



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Wholesale trade, November 2002** 2
 Wholesale sales in November continued to rise for the sixth consecutive month. They edged up 0.3% in November to \$35.9 billion in goods and services. Since November 2001, sales have grown by an average of 0.7% per month, after a lacklustre performance from the spring of 2000 to October 2001 (+0.1% on average).

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MAJOR RELEASES

Wholesale trade

November 2002

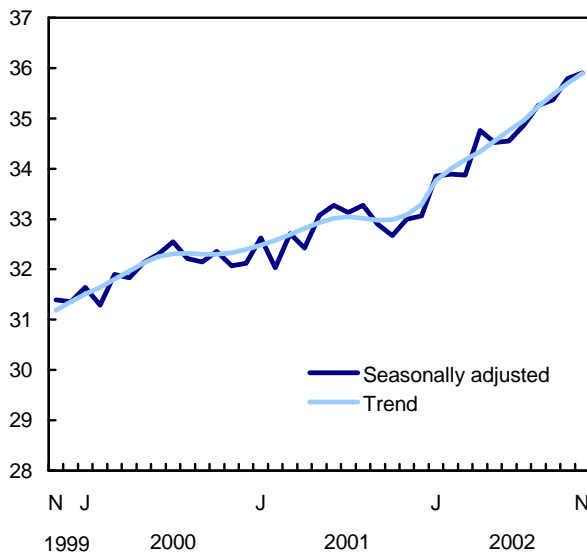
Wholesale sales in November continued to rise for the sixth consecutive month. They edged up 0.3% in November to \$35.9 billion in goods and services. Since November 2001, sales have grown by an average of 0.7% per month, after a lacklustre performance from the spring of 2000 to October 2001 (+0.1% on average).

Canadian wholesale sales from January to November experienced a year-to-date increase of 5.9% compared with the same period of 2001. During this period, Canada has enjoyed a robust economy. This strong performance churned out 560,000 jobs in 2002, an annual growth rate of 3.7%, the highest since 1987. In addition, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), 204,857 new homes were built in 2002, the largest increase since 1989.

In contrast, US wholesalers posted an increase of 1.1% in November. With this gain, year-to-date sales by American wholesalers saw only a 1.4% increase from same period of 2001.

Wholesale sales rise for a sixth consecutive month

\$ billions



In November, 8 of the 11 trade groups posted growth. Contributing the most to the increase in terms of value were the other products category (+2.1%), food products (+0.6%) and the automotive sector (+0.2%).

Note to readers

Estimates from the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC80).

Direct comparisons between wholesale trade in Canada and the United States should be undertaken with care. However, to promote a degree of uniformity, we have excluded the wholesaling of oilseeds and grain and petroleum products from the US data.

In addition, unlike the estimates generated in Canada, the monthly estimates of wholesale trade in the United States are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Under NAICS, some wholesale trade establishments in a number of SIC80 industries have been re-classified to other industries. For example, computer equipment wholesalers and office supply stores are now classified in retail trade if they sell primarily through storefront locations similar to other retail establishments. Under SIC80, they remain in wholesale trade.

The increased sales in these sectors were offset in part by sharp decreases in lumber and building materials (-2.7%) and industrial machinery (-0.8%).

In constant dollars, wholesale sales rose 0.2% in November.

Wholesale sales of non-durable goods on the rise

In contrast with October, sales of food product wholesalers rose 0.6% in November. With this increase, the industry was able to wipe out October's loss (-0.4%). Other non-durable goods industries, such as beverage, drug and tobacco products (+0.4%) and apparel and dry goods (+2.2%), also exceeded the national average.

Food products, as well as beverage, drug and tobacco products, were little affected by the drop in sales experienced by wholesalers during most of 2000 and the first three quarters of 2001. Notwithstanding a slight levelling-off in early 2002, wholesale sales of food products have been on the rise. Wholesale sales of beverage, drug and tobacco appear to have levelled off since July 2002.

