

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

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Businesses and governments plan to invest \$95.8 billion in plant and equipment in 1996. This amount represents the first decline after three years of growth.
- **Canadian international merchandise trade, December 1995** 7
Strong exports helped rejuvenate Canada's trade surplus in December, which increased to a record \$3.1 billion from \$2.6 billion in November.
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In 1995, the international travel account deficit was at its lowest level since 1989.

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Homeowner
Repair and
Renovation
Expenditure
in Canada
1994

Dépenses sur les
réparations et les
renovations effectuées
par les propriétaires-
occupants au Canada
1994



Canada

Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure in Canada 1994

Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure in Canada, 1994 looks at the \$12.8 billion worth of repairs and renovations done by homeowners in 1994. This includes repairs and maintenance, additions, renovations, replacement and installation of equipment and fixtures. These expenditures averaged \$1,799 per homeowner-household in 1994, a 2.7% decline from 1993.

Data cover the 10 provinces and are tabulated by province, size of area of residence, type of dwelling, age of household head, household income, period of construction, and year moved to dwelling.

The publication also includes selected results from the Home Energy Retrofit Survey, which was implemented to measure the energy retrofit activities in Canadian homes.

Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure in Canada, 1994 (62-201-XPB, \$30) is now available. See "How to order publications". Data presented in tables 1 to 6 in the publication were released in *The Daily* on October 30, 1995.

For further information on this release, contact the Income, Expenditure and Housing Data Dissemination Unit (613-951-4633, fax: 613-951-3012, the Internet: expenditures@statcan.ca), Family Expenditure Surveys Section, Household Surveys Division.



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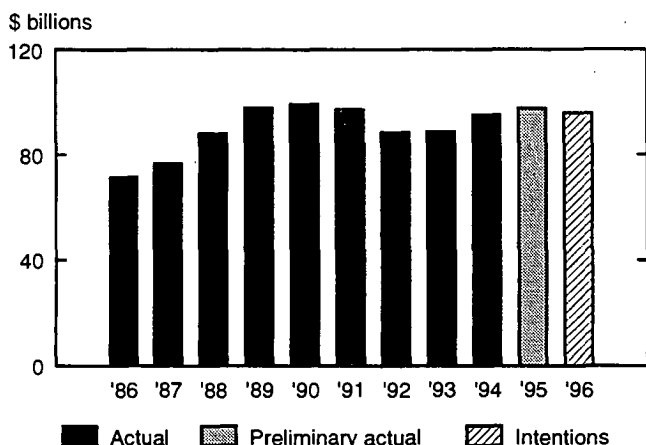
PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

MAJOR RELEASES

Private and public investment 1996 (intentions)

Businesses and governments plan to invest \$95.8 billion in plant and equipment in 1996. This amount represents the first decline after three years of growth. Falling investment in non-residential construction will offset small gains in machinery and equipment investment. The decline coincides with the slowdown in the growth of corporate profits, which plateaued in 1995 after double-digit increases in 1994.

Plant and equipment investment is expected to decline



Investment plans for non-residential construction show a drop of 4.9%, down to \$43.8 billion in 1996. Declines in new construction are anticipated from real estate, retail trade, and oil and gas. The infrastructure program, which propped up spending in 1995, is not expected to offset the widespread decline. All levels of government plan to spend less in 1996. Municipal government spending, which grew by 16% in 1995, will drop by 1% in 1996.

Investment in machinery and equipment is expected to reach \$52.0 billion in 1996, up 1% from 1995. The major contributors will be finance and manufacturing.

After a dramatic 13% decline in 1995, residential housing investment is not expected to rebound in 1996; housing starts are expected to remain unchanged in 1996.

Manufacturers' investment will continue to increase

Following a banner year of 19.6% growth in 1995, investment in machinery and equipment by manufacturers will increase 5% in 1996. Automotive manufacturers, in the wake of the record low number of vehicles sold in 1995, plan to spend \$2.2 billion (+45%) to retool and change product mix to entice consumers back to the showrooms. Significant investment is also planned in the refined petroleum (+101%) and primary metals (+24%) industries. Pulp and paper—last year's star performer—appears to have peaked: after 67% growth in 1995, investment will grow by 5.6% in 1996.

Investing in the information highway resumes speed

Total investment in the information highway appears to have recovered from a setback in 1995. Telecommunication carriers' 1996 investment plans show a 4.9% rebound, after a decline of 6.2% the year before. Businesses that provide computer services also plan to increase capital spending (+9.6%) in 1996. Manufacturers of communications and electronic equipment expect an overall drop of 49%, however.

