

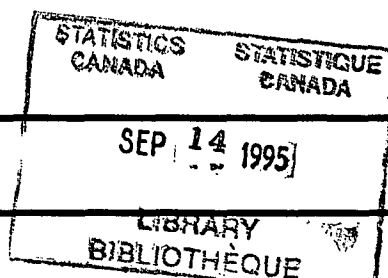


# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, September 14, 1995

For release at 8:30 a.m.



## MAJOR RELEASES

### ● Composite index, August 1995

The leading indicator edged down 0.2% in August, slightly less than the 0.3% drops in each of May, June and July.

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## OTHER RELEASES

Average prices of selected farm inputs, August 1995

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## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

5



### Canada: A portrait

1996

Statistics Canada is pleased to announce the release of the 55th edition of *Canada: A portrait*. A book to captivate all readers, the *Portrait* reviews the state of Canada's social, economic and cultural life, framing the information in plain language and illustrating it with beautiful photographs of the land and its people.

Its six chapters offer perspectives on our society, the arts, the economy, the way we have fun, our place in the world, the physical beauty of the country, and more. It addresses major trends, concerns and issues that preoccupy Canadians, while also presenting elements of Canadian life, ranging from the exotic to the humorous.

The *Portrait* includes the voices of famous Canadians who have given their visions or perceptions of Canada. Such accomplished Canadians as athlete and gold medalist Myriam Bédard, journalist Joe Schlesinger, and Nobel laureate Gerhard Herzberg have painted interesting and poetic portraits which add much to this publication.

For school, for students and teachers alike, for the home, the office, for anyone wishing to know more about Canada, *Canada: A portrait* will serve as an unmatched reference and a unique celebration of this country.

The 1996 *Canada: A portrait* (11-403E, \$39.95 plus tax, shipping and handling) is now available. See "How to order publications". For more information, contact Jonina Wood (613-951-1114, fax: 613-951-5116), Communications Division.



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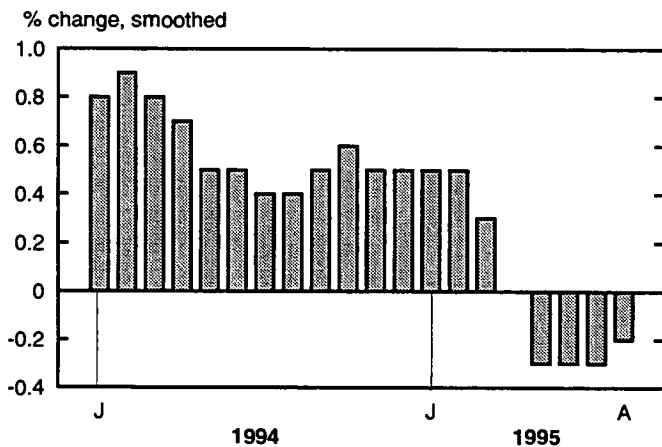
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Composite index

August 1995

The leading indicator edged down 0.2% in August, slightly less than the 0.3% drops in each of May, June and July. Manufacturing remained the main source of weakness. The easing in the rate of decline was attributable to some firming of household demand, while the financial market indicators continued to grow. Overall, 6 of the 10 components decreased.

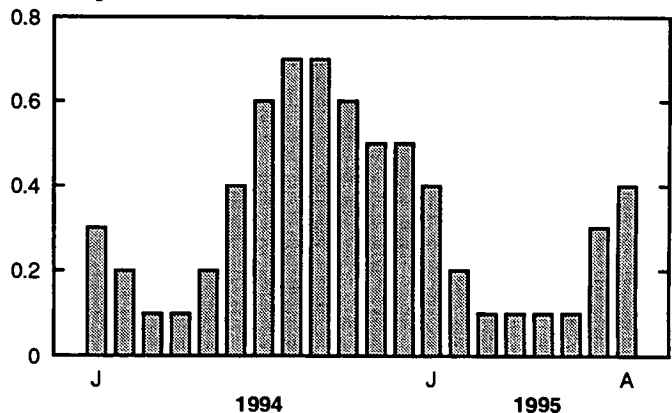
Composite index



Household spending gave some tentative signs that it was coming out of its lethargy. Housing posted a second straight increase in August (+2.2%) and its largest in over three years. This upturn was led by the house sales sub-component, which has now regained all of its losses of the past year. Elsewhere, higher demand for personal services raised the overall growth of services employment from 0.3% to 0.4%. Durable goods sales fell by 0.3%, half the rate of decline recorded in July.

