Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 23, 2003
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

2001 Census topic-based tabulations (various levels of geography)

Additional topic-based tabulations for the "immigration and citizenship" and "ethnocultural portrait of Canada" topics are now available for various levels of geography.

These topic-based tabulations are available for a fee (costs vary depending on geography level) in Beyond 20/20 format from the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre nearest you.

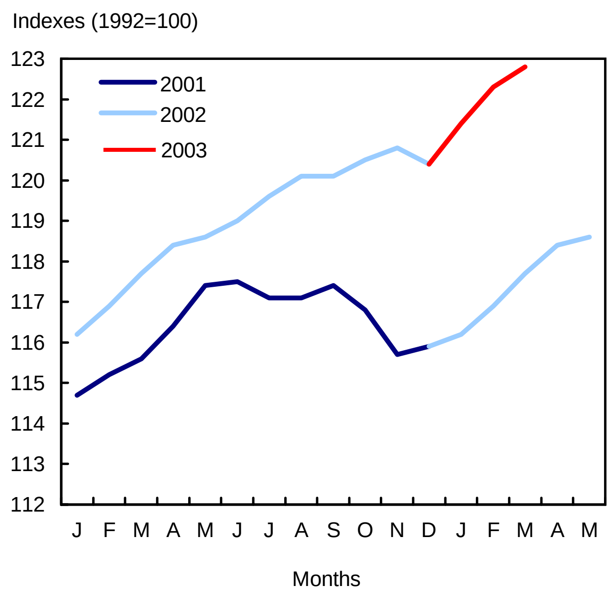
MAJOR RELEASES

Consumer Price Index

March 2003

Between March 2002 and March 2003, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 4.3%, an advance smaller than the 4.6% climb recorded in February. This slowdown is explained in large part by a weaker increase in gasoline prices. The CPI excluding energy, which had risen 3.4% from February 2002 to February 2003, also slowed down in March, increasing 3.2%.

All-Items Index



The base effect discernible since October 2002, which was mainly the result of falling gasoline prices in October and November 2001, faded away in March. In fact, the March 2002 index, which is the comparison index for calculating the 12-month percentage change, returned to a level similar to that preceding the drop in the index in October 2001. The jump in gasoline prices in March 2002 served to reduce the gap between the March 2003 CPI and the March 2002 CPI.

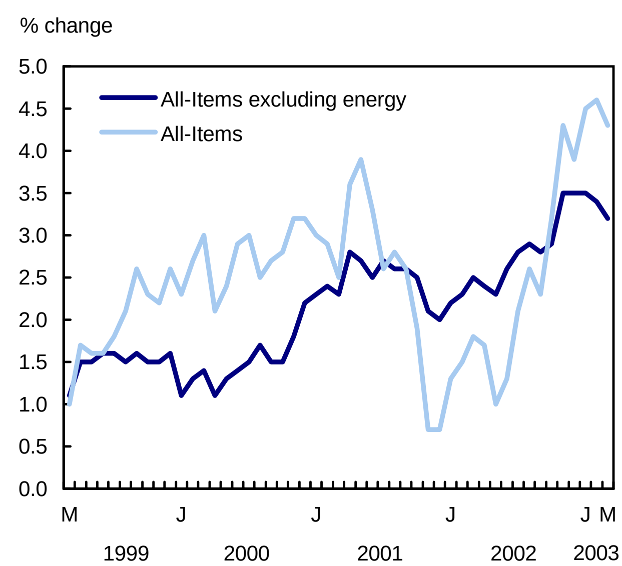
Several factors helped to slow the CPI's increase from 4.6% in February to 4.3% in March. The primary factor is the slowdown in the increase in gasoline prices for which the 12-month percentage change dropped from 32.1% in February to 22.1% in March. The contribution of travel tours to the CPI advance

Base effect

The 12-month change is calculated by comparing the current month's index with the index for the same month in the previous year. In the All-Items index chart, the 12-month variation is represented by the gap between the two curves. Thus, the 12-month variation can increase from one month to the next due to the mere fact that the base serving as the point of comparison decreased.

was also noticeably weaker. In fact, although the prices of this service had increased 9.0% from February 2002 to February 2003, in March 2003 they rose only 0.2% above their March 2002 level. In the case of electricity, an increase of 2.0% was observed from February 2002 to February 2003, whereas in March 2003 electricity prices were lower than in March 2002 by 0.8%. Finally, a more pronounced drop in prices for traveller accommodation is also among the factors slowing the 12-month increase in the CPI in March. Moreover, the 12-month variation of this index has been negative since June 2001.

