



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 18, 1995

For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, March 1995** 3  
Exports in March were hampered by falling U.S. demand for automobiles.

## OTHER RELEASES

Export and import price indexes, March 1995	6
Steel primary forms, week ending May 13, 1995	6
Shipments of rolled steel, March 1995	6
Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending April 21, 1995	6

(continued on following page)

### Merchandise trade statistics on CD-ROM

1988-1994

Revised monthly merchandise trade statistics for 1994 are available on CD-ROM. The disc makes it easy to access the import and export data for over 16,000 commodities and 200 countries by value, quantity, province and U.S. state. These statistics are presented at their most detailed level, classified according to the harmonized coding system. Descriptions of each commodity are also included. The accompanying TIERS software makes it easy to select, retrieve, sort, aggregate, save and print the data.

*Canadian merchandise trade statistics on CD-ROM, 1994* (\$1,000) is now available. Additional years (1988 to 1993) can be purchased for \$500 per year. A 50% discount is available to educational institutions. All prices are subject to Statistics Canada's Licencing Agreement.

For further information on this release, contact Suzie Carpentier (613-951-9647; toll-free in Canada 1-800-294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division, or your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



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## OTHER RELEASES – concluded

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Stocks of frozen poultry meat, May 1, 1995	6
Electric lamps, April 1995	7
Plastic film and bags, first quarter 1995	7

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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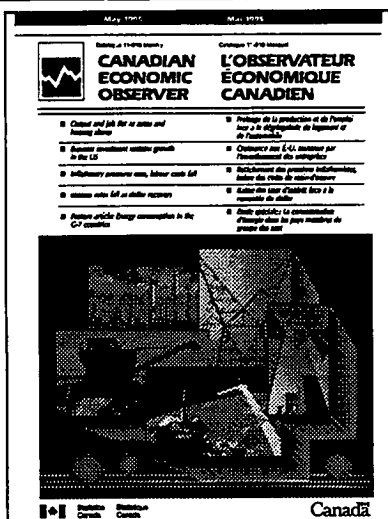
8

## REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

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9



### Canadian economic observer May 1995

The May 1995 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, presents a summary of current economic conditions and a feature article on energy consumption in the G-7 nations. A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The May 1995 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, call Cynthia Bloskie (613-951-3634), Current Analysis Group.

## MAJOR RELEASES

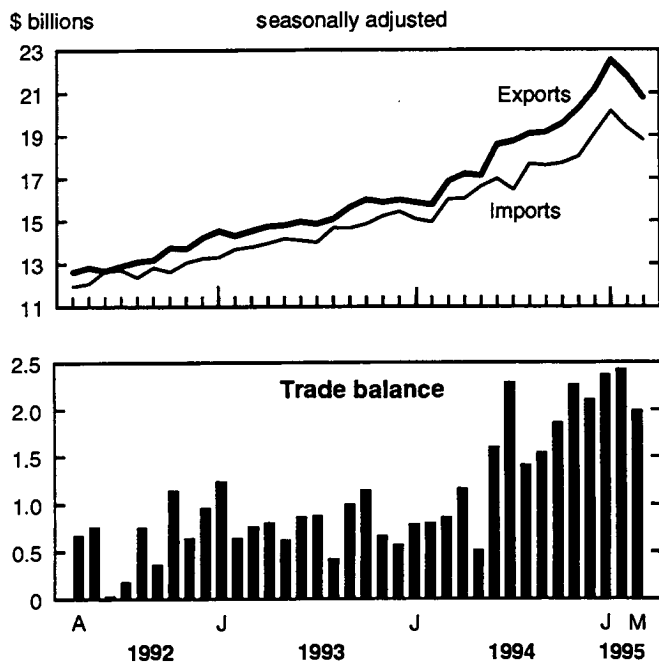
### Canadian international merchandise trade

March 1995

Exports were down 4.6% in March, falling from \$21.8 to \$20.8 billion. This decline resulted primarily from lower auto exports, which were influenced by continuing weakness in U.S. auto sales. Grain and lumber exports fell, partly reflecting labour disputes among rail workers and dock workers. In other sectors, exports advanced especially among energy and industrial goods.

