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MAJOR RELEASES

- **University enrolment,** 1995 — 3
  Full-time university enrolment dropped slightly in 1995, halting almost two decades of steady growth. Part-time enrolment fell sharply for the third straight year.

- **Building permits,** November 1995 — 6
  Construction intentions for housing tumbled sharply in November, stalling hopes for a recovery in the sector. Municipalities issued $1.1 billion in building permits for housing, the second lowest level in 1995.

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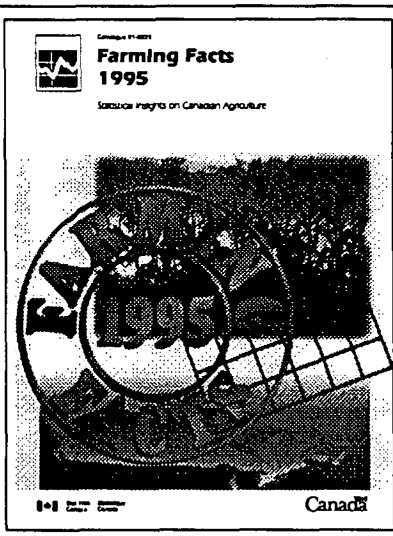

Farming facts
1995

The economy slid into recession in the late 1980s and agriculture took a nosedive. Some sectors more exposed to world markets (e.g., grains and cattle) suffered considerable financial hardship, while others like supply-managed commodities (e.g., dairy and poultry products) remained relatively stable. Not surprisingly, the ag industry has been recovering at a sharper rate than the economy in general.

The theme of this *Farming facts* is "Post-recession agriculture: Will the growth continue?" Topics include: agriculture and the economy; social and structural change; environmental issues; and conditions in the grain and oilseed, livestock, supply management and horticulture sectors.

The printed edition of *Farming facts* (21-522E) is available now. See "How to order publications". This publication is also available on the Internet: http://www.statcan.ca/Documents/English/new.htm.

For further information on this release, contact Rick Burroughs (613-951-2890), Agriculture Division.

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MAJOR RELEASES

University enrolment
1995 (preliminary)

Full-time university enrolment dropped slightly in 1995, halting almost two decades of steady growth.

There were 574,300 full-time students enrolled at Canadian universities in the fall of 1995, down 0.4% from 576,500 in 1994. It was the first drop in full-time enrolment since 1978.

The number of full-time undergraduate students declined marginally to 499,700, a dip of 400, while the number of full-time graduate students was 74,600, down 2.3%.

Nationally, universities in every province experienced drops in enrolment in one category or another. Full-time enrolment counts were lower at roughly half of all universities.

It is too early to tell whether the 1995 drop in full-time enrolment, which was marginal, indicates a downward trend. It has certainly reached a plateau. In both 1993 and 1994, the annual increases in full-time enrolment were less than 1%.

Part-time enrolment on a downswing

Enrolment decreases in 1995 were more severe for part-time students than their full-time counterparts. Part-time registrations fell 5.5% to 266,600. Of those, an estimated 227,700 were part-time undergraduate students (-6.0%). The number of part-time graduate students fell 3% to 38,900.

Part-time undergraduate enrolment fell in every province except British Columbia; full-time undergraduate enrolment rose only among universities in the Prairie provinces and British Columbia.

The decline in part-time enrolment was the third sharp fall in as many years. The growth in part-time university enrolment—especially pronounced during the 1980s—has fallen back to its 1982 rate. Since 1992, when it peaked at 316,100, part-time enrolment has been dropping at an annual rate of around 6%.

