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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, May 16, 1995
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Composite index,** April 1995 2
  The leading indicator showed a 0.2% gain in April, after a revised increase of 0.4% (versus 0.5%) in March. Manufacturers led the slowdown.

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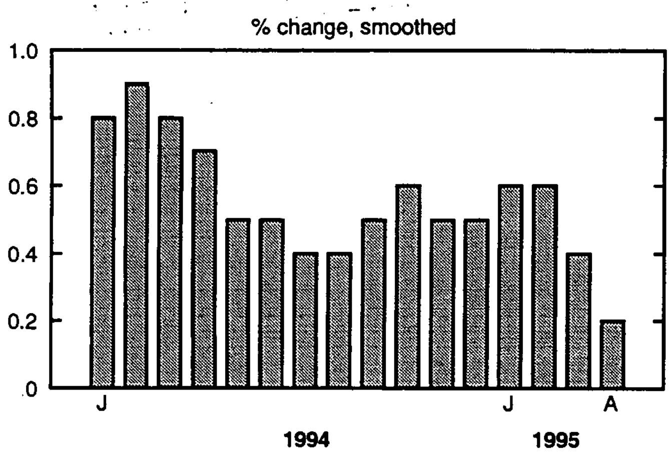
MAJOR RELEASES

Composite index
April 1995

The leading indicator showed a 0.2% gain in April, after a revised increase of 0.4% (versus 0.5%) in March. This continued the index's slower growth trend, which has persisted for more than a year. However, most of the 10 components continued to rise, 2 were unchanged and only 2 were trending downward. The index's most recent weakening originated in a slowing of manufacturing demand, while household demand fell further.

The growth of the composite index has been slowing for over a year



Manufacturing demand softened as shipments to the United States fell, while first-quarter GDP growth was the lowest since mid-1993. New orders for manufacturers of durable goods rose at a much slower rate than at the turn of the year. Inventories rose, putting a brake fon the recent surge in the ratio of shipments to inventories of finished goods. The outlook for business spending remains bright, however, as business services employment in April posted its first gain of the year, while demand for investment goods has shown few signs of slowing.

The U.S. leading indicator fell as a majority of components declined, especially in some of our key export markets such as housing and industrial demand. Business investment remained the engine of growth in the first quarter, while the stock market rallied.

In Canada, household demand continued to weaken, but at least the worst seemed to be over as the second quarter began. In April, the housing index fell at about the same rate as in March, after decelerating steadily over the previous year, as housing starts firmed. Sales of durable goods grew at a slow but steady rate.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For more information on the economy, the May 1995 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010, $22/$220) will be available later this week. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Division. □

Composite index

Data used in the composite index calculation for:	November 1994	December 1994	January 1995	February 1995	March 1995	April 1995	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1981=100)	**170.5**	**171.4**	**172.4**	**173.4**	**174.1**	**174.5**	**0.2**
Housing index[1]	119.1	117.0	115.2	112.4	108.1	104.1	-3.7
Business and personal services employment ('000)	1,920	1,930	1,937	1,940	1,942	1,943	0.1
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	4,246	4,229	4,191	4,159	4,162	4,179	0.4
Money supply (M1) (millions of 1981 $)[2]	30,314	30,311	30,306	30,321	30,304	30,315	0.0
U.S. composite leading indicator (1967=100)[3]	216.7	216.9	217.1	217.3	217.4	217.2	-0.1
Manufacturing							
Average work week	38.9	38.9	38.9	38.9	38.9	38.9	0.0
New orders, durables (millions of 1981 $)[4]	11,750	11,974	12,244	12,576	12,847	13,016	1.3
Shipments/inventories[4]	1.65	1.68	1.71	1.76	1.79	1.81	0.02*
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (millions of 1981 $)[4]	1,131.3	1,134.5	1,138.8	1,146.4	1,156.2	1,163.7	0.6
Other durable goods sales (millions of 1981 $)[4]	3,961.3	3,967.2	3,979.6	4,002.1	4,022.5	4,031.6	0.2
Unsmoothed composite	171.7	173.4	174.6	175.6	174.5	173.6	-0.5

1 *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2 *Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.*
3 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4 *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.*
* *Difference from previous month.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Nursery trades industry
1993 and 1994

Nursery and sod sales in 1994 totalled an estimated $338.9 million, up slightly from 1993. Nursery revenue from production totalled almost $197 million, while revenue from the purchase and resale of nursery products amounted to $66.9 million.

