



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 7, 1996

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STATISTICS CANADA STATISTIQUE CANADA

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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Canadians owed \$339 billion more to foreign investors at the end of 1995 than they owned in foreign assets. However, this net foreign liability grew by only 0.5% in 1995, the third straight year of slow growth in Canadians' net foreign liability.

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Canada's  
international  
investment  
position  
1995

Bilan des  
investissements  
internationaux  
du Canada  
1995



### Canada's international investment position 1995

International investment, both in Canada and abroad, forms one of the cornerstones of Canada's economy. *Canada's international investment position* presents statistics on Canadian investment abroad, classifying the data by geographic area, industry and type of investment. It profiles foreign investment trends in a wide range of industries, sorting them by selected countries. As well, the report provides data series on portfolio investment instruments (including stocks, bonds and money market paper) and investment income.

*Canada's international investment position, 1995* (67-202-XPB, \$50), which includes annual data from 1985 to 1995, is now available. For historical data, refer to *Canada's international investment position, historical statistics, 1926 to 1992* (67-202-XPB, \$50). See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments Division.



Statistics  
Canada

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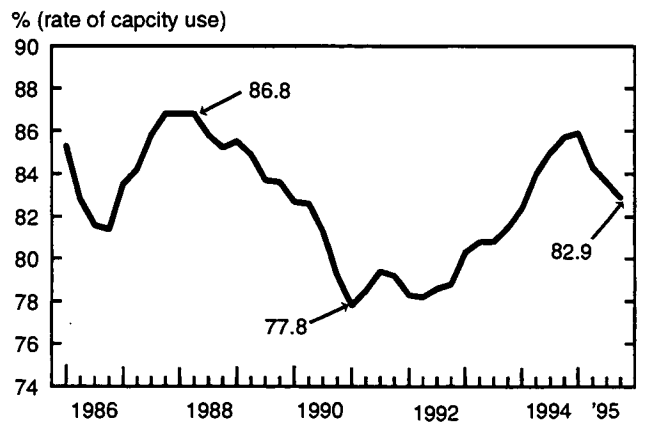
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Industrial capacity utilization rates

Fourth quarter 1995

Canadian industries cut their use of production capacity in the fourth quarter. This third consecutive quarterly cut came on the heels of weak consumer spending and reduced capital investment. In the fourth quarter of 1995, firms operated at 82.9% of capacity, off from 83.6% in the previous quarter and a sharp drop from the latest peak of 85.9% in the first quarter of 1995.

#### Capacity use down another notch



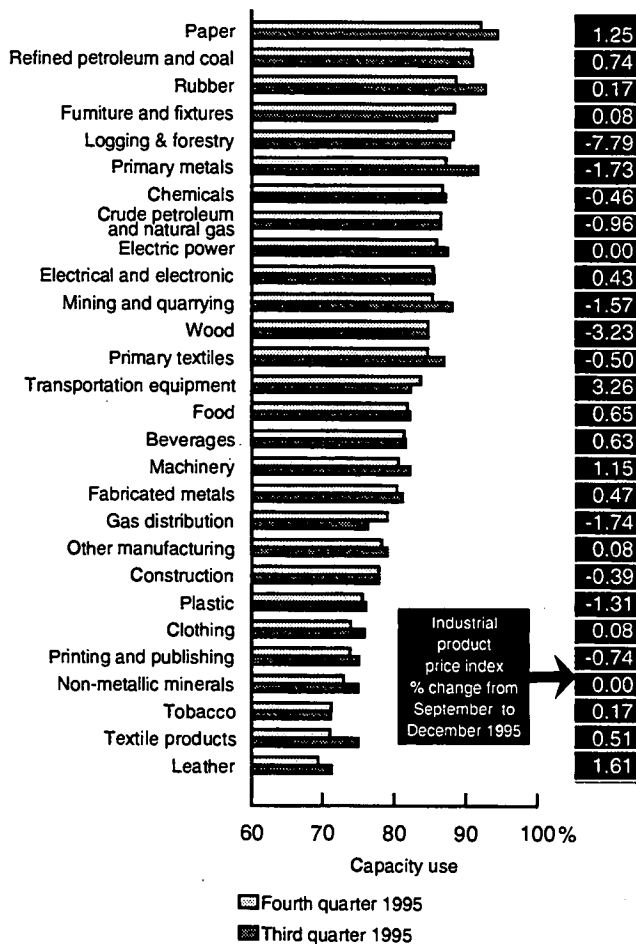
The situation does not look better for early 1996. Production slowdowns and the levelling-off of corporate profits late in 1995 have reduced the incentive among industries to expand production capacity this year. According the latest Private and Public Investment Intentions Survey, their plans for spending on plant and equipment in 1996 are down 2% from 1995.

