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The annual inflation rate, as measured by the CPI, declined for a second consecutive month in July. July's CPI was 2.5% higher than a year earlier. This compares with annual increases of 2.7% in June and 2.9% in May.
- **Retail trade, June 1995** 5
Retail sales rose 0.6% in June, the third straight monthly increase. Increases in April, May and June offset declines in the first three months of the year, returning retail sales to the December 1994 level.

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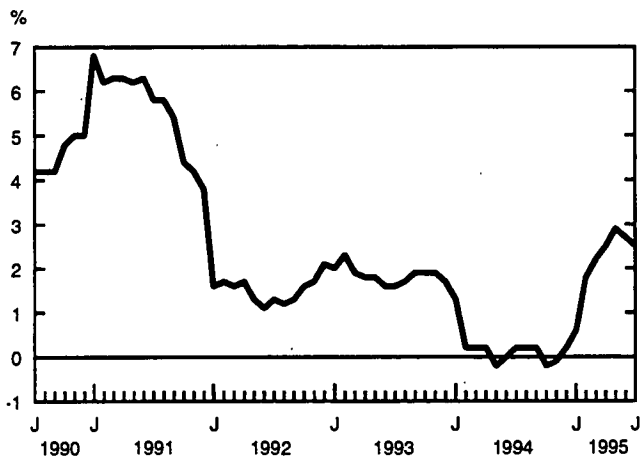
Consumer price index

July 1995

In July 1995, consumers across Canada paid 2.5% more than they did 12 months ago for the goods and services included in the consumer price index (CPI). This compares with increases of 2.7% in June and 2.9% in May. The decline in the annual rate between June and July was associated with the goods sector rather than the services sector. This was also the case between May and June.

Some of the items making large contributions to the 2.5% increase were new vehicles, gasoline, auto insurance, mortgage interest charges, and traveller accommodation. Over the same period, consumers gained relief thanks to lower prices for clothing, footwear, recreational equipment, and some fresh vegetables.

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



In British Columbia, significantly above-average price increases were observed for food, clothing, footwear and recreation.

Between June and July, changes in the CPIs of the provinces ranged from a 0.2% drop in New Brunswick to a 0.7% rise in British Columbia. The fall in New Brunswick's CPI resulted largely from a fall in food and shelter prices and a much larger than average decline in men's clothing and footwear prices. In British Columbia, above-average price increases were charged for traveller accommodation, gasoline and clothing.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 7440-7454.

The July 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 Heather Pearl (613-951-9606), Prices Division. □

**Consumer price index and its major components
(1986=100)**

	July 1995	June 1995	July 1994	June 1995 to July 1995	July 1994 to July 1995
unadjusted					
				% change	
All-items	134.0	133.7	130.7	0.2	2.5
Food	127.1	127.1	124.0	0.0	2.5
Shelter	134.1	134.1	132.2	0.0	1.4
Household operations and furnishings	121.5	121.3	118.8	0.2	2.3
Clothing and footwear	130.2	130.8	131.7	-0.5	-1.1
Transportation	138.9	138.8	132.4	0.1	4.9
Health and personal care	136.1	135.8	135.5	0.2	0.4
Recreation, education and reading	145.4	142.6	138.1	2.0	5.3
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	144.0	143.9	140.3	0.1	2.6
Goods	127.1	127.3	124.4	-0.2	2.2
Services	142.4	141.6	138.3	0.6	3.0
All-items excluding food and energy	136.3	135.8	132.8	0.4	2.6
Energy	129.0	130.1	127.9	-0.8	0.9
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared with 1986	74.6	74.8	76.5		
All-items (1981=100)	177.4				

