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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Employment, earnings and hours, March 1995** 3  
Businesses reduced their number of employees by 48,000 in March. Employees' average weekly earnings were virtually unchanged at \$573.13, following a 0.4% gain in February.
- **Unemployment insurance, first quarter 1995 and March 1995** 7  
In the first quarter of 1995, Canadians received \$4.4 billion in unemployment insurance benefits, a 14.7% drop from the same period last year. This was the lowest amount paid during a first quarter since 1990.

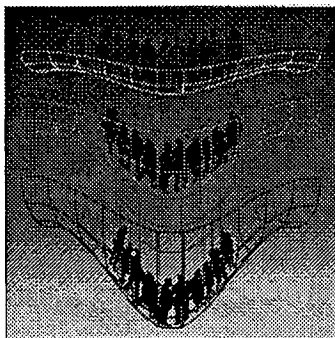
(continued on following page)



Catalogue 73-505E

### Workers, Firms and Unemployment Insurance

Miles Corak  
Wendy Hyper



1-800-267-6868

Canada

## Workers, firms and unemployment insurance

Many Canadians have come to frequently rely on unemployment insurance. To some important degree, this reflects the structure of jobs and the human resource decisions of firms. In particular, many employers tend to rely on temporary layoffs as a means of adjusting to periods of depressed sales.

How should frequent use of unemployment insurance be interpreted? Does it arise from changes in worker behavior in response to the availability and generosity of benefits? Or does it reflect broader forces associated with the availability of jobs and the structure of employment relations between workers and firms? Just what role do firms play in determining how the program is used? These are some of the questions addressed in *Workers, firms and unemployment insurance*. The publication also contains a series of data appendices that document unemployment insurance benefits and taxes at a detailed industry level.

*Workers, firms and unemployment insurance* (73-505E, \$33) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Miles Corak (613-951-9047), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division.



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## **OTHER RELEASES**

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Employment, earnings and hours

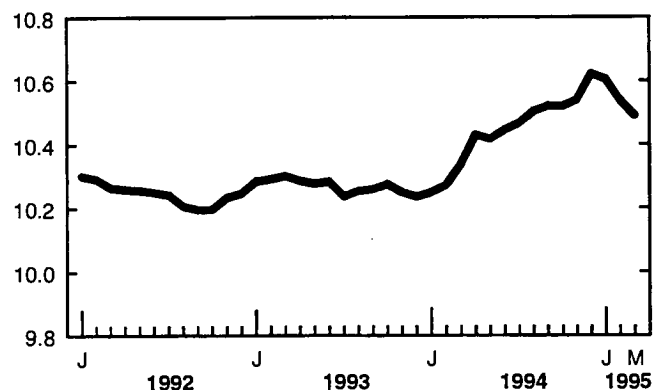
March 1995 (preliminary)

Businesses reduced their number of employees by 48,000 in March. Almost all of the decline was in Ontario, where businesses employed 40,000 fewer workers. The reductions were most notable in the service-producing industries: employment in accommodation, food and beverage service establishments fell by 11,000; retailers cut back by 7,000; and miscellaneous service establishments employed 6,000 fewer employees.

This was the third consecutive month that businesses curtailed employment, bringing the total decline to 132,000 since December 1994. Nevertheless, due to the strong gains registered in 1994, the number of employees remained 153,000 higher than in March 1994.

#### Businesses have reduced employment for three months in a row

millions of employees



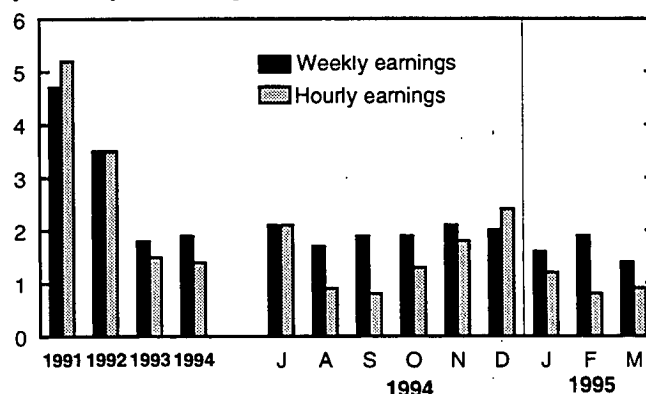
Employees' average weekly earnings were virtually unchanged at \$573.13, following a 0.4% gain in February. Employees in accommodation, food and beverage services, logging and forestry, and miscellaneous services received higher earnings. Earnings were little changed for employees in the remaining industries. Employees' weekly earnings stood 1.4% higher than in March 1994.