Inventory buildups have generally dampened industrial production, which in turn has lowered rates of capacity use, thereby all but eliminating upward pressure on industrial prices. In the fourth quarter of 1995, growth in industrial prices slowed noticeably.

#### Note to readers

An industry's capacity use is the ratio of its actual output to its estimated potential output. Statistics Canada derives estimates of an industry's potential output from measures of its capital stock. In addition, since 1987 Statistics Canada has been surveying companies for their estimates of annual capacity use, in order to produce survey-based industry measures. A company's measure of its level of operation, as a percentage of its potential, takes into account changes in the obsolescence of facilities, capital-to-labour ratios and other characteristics of production techniques. The surveyed rates anchor the calculated quarterly series and ensure that these series reflect such changes.

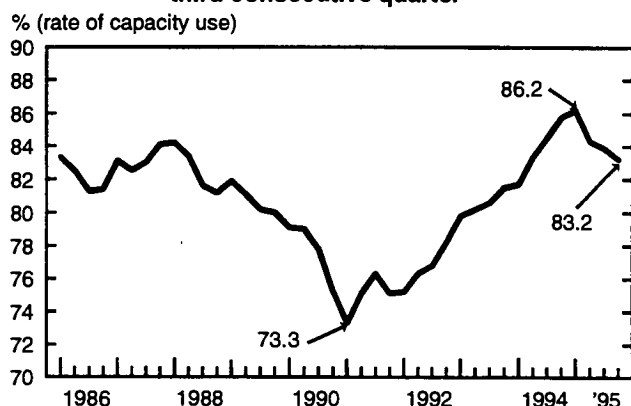
#### Growth in industrial prices has stagnated



## Extensive decreases in manufacturing

Manufacturers reduced their use of capacity to 83.2% in the fourth quarter. This was the third consecutive decline since the all-time peak of 86.2% reached in the first quarter of 1995. Eighteen of the 22 manufacturing industries reduced their levels of capacity use. As well, production was cut in 15 of those industries, mostly in response to continuing weak domestic demand.

**Manufacturers reduced capacity use for third consecutive quarter**



Production fell in the primary metals and non-metallic mineral products industries, reflecting lower levels of investment in non-residential construction. Since the first quarter of 1995, when capital investment spending was strong, capacity use for primary metals fell 8.8 percentage points to 87.3%; in non-metallic mineral products, the rate fell 6.5 percentage points to 73.0%.

A strong decline in pulp exports contributed to a 2.4 percentage point decrease, bringing capacity use in the paper and allied industries to 92.1%. The rate in the rubber industries declined 4.1 percentage points to 88.7%, mainly due to reduced production of tires because of a prolonged strike at a major plant.

By contrast, two export-oriented industries showed strong gains in production that led to increased rates of capacity use: furniture and fixtures was up 2.4 percentage points to 88.4% and transportation equipment rose 1.4 percentage points to 83.7%.

## Mixed pattern in non-manufacturing

Increased activity at sawmills in the fourth quarter, following two consecutive quarterly declines, was responsible for higher production in the logging and forestry industries (+0.5 percentage points to 88.3%).

Since residential construction was still in a slump in the fourth quarter and non-residential construction declined slightly, capacity use in the construction industries remained unchanged at 77.9%. This rate was only slightly above the most recent low of 77.6% recorded in the fourth quarter of 1992.