Percentage change from the same month of the previous year



However, two main factors mitigated the effect of these slowdowns somewhat, namely natural gas prices, which recorded a 23.5% increase in March, compared with a rise of only 6.8% in February. Similarly, fuel oil prices saw their 12-month percentage change rise from 47.8% in February to 62.1% in March. The natural gas index rose from February to March, but the main explanation for the acceleration of the 12-month percentage change remains the drop in this index in March 2002, which increases the gap compared with March 2003. In March 2002, the sale of a natural gas field caused the index to drop, as a portion of the revenues were distributed to consumers in northern Alberta. However, in the case of fuel oil, it is primarily the 12.4% increase from February to March 2003 that noticeably increased the contribution of fuel oil to the 12-month advance in the CPI.

Slowdown in the monthly increase in March

The CPI rose 0.4% from February to March, which constitutes a smaller rise than the increases of 0.8% in January and 0.7% in February. The main factors behind the March increase have been higher natural gas and fuel oil prices. The price increases for gasoline and women’s clothing, along with higher homeowner’s replacement cost and mortgage interest cost, also helped to drive up the All-Items CPI. In contrast, the CPI advance was mostly offset by the drop in prices for traveller accommodation.

Natural gas prices showed a monthly increase of 7.2% from February to March. The upward pressure on the index came almost entirely from a 24.5% jump in prices in Alberta. Higher recovery costs combined with the elimination of the $15 credit granted to customers in southern Alberta in February explain this advance in the natural gas index.

The fuel oil index rose for the third consecutive month. The monthly advance of 12.4% observed in March was slightly higher than the increases recorded in February (+11.9%) and January (+9.4%), and stems mainly from higher wholesale prices. The indexes for all provinces advanced.

After advancing 6.2% in January and 7.0% in February, gasoline prices increased only 0.9% in March. Increases were observed in some provinces, such as British Columbia (+8.7%) and Prince Edward Island (+6.4%), whereas prices dropped in others, like Ontario (-1.1%) and Quebec (-0.6%).

Women’s clothing prices grew 2.3% from February to March. The launch of new spring-summer collections was accompanied by mark-ups in prices for some items.

The indexes for homeowners’ replacement cost (+0.8%) and mortgage interest cost (+0.2%) also contributed to the monthly advance in the CPI. The increase in new housing prices pushed these two indexes up, while the mortgage interest cost index was also influenced by higher interest rates.

The drop in prices for traveller accommodation (-5.8%) was the main factor offsetting increases in the CPI. Price declines were observed in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.6%). The most substantial drops were in Quebec (-12.5%) and Ontario (-6.0%). Reduced demand is the primary factor behind these drops.

This month marked the first time that the travel tours index decreased in the month of March (-1.2%) since the index was introduced in October 1978. The seasonal trend of price increases for Florida destinations, always in high demand in March, was not felt this year.

Weak increase in the seasonally adjusted CPI from February to March

After correcting for seasonal influences, the All-Items CPI went up 0.1% in March, compared with an increase of 0.4% in February. The alcoholic beverages and tobacco products index (+0.7%) rose the most. The increases in the seasonally adjusted indexes for shelter (+0.6%), transportation (+0.3%), clothing and footwear (+0.1%) and food (+0.1%) also contributed to the monthly increase. The seasonally adjusted index for health and personal care remained unchanged, while the indexes for recreation, education and reading (-0.4%) and household operations and furnishings (-0.1%) partially offset the increases.