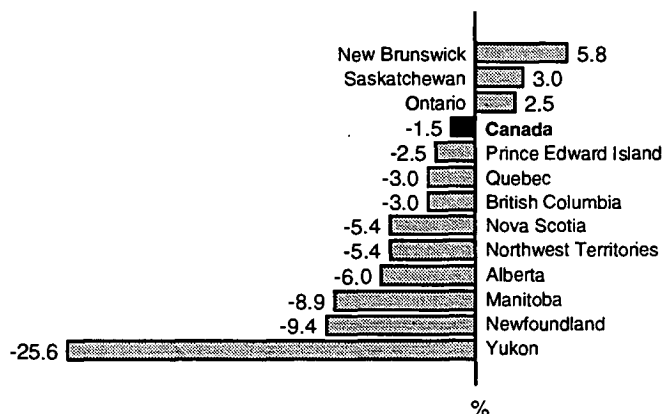
Investment in the oil patch drying up

Back-to-back decreases in the crude petroleum and natural gas industry reflect falling investment, from a peak of \$11.8 billion in 1994 to planned expenditures of \$9.7 billion in 1996. Expenditures on pipelines to bring the oil and gas to market mirror this, with consecutive drops of 15% and 28%.

New Brunswick leads provinces in spending growth

Only three of the provinces and territories expect growth in capital spending in 1996: New Brunswick, with increased spending by manufacturers and government (+5.8%); Saskatchewan (+3.0%); and Ontario (+2.5).

Growth in capital expenditures in 1996



Spending growth weakened in 1995

According to last year's mid-year survey, capital spending in 1995 was expected to grow by 7.2%; however, according to the latest estimate, capital expenditures in 1995 totalled \$97.6 billion, up 2.5% from 1994. A \$2.7 billion drop in manufacturing investment intentions, combined with declines of \$1.1 billion in government, \$1.1 billion in transportation and \$1 billion in communications contributed to the widespread downward revision.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3101-3134.

Private and public investment in Canada, intentions 1996 (61-205-XPB, \$42) will be available shortly. It will feature an article titled "The non-residential renovation market, Canada, 1986-1993". See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact John Foley (613-951-2591) or Susan Horsley (613-951-2209, the Internet: horsley@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations

	1994 actual	1995 preliminary actual	1996 intentions	1995 preliminary actual to 1996 intentions	1994 actual to 1995 preliminary actual
	\$ millions			% change	
Total	130,131.2	127,956.1	126,009.4	-1.5	-1.7
Plant and equipment	95,209.7	97,569.5	95,815.0	-1.8	2.5
Housing	34,921.5	30,386.6	30,194.4	-0.6	-13.0
Goods-producing industries	42,725.4	44,375.9	43,970.7	-0.9	3.9
Services-producing industries	52,484.2	53,193.7	51,844.3	-2.5	1.4
Divisions					
Agriculture	3,326.0	3,406.0	3,266.1	-4.1	2.4
Fishing and trapping	131.9	117.5	120.4	2.5	-10.9
Logging and forestry	463.2	454.8	408.3	-10.2	-1.8
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	13,853.1	13,127.2	12,505.9	-4.7	-5.2
Manufacturing	14,529.0	16,609.1	17,079.7	2.8	14.3
Construction	2,005.2	1,885.9	1,774.6	-5.9	-5.9
Transportation and storage	5,870.4	6,157.8	6,090.3	-1.1	4.9
Communications and other utilities	13,668.0	13,871.3	14,400.4	3.8	1.5
Wholesale trade	1,826.6	2,533.8	2,615.1	3.2	38.7
Retail trade	3,265.2	3,307.4	2,521.2	-23.8	1.3
Finance and insurance	7,054.8	7,887.9	8,435.5	6.9	11.8
Real estate operators	1,612.3	1,726.0	1,354.3	-21.5	7.1
Business services	2,230.9	1,739.7	1,548.5	-11.0	-22.0
Government	14,020.9	14,287.5	13,986.2	-2.1	1.9
Educational	3,016.8	2,948.5	2,625.5	-11.0	-2.3
Health and social	2,225.7	2,239.6	2,062.7	-7.9	0.6
Accommodation, food and beverage	1,199.9	982.6	724.9	-26.2	-18.1
Other services	4,909.7	4,286.9	4,295.5	0.2	-12.7

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Capital spending intentions of private and public organizations¹