Winter arrived early, so both electric power production and gas distribution increased in November and December. However, because those increases for electric utilities were not enough to offset a production decline in October, their output fell slightly in the fourth quarter. As a result, capacity use rose 2.7 percentage points in the gas distribution industry, but declined 1.5 percentage points in the electric power industry.

Capacity use in the mining sector as a whole decreased 1.1 percentage points to 86.1%. In the mining and quarrying industries, capacity use dropped 2.7 percentage points, mostly because drilling activity decreased. In the crude petroleum and natural gas industries, higher production was absorbed by increased capacity, leaving capacity use unchanged at 86.6%.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 3140.**

For further information on this release, contact Susanna Wood (613-951-0655) or Richard Landry (613-951-2579), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

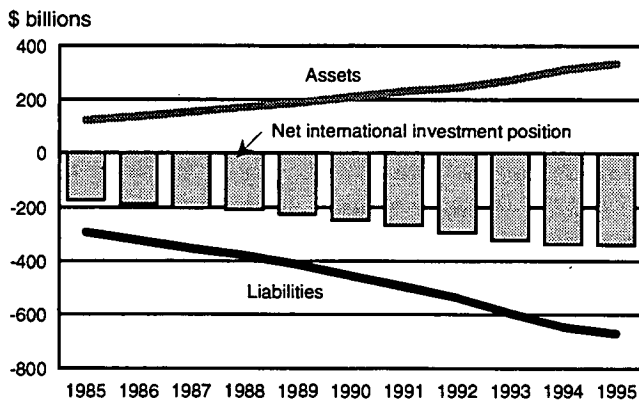
# Industrial capacity utilization rates

	Third quarter 1995	Fourth quarter 1995	Third quarter 1995 to Fourth quarter 1995 percentage point change	Annual averages		1994 to 1995 percentage point change
				1994	1995	
<b>Total non-farm goods-producing industries</b>	<b>83.6</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Logging and forestry	87.8	88.3	0.5	85.4	87.7	2.3
Mining (including milling), quarrying and oil wells	87.2	86.1	-1.1	86.5	87.3	0.8
Mining (including milling) and quarrying	88.1	85.4	-2.7	85.8	87.1	1.3
Crude petroleum and natural gas	86.6	86.6	0.0	87.0	87.4	0.4
Manufacturing	83.9	83.2	-0.7	83.8	84.4	0.6
Durable goods	83.9	83.4	-0.5	83.0	84.5	1.5
Wood	84.8	84.8	0.0	91.1	86.7	-4.4
Furniture and fixture	86.0	88.4	2.4	79.2	86.6	7.4
Primary metal	91.7	87.3	-4.4	93.1	92.2	-0.9
Fabricated metal products	81.2	80.4	-0.8	80.0	82.0	2.0
Machinery	82.2	80.6	-1.6	81.0	84.0	3.0
Transportation equipment	82.3	83.7	1.4	81.9	83.8	1.9
Electrical and electronic products	85.6	85.5	-0.1	80.0	84.0	4.0
Non-metallic mineral products	75.0	73.0	-2.0	74.4	75.7	1.3
Other manufacturing	79.1	78.3	-0.8	82.7	81.2	-1.5
Non-durable goods	83.9	82.8	-1.1	84.9	84.2	-0.7
Food	82.2	81.9	-0.3	82.0	82.1	0.1
Beverage	81.6	81.4	-0.2	80.1	81.9	1.8
Tobacco products	71.2	71.3	0.1	78.5	74.0	-4.5
Rubber products	92.8	88.7	-4.1	94.5	92.9	-1.6
Plastic products	76.1	75.6	-0.5	81.0	78.1	-2.9
Leather and allied products	71.3	69.4	-1.9	74.9	73.6	-1.3
Primary textile	87.0	84.7	-2.3	89.4	89.9	0.5
Textile products	75.0	71.1	-3.9	75.7	76.1	0.4
Clothing	75.9	74.0	-1.9	80.4	77.2	-3.2
Paper and allied products	94.5	92.1	-2.4	94.3	94.0	-0.3
Printing, publishing and allied industries	75.1	73.9	-1.2	82.0	75.0	-7.0
Refined petroleum and coal products	91.0	90.8	-0.2	87.3	89.7	2.4
Chemical and chemical products	87.2	86.8	-0.4	86.0	88.0	2.0
Construction	77.9	77.9	0.0	83.3	80.1	-3.2
Electric power and gas distribution systems	85.9	85.0	-0.9	85.3	85.5	0.2
Electric power	87.5	86.0	-1.5	86.3	86.8	0.5
Gas distribution	76.4	79.1	2.7	79.0	77.9	-1.1