Employees paid by the hour worked an average 30.8 hours per week in March. For three months, average weekly hours have remained unchanged at

the same level as in March 1994. Employees' hourly earnings, however, rose from \$14.20 in February to \$14.25 in March. Hourly earnings for employees paid by the hour, following a trend of fluctuating monthly movements, were only 0.9% higher than a year earlier.

#### Hourly earnings grew less than 1% in February and March

year-over-year % change



#### Slowdown in services

The number of employees in community, business and personal services dropped for a third consecutive month. There were 26,000 fewer employees in March, bringing the total decline since December 1994 to 63,000. The March employment decline was concentrated in accommodation, food and beverage service establishments and miscellaneous service establishments in Ontario. The strike at the Windsor casino was partly responsible for the employment decline in Ontario.

Weekly earnings for employees in community, business and personal services rose 0.3% to \$493.77. This was the second consecutive monthly increase in weekly earnings, for a gain of \$4.01 since January 1995.

Retailers reduced employment levels by 7,000, the second consecutive monthly decline. Employment losses since January 1995 have totalled 17,000, following a gain of 26,000 throughout 1994. Food stores, automobile dealerships and gasoline service stations were the main contributors to the March employment decline. Geographically, the main contributors were retail establishments in Quebec and Alberta, which coincides with lower retail sales

volumes in the first three months of 1995. As the number of retail employees fell, employees' average weekly earnings increased by \$1.86 from the previous month.

#### **Decline in transportation, communication and other utilities**

The number of workers employed in transportation, communication and other utilities fell by 8,000 in March, bringing the total monthly declines since November 1994 to 18,000. The March decline was concentrated in the transportation and storage industries in Ontario. The rail strike in March contributed to the declining trend observed in transportation, communication and other utilities in recent months.

#### **Construction and mining activity continues to decline**

Coincident with a drop in housing starts and building permits, the number of workers employed in construction continued to decline, decreasing by 3,000 in March. Consecutive monthly employment declines in 1995 have almost completely offset the gains registered since March 1994. The slowdown was concentrated among trade contractors and residential building companies. Weekly earnings for construction workers fell a slight 0.2% to \$667.87. The drop in earnings was partly because hourly paid employees worked fewer hours in March (36.8 hours per week) than in February (37.4).

The number of employees working at mining, quarrying and oil well companies, particularly in

Alberta, decreased for a fifth consecutive month. A loss of 8,000 employees over this period offset the gains in 1994 and left employment slightly below the level of March 1994. The loss of 2,000 employees in March was concentrated in services incidental to crude petroleum and natural gas (such as contract drilling), while employment was stable in the remaining mining industries.

#### **Manufacturers curtail employment and overtime**

Manufacturers employed 2,000 fewer employees than in February. The most pronounced losses were registered by manufacturers in Ontario. The slowdown in recent month follows substantial gains by manufacturers in 1994. There has been a similar trend in the weekly hours of hourly paid employees; their weekly hours have been unchanged for three months, due partly to a decelerating trend in overtime hours. The March drop in employment was mirrored in manufacturers' shipments, which were lower for a second consecutive month.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 4285-4466, 9438-9452, 9639-9664 and 9899-9911.**

More detailed industry data and other labour market indicators are available from *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002, \$29/\$285) and by custom tabulation. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Stephen Johnson (613-951-4090, fax: 613-951-4087, the Internet: philpat@statcan.ca), Labour Division. □