Computer sales up for the second consecutive month

In November, wholesalers of computers, software and other electronic equipment posted a second consecutive increase in their sales (+1.1%). Despite volatile sales, the trend in sales has been generally stable since July. Even though sales in this sector

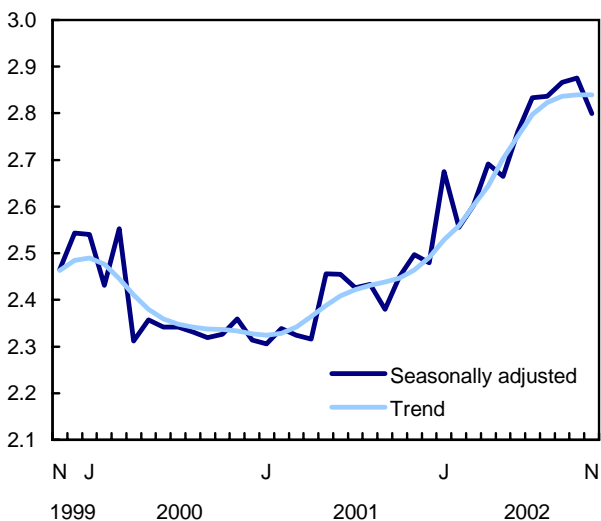
rose from October 2001 to April 2002, the gains were insufficient to offset the decrease observed in the first nine months of 2001.

Sales of lumber and building materials down after five straight increases

Wholesalers of lumber and building materials saw their sales drop 2.7% in November. Even so, their sales were 12.1% higher than in November 2001. The drop was partly due to weaker building activity in November. According to the Labour Force Survey, the number of construction jobs fell by 16,000 in November. This was the first decline in seven months. CMHC reported a slight decrease in homebuilding activity in November.

Wholesale sales of lumber and building materials at a plateau

\$ billions



In addition, lumber exports were down 0.9%. Wholesalers account for roughly 25% of exports of this type of merchandise. Nevertheless, this industry has generally posted robust growth since the last quarter of 2001, owing to the strong performance of the residential construction market.

Wholesale sales of household goods also declined in November (-0.4%). Despite the decrease, this trade

group was up 17.4% from November 2001. Since October 2001, this industry has seen its sales grow robustly (+1.3% on average). This strong showing follows a period of declines extending from March to September 2001. Since October 2001, only the automobile sector has had a stronger performance, with a growth rate averaging 1.7%.

The strength of durable goods, such as household goods and automobiles, part and accessories, is largely due to the consumer market, which remained relatively robust throughout 2002. Conversely, industries that are heavily dependent on business investment, such as industrial machinery and computers, have experienced relatively lacklustre growth.

Wholesale sales up in six provinces

In November, six provinces contributed to the increase in wholesale sales. The largest gains were posted in British Columbia (+1.6%), New Brunswick (+1.4%) and Nova Scotia (+1.2%).

Strong sales of other products were behind much of the growth in British Columbia, and healthy wholesale sales of food products, computers, and other products accounted for much of the growth in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Unlike the general trend in total wholesale sales, wholesale sales in New Brunswick have been rising only since June. Prior to this, they exhibited a downward trend extending from the summer of 2001 to June 2002.

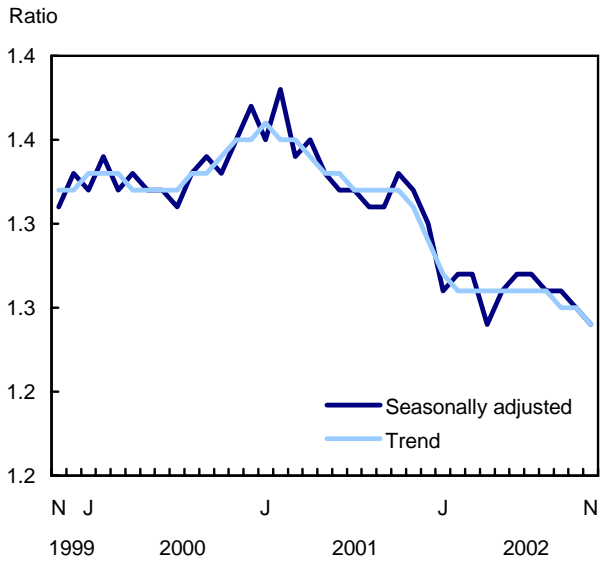
The steep drop experienced by Newfoundland and Labrador (-8.3%) was in part due to weaker sales in automotive products and electronics.

Inventory-to-sales ratio still at historic lows

The inventory-to-sales ratio declined in November to 1.24, compared with 1.25 in October. Since the start of 2002, this ratio has fluctuated between 1.24 and 1.27. It has remained well below the average level of 1.33 observed in 2001, despite successive increases in inventories throughout the year.

In November, inventories rose 0.1%, mainly as a result of increases in the automotive and household goods sectors.

Inventory-to-sales ratio remains at historic lows



Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0001 and 081-0002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2401.