## Canada's international investment position 1995

Canadians owed \$339 billion more to foreign investors at the end of 1995 than they owned in foreign assets. However, this net foreign liability grew by only 0.5% in 1995, the third straight year of slow growth in Canadians' net foreign liability.

### Canada's international investment position

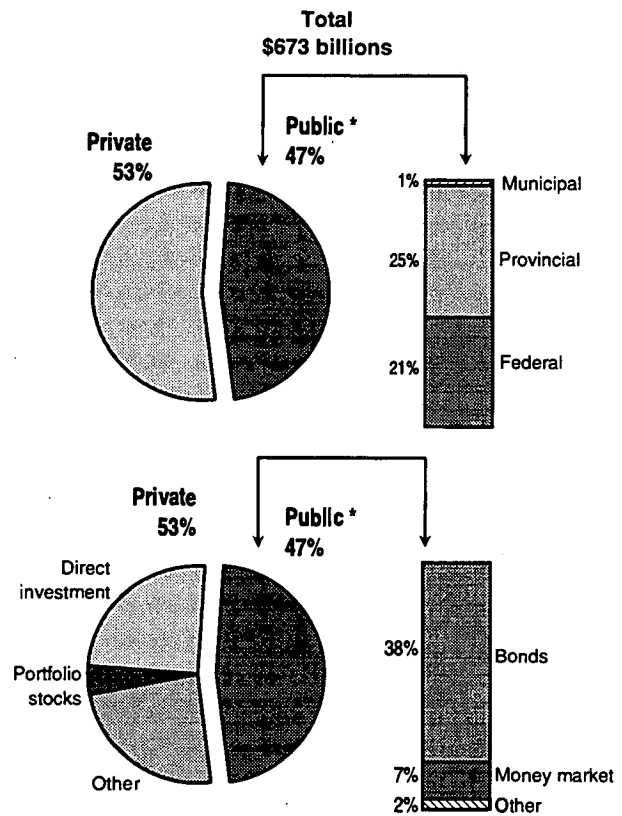


As a share of gross domestic product, net foreign liability fell to 43%, down from a peak of 45% in 1993 and 1994. In other words, Canadians are continuing to borrow from abroad, but at a less rapid pace than they invest in foreign markets.

At the end of 1995, however, Canadians' external liabilities (\$672 billion) were still twice as high as their foreign assets (\$333 billion). In other words, Canada had a liability of about two dollars for each dollar of assets.

An increasing portion of these external liabilities is made up of debt issued by the country's various governments, including their enterprises. The business and personal sectors continued to be the major holders of Canada's external assets.

### External liabilities in 1995



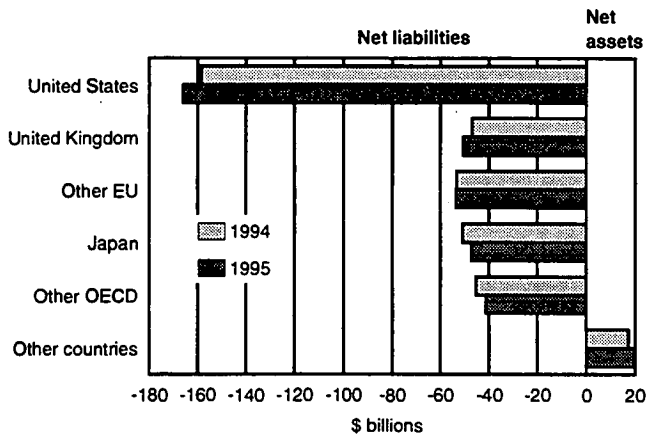
\* Including public enterprises

### The United States continued to be Canada's largest foreign creditor

The United States continued to be Canada's largest creditor, holding half of Canada's net liability to non-residents at the end of 1995. The U.S. share has steadily increased from a low of 35% at the end of 1991.

