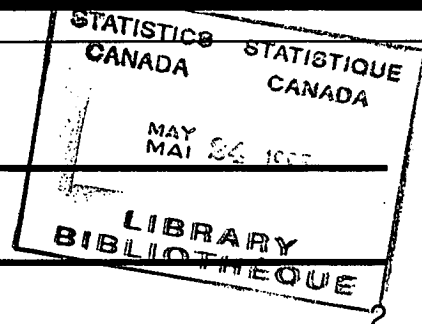


The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

● Consumer price index, April 1995

The year-over-year increase in the consumer price index has been rising at higher rates in recent months. In April, consumers paid 2.5% more for the CPI's basket of goods and services than they did a year earlier.

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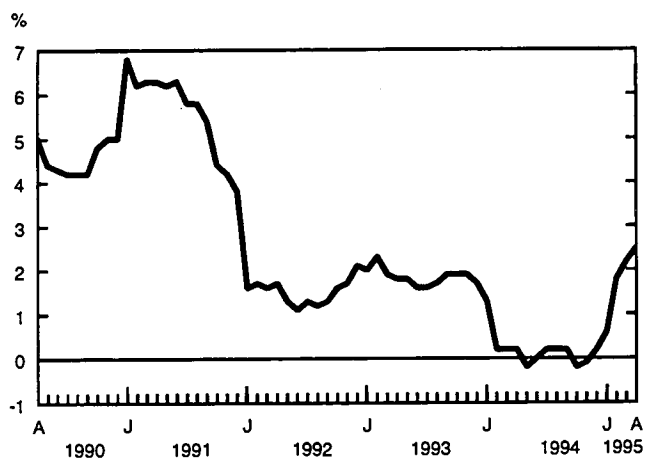
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer price index

April 1995

The year-over-year increase in the consumer price index (CPI) has been rising at higher rates in recent months. In April, consumers paid 2.5% more for the CPI's basket of goods and services than they did a year earlier. In March, the CPI was up 2.2% over a year earlier; in February, it was 1.8% higher.

Percentage change in the consumer price index
from the same month of the previous year



Consumers paid more in April than they did a year earlier for a large number of items. Significant price rises were seen for gasoline, new model vehicles, vehicle insurance, fresh vegetables, coffee, restaurant meals, mortgage interest costs and rents. Consumers have benefited slightly from lower prices for personal care supplies, while clothing and footwear prices remained on average at levels similar to those of a year earlier.

CPI increased 0.3% between March and April

The monthly increase in the CPI rose slightly from 0.2% in March to 0.3% in April. Higher fresh vegetable and gasoline prices were the most significant factors. Further upward pressures came from mortgage interest costs and women's wear. Price drops for electricity, piped gas, home maintenance and repairs, new model vehicles, public transportation, turkeys, and soft drinks moderated the monthly increase.

In April, fresh vegetable prices advanced an average 13.4%. Most of this was concentrated in sharply higher prices for tomatoes and lettuce. Abnormally heavy rainfall this spring along the central California coast was a large contributing factor to these increases. Fresh vegetables experienced a winter of unfavourable growing conditions, and prices were 22.2% above the level of a year earlier.

Gasoline prices rose 3.7% in April after increases of 0.9% in February and 1.6% in March. Since April 1994, gas prices have risen 8.9%. The latest rise can be explained by several factors: substantial advances in crude oil prices; delayed effects of an increase in the federal excise tax; increased demand leading to lower inventories; and the seasonal switch to more costly summer gasoline. Some of the increase was also attributable to a return to stable markets following an extended period of widespread price wars.

The interest cost of mortgage loans increased 0.5%. However, because of a slight drop in interest rates, this rise was down from the average 0.6% monthly advances noted since January. Because interest rates in domestic financial markets have been generally higher than in recent years, the mortgage interest cost index continued to rise. Compared with April 1994, mortgage holders paid 4.9% more in interest costs.

The advance in the clothing and footwear component was caused almost entirely by increases for women's clothing. Many items returned to normal price levels, increasing from the seasonal sale prices reported previously.