	Capital expenditures			1995 preliminary actual to 1996 intentions	1994 actual to 1995 preliminary actual
	Construction	Machinery and equipment	Total		
	\$ millions					% change
Canada¹					
1994	81,444.3	48,686.9	130,131.2		
1995	76,437.0	51,519.1	127,956.1		
1996	73,972.7	52,036.7	126,009.4	-1.5	-1.7
Newfoundland					
1994	2,470.2	436.2	2,906.4		
1995	2,372.0	640.1	3,012.1		
1996	2,095.0	634.6	2,729.5	-9.4	3.6
Prince Edward Island					
1994	329.0	154.1	483.1		
1995	340.0	170.6	510.6		
1996	342.5	155.4	497.9	-2.5	5.7
Nova Scotia					
1994	1,781.4	1,268.0	3,049.4		
1995	1,796.4	1,066.6	2,863.0		
1996	1,605.2	1,101.8	2,707.1	-5.4	-6.1
New Brunswick					
1994	1,508.2	834.6	2,342.8		
1995	1,488.4	940.9	2,429.4		
1996	1,554.5	1,015.3	2,569.8	5.8	3.7
Quebec					
1994	16,281.3	10,407.7	26,688.9		
1995	15,039.5	10,425.3	25,464.8		
1996	14,334.8	10,358.9	24,693.6	-3.0	-4.6
Ontario					
1994	24,568.6	21,000.1	45,568.6		
1995	23,351.8	22,755.2	46,107.0		
1996	23,893.5	23,361.5	47,255.1	2.5	1.2
Manitoba					
1994	2,086.2	1,403.3	3,489.5		
1995	2,192.1	1,734.3	3,926.4		
1996	2,000.3	1,578.5	3,578.8	-8.9	12.5
Saskatchewan					
1994	2,991.3	1,555.2	4,546.5		
1995	2,757.6	1,831.6	4,589.2		
1996	2,836.6	1,891.9	4,728.5	3.0	0.9
Alberta					
1994	14,548.3	5,477.7	20,025.9		
1995	13,189.0	5,456.6	18,645.6		
1996	12,385.6	5,145.2	17,530.9	-6.0	-6.9
British Columbia					
1994	14,384.3	6,018.3	20,402.6		
1995	13,344.6	6,311.4	19,656.0		
1996	12,426.3	6,641.7	19,067.9	-3.0	-3.7
Yukon					
1994	173.3	42.0	215.3		
1995	224.5	78.1	302.6		
1996	173.0	52.2	225.3	-25.6	40.6
Northwest Territories					
1994	322.2	89.9	412.1		
1995	341.0	108.4	449.4		
1996	325.4	99.7	425.0	-5.4	9.1

¹ 1994 actual, followed by 1995 preliminary actual, and then 1996 intentions.

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Canadian international merchandise trade

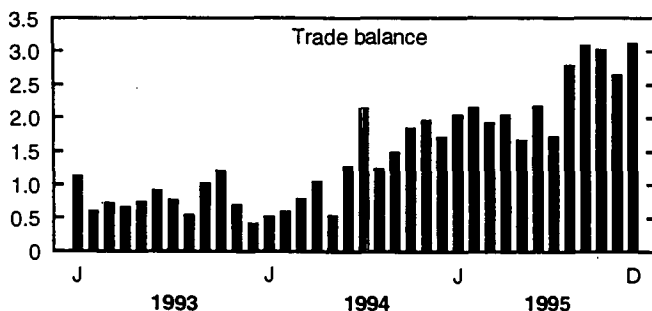
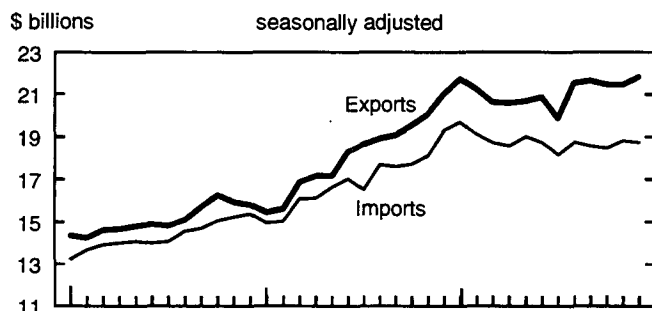
December 1995

Canada's exports rose to a record \$21.8 billion in December, advancing 1.8% from November. Much of the gain was fostered by strong sales of machinery and equipment, energy, and automotive products. Shipments increased to all trading partners except the European Union; the main boost came from exports to the United States (+2.1%).

Imports fell marginally to \$18.7 billion in December, dampened by lower purchases of energy products and machinery. Although more goods were imported from the United States, imports from most other trading partners declined.

Strong exports helped expand Canada's trade surplus in December, which increased from \$2.6 billion in November to a record \$3.1 billion. The surplus with the United States advanced the most, but balances also grew more favourable with all other trading groups except the European Union.

Exports, imports and trade balance



Exports up for most commodities

Much of December's export growth was in machinery and equipment (+5.0%), which increased for a second straight month. The biggest push came

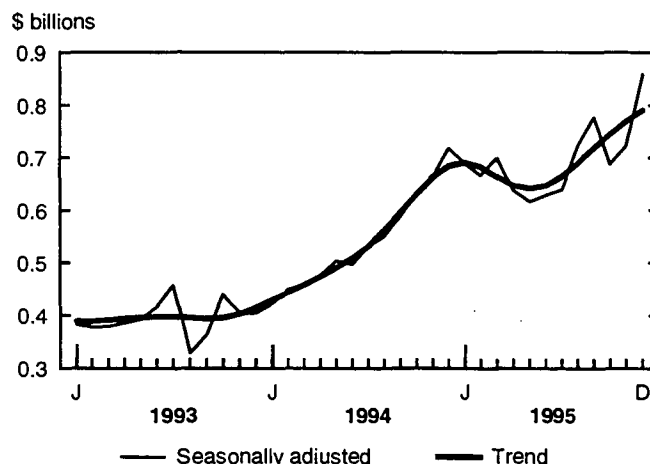
Note to readers

The January and February 1996 trade data releases scheduled for release on March 20 and April 19, 1996 have been postponed until March 29 and April 23, 1996.

Merchandise trade is only one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services. In the third quarter of 1995, an overall merchandise trade surplus of \$7.6 billion contrasted with a current account deficit of \$3.4 billion.

from office machines (+19.1%), bolstered by shipments of computer related equipment to the United States. Industrial equipment exports grew as well (+10.0%), showing particular strength in the area of power generation equipment.