Canada's second largest creditor was the United Kingdom (15% of the total). It was the first time since 1984 that Japan was not second. Nevertheless, Japan was a close third with 14% of the total, down from a peak of almost 25% at the end of 1989.

### Canada's international investment position with other countries



### Foreign investment in Canadian government debt increased

Foreign holdings of Canadian government debt (including enterprises) increased to \$314 billion or 47% of Canada's gross external liabilities. This ratio has been growing since the mid-1970s, as foreigners keep adding to their holdings of Canadian government bonds.

At the end of 1995, the provinces and their enterprises accounted for 53% of the government debt held abroad; the federal government and its enterprises accounted for 46%, the municipal governments only 1%.

By the end of 1995, foreigners held 28% of all the marketable debt (bonds and treasury bills) issued by the Government of Canada. This ratio was unchanged from 1994 and close to the 1993 peak of 29%.

### Foreigners favoured Canadian bonds denominated in foreign currencies

Foreign investment in Canadian bonds increased by 8% to \$330 billion at the end of 1995. This was the slowest rate of growth in six years, despite a record foreign purchase of Canadian bonds in 1995.

In previous years, a depreciating Canadian dollar increased the value of bonds denominated in foreign currencies. But in 1995, the Canadian dollar appreciated against the U.S. dollar, which decreased the value of U.S.-dollar-denominated bonds expressed in Canadian dollars. These U.S.-dollar-denominated bonds represented almost half of all Canadian bonds held by non-residents. A number of Canadian bond

borrowers addressed this exchange risk through contractual arrangements.

### Foreign multinationals sharply increased direct investment in Canada

Foreign multinationals increased their investment in Canada at a faster pace than in the previous seven years. This was fuelled by a large inflow of capital and the reinvestment of some of their near-record profits earned from Canadian operations. At the end of 1995, foreign direct investment of \$168 billion represented one-quarter of all external liabilities.

### Canadian banks saw their net foreign-currency liability to non-residents drop sharply

Canadian banks saw their net foreign-currency liability to non-residents drop by almost half in 1995, to \$19 billion. The banks developed a net asset position with the United States for the first time since 1973, and with Japan for the first time since 1984. They maintained a net liability position with all other countries.

### Canadian investment abroad grew at a slower pace

Canadian multinationals increased their direct investment capital by 8% to \$142 billion in 1995, compared with a near-record increase of 14% in 1994. The United States accounted for 54% of that investment, up from 52% in 1994 (the record low). The remainder of Canadian direct investment was well diversified geographically, with 10% invested in the Pacific Rim.

In recent years, Canadian pension and mutual funds have been investing heavily in foreign securities, especially stocks; this has brought their investment to one-quarter of Canada's external assets at the end of 1995.

The Canadian dollar strengthened against the U.S. dollar in 1995, closing the year at US73.31 cents, some 2 cents higher than at 1994 year-end. This significantly reduced the value of Canadian assets abroad because they are largely denominated in foreign currencies. The stronger dollar also reduced the value of Canadian bonds denominated in foreign currencies, which represent 63% of the total bonds held abroad; as well, the stronger dollar lowered the foreign currency liability of Canadian banks.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 4180-4193

Canada's international investment position, 1995 (67-202-XPB, \$50), which includes annual data from 1985 to 1995, is now available. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Christian Lajule (613-951-2062), Balance of Payments Division.

