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Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

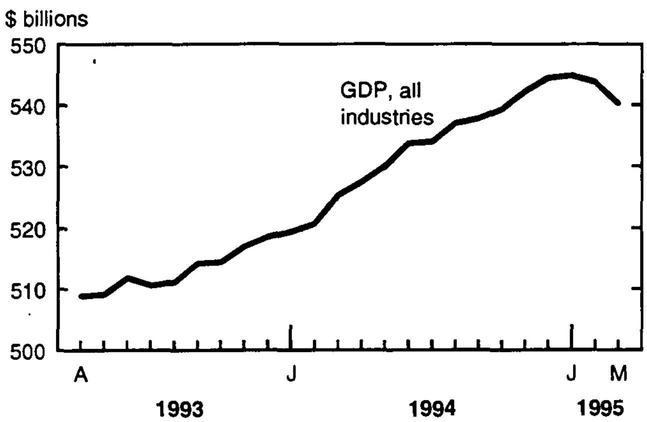
MAJOR RELEASES

Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry

March 1995

Economic activity slowed sharply in the first quarter as GDP at factor cost dropped 0.7% in March after a 0.2% decline in February. As a result, growth in the first quarter overall was just 0.2%, substantially slower than the 1.1% gain posted the previous quarter. Weakness in both domestic and foreign demand and the labour dispute in railway transport all contributed to the large decline in March.

Economic activity lost momentum in March



Production fell in almost every industry group, with transportation and storage services and the mining sector declining the most. Output in manufacturing, construction and retail trade slipped again. Sizeable declines in community, business and personal services, wholesale trade, and forestry added to the weakness.

Transportation services curbed by labour disputes

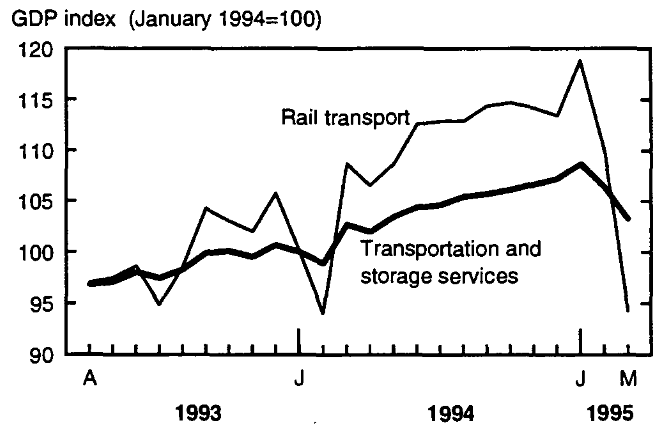
Transportation and storage services tumbled 3.0%, led by a sharp decline in railway transport, where activity was disrupted by labour disputes. Water transport services also fell as work stoppages at the Port of Montréal and ports in British Columbia curtailed services. Unable to move grain, operators of grain elevators reduced their activity sharply.

Note to readers

The gross domestic product of an industry is the value added by factors of production when those factors transform inputs purchased from other industries into outputs.

Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1986 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

Rail services sidetracked by labour disputes



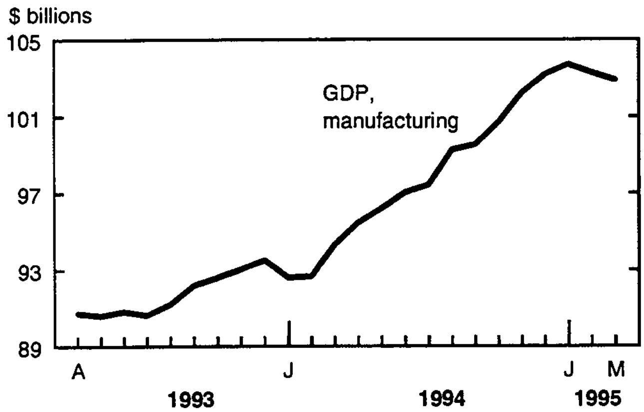
Widespread declines in mining

Output in the mining sector dropped 2.8% after receding 2.3% in February. Drilling fell sharply for a second consecutive month, accounting for about half the overall decline. Exploration and development activities have slowed considerably over the last few months (to March). Large declines in the number of new well licences issued during the first quarter point to further cutbacks. Production by metal mines other than gold tumbled 6.6% after falling 5.4% in February, when prices of non-ferrous metals dropped markedly. The railway disruption appears to have contributed to the cutback in March.

Manufacturers cut back as stocks accumulated

Manufacturers cut production 0.4% for a second consecutive month, mirroring recent declines in manufacturing output in the United States. Production decreased in 13 of 21 major groups, compared with 11 in February.