Imports fell 2.9% to \$18.7 billion in March. The decline was concentrated among cars and parts from the United States. Excluding the auto sector, imports actually grew 1.5% as the demand for machinery and industrial goods recovered from February's dip.

#### Exports, imports and trade balance



The merchandise trade surplus fell slightly in March, settling at \$1.9 billion. The trade surplus with the United States was unchanged; the balance with Japan increased. There were trade deficits with all other trading partners.

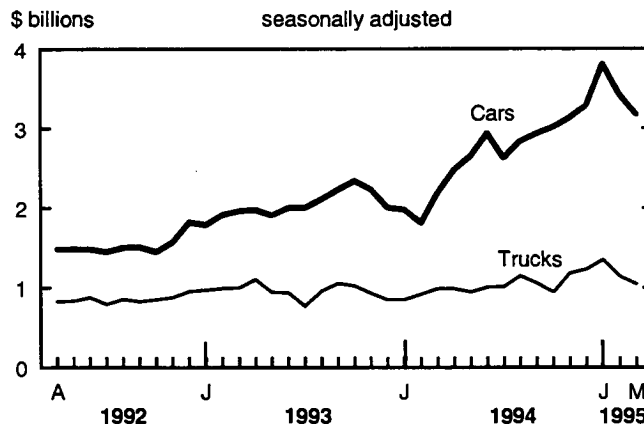
#### Note to readers

Those interested in macroeconomic issues should use the balance of payment figures, along with the rest of the current account (which includes services transactions, investment income and transfers). In the fourth quarter of 1994, an overall merchandise trade surplus of \$6.2 billion contrasted with a current account deficit of \$5.4 billion.

#### Exports hampered by falling U.S. demand for autos

Reduced shipments of cars (-7.5%) and trucks (-9.0%) accounted for nearly half of March's export decline. Curtailed demand for these exports reflects softening motor vehicle sales in the United States, which were down in January, February and March. Production slowdowns in March reflected a shortage of rail-delivered parts and a concerted effort on the part of automakers to reduce inventories. In the case of offshore-owned (not North American) car companies, exports were up in the month.

#### Exports of automotive products

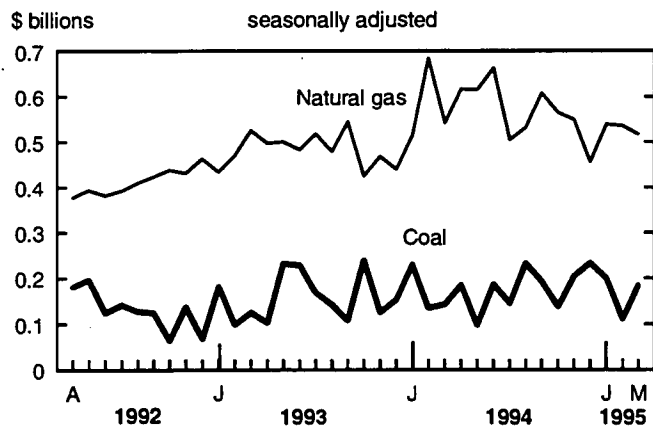


Machinery and equipment exports were off, with fewer deliveries of aircraft to the United States. Excluding the volatile aircraft category, machinery exports showed little variation from February.

Demand for most energy products rose. Coal exports, bound mainly for Japan, recovered from losses suffered earlier this year (+66%). Petroleum products advanced solidly (+11.2%), but exports of natural gas dipped 3.5%.

Elsewhere in natural resources, movements were mixed. Shipments of paper grew stronger in March, with gains in newsprint still linked to price increases. On the down side, exports of lumber and pulp suffered somewhat during the rail workers' and dock workers' disputes. Reduced lumber exports during the first quarter coincided with a slowing U.S. housing market.