**Canada's international investment position at year-end**

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
	\$ billions					
<b>Assets</b>						
Direct investment abroad	91.5	101.8	107.5	114.9	131.4	142.3
Portfolio investment						
Bonds	10.2	11.3	12.9	17.5	18.3	18.8
Stocks	35.5	39.9	44.1	51.0	60.0	63.8
Other debt	3.7	2.4	2.3	3.6	4.0	4.1
Government of Canada, direct and enterprises						
International reserves	21.6	19.5	15.1	16.9	17.5	20.7
Loans and subscriptions	21.8	23.8	27.6	28.5	30.9	31.0
Other	24.3	31.0	33.6	40.1	48.9	52.5
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>208.6</b>	<b>229.7</b>	<b>243.1</b>	<b>272.5</b>	<b>311.0</b>	<b>333.4</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Direct investment in Canada	131.1	135.8	138.7	142.3	152.8	168.1
Portfolio investment						
Bonds	181.1	208.3	236.4	275.3	304.5	329.8
Stocks	20.6	17.6	18.0	23.6	31.1	32.1
Money market instruments	26.4	30.5	36.1	45.9	47.5	47.5
Other debt	30.6	32.7	35.3	34.2	34.1	32.0
Net foreign currency position	28.7	34.0	34.3	34.8	37.0	19.3
Other liabilities	36.8	36.1	38.1	39.2	41.5	43.9
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>455.3</b>	<b>495.0</b>	<b>536.9</b>	<b>595.3</b>	<b>648.5</b>	<b>672.7</b>
<b>Net international investment position</b>	<b>-246.7</b>	<b>-265.3</b>	<b>-293.8</b>	<b>-322.8</b>	<b>-337.5</b>	<b>-339.5</b>



## OTHER RELEASES

### Help-wanted index

February 1996

The help-wanted index decreased 1% in February to 89 (1991=100). After gaining 13% throughout 1994, the index stalled at 102 between November 1994 and January 1995. Since early January, the index has been on a downward trend, and has lost all of the gains made in 1994. This downward trend in the index is consistent with the slow growth in real gross domestic product and the composite index.

All regions except the Atlantic provinces posted declines compared with February 1995. The index showed no change for the Atlantic provinces, while it declined in Ontario (-16%), British Columbia (-15%), Quebec (-12%) and the Prairie provinces (-9%).

**Note:** The help-wanted index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas. The index is an indicator of the intent of employers to hire new workers. These indexes have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

### Help-wanted index

(1991=100)

	Feb. 1996	Feb. 1995 to Feb. 1996	Jan. 1996 to Feb. 1996
	seasonally adjusted		
	% change		
<b>Canada</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-1</b>
Atlantic provinces	103	0	1
Quebec	92	-12	-2
Ontario	92	-16	-2
Prairie provinces	85	-9	0
British Columbia	69	-15	-1

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 105 (levels 8 and 9).**

The seasonally adjusted indexes for 1994 and 1995 have been revised. The revised indexes for the census metropolitan areas are available on request or can be obtained directly from CANSIM.

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

### Steel primary forms

Week ending March 2, 1996 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 2, 1996 totalled 296 007 tonnes, down 1.8% from 301 403 tonnes a week earlier, but up 5.8% from 279 872 tonnes a year earlier.

The year-to-date total at the end of the week was 2 404 964 tonnes, a 3.6% decrease from 2 495 492 tonnes for the same period in 1995.

For further information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division. ■

### Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending February 14, 1996

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending February 14, 1996 increased 3.3% from the same period of last year, to 4.4 million tonnes; the number of cars loaded increased 2.0%.

Intermodal (piggyback) traffic totalled 272 000 tonnes, a 17.1% drop from the same seven-day period of 1995. The year-to-date figures showed a decrease of 11.6% from last year.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 1.9% from a year earlier during the period. This brought the 1996 year-to-date total to 28.4 million tonnes, a 7.9% 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. ■

### Oil pipeline transport

December 1995

Net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons totalled 11 631 579 cubic metres in December, up 1.4% from December 1994; in 1995, receipts (133 158 644 cubic metres) were 3.4% higher than in 1994. Net receipts of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products in December (6 568 742 cubic metres) decreased 1.5% from December 1994; for the year, receipts increased 1.7% to 73 546 170 cubic metres.

