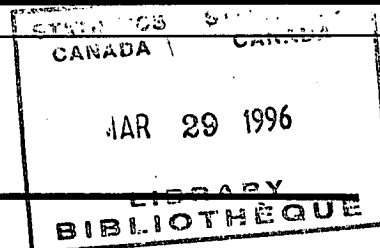




The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 29, 1996
For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, January 1996** 3
Exports edged down to \$21.4 billion in the first month of 1996, falling 1.8% from December's record. The combined effects of lower exports and slightly increased imports pulled down Canada's trade surplus to \$2.6 billion in January from a record \$3.1 billion the month before.
- **Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, January 1996** 6
The new year began with a pickup in economic activity, as output advanced in several industry sectors. Overall, gross domestic product at factor cost rose 0.4% in January, leaving production at its highest level since December 1994.

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Last paper edition of *The Daily*

Infomat: the paper alternative

On Monday, April 1, *The Daily* will stop being a paper-based publication and become an electronic information service. We would like to thank our paper version subscribers for their constant support over the years. A growing number of *The Daily's* readers have been making the switch to the electronic edition, which is available free of charge every business day at 8:30 a.m., official release time, via the Internet. Many readers, however, prefer a paper version.

If you would like to go on receiving a printed publication, then *Infomat* is the answer. Printed every Friday, *Infomat* is a concise, crisp review, which summarizes the week's economic and social releases. Like *The Daily*, it will keep you up-to-date on consumer prices, GDP, imports and exports, employment and unemployment figures, and dozens of other key indicators. To begin your weekly subscription to *Infomat* (11-002-XPE, \$140 annually), see "How to order publications". For further information about the publication, contact the Editor, Anna Kemeny (613-951-1197), Communications Division.

If your choice is the electronic *Daily*, you will find it in many formats on the Internet. On the World Wide Web, *The Daily* is located at <http://www.statcan.ca>. It can also be accessed from Statistics Canada's gopher service, TALON at gopher.gopher.statcan.ca. Best of all, e-mail subscriptions are free. To have *The Daily* delivered right to your computer every business day, just request a subscription by sending an e-mail to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message type *subscribe daily Firstname Lastname*. For further information about the Internet connections, contact Michael Thoen (613-951-1208), Dissemination Division.



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MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

January 1996

Exports stood at \$21.4 billion in the first month of 1996, down 1.8% from December's record. Weaker sales of forestry and agricultural products caused most of the decline, despite continued strength in machinery exports and upward movements for industrial goods and energy products. While U.S.-bound shipments reached a 12-month high, shipments to all remaining partners, especially the European Union, lost ground.

Imports moved ahead by 0.7% to \$18.9 billion in January, bolstered by gains in automotive and energy products. In contrast to exports, most of this growth reflected strengthening shipments from Europe and non-OECD countries; imports from the United States and Japan declined in January.

The combined effects of lower exports and slightly increased imports pulled Canada's trade surplus down to \$2.6 billion in January from a record \$3.1 billion the month before. While our surplus with the United States rose to a new record, the balance with the European Union moved into deficit. Surpluses with Japan and non-OECD trading partners declined.

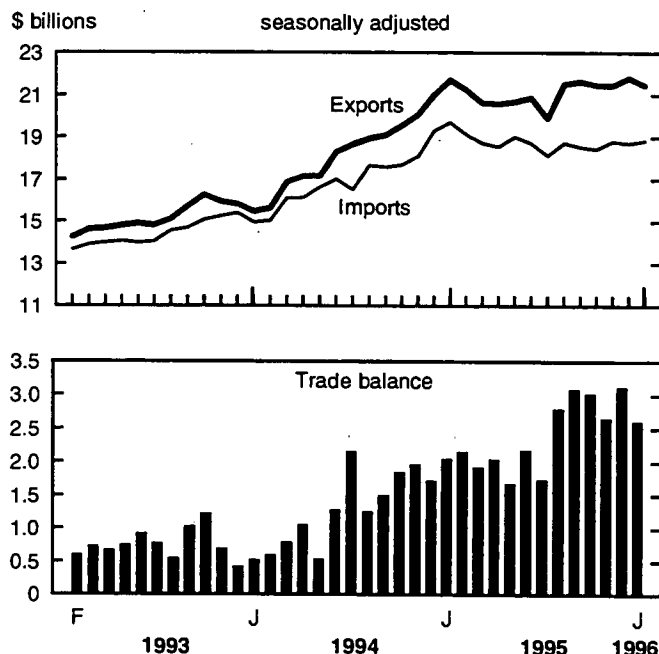
Note to readers

Merchandise trade is only one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services. In the fourth quarter of 1995, the overall merchandise trade surplus of \$8.8 billion contrasted with a current account deficit of \$1.3 billion.