All-Items index excluding the eight most volatile components

The prices of goods and services included in the All-Items index excluding the eight most volatile components as defined by the Bank of Canada increased 2.9% from March 2002 to March 2003. This increase constitutes a slowdown compared with the 12-month variations in January (+3.3%) and in February (+3.1%). The deceleration in the 12-month increase of travel tours, which dropped from 9.0% in February to 0.2% in March, partly explains this slowdown.

The All-Items index excluding the eight most volatile components as defined by the Bank of Canada increased 0.2% in March, after advancing 0.5% in January and 0.7% in February. Higher clothing prices contributed the most to the monthly advance of this index.

Energy

Energy prices jumped 17.5% from March 2002 to March 2003. Higher gasoline prices (+22.1%) accounted for two thirds of this increase, while the rise in fuel oil prices (+62.1%) and natural gas prices (+23.5%) accounts for the remainder of the increase.

Only the electricity index (-0.8%) dampened the advance somewhat.

From February to March, energy prices were up 2.0%. Excluding electricity prices, which dropped slightly (-0.1%), the prices of all energy components increased. Natural gas prices rose 7.2%, fuel oil prices jumped 12.4% and gasoline prices advanced 0.9%. The price of a barrel of crude oil rose once again in early March, which partially explains these increases.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001 and 326-0016 to 326-0018.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2301.

Available at 7 a.m. on the Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*). From the home page, choose *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Consumer Price Index release*.

The March 2003 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XIB, $8/$77; 62-001-XPB, $11/$103) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The April 2003 Consumer Price Index will be released on May 22.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Rebecca McDougall (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539) or Joanne Moreau (613-951-7130), Prices Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components

(1992=100)

	March 2003	February 2003	March 2002	February to March 2003	March 2002 to March 2003
	Unadjusted				
				% change	
All-items	**122.8**	**122.3**	**117.7**	**0.4**	**4.3**
Food	122.4	122.1	120.4	0.2	1.7
Shelter	117.4	116.7	113.1	0.6	3.8
Household operations and furnishings	114.5	114.5	113.7	0.0	0.7
Clothing and footwear	105.5	103.8	107.1	1.6	-1.5
Transportation	144.6	144.1	130.5	0.3	10.8
Health and personal care	116.1	116.4	114.5	-0.3	1.4
Recreation, education and reading	126.7	127.1	124.9	-0.3	1.4
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	133.8	133.5	114.1	0.2	17.3
All-items (1986=100)	157.3				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992	81.4	81.8	85.0		
Special Aggregates					
Goods	119.9	119.2	114.8	0.6	4.4
Services	126.2	126.1	121.1	0.1	4.2
All-items excluding food and energy	120.2	119.9	116.0	0.3	3.6
Energy	149.5	146.5	127.2	2.0	17.5
All-items excluding the 8 most volatile components[1]	122.5	122.3	119.1	0.2	2.9

1 *Excluded from the All-items CPI are the following eight volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/inflation).*

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit

(1992=100)

	March 2003	February 2003	March 2002	February 2003 to March 2003	March 2002 to March 2003
	Unadjusted				
				% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador	121.4	119.9	114.9	1.3	5.7
Prince Edward Island	122.6	121.3	114.5	1.1	7.1
Nova Scotia	125.1	124.3	117.1	0.6	6.8
New Brunswick	123.7	123.3	115.8	0.3	6.8
Québec	119.3	119.1	114.3	0.2	4.4
Ontario	123.5	123.4	119.5	0.1	3.3
Manitoba	125.7	125.5	121.5	0.2	3.5
Saskatchewan	126.7	126.2	121.8	0.4	4.0
Alberta	130.2	129.0	121.0	0.9	7.6
British Columbia	120.6	119.6	116.6	0.8	3.4
Whitehorse	120.7	120.6	115.4	0.1	4.6
Yellowknife	118.9	118.7	114.3	0.2	4.0
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	100.0	99.8	...	0.2	...