Historically, enrolment rose despite tuition fee increases

Between 1978 and 1994, full-time university enrolment rose almost 57%. That occurred despite tuition fees that almost doubled over the past 10 years or so.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *The preliminary University Enrolment Survey is designed to obtain the number of students registered at universities each fall. Degree-granting institutions report full- and part-time enrolment at the undergraduate and graduate levels.*
>
> *Enrolment data are based on student counts as of December 1 in all provinces except Ontario, where the reference date is November 1. The count includes all students taking courses eligible for credit toward a degree, diploma or certificate, as well as students who have completed their course requirements and who are engaged in thesis writing or research.*
>
> *Final and more detailed data on university enrolment and degrees awarded are usually available about 6 to 10 months after release of the preliminary data on enrolment.*
>
> *Most universities also offer professional development and general interest courses not applicable toward university degrees, diplomas or certificates. Although data are available on student participation in non-credit courses, they are not included with university enrolment data in this report.*

It is uncertain what impact tuition fees have had on enrolment trends. Other factors, such as changing population demographics and competition for available spaces at certain institutions or in certain program fields, may also be important.

In 1995, the University of Prince Edward Island recorded a 3.7% drop in full-time undergraduate enrolment on the heels of a 7.6% tuition increase. By contrast, universities in Quebec recorded a 2.5% decrease in undergraduate enrolment, even though they held the line on tuition fees. In Alberta, the number of undergraduates actually rose 5.1%, despite the largest tuition fee increase in the country (+10.5%).

The percentage of young people who choose to attend university has a direct impact on overall enrolment. In 1995, the participation rate (the number of students enrolled full-time as a proportion of the population aged 18 to 24) was about 20%. This compares with only 12% in 1982, when the population of that age group reached its peak.

The population base from which most university students are drawn, the 18-to-24 age group, has decreased in every province since peaking in the early 1980s. The greatest decreases have occurred in Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta, where numbers in this group have dropped almost 30%.

Rather than causing reduced university enrolment, the decline in the number of 18- to 24-year-olds has actually created an opportunity for increased participation. Although most provinces are experiencing an increased participation rate, the rate has fallen in Prince Edward Island from a peak in 1992. It dropped slightly in Quebec during 1994.

For further information on this release, contact Mariem Martinson (613-951-1526) or Mongi Mouelhi (613-951-1537), Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

To obtain tables or make general inquiries, contact Sheba Mirza (613-951-1503), Education, Culture and Tourism Division. □

Full-time university enrolment
Fall 1995

	Undergrad	1994* to 1995	Graduate	1994* to 1995
		% change		% change
Canada	**499,720**	**-0.1**	**74,584**	**-2.3**
Newfoundland	11,911	-2.5	1,038	11.3
Prince Edward Island	2,425	-3.7	24	-4.0
Nova Scotia	27,387	-0.5	2,443	2.3
New Brunswick	18,162	-1.6	973	-11.3
Quebec[1]	109,744	-2.5	22,832	-4.1
Ontario	201,667	-0.5	27,638	0.1
Manitoba	20,411	0.7	2,517	-5.2
Saskatchewan	21,848	2.5	1,883	1.6
Alberta	47,042	5.1	5,517	-9.6
British Columbia	39,123	3.5	9,719	-1.8

[1] *Percentage changes for Quebec have been estimated on the basis of 1994 preliminary data.*
* *Actual figures.*