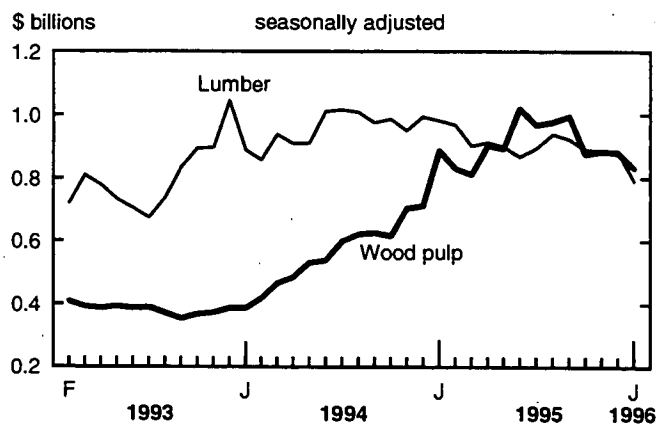
Exports edge down from December's record

Much of the export slowdown in January emanated from the forestry sector; declines were registered for all forestry exports, particularly lumber and wood pulp. Lumber's weakness continued to reflect softer prices and reduced sales to Japan, as total exports declined 11.0%. Lower overseas shipments more than offset increased sales to the United States, where construction of new homes advanced 4.4%. Meanwhile, exports of wood pulp fell 5.7%, with holiday shutdowns extended at some mills to reduce inventories. Elsewhere in forestry, exports of newsprint and other paper and paperboard products declined 3.6% and 8.2% respectively.

Exports, imports and trade balance



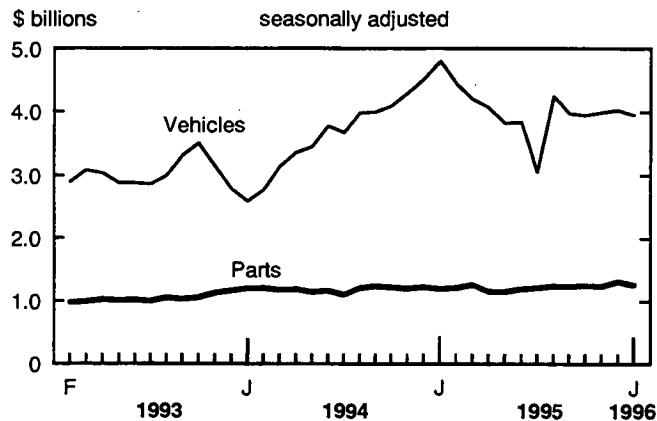
Exports of forestry products



Agricultural exports dropped 11.5% in January, on the heels of a three-month growth spurt. The decline came as grain, meat, and fish exports weakened from high levels posted in the fourth-quarter. Weakness in these shipments outweighed gains in alcoholic beverages and live animals.

Automotive exports declined in January (-2.5%), after reaching a four-month peak in December. Much of the drop was in auto parts (-4.0%), reflecting a dip in vehicle output south of the border. Exports of cars (-1.5%) and trucks (-3.1%) slowed as well, as U.S. sales eased back from robust levels in December.

Exports of automotive products



Energy exports were little changed in January, as increased sales of natural gas and crude oil were offset by falling demand for coal, refined petroleum and electricity. Declining refinery exports reflected reduced demand in the United States. Meanwhile, an increase in exports of natural gas was entirely related to price growth.

January's export decline was mitigated somewhat by increased shipments of industrial goods, machinery and equipment, and consumer goods. An overall increase of 1.0% for industrial goods reflected increased metal and alloy shipments and growing exports of selected ores. Machinery exports (+0.9%) gained on the strength of aircraft and agricultural machinery sales to the United States as well as exports of specialized equipment and tools. January's jump was the third straight monthly increase in exports of machinery.

Autos and energy bolster imports

Automotive products accounted for the bulk of import growth in January, moving up 5.2% from December's level. Car imports advanced the most (+13.5%), boosted by stronger shipments from Europe and Asia. Truck imports were up 12.2%, more than offsetting declines incurred over the holidays. A marginal gain in parts imports (+0.2%) reflected lower

shipments from Japan and extended holiday downtime at some assembly plants in Canada.

Imports of energy products grew 22.9% in January, as crude oil recovered from a dip in December, and petroleum and coal products advanced for a third straight month. Since peaking in April of last year, the trend for energy products had been fairly flat. In more recent months, however, it appears to be turning up.

