C-3

Catalogue 11–001E (Français 11–001F) ISSN 0827–0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, September 20, 1995
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

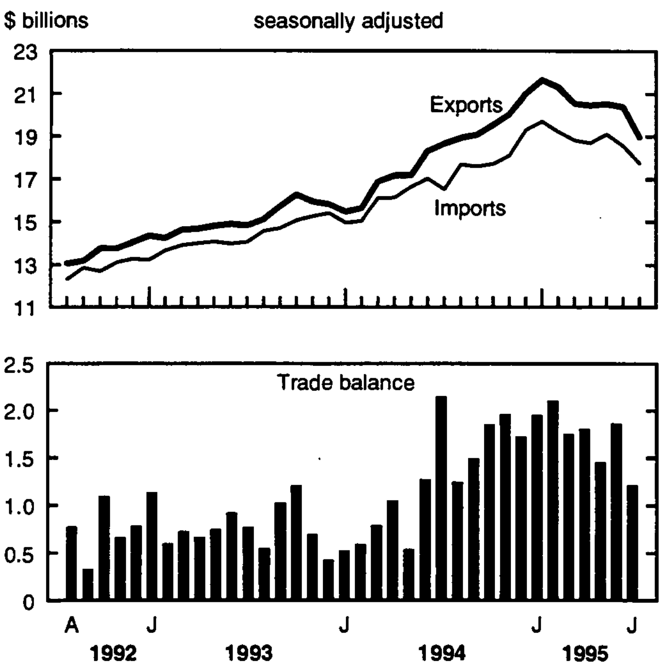
Canadian international merchandise trade

July 1995

Exports and imports reached a peak at the beginning of 1995 and have since declined. Although automotive trade has had the most influence on this trend, reflecting soft North American sales, a similar pattern is also evident for many other commodities.

Exports declined 7.1% in July, falling to $19.0 billion. Two-thirds of the drop came as car and truck plants closed their doors for a longer than normal period to allow for model changes and vacations. Shipments to all trading partners were down, but declines were especially sharp to the United States and non-OECD countries.

Exports, imports and trade balance



Imports were down 4.4% to $17.7 billion. Declines were widespread, with the deepest cuts in energy and machinery imports. Fewer goods were purchased from all major trading partners, but imports from the European Union and non-OECD countries fell the most.

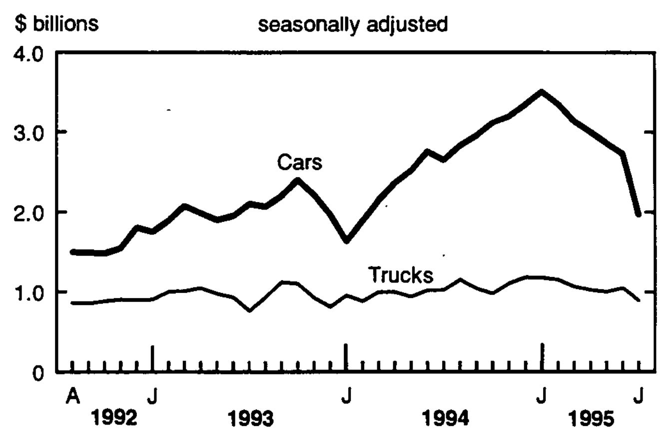
The large auto-related decline in exports brought July's trade surplus down to $1.2 billion, from $1.9 billion in June. The trade balance with the United States fell from a record high in June ($3.2 billion), settling at $2.2 billion in July.

> ***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 second quarter of 1995, the overall merchandise trade surplus of $5.0 billion contrasted with a current account deficit of $5.7 billion.*

Exports curtailed by summer shut-downs in the auto industry

Falling automotive exports reflected a 55% drop in Canada's production of light vehicles in July. Although plant shut-downs are a usual occurrence in mid-summer, some Canadian auto plants closed their doors for longer than normal to accommodate vacations and retooling. In all, automotive exports declined 18.2%, with passenger cars down 28.0% and trucks off 14.9%. Despite similar shut-downs in the United States, exports of auto parts moved ahead for a third consecutive month, advancing 1.5%.

