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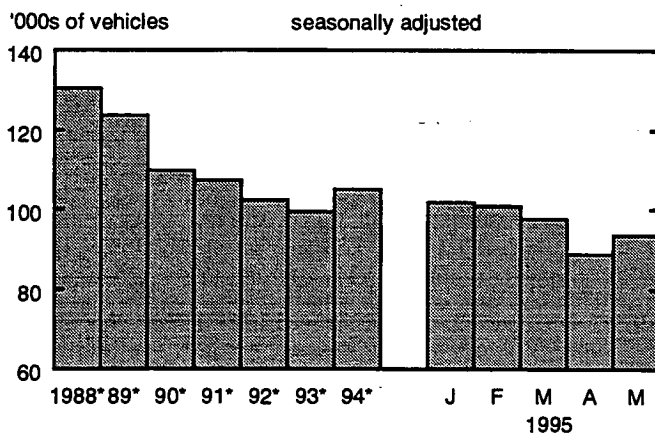
MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

May 1995

Dealers increased their new vehicle sales in May after four monthly declines. Sales rose 5.5% in May to 93,590 vehicles (seasonally adjusted), but were still far below the average number of vehicles sold each month in past years.

Sales of new vehicles improved in May, but were still below the 1993 monthly average



Nearly 75% of May's gain came from a revival in truck sales. Dealers sold nearly 10% more trucks (including minivans and buses) in May, but the gain was not large enough to offset the sales declines in March and April.

Sales of medium and heavy-duty trucks and buses were about 20% higher than sales in May 1994 (unadjusted). However, weaker combined sales of light trucks, sport utility vehicles, minivans and vans offset year-over-year growth in the truck category. Total truck sales (all trucks, vans and buses) were down 4.6% (seasonally adjusted) from May 1994.

Dealers sold more passenger cars in May, but the latest increase did not offset April's decline. Sales of cars made in North America rose 2.7% in May and sales of imported cars grew 2.1%. The number of passenger cars sold remained far below the monthly average of the past decade.

Demand for new cars may be suppressed by higher prices, interest rates and longer lasting cars. Consumers who do purchase new vehicles may be switching to the truck market, selecting minivans or sport utility vehicles in place of new passenger cars, further reducing new car sales.

The weakness in car sales is most apparent for models built outside North America. Sales of those models have followed a downward trend for the last seven years, which can partly be attributed to production in North America of foreign models.

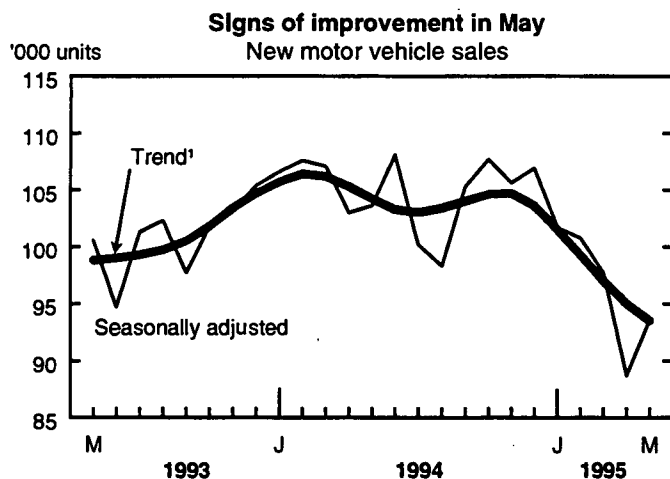
Price may be another factor as foreign currencies appreciate against the Canadian dollar. Consumers who purchased cars made in Japan paid an average of \$21,100 in May. The average North American-made car purchased that month cost \$19,800. Average price is affected by the type of car and options selected. It is not a straight comparison of prices for comparable cars. The gap between the average purchase price is the widest it has been since 1993.

New vehicle sales off to a slow start in 1995

New motor vehicle sales in the first five months of 1995 were 8.6% below sales for the same period in 1994. New vehicle sales began to recover in 1994, when auto makers reported the first annual increase after five years of declines. But the turnaround in sales did not carry over to this year. Average monthly sales for the first five months of 1995 were lower than average monthly sales in each of the last 11 years.

Preliminary estimates from the auto industry indicate a second monthly increase in new motor vehicle sales in June.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.



The May 1995 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007, \$16/\$160) will be available in August. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Mary Beth Lozinski (613-951-9824), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

¹ The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.