Imports of industrial goods and agricultural products advanced marginally in January. Low growth in industrial goods and materials reflected the modest pace of Canadian manufacturing shipments in January; up 0.5%, these imports garnered most of their strength from iron and steel products, precious metals, and fabricated materials. In the agricultural sector, there were many offsetting movements, leading to an overall increase of 0.5%; beverages imports gained the most.

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. Revisions to previous years are made at the time of release of April data.

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, 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-XPB, \$19/\$182). It will include 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 more detailed information on statistics, concepts and definitions contact Suzie Carpentier (613-951-9647), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division (1-800-294-5583). □

Merchandise trade of Canada

	Nov. 1995	Dec. 1995	Jan. 1996	Nov. 1995 to Dec. 1995	Dec. 1995 to Jan. 1996	Jan.- Dec. 1994	Jan.- Dec. 1995	Jan.- Dec. 1994 to Jan.- Dec. 1995	Jan. 1995 to Jan. 1996
seasonally adjusted, \$ current									
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change		
Principal trading partners									
Exports									
United States	16,973	17,322	17,434	2.1	0.6	177,881	201,795	13.4	-0.9
Japan	760	789	681	3.8	-13.7	9,332	11,382	22.0	-18.5
European Union	1,726	1,547	1,286	-10.4	-16.9	11,274	16,062	42.5	-9.8
Other OECD countries ¹	354	407	326	15.0	-19.9	4,073	4,196	3.0	-0.9
All other countries	1,635	1,765	1,717	8.0	-2.7	15,294	20,101	31.4	12.1
Total	21,447	21,831	21,443	1.8	-1.8	217,854	253,536	16.4	-1.3
Imports									
United States	14,273	14,417	14,281	1.0	-0.9	151,625	168,872	6.3	-3.8
Japan	637	631	609	-0.9	-3.5	8,239	8,364	1.5	-17.8
European Union	1,625	1,498	1,602	-7.8	6.9	16,113	19,954	23.8	-6.8
Other OECD countries ¹	539	580	721	7.6	24.3	7,231	7,730	6.9	2.7
All other countries	1,735	1,593	1,639	-8.2	2.9	19,599	20,332	3.7	-2.6
Total	18,809	18,719	18,852	-0.5	0.7	202,807	225,251	11.1	-4.2
Balance									
United States	2,700	2,905	3,153	...	...	26,256	32,923	...	...
Japan	123	158	72	...	...	1,093	3,018	...	...
European Union	101	49	-316	...	...	-4,839	-3,892	...	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-185	-173	-395	...	...	-3,158	-3,534	...	...
All other countries	-100	172	78	...	...	-4,305	-231	...	...
Total	2,638	3,112	2,591	...	...	15,047	28,285	...	...
Principal commodity groupings²									
Exports									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,731	1,833	1,623	5.9	-11.5	17,717	19,738	11.4	-12.3
Energy products	1,868	2,025	2,013	8.4	-0.6	21,312	23,359	9.6	-0.1
Forestry products	3,312	3,333	3,084	0.6	-7.5	31,161	39,240	25.9	-1.7
Industrial goods and materials	4,067	4,005	4,047	-1.5	1.0	39,459	48,324	22.5	-2.0
Machinery and equipment	4,514	4,741	4,782	5.0	0.9	43,021	52,345	21.7	13.9
Automotive products	5,233	5,347	5,215	2.2	-2.5	57,919	63,136	9.0	-13.2
Other consumer goods	626	632	652	1.0	3.2	5,851	7,108	21.5	19.2
Special transactions trade ³	904	892	860	-1.3	-3.6	9,422	10,442	10.8	0.1
Imports									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,097	1,105	1,110	0.7	0.5	12,576	13,372	6.3	-0.5
Energy products	702	568	698	-19.1	22.9	7,146	8,109	13.5	-2.1
Forestry products	158	151	152	-4.4	0.7	1,810	2,036	12.5	-13.6
Industrial goods and materials	3,653	3,664	3,681	0.3	0.5	38,734	44,956	16.1	-5.2
Machinery and equipment	6,566	6,489	6,308	-1.2	-2.8	65,575	75,609	15.3	1.8
Automotive products	4,092	4,077	4,287	-0.4	5.2	48,318	50,375	4.3	-16.1
Other consumer goods	2,070	2,118	2,104	2.3	-0.7	23,519	25,568	8.7	-1.3
Special transactions trade ³	493	479	474	-2.8	-1.0	4,881	5,468	12.0	3.0

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey.² Figures not adjusted to Balance of Payments basis.³ Mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, goods returned to country of origin.

Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry

January 1996

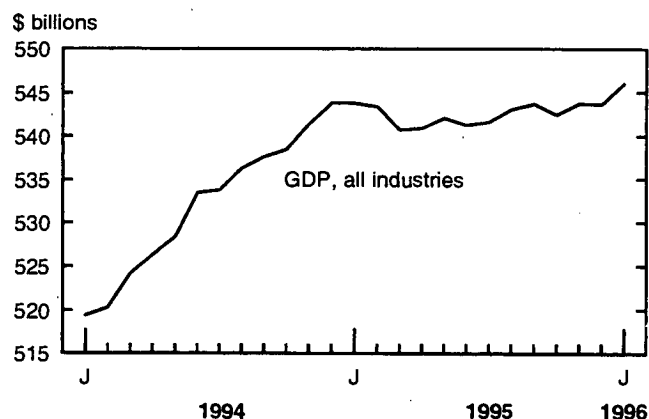
The new year began with a pickup in economic activity, as output advanced in several industry sectors. Overall, gross domestic product at factor cost rose 0.4% in January, leaving production at its highest level since December 1994.

Note to readers:

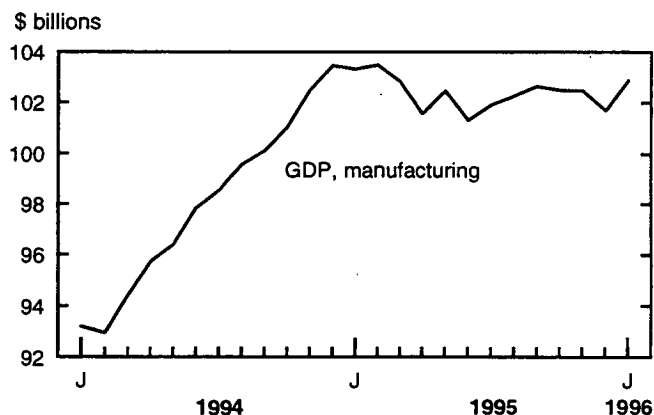
The gross domestic product (GDP) of an industry is the value added by labour and capital in transforming inputs purchased from other industries into output.

Monthly GDP by industry is valued at 1986 prices. The estimates presented here are seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

Growth across many industries



A good month for manufacturers



The increase paralleled solid gains in employment, mostly in services, in December and January. Employment improved again in February, suggesting that economic growth will continue. However, labour disputes late in February and in March, may affect economic performance in the second half of the first quarter.

The growth in January reflected a jump in manufacturing and widespread gains among the service-producing industries. Production in the mining sector also improved, but activity in construction and government services weakened again.

Manufacturers start the year on the right foot

Manufacturing production jumped 1.2% in January. Manufacturers of electrical and electronic products, and primary metals raised output the most. Gains in the output of chemicals, paper and allied products as well as fabricated metal products also contributed to the increase. Lower production of transportation equipment moderated the gain in manufacturing. Overall, production rose in 13 of the 21 major industry groups compared with 10 in November and only 6 in December.

Fabrication of electrical and electronic products rose 3.9%, following a 3.7% decline in December. Producers of office machinery continued to increase output rapidly, helped by strong demand abroad. The gain was more modest for electronic equipment. Following a recent period of restructuring, production in this industry remained below its peak in November 1995. Nevertheless, exports remained high as demand on foreign markets continued to be strong.

Producers of primary metals boosted output 6.1%, following several months of low production. Smelting and refining of non-ferrous metals accounted for about half of the gain. Production of aluminum, which was affected by a strike in October, returned to earlier levels. Refining of radioactive minerals also rose sharply. Manufacturers of steel pipe and tube and aluminum products and operators of iron foundries all increased production sharply in January.

Manufacturers of paper and allied products raised output 1.5% in January after a 1.0% gain in December. Manufacturers of newsprint raised their output, but producers of pulp, and paperboard and building board kept production unchanged. In all cases, shipments fell sharply resulting in large increases in inventories

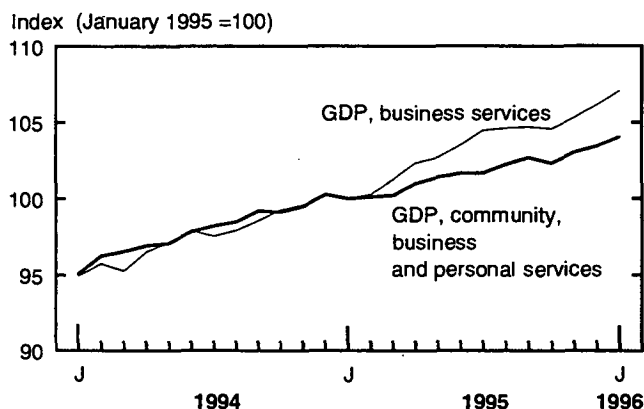
of finished products. Prices for these products fell throughout January.