... *Figures not available.*

■

Retail trade

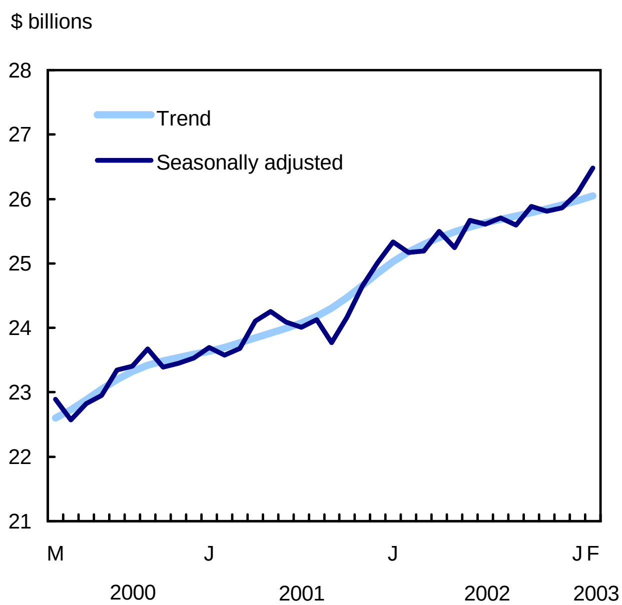
February 2003

Retail sales rose 1.5% to a record high of $26.5 billion in February, after increasing 0.9% in January. A strong rebound in auto sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers and sizable price-induced increases in sales by gasoline service stations were behind February's gain. Excluding sales by these retailers, retail sales declined 0.3% in February.

In constant dollars, retail sales rose 0.9% in February.

Sales in the retail sector began 2003 on a strong note, after a weaker-than-expected holiday season. Throughout much of 2002, retail sales advances were modest compared with the strong gains observed from October 2001 to January 2002. Nevertheless, retailers posted a healthy 6.0% annual gain in 2002.

Autos and gasoline drive up retail sales in February



While sales jumped 3.9% in the automotive sector, retailers in each of the other sectors had little to cheer about in February. Retailers in the clothing (-2.0%) and furniture (-0.7%) sectors posted sales declines, and sales remained essentially unchanged in the food, drug and general merchandise sectors.

Auto sales bounce back in February

A strong comeback in new car sales in February led to significant sales gains by motor and recreational vehicle dealers (+4.3%). This was their largest monthly sales increase since November 2001, when popular zero-percent financing programs were introduced. Before February, sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers had generally been losing ground since early 2002. February's gain offset half of the lost sales noted over the course of 2002. Despite a downward trend in sales, motor and recreational vehicle dealers enjoyed an excellent year in 2002, with sales up 7.8% from 2001.

Gasoline service stations posted sales increases of 6.3% in February and 4.6% in January, boosted by higher gasoline prices at the pump. Sales by gasoline service stations jumped 41% from January 2002 to February 2003, after falling 18% throughout 2001.

Lower spending in clothing and furniture stores

Consumers reduced their purchases in clothing stores by 2.0% in February, after a spending spree in January (+3.4%). Extreme weather conditions were partly behind the volatile sales experienced by retailers in this sector since the start of 2002. In fact, sales in clothing stores remained essentially flat over that period. About 60% of all clothing is purchased from stores in the clothing sector; most of the remainder is purchased from general merchandise and sporting goods stores.

Retailers in the furniture sector suffered a second consecutive monthly decline in February. Sales fell 0.7% in February and 1.3% in January, cancelling out the gains observed in the previous two months. Household furniture and appliances stores, which account for 80% of all sales in the furniture sector, showed essentially unchanged sales since the spring of 2002. On the other hand, household furnishings stores (floor coverings, draperies, bedding and home decorating products) enjoyed strong monthly sales increases in the second half of 2002.

Note to readers

Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

Retail sales estimates are revised every year with the February release. The unadjusted monthly estimates in current and constant dollars for the year 2002 and January 2003 have been revised. Seasonal factors and seasonally adjusted estimates in current and constant dollars have also been revised for the period from January 2000 to January 2003. These revisions are now available on CANSIM and by request. The revised 2002 estimates will also appear in the February 2003 issue of Retail trade *(63-005-XIB).*

Retail sales up in all provinces

Strong auto sales led to higher retail sales in all provinces in February. Sales growth was strongest in Alberta for a second consecutive month. Retailers in Alberta posted sizable sales gains in February (+2.5%) and January (+2.7%). Retail sales in Alberta have generally been advancing since early 1999, marked by weaker gains in the second half of 2002.