**Consumer price indexes for the provinces, Whitehorse and Yellowknife
(1986=100)**

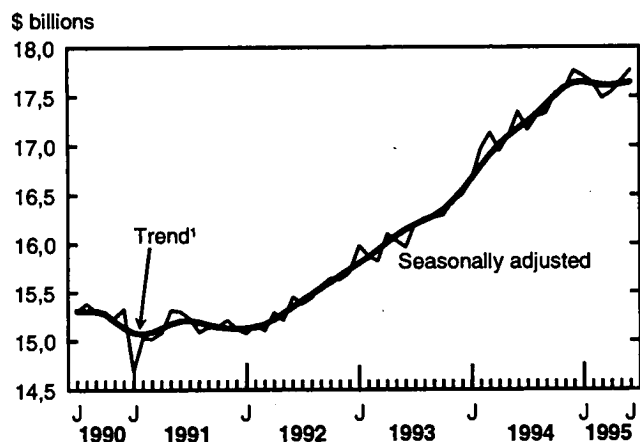
	July 1995	June 1995	July 1994	June 1995 to July 1995	July 1994 to July 1995
unadjusted					
				% change	
Newfoundland	128.0	127.8	126.1	0.2	1.5
Prince Edward Island	131.4	131.0	128.5	0.3	2.3
Nova Scotia	131.0	130.6	128.3	0.3	2.1
New Brunswick	129.7	129.9	127.5	-0.2	1.7
Quebec	131.5	131.3	128.4	0.2	2.4
Ontario	134.9	134.8	131.4	0.1	2.7
Manitoba	135.8	135.6	132.1	0.1	2.8
Saskatchewan	136.2	136.1	133.4	0.1	2.1
Alberta	133.1	132.4	130.1	0.5	2.3
British Columbia	138.2	137.2	134.4	0.7	2.8
Whitehorse	131.2	129.8	129.0	1.1	1.7
Yellowknife	133.6	132.6	129.2	0.8	3.4

Retail trade

June 1995 (preliminary)

Retail sales rose 0.6% to \$17.8 billion in June, the third straight monthly increase. Increases in April, May and June offset declines in the first three months of the year, returning retail sales to the December 1994 level.

Consumers continued to spend in June



Data prior to 1991 have been adjusted to remove the Federal Sales Tax to be comparable to January 1991 and subsequent data.

¹ Trend represents smoothed seasonally adjusted data.

Retail sales fell in each month of the first quarter of 1995. This contrasted with the second quarter (+0.2%), when sales grew in all months, especially May and June.

June's increase was evident in three of the seven sectors, accounting for 52.7% of total retail sales. The automotive, general merchandise, and clothing sectors reported the strongest growth. Decreases were reported in the food and drug sectors, while sales in the furniture sector remained almost unchanged.

Encouraged by lower interest rates, auto sales led the gain

Sales in the automotive sector rose 1.9% in June, their second consecutive monthly gain. Strong sales by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers and by retailers of parts, accessories and services were partly offset by lower sales at gasoline service stations.

Sales by new and used motor vehicle dealers increased an impressive 3.0%, the strongest monthly increase since September 1994 and the second

consecutive monthly gain. June's increase coincided with recent declines in interest rates and incentives from car manufacturers; both may have drawn more consumers to the dealerships.

Gasoline service station sales dropped 2.0% after a 3.6% gain in May. This decline was mainly attributable to a drop in gas prices, the first after four months of increases.

For a second consecutive month, the general merchandise sector also contributed to the overall gain. Retailers reported a solid 1.5% gain following a 1.8% rise in May. The trend in sales has been increasing steadily since mid-1993. Compared with May and June 1994, sales in the general merchandise sector were up 6.2%.

Clothing shoppers were also active in June as sales advanced 2.1%. Purchases of women's clothing (accounting for over 30% of total clothing sales) grew 4.9% after a strong 7.2% rise in May. Purchases of men's clothing rose 2.2%, the second consecutive monthly increase.

In contrast, spending in the food sector dropped 0.9% in June after a decline of 0.2% in May. Food retailers' sales, an important contributor to the overall growth in retail sales since early 1992, declined in the three-month period from April to June.

Sales were up in most provinces in the first half

In the first half of 1995, retail sales advanced a significant 9.1% in British Columbia and 6.2% in Ontario, well above the 3.6% national gain.

The increases in both provinces were dominated by the automobile, clothing and food sectors. In the auto sector, sales by new and used vehicle dealers rose 9.1% in Ontario and a robust 19.8% in British Columbia. Clothing retailers in both provinces also reported strong growth (+8.1% in Ontario and +14.9% in British Columbia).