Manufacturers of transportation equipment cut back production 2.6%, offsetting the gain in December. Motor vehicle assembly eased 2.8%, as several plants slowed production for inventory control. Production of motor vehicle parts also receded, affected by lower foreign demand and the slower pace in motor vehicle assembly.

Growth in business services remains steady

Activity in community, business and personal services rose a further 0.6% in January, after growing on average 0.4% a month over the previous five months. Growth in business services remained high for a third consecutive month, with computer services leading the gain in January. The growth in health services that began in November 1995 continued into January.

Business services expand rapidly



Activity in amusement and recreational services was unchanged in January, after declining two of the previous three months. Activity by lottery corporations and spending on recreational services have softened recently.

Real estate activity rebounds

Financial and related services advanced 0.3% in January following December's pause. A rebound in real estate activity and a strong gain in mutual funds led the increase.

Housing resales improved in January for the first time since August 1995. Although the gain was

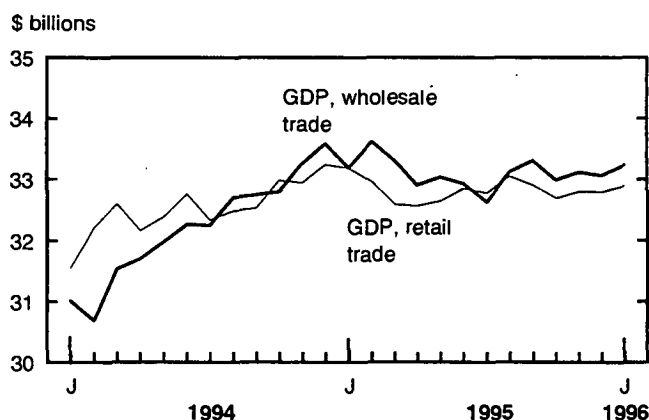
concentrated in Quebec and Ontario, sales also advanced in the western provinces excluding British Columbia.

Assets and sales of mutual funds soared in January, and in contrast with last year's disappointing results during the RRSP season. Conditions were more favourable this year due to lower interest rates and strong stock market activity.

Retail sales continue to seesaw

Activity in retail trade improved 0.3% in January. Motor vehicle dealers' sales advanced, ending a series of declines that began in September 1995. Retailers of motor vehicle parts also had a good month. Gains in general merchandise stores (such as discount stores and large store formats) and by retailers of semi-durable goods (books, hardware and toys among others) were also sizeable. Sales by these retailers had shown signs of weakness during the fall.

Sales hover around a flat trend



Retailers of furniture and appliances continued to record lower sales. Purchases in supermarkets were particularly weak in January.

As in retail trade, activity in wholesale trade has remained almost unchanged for several months. In January however, wholesaling activity rose 0.5%, reflecting higher sales of motor vehicles, farm machinery, and food, beverage, drug and tobacco products.

Growth narrows in the mining sector

Output in the mining sector increased 1.0%, due mainly to higher production of natural gas and stronger activity in base metal mines.

Production of uranium in base metal mines was particularly strong. The gain was also noticeable in smelting and refining of non-ferrous metals in the manufacturing sector. Higher production of nickel accentuated the increase.

Elsewhere, production of coal fell for a second consecutive month, as foreign demand softened.

Activity in construction slides again

Activity in construction fell 0.6% in January following a similar decrease in December. After

showing some momentum towards the end of 1995, home building dropped 1.7% in January on the heels of a 1.0% decline in December.

Higher non-residential building construction activity moderated the overall decline. Activity on commercial projects improved but this was partly offset by lower activity on industrial projects.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4670-4674.

The January 1996 issue of *Gross domestic product by industry* (15-001-XPB, \$14/\$140), will be released in April. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Michel Girard (613-951-9145), Industry Measures and Analysis Division. □