#### Exports of energy products



Agricultural exports were off 13.3% in March, due mainly to falling wheat shipments (-47%). Some grain was left in the elevators, possibly reflecting limited rail services. All remaining agricultural exports fell 3.4%.

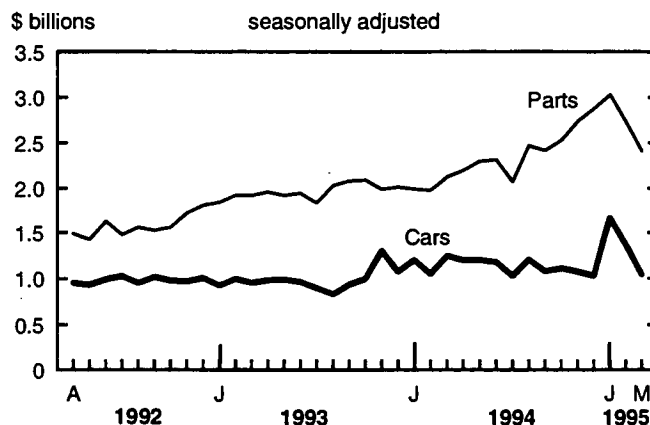
#### Imports fell as automotive trade weakened

Retrenchment in automotive trade weakened the Canadian import picture for a second consecutive month. A 24.1% reduction in demand for U.S.- and foreign-made cars reflected slower domestic sales, a trend that has endured since January. Slower production rates and curtailed rail services combined to reduce the flow of auto parts into Canada by 11.6%.

Outside the automotive sector, Canada's import picture was brighter. Led by metals and ores (+13.7%), demand for industrial goods and materials continued to grow. Aircraft and communications equipment helped boost machinery imports to a level 22% higher than a year earlier.

Natural resource imports advanced as well, with crude petroleum surging nearly 24% and forestry products up 3.5%.

#### Imports of automotive products



#### Revisions

In accordance with International Trade Division policy, data are revised for each month of the current year. These revisions correct classification anomalies, include data from late documents, and, in the case of energy, reflect differences between original estimates and actual figures.

Revisions to February 1995 trade data totals included a \$240 million addition to imports and a \$249 million revision upward to exports.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3611-3616, 3618-3629, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718-3720 and 3887-3913.**

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data that will be available next week in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001, \$19/\$182). It will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis.

For more timely receipt of the merchandise trade data, a fax service is available on the morning of release. Current account data, which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, services transactions, investment income and transfers, are available on a quarterly basis in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001, \$30/\$120).

For further information on this release, contact Suzie Carpentier (613-951-9647, 1-800-294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. □

