of unfilled orders—these will drive future shipments provided orders are not cancelled—continued to increase (up 12.5% or \$3.8 billion since February 1994). These indicators mirror those recently reported for the U.S. manufacturing sector. As in Canada, U.S. manufacturing remains strong, but the pace of economic activity has moderated somewhat from 1994's robust growth.

Although complete information is not yet available, certain events will influence manufacturers' shipments and inventories for March. Chrysler had an extended two-week shutdown at its Brampton plant. A national rail strike and a dockworkers' dispute at the Port of Montréal disrupted manufacturing activity at various times during March. Some manufacturers cut production or were forced to close because they lacked materials; others stockpiled finished products because they were unable to find ways to ship them.

#### Slower motor vehicle sales brake the growth of shipments

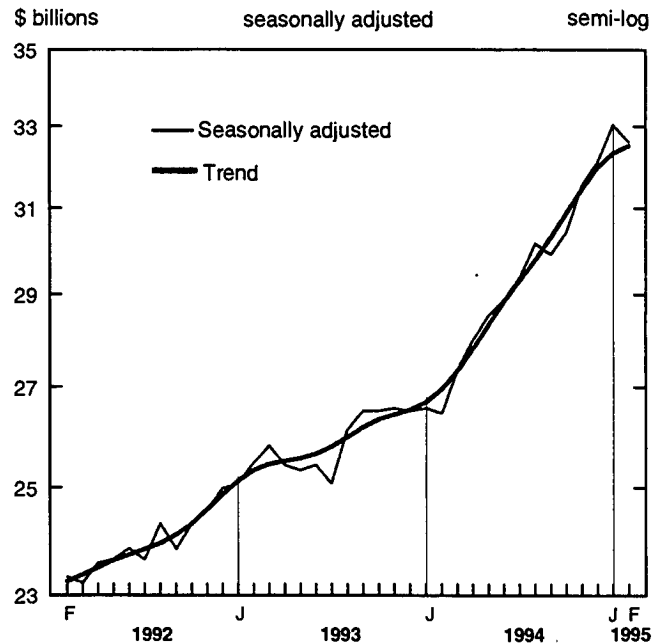
Shipments by the motor vehicle, parts and accessories industry, which led a series of strong increases in shipments during the previous four months, fell 2.4% in February from a record-high level in January. Climbing interest rates and higher prices for new models have been reducing demand for motor vehicles across North America. Responding to low demand for some models, Ford shut down its Windstar plant for a week.

#### Definitions

*Unfilled orders are the stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments, assuming orders are not cancelled.*

*New orders are the sum of shipments for the current month (i.e., orders received and shipped within the same month), plus the change in unfilled orders.*

#### Shipments fell 1.3% or \$421 million in February



Rising interest rates and buyers' worries about jobs have taken a toll on new home construction in recent months. Poor housing starts in both Canada and the United States contributed to a 7.6% drop in shipments of wood products. In addition, lingering labour disputes continued to hinder shipments in the wood industry. Despite the drop in shipments, wood producers built up inventories, partly because they were anticipating higher demand from Japan and the United States.

February's shipment increases were small in current dollar terms. The largest increases were in the electrical and electronics products (+2.0%), chemicals (+1.5%) and machinery (+2.3%) industries.

### Manufacturers stock up

For the past two years, manufacturers have built up inventory. Most of the increase has been in raw materials. Inventory levels continued to swell in February, rising 1.6% to \$41.4 billion. Possible raw material price increases and a threatened nationwide rail strike spurred some manufacturers to stock up. Others were stockpiling finished products in anticipation of pent-up demand.

Falling shipments, combined with rising inventory levels, boosted the inventory to shipments ratio to 1.27, up from January's record low of 1.23.

### Unfilled orders continue to increase

Demand for exports of machinery (+5.2%), fabricated metals (+3.5) and electrical and electronic products (+1.7%) contributed most to an overall 0.6% increase in unfilled orders. After four strong monthly increases, new orders dropped 1.0%, largely in response to stalled motor vehicle sales.