Gross domestic product at factor cost by industry, at 1986 prices

	Aug. 1995 ^r	Sept. 1995 ^r	Oct. 1995 ^r	Nov. 1995 ^r	Dec. 1995 ^r	Jan. 1996 ^p	Dec. 1995 to Jan. 1996	Jan. 1996	Jan. 1995 to Jan. 1996
seasonally adjusted									
	month-to-month % change						\$ change ¹	\$ level ¹	% change
Total economy	0.3	0.1	-0.2	0.2	-0.0	0.4	2,366	545,998	0.4
Goods-producing industries	0.3	0.2	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.7	1,264	186,868	-1.3
Services-producing industries	0.3	0.1	-0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	1,102	359,130	1.3
Business sector	0.4	0.2	-0.3	0.3	-0.0	0.5	2,446	454,809	0.7
Goods	0.3	0.2	-0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.7	1,295	185,957	-1.3
Agriculture	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.5	61	11,680	2.8
Fishing and trapping	-15.6	2.3	4.7	-2.3	1.8	-1.3	-10	784	-3.5
Logging	6.0	3.6	-0.8	-2.2	0.3	-3.0	-88	2,878	6.7
Mining, quarrying and oil wells	0.3	0.3	-0.5	-0.8	1.0	1.0	240	23,924	-1.1
Manufacturing	0.3	0.4	-0.1	-0.0	-0.8	1.2	1,214	102,899	-0.4
Construction	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	-0.6	-0.6	-160	26,676	-10.5
Other utility industries	-0.2	-1.1	-2.0	2.9	0.9	0.2	38	17,117	5.2
Services	0.4	0.2	-0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4	1,151	268,852	2.2
Transportation and storage	-0.2	1.2	-1.4	0.3	-0.2	0.5	119	23,825	-2.2
Communications	-0.4	0.2	1.0	0.1	1.4	0.5	112	23,693	6.9
Wholesale trade	1.5	0.6	-1.0	0.4	-0.2	0.5	170	33,233	0.1
Retail trade	0.8	-0.4	-0.7	0.3	-0.0	0.3	100	32,890	-0.9
Finance, insurance and real estate	0.2	-0.3	0.4	0.3	-0.0	0.3	250	86,802	2.7
Community, business and personal services	0.6	0.4	-0.4	0.7	0.4	0.6	400	68,410	4.0
Non-business sector	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	-0.0	-0.1	-80	91,189	-1.1
Goods	0.3	0.3	-0.1	1.3	-0.3	-3.3	-31	911	-3.9
Services	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-49	90,278	-1.1
Government services	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	-0.1	-0.4	-115	32,231	-2.8
Community and personal services	-0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	119	54,769	0.1
Other services	-1.0	0.5	-0.7	0.0	0.5	-1.6	-53	3,277	-3.9
Other aggregations									
Industrial production	0.3	0.2	-0.4	0.2	-0.3	1.0	1,461	144,851	0.1
Non-durable manufacturing	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	1.0	435	43,449	-2.0
Durable manufacturing	1.0	0.9	0.1	0.3	-0.9	1.3	779	59,451	0.7

^r Revised figures.^p Preliminary figures.¹ Millions of dollars at annual rate.

OTHER RELEASES

Sales of refined petroleum products February 1996 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 042 700 cubic metres in February 1996, up 5.0% from February 1995. There were no declines in the seven major groups that comprise the preliminary refined petroleum products estimates. The largest sales increases were recorded for light fuel oil (+153 700 cubic metres or +18.4%), heavy fuel oil (+66 400 cubic metres or +11.4%) and diesel fuel oil (+48 000 cubic metres or +3.4%).

In the first two months of 1996, sales increased for six of the seven major product groups. Strong sales of light fuel oil were mainly due to the colder than normal temperatures this winter, compared with last winter's milder weather. The increase in sales of heavy fuel oil was largely due to higher consumption by the industrial sector, in particular electric utilities.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	Feb. 1995	Feb. 1996	Feb. 1995 to Feb. 1996
	thousands of cubic me- tres		% change
Total, all products	6 709.5	7 042.7	5.0
Motor gasoline	2 658.3	2 679.0	0.8
Diesel fuel oil	1 415.9	1 463.9	3.4
Light fuel oil	834.5	988.2	18.4
Heavy fuel oil	584.0	650.4	11.4
Aviation turbo fuels	353.7	368.4	4.2
Petrochemical feed- stocks ¹	354.1	371.8	5.0
All other refined products	509.0	521.0	2.4

	Jan. 1995 to Feb. 1995	Jan. 1996 to Feb. 1996	Jan.- Feb. 1995 to Jan.- Feb. 1996
Total, all products	13 352.3	14 244.3	6.7
Motor gasoline	5 308.0	5 461.6	2.9
Diesel fuel oil	2 797.4	2 945.1	5.3
Light fuel oil	1 545.9	1 942.1	25.6
Heavy fuel oil	1 198.8	1 245.9	3.9
Aviation turbo fuels	732.0	797.9	9.0
Petrochemical feedstocks	744.9	735.4	-1.3
All other refined products	1 025.3	1 116.3	8.9

¹ Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce petroleum-based chemicals.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

The February 1996 issue of *Refined petroleum products* (45-004-XPB, \$20/\$200), will be available the third week of May. See "How to order publications".

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

Farm taxation data 1994

Average net operating income (before depreciation) of farm businesses rose a modest 1.0% in 1994, to \$20,728 per farm. Average operating revenues increased 6.5% and average operating expenses rose 7.6%.