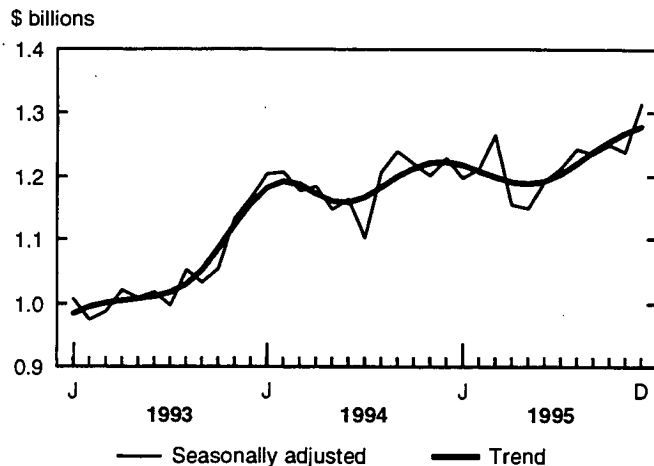
Exports of office machines and equipment



Energy exports gained momentum in December (+8.4%), led by strong shipments of coal, refined petroleum and crude oil. Crude petroleum and heating oil shipments have grown in volume since early last fall, partly a reflection of cold weather in the United States.

Automotive products moved ahead by 2.2% in December, reaching their highest level since August. Parts exports grew the most (+6.1%) as U.S. auto production posted its second straight monthly gain. Car and truck exports increased as well, despite extended holiday shutdowns among Canada's automakers; some vehicles were exported out of factory inventories.

Exports of motor vehicle parts



Agricultural exports posted a third monthly increase in December (+5.9%), reflecting growth in wheat shipments to the Middle East and Japan. Exports of most other agricultural products advanced as well, the major exceptions being canola and meat.

In forestry exports, higher sales of paper and sawmill products were offset by lower shipments of newsprint, pulp and lumber. Recent declines in demand from the United States and Europe for pulp led producers to extend holiday downtime at some mills in Canada in an effort to reduce inventories.

December's exports were dampened by softer shipments of industrial goods (-1.5%). The decline was mainly prompted by falling exports of precious metals, chemicals, plastics and fertilizers. Exports of all other industrial goods advanced by 3.6% overall.

Imports softened

In the wake of two monthly increases, imports of energy products fell 19.1% in December. The decline reflected entirely a fall in the volume of crude oil purchases.

Imports also declined for machinery and equipment (-1.2%) and automotive products (-0.4%). Weaker imports of office machines pulled down machinery and equipment imports, while a drop in truck imports (-6.4%) led to the reduction in automotive imports.

Somewhat propping up imports were consumer goods (+2.3%), industrial goods (+0.3%) and

agricultural products (+0.7%). Consumer goods imports advanced on the strength of imports of printed matter, photographic goods and home furnishings. The rise in imports of industrial goods reflected higher imports of organic chemicals and non-metallic minerals.

Revisions

Merchandise trade data are revised continually for every month of the current year. Factors that make revisions necessary include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect customs documents, replacement of estimated figures with actual values, changes to the classification of merchandise based on more current information, and updated seasonal adjustments.

Larger than usual revisions (\$1.29 billion) have been made to exports for 1995. For the most part, these adjustments are the result of ongoing efforts to ensure that all exports, particularly those destined for countries other than the United States, are declared and appropriately documented.

Revised data for January 1991 to November 1995 are available on CANSIM.

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

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data that will be available shortly in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$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-XPB, \$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