Revenue from production has remained steady since 1990, but revenue from resales has drifted downward. The downward trend of resales has been reinforced by two general developments. In the late 1980s, nursery producers expanded production capabilities. In recent years, the exchange rate has been lower. Combined, these two developments have caused imports to be replaced by local production, resulting in lower purchases for resale.

The *Survey of Canadian nursery trades industry* (22-203, $26) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Bill Parsons (613-951-8727), Agriculture Division. ■

Greenhouse industry
1994

The greenhouse industry followed the general economy as ornamental and plant sales remained relatively stable at almost $633 million in 1994. Sales, employment, capital investment, and total greenhouse area showed little appreciable change compared to 1993.

Greenhouse producers saw exports rise by 34% or $12.3 million to $46.8 million (similar to the 1992-93 dollar value increase). The increase in exports may be attributed to strong demand for potted plants and a weak Canadian dollar.

Revenue from lettuce production rose a dramatic 38% to $11.1 million; the area used for growing lettuce increased only 10%. One reason for the higher revenues might be greater use of hydroponic techniques, which have the benefit of shorter growing times and higher yields per square foot. Also, adverse weather in the United States may have contributed to higher prices in Canada.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1058.

The 1994 issue of *Greenhouse industry* (22-202, $33) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Bill Parsons, (613-951-8727), Agriculture Division. ■

Industrial monitor
May 1995

The tables in the May 1995 edition of *Industrial monitor* present up-to-date statistics on 165 manufacturing industries in 22 sectors.

Industrial monitor can be purchased as a full package (22 sectors) or by industrial sector. The annual subscription is $200 per individual sector. The annual subscription for the totals of the manufacturing industries (15F0017XPE) costs $50. The full 22-sector package (1500115XPE) costs $3,000, a savings of $650. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact the client services representative (613-951-9060), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. ■

Domestic travel
Fourth quarter 1994

Canadians took advantage of the mild weather last fall by making more than 30 millions trips to destinations in their own country during October, November and December. Most of the trips (37%) were taken in December, 33% were made in October and 30% in November.

The main reason for these trips was to visit friends and relatives (40.6%). Pleasure (28.9%), business and convention (16.5%), and personal and "other" (14.0%) were also given as reasons for travelling. Of all reported trips, 51% were same-day travel; 49% included a stay of more than 24 hours.

Data for the fourth quarter of 1994 are now available. Annual data and a microdata file containing unaggregated, anonymous records are now available. Data on expenditures will be available in June.

For further information on this release, contact Sylvie Bonhomme (613-951-1672), Travel, Tourism and Recreation Section, Education, Culture and Tourism Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns
March 1995

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled $1,679 million in March, up 4.2% from $1,611 million in March 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.

The March 1995 issue of *Restaurants, caterers and taverns* (63-011, $7/$70) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact William Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services, Science and Technology Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Greenhouse industry, 1994
Catalogue number 22-202
(Canada: $33; United States: US$40; other countries: US$47).

Survey of Canadian nursery trades industry, 1993 and 1994
Catalogue number 22-203
(Canada: $26; United States: US$32; other countries: US$37).

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics, March 1995
Catalogue number 25-001
(Canada: $7/$70; United States: US$9/US$84; other countries: US$10/US$98).

Monthly production of soft drinks, April 1995
Catalogue number 32-001
(Canada: $3/$30; United States: US$4/US$36; other countries: US$5/US$42).

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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How to order publications

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