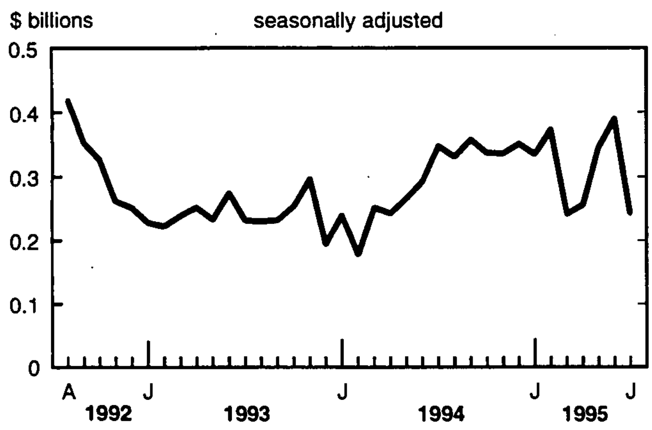
Exports of automotive products



Wheat exports fell 37.8% in July, as supplies for the 1994/95 crop year were all but exhausted by July 31. High export demand in the first half of the year drew farm stocks down to their lowest levels since 1989/90. Demand for the Canadian crop grew markedly in response to wheat shortages worldwide.

Barley and canola exports also dropped sharply as stocks dwindled. Domestic consumption of barley has been especially robust this year, as livestock numbers rose to record levels.

Exports of wheat



Hampered by lower crude oil shipments to the United States, exports of energy products declined 12.0% in July. Coal exports were also down (for a second straight month), but natural gas took up the slack, reflecting higher output of utilities in the United States, where Canadian gas is used increasingly in co-generation plants.

Weak exports of industrial goods (-5.1%) continued to reflect the slow pace of U.S. manufacturing growth, as inventories were drawn down. In July, demand fell the most for metal ores, inorganic chemicals and plastics. On the other hand, exports of some base metals rose, notably aluminum, zinc, and other non-ferrous alloys. These were destined primarily for locales other than the United States.

A 2.7% decline in machinery exports was confined largely to aircraft and other transportation equipment, while all other types of machinery advanced 1.6%. Since March, the overall trend for machinery exports has been slightly negative, a pattern echoed to varying degrees across the sector's major components. First-quarter strength in these exports reflected more robust U.S. investment in plant and equipment. In all, machinery and equipment exports stood 12.3% above last year's level.

Led by lumber and paper exports, forestry products remained a bright spot in the export picture. Responding to a pickup in U.S. construction activity, lumber exports advanced 2.0% in July, after declining through the first half of 1995.

Imports pulled down by machinery and energy

Machinery and equipment imports fell 6.1% in July, and the declines had a broad base. Aircraft imports were down the most (-37.1%), appearing low compared with June purchases, which included two large commercial airliners. Imports of most types of industrial machinery lost ground as well, especially engines and turbines. As with exports, machinery and equipment imports have been trending downward for six months (to July), but remained above their level of last year.

Lower demand for crude oil (-31.1%) dampened energy imports for a second straight month in July. The overall tendency for the energy group, however, remained positive. So far this year, crude has accounted for nearly three-quarters of all imported energy products.

Continued weakness in automotive imports in July reflected a 49% drop in U.S. production of light vehicles. As in Canada, most assembly plants south of the border closed to accommodate vacations and retooling. Automotive imports declined 2.2%, led by passenger cars (-10.5%) and light trucks (-2.7%). Fewer auto imports may also reflect declining sales in Canada.

Imports of food and consumer goods contracted by 1.7% and 7.9% respectively. The weakness in food imports was concentrated in coffee and sugar, but imports of consumer goods declined across the board.

Revisions

Merchandise trade data are revised on a continuing basis for every month of the current year. 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, changes to classification of merchandise based on more current information, and updated seasonal adjustments.

Revised data for January 1991 to June 1995 are available in the relevant matrices on CANSIM.

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

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data that will be available next week in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001, $19/$182). It will include detailed tables by commodity and country on a customs basis.

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). See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Suzie Carpentier (613-951-9647), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division (1-800-294-5583). □