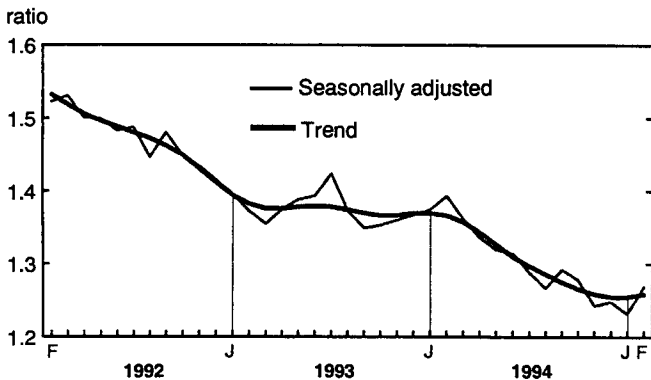
**Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.**

The February 1995 issue of *Monthly survey of manufacturing* (31-001, \$19/\$190) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

Detailed data on shipments by province are available on request.

For further information on this release, contact Danielle Gendron, Information and Classification Section (613-951-9497), or the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section (613-951-9832), Industry Division. □

**Inventory to shipments ratio edges upwards**



Shipments, inventory and orders in all manufacturing industries

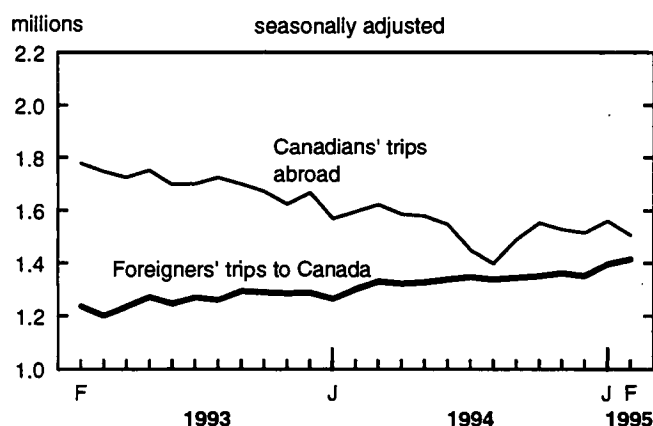
Period	Shipments		Inventory		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventory to shipments ratio
seasonally adjusted									
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	
February 1994	26,457	-0.5	36,866	0.9	30,283	1.8	26,995	1.2	1.39
March 1994	27,365	3.4	37,246	1.0	30,535	0.8	27,617	2.3	1.36
April 1994	27,997	2.3	37,418	0.5	31,282	2.4	28,744	4.1	1.34
May 1994	28,528	1.9	37,637	0.6	31,110	-0.5	28,357	-1.3	1.32
June 1994	28,882	1.2	37,940	0.8	31,180	0.2	28,951	2.1	1.31
July 1994	29,372	1.7	37,833	-0.3	31,656	1.5	29,849	3.1	1.29
August 1994	30,160	2.7	38,205	1.0	32,216	1.8	30,719	2.9	1.27
September 1994	29,911	-0.8	38,659	1.2	32,911	2.2	30,606	-0.4	1.29
October 1994	30,429	1.7	38,900	0.6	33,289	1.1	30,806	0.7	1.28
November 1994	31,557	3.7	39,223	0.8	33,145	-0.4	31,413	2.0	1.24
December 1994	32,088	1.7	40,042	2.1	33,748	1.8	32,691	4.1	1.25
January 1995	33,036	3.0	40,715	1.7	33,875	0.4	33,163	1.4	1.23
February 1995	32,615	-1.3	41,384	1.6	34,083	0.6	32,823	-1.0	1.27

## Travel between Canada and other countries

February 1995

In February, a record 1.4 million foreigners visited Canada for at least one night. The number of foreign visitors has been increasing since August 1992, after having been relatively constant between late 1986 and mid-1992.

### Foreigners' overnight trips to Canada reached a record in February



Americans made 1.1 million overnight trips to Canada, up 1.3% from January. Meanwhile, overseas visitors made a record 317,000 overnight trips to Canada, extending the upward trend that emerged in mid-1992.

Over time, travellers from countries other than the United States have represented an increasing share of the visitors to Canada: visitors from overseas accounted for only 5% of foreign overnight visitors in 1972; the share in February stood at 22%. Since overseas visitors tend to make longer trips to Canada than Americans, the economic impact of this increase is significantly greater than that of a comparable rise in the number of U.S. visitors.

The weak Canadian dollar has stimulated higher visitor spending in Canada. This has contributed to reducing Canada's international travel account deficit, which stood at \$6.0 billion in 1994. The travel account deficit peaked at \$8.2 billion in 1992.