A 1.5% sales drop in Quebec was due to lower sales in the automotive, food and drug sectors. Weak sales in the auto sector were attributable to an 8.5% drop in new and used vehicle sales. Also in the first half of 1995, sales in the food and drug sectors declined a significant 4.0% and 8.1% respectively.

Early indications of July sales

Early indications of July sales are not encouraging. Estimates indicate a drop in department store sales and in the number of new motor vehicles sold. These two categories account for about one-third of total retail sales. In addition, employment in trade declined 0.7%

in July from June 1995. Retail sales in the United States were down 0.1% in July after a 0.8% rise in June 1995.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2299, 2398-2417 and 2420.

The June 1995 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005, \$20/\$200) will be available the second week of September. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact John Svab (613-951-3549). For analytical information, contact Pierre Desjardins (613-951-9682), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

Retail sales

	June 1994	March 1995 ^r	April 1995 ^r	May ^r 1995	June 1995 ^p	May 1995 to June 1995	June 1994 to June 1995
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Food	4,456	4,492	4,554	4,546	4,504	-0.9	1.1
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,142	4,137	4,194	4,187	4,153	-0.8	0.2
All other food stores	314	355	360	359	352	-2.0	12.0
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,000	975	986	982	976	-0.6	-2.4
Clothing	1,026	1,082	1,056	1,094	1,117	2.1	8.9
Shoe stores	145	154	140	154	157	2.4	8.3
Men's clothing stores	143	135	132	134	137	2.2	-4.0
Women's clothing stores	339	353	341	366	383	4.9	13.1
Other clothing stores	399	440	443	440	440	-0.2	10.1
Furniture	912	941	942	910	909	-0.1	-0.4
Household furniture and appliance stores	724	748	748	721	720	-0.2	-0.5
Household furnishings stores	189	193	194	189	189	0.0	0.2
Automotive	6,200	6,180	6,142	6,224	6,341	1.9	2.3
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	4,024	4,022	4,004	4,018	4,139	3.0	2.9
Gasoline service stations	1,190	1,191	1,212	1,256	1,230	-2.0	3.4
Automotive parts, accessories and services	986	967	925	950	972	2.3	-1.4
General merchandise stores	1,799	1,853	1,849	1,882	1,911	1.5	6.2
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,954	1,969	2,020	2,020	2,013	-0.3	3.0
Other semi-durable goods stores	599	594	595	601	597	-0.5	-0.2
Other durable goods stores	473	479	477	467	469	0.4	-0.7
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	883	896	947	952	946	-0.6	7.2
Total, retail sales	17,348	17,491	17,548	17,658	17,771	0.6	2.4
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	13,324	13,469	13,544	13,639	13,632	-0.1	2.3
Department store type merchandise	5,809	5,923	5,905	5,936	5,980	0.7	2.9
Newfoundland	288	287	298	292	289	-1.1	0.3
Prince Edward Island	72	73	73	76	77	0.6	6.9
Nova Scotia	535	526	547	540	535	-0.8	0.0
New Brunswick	416	408	415	418	423	1.1	1.7
Quebec	4,248	4,112	4,121	4,088	4,068	-0.5	-4.2
Ontario	6,365	6,559	6,464	6,618	6,676	0.9	4.9
Manitoba	582	598	604	618	618	0.1	6.2
Saskatchewan	521	514	536	541	548	1.3	5.3
Alberta	1,845	1,805	1,826	1,862	1,866	0.2	1.1
British Columbia	2,420	2,550	2,604	2,544	2,610	2.6	7.8
Yukon	17	18	18	18	19	1.3	6.6
Northwest Territories	39	41	42	42	42	0.7	8.8