Merchandise trade of Canada

	May 1995	June 1995	July 1995	May 1995 to June 1995	June 1995 to July 1995	January-July 1994	January-July 1995	January-July 1994 to January-July 1995	July 1994 to July 1995
	seasonally adjusted, $ current								
	$ millions			% change		$ millions		% change	
Principal trading partners									
Exports									
United States	16,442	16,510	15,497	0.4	-6.1	97,302	116,036	19.3	3.8
Japan	992	1,034	1,008	4.2	-2.5	5,342	6,708	25.6	4.2
European Union	1,194	1,063	963	-11.0	-9.4	6,240	8,254	32.3	2.7
Other OECD countries[1]	229	245	218	7.0	-11.0	2,122	2,070	-2.5	-53.6
All other countries	1,688	1,558	1,266	-7.7	-18.7	8,244	10,821	31.3	-6.2
Total	20,545	20,410	18,951	-0.7	-7.1	119,249	143,889	20.7	1.6
Imports									
United States	13,692	13,305	13,289	-2.8	-0.1	83,403	97,500	16.9	7.9
Japan	733	675	631	-7.9	-6.5	4,728	5,349	13.1	16.0
European Union	2,045	2,144	1,770	4.8	-17.4	9,144	12,302	34.5	18.7
Other OECD countries[1]	760	670	512	-11.8	-23.6	3,472	4,730	36.2	-24.1
All other countries	1,872	1,764	1,543	-5.8	-12.5	11,673	11,952	2.4	3.7
Total	19,102	18,559	17,746	-2.8	-4.4	112,419	131,833	17.3	7.5
Balance									
United States	2,750	3,205	2,208	...	...	13,899	18,536	...	...
Japan	259	359	377	...	...	614	1,359	...	...
European Union	-851	-1,081	-807	...	...	-2,904	-4,048	...	...
Other OECD countries[1]	-531	-425	-294	...	...	-1,350	-2,660	...	...
All other countries	-184	-206	-277	...	...	-3,429	-1,131	...	...
Total	1,443	1,851	1,205	...	...	6,830	12,056	...	...
Principal commodity groupings[2]									
Exports									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,567	1,589	1,473	1.4	-7.3	10,013	10,943	9.3	-10.3
Energy products	2,133	2,118	1,864	-0.7	-12.0	11,891	13,739	15.5	-1.1
Forestry products	3,192	3,303	3,303	3.5	0.0	17,141	22,170	29.3	21.4
Industrial goods and materials	3,873	3,917	3,718	1.1	-5.1	21,511	27,839	29.4	7.9
Machinery and equipment	4,178	4,127	4,017	-1.2	-2.7	23,605	29,152	23.5	12.3
Automotive products	5,024	4,965	4,063	-1.2	-18.2	30,930	36,322	17.4	-14.8
Other consumer goods	539	572	586	6.1	2.4	3,241	3,915	20.8	20.1
Special transactions trade[3]	836	864	839	3.3	-2.9	5,114	5,961	16.6	6.9
Imports									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,134	1,146	1,127	1.1	-1.7	6,955	7,866	13.1	7.7
Energy products	965	720	515	-25.4	-28.5	3,870	4,923	27.2	-1.7
Forestry products	179	175	178	-2.2	1.7	996	1,240	24.5	15.6
Industrial goods and materials	3,786	3,706	3,746	-2.1	1.1	21,204	26,648	25.7	15.6
Machinery and equipment	6,509	6,359	5,972	-2.3	-6.1	35,925	43,477	21.0	9.6
Automotive products	4,106	3,843	3,757	-6.4	-2.2	26,833	29,769	10.9	2.2
Other consumer goods	2,189	2,245	2,068	2.6	-7.9	13,224	15,093	14.1	6.1
Special transactions trade[3]	457	425	444	-7.0	4.5	2,801	3,084	10.1	11.6

1 *Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey.*
2 *Figures not adjusted to balance of payments basis.*
3 *These are low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment and goods returned to country of origin.*
... *Figures not appropriate or not applicable.*

■

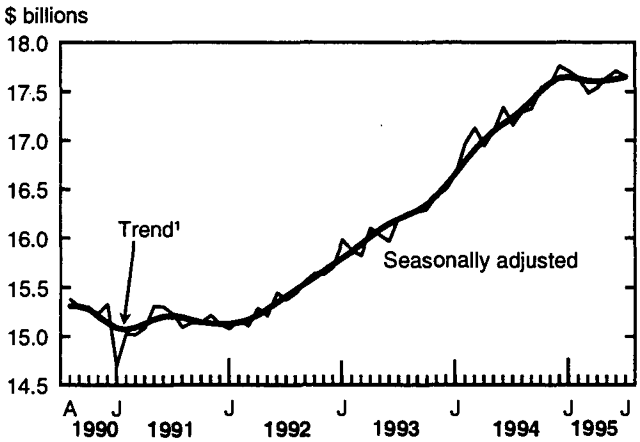
Retail trade

July 1995 (preliminary)

Consumers spent less on goods in July as retail sales declined for the first time in four months. Retail sales slipped 0.3% to $17.7 billion after a 0.4% increase in June.