	Oct. 1995	Nov. 1995	Dec. 1995	Oct. 1995 to Nov. 1995	Nov. 1995 to Dec. 1995	Jan.- Dec. 1994	Jan.- Dec. 1995	Jan.- Dec. 1994 to Jan.- Dec. 1995	Dec. 1994 to Dec. 1995
seasonally adjusted, \$ current									
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change		
Principal trading partners									
Exports									
United States	16,974	16,973	17,322	0.0	2.1	177,881	201,795	13.4	0.5
Japan	794	760	789	-4.3	3.8	9,332	11,382	22.0	-1.5
European Union	1,472	1,726	1,547	17.3	-10.4	11,274	16,062	42.5	42.7
Other OECD countries ¹	531	354	407	-33.3	15.0	4,073	4,196	3.0	-10.7
All other countries	1,696	1,635	1,765	-3.6	8.0	15,294	20,101	31.4	23.7
Total	21,467	21,447	21,831	-0.1	1.8	217,854	253,536	16.4	3.9
Imports									
United States	14,001	14,273	14,417	1.9	1.0	151,625	168,872	11.4	-2.5
Japan	578	637	631	10.2	-0.9	8,239	8,364	1.5	-12.4
European Union	1,577	1,625	1,498	3.0	-7.8	16,113	19,954	23.8	6.5
Other OECD countries ¹	636	539	580	-15.3	7.6	7,231	7,730	6.9	-28.7
All other countries	1,662	1,735	1,593	4.4	-8.2	19,599	20,332	3.7	1.3
Total	18,455	18,809	18,719	1.9	-0.5	202,807	225,251	11.1	-3.0
Balance									
United States	2,973	2,700	2,905	...	...	26,256	32,923	...	...
Japan	216	123	158	...	...	1,093	3,018	...	...
European Union	-105	101	49	...	...	-4,839	-3,892	...	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-105	-185	-173	...	...	-3,158	-3,534	...	...
All other countries	34	-100	172	...	...	-4,305	-231	...	...
Total	3,012	2,638	3,112	...	...	15,047	28,285	...	...
Principal commodity groupings²									
Exports									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,641	1,731	1,833	5.5	5.9	17,717	19,738	11.4	20.8
Energy products	1,833	1,868	2,025	1.9	8.4	21,312	23,359	9.6	0.9
Forestry products	3,326	3,312	3,333	-0.4	0.6	31,161	39,240	25.9	14.1
Industrial goods and materials	4,240	4,067	4,005	-4.1	-1.5	39,459	48,324	22.5	4.8
Machinery and equipment	4,408	4,514	4,741	2.4	5.0	43,021	52,345	21.7	14.7
Automotive products	5,198	5,233	5,347	0.7	2.2	57,919	63,136	9.0	-7.1
Other consumer goods	632	626	632	-0.9	1.0	5,851	7,108	21.5	20.2
Special transactions trade ³	915	904	892	-1.2	-1.3	9,422	10,442	10.8	-11.9
Imports									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,081	1,097	1,105	1.5	0.7	12,576	13,372	6.3	-11.2
Energy products	665	702	568	5.6	-19.1	7,146	8,109	13.5	12.0
Forestry products	164	158	151	-3.7	-4.4	1,810	2,036	12.5	-14.7
Industrial goods and materials	3,642	3,653	3,664	0.3	0.3	38,734	44,956	16.1	-3.2
Machinery and equipment	6,311	6,566	6,489	4.0	-1.2	65,575	75,609	15.3	2.2
Automotive products	4,067	4,092	4,077	0.6	-0.4	48,318	50,375	4.3	-11.4
Other consumer goods	2,104	2,070	2,118	-1.6	2.3	23,519	25,568	8.7	0.1
Special transactions trade ³	448	493	479	10.0	-2.8	4,881	5,468	12.0	10.9

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.² Figures not adjusted to balance of payments basis³ Mainly, these are low-valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment and goods returned to country of origin.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

International travel account

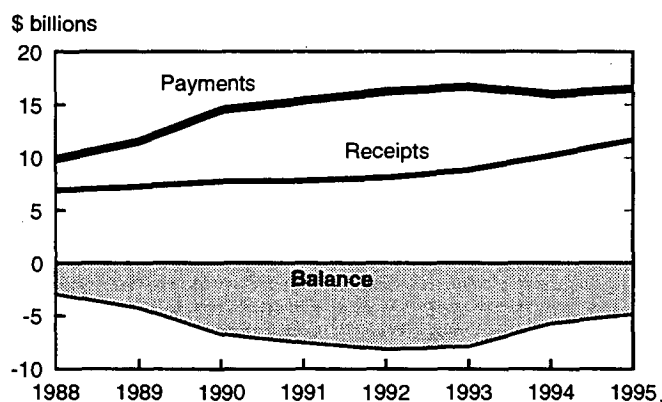
1995 and Fourth quarter 1995 (preliminary)

A record number of visitors to Canada and a weak Canadian dollar, which depreciated against the currencies of all G-7 countries except Italy's lira, contributed to record international travel receipts in 1995. Foreign travellers spent \$11.7 billion in Canada, 14.6% more than in the previous year.

During the same period, spending by Canadians travelling abroad increased by much less (+3.7%). As a result, the international travel account deficit improved by 15.5% to \$4.9 billion, its lowest level since 1989.

The travel account deficit peaked in 1992 at \$8.2 billion. At the time, that amount represented 31.5% of the current account deficit. By 1994 (the most recent year of available data), that proportion had dropped by nearly six percentage points.

Canada's international travel account deficit in 1995 was at its lowest level since 1989



Overseas visitors spent record amount

Receipts from overseas visitors reached a new high for a fourth consecutive year. These foreigners visited in record numbers in 1995 and spent \$5.4 billion, a 20% jump from the previous year.

Overseas visitors have benefited the Canadian economy more and more over the years. In 1991, the long-term upward trend in receipts from residents of overseas countries paused, reflecting the uncertainty caused by the Gulf War. Since then, spending by these visitors has increased 63%. It has doubled since 1988. In 1988, overseas residents generated 38% of Canada's international travel receipts; in 1995, that proportion stood at 46%.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, quarterly data in this release are seasonally adjusted.

Receipts and payments data are not adjusted for inflation.

Receipts represent spending by foreigners in Canada, as well as international transportation fares paid to Canadian carriers. Payments represent spending by Canadians abroad, as well as international transportation fares paid to foreign carriers.