Manufacturers cut back once more



Manufacturers continued to accumulate inventories of finished goods in March. Along with a slowdown in unfilled orders, this points to a sluggish manufacturing sector in the coming months.

Manufacturers of electronic products and transportation equipment reduced output the most in March (-1.7% and -1.0% respectively). The drops reflect another sharp decline in motor vehicle assembly and lower production of electronic equipment and office machinery. Foreign demand for these products has slowed considerably since the beginning of the year. Some motor vehicle assembly plants closed temporarily due to weak demand and high inventories.

Smaller declines in production of primary metals and non-metallic mineral products, notably cement, were still significant. Gains in pulp and paper, rubber, and machinery were the most important. Demand for pulp and paper products remained vigorous, obliging manufacturers to operate at full capacity. Prices of pulp and paper products continued to soar in March.

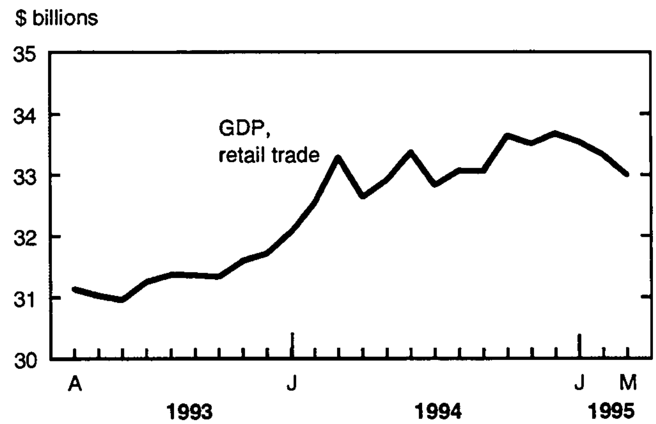
Housing market continued to sag

Construction fell 1.3%, mainly reflecting the slump in home-building. After a pause in February, residential construction resumed its slide, falling 4.8% in March. Sales of new houses and housing resales have weakened rapidly since last December, and were well below their levels of a year earlier. Another decline in the number of building permits issued augurs further cutbacks in the short term. Lower mortgage rates at the beginning of May, however, may signal longer term relief for this beleaguered industry. Activity on non-residential projects also fell in March.

Consumers remained frugal

Retail sales fell 1.0%, their third consecutive drop. The decline was widespread, with sales falling in 13 of 18 trade groups. Sales of automotive and food products contributed most to the loss. Spending on furniture and household appliances continued to sag, falling for a third consecutive month. Sales by department stores improved slightly, but were still at about the same level as in October.

Retail sales fell for a third consecutive month



Community, business and personal services receded 0.6% due to a sharp drop in amusement services. Lower sales by lottery corporations and a strike at the Windsor casino were responsible for the drop. Spending on accommodation and food services rose 1.7% after weakening since last fall.

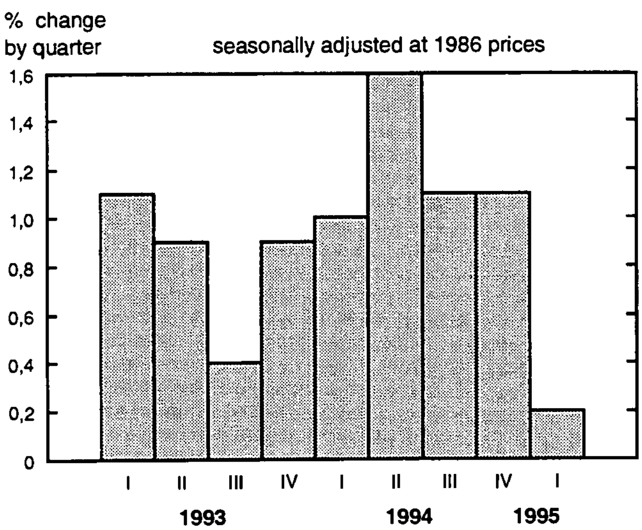
Wholesalers also felt the pinch

Wholesale trade fell 0.8% after a 1.2% gain in February. Lower sales of machinery and equipment accounted for nearly half the decline. Production of machinery by manufacturers continued to advance however, while imports of electronic and industrial machinery remained high. Wholesalers' inventories accumulated sharply.

First quarter of 1995

With the declines in February and March, GDP rose just 0.2% in the first quarter, much slower than the 1.1% growth in each of the two previous quarters. Lower spending on consumer goods and housing, the slowdown in manufacturing, and the impact of strikes in the transportation industries were mostly responsible for the first-quarter slowdown.