The relatively flat 1995 trend in retail trade contrasts with the general growth observed from early 1992 to November 1994. Nonetheless, sales in July were 2.9% higher than in July 1994.

Consumers spent less on goods in July



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.

When the effect of price changes is removed and retail sales are expressed in real terms, July 1995 sales were 0.5% higher than in July 1994. The growth came almost entirely from motor vehicles (+4.7% from July 1994). Actually, sales in the rest of the retail industry were 0.7% below those of last year.

In July, retail sales decreased in four of the seven sectors, accounting for almost 60% of total sales. The automotive, clothing and general merchandise sectors decreased the most in dollar terms. Partly offsetting these decreases were higher sales by the other retail, food and furniture sectors. The decline was concentrated in six provinces and territories.

Consumers reduced their purchases of cars and clothes

Despite lower interest rates, sales in the automotive sector (includes new and used car dealers, gasoline service stations, and parts, accessories and services outlets) dropped 0.8% after rising in May and June. Automotive sector retailers recorded increases from February 1992 until November 1994. From December to July, however, the sales trend in the automotive sector levelled off.

Sales by new and used motor vehicle dealers declined 0.9% in July after a 2.8% rise in June. The number of new motor vehicles sold fell 5.7% in July.

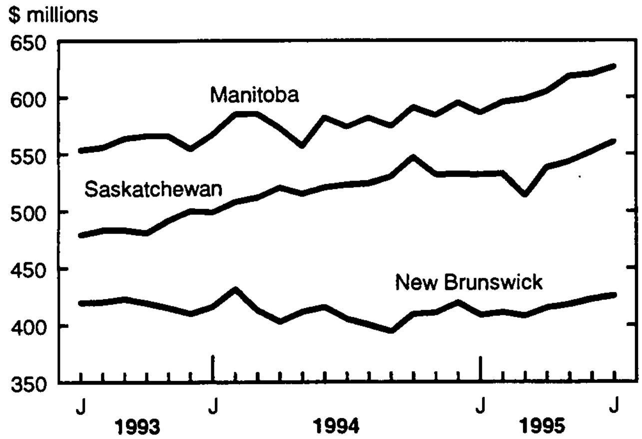
Gasoline service station sales declined 0.7% in July, a second consecutive monthly decline. However, this was mainly due to lower gas prices in June and July following four months of increases.

Slow sales in the clothing sector were also an important contributor to the overall sales decline. Sales by the clothing sector have slowed in recent months after strong growth since early 1994. Three of the four components of the clothing sector decreased in July: women's clothing stores (-7.6%), shoe stores (-3.3%) and men's clothing stores (-1.4%). The decline in women's clothing was particularly significant and more than offset the 5.6% rise in June.

Mixed results in the provinces and territories

Six provinces and territories recorded monthly decreases in sales. The largest drops in dollar terms were in British Columbia (-2.2%) and Ontario (-0.7%). Ontario's decline came after two consecutive monthly gains. Among the provinces and territories that posted monthly decreases, Quebec's retailers recorded a 1.1% increase in July after five declines in the previous six months.

Retailers in some provinces have shown sustained growth in recent months



Despite July's drop, retailers in New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have shown sustained growth over the latest four months. In fact, Manitoba's retailers put in their best monthly performance since the start of the year. Moreover, after a 1.5% decline in January 1995, sales have been up for six months (February to July). Compared with July 1994, sales were 9.2% higher in July 1995.

New Brunswick and Saskatchewan showed a similar pattern of four consecutive monthly increases. These resulted in year-over-year increases of 5.0% and 7.2% respectively over July 1994.

Early indications of August sales

Early indications of August sales are optimistic. Estimates indicate a rise in the number of new motor vehicles sold. In addition, employment in trade increased 0.5% from July to August 1995. Retail sales in the United States increased 0.6% in August after a 0.4% decrease in July.