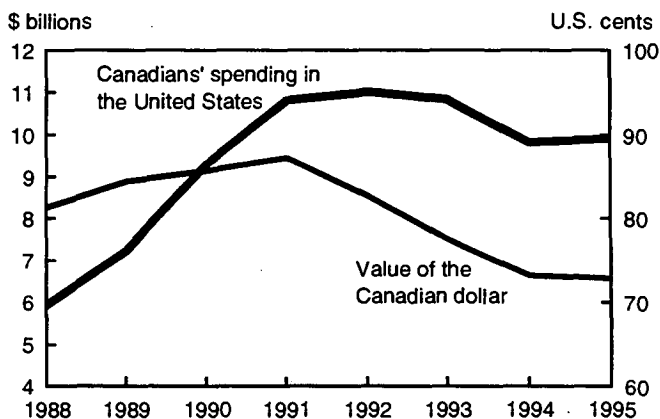
Overseas countries are countries other than the United States.

Canadians are also travelling to countries other than the United States in increasing numbers. The amount spent overseas in 1995 (\$6.6 billion) was the highest on record. Nonetheless, the gap between receipts from overseas visitors in Canada and payments by Canadians travelling overseas closed substantially (-24%) to \$1.3 billion, the smallest deficit in nine years.

Americans spending more in Canada

After dropping 9.3% between 1993 and 1994, spending by Canadian travellers in the United States rose 0.9% in 1995. That slight increase brought the payments to the United States to \$9.9 billion, still well below the 1992 peak of \$11.0 billion.

Canadians' spending in the United States increased slightly in 1995



This slight increase in payments to the United States was more than compensated for by higher receipts generated by Americans travelling in Canada

(+10% to \$6.3 billion). As a result, the gap between the two amounts—Canada's travel account deficit with the United States—fell 12% to \$3.6 billion.

Fourth quarter 1995

Both the receipts and payments in the international travel account reached new peaks in the fourth quarter of 1995, at \$3.1 billion and \$4.3 billion respectively. The \$1.2 billion difference—the international travel account deficit—represented a 4.3% increase from the third quarter of 1995.

Even though the percentage increase in the receipts from American visitors (+8.5%) was greater

than the increase in payments by Canadians travelling in the United States (+6.4%), the travel account deficit with the United States still rose, reaching \$901 million. Meanwhile, the difference between payments by Canadians travelling in countries other than the United States and receipts from overseas visitors also increased in the fourth quarter, rising by 9.8% to \$302 million.

For further information on this release, contact Ruth Martin (613-951-1791, fax: 613-951-2909), International Travel Section, Education, Culture and Tourism Division. □

International travel receipts and payments

	First quarter 1994	Second quarter 1994	Third quarter 1994	Fourth quarter 1994	1994	First quarter 1995 ^r	Second quarter 1995 ^r	Third quarter 1995 ^r	Fourth quarter 1995 ^p	1995 ^p
seasonally adjusted ¹										
\$ millions										
United States										
Receipts	1,371	1,363	1,428	1,573	5,734	1,616	1,554	1,510	1,639	6,320
Payments	2,581	2,662	2,183	2,398	9,824	2,531	2,455	2,388	2,540	9,914
Balance	-1,210	-1,299	-755	-826	-4,090	-915	-901	-878	-901	-3,594
All other countries										
Receipts	994	1,085	1,178	1,203	4,460	1,238	1,314	1,377	1,430	5,359
Payments	1,460	1,598	1,489	1,578	6,125	1,618	1,626	1,652	1,732	6,628
Balance	-467	-513	-310	-375	-1,665	-380	-312	-275	-302	-1,269
Total, all countries										
Receipts	2,364	2,448	2,606	2,776	10,194	2,854	2,868	2,887	3,069	11,679
Payments	4,041	4,260	3,672	3,976	15,949	4,149	4,081	4,040	4,272	16,542
Balance	-1,677	-1,812	-1,065	-1,201	-5,755	-1,295	-1,213	-1,153	-1,203	-4,863
unadjusted										
\$ millions										
United States										
Receipts	692	1,422	2,586	1,034	5,734	843	1,610	2,748	1,119	6,320
Payments	2,778	2,889	2,194	1,963	9,824	2,765	2,726	2,334	2,089	9,914
Balance	-2,086	-1,467	392	-929	-4,090	-1,922	-1,116	414	-970	-3,594
All other countries										
Receipts	480	1,142	2,140	698	4,460	590	1,383	2,548	838	5,359
Payments	1,577	1,497	1,696	1,355	6,125	1,704	1,571	1,847	1,506	6,628
Balance	-1,097	-355	444	-657	-1,665	-1,114	-188	701	-668	-1,269
Total, all countries										
Receipts	1,172	2,564	4,726	1,732	10,194	1,433	2,993	5,296	1,957	11,679
Payments	4,355	4,386	3,890	3,318	15,949	4,469	4,297	4,181	3,595	16,542
Balance	-3,183	-1,822	836	-1,586	-5,755	-3,036	-1,304	1,115	-1,638	-4,863

¹ Seasonally adjusted data may not add to totals due to rounding.

