



Wednesday, June 21, 1995 For release at 8:30 a.m.

STATISTICS STATISTIQUE CANADA

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MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade, April 1995
 April exports were weakened by automotive products and machinery, but declines were tempered by strength in the forestry and energy sectors.

Wholesale trade, April 1995 Wholesale merchants' sales fell sharply in April following three months of marginal growth. Inventories rose marginally, bringing the inventory-to-sales ratio to a level last seen in the first half of 1993.

OTHER RELEASES

Export and import price indexes, April 1995

Quarterly demographic statistics, January to March 1995

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Wholesale trade: the monthly data are now more detailed

Wholesale trade data now describe two additional trade groups (11 instead of 9). Food wholesalers have been separated from wholesalers of beverages, drugs and tobacco. Food wholesalers account for 19.7% of total wholesale sales, while beverage, drug and tobacco wholesalers account for 6.3%. In general, the food industry is rather immune to changes in the business cycle. Sales are usually a function of demographics and product prices. However, beverage, drug and tobacco sales respond to various market conditions.

The other machinery, equipment and supplies trade group has been split in two. One component gathers the sales of computer and packaged software wholesalers; it accounts for 7.2% of wholesale sales. The other component is formed by wholesalers of industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies; it accounts for 15.1% of wholesale sales.

For data on these two new trade groups, refer to today's release of Wholesale Trade for April 1995, or contact Catherine Mamay (613-951-9683), Industry Division.

The Daily, June 21, 1995

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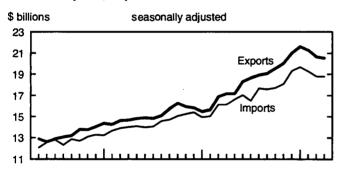
MAJOR RELEASES

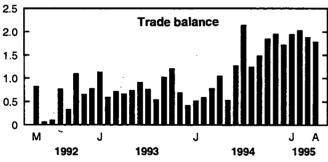
Canadian international merchandise trade

April 1995

Exports stood at \$20.5 billion in April, down 0.6% from March. This compares with declines in February and March that averaged 2.3%. Much of April's ebb was accounted for by automotive exports, which softened in response to continued weakness in vehicle sales in the United States. Meanwhile, non-automotive exports advanced 1.2%, buoyed by shipments of natural resources and food bound for the United States. So far this year, total exports stand 29.2% above last year's level.

Exports, imports and trade balance



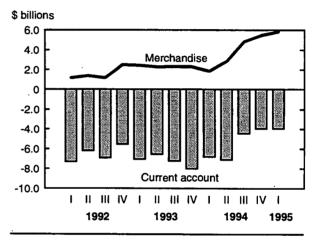


Imports were almost unchanged from March, settling at \$18.8 billion. Demand grew for consumer products and industrial goods, while purchases of crude petroleum and automotive products receded somewhat. Fewer goods were imported from the United States and non-OECD countries.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is only one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services. In the first quarter of 1995, an overall merchandise trade surplus of \$5.8 billion contrasted with a current account deficit of \$4.0 billion.

Balances (total), merchandise and current account

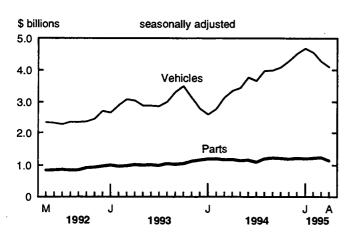


With imports little changed and exports declining slightly, the merchandise trade surplus stood at \$1.78 billion in April, down from \$1.87 billion in March. Canada's trade surplus with the United States continued to grow. There were trade deficits with all other trading partners except Japan.

Weak auto exports, but forestry and energy stronger

Weak vehicle sales and high dealer inventories in the United States continued to hamper car and truck exports in April. Interest rate jitters were partly to blame for reduced sales, which left automakers in Canada little choice but to scale back production for some exported models. Parts suffered the most (-7.9%), followed by trucks (-5.2%) and cars (-3.9%). Lower shipments of parts reflected cuts to U.S. auto production.



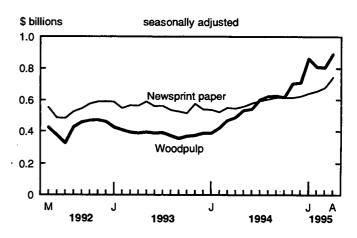


Industrial goods and materials edged down 1.2% in April, with most commodities in the sector registering declines. This dip reflected falling factory output in the United States (for a second month in a row) and lower capacity utilization rates. In the first quarter of 1995, 73% of Canada's industrial goods exports went to the United States.