## Number of employees

Industry group (1980 SIC)	January 1995	February 1995 <sup>r</sup>	March 1995 <sup>p</sup>	January 1995 to February 1995	February 1995 to March 1995
seasonally adjusted					
	'000			% change	
<b>Industrial aggregate</b>	<b>10,605</b>	<b>10,539</b>	<b>10,490</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Logging and forestry	66	65	66	-1.5	1.5
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	132	128	126	-3.0	-1.6
Manufacturing	1,659	1,651	1,649	-0.5	-0.1
Construction	435	423	420	-2.8	-0.7
Transportation, communication and other utilities	851	848	840	-0.4	-0.9
Trade	1,995	1,991	1,985	-0.2	-0.3
Wholesale trade	628	633	633	0.8	0.0
Retail trade	1,369	1,358	1,352	-0.8	-0.4
Finance, insurance and real estate	646	640	638	-0.9	-0.3
Business services	585	582	583	-0.5	0.2
Education-related services	930	930	928	0.0	-0.2
Health and social services	1,170	1,173	1,174	0.3	0.1
Accommodation, food and beverage services	762	749	738	-1.7	-1.5
Public administration	703	701	698	-0.3	-0.4
<b>Provinces and territories</b>					
Newfoundland	148	149	149	0.7	0.0
Prince Edward Island	40	41	40	2.5	-2.4
Nova Scotia	299	296	294	-1.0	-0.7
New Brunswick	235	235	234	0.0	-0.4
Quebec	2,563	2,556	2,550	-0.3	-0.2
Ontario	4,166	4,133	4,093	-0.8	-1.0
Manitoba	404	399	395	-1.2	-1.0
Saskatchewan	312	310	308	-0.6	-0.6
Alberta	1,045	1,032	1,029	-1.2	-0.3
British Columbia	1,359	1,356	1,361	-0.2	0.4
Yukon	12	12	12	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories	23	23	23	0.0	0.0

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

# Average weekly earnings<sup>1</sup>

Industry group (1980 SIC)	March 1994	February 1995 <sup>r</sup>	March 1995 <sup>p</sup>	February 1995 to March 1995	March 1994 to March 1995
seasonally adjusted					
	\$			% change	
<b>Industrial aggregate</b>	<b>565.00</b>	<b>573.01</b>	<b>573.13</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Logging and forestry	703.74	736.68	745.29	1.2	5.9
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	975.69	996.80	998.27	0.1	2.3
Manufacturing	686.15	691.32	693.75	0.4	1.1
Construction	653.60	669.38	667.87	-0.2	2.2
Transportation, communication and other utilities	711.27	729.52	727.92	-0.2	2.3
Trade	421.10	429.38	430.52	0.3	2.2
Wholesale trade	608.85	620.41	619.07	-0.2	1.7
Retail trade	337.62	339.80	341.66	0.5	1.2
Finance, insurance and real estate	641.75	649.55	647.96	-0.2	1.0
Business services	594.78	615.89	619.25	0.5	4.1
Education-related services	675.08	672.15	673.02	0.1	-0.3
Health and social services	504.57	508.78	509.48	0.1	1.0
Accommodation, food and beverage services	223.66	230.46	232.41	0.8	3.9
Public administration	755.68	751.97	753.97	0.3	-0.2
<b>Provinces and territories</b>					
Newfoundland	531.28	543.22	545.71	0.5	2.7
Prince Edward Island	458.48	451.93	458.62	1.5	0.0
Nova Scotia	497.17	485.41	492.39	1.4	-1.0
New Brunswick	497.38	515.23	516.12	0.2	3.8
Quebec	545.70	544.99	547.54	0.5	0.3
Ontario	603.26	610.86	610.95	0.0	1.3
Manitoba	499.10	498.97	503.90	1.0	1.0
Saskatchewan	483.89	494.85	492.91	-0.4	1.9
Alberta	545.78	558.95	560.24	0.2	2.6
British Columbia	570.59	588.64	589.71	0.2	3.4
Yukon	710.45	678.09	699.16	3.1	-1.6
Northwest Territories	714.43	715.07	709.73	-0.7	-0.7

<sup>1</sup> For all employees.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary estimates.

<sup>r</sup> Revised estimates.