Gross domestic product
all industries



Manufacturing growth slowed to 1.2% after gains of 2.6% and 3.3% in the third and fourth quarters of 1994 respectively. The slowdown was widespread but more noticeable in the motor vehicle assembly, electronic equipment, and office machinery industries. This reflected less vigorous demand from foreign markets. A 0.5% decline in transportation and storage services reflected the slowdown in manufacturing and the labour disputes in railway and water transport in March.

Retail sales fell in each month of the quarter and fell 1.0% for the quarter as a whole. Motor vehicle dealers recorded the largest declines. The number of new vehicles sold tumbled 5.8% to its lowest level since the third quarter of 1993. The growth in wholesale sales slowed to 1.6%, following a 2.5% gain in the fourth quarter, despite another strong gain in sales of machinery and equipment. Weakness in sales of automotive products, hardware products, and household goods moderated the overall gain in wholesale trade.

The slump in housing resales and reduced activity by securities brokers were mostly responsible for a 0.5% decline in the finance group. The weakness in housing markets was also evident in residential construction. Home-building fell 4.9% in the first quarter following a 3.2% drop in the fourth quarter of 1994. Gains in non-residential building and engineering projects offset the decline in home-building. Overall construction activity edged up 0.3% during the quarter.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4670-4674.

The March 1995 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001, $14/$140) will be released in June. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Michel Girard (613-951-9145), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. □

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, at 1986 prices

	March 1994	January 1995r	February 1995r	March 1995p	December 1994 to January 1995	January 1995 to February 1995	February 1995 to March 1995	March 1994 to March 1995
	seasonally adjusted at annual rates							
	$ millions				% change			
Total economy	**525,261**	**544,768**	**543,756**	**540,176**	**0.1**	**-0.2**	**-0.7**	**2.8**
Goods-producing industries	175,579	188,776	188,150	186,514	0.4	-0.3	-0.9	6.2
Services-producing	349,682	355,992	355,607	353,662	-0.1	-0.1	-0.5	1.1
Business sector	**433,608**	**452,937**	**452,051**	**448,683**	**0.1**	**-0.2**	**-0.7**	**3.5**
Goods	174,665	187,867	187,239	185,610	0.4	-0.3	-0.9	6.3
Agriculture	10,813	11,067	11,086	11,017	0.5	0.2	-0.6	1.9
Fishing and trapping	1,028	867	843	849	-5.3	-2.8	0.7	-17.5
Logging	3,002	2,980	3,073	2,878	-4.3	3.1	-6.3	-4.1
Mining	22,347	24,507	23,943	23,265	2.2	-2.3	-2.8	4.1
Manufacturing	94,341	103,691	103,248	102,861	0.5	-0.4	-0.4	9.0
Construction	26,335	28,661	28,860	28,484	0.1	0.7	-1.3	8.2
Other utility industries	16,800	16,094	16,187	16,256	-1.2	0.6	0.4	-3.2
Services	258,943	265,070	264,812	263,074	-0.1	-0.1	-0.7	1.6
Transportation and storage	22,754	24,084	23,577	22,862	1.4	-2.1	-3.0	0.5
Communication	20,653	21,608	22,027	22,008	-0.1	1.9	-0.1	6.6
Wholesale trade	33,402	35,548	35,969	35,695	-0.2	1.2	-0.8	6.9
Retail trade	33,286	33,541	33,329	32,996	-0.4	-0.6	-1.0	-0.9
Finance, insurance and real estate	86,008	85,733	85,344	85,345	-0.3	-0.5	0.0	-0.8
Community, business and personal services	62,840	64,556	64,567	64,168	-0.3	0.0	-0.6	2.1
Non-business sector	**91,653**	**91,831**	**91,705**	**91,493**	**0.0**	**-0.1**	**-0.2**	**-0.2**
Goods	914	908	911	905	-0.7	0.3	-0.7	-1.0
Services	90,739	90,923	90,794	90,588	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Government services	33,454	33,192	33,079	32,942	0.5	-0.3	-0.4	-1.5
Community and personal services	53,961	54,416	54,424	54,367	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.8
Other services	3,324	3,315	3,291	3,279	-0.1	-0.7	-0.4	-1.3
Other aggregations								
Industrial production	134,401	145,200	144,288	143,286	0.6	-0.6	-0.7	6.6
Non-durable manufacturing	42,459	43,963	43,932	44,079	-0.7	-0.1	0.3	3.8
Durable manufacturing	51,882	59,728	59,316	58,782	1.4	-0.7	-0.9	13.3

