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● Consumer price index, May 1995

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Between May 1994 and May 1995, consumers across Canada experienced an average 2.9% price increase for the goods and services in the consumer price index (CPI) basket. Consumer prices rose 0.2% between April and May 1995, largely a result of higher gasoline prices.

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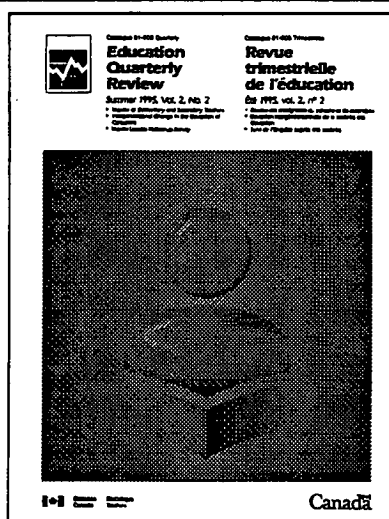
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Education quarterly review

Summer 1995

The Summer 1995 issue of *Education quarterly review* features articles on elementary and secondary teacher income, inter-generational change in the education of Canadians, along with a follow-up to the School Leavers Survey, and an overview of the Survey of Labour Income and Dynamics.

More than just numbers, *Education quarterly review* is a valuable source for anyone who needs relevant, unbiased and accurate analysis of current educational issues and trends.

The Summer 1995 issue of *Education quarterly review* (81-003, \$20/\$66) is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Jim Seidle (613-951-1500, fax: 613-951-9040, the Internet: education@statcan.ca), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.



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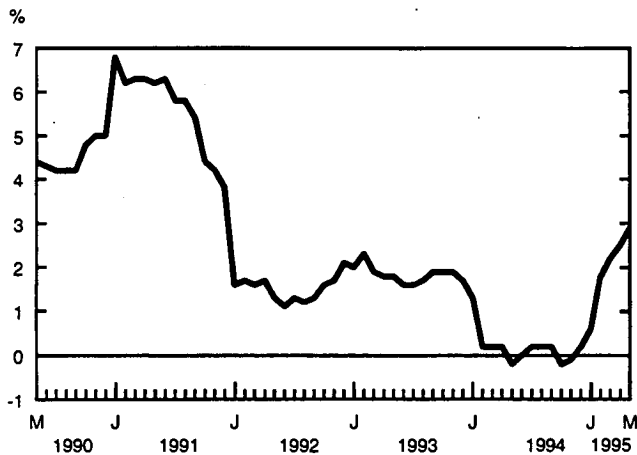
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer price index

May 1995

Between May 1994 and May 1995, consumers across Canada experienced an average 2.9% price increase for the goods and services in the consumer price index (CPI) basket. In the February-to-April period, the increases in the CPI moved up from 1.8% to 2.2% to 2.5%.

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



During the last year, price increases for gasoline, new cars, vehicle insurance, mortgage interest costs, coffee, selected fresh vegetables, and restaurant meals have, among others, had the most impact on consumers. Meanwhile, consumers have found some relief in lower prices for piped gas, electricity and some personal care goods.

CPI rose 0.2% between April and May

A large part of the 0.2% rise in prices between April and May resulted from a 4.9% average increase in the price of gasoline. Smaller contributions came from higher rates for traveller accommodation, increased fees for use of recreational facilities, a rise in homeowners' maintenance and repair charges, and higher prices for paper products and cigarettes. Consumers benefited to some extent from a drop in food and clothing prices.

Gasoline prices rose steadily over the February-to-May period. These increases pushed gasoline prices

11.7% higher than a year earlier. The recent increases were attributed to many factors: seasonal changes in the gasoline market, unexpected increases in demand, sharp increases in the international price of crude oil, delayed effects of the federal excise tax in February, and refining problems in the United States, Venezuela and Brazil.

Travellers were confronted with an average 5.8% month-to-month hike in hotel-motel accommodation rates. This increase was only partly seasonal. Recreational expenses also rose in May as fees for the use of recreational facilities increased.

Homeowners' maintenance and repair charges advanced 4.7% in May after a 1.3% drop in April. The latest increase reflected higher retail prices for roofing and painting materials. Paper products for the home rose 3.7% in May, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. Since May 1994, paper product prices have risen 9.4%, reflecting the tightness in this market since mid-1994.

The latest rise in cigarette prices (+1.5%) mostly resulted from a tax increase (9 cents per package of 25 cigarettes) in Quebec. Cigarette prices have been edging upward for four months, leading to 3.7% increase over their May 1994 price levels.

Food prices fell 0.6% in May following a 1.1% rise in April. The latest drop came from lower prices for fresh vegetables and fresh meat products. The drop in fresh vegetable prices (mainly tomatoe and lettuce prices) was due mainly to new sources of supply, which relieved the shortages of recent months that were caused by crop damage in California. Lower prices for beef, pork and chicken reflected increased supplies.