Machinery and equipment exports fell 2.5% in April. Nevertheless, their year-to-date level was up 27.9% over 1994. Recent declines may have reflected the falling orders for durable goods in the United States. Of particular note were reduced exports of transportation equipment other than aircraft (-10.0%), office machines (-9.5%) and telecommunications equipment (-6.4%).

Forestry products received a healthy boost in April from exports of pulp and newsprint. These advanced 10.6% and 9.9% respectively. Strong demand from Europe and the United States kept newsprint producers busy, as exports moved ahead for a third straight month. Continued growth in the price of paper reflected tight supplies around the world and strained capacity at home. April was a slow month for lumber exporters, as U.S. housing starts for single-family dwellings registered a fourth monthly decline.

Exports of forestry products



Exports were also buttressed by strong demand for energy products (+8.7%). Most of this gain came from additional crude petroleum shipments to U.S. refineries. Electricity exports were up, as were shipments of coal headed primarily for Japan and the European Union.

Autos and energy flattened growth in imports

The import picture was once again weakened by the auto sector, with declines in trucks (-10.0%) and parts (-3.7%). Lower imports of parts in April reflected cutbacks in domestic production. Car imports were up a marginal 0.7%. Proportionally fewer vehicles were imported from Japan in April compared with March.

April also saw energy product imports plunge 33.6%, drawn down mainly by crude petroleum. Although volatile on a month-to-month basis, crude imports have been on an upward over the latest 12 months.

Import demand was propped up by consumer goods, industrial goods, and agricultural products, which collectively make up 37.4% of all imports. The advances in all consumer goods except printed matter averaged 3.8%. Increased demand for industrial goods, which was satisfied mainly by non-U.S. suppliers, averaged 1.0%. Flatter growth here may have reflected reduced activity among Canadian manufacturers.

Revisions

Merchandise trade data are revised on a continuing basis for every month of the current year. In addition, when the April trade figures are released each year, data for the previous four years are revised to ensure consistency with the revisions schedule adopted for the National Accounts.

Factors that make revisions necessary include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs documents, replacement of estimated figures with actual values once available, and changes to classification of merchandise based on more current information.

Revised data for January 1991 to March 1995 can be obtained by accessing the relevant CANSIM matrices. Please note that revised price and volume indices for 1991 to 1994 are not yet incorporated in CANSIM. Data will be made available as soon as possible.

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

This release summarizes 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. See "How to order publications".

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.

Merchandise trade of Canada

February Maro 1995 199		February 1995 to March 1995	March 1995 to April 1995	January- April 1994	January- April 1995	January- April 1994 to January- April 1995	April 1994 to April 1995
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	seasonally adjusted, \$ current								
		millions		% chan	ge	\$ mill	ions	% char	nge .
Principal trading partners			_			-			
Exports United States Japan European Union Other OECD countries All other countries Total	17,025 952 1,208 276 1,819 21,280	16,652 976 1,190 456 1,390 20,664	16,696 969 1,140 321 1,422 20,549	-2.2 2.5 -1.5 65.2 -23.6 -2.9	0.3 -0.7 -4.2 -29.6 2.3 -0.6	53,287 2,721 3,520 1,184 4,421 65,134	67,948 3,740 4,957 1,376 6,114 84,135	27.5 37.4 40.8 16.2 38.3 29.2	18.7 25.2 28.4 9.9 23.8 19.7
Imports United States Japan European Union Other OECD countries ¹ All other countries Total	14,468 835 1,489 649 1,816 19,256	14,048 817 1,582 649 1,697 18,794	13,873 847 1,748 667 1,638 18,774	-2.9 -2.2 6.2 0.0 -6.6 -2.4	-1.2 3.7 10.5 2.8 -3.5 -0.1	46,254 2,797 4,818 1,706 6,653 62,229	57,274 3,253 6,531 2,645 6,822 76,527	23.8 16.3 35.6 55.0 2.5 23.0	15.1 20.1 40.2 46.3 -1.7 16.4
Balance United States Japan European Union Other OECD countries All other countries Total	2,557 117 -281 -373 3 2,024	2,604 159 -392 -193 -307 1,870	2,823 122 -608 -346 -216 1,775	 	 	7,033 -76 -1,298 -522 -2,232 2,905	10,674 487 -1,574 -1,269 -708 7,608	 	
Principal commodity groupings ²									
Exports Agricultural and fishing products Energy products Forestry products Industrial goods and materials Machinery and equipment Automotive products Other consumer goods Special transactions trade ³	1,553 1,716 3,051 4,220 4,282 5,784 545 859	1,426 1,905 3,007 4,065 4,202 5,524 563 867	1,465 2,070 3,185 4,016 4,098 5,243 557 835	-8.2 11.0 -1.4 -3.7 -1.9 -4.5 3.3 0.9	2.7 8.7 5.9 -1.2 -2.5 -5.1 -1.1 -3.7	5,289 6,639 9,321 11,803 13,130 16,637 1,793 2,794	6,226 7,712 12,369 16,472 16,796 22,455 2,212 3,428	17.7 16.2 32.7 39.6 27.9 35.0 23.4 22.7	6.4 25.1 32.5 31.0 18.9 15.6 21.1 14.5
Imports Agricultural and fishing products Energy products Forestry products Industrial goods and materials Machinery and equipment Automotive products Other consumer goods Special transactions trade ³	1,155 668 169 3,809 6,137 4,647 2,130 424	1,089 794 171 3,851 6,171 4,180 2,128 373	1,098 527 198 3,888 6,110 4,034 2,209 474	-5.7 18.9 1.2 1.1 0.6 -10.0 -0.1 -12.0	0.8 -33.6 15.8 1.0 -1.0 -3.5 3.8 27.1	3,841 2,161 542 11,605 19,721 15,005 7,389 1,582	4,457 2,689 713 15,456 24,587 17,973 8,599 1,719	16.0 24.4 31.5 33.2 24.7 19.8 16.4 8.7	12.7 -0.9 42.4 29.4 18.5 3.0 17.1 18.5

Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey.

Figures not adjusted to balance of payments basis
Mainly, these are low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, goods returned to country of origin.
Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

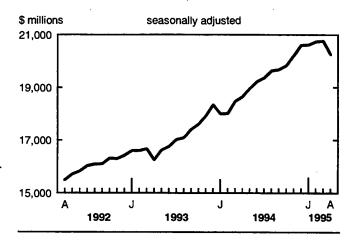
Wholesale trade

April 1995 (preliminary)

Wholesale merchants' sales fell sharply in April following three months of marginal growth. Inventories rose marginally, bringing the inventory-to-sales ratio to a level last seen in the first half of 1993.

Wholesale merchants' sales fell 2.4% from March, to a seasonally adjusted \$20.3 billion. Nevertheless, sales remained 8.6% higher than a year earlier. In April, wholesale activity tumbled in 7 of the 11 trade groups (accounting for about 75% of sales) and in all regions except the Northwest Territories. Ontario's wholesalers recorded the largest drop (accounting for more than 40% of April's total decline) because of the province's high concentration of industrial activity.

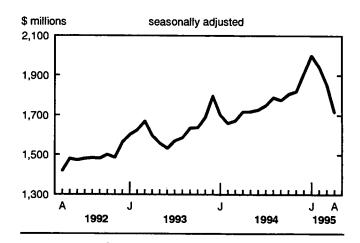
Wholesale sales tumbled in April



The largest decline came from wholesalers of lumber and building materials (-\$137 million or -7.4%). This marked the third straight month of sales decreases, which total \$282 million. This group's downturn corresponds to recent events in Canadian housing markets: sales of new homes are down, inventories of new homes have been rising, and the number of new building permits issued have been dropping.

Construction activity in the United States has suffered, and the slowdown south of the border has also contributed to lower Canadian lumber sales. British Columbia's economy has been adversely affected by these developments because a large part of such export sales originate there.

Lumber and building material sales dropped



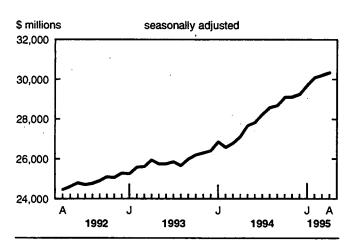
Wholesalers of automotive products saw sales drop a sharp 5.6% (-\$134 million), the second large decrease in four months. This drop corresponded with poor auto sales since January 1995 in Canada and the United States due to higher prices of new models, higher interest rates and lower consumer confidence.

Inventories rise slightly

After piling up in January (+1.5%) and February (+1.4%), inventories increased only moderately for two consecutive months, totalling \$30.3 billion in April (+0.4%). April's rise was moderate despite a significant sales drop (-2.4%). This suggests that wholesalers adjusted to the weaker demand in the economy by reducing purchases and drawing on inventories.

Wholesalers of automotive products and dealers of lumber and building materials experienced large sales decreases, but their inventories rose only marginally. Wholesalers adjusted inventory levels in anticipation of weaker demand because of the slowing U.S. economy, low customer demand and high interest rates.