The second largest monthly gain in February occurred in Saskatchewan (+1.8%), where retailers have generally experienced strong increases since the fall of 2001.

Retail sales advanced 1.7% in Quebec and Prince Edward Island in February. This third consecutive monthly gain for Quebec retailers pulled up sales, which had been weak since early 2002, after a period of rapid growth that began in the fall of 2001. In Prince Edward Island, retail sales have remained essentially flat since the start of 2002, after generally advancing in 2001.

Retailers in Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador showed identical sales increases in February (+1.4%). Retail sales in Ontario increased for a third straight month in February, after advancing slowly over much of 2002. Previously, retailers in Ontario enjoyed an 8% cumulative sales gain in a four-month period alone, from October 2001 to January 2002. In Newfoundland and Labrador, retail sales picked up strength in recent months after remaining essentially flat since the summer of 2001.

Related indicators for March

Total employment edged up 0.1% in March, the third weakest monthly gain since the start of 2002, when employment began to rise rapidly. Housing starts fell 14.5% in March, after reaching a 15-year high in February. Preliminary results from the auto industry indicate that the number of new motor vehicles sold in March declined by about 4% from February.

Available on CANSIM: tables 076-0005 and 080-0001 to 080-0005.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The February 2003 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, $16/$155) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; *paul.gratton@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Retail sales

	February 2002r	November 2002r	December 2002r	January 2003r	February 2003p	January to February 2003	February 2002 to February 2003
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Food	**5,462**	**5,678**	**5,708**	**5,749**	**5,758**	**0.1**	**5.4**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,051	5,280	5,308	5,353	5,354	0.0	6.0
All other food stores	411	398	400	396	403	1.9	-1.8
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,276**	**1,313**	**1,309**	**1,313**	**1,314**	**0.1**	**3.0**
Clothing	**1,355**	**1,355**	**1,329**	**1,374**	**1,347**	**-2.0**	**-0.6**
Shoe stores	156	153	145	153	149	-2.5	-4.5
Men’s clothing stores	114	110	105	114	118	3.6	4.0
Women’s clothing stores	405	386	384	391	381	-2.8	-6.0
Other clothing stores	681	706	694	716	699	-2.4	2.7
Furniture	**1,482**	**1,550**	**1,567**	**1,547**	**1,537**	**-0.7**	**3.7**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,194	1,241	1,245	1,225	1,218	-0.5	2.0
Household furnishings stores	288	309	323	323	319	-1.1	10.7
Automotive	**10,087**	**10,334**	**10,390**	**10,473**	**10,885**	**3.9**	**7.9**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,945	6,754	6,825	6,722	7,012	4.3	1.0
Gasoline service stations	1,704	2,103	2,116	2,215	2,354	6.3	38.2
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,438	1,477	1,449	1,537	1,519	-1.2	5.6
General merchandise stores	**2,799**	**2,833**	**2,828**	**2,890**	**2,892**	**0.1**	**3.3**
Department stores	1,646	1,664	1,660	1,703	1,704	0.1	3.5
Other general merchandise stores	1,152	1,169	1,169	1,187	1,188	0.1	3.1
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,709**	**2,751**	**2,732**	**2,749**	**2,747**	**-0.1**	**1.4**
Other semi-durable goods stores	786	797	800	797	810	1.7	3.1
Other durable goods stores	669	682	672	681	668	-2.0	-0.2
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,254	1,271	1,260	1,271	1,269	-0.1	1.2
Total, retail sales	**25,169**	**25,813**	**25,864**	**26,096**	**26,480**	**1.5**	**5.2**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**18,224**	**19,059**	**19,039**	**19,374**	**19,468**	**0.5**	**6.8**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	425	420	437	432	438	1.4	3.1
Prince Edward Island	110	110	111	110	111	1.7	1.4
Nova Scotia	755	760	773	762	768	0.8	1.8
New Brunswick	607	598	611	605	609	0.8	0.4
Quebec	5,744	5,881	5,894	5,951	6,053	1.7	5.4
Ontario	9,423	9,710	9,779	9,834	9,971	1.4	5.8
Manitoba	884	883	891	890	893	0.4	1.0
Saskatchewan	728	761	771	767	781	1.8	7.4
Alberta	3,088	3,177	3,120	3,204	3,286	2.5	6.4
British Columbia	3,313	3,416	3,382	3,446	3,468	0.6	4.7
Yukon	33	33	33	33	36	9.4	8.4
Northwest Territories	43	45	44	45	46	3.4	6.2
Nunavut	16	19	19	18	18	-1.0	13.2