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

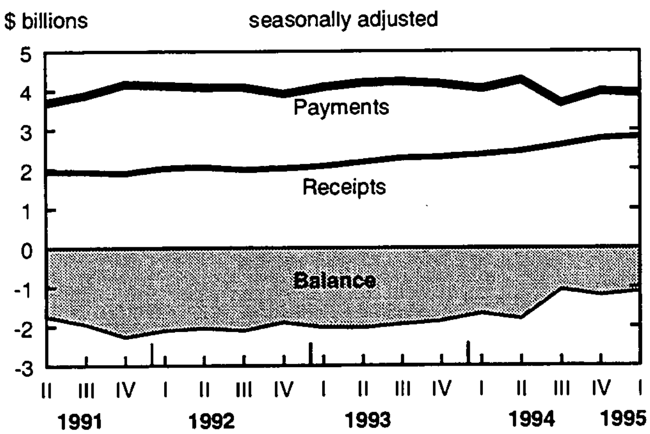
■

International travel account

First quarter 1995 (preliminary)

In the first quarter of 1995, less spending by Canadians travelling abroad combined with more spending by foreigners visiting Canada lowered the international travel account deficit to $1.1 billion, 7.8% below what it was in the last quarter of 1994.

Record spending by foreign visitors helped lower the international travel account deficit



> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Unless otherwise stated, data in this release are seasonally adjusted.*

Foreign visitors to Canada paid out a record $2.8 billion during the first quarter of 1995, 1.7% more than in the previous quarter. It was the tenth consecutive quarter when overall spending by foreigners rose. Meanwhile, Canadians travelling outside the country spent $3.9 billion, a 1.2% decrease from the fourth quarter of 1994.

The travel account deficit with the United States, which peaked in the fourth quarter of 1991 at $1.9 billion, stood at $642 million for the first quarter of 1995, its lowest level since the first quarter of 1989. Americans spent $1.7 billion in Canada, an unprecedented amount—5.1% higher than in the fourth quarter of 1994. Canadians spent $2.3 billion while travelling in the United States during the first quarter of 1995, 4.3% less than in the previous quarter.

Outlays by Canadians travelling overseas (countries other than the United States) increased 3.5% to $1.6 billion; meanwhile, visitors from overseas spent $1.2 billion in Canada, 2.9% less than in the fourth quarter of 1994.

For further information on this release, contact Luc Dubois (613-951-1674), International Travel Section, Education, Culture and Tourism Division. □

International travel receipts and payments

	First quarter 1994[r]	Second quarter 1994[r]	Third quarter 1994[r]	Fourth quarter 1994[r]	1994 total	First quarter 1995[p]
	seasonally adjusted[1]					
	$ millions					
United States						
Receipts	1,371	1,363	1,428	1,573	5,734	1,654
Payments	2,581	2,662	2,183	2,398	9,824	2,296
Balance	-1,210	-1,299	-755	-826	-4,090	-642
All other countries						
Receipts	994	1,085	1,178	1,203	4,460	1,168
Payments	1,460	1,598	1,489	1,578	6,125	1,634
Balance	-467	-513	-310	-375	-1,665	-465
Total, all countries						
Receipts	2,364	2,448	2,606	2,776	10,194	2,822
Payments	4,041	4,260	3,672	3,976	15,949	3,929
Balance	-1,677	-1,812	-1,065	-1,201	-5,755	-1,107
	unadjusted					
	$ millions					
United States						
Receipts	692	1,422	2,586	1,034	5,734	844
Payments	2,778	2,889	2,194	1,963	9,824	2,455
Balance	-2,086	-1,467	392	-929	-4,090	-1,611
All other countries						
Receipts	480	1,142	2,140	698	4,460	557
Payments	1,577	1,497	1,696	1,355	6,125	1,768
Balance	-1,097	-355	444	-657	-1,665	-1,211
Total, all countries						
Receipts	1,172	2,564	4,726	1,732	10,194	1,401
Payments	4,355	4,386	3,890	3,318	15,949	4,223
Balance	-3,183	-1,822	836	-1,586	-5,755	-2,822

[1] *Seasonally adjusted data may not add to totals due to rounding.*
[p] *Preliminary figures.*
[r] *Revised figures.*

OTHER RELEASES

Gypsum products
April 1995

Manufacturers shipped 16 399 thousand square metres of plain gypsum wallboard in April, down 23.8% from 21 509 thousand square metres in April 1994 and down 1.9% from 16 709 thousand square metres in March 1995.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of April 1995 totalled 75 951 thousand square metres, down 7.6% from a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 39 and 122 (series 11).