Inventories continued to rise, but at a slower pace



The inventory-to-sales ratio jumped from 1.45 in March to 1.50 in April. This was due to the moderate rise in inventories and, especially, the significant fall in sales. The ratio has not been this high since the first half of 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.

The April 1995 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008, \$16/\$160) will be available the second week of July. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Catherine Mamay (613-951-9683) or Gilles Simard (613-951-3541), Industry Division.

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

April 1994	January 1995 ^r	February 1995	March 1995 ^r	April 1995 ^p	March 1995 to April 1995	April 1994 to April 1995	
seasonally adjusted							

	seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% cha	% change	
Sales, all trade groups	18,645	20,619	20,740	20,766	20,257	-2.4	8.6	
Food products	3,418	3,539	3,643	3,723	3,607	-3.1	5.5	
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,132	1,132	1,170	1,167	1,171	0.3	3.4	
Apparel and dry goods	457	464	456	457	466	2.1	2.1	
Household goods	595	644	. 638	635	627	-1.2	5.5	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	2,114	2,318	2,347	2,373	2,239	- 5.6	5.9	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment								
and supplies	1,394	1,619	1,571	1,662	1,671	0.5	19.9	
Lumber and building materials	1,718	1,999	1,942	1,854	1,717	-7.4	-0.1	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	412	502	524	510	459	-10.0	11.4	
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and sup-								
plies	2,831	3,107	3,162	3,106	3,018	-2.8	6.6	
Computers and packaged software	1,535	1,732	1,770	1,795	1,804	0.5	17.5	
Other products	3,039	3,563	3,517	3,484	3,479	-0.1	14.5	
Newfoundland	187	165	183	195	191	-1.7	2.2	
Prince Edward Island	48	42	39	41	40	-3.6	-16.3	
Nova Scotia	401	427	430	452	450	-0.5	12.3	
New Brunswick	257	281	283	310	285	-7.9	11.2	
Quebec	4,293	4,647	4,783	4,793	4,753	-0.8	10.7	
Ontario	7,737	8,864	8,884	8,910	8,697	-2.4	12.4	
Manitoba	618	678	703	676	672	-0.6	8.8	
Saskatchewan	593	722	757	763	744	-2.4	25.5	
Alberta	1,789	1,981	1,921	1,894	1,863	-1.7	4.1	
British Columbia	2,702	2,790	2,735	2,709	2,538	-6.3	-6.0	
Yukon	9	8	8	9	8	-11.3	-14.7	
Northwest Territories	11	15	14	13	14	9.5	30.4	
Inventories, all trade groups	27,108	29,682	30,084	30,208	30,336	0.4	11.9	
Food products	2,123	2,387	2,384	2,370	2,348	-1.0	10.6	
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,288	1,343	1,378	1,420	1,406	-1.0	9.1	
Apparel and dry goods	1,061	1,054	1,041	1,031	1,028	-0.3	-3.1	
Household goods	1,264	1,480	1,508	1,503	1,514	0.7	19.8	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	3,597	3,881	3,995	3,972	3,972	0.0	10.4	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,525	0.750	2.827	0.070	0.054	0.0	100	
Lumber and building materials	2,525 2,834	2,753	,	2,878	2,854	-0.8	13.0	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies		3,102	3,187	3,116	3,129	0.4	10.4	
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and sup-	1,362	1,570	1,554	1,543	1,543	0.0	13.3	
plies	5,582	6,253	6,293	6,376	6,464	1.4	15.8	
Computers and packaged software	1,736	1,743	1,749	1,681	1,654	-1.6	-4.7	
Other products	3,735	4,117	4,167	4,319	4,425	2.5	18.5	

Preliminary figures.
 Revised figures.