## Unemployment insurance

First quarter 1995 and March 1995 (preliminary)

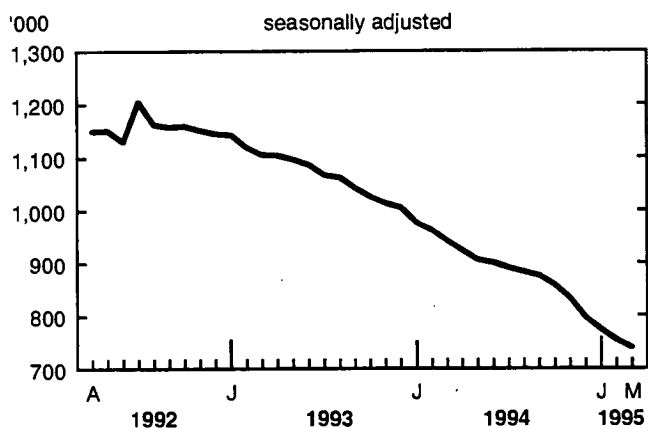
During the first quarter of 1995, Canadians were paid \$4.4 billion (unadjusted) in unemployment insurance benefits (including regular and special benefits), 14.7% less than in the first quarter 1994. This decline was partly due to a 15.6% drop over the same period in the average number of beneficiaries.

In March, Canadians collected \$1.5 billion in benefits, down 19.4% from the same month of last year. Comparing the same month from prior years, this was the lowest level since March 1990, when \$1.2 billion was paid.

### The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits was down 1.9% from February

In March, 738,000 people received regular benefits, down 1.9% from February. The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits has decreased by 38.7% since July 1992.

Since July 1992, the number of beneficiaries\* has decreased 39%



\* Receiving regular benefits.

From February to March, the number of beneficiaries declined in every province and territory except the Yukon. Year-over-year decreases were observed in all provinces and territories.

### Note to readers

Unless noted, all figures in this release are seasonally adjusted.

Most who collect unemployment insurance benefits receive regular benefits (79.0% in March). In order to qualify for regular benefits, a person must have experienced an interruption of earnings, be capable of and available for work, and be unable to find suitable employment.

In addition to regular benefits, claimants can qualify for special benefits (for example, training, maternity, sickness or fishing benefits).

Data on the number of beneficiaries relate to a specific week of the reference month. Data on benefit payments, benefit weeks and claims refer to a complete calendar month.

### Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	March 1995	February <sup>1</sup> 1995 to March 1995
seasonally adjusted		
		% change
Canada	738,470	-1.9
Newfoundland	37,640	-1.9
Prince Edward Island	10,520	-2.6
Nova Scotia	39,020	-3.8
New Brunswick	44,230	-5.6
Quebec	257,060	-1.2
Ontario	186,990	-0.4
Manitoba	18,580	-3.0
Saskatchewan	14,720	-2.7
Alberta	50,690	-1.4
British Columbia	81,920	-4.5
Yukon	1,290	0.6
Northwest Territories	1,250	-1.7

The average number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits in the first quarter of 1995 also declined (-18.7%) compared with the first quarter of 1994.

The continuing decline in the number of beneficiaries is partly related to employment gains, as recorded by the Labour Force Survey. Another factor may be a rising level of long-term unemployment (those looking for work for more than a year). This suggests that fewer people are eligible to collect benefits. Additionally, in July 1994, legislative changes were introduced that tightened eligibility requirements.

## Number of claims increased 2.7% in March

In March, 256,000 individuals submitted applications (claims) for unemployment insurance benefits, up 2.7% from February. Since July 1994, the number of people who submitted claims for benefits has increased slightly.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717 and 5735-5736.

The March 1995 issue of *Unemployment insurance statistics* (73-001, \$16/\$160) will contain data for January, February and March. It will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-4045) or Ruth Barnes (613-951-4046), Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087).