Pipeline exports of crude oil in December (5 364 886 cubic metres) increased 3.2% from

December 1994; pipeline imports (854 103 cubic metres) dropped 20.1%. In 1995, exports of crude (60 428 901 cubic metres) were up 7.8% from 1994; imports (10 194 984 cubic metres) fell 10.5%. Canadian crude oil has found a ready market in the United States, where indigenous production has been declining in recent years.

December deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries totalled 5 138 478 cubic metres, a 4.1% decrease from December 1994. December deliveries of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products increased 10.7% to 717 528 cubic metres. In 1995, deliveries of crude oil to refineries totalled 61 557 756 cubic metres, down 2.2% from 1994.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 181.**

The December 1995 issue of *Oil pipeline transport* (55-001-XPB, \$11/\$110) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

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

### **Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins** January 1996

Chemical firms produced 162 598 tonnes of polyethylene synthetic resins in January, a 13.7% decrease from 188 465 tonnes in January 1995.

Data are also available on the production of 3 other types of synthetic resins and 24 industrial chemicals.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 951.**

The January 1996 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins* (46-002-XPB, \$6/60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Suzette DesRosiers (613-951-9836), Industry Division. ■

### **Steel pipe and tubing** January 1996

Steel pipe and tubing production in January totalled 171 112 tonnes, a 10.0% decrease from 190 081 tonnes in January 1995.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.**

The January 1996 issue of *Steel pipe and tubing* (41-011-XPB, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-9827), Industry Division. ■

### **Egg production** January 1996

Egg production in January totalled 40.9 million dozen, a 0.5% decrease from January 1995. The average number of layers fell 0.6%, whereas the number of eggs per 100 layers notched up from 2,246 to 2,247.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 1145, 1146 and 5689-5691.**

To order *Production and stocks of eggs and poultry* (\$115/year), contact Julie Gordon (613-951-5039), Agriculture Division.

For further information on this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-2860), Livestock and Animal Products Section, Agriculture Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Canada's international investment position, 1995**  
**Catalogue number 67-202-XPB**  
(Canada: \$50; United States: US\$60; other countries: US\$70).

**Labour force information, for the week ended**  
**February 17, 1996**  
**Catalogue number 71-001-PPB**  
(Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120;  
other countries: US\$14/US\$140).  
**Available at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, March 8**

**Quarterly demographic statistics,**  
**July-September 1995**  
**Catalogue number 91-002-XPB**  
(Canada: \$10/\$32; United States: US\$12/US\$39; other  
countries: US\$14/US\$45).

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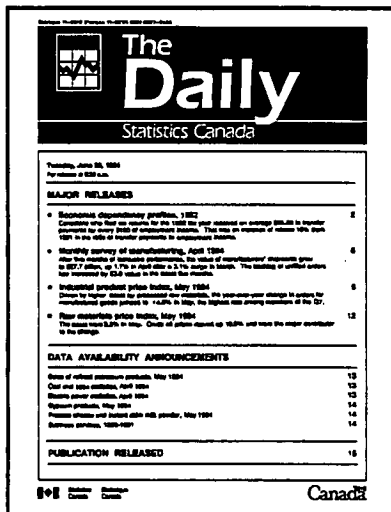
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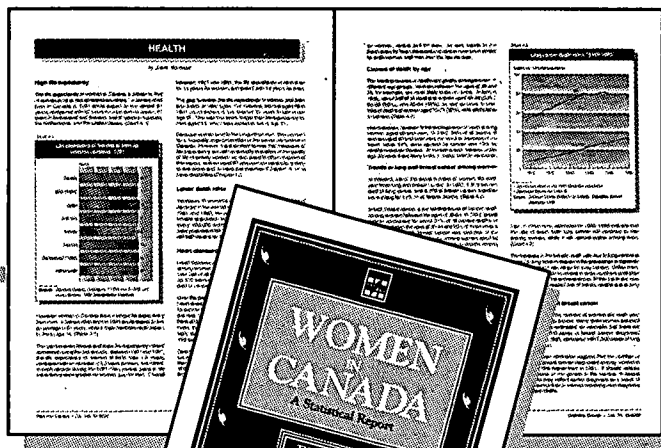
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# Women in Canada

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- Aboriginal women
- women with disabilities

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