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

Retail sales

	February 2002[r]	January 2003[r]	February 2003[p]	February 2002 to February 2003
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Food	**4,839**	**5,634**	**5,101**	**5.4**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,477	5,280	4,744	6.0
All other food stores	361	354	357	-1.3
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,170**	**1,305**	**1,206**	**3.1**
Clothing	**890**	**1,052**	**887**	**-0.4**
Shoe stores	93	122	90	-3.9
Men's clothing stores	72	96	75	4.9
Women's clothing stores	273	291	256	-6.0
Other clothing stores	453	544	466	2.9
Furniture	**1,145**	**1,347**	**1,188**	**3.7**
Household furniture and appliance stores	921	1,076	939	2.0
Household furnishings stores	225	271	248	10.6
Automotive	**7,974**	**8,819**	**8,659**	**8.6**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,421	5,466	5,474	1.0
Gasoline service stations	1,483	2,033	2,052	38.3
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,071	1,320	1,133	5.8
General merchandise stores	**2,041**	**2,195**	**2,115**	**3.7**
Department stores	1,123	1,194	1,168	4.0
Other general merchandise stores	918	1,001	948	3.3
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,008**	**2,188**	**2,036**	**1.4**
Other semi-durable goods stores	545	593	564	3.6
Other durable goods stores	496	571	494	-0.5
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	967	1,024	978	1.2
Total, retail sales	**20,067**	**22,541**	**21,192**	**5.6**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**14,647**	**17,075**	**15,718**	**7.3**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	320	345	332	3.7
Prince Edward Island	80	88	82	1.9
Nova Scotia	598	660	611	2.1
New Brunswick	468	506	471	0.6
Quebec	4,504	5,011	4,763	5.7
Ontario	7,478	8,505	7,939	6.2
Manitoba	720	784	731	1.5
Saskatchewan	582	685	626	7.7
Alberta	2,465	2,808	2,635	6.9
British Columbia	2,774	3,067	2,918	5.2
Yukon	25	27	27	9.6
Northwest Territories	38	40	41	7.6
Nunavut	13	16	15	12.9

[r] *Revised figures.*
[p] *Preliminary figures.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Annual Survey of Advertising and Related Services
2001

In 2001, the advertising and related services industry earned revenues of $5.1 billion, up 5.9% from 2000. The profit margin for the industry was 8.9% in 2001, compared with 9.5% in 2000.

A downturn in traditional advertising spending in 2001 resulted in a 1.4% decrease in revenues for traditional advertising agencies. In contrast, the other more specialized advertising industries, such as public relations and billboard renters, enjoyed a 13.0% increase in revenues.

The majority of clients for the advertising and related services industry are private sector firms, with nearly one third (28% in 2001) in retail trade. Advertising agencies saw their foreign client base increase 4.9% in 2001, reaching 9%.

Results from the 2001 Annual Survey of Advertising and Related Services are now available. These data provide information such as the industry's revenue, expenditures, salaries and wages, profit margin, and the percentage distribution of revenue earned by type of service and client base.

Available on CANSIM: table 360-0003.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2437.

To order a free data release package, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul McDonald (613-951-0665; *paul.mcdonald@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

Annual Survey of Automotive Equipment Rental and Leasing
2001

In 2001, the automotive equipment rental and leasing sector earned operating revenues of $ 4.5 billion, down 8.4 % from 2000. The operating profit margin for the industry was 15.9% in 2001, compared with 19.5% in 2000.