Part-time university enrolment
Fall 1995

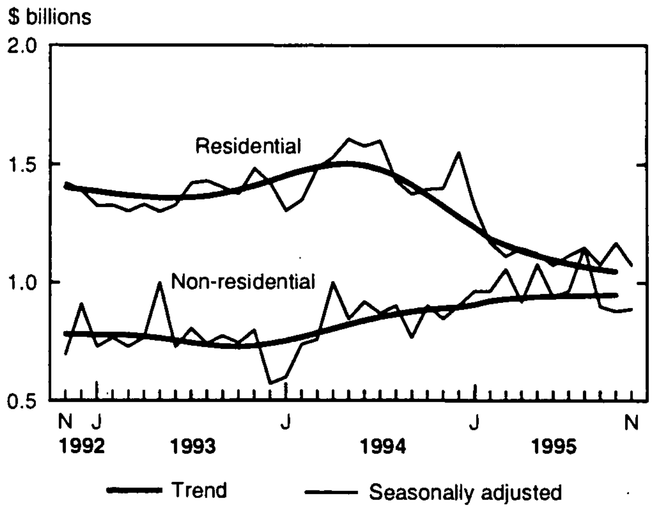
	Undergrad	1994* to 1995	Graduate	1994* to 1995
		% change		% change
Canada	**227,735**	**-6.0**	**38,851**	**-2.9**
Newfoundland	3,391	-4.2	464	-4.5
Prince Edward Island	476	-18.1	0	...
Nova Scotia	5,454	-6.0	1,276	-16.2
New Brunswick	4,517	-1.4	636	-2.2
Quebec[1]	84,865	-8.2	19,139	-0.8
Ontario	77,915	-5.9	10,702	-5.2
Manitoba	10,284	-11.3	1,012	-15.9
Saskatchewan	6,507	-4.3	1,141	-9.5
Alberta	13,469	-4.9	2,235	-9.7
British Columbia	20,857	5.1	2,246	22.3

[1] *Percentage changes for Quebec have been estimated on the basis of 1994 preliminary data.*
* *Actual figures.*
... *Figures not appropriate or not applicable.*

Building permits
November 1995

Construction intentions for housing tumbled sharply in November, stalling hopes for recovery in the sector. Municipalities issued $1.1 billion in building permits for housing, the second lowest level in 1995.

Construction intentions for housing tumbled sharply in November



The 8.0% decline in November offset practically all of the 8.7% gain posted by the residential sector in October. It occurred despite the lowest mortgage rates since the beginning of 1995. Prior to November, housing permits had posted their third increase in four months, suggesting that a year-long slide may have been bottoming out.

The latest data do not bode well for new housing construction in the first half of 1996. Lower housing prices and lower mortgage costs have so far not been enough to dispel consumer pessimism over the state of the economy.

The sharp drop in applications for residential permits led to a 4.1% decline in the total value of building permits issued by municipalities; the value fell to $2.0 billion.

Building permit applications in the non-residential sector rose 1.2% in November to $0.9 billion because of a surge in industrial construction. November's level was 6.1% higher than last year's monthly average. However, it was 41.8% below the monthly average of $1.5 billion in 1989, the peak year for non-residential applications.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data that ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building and Demolitions Permits Monthly Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 93% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 7% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (for example, waterworks, sewers, culverts, etc.) and land.

The annual rate is a monthly figure that has been seasonally adjusted and multiplied by 12 to reflect annual levels.

Multi-family dwellings intentions led the drop in new housing

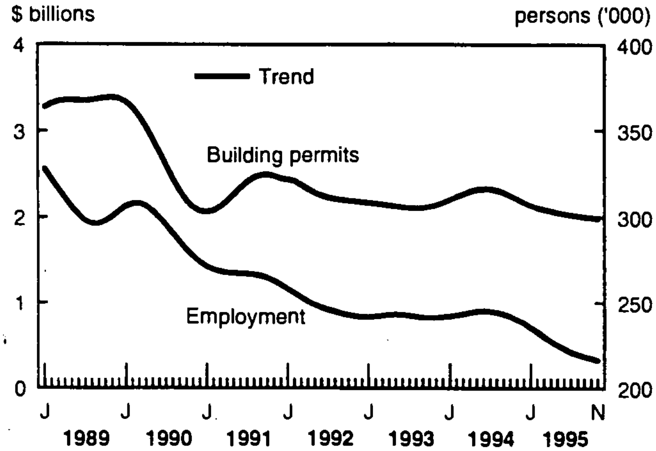
November's decline in new housing intentions was due primarily to a 26.9% plunge in plans for multi-family dwellings. That more than offset a marginal gain for single-family dwellings (+0.2%).