## Canada's merchandise trade

	January 1995	February 1995	March 1995	January 1995 to February 1995	February 1995 to March 1995	January- March 1994	January- March 1995	January- March 1994 to January- March 1995	March 1994 to March 1995
seasonally adjusted, current dollars									
	\$ millions			% change		\$ millions		% change	
<b>Principal trading partners</b>									
<b>Exports</b>									
United States	18,256	17,470	16,905	-4.3	-3.2	39,625	52,632	32.8	23.7
Japan	950	939	949	-1.2	1.1	2,020	2,838	40.5	33.5
European Union	1,391	1,229	1,133	-11.6	-7.8	2,656	3,753	41.3	20.9
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	325	226	434	-30.5	92.0	894	984	10.1	40.9
All other countries	1,588	1,912	1,357	20.4	-29.0	3,291	4,857	47.6	8.0
Total	22,511	21,775	20,778	-3.3	-4.6	48,485	65,064	34.2	23.1
<b>Imports</b>									
United States	15,279	14,555	13,997	-4.7	-3.8	34,110	43,831	28.5	18.6
Japan	794	858	823	8.1	-4.1	2,151	2,475	15.1	7.4
European Union	1,740	1,491	1,578	-14.3	5.8	3,584	4,810	34.2	26.5
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	648	619	628	-4.5	1.5	1,177	1,895	61.0	56.2
All other countries	1,688	1,832	1,770	8.5	-3.4	5,041	5,289	4.9	-2.4
Total	20,150	19,356	18,795	-3.9	-2.9	46,063	58,300	26.6	17.3
<b>Balance</b>									
United States	2,977	2,915	2,908	...	...	5,515	8,801	...	...
Japan	156	81	126	...	...	-131	363	...	...
European Union	-349	-262	-445	...	...	-928	-1,057	...	...
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	-323	-393	-194	...	...	-283	-911	...	...
All other countries	-100	80	-413	...	...	-1,750	-432	...	...
Total	2,361	2,419	1,983	...	...	2,422	6,764	...	...
<b>Principal commodity groupings<sup>2</sup></b>									
<b>Exports</b>									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,889	1,557	1,350	-17.6	-13.3	3,934	4,795	21.9	-1.1
Energy products	2,088	1,797	1,925	-13.8	7.0	5,039	5,745	14.0	12.4
Forestry products	3,122	3,048	2,899	-2.4	-4.9	6,921	9,070	31.1	21.9
Industrial goods and materials	4,205	4,324	4,397	2.8	1.7	8,820	12,926	46.6	42.3
Machinery and equipment	4,255	4,312	4,072	1.3	-5.6	9,728	12,639	29.9	19.0
Automotive products	6,379	5,817	5,485	-8.8	-5.7	12,354	17,682	43.1	25.3
Other consumer goods	542	537	559	-0.9	4.1	1,329	1,639	23.3	23.7
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	885	889	883	0.5	-0.7	2,096	2,657	26.8	17.1
<b>Imports</b>									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,112	1,157	1,062	4.0	-8.2	2,837	3,331	17.4	7.9
Energy products	722	674	785	-6.6	16.5	1,600	2,181	36.3	40.7
Forestry products	177	164	167	-7.3	1.8	403	508	26.1	19.3
Industrial goods and materials	3,957	3,809	3,882	-3.7	1.9	8,619	11,648	35.1	31.3
Machinery and equipment	6,320	6,149	6,252	-2.7	1.7	14,664	18,722	27.7	22.0
Automotive products	5,359	4,739	4,061	-11.6	-14.3	11,005	14,159	28.7	5.4
Other consumer goods	2,148	2,115	2,103	-1.5	-0.6	5,499	6,366	15.8	11.0
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	463	421	453	-9.1	7.6	1,194	1,337	12.0	11.6

<sup>1</sup> Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey.<sup>2</sup> Figures not adjusted to a balance of payments basis<sup>3</sup> Mainly, these are low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, goods returned to country of origin.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Export and import price indexes

March 1995

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1986=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Indexes are listed from January 1986 to March 1995 for the five commodity sections and 62 (exports)/61 (imports) major commodity groups.

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1986=100) are also available on a customs basis. Indexes are listed from January 1986 to March 1995. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and U.S.-only Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and 62/61 major commodity groups are also now available on a customs basis.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3611-3616, 3618-3629, 3651 and 3685.**

The March 1995 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001, \$19/\$182) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-4808), Price Index Unit, International Trade Division. ■

### Steel primary forms

Week ending May 13, 1995 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending May 13, 1995 totalled 281 444 tonnes, down 3.2% from 290 719 tonnes a week earlier, but up 10.1% from 255 693 tonnes a year earlier.

The cumulative total at the end of the week was 5 350 571 tonnes, a 7.2% increase from 4 989 674 tonnes for the same period in 1994.

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

### Shipments of rolled steel

March 1995

Rolled steel shipments for March totalled 1 306 701 tonnes, up 21.7% from 1 074 074 tonnes in February 1995 and up 6.4% from 1 228 436 tonnes in March 1994.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of March 1995 totalled 3 507 428 tonnes, up 5.7% from 3 319 673 tonnes the previous year.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 (except level 2, series 3) and 122 (series 22-25).**

The March 1995 issue of *Primary iron and steel* (41-001, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

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

### Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending April 21, 1995

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) in the seven-day period ending April 21, 1995 increased 9.4% to 4.9 million tonnes. The number of railway cars loaded increased 10.0% from the same period of the previous year.