Results from the 2001 Annual Survey of Automotive Equipment Rental and Leasing are now available. These data provide information such as the sector's revenue, expenses, salaries, wages and benefits, operating profit margin, and the percentage distribution of operating revenue earned by type of service and client base.

Available on CANSIM: table 352-0008.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2442.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marian Grant (613-951-3558; *marian.grant@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Quarterly telecommunications statistics, Fourth quarter 2002, Vol. 26, no. 4
Catalogue number 56-002-XIE ($21/$40).

New motor vehicle sales, February 2003, Vol. 75, no. 2
Catalogue number 63-007-XIB ($13/$124).

Wholesale trade, February 2003, Vol. 66, no. 2
Catalogue number 63-008-XIB ($14/$140).

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 are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

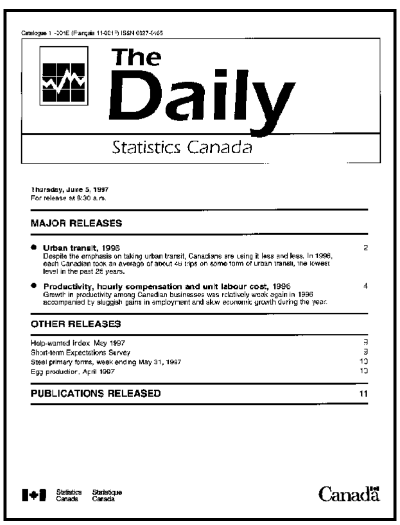
Order products by phone:
Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:	**1-800-267-6677**
From other countries call:	**1-613-951-7277**
To fax your order:	**1-877-287-4369**
Address changes or account inquiries:	**1-800-700-1033**

To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to *order@statcan.ca* or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website *(www.statcan.ca).* From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.


Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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 46 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 relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997	9
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	10
Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at *http://www.statcan.ca.* To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to *listproc@statcan.ca.* Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

Statistics Canada's Regional Reference Centres offer a full range of the Agency's products and services. Each reference centre is equipped with a library and sales counter where you can consult or purchase publications, diskettes, CD-ROM discs, microfiche, maps and more.

Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. A telephone enquiry service is available with toll-free access for those located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services — from seminars to consultations — are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
1741 Brunswick Street
2nd Floor, Box 11
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3X8

Local calls: (902) 426-5331
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-902-426-9538
E-mail: atlantic.info@statcan.ca

Quebec and Nunavut
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
4th Floor, East Tower
Guy Favreau Complex
200 René Lévesque Blvd. W.
Montréal, Québec
H2Z 1X4

Local calls: (514) 283-5725
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-514-283-9350
E-mail: infostcmontreal@statcan.ca

National Capital Region
Statistical Reference Centre (NCR)
Statistics Canada
Lobby, R.H. Coats Building
Holland Avenue
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0T6

Local calls: (613) 951-8116
Fax: 1-613-951-0581
E-mail: infostats@statcan.ca

Ontario
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
10th Floor
Arthur Meighen Building
25 St. Clair Avenue East
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1M4

Local calls: (416) 973-6586
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-416-973-7475

Manitoba
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Via Rail Building, Suite 200
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4V9

Local calls: (204) 983-4020
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-204-983-7543
E-mail: statswpg@solutions.net

Saskatchewan
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Park Plaza, Suite 440
2365 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 4K1

Local calls: (306) 780-5405
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-306-780-5403
E-mail: statcan@sk.sympatico.ca

Alberta and the Northwest Territories
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Pacific Plaza, Suite 900
10909 Jasper Avenue, N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4J3

Local calls: (780) 495-3027
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-780-495-5318
E-mail: Sabrina.Pond@statcan.ca

British Columbia and the Yukon
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Library Square Tower, Suite 600
300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 6C7

Local calls: (604) 666-3691
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-604-666-4863

National toll-free enquiries line (Canada and the United States): 1-800-263-1136
Toll-free order-only line (Canada and the United States): 1-800-267-6677
Toll-free fax order line (Canada and the United States): 1-877-287-4369
Toll-free telecommunications device for the hearing impaired: 1-800-363-7629