New motor vehicle sales

	May 1994	April 1995 ^f	May 1995 ^p	May 1994 to May 1995	April 1995 to May 1995
seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
New motor vehicles	103,554	88,695	93,590	-9.6	5.5
Passenger cars	61,492	52,079	53,446	-13.1	2.6
North American ¹	46,904	41,750	42,894	-8.5	2.7
Imports	14,589	10,323	10,552	-27.7	2.2
Trucks, vans and buses	42,062	36,615	40,144	-4.6	9.6
	May 1994	May 1995 ^p	May 1994 to May 1995	Market share	
				May 1994	May 1995
unadjusted					
			% change		%
New motor vehicles	135,452	125,468	-7.4		
Passenger cars	83,448	74,171	-11.1	100.0	100.0
North American ¹	64,459	59,762	-7.3	77.2	80.6
Big Three	52,774	47,154	-10.6	63.2	63.6
Other	11,685	12,608	7.9	14.0	17.0
Imports	18,989	14,409	-24.1	22.8	19.4
Big Three	2,890	1,326	-54.1	3.5	1.8
Other	16,099	13,083	-18.7	19.3	17.6
Trucks, vans and buses	52,004	51,297	-1.4	100.0	100.0
North American ¹	48,846	48,463	-0.8	93.9	94.5
Big Three	45,333	45,034	-0.7	87.2	87.8
Other	3,513	3,429	-2.4	6.8	6.7
Imports	3,158	2,834	-10.3	6.1	5.5

¹ Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

^p Preliminary figures.

^f Revised figures.

New housing price index

May 1995

Prices of new housing have declined across Canada over the past year, a result of low consumer confidence that contributed to a sharp decline in housing construction starts and sales.

The Canadian Home Builders' Association reported recently that more than 50% of builders surveyed cited low consumer confidence as a major factor behind slow sales.

The new housing price index, which measures fluctuations in the prices of new single-family dwellings, townhouses and semi-detached dwellings, has dropped 0.8% since May 1994. May 1995 was the 11th consecutive month in which the year-over-year percentage change was negative. Between April 1995 and May 1995, the index fell 0.2%.

Prices of new housing have dropped dramatically on the West Coast and, to a lesser degree, in the nation's capital. Since May 1994, housing prices have dropped 8.4% in Victoria, 4.6% in Vancouver and 2.1% in Ottawa-Hull. Builders in those cities describe the market as sluggish. To generate sales, they have reduced prices or offered incentives to home buyers.

Nationally, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has indicated that housing starts covered by the index for the January-to-May 1995 period dropped 32% compared with the first five months of 1994.

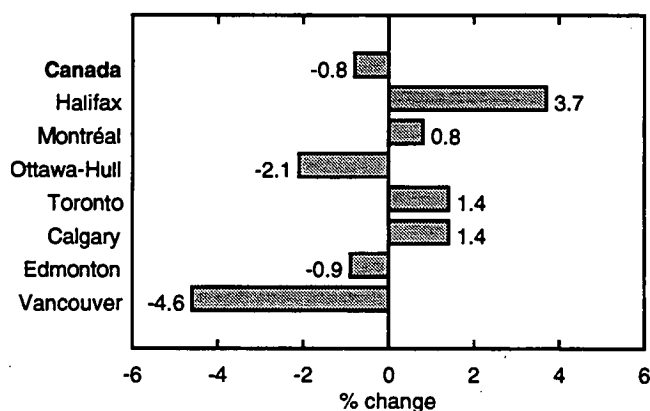
The short-term outlook for future housing construction remains weak. In May, the value of residential building permits remained at recessionary levels for a fourth consecutive month. Falling mortgage rates and lower house prices failed to overcome consumer concerns about job security.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2032.

The second quarter 1995 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007, \$23/\$76) will be available in September. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Paul Roméo-Danis (613-951-3350, fax: 613-951-2848), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. □