Intermodal (piggyback) tonnage totalled 330 thousand tonnes, a 26.5% increase from the comparable week last year. The year-to-date figure increased 24.2%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 10.4% during the week. This brought the year-to-date total to 75.5 million tonnes, an 8.2% increase from the previous year.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528, fax: 613-951-0579), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

### Stocks of frozen poultry meat

May 1, 1995

Preliminary data for May 1, 1995 on the stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 5675-5677.**

For further information on this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-2860), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

## Electric lamps

April 1995

Light bulb and tube manufacturers sold 18,678,000 light bulbs and tubes in April 1995, a 16.2% decrease from 22,295,000 a year earlier.

Year-to-date sales at the end of April 1995 totalled 92,105,000 light bulbs and tubes, a 9.8% decrease from 102,095,000 a year earlier.

The April 1995 issue of *Electric lamps* (43-009, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

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

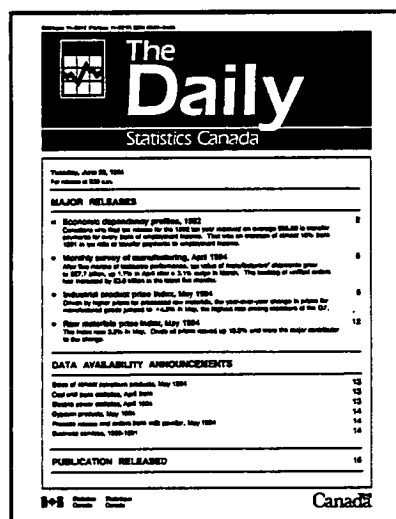
## Plastic film and bags

First quarter 1995

Data for the first quarter of 1995 on shipments of plastic film and bags manufactured from resin are now available.

The first quarter 1995 issue of *Shipments of plastic film and bags manufactured from resin* (47-007, \$10/\$32) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Suzette DesRosiers (613-951-9836), Industry Division. ■



### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Canadian economic observer**, May 1995

**Catalogue number 11-010**

(Canada: \$22/\$220; United States: US\$27/US\$264; other countries: US\$31/US\$308).

**Livestock statistics**, May 1995

**Catalogue number 23-603E**

(Canada: \$90; United States: US\$108; other countries: US\$126).

**Oils and fats**, March 1995

**Catalogue number 32-006**

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

**Particleboard, waferboard and fibreboard**, March 1995

**Catalogue number 36-003**

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

**The labour force**, April 1995

**Catalogue number 71-001**

(Canada: \$23/\$230; United States: US\$28/US\$276; other countries: US\$33/US\$322).

**Employment, earnings and hours**, February 1995

**Catalogue number 72-002**

(Canada: \$31/\$310; United States: US\$38/US\$372; other countries: US\$44/US\$434).

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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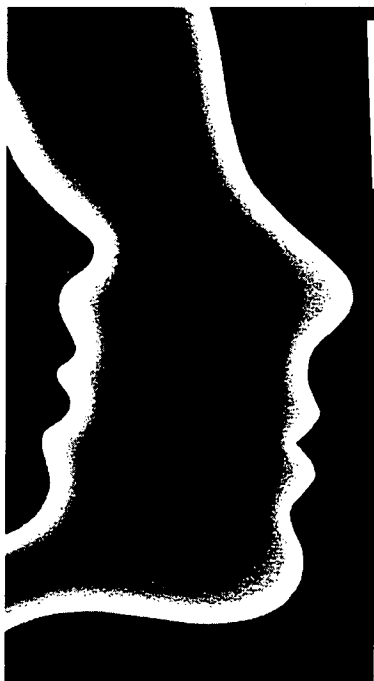
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