In the first 11 months of 1995, the value of residential building permits dropped sharply compared with the same period in 1994 (-21.9% to $12.5 billion). The slump in housing was equally reflected in construction intentions for single-family (-22.2%) and multi-family (-21.0%) dwellings.

Despite it being a buyer's market, the doom and gloom in the residential sector persisted. After two consecutive declines, the resale housing market responded to the recent drops in mortgage rates by resuming the modest upward progress it started in April 1995. But consumers remain cautious about purchases of large ticket items because their take-home pay dropped in the third quarter. Affordable housing has not been enough to persuade them to buy.

The drop in residential permits also suggests little improvement in construction employment over the next few months. According to the Labour Force Survey, since January 1995, 26,300 construction jobs (excluding engineering and machinery and equipment installation) were lost.

Construction[1] employment: a bleak short-term outlook



[1]Labour Force Survey excluding engineering projects and machinery and equipment installation.

November's decline in the total value of residential building permits was particularly significant in British Columbia (-19.7% to $249.2 million). This was due to the worst monthly performance in multi-family dwellings intentions there since February 1992.

Industrial construction intentions surged

After posting two consecutive declines, non-residential construction intentions rose a marginal 1.2% in November. The advance came mainly from the industrial components (+13.2%), particularly the motor vehicle industry.

Commercial construction intentions also increased (+2.6%). However, a sharp 11.5% drop—the fourth in a row—in institutional construction permits practically offset the gains posted in the other two non-residential components.

The value of non-residential construction intentions from January to November 1995 jumped from the same period of 1994 to $10.7 billion (+17.1%). Industrial construction intentions exhibited the strongest gain with a sizzling 33.8% increase. During the same period. commercial and institutional construction intentions also recorded significant gains (+10.6% and +15.2% respectively).

Among the provinces, November's increase in non-residential construction was attributable mainly to a sharp 20.3% increase in Ontario. The rise was due to its industrial component, which posted its highest level since August 1990.

In Quebec, a substantial drop in all components of non-residential construction intentions led to a 24.3% plunge in the value of non-residential permits; the value fell to its lowest level since December 1993.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 80 (levels 3-7, 16-22 and 24-32), 129, 137, 443, 989-992, 994-995 and 4073.

The November 1995 issue of *Building permits* (64-001, $24/$240) will be released on January 15. See "How to order publications".

The December building permits estimate will be released on February 5. For further information, contact Joanne Bureau (613-951-9689). For analytical information, contact Nathalie Léveillé (613-951-2025), Current Investment Indicators Section, Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Value of building permits

Region and type of construction	Oct. 1995	Nov. 1995	Oct. 1995 to Nov. 1995	Nov. 1994 to Nov. 1995
	seasonally adjusted			
	$ millions		% change	
Canada	**2,048**	**1,964**	**-4.1**	**-12.6**
Residential	1,169	1,075	-8.0	-23.2
Non-residential	878	888	1.2	4.8
Newfoundland	18	14	-23.4	-31.4
Residential	13	11	-18.1	-32.0
Non-residential	5	3	-38.1	-29.0
Prince Edward Island	7	8	14.1	5.3
Residential	4	4	6.5	13.0
Non-residential	4	4	22.2	-1.0
Nova Scotia	55	55	-0.4	-8.8
Residential	38	39	2.0	1.0
Non-residential	16	16	-5.9	-26.8
New Brunswick	32	32	-0.7	-3.9
Residential	19	19	3.5	-0.6
Non-residential	13	12	-6.6	-8.6
Quebec	404	346	-14.2	-24.9
Residential	181	178	-1.8	-33.1
Non-residential	223	169	-24.3	-13.7
Ontario	774	819	5.8	-0.1
Residential	438	415	-5.2	-17.5
Non-residential	336	404	20.3	27.5
Manitoba	44	44	0.9	-1.5
Residential	27	23	-17.4	-8.0
Non-residential	16	22	31.4	6.5
Saskatchewan	26	31	20.1	-40.4
Residential	13	12	-6.0	-41.4
Non-residential	13	19	46.7	-39.7
Alberta	212	212	-0.2	-7.7
Residential	122	122	-0.2	-7.8
Non-residential	90	90	-0.3	-7.5
British Columbia	470	399	-15.1	-22.4
Residential	310	249	-19.7	-32.7
Non-residential	159	149	-6.2	4.4
Yukon	5	3	-44.8	-7.8
Residential	3	2	-45.2	-21.2
Non-residential	2	1	-44.1	30.5
Northwest Territories	2	2	5.3	-52.7
Residential	0	1	6,073.9	-57.6
Non-residential	2	0	-75.2	-23.9