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

The July 1995 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005, $20/$200) will be available the second week of October. 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

	July 1994	April 1995[r]	May 1995[r]	June 1995[r]	July 1995[p]	June 1995 to July 1995	July 1994 to July 1995
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Food	4,518	4,562	4,539	4,489	4,497	0.2	-0.5
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,196	4,203	4,182	4,139	4,155	0.4	-1.0
All other food stores	322	359	357	351	342	-2.3	6.3
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,002	985	981	976	975	-0.1	-2.7
Clothing	1,030	1,053	1,090	1,117	1,081	-3.2	4.9
Shoe stores	148	140	154	158	153	-3.3	2.8
Men's clothing stores	140	132	134	138	136	-1.4	-3.4
Women's clothing stores	338	340	363	383	354	-7.6	4.7
Other clothing stores	403	442	439	438	439	0.2	8.7
Furniture	917	940	908	902	905	0.4	-1.3
Household furniture and appliance stores	724	747	720	715	720	0.7	-0.6
Household furnishings stores	193	193	188	187	185	-1.0	-4.0
Automotive	5,936	6,133	6,216	6,311	6,260	-0.8	5.5
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	3,751	3,998	4,013	4,126	4,089	-0.9	9.0
Gasoline service stations	1,193	1,210	1,254	1,220	1,212	-0.7	1.5
Automotive parts, accessories and services	991	925	949	964	960	-0.5	-3.2
General merchandise stores	1,779	1,849	1,883	1,910	1,898	-0.7	6.6
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,986	2,021	2,025	2,012	2,047	1.7	3.1
Other semi-durable goods stores	607	596	603	602	611	1.4	0.6
Other durable goods stores	475	478	468	467	475	1.8	0.1
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	904	947	954	942	961	2.0	6.2
Total, retail sales	**17,168**	**17,544**	**17,642**	**17,716**	**17,663**	**-0.3**	**2.9**
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	13,417	13,546	13,629	13,590	13,574	-0.1	1.2
Department store type merchandise	5,810	5,902	5,933	5,974	5,945	-0.5	2.3
Newfoundland	284	298	292	290	294	1.4	3.7
Prince Edward Island	71	73	76	77	75	-1.7	6.8
Nova Scotia	535	546	538	530	525	-0.8	-1.9
New Brunswick	405	415	418	423	426	0.7	5.0
Quebec	4,165	4,124	4,086	4,061	4,106	1.1	-1.4
Ontario	6,298	6,456	6,598	6,628	6,579	-0.7	4.5
Manitoba	574	605	618	620	626	1.1	9.2
Saskatchewan	523	538	543	552	561	1.6	7.2
Alberta	1,824	1,826	1,864	1,863	1,855	-0.4	1.7
British Columbia	2,432	2,602	2,548	2,613	2,555	-2.2	5.1
Yukon	18	18	18	19	19	0.2	5.6
Northwest Territories	39	42	42	42	42	-0.6	8.4

p *Preliminary figures.*
r *Revised figures.*

Retail sales

	July 1994	June 1995[r]	July 1995[p]	July 1994 to July 1995
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Food	4,808	4,740	4,610	-4.1
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,450	4,357	4,245	-4.6
All other food stores	358	382	364	1.8
Drug and patent medicine stores	963	980	923	-4.2
Clothing	933	1,123	953	2.1
Shoe stores	135	166	137	1.9
Men's clothing stores	118	147	115	-2.5
Women's clothing stores	322	393	323	0.2
Other clothing stores	357	418	377	5.5
Furniture	911	902	891	-2.2
Household furniture and appliance stores	710	702	701	-1.2
Household furnishings stores	201	200	190	-5.5
Automotive	6,282	7,498	6,540	4.1
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	3,943	5,111	4,226	7.2
Gasoline service stations	1,311	1,304	1,328	1.3
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,028	1,084	986	-4.1
General merchandise stores	1,620	1,853	1,700	4.9
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,088	2,134	2,122	1.6
Other semi-durable goods stores	611	646	614	0.5
Other durable goods stores	469	471	469	0.1
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,008	1,017	1,039	3.0
Total, retail sales	**17,605**	**19,231**	**17,738**	**0.8**
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	13,662	14,120	13,512	-1.1
Department store type merchandise	5,507	5,976	5,549	0.8
Newfoundland	299	314	302	1.2
Prince Edward Island	82	87	86	5.1
Nova Scotia	557	587	534	-4.1
New Brunswick	427	466	440	3.0
Quebec	4,311	4,508	4,149	-3.8
Ontario	6,349	7,212	6,483	2.1
Manitoba	578	666	618	7.0
Saskatchewan	530	592	564	6.4
Alberta	1,875	2,012	1,872	-0.2
British Columbia	2,534	2,718	2,622	3.5
Yukon	21	22	23	7.2
Northwest Territories	41	46	44	6.1

p *Preliminary figures.*
r *Revised figures.*

OTHER RELEASES

Export and import price indexes
July 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 July 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 July 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 July 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. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Monthly production of soft drinks, August 1995
Catalogue number 32-001
(Canada: $3/$30; United States: US$4/US$36; other countries: US$5/US$42).