Consumers also gained from a mostly seasonal drop of 1.3% in clothing and footwear prices. The sale prices reported in May were more pronounced for women's clothing—prices fell an average 2.1%—but were less pronounced for men's clothing (-1.1%).

Provincial indexes at a glance

Between May 1994 and May 1995, increases in provincial CPIs ranged from 1.8% in Newfoundland to 3.2% in Ontario and Manitoba. The low annual rate in Newfoundland resulted from significantly lower than average rates of change in all major component indexes; particularly sharp declines were noted for clothing and footwear and for health and personal care. In Ontario, food, shelter and transportation charges rose noticeably above the national average.

In Manitoba, shelter, clothing and footwear prices rose at rates significantly above average.

Monthly increases fluctuated between 0.1% in British Columbia to 0.6% in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Most of the small increase in British Columbia was due to a sharp drop in food prices (-1.2%). In both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, higher than average transportation charges were reported.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 7440-7454.

The May 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)

	May 1995	April 1995	May 1994	April 1995 to May 1995	May 1994 to May 1995
unadjusted					
				% change	
All-items	133.7	133.4	129.9	0.2	2.9
Food	126.8	127.6	123.0	-0.6	3.1
Shelter	133.9	133.4	131.9	0.4	1.5
Household operations and furnishings	121.6	121.4	118.7	0.2	2.4
Clothing and footwear	131.7	133.4	130.9	-1.3	0.6
Transportation	138.8	137.3	130.1	1.1	6.7
Health and personal care	135.9	135.9	136.8	0.0	-0.7
Recreation, education and reading	142.5	141.1	136.8	1.0	4.2
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	143.6	142.7	140.9	0.6	1.9
Goods	127.4	127.3	123.7	0.1	3.0
Services	141.4	140.8	137.5	0.4	2.8
All-items excluding food and energy	135.8	135.5	132.2	0.2	2.7
Energy	130.2	127.2	125.0	2.4	4.2
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1986	74.8	75.0	77.0		
All-items (1981=100)	177.0				

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

	May 1995	April 1995	May 1994	April 1995 to May 1995	May 1994 to May 1995
unadjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland	127.8	127.6	125.6	0.2	1.8
Prince Edward Island	130.7	130.5	128.1	0.2	2.0
Nova Scotia	130.9	130.1	127.8	0.6	2.4
New Brunswick	130.0	129.2	126.7	0.6	2.6
Quebec	131.4	131.2	127.8	0.2	2.8
Ontario	134.7	134.3	130.5	0.3	3.2
Manitoba	135.6	135.3	131.4	0.2	3.2
Saskatchewan	136.2	135.6	132.6	0.4	2.7
Alberta	132.6	132.3	129.1	0.2	2.7
British Columbia	137.1	136.9	133.6	0.1	2.6
Whitehorse	130.0	129.4	127.4	0.5	2.0
Yellowknife	132.2	131.6	128.7	0.5	2.7

OTHER RELEASES

Post-censal population estimates

July 1, 1991 to July 1, 1994

Post-censal annual estimates of population for census divisions and census metropolitan areas by age group and sex as of July 1, 1991 to July 1, 1994 are now available.

To obtain these data, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320), Demography Division, or the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

For further information on methodology, contact Rosemary Bender (613-951-2324), Demography Division. ■

Sales of natural gas

April 1995 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 5 547 911 thousand cubic metres in April, up 12.1% from April 1994. Colder than normal weather throughout Canada caused sharply higher sales to the residential (+10.2%) and commercial (+9.5%) sectors. Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) increased 14.0%, largely due to greater use of natural gas by electric utilities and the chemical industry.

Year-to-date sales to the end of April 1995 were up 0.9% from the same period in 1994. Year-to-date sales decreased to the residential and commercial sectors (both -6.1%) because of milder weather in January and February 1995. Year-to-date industrial sales (including direct sales) maintained strong growth, posting a 9.8% increase from the same period last year.

Sales of natural gas

	April 1995 ^P	April 1994	April 1994 to April 1995
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total	5 547 911	4 950 110	12.1
Residential	1 449 207	1 315 532	10.2
Commercial	1 081 538	987 782	9.5
Industrial	1 979 472	1 971 661	14.0
Direct	1 037 694	675 135	

	January-April 1995 ^P	January-April 1994	January-April 1994 to January-April 1995
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total	27 055 033	26 823 238	0.9
Residential	8 141 734	8 671 727	-6.1
Commercial	6 015 162	6 408 457	-6.1
Industrial	8 718 936	8 597 808	9.8
Direct	4 179 201	3 145 246	

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

The April 1995 issue of *Gas utilities* (55-002, \$14/\$140) will be available the third week of July. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3563), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight 1993

Operating revenues of the 1,580 for-hire motor carriers of freight earning at least \$1 million annually totalled \$9.2 billion in 1993, of which 70% or \$6.5 billion was generated by 25% of the carriers. Motor carriers earning more than \$5 million annually posted an operating ratio of 0.98 (operating expenses divided by operating revenues), while the remaining motor carriers posted an operating ratio of 0.95. (Any ratio over 1.00 represents an operating loss.)