Provinces at a glance

In the provincial CPIs, the 12-month rates of change were highest in British Columbia (+2.8%) and Manitoba (+3.0%). The lowest rates were in three of the Atlantic Provinces (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia); each rose 1.8%. Whitehorse had an even lower rate at 1.5%.

Monthly changes ranged from drops of 0.1% in New Brunswick and British Columbia to a 0.7% rise in Quebec. The decline in New Brunswick resulted from a fall in four of its major component indexes, with the largest impact coming from a 0.8% drop in clothing and footwear prices. The decline in British Columbia was largely a result of lower electricity and gas prices. The large price increase in Quebec was influenced mainly by a 1.7% increase in food prices.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 7440-7454.

The April 1995 issue of *The consumer price index* (62-001, \$10/\$100) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Sandra Shadlock (613-951-9606), Prices Division.

The consumer price index and its major components
(1986=100)

	April 1995	March 1995	April 1994	March 1995 to April 1995	April 1994 to April 1995
	unadjusted				
				% change	
All-items	133.4	133.0	130.2	0.3	2.5
Food	127.6	126.2	123.0	1.1	3.7
Shelter	133.4	133.9	131.8	-0.4	1.2
Household operations and furnishings	121.4	121.2	119.7	0.2	1.4
Clothing and footwear	133.4	132.6	133.4	0.6	0.0
Transportation	137.3	136.6	130.1	0.5	5.5
Health and personal care	135.9	135.8	136.9	0.1	-0.7
Recreation, education and reading	141.1	141.0	136.1	0.1	3.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	142.7	142.4	141.3	0.2	1.0
Goods	127.3	126.7	124.2	0.5	2.5
Services	140.8	140.7	137.3	0.1	2.5
All-items excluding food and energy	135.5	135.4	132.6	0.1	2.2
Energy	127.2	126.8	123.9	0.3	2.7
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1986	75.0	75.2	76.8		
All-items (1981=100)	176.6				

The consumer price index for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
(1986=100)

	April 1995	March 1995	April 1994	March 1995 to April 1995	April 1994 to April 1995
	unadjusted				
				% change	
Newfoundland	127.6	127.1	125.3	0.4	1.8
Prince Edward Island	130.5	130.0	128.2	0.4	1.8
Nova Scotia	130.1	130.0	127.8	0.1	1.8
New Brunswick	129.2	129.3	126.3	-0.1	2.3
Quebec	131.2	130.3	128.4	0.7	2.2
Ontario	134.3	134.1	130.9	0.1	2.6
Manitoba	135.3	134.8	131.4	0.4	3.0
Saskatchewan	135.6	135.0	132.7	0.4	2.2
Alberta	132.3	131.9	128.9	0.3	2.6
British Columbia	136.9	137.0	133.2	-0.1	2.8
Whitehorse	129.4	129.0	127.5	0.3	1.5
Yellowknife	131.6	131.0	128.1	0.5	2.7

OTHER RELEASES

Production and disposition of tobacco products

April 1995

Canadian manufacturers produced 4.33 billion cigarettes in April, a 4.5% decrease from 4.53 billion in April 1994. Shipments totalled 3.96 billion cigarettes in April 1995, up 10.8% from the same month last year.

Domestic shipments, which are over 80% of total shipments, increased a slight 1.4%. Exports were almost double the April 1994 level. New markets in a number of countries other than the United States have been largely responsible for export growth in recent months.

Production was still higher than shipments, so inventories increased for a fourth straight month, to 6.50 billion cigarettes, and stayed well above last year's level.

Data on domestic shipments are the aggregate of shipments reported by Canadian manufacturers, not data on retail sales or consumption. Data on cigarette consumption are available from the quarterly Survey on Smoking in Canada. For further information on that survey, contact Lecily Hunter (613-951-0597), Special Surveys Division.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.

The April 1995 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products* (32-022, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

Corrugated boxes and wrappers

April 1995

Domestic shipments of corrugated boxes and wrappers totalled 193 180 thousand square metres in April 1995, a 1.6% decrease from 196 263 thousand square metres a year earlier.

For January to April 1995, domestic shipments totalled 807 882 thousand square metres (revised), a 7.1% increase from 754 064 thousand square metres shipped during the same period in 1994.

