



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **New motor vehicle sales, March 2003** 2
 The number of new motor vehicles sold in March declined 4.4% from February. March's drop in sales followed two large fluctuations in February and January.
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2001 Census topic-based tabulations (Various levels of geography)

Additional topic-based tabulations for the "Canada's workforce: Paid work", "Canada's workforce: Unpaid work", "Place of work", "Commuting to work", "Language use at work" and "Language composition 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

New motor vehicle sales

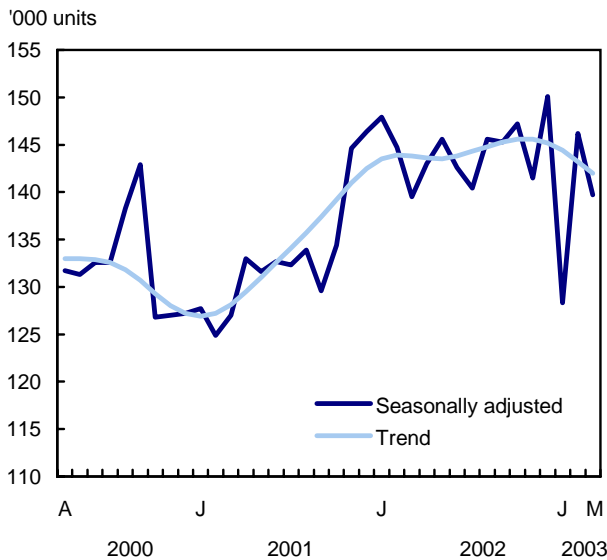
March 2003

The number of new motor vehicles sold in March declined 4.4% from February. March's drop in sales followed two large fluctuations in February (+14.0%) and January (-14.6%).

In March, 139,670 new vehicles were sold, almost the same volume as in March 2002. Passenger cars and trucks both contributed to the decline.

New motor vehicles have been following a downward movement in recent months, after remaining at a high level throughout 2002. Previously, sales went through a period of sustained growth during most of 2001.

New motor vehicle sales have been following a downward movement in recent months



On the basis of preliminary figures from the auto industry, it is estimated that the number of new motor vehicles sold in April was down approximately 4% from March, the second decrease in two months. Passenger cars were mainly responsible for the decline, with weaker sales than for trucks.

March passenger car and truck sales lower

After large increases in February, sales of passenger cars and trucks both declined in March.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated. Seasonally adjusted provincial data from January 1991 are available on CANSIM.

Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. **Trucks** include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

North American-built new motor vehicles include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included with those for British Columbia.

Dealers sold 76,201 new passenger cars, down 4.8% from February, when sales rose sharply (+10.7%). North American-built cars and overseas-built cars both contributed to March's decline.

Overall, after remaining at a high level throughout most of 2002, new passenger car sales have faltered in recent months. Previously, they had followed an upward movement since the start of 2001.

In March, truck sales fell 4.0% from February to 63,469 vehicles. This drop followed two large fluctuations in February (+18.1%) and January (-18.8%).

In recent months, new truck sales have slumped after moving upward since the summer of 2002. Previously, sales had remained generally stable for the first half of 2002.

Truck sales in the first quarter declined more rapidly than car sales

New motor vehicle sales in the first quarter of 2003 fell 5.6% from the fourth quarter of 2002, mainly the result of weaker truck sales. Truck sales dropped 9.8% from the fourth quarter of 2002, whereas passenger car sales declined only 2.0%.

Sales down in all provinces

In March, sales fell in all provinces from February, when they posted increases of at least 9.0% except in the region formed by British Columbia and the territories (+2.3%).

Sales in western Canada advanced rapidly from the start of 2002 until the fall; since then, however, they have

been following a downward trend. The only exception is Saskatchewan, where sales maintained their upward movement.

In Quebec and Ontario, sales have been declining since the start of 2003. However, in Quebec they rose throughout 2002, whereas in Ontario they were fairly flat.

In eastern Canada, sales have also been moving downward in recent months, after remaining generally stable in 2002. However, in New Brunswick, where the movement is more pronounced, new motor vehicle sales have been declining since the start of 2002.

Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2402.