Higher grain and oilseed revenues accounted largely for the overall rise in average operating revenues. Average program payments to farmers continued to trend down (-40.0%), reflecting improved growing conditions and higher market returns. Average operating expenses rose mainly due to higher crop production expenses, cattle purchases and feed costs.

In 1994, potato farms posted the strongest increase in average net operating income, up 48.2% from 1993. Their average net operating income increased because of a 26.7% growth (+\$55,131 per farm) in their market revenues due to stronger sales of potatoes. Higher prices, in response to lower supplies and strong demand, explained this growth.

Grain and oilseed farms, which accounted for 41.4% of the farms in 1994, posted a 10.4% increase in average net operating income (to \$21,608 per farm). Grain and oilseed revenues (+23.0%) accounted for most of the gain. Low world supplies and strong demand strengthened prices.

Dairy farms, which had the highest operating margin at 25.2 cents per dollar of revenue, posted a 4.1% rise in average net operating income. Dairy revenues accounted for most of the rise. Milk quotas were increased because of low domestic stocks of butter and cheese.

Cattle farms had the lowest average net operating income, at \$8,884 per farm, down 17.9% from 1993. Rising expenses, related mainly to the expansion of the cattle sector, outpaced an overall increase in average operating revenues.

Average net operating income of farm businesses varied widely across the provinces, from \$18,332 in Ontario to \$33,445 in Prince Edward Island.

Average net operating income per farm (before depreciation) and operating margins

	1994 average net operating income	1993 to 1994	1994 operating margins
	\$	% change	c
Type of farm			
Potato	59,728	48.2	18.6
Poultry and egg	45,291	-7.2	10.9
Dairy	44,809	4.1	25.2
Livestock combination	36,551	-20.3	15.1
Tobacco	35,333	-23.9	18.0
Greenhouse and nursery	33,373	5.2	9.5
Hog	25,064	-14.7	10.1
Grain and oilseed	21,608	10.4	24.3
Fruit and vegetable	17,122	11.4	13.5
Others ¹	9,710	-11.4	12.1
Cattle	8,884	-17.9	7.3
Total	20,728	1.0	16.2

¹ Includes other animal specialty, sheep, goats and lambs, mushrooms and maple products.

Note: These estimates cover unincorporated farms with gross operating revenues of \$10,000 and over and corporations with total sales (gross revenues plus joint venture income) of \$25,000 and over, and for which 51% or more of their sales come from agricultural activities. The estimates presented in this release also include communal farming organizations. Operating margin is defined as one dollar less operating expenses per dollar of revenue.

For further information on this release, contact Lina Di Piéto (613-951-3171), Agriculture Division. ■

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending March 14, 1996

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending March 14, 1996, increased 6.2% to 4.8 million tonnes. The number of cars loaded increased 5.9% from the same period last year.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 288 000 tonnes, a 17.8% decrease from the same period last year. The year-to-date figures show a decrease of 8.6%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 4.5% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 48.8 million tonnes, a 2.4% 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. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

January 1996

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 54 618 tonnes in January 1996, down 13.1% from 62 859 tonnes (revised) in January 1995. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The January 1996 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006-XPB, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Doug Higgins (613-951-9837), Industry Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

January 1996

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1986=100) on a balance-of-payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to January 1996 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. Price indexes are listed from January 1986 to January 1996. 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 January 1996 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. ■

Coal and coke statistics

January 1996

Coal production totalled 6 271 kilotonnes in January 1996, down 5.2% from January 1995.

Exports in January were 2 801 kilotonnes, up 9.2% from January 1995. Exports to Japan (the biggest consumer of Canadian coal) rose 8.7% to 1 318 kilotonnes during the same period.

Coke production in January 1996 decreased to 268 kilotonnes, down 6.0% from January 1995.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9.

The January 1996 issue of *Coal and coke statistics* (45-002, \$11/\$110) will be available the first week of April. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact André Lefebvre (613-951-3560), Energy Section, Industry Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

February 1996

Grain prices continued to rise during February on the basis of tight 1995-96 supplies and strong demand. Traders' attentions have been focused on the U.S. winter wheat crop which has suffered through a dry, windy winter and some premature thawing. The majority of the wheat grown in the United States is winter wheat. An average or poor 1996 crop would provide world exporters other than the United States with good market opportunities, leave supplies tight and keep world prices high. The only weak note in the February prices was the oilseed complex which suffered from a lack of export demand for soyoil and soymeal and the approach of a good South American soybean crop.

These prices and other market news are discussed in the February situation report contained in the January issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$144) which will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Jeannine Fleury (613-951-3859) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

Oils and fats

January 1996

Production of all types of deodorized oils in January 1996 totalled 100 182 tonnes, an increase of 22.0% from 82 104 tonnes in December 1995.

The domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 11 434 tonnes; the deodorized shortening oil totalled 25 137 tonnes; and the deodorized salad oil totalled 29 130 tonnes in January 1996.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 185.

The January 1996 issue of *Oils and fats* (32-006-XPB, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613) 951-3511, Industry Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

January 1996 (preliminary)

The receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns totalled an estimated \$1.72 billion in January 1996.

For further information on this release, contact William Birbeck (613-951-3506) Services, Science and Technology Division. ■

Dairy statistics

December 1995 to February 1996

Preliminary monthly dairy statistics covering the three months from December 1995 to February 1996 are now available. Final data will be included in the January-March 1996 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001QXPB, \$35/\$115) which will be released in May 1996. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Debbie Dupuis (1-800-465-1991 fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

Production and value of wildlife pelts

1993 (revised) and 1994 (preliminary)

Preliminary data for 1994 on the production and value of wildlife pelts are now available, as are revised data for 1993. Data are tabulated by province and territory.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5692-5699 and 9511-9515.

These data will be available in *Livestock statistics updates* (10-600E, \$144) in May 1996. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Barb McLaughlin (902-893-7251), Agriculture Division. ■

Manufacturing industries of Canada, sub-provincial areas 1993

Principal statistics for manufacturing industries are now available by industry, by either census division, economic region or census metropolitan area, for all provinces except Quebec. Data may be obtained in either print or electronic format.

Data for Quebec are being compiled by the Quebec Bureau of Statistics using microdata from the same Statistics Canada survey. These data are expected to become available in May 1996.

For further information on this release, contact R. Traversy (613-951-9497), Industry Division. ■

Value of shipments

	1993	1994	1993 to 1994 % change	Catalogue	Contact (613)
	\$ millions				
Industry (SIC)					
Malt and malt flour (1094)	x	216.8	...	32-250-XPB	P. Zylstra 951-3511
Other food products n.e.c. (1099)	x	3,462.3	...	32-250-XPB	P. Zylstra 951-3511
Other textile products including tire cord fabric (1998)	549.3	596.1	8.5	34-251-XPB	N. Charron 951-3510
Upholstery and coil spring (3051)	x	34.9	...	41-251-XPB	D. Higgins 951-9837
Other wire products (3059)	x	573.2	...	41-251-XPB	D. Higgins 951-9837
Machine shop (3081)	1,490.2	1,845.8	23.9	41-251-XPB	D. Higgins 951-9837
Electronic office, store and business machine (3362)	x	285.1	...	43-250-XPB	L. Vincent 951-3523
Other office, store and business machine (3369)	x	104.4	...	43-250-XPB	L. Vincent 951-3523

x Data are confidential.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

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Annual survey of manufactures 1994

The Annual Survey of Manufactures provides information on over 200 different industries. Principal statistics for each industry will be released as they become available. Data for the industries listed in the table below are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 5371, 5372, 5438, 5536, 6250, 6251, 6252 and 6253.

Data for the industries listed in the table will appear in *Food industries* (32-250-XPB, \$38), *Textile products industries* (34-251-XPB, \$38), *Fabricated metal products industries* (41-251-XPB, \$38) and *Electrical and electronic products industries* (43-250-XPB, \$38). The publications will be released at a later date. See "How to order publications".

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RELEASE DATES: APRIL 1996

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
1	The health of Canada's immigrants	1994-95
2	Health reports	Fourth quarter 1995
3	Building permits	February 1996
3	Help-wanted index	March 1996
4	Travel-log	Spring 1996
4	Labour force survey	March 1996
4	Job creation by company size class: Concentration and persistence of job gains and losses in Canadian companies	
9	Focus on culture	Spring 1996
10	Innovation in Canadian manufacturing enterprises	
11	Life events: How families change	1993
11	New housing price index	February 1996
15	New motor vehicle sales	February 1996
17	Monthly survey of manufacturing	February 1996
17	Travel between Canada and other countries	February 1996
18	Canadian economic observer	April 1996
23	Canadian international trade	February 1996
23	Consumer price index	March 1996
23	Composite index	March 1996
24	Canada's international transactions in securities	February 1996
24	Retail trade	February 1996
24	Unemployment insurance	February 1996
25	Employment, earnings and hours	February 1996
25	Wholesale trade	February 1996
26	Industrial product price index	March 1996
26	Raw materials price index	March 1996
30	Small Area Business and Labour Database CD-ROM	
30	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	February 1996
30	Field crop reporting series: March seeding intentions	
30	Release dates	May 1996

Use the command "DATES" to retrieve this calendar from CANSIM.