The November 2002 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Estimates for wholesale sales for December will be released on February 19.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean Lebreux (613-951-4907; jean.lebreux@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. □

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	November 2001	August 2002 ^f	September 2002 ^f	October 2002 ^f	November 2002 ^p	October to November 2002	November 2001 to November 2002
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Sales, all trade groups	33,000	35,257	35,371	35,788	35,906	0.3	8.8
Food products	5,411	5,690	5,717	5,692	5,728	0.6	5.9
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,868	2,986	2,938	2,965	2,976	0.4	3.8
Apparel and dry goods	565	624	674	633	647	2.2	14.6
Household goods	863	1,027	1,023	1,016	1,012	-0.4	17.4
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,128	7,052	7,066	7,404	7,422	0.2	21.1
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,930	2,127	2,144	2,133	2,136	0.2	10.7
Lumber and building materials	2,497	2,836	2,866	2,876	2,799	-2.7	12.1
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	671	624	645	649	673	3.7	0.4
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,899	4,893	4,850	4,856	4,818	-0.8	-1.6
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,563	2,674	2,586	2,699	2,728	1.1	6.4
Other products	4,607	4,724	4,863	4,864	4,967	2.1	7.8
Sales by province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	217	225	220	232	213	-8.3	-1.8
Prince Edward Island	55	55	56	58	56	-2.3	1.5
Nova Scotia	598	604	598	631	638	1.1	6.8
New Brunswick	458	437	418	452	458	1.4	0.1
Quebec	6,761	7,035	7,149	7,135	7,083	-0.7	4.8
Ontario	16,303	17,834	17,775	18,210	18,365	0.8	12.6
Manitoba	1,030	1,004	1,053	1,052	1,007	-4.2	-2.2
Saskatchewan	985	1,054	1,090	1,041	1,042	0.2	5.8
Alberta	3,492	3,535	3,581	3,561	3,568	0.2	2.2
British Columbia	3,072	3,429	3,396	3,387	3,442	1.6	12.0
Yukon	10	10	10	9	11	12.3	3.6
Northwest Territories	17	34	23	18	21	19.0	22.6
Nunavut	2	2	2	2	2	14.1	-4.1
Inventories, all trade groups	43,487	44,332	44,429	44,652	44,676	0.1	2.7
Food products	3,176	3,333	3,405	3,442	3,426	-0.4	7.9
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,129	3,402	3,385	3,480	3,443	-1.0	10.0
Apparel and dry goods	1,223	1,284	1,286	1,292	1,287	-0.4	5.2
Household goods	1,491	1,676	1,669	1,713	1,745	1.9	17.1
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,666	6,533	6,636	6,623	6,659	0.5	-0.1
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	3,577	3,713	3,690	3,720	3,728	0.2	4.2
Lumber and building materials	4,053	4,347	4,346	4,369	4,384	0.3	8.2
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,800	1,896	1,847	1,828	1,829	0.0	1.6
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	10,860	10,266	10,218	10,226	10,240	0.1	-5.7
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	1,896	1,995	1,998	2,024	2,041	0.8	7.6
Other products	5,614	5,886	5,949	5,937	5,894	-0.7	5.0

^f Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



OTHER RELEASES

Travel between Canada and other countries November 2002

Travel to Canada rose for the fifth consecutive month in November. This was entirely the result of visits from overseas, which reached a 17-month high. An estimated 3.8 million foreigners visited Canada, up 0.4% from October.

The number of visitors from the United States remained unchanged at 3.4 million. However, the number of overseas visitors rose 3.5% to 368,000, the highest monthly level since June 2001. (Unless otherwise specified, data are seasonally adjusted).

Eight of Canada's top 12 overseas markets showed increases in same-day and overnight trips to Canada in November. The Netherlands had the highest monthly increase (+10.2%), followed by the United Kingdom (+9.1%), Italy (+4.5%), South Korea (+4.0%) and Germany (+4.0%). Taiwan recorded the largest monthly loss (-34.6%), followed by Mexico (-2.4%), China (-1.9%) and Hong Kong (-0.9%).

The number of same-day car trips from the United States rose 1.3% to almost 2.0 million in November. This was the fourth consecutive monthly increase and the highest monthly figure since August 2001. However, this increase in same-day car travel was offset by a 0.7% decline in the number of overnight trips that Americans made to Canada.

Overnight plane travel by Americans remained unchanged, but overnight car trips fell 0.5% to 893,000.

Canadian travel to the United States and overseas countries declined for the first time in six months. Canadians made 3.3 million trips abroad in November, down 2.4%. Of these trips, 2.9 million were to the United States (-2.6%) and 408,000 were to overseas countries (-0.6%).