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	April 1994	March 1995 ⁷	April 1995 ^p	April 1994 to April 1995
		unadjuste	d	1000
		\$ millions		% change
Sales, all trade groups	18,434	22,054	19,531	6.0
Food products	3,341	3,697	3,483	4.2
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,062	1,152	1,082	1.8
Apparel and dry goods	407	560	409	0.6
Household goods	548	619	555	1.2
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	2,261	2,779	2,306	2.0
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment				
and supplies	1,364	1,696	1,618	18.6
Lumber and building materials	1,731	1,746	1,684	-2.7
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	470	489	535	13.7
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and sup-				
plies	2,743	3,383	2,801	2.1
Computers and packaged software	1,397	2,379	1,580	13.1
Other products	3,108	3,554	3,479	11.9
Newfoundland	164	182	166	0.7
Prince Edward Island	44	38	35	-18.9
Nova Scotia	383	449	425	11.0
New Brunswick	246	297	263	7.0
Quebec	4,102	5,000	4,475	9.1
Ontario	7,731	9,735	8,457	9.4
Manitoba	619	669	653	5.5
Saskatchewan	578	731	718	24.2
Alberta	1,787	1,955	1,772	-0.8
British Columbia	2,762	2,974	2,547	-7.8
Yukon	9	9	8	-11.4
Northwest Territories	9	14	12	35.1
Inventories, all trade groups	27,924	30,642	31,313	12.1
Food products	2,148	2,246	2,312	7.6
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	1,249	1,336	1,364	9.2
Apparel and dry goods	1,043	1,003	991	-5.0
Household goods	1,242	1,464	1,501	20.8
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	3,772	4,1 6 6	4,229	12.1
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment	•	•	- •	
and supplies	2,623	2,931	2,972	13.3
Lumber and building materials	3,098	3,345	3,425	10.6
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,431	1,582	1,609	12.5
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and our		•	•	

Computers and packaged software

Industrial and other machinery, equipment and sup-

Other products

5,628

1,812

3,878

6,429

1,651

4,488

6,525

1,714 4,672

15.9

-5.4

20.5

Preliminary figures. Revised figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Export and import price indexes April 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 April 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 April 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 April 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.

Quarterly demographic statistics January to March 1995

Preliminary post-censal population estimates as of April 1, 1995, for Canada, the provinces and territories are now available.

Population of Canada, the provinces and territories

	Oct. 1, 1994	Jan. 1, 1995	Apr. 1, 1995	Jan. 1, 1995 to Mar. 31, 1995
		'000		% change
Newfoundland	580.1	579.5	578.0	-0.2
Prince Edward Is-	4054	405.5	4050	
land	135.1	135.5	135.8	0.2
Nova Scotia	937.6	938.3	939.7	0.1
New Brunswick	760.1	760.6	760.8	0.0
Quebec	7,293.1	7,300.0	7,320.2	0.3
Ontario	10,992.3	11,004.8	11,058.9	0.5
Manitoba	1,131.4	1,132.8	1,136.4	0.3
Saskatchewan	1,016.4	1,017,2	1.018.6	0.1
Alberta	2,720.9	2,726.9	2,737.8	0.4
British Columbia	3,700.1	3,719.4	3,747.8	0.8
Yukon	29.9	30.1	30.3	0.7
Northwest Territories	64.6	65.0	65.4	0.6
Canada	29,361.7	29,409.9	29,529.8	0.4

Source: Demography Division, Population Estimates Section.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1-6, 397,5731, 6470, 6471, 6516 and tables 00010102, 00020104 and 00040102.

These estimates will appear in *Quarterly demographic statistics* (91-002, \$10/\$32), available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on vital statistics (births, deaths, marriages), contact Garry MacDonald (613-951-1643), Health Statistics Division.

For further information on other demographic estimates, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320), Demography Division, or contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.

Restaurants, caterers and taverns April 1995

Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts totalled \$1.69 billion in April, up 2.3% from \$1.65 billion in April 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 52.

The April 1995 issue of *Restaurants, caterers and taverns* (63-011, \$7/\$70) will be available in three weeks. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact William Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services, Science and Technology Division.

For-hire trucking (commodity origin and destination statistics)

Fourth quarter 1994 and annual 1994 (preliminary)

Canada-based for-hire trucking companies carried 53.2 million tonnes of freight during the fourth quarter of 1994, a 17% increase over the same quarter in 1993. Tonnage for 1994 totalled 195.7 million tonnes.

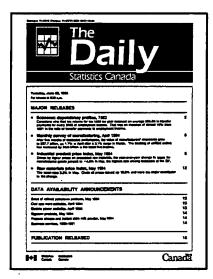
Transborder deliveries continued to be the fastest growing segment in the trucking industry, generating \$768 million or one-third of the total revenue in the fourth quarter of 1994.

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

Available on CANSIM: matrix 143.

Data for the third and fourth quarters of 1994 will appear in vol. 11, no. 6 of *Surface and marine transport service bulletin* (50-002, \$11/\$80). See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486) or Wendy Christoff (613-951-2498), Transportation Division (fax: 613-951-0579).



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E. (Canada: \$240; United States: US\$288; other countries: US\$336.)

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Monthly production of soft drinks, May 1995 Catalogue number 32-001

(Canada: \$3/\$30; United States: US\$4/US\$36; other

countries: US\$5/US\$42).

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