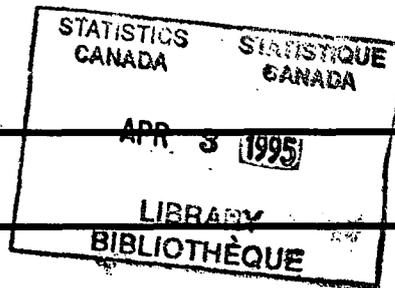


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, April 3, 1995
For release at 8:30 a.m.



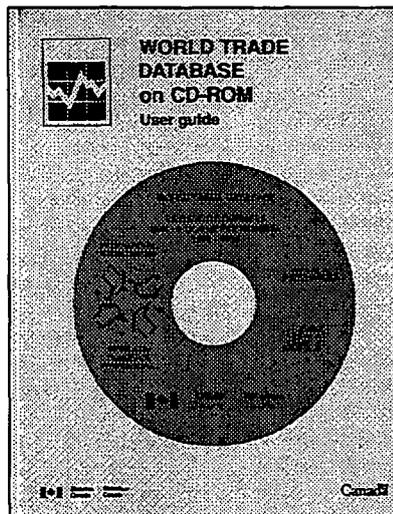
MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

OTHER RELEASES

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(continued on following page)



World trade database on compact disc 1980-1993

The new *World trade database* can provide you with data on global trade flows, market share and sources of supply. The database was created from data reported to the United Nations, so it reveals information on annual trade flows (in US\$) between some 160 countries and for more than 600 commodities. The U.N. data have been adjusted to remove any substantial inconsistencies between individual countries' returns and to estimate the trade of countries that reported late or did not report.

The *World trade database* is now available on compact disc (\$3,500, subject to Statistics Canada's licence agreement) and contains data for the years 1980 to 1993. It uses software by Dataware Technologies, which makes finding and retrieving data simple and easy. A 50% discount is available to educational institutions.

For further information on this release, contact Craig Kuntz (613-951-9647, fax: 613-951-0117), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division.

OTHER RELEASES – concluded

Unemployment insurance statistics (number of contributors and their contributions), 1993 4

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 5

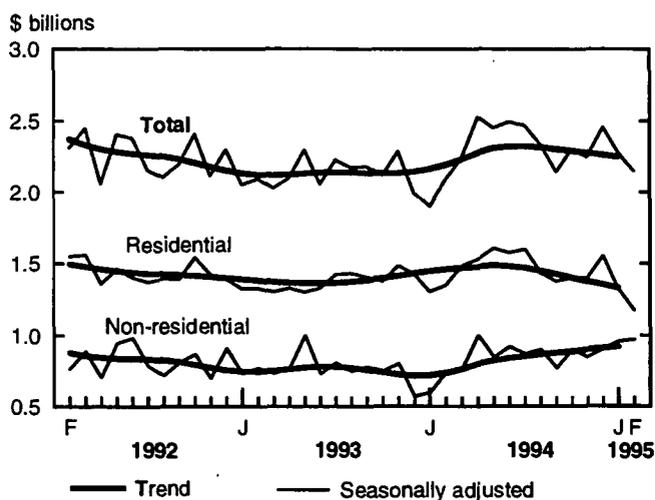
OTHER RELEASES

Building permits

February 1995

New housing construction intentions dropped sharply for a second consecutive month in February, reinforcing the downward movement observed since mid-1994. The value of building permits issued declined 5.6% in February, to \$2,147 million (seasonally adjusted).

Value of building permits issued



Falling sales of new and existing homes, coupled with relatively high mortgage rates, continued to take a toll on the housing market in February. The value of permits in the residential sector tumbled 10.7%, reaching \$1,178 million. The sector's key component, single-family dwellings, has been falling at an accelerating rate since June 1994, and was the major contributor to the sector's latest decline.

Annualized, the number of dwelling units issued in February dropped 20.1% to 113,800 units. February's level was the lowest since January 1991. Along with the declines back to July 1994, it signals that further contraction will occur in residential construction in the coming months. The recent slowdown has been reflected in Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's latest annualized housing starts, which were down 5.0% in February.

Strength in the non-residential sector has been led by the industrial and commercial components. Higher industrial capacity utilization rates and increasing retail sales are behind this improvement. February's

advance (+1.5% to \$969 million) was the third consecutive monthly increase. Furthermore, the value of non-residential building intentions over the first two months of 1995 (+43.9% from 1994) surpassed the corresponding value of the previous three years.

Among the provinces, February's decline in the value of building permits came mainly from Ontario (-18.4%), where there were declines in both the non-residential (-28.1%) and residential (-9.4%) sectors. British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island also recorded decreases, but to a lesser extent.

By contrast, boosted by commercial projects, Quebec recorded a 7.6% increase in the value of permits issued. Similarly, in Saskatchewan, the level in industrial projects reached a record high (\$67.6 million), a 362.9% increase.