Canadians took 1.1 million overnight trips south of the border, down 1.6% from October. Overnight travel by car fell 2.4%, but overnight travel by plane remained steady (-0.1%).

Canadians made fewer than 1.8 million same-day car trips to the United States in November, a 1.1% drop following three consecutive monthly increases.

Available on CANSIM: table 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 5005.

The November 2002 issue of *International travel, advance information*, Vol. 18, no. 11 (66-001-PIE, \$6/\$55) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca) or Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; frances.kremarik@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	October 2002	November 2002	October to November 2002	November 2002	November 2001 to November 2002
	Seasonally adjusted			Unadjusted	
	'000		% change	'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad¹	3,381	3,300	-2.4	2,750	6.7
To the United States	2,970	2,892	-2.6	2,453	5.5
To other countries	411	408	-0.6	296	17.3
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,805	1,785	-1.1	1,588	5.3
Total trips, one or more nights	1,526	1,505	-1.4	1,107	9.9
United States ²	1,115	1,097	-1.6	811	7.4
Car	652	636	-2.4	411	2.6
Plane	360	360	-0.1	345	13.0
Other modes of transport	103	101	-1.9	55	11.1
Other countries ³	411	408	-0.6	296	17.3
Travel to Canada¹	3,823	3,837	0.4	2,761	10.0
From the United States	3,468	3,469	0.0	2,576	9.3
From other countries	355	368	3.5	185	20.4
Same-day car trips from the United States	1,965	1,991	1.3	1,690	10.4
Total trips, one or more nights	1,706	1,708	0.1	969	9.6
United States ²	1,365	1,356	-0.7	790	7.6
Car	898	893	-0.5	519	7.7
Plane	321	322	0.1	224	9.2
Other modes of transport	146	141	-3.9	47	-0.6
Other countries ³	340	352	3.6	178	19.9
Most important overseas markets⁴					
United Kingdom	64	70	9.1	34	5.1
Japan	46	47	2.8	24	91.8
France	27	28	1.9	11	3.8
Germany	26	27	4.0	11	-1.2
South Korea	14	15	4.0	8	26.6
Mexico	15	14	-2.4	6	23.0
Australia	13	14	2.9	8	20.3
Hong Kong	12	12	-0.9	6	26.3
Netherlands	9	10	10.2	4	8.3
Italy	9	10	4.5	5	43.9
China	9	9	-1.9	7	37.5
Taiwan	13	8	-34.6	6	59.0

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

² Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

³ Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

⁴ Includes same-day and one or more night trips.

Aircraft movement statistics

November 2002 (preliminary)

There were 363,752 take-offs and landings recorded in November at the 43 Canadian airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers, down 6.2% from November 2001.

The November 2002 issue of *Aircraft movement statistics* (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Transport and warehousing*. Previous issues

are available on Transport Canada's website (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/report/TP1496/tp1496.htm>).

Preliminary statistics for the 56 Canadian airports with Nav Canada flight service stations are also available for November.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141;

fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca),
Transportation Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

November 2002 (preliminary)

Data on production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for November. Other selected data about these products are also available.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368; desjger@statcan.ca) or Randall Sheldrick (613-951-4804; shelran@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

November 2002

Total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns in November were an estimated \$2.75 billion, up 4.8% from the November 2001 estimate.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

The November 2002 issue of Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics (63-011-XIE, \$6/\$55) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bill Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services Industries Division. ■

Shipments of rolled steel

November 2002

Data on shipments of rolled steel are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0010.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2106, 2116 and 2184.

The November 2002 issue of *Primary iron and steel*, Vol. 57, no. 11 (41-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

November 2002

Data on steel primary forms production are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0010.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2106, 2116 and 2184.

The November 2002 issue of *Primary iron and steel*, Vol. 57, no. 11 (41-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Primary iron and steel, November 2002, Vol. 57,
no. 11
Catalogue number 41-001-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Aircraft movements statistics, November 2002,
Vol. 1, no. 11
Catalogue number 51F0001PIE
(free).

Broadcasting and telecommunications,
October 2002, Vol. 32, no. 4
Catalogue number 56-001-XIE (\$10/\$32).

The Consumer Price Index, December 2002, Vol. 81,
no. 12
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB (\$8/\$77).
Available at 7 am Wednesday, January 22

The Consumer Price Index, December 2002, Vol. 81,
no. 12
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB (\$11/\$103).
Available at 7 am Wednesday, January 22

International travel, advance information,
November 2002, Vol. 18, no. 11
Catalogue number 66-001-PIE (\$6/\$55).

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Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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