Note: *Data may not add to totals due to rounding.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Estimates of labour income

October 1995 (preliminary)

Employee's wages and salaries declined 0.3% in October after growing strongly in the preceding two months. October's weakness was widespread among industries. Despite this decline, wages and salaries remained 2.9% above the October 1994 level.

The largest wage and salary declines in October occurred in construction; transportation, storage, communications and other utilities; education and related services; commercial and personal services; and trade. Employment decreases contributed to the weakness in these industries; for the first two industries, this was augmented by declines in average earnings.

By contrast, moderate 0.2% growth was recorded in manufacturing. Manufacturing wages and salaries have increased sharply since July, pushed by growth in both employment and average earnings. Also in October, a 0.7% rise in wages and salaries occurred in the finance, insurance and real estate industry.

Note: Labour income consists of wages and salaries (87%), plus supplementary labour income (13%). Wages and salaries include items such as bonuses, gratuities, taxable allowances and retroactive wage payments. Supplementary labour income is employer contributions to employee welfare, pension, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance plans. Labour income accounts for 54% of gross domestic product.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1791-1792.

For further information on this release, contact Jean Lambert (613-951-4090, fax: 613-951-4087), Labour Division.

Wages, salaries and supplementary labour income

	Sept. 1995[r]	Oct. 1995[p]	Sept. 1995 to Oct. 1995
	seasonally adjusted		
	$ millions		% change
Agriculture, fishing and trapping	255.6	252.2	-1.3
Logging and forestry	267.8	265.7	-0.8
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	632.0	631.7	-0.0
Manufacturing	5,564.5	5,577.9	0.2
Construction	1,724.4	1,697.8	-1.5
Transportation, storage, communications and other utilities	2,898.8	2,873.9	-0.9
Trade	4,358.1	4,331.5	-0.6
Finance, insurance and real estate	2,895.5	2,915.6	0.7
Commercial and personal services	4,063.9	4,034.1	-0.7
Educational and related services	2,779.5	2,754.3	-0.9
Health and social services	2,829.1	2,844.9	0.6
Federal administration and other government services	950.6	947.0	-0.4
Provincial administration	713.4	715.3	0.3
Local administration	690.7	693.7	0.4
Wages and salaries, total	**30,658.4**	**30,579.2**	**-0.3**
Supplementary labour income	4,547.8	4,549.1	0.0
Labour income	**35,206.3**	**35,128.3**	**-0.2**

[r] *Revised figures.*
[p] *Preliminary figures.*

■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Farming facts, 1995
Catalogue number 21–522E
(Free)

Agriculture economic statistics, November 1995
Catalogue number 21-603UPE
(Canada: $25/$50; United States: US$30/US$60; other countries: US$35/US$70).

Canadian civil aviation, 1994
Catalogue number 51-206
(Canada: $39; United States: US$47; other countries: US$55).

Department store sales and stocks, October 1995
Catalogue number 63-002
(Canada: $16/$160; United States: US$20/US$192; other countries: US$23/US$224).

Wholesale trade, October 1995
Catalogue number 63-008
(Canada: $18/$180; United States: US$22/US$216; other countries: US$26/US$252).

Leisure and personal services, 1991-93
Catalogue number 63-233
(Canada: $33; United States: US$40; other countries: US$47).

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