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

Retail sales

	June 1994	May 1995 ^r	June 1995 ^p	June 1994 to June 1995
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Food	4,623	4,603	4,750	2.7
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,286	4,234	4,369	1.9
All other food stores	338	370	381	12.8
Drug and patent medicine stores	999	975	978	-2.1
Clothing	1,015	1,062	1,120	10.4
Shoe stores	148	165	165	11.3
Men's clothing stores	149	132	146	-1.9
Women's clothing stores	341	371	392	15.0
Other clothing stores	378	395	418	10.7
Furniture	910	847	910	0.1
Household furniture and appliance stores	709	655	708	0.0
Household furnishings stores	201	193	202	0.4
Automotive	7,202	7,416	7,536	4.6
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	4,844	5,068	5,128	5.9
Gasoline service stations	1,254	1,281	1,313	4.7
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,104	1,068	1,094	-0.9
General merchandise stores	1,725	1,816	1,856	7.6
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,056	2,093	2,148	4.5
Other semi-durable goods stores	642	683	642	0.0
Other durable goods stores	480	455	478	-0.5
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	934	955	1,029	10.1
Total, retail sales	18,531	18,812	19,298	4.1
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	13,686	13,745	14,170	3.5
Department store type merchandise	5,771	5,837	5,984	3.7
Newfoundland	301	303	312	3.5
Prince Edward Island	79	79	87	10.4
Nova Scotia	575	565	593	3.0
New Brunswick	445	443	467	5.0
Quebec	4,646	4,582	4,523	-2.6
Ontario	6,825	6,982	7,262	6.4
Manitoba	612	644	665	8.7
Saskatchewan	549	565	589	7.2
Alberta	1,944	1,952	2,015	3.6
British Columbia	2,490	2,634	2,717	9.1
Yukon	20	20	22	7.5
Northwest Territories	43	43	46	7.9

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Profile of visible minorities

Profile of visible minorities from the Employment Equity Data program is now available. It provides an overview of the characteristics of visible minorities: blacks, South Asians, Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, South-east Asians, Filipinos, other Pacific Islanders, West Asians, Arabs, Latin Americans, and multiple visible minorities. The profile covers such variables as industry, occupation, level of schooling, field of study, and labour force participation.

The print version of *Profile of visible minorities* is published in five volumes, one for each region: Atlantic provinces (89F0032XPB), Quebec (89F0033XPB), Ontario (89F0034XPB), Prairie provinces (89F0035XPB), and British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories (89F0036XPB). Each volume costs \$150 and contains data by province and census metropolitan area, as well as data at the national level.

The electronic version (XV software 80F0037XDB, Canada \$250; the United States and other countries US\$250) contains the full set of national, provincial and census metropolitan area data. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Karen Kelly (613-951-2598), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

Railway carloadings

June 1995

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) by railways in Canada totalled 20.4 million tonnes in June, a 5.1% decrease from June 1994. The carriers received an additional 1.8 million tonnes from U.S. connections during June.

Intermodal (piggyback) tonnage of 1.4 million tonnes increased 3.0% from June 1994. The year-to-date figures showed an increase of 20.8%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 4.6% in June. This brought the year-to-date total to 126.8 million tonnes, an increase of 4.3% from the previous year. Receipts from U.S. connections increased 23.4% over the same period.

All year-to-date data have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 1431.

The June 1995 issue of *Railway carloadings* (52-001, \$10/\$100) will be released shortly. See "How to order publications".

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

Provincial and territorial government finance—assets and liabilities

March 31, 1994

At March 31, 1994, the provincial and territorial governments' net debt (the excess of liabilities over financial assets) reached \$166.1 billion, an increase of \$26.9 billion (+19.3%) over March 31, 1993. Financial assets stood at \$147.5 billion, while total liabilities reached \$313.6 billion.

Financial assets are made up of investments in short- and long-term securities (60.5%), advances (17.1%), cash (11.7%), receivables (9.5%), and other assets (1.2%).

These figures are based on the actual data released in the provincial and territorial governments' public accounts dated March 31, 1994, and converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because policies and structures of governments differ. The FMS adjusts data from governments' public accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-governmental comparisons, as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. In other words, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3201-3213.

For further information on this release, contact A. J. Gareau (613-951-1826) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division.

Custom tabulations of the data are available. For further information on products and services available from Public Institutions Division, contact Jo-Anne Thibault (613-951-0767, the Internet: dubodia@statcan.ca). ■



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Refined petroleum products, May 1995

Catalogue number 45-004

(Canada: \$20/\$200; United States: US\$24/US\$240;
other countries: US\$28/US\$280).

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.



Employment, earnings and hours, May 1995

Catalogue number 72-002

(Canada: \$31/\$310; United States: US\$38/US\$372;
other countries: US\$44/US\$434).

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