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.
∞

How to order publications

Simplify your data search with *Statistics Canada Catalogue*, 1994 (11-204E, $15; United States: US$18; other countries: US$21). Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

Order *The Daily* and other publications by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

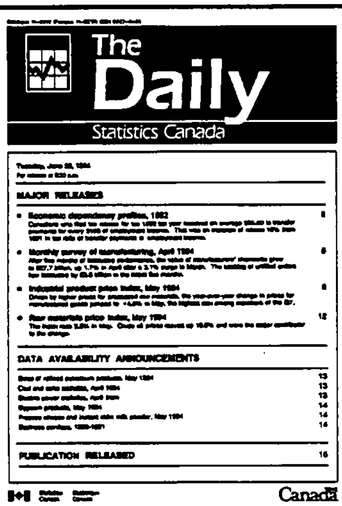
In Canada and the United States call:	**1-800-267-6677**
From other countries call:	**1-613-951-7277**
Or fax your order to us:	**1-613-951-1584**

For address changes: Please refer to your customer account number.

To order a publication by mail write: Sales and Service, Marketing Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to Receiver General of Canada/Publications. Canadian customers add 7% GST.

Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centres provide a full range of the Agency's products and services. For the reference centre nearest you, check the blue pages or your telephone directory under Statistics Canada.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.


The Daily
Statistics Canada
MAJOR RELEASES
DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
PUBLICATION RELEASED
Canada

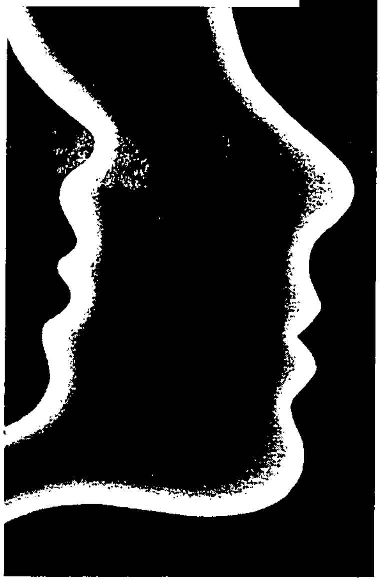
Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To receive *The Daily* from the Internet, send an E-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Tim Prichard (613-951-1103)
Head of Official Release: Jacques Lefebvre (613-951-1088)



Your Reliable Journal of Health-related Information

In today's world, being informed about Canadians' health and Canadian healthcare is less of an option and more like an obligation. How accurate and up-to-date your information is, however, remains at your discretion....

Follow the lead of hundreds of professionals in health care, research, insurance and policymaking who look to ***Health Reports*** for reliable facts and figures. Issued four times a year, this periodical combines Statistics Canada's stringent standards of data accuracy and timeliness with practical features. Each volume contains:

- highlights of newly released data
- news of recent publications and updates
- crisp and incisive articles
- information on specialized tabulations and custom data

Concise text, instructive charts and easy-to-read tables make for a balanced blend of essential data and straightforward analysis. Each issue of ***Health Reports*** is written by the analysts of the Health Statistics Division with original contributions from outside specialists. This imparts a particularly candid flavour and results in a stimulating approach to a wide range of topics like:

- women and cardiovascular disease
- health care for seniors
- recent findings on cancer, heart disease and tuberculosis
- mortality by occupation
- health risks and social status

With its broad scope and solid facts, ***Health Reports*** is quickly gaining recognition as an authority on health developments and concerns. It's an essential resource if you plan, establish, deliver or evaluate programs and projects – if you have a vested interest in health-related issues.

Don't just be informed! Know that your information is both current and sound. Get ***Health Reports*** for leading-edge information on Canadians' health and Canadian healthcare. Subscribe today.

***Health Reports* (catalogue number 82-0030XPB) is $112 annually in Canada, US$135 in the United States and US$157 in other countries.**

**To order, write to: Statistics Canada
Marketing Division
Sales and Service
120 Parkdale Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6**

or contact the nearest Statistics Canada Reference Centre listed in this publication. If more convenient, fax your order to **1-613-951-1584** or call toll-free **1-800-267-6677** and use your VISA or MasterCard.

729MISC94251