New housing price indexes
May 1994 to May 1995



**New housing price index
(1986=100)**

	May 1994	April 1995	May 1995	May 1994 to May 1995	April 1995 to May 1995
				% change	
New housing price index, total	136.0	135.2	134.9	-0.8	-0.2
House only	125.3	124.9	124.6	-0.6	-0.2
Land only	169.4	168.4	167.9	-0.9	-0.3
St. John's	128.2	127.9	127.9	-0.2	-
Halifax	115.9	119.8	120.2	3.7	0.3
Charlottetown	..	117.0	117.0	..	-
Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton	115.4	115.2	115.2	-0.2	-
Québec	134.6	135.1	135.3	0.5	0.1
Montréal	136.4	137.7	137.5	0.8	-0.1
Ottawa-Hull	123.4	121.7	120.8	-2.1	-0.7
Toronto	136.3	138.3	138.2	1.4	-0.1
Hamilton	126.5	126.0	125.2	-1.0	-0.6
St. Catharines-Niagara	121.8	120.7	119.8	-1.6	-0.7
Kitchener-Waterloo	122.9	122.8	122.3	-0.5	-0.4
London	146.3	142.4	142.4	-2.7	-
Windsor	127.0	128.8	128.3	1.0	-0.4
Sudbury-Thunder Bay	137.7	137.6	137.6	-0.1	-
Winnipeg	116.3	117.6	117.7	1.2	0.1
Regina	127.8	132.3	132.3	3.5	-
Saskatoon	112.6	113.5	113.5	0.8	-
Calgary	140.1	142.2	142.1	1.4	-0.1
Edmonton	148.2	147.0	146.9	-0.9	-0.1
Vancouver	145.8	139.3	139.1	-4.6	-0.1
Victoria	131.1	121.8	120.1	-8.4	-1.4

- Nil or zero.

.. Figures not available.

OTHER RELEASES

Pension plans

January 1, 1994

The number of members in employer-sponsored registered pension plans (RPPs) declined 1.9% to 5.2 million persons between the January 1, 1992 and January 1, 1994. This is because fewer men in the private sector belong to RPPs, particularly in the manufacturing, construction and transportation industries. It was the first biennial decline since 1984. Between 1982 and 1984, the most heavily affected industry was manufacturing.

Between 1982 and 1984, the size of the paid work force also dropped, so the pension plan coverage rate increased slightly to 47.3%. From 1992 to 1994, the number of paid workers grew, and the RPP coverage rate fell to 44.6%.

Fewer men in the above-mentioned industries are covered by RPPs, so the coverage rate for men has dropped substantially—from 55% at January 1, 1984 to 47% at January 1, 1994. By contrast, over the same period the coverage rate for women climbed from 37% to 42%. This reflects changes in pension legislation and increased employment in the public sector, where coverage is high.

Since 1984, public sector membership grew 26%, well above the 5% increase for the private sector. At January 1, 1994, over half (53%) of public sector plan members were women, compared with only a third in the private sector. Public sector RPPs covered almost half (49%) of total membership.

The pensions paid to private and public sector employees differ substantially. One of the most generous benefit formulas pays a pension of 2% of the member's earnings (over a specified time) for each year of service. Ninety-one percent of public sector members will receive such a pension, versus 19% of private sector members. However, public sector members will also pay more for their pensions: almost all are required to contribute to their plans, but less than half of private sector members are required to do so. Of those who do contribute, a much larger proportion of public (77%) than private (1%) sector members contributed at the highest rates (7% to 10% of earnings) as of January 1, 1994.

Data on the terms and conditions of registered pension plans at January 1, 1994, are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Thomas Dufour (613-951-2088) or Johanne Pineau (613-951-4034), Pensions Section, Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087). ■

Raw materials price index, early estimate

June 1995

The raw materials price index (RMPI) declined an estimated 0.2% from May to June 1995. The only decrease was in the mineral fuels index (-4.9%), which was partially offset by increases in the metals (+2.6%), vegetable and animal products (+2.1%) and wood (+0.1%) indexes. The RMPI excluding mineral fuels increased an estimated 1.5% in June 1995.

This early estimate of the June 1995 index is based on partial returns and other indicators. The regular index will be published at the end of July.

For further information on this release, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350, fax: 613-951-2848), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending June 14, 1995

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period decreased 9.1% to 4.5 million tonnes. Compared with the same period of 1994, the number of carloadings decreased 9.0%.

Intermodal (piggyback) tonnage during the seven-day period totalled 312 000 tonnes, a 3.0% increase from the comparable week of 1994. Year-to-date figures showed an increase of 20.7%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 8.4% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 114.8 million tonnes, a 5.6% increase compared with the previous year.

For further information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2528, fax: 613-951-0579), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

May 1995

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 72 102 tonnes in May, up 1.9% from 70 729 revised tonnes in May 1994.