The April 1995 issue of *Gypsum products* (44-003, $6/$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

Coal and coke
March 1995

Coal production totalled 6 178 kilotonnes in March, down 3.5% from March 1994. Year-to-date production at the end of March 1995 stood at 18 631 kilotonnes, up 3.7% from the previous year.

Exports in March rose to 2 852 kilotonnes, up 3.2% from March 1994; imports increased 113.6% to 244 kilotonnes. For January to March 1995, exports totalled 8 151 kilotonnes, 19.5% above last year's figure.

Coke production in March 1995 decreased to 264 kilotonnes, down 16.9% from March 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The March 1995 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002, $11/$110) will be available the first week of June. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Dave Madsen (613-951-9823), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

Electric power
March 1995

Net generation of electricity in March decreased to 47 803 gigawatt hours, down 2.7% from March 1994. Exports decreased 15.4% to 3 847 gigawatt hours; imports increased from 217 gigawatt hours to 982 gigawatt hours.

Generation by type was as follows: hydro, 29 594 gigawatt hours (-2.3%); nuclear, 8 734 gigawatt hours (-9.5%); and thermal conventional, 9 476 gigawatt hours (+2.8%).

Year-to-date net generation at the end of March 1995 totalled 146 735 gigawatt hours, down 4.6% from the previous year. Year-to-date exports (10 671 gigawatt hours) declined 12.3%; year-to-date imports (2 701 gigawatt hours) rose 167.9% from the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3987-3999.

The March 1995 issue of *Electric power statistics* (57-001, $11/$110) will be available the first week of June. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Dave Madsen (613-951-9823), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

Process cheese and instant skim milk powder
April 1995

Production of process cheese in April totalled 5 783 834 kilograms, down 13.9% from March 1995 and down 4.5% from April 1994. Year-to-date production at the end of April 1995 totalled 23 397 794 kilograms, up from 21 816 950 the previous year.

Production of instant skim milk powder in April 1995 totalled 168 095 kilograms, down 46.2% from March 1995 and down 40.0% from April 1994. Year-to-date production at the end of April 1995 totalled 1 114 495 kilograms, compared with 1 139 541 kilograms the year before.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 188 (series 1.10).

The April 1995 issue of *Production and inventories of process cheese and instant skim milk powder* (32-024, $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. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Quarries and sand pits, 1993
Catalogue number 26-225
(Canada: $24; United States: US$29; other countries: US$34).

Primary iron and steel, March 1995
Catalogue number 41-001
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

Asphalt roofing, April 1995
Catalogue number 45-001
(Canada: $6/$60; United States: US$8/US$72; other countries: US$9/US$84).

New motor vehicle sales, February 1995
Catalogue number 63-007
(Canada: $16/$160; United States: US$20/US$192; other countries: US$23/US$224).

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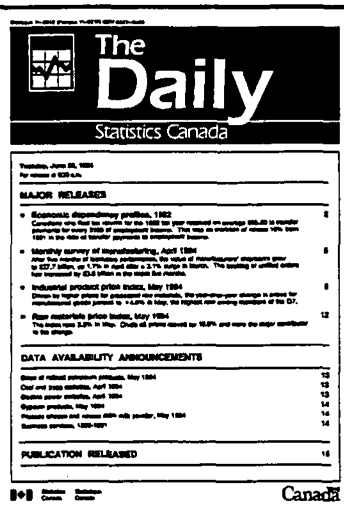

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RELEASE DATES: JUNE 1995

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
1	**Perspectives on labour and income**	Summer 1995
2	**People in Canadian agriculture**	
5	**Industrial capacity utilization rates**	First quarter 1995
5	**Environmental perspectives: studies and statistics**	
6	**Building permits**	April 1995
7	**Survey on smoking**	Fourth quarter 1994
8	**Help-wanted index**	May 1995
8	**New housing price index**	April 1995
9	**Labour force survey**	May 1995
9	**New motor vehicle sales**	April 1995
12	**National economic and financial accounts**	First quarter 1995
12	**Balance of international payments**	First quarter 1995
13	**Canadian social trends**	Summer 1995
15	**Composite index**	May 1995
15	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	April 1995
16	**Consumer price index**	May 1995
20	**Retail trade**	April 1995
21	**Canadian international merchandise trade**	April 1995
21	**Wholesale trade**	April 1995
22	**Canadian economic observer**	June 1995
26	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	April 1995
27	**Industrial product price index**	May 1995
27	**Raw materials price index**	May 1995
28	**Monthly survey of manufacturing**	April 1995
28	**Unemployment insurance**	April 1995
29	**Employment, earnings and hours**	April 1995
30	**Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry**	April 1995
30	**Preliminary estimates of the principal field crops**	
30	**Release dates**	July 1995

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