Value of building permits

| Type of construction | February 1995 | February 1994 to February 1995 | January 1995 to February 1995 |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | seasonally adjusted | | |
| | \$ millions | % change | |
| Total | 2,147 | 2.9 | -5.6 |
| Residential | 1,178 | -12.6 | -10.7 |
| Non-residential | 969 | 31.2 | 1.5 |

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

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22, 24-32), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994-995 and 4073.

The building permits estimates for March will be released on May 3.

The February 1995 issue of *Building permits* (64-001, \$24/\$240) will be released on April 10. See "How to order publications".

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

Railway carloadings

February 1995

Loadings of revenue freight by railways in Canada totalled 19.5 million tonnes in February, a 17.6% increase from February 1994. The carriers received an additional 1.5 million tonnes from U.S. connections during February.

Total loadings for January and February 1995 increased 20.4% from a year earlier. Receipts from U.S. connections increased 26.2% during the same period.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1431.

The February 1995 issue of *Railway carloadings* (52-001, \$10/\$100) will be released shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528), Transportation Division. ■

Crushing statistics

February 1995

Oilseed processors crushed 220 thousand tonnes of canola in February. The shorter month caused the first decline in monthly canola crushings since the beginning of the crop year in August 1994. There were 93 thousand tonnes of canola oil and 139 thousand tonnes of canola meal produced.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The February 1995 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007, \$15/\$144) will be released in May. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Jeannine Fleury (613-951-3859) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

Civil aviation

Fourth quarter 1994

Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. (CAIL) reported a preliminary basic loss of \$78 million in 1994. Preliminary basic income or loss is measured by combining operating income (before capital gains, miscellaneous items and tax) with interest expenses. The basic loss in 1994 was much smaller than the losses reported from 1990 to 1993 (\$325 million, \$624 million, \$630 million and \$491 million respectively). The

last time that a basic income was reported was 1988, when Air Canada and CAIL combined to produce an income of \$23 million.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 385.

Preliminary data on civil aviation for the fourth quarter of 1994 will be published in the March 1995 issue of *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004, \$10/\$99). See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Robert Lund (819-997-6188), Aviation Statistics Centre, Transportation Division. ■

Unemployment insurance statistics (number of contributors and their contributions)

1993

In 1993, 12.7 million employees contributed to unemployment insurance, down 1.2% from 1992. It was the third consecutive year the number of contributors decreased after it reached a peak of 13.4 million in 1990. Of the 12.7 million contributors in 1993, nearly 3.4 million (26.9%) received unemployment insurance benefits (compared with 28.5% in 1992).

Employee contributions to unemployment insurance in 1993 amounted to \$7,749 million, up 1.7% from 1992 and 23.0% from 1991. The advances since 1992 resulted from increases in the maximum weekly insurable earnings (from \$710 to \$745) and the maximum annual employee contribution (from \$1,107.60 to \$1,162.20). Over the same period, the average annual contribution per employee also increased (from \$594 to \$611).

Annual data for 1993 on the number of employees who made unemployment insurance contributions and on the amount of their contributions are now available. Data are also available on insurable earnings and work earnings.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5718-5719 and 5729-5730.

The 1993 data will be published in the 1995 edition of *Annual supplement to unemployment insurance statistics* (73-202S, \$41), which will be available in June.

For further information on this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-4045) or Ginette Gervais (613-951-4039), Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087). ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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

Catalogue number 32-024

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

Asphalt roofing, February 1995

Catalogue number 45-001

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

Canada's balance of international payments, fourth quarter 1994

Catalogue number 67-001

(Canada: \$30/\$120; United States: US\$36/US\$144; other countries: US\$42/US\$168).

Canada's international transactions in securities, December 1994

Catalogue number 67-002

(Canada: \$17/\$170; United States: US\$21/US\$204; other countries: US\$24/US\$238).

Mental health statistics, 1991-92

Catalogue number 83-245

(Canada: \$15; United States: US\$18; other countries: US\$21).

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.



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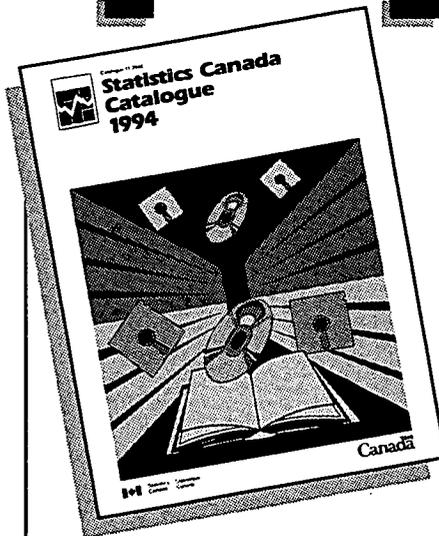
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