



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, October 7, 2003**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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There are no major releases today.

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## OTHER RELEASES

### Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

Second quarter 2003

The largest increase among major commodity groups was in food and beverage sales, which rose 6.3% from the second quarter of 2002. Within the food and beverages category, year-over-year increases of more than 10% were seen in candy, confectionery and snack foods as well as in bakery products and dairy products and eggs. Easter occurred in the second quarter of 2003 but in the first quarter of 2002, contributing to the increase in sales of candy and perhaps some other commodities.

Year-over-year consumer spending in retail stores in the second quarter rose for most major commodity groups. Clothing, footwear and accessories and motor vehicles, parts and services remained virtually unchanged.

Overall, consumers spent \$82.8 billion on goods and services in the second quarter, up 2.7% over the second quarter of 2002.

Sales of health and personal care products amounted to \$6.0 billion, rising 5.1% from the second quarter of 2002. Spending on prescription drugs, which accounts for 46% of the health and personal care spending, was up 6.7%. This was the weakest sales growth for prescription drugs since the third quarter of 1999. Second quarter spending on over-the-counter drugs and vitamins increased 5.6%.

Consumers spent \$5.8 billion on home furnishings and electronics, up 2.4% from the second quarter of 2002. Sales growth for this commodity group has slowed in 2003. The 2002 annual sales for home furnishings and electronics were up 8.1% from 2001, boosted by the strong housing market.

Within the home furnishings and electronics category, furniture sales were down 1.9% in the second quarter, the second consecutive year-over-year decline. Sales of major appliances were up 9.9%. Sales of small appliances rose 1.4% after recording a small year-over-year decline in the first quarter.

After a strong increase in the first quarter, year-over-year sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives increased only 1.2% in the second quarter. Lower prices at the pump were the contributing factor to the slow sales growth.

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services amounted to \$26.0 billion, virtually unchanged (-0.2%) from the second quarter of 2002. Even though dealers continued to offer incentive programs to buyers of

new vehicles, the year-over-year sales growth of new vehicles (cars, trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles) was weak, up 0.5%. For the past three quarters, year-over-year sales of new vehicles slowed compared with the strong growth seen since the fourth quarter of 2001. Sales of used vehicles fell 7.8% from the second quarter of 2002, the third consecutive year-over-year decline. Spending on automotive parts and accessories (including tires) was \$3.8 billion, up 6.0% from 2002.

Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories remained unchanged from the second quarter of 2002. Clothing sales rose 0.2%, the weakest sales growth in over a year. Sales of women's clothing were flat, while sales of men's clothing fell 1.0% and those of children's clothing increased 4.0%. Recent declines in clothing prices may have dampened the sales growth in this commodity.

### Sales by commodity, all retail stores

Commodity	Second quarter 2002 <sup>r</sup>	First quarter 2003 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 2003 <sup>p</sup>	Second quarter 2002 to second quarter 2003
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions		% change	
<b>Commodity</b>				
Food and beverages	16,459	15,679	17,488	6.3
Health and personal care products	5,718	5,752	6,011	5.1
Clothing, footwear and accessories	6,674	5,038	6,686	0.2
Home furnishings and electronics	5,635	5,152	5,772	2.4
Motor vehicles, parts and services	26,056	19,699	26,011	-0.2
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	5,688	6,233	5,756	1.2
All other goods and services	14,342	11,085	15,060	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,571</b>	<b>68,637</b>	<b>82,784</b>	<b>2.7</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary data.

**Note:** The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects data on retail sales by commodity at the national level, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Data have not been adjusted for seasonality. For example, no adjustment has been made for Easter, which occurred in the first quarter in 2002 but in the second quarter in 2003. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

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Available on CANSIM: table 080-0010.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.**

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Annie Côté Steski (613-951-6590; [annie.cote-steski@statcan.ca](mailto:annie.cote-steski@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. ■

## Farm product prices

August 2003

Prices received by farmers in August for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The Ontario slaughter steer price in August was \$46.28 per hundredweight, up 11% from July. The Canadian cattle sector came to a virtual halt on May 20 when a cow in Alberta tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease). The loss of crucial export markets resulted in an oversupply, which depressed prices. Prices in July plunged 47% from June; in August, prices were down 53% from the August 2002 price of \$97.63.

The Manitoba non-board barley price in August, at \$102.42 per tonne, was down 11% from July, the lowest it has been since June 2001 when it was at \$98.28 per tonne.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernie Rosien (613-951-2441; fax: 613-951-3868; [bernie.rosien@statcan.ca](mailto:bernie.rosien@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Cement

August 2003

Data on cement are now available for August.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0001.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.**

The August 2003 issue of *Cement*, Vol. 55, no. 8 (44-001-XIB, \$6/\$51) 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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Self-Sufficiency Project

2001

Data from the fourth follow-up survey to the Self-Sufficiency Project are available today.

The Self-Sufficiency Project is a research demonstration project managed by the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation and conducted jointly with Statistics Canada. It is funded by Human Resources Development Canada. The Self-Sufficiency Project was designed to determine the effectiveness of an earnings supplement to single-parents in receipt of Income Assistance who found full-time jobs and agreed to leave the Income Assistance Program.

An earnings supplement was offered for a limited three-year period to each eligible individual, as part of a random assignment experiment. The project, conducted in New Brunswick and British Columbia, was designed to evaluate the effect of the earnings supplement on the employment rates, earnings, family income, income assistance receipt and other outcomes. The data released today are from the fourth and final follow-up survey of welfare applicants in British Columbia.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3898.**

The report *Can work incentives pay for themselves? Final report on the Self-Sufficiency Project for welfare applicants*, published by the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation, is available today. To obtain a copy, contact Barbara Greenwood Dufour (613-237-7444; [bdufour@srdc.org](mailto:bdufour@srdc.org)), Social Research and Demonstration Corporation.

For further information on the findings from this project, contact the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation (613-237-4311), or Client Services (1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; [ssd@statcan.ca](mailto:ssd@statcan.ca)), Special Surveys Division. ■

## Coal and coke statistics

July 2003

Data on coal and coke are now available for July.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0016.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.**

contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [energ@statcan.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Cement**, August 2003, Vol. 55, no. 8  
Catalogue number **44-001-XIB** (\$6/\$51).

**Report on energy supply–demand in Canada**, 2002  
Catalogue number **57-003-XIB** (\$21).

**Foreign and domestic investment in Canada**,  
Catalogue number **61-232-XIB**  
(free).

**Industry price indexes**, August 2003, Vol. 29, no. 8  
Catalogue number **62-011-XIE** (\$19/\$175).

**Industry price indexes**, August 2003, Vol. 29, no. 8  
Catalogue number **62-011-XPE** (\$24/\$233).

**Building permits**, August 2003, Vol. 47, no. 8  
Catalogue number **64-001-XIE** (\$15/\$156).

**All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.**

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 20 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was modestly weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, Apr. 1997** 12

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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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