### Business and personal services employment

% change, smoothed



The financial market indicators continued to improve, after being the first to turn up earlier this year. Real money supply posted a third consecutive increase for the first time in over a year.

Manufacturing remained weak after being one of the pillars of growth last year. Orders for durable goods slumped again as a result of lingering weakness in the auto sector throughout North America. The ratio of shipments to stocks of finished goods also continued to falter. This slackening was reflected in a fifth straight decline in the average work week, which has shrunk by half an hour since March. As well, employment has retreated from its most recent peak in May.

The U.S. leading indicator contracted another 0.2%, also dragged down by weakness in the manufacturing sector. More moderate commodity prices continued to curtail the index as well, as they have since the turn of the year. By contrast, household demand continued to pick up in line with consumer confidence, which has rebounded to the levels posted at the start of the year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 191.

For more information on the economy, the September 1995 issue of *Canadian economic observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) will be available next week. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627) or Dominique Pérusse (613-951-1789), Current Economic Analysis Division.

## Composite index

Data used in the composite index calculation for:	March 1995	April 1995	May 1995	June 1995	July 1995	August 1995	Last month of data avail- able
							% change
<b>Composite leading indicator (1981=100)</b>	<b>173.7</b>	<b>173.7</b>	<b>173.2</b>	<b>172.6</b>	<b>172.1</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Housing index <sup>1</sup>	108.1	104.0	100.9	100.2	100.5	102.7	2.2
Business and personal services employment ('000s)	1,942	1,944	1,946	1,948	1,953	1,960	0.4
TSE 300 stock price index (1975=1,000)	4,162	4,179	4,225	4,293	4,376	4,443	1.5
Money supply (M1) (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>2</sup>	30,321	30,263	30,234	30,309	30,440	30,595	0.5
U.S. composite leading indicator (1967=100) <sup>3</sup>	217.3	217.1	216.7	216.1	215.6	215.1	-0.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Average work week	38.9	38.8	38.7	38.6	38.5	38.4	-0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>4</sup>	12,656	12,783	12,811	12,761	12,696	12,566	-1.0
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.77	1.77	1.75	1.71	1.67	1.62	-0.05
<b>Retail trade</b>							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>4</sup>	1,155.9	1,162.8	1,164.7	1,163.2	1,157.2	1,150.2	-0.6
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1981) <sup>4</sup>	4,014.4	4,015.7	4,004.1	3,981.4	3,956.2	3,943.9	-0.3
Unsmoothed composite	173.5	171.0	170.0	171.1	171.5	171.9	0.2

<sup>1</sup> Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

<sup>2</sup> Deflated by the consumer price index for all items.

<sup>3</sup> The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

<sup>4</sup> The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated but the figures themselves refer to data for two preceding months.  
<sup>\*</sup> Difference from previous month.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### **Average prices of selected farm inputs** August 1995(preliminary)

Preliminary estimates for August 1995 of the average prices of selected farm inputs are now available by geographic region.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 550-582.

For further information on this release, contact  
Marie St-Amour (613-951-3387), Prices Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

### Canada: A portrait, 1996

#### Catalogue number 11-403E

(Canada: \$39.95; United States: US\$51.95; other countries: US\$59.95).

### Fruit and vegetable production, September 1995

#### Catalogue number 22-003

(Canada: \$29/\$115; United States: US\$35/US\$138; other countries: US\$41/US\$161).

### The consumer price index, August 1995

#### Catalogue number 62-001

(Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120; other countries: US\$14/US\$140).

Available at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, September 15

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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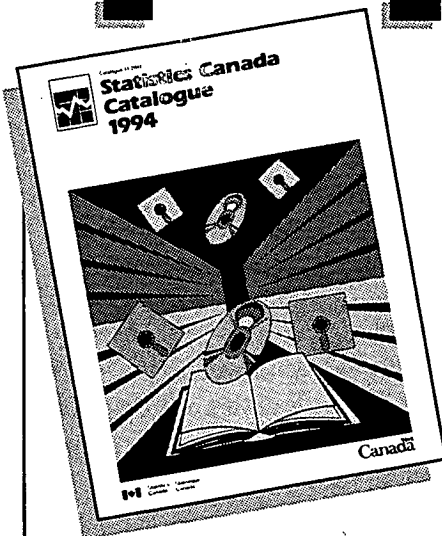
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