#### Note to readers

Month-to-month comparisons use seasonally adjusted data (data adjusted for variations that repeat annually and for variability caused by the different volumes of travellers associated with different days of the week).

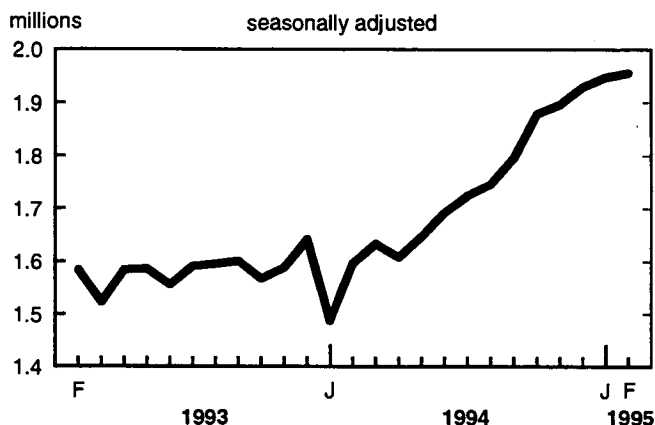
Year-over-year comparisons use unadjusted data (the actual traffic counts).

New data have been released on CANSIM. Counts of international travellers are now available by port of entry and re-entry and by mode of transportation (for all residents and non-residents entering or returning to Canada). Counts of travellers from countries other than the United States are now reported by country of residence and province of entry. All these data are available back to 1990.

### Americans' same-day car trips to Canada increased again

In February, when the Canadian dollar stood at about US71 cents, Americans made 2.0 million same-day car trips to Canada, the highest level since December 1986. Americans' same-day car trips to Canada have been increasing since early 1994.

### Americans' same-day car trips to Canada increased again



### Canadians travelled less to foreign destinations

Canadians made 1.5 million overnight international trips in February, a 3.5% decrease from January. Of those trips, 1.2 million (-4.3% from January) were to the United States, the most popular foreign destination. Overnight travel to the United States has been decreasing since late 1991.

After reaching a record in January, overnight travel to overseas destinations decreased marginally in February, to 296,000 trips. This type of travel has been increasing since June 1991.

**Canadians made fewer same-day cross-border car trips**

During February, Canadians made 5.0% fewer same-day cross-border car trips than they did in January (such trips are often used as an indicator of cross-border shopping). In February, 2.9 million such trips were counted, the lowest number since March 1988.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2661-2697, 5780-6046 and 8200-8328.**

The February 1995 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001P, \$7/\$70) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ruth Martin (613-951-1791), International Travel Section, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

**Canadians' same-day U.S. car trips**

	February 1995 <sup>P</sup>	February 1994 to February 1995
	unadjusted	
	'000	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>-15.9</b>
<b>Province of re-entry</b>		
New Brunswick	346	-20.3
Quebec	180	-25.4
Ontario	1,047	-14.6
Manitoba	35	-24.9
Saskatchewan	16	-17.0
Alberta	12	2.2
British Columbia	610	-11.8
Yukon	1	- 9.1

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

□

**Travel between Canada and other countries**

	December 1994 <sup>r</sup>	January 1995 <sup>r</sup>	February 1995 <sup>p</sup>	January 1995 to February 1995
seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change
<b>Canadian trips abroad</b>				
Car trips to the United States				
Same-day	3,141	3,023	2,873	-5.0
One or more nights	810	870	781	-10.3
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States <sup>1</sup>	1,223	1,263	1,209	-4.3
Other countries	291	297	296	-0.1
<b>Travel to Canada</b>				
Car trips from United States				
Same-day	1,929	1,947	1,955	0.4
One or more nights	718	732	744	1.6
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States <sup>1</sup>	1,050	1,083	1,097	1.3
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	301	313	317	1.3
	February 1995 <sup>p</sup>	February 1994 to February 1995	January to February 1995 <sup>p</sup>	Jan.-Feb. 1994 to Jan.- Feb.1995
unadjusted				
	'000	% change	'000	% change
<b>Canadian trips abroad</b>				
Car trips to the United States				
Same-day	2,247	-15.9	4,770	-13.9
One or more nights	407	-12.6	935	-6.6
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States <sup>1</sup>	806	-7.2	1,769	-4.3
Other countries	325	6.0	743	5.6
<b>Travel to Canada</b>				
Car trips from United States				
Same-day	1,334	22.6	2,732	27.1
One or more nights	339	8.8	619	7.4
Total trips, one or more nights				
United States <sup>1</sup>	520	8.6	960	7.9
Other countries <sup>2</sup>	145	15.7	273	17.0

<sup>1</sup> Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

<sup>2</sup> Figures for "other countries" exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.