## Number of beneficiaries<sup>1</sup>

	March 1995	March 1994 to March 1995
	unadjusted	
		% change <sup>2</sup>
<b>Census metropolitan area</b>		
St. John's	10,350	-18.7
Halifax	12,130	-21.7
Saint John	6,080	-3.8
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	10,200	-11.2
Québec	32,800	-10.9
Sherbrooke	6,580	-14.7
Trois-Rivières	7,530	-13.7
Montréal	126,340	-16.6
Hull	9,960	-11.5
Ottawa	16,450	-11.0
Oshawa	6,300	-31.1
Toronto	107,410	-20.0
Hamilton	15,370	-21.8
St. Catharines-Niagara	13,580	-19.7
Kitchener	8,490	-29.5
London	9,400	-17.3
Windsor	7,240	-17.2
Sudbury	5,330	-21.4
Thunder Bay	4,900	-16.4
Winnipeg	18,950	-17.4
Regina	4,410	-16.9
Saskatoon	5,920	-17.9
Calgary	22,670	-15.9
Edmonton	26,170	-19.3
Vancouver	49,660	-18.0
Victoria	7,280	-16.3

<sup>1</sup> Beneficiaries include all claimants who receive regular benefits (e.g., because of layoff) or special benefits (e.g., in case of sickness)

<sup>2</sup> The percentage changes shown for the December, January and February data were incorrectly calculated. Readers interested in obtaining the updated tables may contact Adib Farhat (613-951-4045) or Carole Lacroix (613-951-4039), Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087).



## Unemployment insurance statistics

		March 1994	January 1995	February 1995	March 1995	February 1995 to March 1995
seasonally adjusted						
						% change
Regular beneficiaries	'000	942	772 <sup>r</sup>	752 <sup>p</sup>	738 <sup>p</sup>	-1.9
Amount paid	\$ '000	1,068,504	909,495	865,793	857,774	-0.9
Weeks of benefits	'000	4,220	3,608	3,438	3,391	-1.4
Total claims received	'000	253	251	250	256	2.7
unadjusted						
		March 1994	January 1995	February 1995	March 1995	March 1994 to March 1995
						% change
All beneficiaries	'000	1,376	1,193 <sup>r</sup>	1,182 <sup>p</sup>	1,155 <sup>p</sup>	-16.1
Regular beneficiaries	'000	1,123	954 <sup>r</sup>	935 <sup>p</sup>	908 <sup>p</sup>	-19.2
Male	'000	700	596 <sup>r</sup>	593 <sup>p</sup>	574 <sup>p</sup>	-17.9
Female	'000	424	358 <sup>r</sup>	341 <sup>p</sup>	334 <sup>p</sup>	-21.2
Claims received	'000	233	342	203	232	-0.5
Amount paid	\$ '000	1,821,819	1,534,773	1,353,298	1,468,970	-19.4
Weeks of benefits	'000	6,581	5,655	4,779	5,255	-20.1
Average weekly benefit	\$	263.02	263.56	265.26	265.10	0.8
Year-to-date (January to March)						
		1994	1995			1994 to 1995
						% change
All beneficiaries, average	'000	1,395	1,177 <sup>p</sup>			-15.6
Regular beneficiaries, average	'000	1,146	932 <sup>p</sup>			-18.7
Claims received	'000	785	777			-1.0
Amount paid	\$ '000	5,107,029	4,357,041			-14.7
Weeks of benefits	'000	18,560	15,690			-15.5
Average weekly benefit	\$	264.29	264.59			0.1

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

**Note:** "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants who receive regular benefits (e.g., because of layoff) or special benefits (e.g., in case of sickness).

## OTHER RELEASES

### Sales of refined petroleum products

April 1995 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 6 191 300 cubic metres in April, almost unchanged from April 1994. The largest sales increases were for petrochemical feedstocks (+57 800 cubic metres or +17.8%) and aviation turbo fuels (+25 500 cubic metres or +7.8%). Offsetting these advances was a sharp decline in the demand for heavy fuel oil (-88 800 cubic metres or -16.8%).

In the first four months of 1995, sales increased for five of the seven major product groups. Strong sales of diesel fuel oil reflected higher demand by railways and the truck transport industry. Increased sales of petrochemical feedstocks reflected greater use by the petrochemical industry. Warmer than normal temperatures during the period reduced requirements for light fuel oil.