Operating expenses totalled \$8.9 billion, of which salaries and wages and owner-operator payments accounted for 47%. Highway drivers received the highest average annual salary (\$33,942 excluding benefits) among all employees in the for-hire trucking industry.

These data are based on the Annual Motor Carriers of Freight Survey. More data on these carriers will appear in the July 1995 *Surface and marine transport service bulletin* (50-002, \$11/\$80).

For further information on this release, contact Gilles Paré (613-951-2517), Transportation Division. ■

Average prices of selected farm inputs June 1995 (preliminary)

Preliminary estimates for June 1995 of the average prices of 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. ■

Deliveries of major grains May 1995

Farmers delivered less grain in May because they were seeding. Deliveries of major grains in Western Canada were down 8.6% compared with May 1994, mainly because of lower marketings of wheat. Even so, total deliveries for the crop year were up 15.9% on a year-to-date basis, as all grains showed significantly higher volumes.

Contrary to the situation with most other grains, deliveries of oats rose in May. Oat prices, which had been flat for some time, rose substantially in May on U.S. and Canadian markets because of speculation that planting delays might result in less seeded area and lower production. The possibility of tighter supplies led to strong demand and the higher prices.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 976-981.

The May 1995 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007, \$15/\$144) will be released shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Jeannine Fleury (613-951-3859) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856), Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canned and frozen fruits and vegetables, monthly,
April 1995

Catalogue number 32-011

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

Primary iron and steel, April 1995

Catalogue number 41-001

(Canada: \$6/\$70; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84).

Production and shipments of blow-moulded plastic bottles, quarter ended March 31, 1995

Catalogue number 47-006

(Canada: \$10/\$32; United States: US\$12/US\$39; other countries: US\$14/US\$45).

Industry price indexes, April 1995

Catalogue number 62-011

(Canada: \$21/\$210; United States: US\$26/US\$252; other countries: US\$30/US\$294).

Building permits, April 1995

Catalogue number 64-001

(Canada: \$24/\$240; United States: US\$29/US\$288; other countries: US\$34/US\$336).

Exports by commodity, March 1995, microfiche version

Catalogue number 65-0040XMB

(Canada: \$35/\$350; United States: US\$42/US\$420; other countries: US\$49/US\$490).

Exports by commodity, March 1995, paper version on demand

Catalogue number 65-0040XPB

(Canada: \$75/\$750; United States: US\$90/US\$900; other countries: US\$105/US\$1,050).

Education quarterly review, summer 1995, vol. 2, no. 2

Catalogue number 81-003

(Canada: \$20/\$66; United States: US\$24/US\$80; other countries: US\$28/US\$93).

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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RELEASE DATES

Week of June 19-23
(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
19	Control and sale of alcoholic beverages	March 1994
20	Retail trade	April 1995
20	Estimates of labour income	1991-March 1995
21	Canadian international merchandise trade	April 1995
21	Wholesale trade	April 1995
22	Canadian economic observer	June 1995
22	Book publishing	1993-94

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Tuesday, June 19, 1995
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Business departmental profiles, 1992**
Statistics Canada's first set of profiles for the 1992 fiscal year provides an overview of the business performance of every federal department. This new set of profiles is available in French and English.
- **Monthly survey of manufacturing, April 1994**
This survey provides information on the manufacturing sector's performance in April 1994. It includes data on production, sales, and employment. The survey is available in French and English.
- **Industrial production price index, May 1994**
This index measures the price of industrial production in May 1994. It is available in French and English.
- **Flow statistics price index, May 1994**
This index measures the price of flow statistics in May 1994. It is available in French and English.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Index of retail prices, May 1994**
This index measures the price of retail products in May 1994. It is available in French and English.
- **Cost and price statistics, May 1994**
This index measures the cost and price of various products in May 1994. It is available in French and English.
- **Wholesale price statistics, May 1994**
This index measures the wholesale price of various products in May 1994. It is available in French and English.
- **Export prices, May 1994**
This index measures the export price of various products in May 1994. It is available in French and English.
- **Import prices and import value added, May 1994**
This index measures the import price and value added of various products in May 1994. It is available in French and English.

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