## OTHER RELEASES

### Sales of natural gas February 1995 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 7 078 220 thousand cubic metres in February, down 3.3% from February 1994. Warmer than normal weather conditions throughout Canada resulted in sharply lower sales to the residential (-12.5%) and commercial (-10.8%) sectors. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) rose 10.0%, largely due to increased use of natural gas by electric utilities and the chemical industry.

Year-to-date sales to the end of February 1995 dropped 5.6% from the same period in 1994. Sales to the residential (-13.6%) and commercial (-13.2%) sectors decreased due to milder weather in January and February 1995. Industrial sector sales (including direct sales) maintained strong growth, posting a 6.4% increase from the same period last year.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

The February 1995 issue of *Gas utilities* (55-002, \$14/\$140) will be available the third week of May. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Gary Smallbridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

### Sales of natural gas

	February 1995 <sup>P</sup>	February 1994	February 1994 to February 1995
	'000 cubic metres		% change
<b>Total sales</b>	<b>7 078 220</b>	<b>7 320 220</b>	<b>-3.3</b>
Residential	2 276 273	2 601 676	-12.5
Commercial	1 665 151	1 866 095	-10.8
Industrial	2 158 093	2 067 297	10.0
Direct	978 703	785 152	
	January 1995 to February 1995 <sup>P</sup>	January 1994 to February 1994	Jan.-Feb. 1994 to Jan.-Feb. 1995
	'000 cubic metres		% change
<b>Total sales</b>	<b>14 656 567</b>	<b>15 523 690</b>	<b>-5.6</b>
Residential	4 706 817	5 445 196	-13.6
Commercial	3 424 152	3 943 141	-13.2
Industrial	4 477 537	4 482 239	6.4
Direct	2 048 061	1 653 114	

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**The Daily**  
Statistics Canada

Thursday, April 18, 1995  
No. 1000 of 1000

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Economic dependency profiles, 1992**  
Canada's role in the world for the 1992-94 period on average (80.0% in 1992) compared to other countries. The role on average of other 140 countries (80.0% in 1992) in the world economy is also shown.
- **Monthly survey of manufacturing, April 1994**  
After four months of negative performance, the index of manufacturing shipments grew by 0.2% in April, or 1.1% in total since 2 in the range in March. The heading of output remains flat indicated by Q4 index in the last two months.
- **Industrial production index, May 1994**  
Industrial higher price for production, the index of manufacturing shipments grew by 0.2% in May, or 1.1% in total since 2 in the range in March. The heading of output remains flat indicated by Q4 index in the last two months.
- **Four countries' price index, May 1994**  
The index rose 0.8% in May. Costs of other raised by 0.8% and were the major contributor to the change.

**DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **State of natural resources, 1994** 10
- **Coal and gas statistics, April 1994** 10
- **Electric power statistics, April 1994** 10
- **Support products, May 1994** 10
- **Foreign ships and boats with call number, May 1994** 10
- **Foreign arrivals, 1994-1995** 10

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IMI

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E. (Canada: \$175; United States: US\$210; other countries: US\$245.)

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables, monthly, February 1995**

**Catalogue number 32-011**

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

**Pack of apple and apple products, 1993**

**Catalogue number 32-241**

(Canada: \$14; United States: US\$17; other countries: US\$20).

**Particleboard, waferboard and fibreboard, February 1995**

**Catalogue number 36-003**

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

**Exports by commodity, January 1995**

**Catalogue number 65-004**

(Canada: \$60/\$600; United States: US\$72/US\$720; other countries: US\$84/US\$840).

**Imports by commodity, January 1995**

**Catalogue number 65-007**

(Canada: \$60/\$600; United States: US\$72/US\$720; other countries: US\$84/US\$840).

**Focus on culture, Spring 1995**

**Catalogue number 87-004**

(Canada: \$7/\$26; United States: US\$8/US\$32; other countries: US\$10/US\$37).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.



### How to order publications

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