### Sales of refined petroleum products

	April 1994	April 1995	April 1994 to April 1995
	thousands of cubic me- tres		% change
<b>All products</b>	<b>6 190.5</b>	<b>6 191.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Motor gasoline	2 666.5	2 654.9	-0.4
Diesel fuel oil	1 309.7	1 309.3	-0.0
Light fuel oil	432.5	463.5	7.2
Heavy fuel oil	528.4	439.6	-16.8
Aviation turbo fuels	326.7	352.2	7.8
Petrochemical, feedstocks <sup>1</sup>	325.2	383.0	17.8
All other refined products	601.5	588.8	-2.1

	January 1994 to April 1994	January 1995 to April 1995	January- April 1994 to January- April 1995
<b>All products</b>	<b>26 353.7</b>	<b>26 499.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Motor gasoline	10 715.0	10 775.3	0.6
Diesel fuel oil	5 337.9	5 574.9	4.4
Light fuel oil	3 152.0	2 687.0	-14.8
Heavy fuel oil	2 372.8	2 268.2	-4.4
Aviation turbo fuels	1 381.8	1 459.2	5.6
Petrochemical feedstocks <sup>1</sup>	1 240.3	1 508.5	21.6
All other refined products	2 153.9	2 225.6	3.3

<sup>1</sup> Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce petroleum-based chemicals.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

The April 1995 issue of *Refined petroleum products* (45-004, \$20/\$200) will be available the third week of July. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

### For-hire trucking (commodity origin and destination)

Third quarter 1994 (preliminary)

Canada-based for-hire trucking companies carried 49.0 million tonnes of freight during the third quarter of 1994, down slightly from 50.3 million tonnes moved during the third quarter of 1993. This followed a five-year peak recorded in the second quarter of 1994, when 52.6 million tonnes of freight were trucked.

Preliminary results are available from the For-hire Trucking (Commodity Origin and Destination) Survey for the third quarter of 1994. The survey measures intercity commodity movements (distances of 25 kilometres or more) of Canada-based for-hire carriers with annual intercity revenues of \$1 million or more.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 143.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486) or Kathie Davidson (613-951-8779), Transportation Division (fax: 613-951-0579). ■

### Rigid insulating board

April 1995

Shipments of rigid insulating board totalled 2 627 thousand square metres (12.7 mm basis) in April 1995, a 36.5% decrease from 4 134 thousand square metres in April 1994.

For January to April 1995, shipments totalled 10 575 thousand square metres (revised), a 3.4% decrease from 10 948 thousand square metres in 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 31 (series 1) and 122 (series 4-7).

The April 1995 issue of *Rigid insulating board* (36-002, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

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



## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Crude petroleum and natural gas production,**  
February 1995

**Catalogue number 26-006**

(Canada: \$18/\$180; United States: US\$22/US\$216;  
other countries: US\$26/US\$252).

**Production, shipments and stocks on hand of  
sawmills in British Columbia, March 1995**

**Catalogue number 35-003**

(Canada: \$8/\$80; United States: US\$10/US\$96; other  
countries: US\$12/US\$112).

**Air carrier traffic at Canadian airports, April to June  
1994**

**Catalogue number 51-005**

(Canada: \$39/\$130; United States: US\$47/US\$156;  
other countries: US\$55/US\$182).

**Gas utilities, February 1995**

**Catalogue number 55-002**

(Canada: \$16/\$160; United States: US\$20/US\$200;  
other countries: US\$23/US\$230).

**Telephone statistics, March 1995**

**Catalogue number 56-002**

(Canada: \$9/\$90; United States: US\$11/US\$108; other  
countries: US\$13/US\$126).

**Consumer prices and price indexes, October to  
December 1994**

**Catalogue number 62-010**

(Canada: \$24/\$80; United States: US\$29/US\$96; other  
countries: US\$34/US\$112).

**Workers, firms and unemployment insurance**

**Catalogue number 73-505E**

(Canada: \$33; United States: US\$40; other countries:  
US\$47).

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Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library  
Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.



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