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Unemployment insurance

December 1995 (preliminary)

In 1995, Canadians received \$13.7 billion (unadjusted) in unemployment insurance (UI) payments, including regular and special benefits, down 12.9% from the previous year. Benefit payments have been decreasing since 1992, when a record \$19.3 billion was paid. In December, Canadians collected \$1.1 billion, down 1.9% from December 1994.

Number receiving regular UI benefits

	Dec. 1995	Nov. 1995 to Dec. 1995
	seasonally adjusted	
	% change	
Canada	742,290	-0.7
Newfoundland	39,650	-3.3
Prince Edward Island	9,970	0.8
Nova Scotia	37,550	1.2
New Brunswick	43,870	0.3
Quebec	255,550	-1.5
Ontario	179,680	0.9
Manitoba	19,140	-1.3
Saskatchewan	15,020	-1.7
Alberta	52,630	1.2
British Columbia	86,020	0.8
Yukon	1,340	4.1
Northwest Territories	1,340	-0.1

The number of Canadians receiving regular benefits declined a slight 0.7% to 742,000 in December, bringing to a halt the rising numbers of the six previous months. The decrease reflects the growth in employment reported in December by the Labour Force Survey.

In December, 255,000 individuals applied for unemployment insurance benefits, a 3.2% decrease from November. On an unadjusted basis, 3.1 million people submitted claims in 1995, 3.2% more than in 1994.

Note: Unless noted, all figures in this release are seasonally adjusted. Most who collect unemployment insurance benefits are paid regular benefits. In addition to regular benefits, claimants can qualify for special benefits (for example, training, maternity, sickness and fishing benefits).

Unemployment insurance statistics

	Nov. 1995	Dec. 1995	Nov. 1995 to Dec. 1995
	seasonally adjusted		
	% change		
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	747 ^P	742 ^P	-0.7
Reg. payments (\$ millions)	786.0	841.2	7.0
Claims ('000)	264	255	-3.2
	Dec. 1994	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1994 to Dec. 1995
	unadjusted		
	% change		
All beneficiaries ('000)	1,060	1,005 ^P	-5.2
Reg. beneficiaries ('000)	827	771 ^P	-6.8
Claims ('000)	314	306	-2.4
Payments (\$ millions)	1,143.6	1,121.7	-1.9
	Year-to-date (January to December)		
	1994	1995	1994 to 1995
	% change		
Claims ('000)	2,992	3,089	3.2
Payments (\$ millions)	15,791.4	13,748.2	-12.9

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants paid regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 26 (series 1.6), 5700-5717 and 5735-5736.

The December 1995 issue of *Unemployment insurance statistics* (73-001, \$16/\$160) will be the last issue. It will contain data for October, November and December, and will be available in March. See "How to order publications". Summary statistics will continue to be available in *The Daily* each month.

For further information on this release, contact Michael Scrim (613-951-4090), Labour Division (fax: 613-951-4087, the Internet: labour@statcan.ca). ■

Crude oil and natural gas

December 1995 and 1995

In December, exports of crude oil and natural gas reached record levels. Natural gas exports rose 10.0% to 7 459 900 cubic metres, while crude oil exports rose 5.1% to 5 549 900 cubic metres.

Continued strong exports to the United States led to a 2.7% increase in natural gas production compared with December 1994. By contrast, crude oil production weakened, declining slightly from December 1994.

Exports of natural gas rose a solid 11.0% in 1995, 13.3% in 1994, and 8.8% in 1993. Record exports in 1995 were boosted substantially by growing demand from electric co-generation facilities in the United States. Over 53% of Canada's annual natural gas production is exported to the United States.

In 1995, crude oil exports accelerated, helped by pipeline expansion that has increased the flow to the United States. Crude oil exports increased 7.6% in 1995, compared with a 7.0% advance in 1994. Less reliance on shipments from the Persian Gulf has meant increased demand for Canadian and Mexican crude oil.

Production of natural gas and crude oil advanced solidly in 1995. Natural gas production increased 6.7% to a record 148 184 600 000 cubic metres, while production of crude oil rose 3.0% to 113 776 700 cubic metres.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 530 and 539.

The December 1995 issue of *Crude petroleum and natural gas production* (26-006-XPB, \$18/\$180) will be available the last week of March. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Gerry O'Connor (613-951-3562), Energy Section, Industry Division.

Crude oil and natural gas

	Dec. 1994	Dec. 1995	Dec. 1994 to Dec. 1995
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	9 629.0	9 604.8	-0.3
Exports	5 281.3	5 549.9	5.1
Imports ²	3 437.2	2 493.9	-27.4
Refinery receipts	7 910.4	6 915.2	-12.6
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	13 120.5	13 476.2	2.7
Exports	6 781.4	7 459.9	10.0
Canadian sales ⁴	6 789.5	7 707.5	13.5
	1994	1995	1994 to 1995
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons¹			
Production	110 451.5	113 776.7	3.0
Exports	57 001.1	61 357.0	7.6
Imports ²	36 090.6	34 264.1	-5.1
Refinery receipts	89 538.1	87 586.2	-2.2
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas³			
Marketable production	138 858.5	148 184.6	6.7
Exports	71 403.0	79 234.0	11.0
Canadian sales ⁴	61 122.3	63 731.2	4.3

¹ Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, industry own-use, etc.

² Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data differs from International Trade Division estimates due to timing differences and the inclusion in "trade" of crude oil landed in Canada for re-export.

³ Disposition may differ from production due to inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.

⁴ Includes direct sales.

Export and import price indexes

December 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 December 1995 for the five commodity sections and major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1986=100) are also available on a customs basis. The indexes are listed from January 1986 to December 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 the major commodity groups are also now available on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3611-3616, 3618-3629, 3651 and 3685.

The December 1995 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$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. ■

Canada/European Union/United States reconciliation of merchandise trade

1992

Canada, the United States and the European Union have agreed on a set of reconciled 1992 merchandise trade statistics for bilateral trade.

For reconciliation purposes, Canada's published exports for 1992 have been adjusted upward by 10% to \$12,392 million; the corresponding European Union imports have been reduced by approximately 7% to arrive at the same figure. The largest adjustment to Canadian exports is to account for non-reported goods; the largest for European Union imports is to remove freight and insurance charges.

Canadian imports have been adjusted upward by less than 1%; the European Union's exports were increased by approximately 9% to arrive at a westbound reconciled figure of \$14,444 million. European Union exports for 1992 have been adjusted by \$994 million to account for goods that arrived in Canada via other countries (mostly from the United States).

The reconciliation's series of adjustments place the Canadian, U.S. and European data on the same

conceptual footing and provide a clearer understanding of the merchandise trade flows. The adjustments do not represent revisions to the officially published figures of any country.

For further information on this release, contact Suzie Carpentier (613-951-9647, fax: 613-951-0117), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. ■

Consolidated government finance

1992/93 to 1994/95

Consolidated government revenues (federal, provincial, territorial and local) in fiscal year 1994/95 reached \$303.0 billion, while consolidated expenditures totalled \$357.6 billion. The resulting deficit was \$54.6 billion. Revised estimates of the consolidated data for 1992/93 and 1993/94 are also available. These data are presented on a financial management system (FMS) basis.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2807-2820.

For further information on this release, contact Paul Blouin (613-951-8563) or Robert Loggie (613-951-1809), Public Administration Section, Public Institutions Division.

Custom tabulations of these data are available. For more information about the products and services of Public Institutions Division, contact Susan Stobert (613-951-1781). ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending February 7, 1996

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending February 7, 1996 decreased 17.8% from the same period of last year, to 4.1 million tonnes; the number of cars loaded decreased 16.4%.

Intermodal (piggyback) traffic totalled 288 000 tonnes, a 17.3 drop from the same seven-day period of 1995. The year-to-date figures showed a decrease of 10.5% from last year.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) decreased 17.7% from a year earlier during the seven days. This brought the year-to-date total to 23.7 million tonnes, a 9.6% decrease from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

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

Interim list of changes to municipal boundaries, status and names

January 2, 1995 to January 1, 1996

A report titled *Interim list of changes to municipal boundaries, status and names* (92FOOO9XPB, \$25) summarizes the changes to municipal boundaries, status and names that occurred between January 2, 1995 and January 1, 1996. These changes have been processed by Geography Division, and are based on information received from the provinces and territories.

Interim list of changes to municipal boundaries, status and names (92FOOO9XPB, \$25), released annually, is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Geo-Help (613-951-3889, fax: 613-951-0569), Geography Division. ■

Chicken production

1995(preliminary)

Preliminary estimates for 1995 of chicken production are now available.

Final estimates for 1995 of chicken production will be released on April 26 in *Production of poultry and eggs, 1995*, (23-202-XPB, \$36). See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Robert Plourde (613-951-8716), Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure in Canada, 1994

Catalogue number 62-201-XPB

(Canada: \$30; United States: US\$36; other countries: 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.



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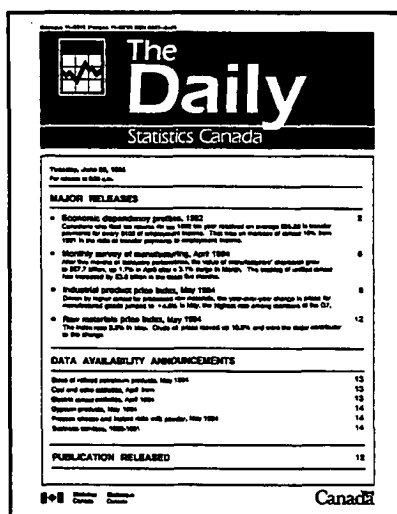
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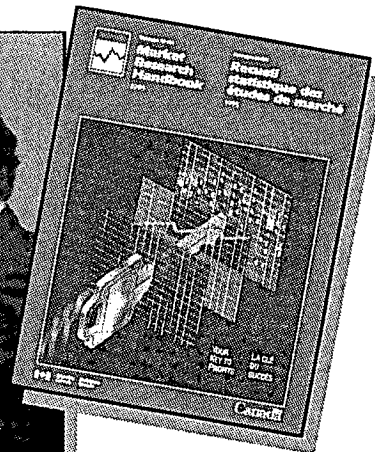
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