Data on production and export markets for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The May 1995 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Doug Higgins (613-951-9837), Industry Division. ■

Oil pipeline transport April 1995

Net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons totalled 10 648 050 cubic metres in April, up 4.1% from April 1994; year-to-date receipts to the end of April 1995 (43 059 070 cubic metres) rose 3.4% over the same period in 1994. Net receipts of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products in April (5 920 389 cubic metres) rose 1.1% from April 1994; year-to-date receipts declined 0.1% to 24 456 452 cubic metres.

Pipeline exports of crude oil (5 093 054 cubic metres) increased 13.1% from April 1994; pipeline imports (672 244 cubic metres) declined 28.9%. Year-to-date exports of crude oil at the end of April 1995 (19 036 702 cubic metres) were up 6.2% from 1994; year-to-date imports (3 190 985 cubic metres) decreased 10.5%. Canadian crude oil has found a ready market in the United States, where indigenous production has been declining in recent years.

April deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries totalled 4 371 361 cubic metres, a 17.2% decrease from 1994. April deliveries of liquid petroleum gases and refined petroleum products increased 16.0% to 569 487 cubic metres. Year-to-date deliveries of crude oil to refineries at the end of April 1995 totalled 20 327 046 cubic metres, down 4.3% from the same period in 1994.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 181.

The April 1995 issue of *Oil pipeline transport* (55-001, \$11/\$110) will be available the second week of July. See "How to order publications".

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

Sugar sales June 1995

Refiners' sales in June totalled 97 653 tonnes for all types of sugar, comprising 91 802 tonnes in domestic sales and 5 851 tonnes in export sales. At the end of June 1995, year-to-date sales for all types of sugar totalled 488 273 tonnes: 444 739 tonnes in domestic sales and 43 534 tonnes in export sales.

This compares with 101 301 tonnes sold in June 1994, of which 92 096 tonnes were domestic sales and 9 205 tonnes were export sales. The 1994 year-to-date sales for all types of sugar totalled 532 025 tonnes: 471 063 tonnes in domestic sales and 60 962 tonnes in export sales.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 141.

The June 1995 issue of *The sugar situation* (32-013, \$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. ■

Employment dynamics 1989-1993

The *Employment dynamics* tables provide data for Canada, the provinces and territories on the number of businesses, total payroll (by industry and area), and average labour unit employment (a measure of employment). These data are tabulated by business size and the life status of the businesses. Two sets of tables (1989 to 1993 and 1992 to 1993) are now available.

For further information on this release, or to purchase these tables, contact the Small Business and Special Surveys Division (613-951-0822). ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Survey methodology, June 1995

Catalogue number 12-001

(Canada: \$45; United States: US\$50; other countries: US\$55).

Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing, May 1995

Catalogue number 41-011

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

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, May 1995

Catalogue number 46-002

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

Aviation service bulletin, June 1995

Catalogue number 51-004

(Canada: \$11/\$105; United States: US\$13/US\$126; other countries: US\$15/US\$147).

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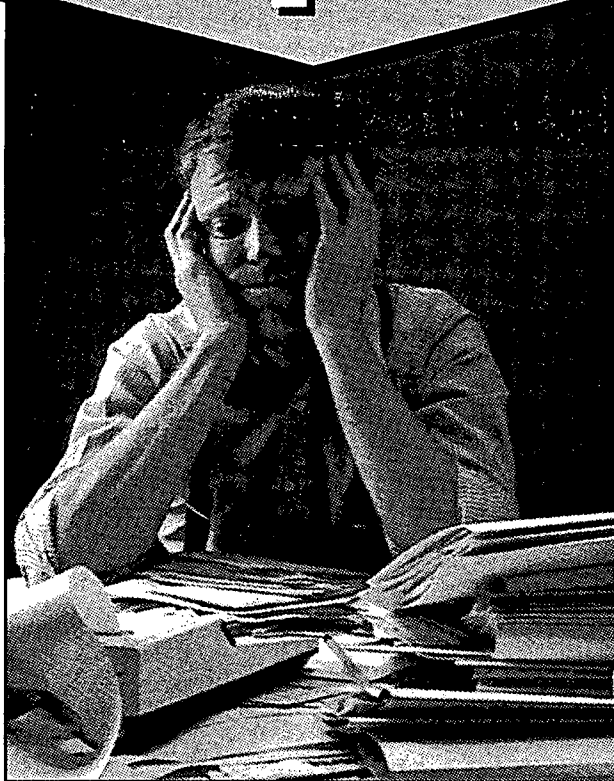
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