The April 1995 issue of *Corrugated boxes and wrappers* (36-004, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3516), Industry Division. ■

Construction type plywood

March 1995

Firms produced 168 110 cubic metres of construction type plywood in March, a 2.3% increase from 164 272 cubic metres in March 1994.

For January to March 1995, production totalled 458 591 cubic metres, a 0.2% decrease from 459 714 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (level 1).

The March 1995 issue of the *Construction type plywood* (35-001, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ted Brown (604-666-3694), Pacific Region, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3C9. ■

Production, shipments and stocks of sawmills in British Columbia

March 1995

Sawmills in British Columbia produced 3 149 717 cubic metres of lumber and ties in March, a 5.2% decrease from 3 322 604 cubic metres in March 1994.

For January to March 1995, production totalled 8 722 734 cubic metres, a 4.3% decrease from 9 112 759 cubic metres produced during the same period in 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 53 (series 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2).

The March 1995 issue of *Production, shipments and stocks on hand of sawmills in British Columbia* (35-003, \$8/\$80) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Ted Brown (604-666-3694), Pacific Region, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3C9. ■

Logging industry

1993 Annual survey of forestry

In 1993, the value of shipments of goods of own manufacture for the logging industry (SIC 0410) totalled \$9,030.9 million, up 8.0% from \$8,358.5 million in 1992.

Data for this industry will be released in *Logging industry* (25-201, \$33). See "How to order publications".

For information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3516), Industry Division. ■

Average prices of selected farm inputs
May 1995 (preliminary)

Preliminary estimates for May 1995 of average prices for selected farm inputs are now available by geographic region.

For further information on this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606), Prices Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Electric lamps (light bulbs and tubes), April 1995

Catalogue number 43-009

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

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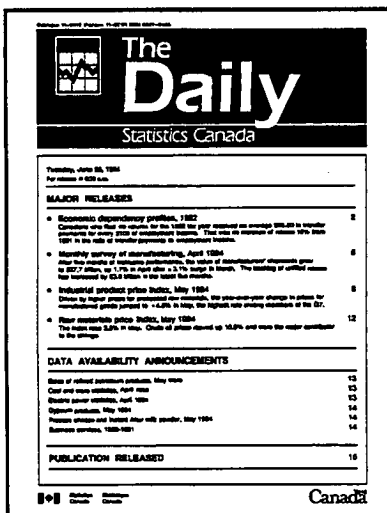
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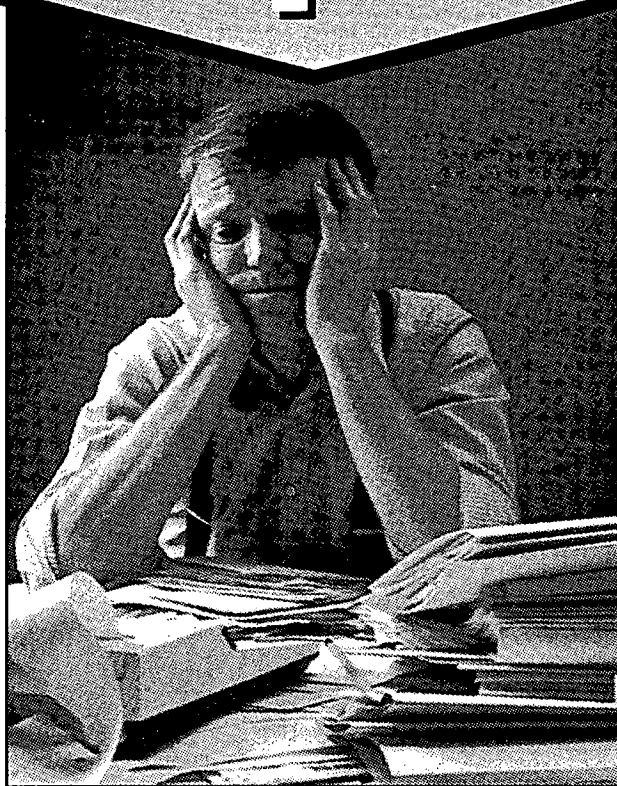
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