The March 2003 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) 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). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Cl rance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

□

New motor vehicle sales

	March 2002	February 2003 ^r	March 2003 ^p	March 2002 to March 2003	February to March 2003
Seasonally adjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	139 481	146 154	139 670	0.1	-4.4
Passenger cars	77 360	80 045	76 201	-1.5	-4.8
North American ¹	54 547	54 866	52 122	-4.4	-5.0
Overseas	22 813	25 179	24 079	5.5	-4.4
Trucks, vans and buses	62 121	66 109	63 469	2.2	-4.0
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2 022	2 086	1 977	-2.2	-5.2
Prince Edward Island	433	418	400	-7.6	-4.3
Nova Scotia	3 871	3 993	3 782	-2.3	-5.3
New Brunswick	3 498	3 363	3 119	-10.8	-7.3
Quebec	34 143	36 861	36 014	5.5	-2.3
Ontario	57 467	58 990	56 539	-1.6	-4.2
Manitoba	3 841	3 903	3 834	-0.2	-1.8
Saskatchewan	3 355	3 590	3 544	5.6	-1.3
Alberta	16 224	16 968	16 149	-0.5	-4.8
British Columbia ²	14 628	15 983	14 311	-2.2	-10.5
	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003 ^p	March 2002 to March 2003	
Unadjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	150,286	105,391	148,922	-0.9	
Passenger cars	81,118	54,638	79,385	-2.1	
North American ¹	57,955	37,734	55,863	-3.6	
Overseas	23,163	16,904	23,522	1.5	
Trucks, vans and buses	69,168	50,753	69,537	0.5	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,276	1,371	2,185	-4.0	
Prince Edward Island	412	248	365	-11.4	
Nova Scotia	4,334	2,727	4,002	-7.7	
New Brunswick	3,959	2,330	3,559	-10.1	
Quebec	37,904	25,540	39,456	4.1	
Ontario	60,357	41,456	59,863	-0.8	
Manitoba	4,041	2,892	3,927	-2.8	
Saskatchewan	3,477	2,516	3,686	6.0	
Alberta	17,455	12,575	16,654	-4.6	
British Columbia ²	16,071	13,736	15,225	-5.3	

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

² Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

OTHER RELEASES

Non-residential building construction price indexes

First quarter 2003

The composite price index (1997=100) for non-residential building construction in the first quarter was 117.6, up 1.0% from the fourth quarter and 2.7% from the first quarter of 2002, the highest year-to-year percentage change measured since an increase of 3.7% in the second quarter of 2001.

Calgary's index rose 1.5% from the fourth quarter, followed by Edmonton and Toronto (both +1.2%), Ottawa (+1.1%), Vancouver (+0.7%), Montréal (+0.4%) and Halifax (+0.2%).

Calgary also had the highest change (+3.3%) compared with the first quarter of 2002, followed by Toronto (+3.1%), Ottawa (+3.0%), Edmonton (+2.8%), Montréal (+2.2%), Halifax (+2.0%) and Vancouver (+1.2%).

Non-residential Building Construction Price Index (1997=100)

	First quarter 2003	First quarter 2002 to first quarter 2003 % change	Fourth quarter 2002 to first quarter 2003
Composite	117.6	2.7	1.0
Halifax	108.3	2.0	0.2
Montréal	115.4	2.2	0.4
Ottawa	119.4	3.0	1.1
Toronto	122.2	3.1	1.2
Calgary	118.5	3.3	1.5
Edmonton	116.6	2.8	1.2
Vancouver	108.4	1.2	0.7

Note: Non-residential building construction price indexes provide an indication of changes in construction costs in seven major urban areas (Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver). Three construction categories — industrial, commercial and institutional buildings — are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school).

Besides the major urban areas and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the changes in costs is available by trade group — structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical — within the building types. These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the

detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0039 and 327-0040.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

The first quarter 2003 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Rebecca McDougall (613-951-9606; fax: 613 951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Port activity

January to June 2002

Economic activity at Canada's ports rose slightly in the first six months of 2002 from the same period a year earlier, mainly the result of strong domestic sector activity in crude petroleum shipments from the Newfoundland offshore oil fields.

Canadian ports handled 181.2 million metric tonnes of cargo from January to June 2002; up slightly from 181.0 million tonnes in the same period of 2001.

The Vancouver Port Authority, Canada's busiest port, handled 33.3 million tonnes and accounted for 18% of all shipping in Canada. Their total tonnage dropped 12%, the result of lower coal shipments to Japan and South Korea. However, containerized tonnage rose 7%, as their TEU count surpassed 650,000, a gain of 16.5% from 2001.

Come-by-Chance tonnage more than doubled as a result of increased production from the Newfoundland oil fields, combined with strong gains in foreign crude oil arriving from the Middle East and transshipped to US Atlantic and Gulf ports. They handled 16.4 million tonnes and ranked second behind the Vancouver Port Authority.

The Saint John Port Authority recorded a 3.8% increase in total tonnage handled to 12.9 million tonnes. This was based on the strength of a ten-fold increase in domestic crude petroleum shipments and a further 29% increase in gasoline and aviation turbine fuel destined for US Atlantic and Gulf ports. Potash shipments also rebounded with a 16% increase from the same period of 2001.

Port-Cartier made gains from the depressed tonnage levels they experienced the year before. In

the first six months of 2002, they handled 6.6 million tonnes, 73.1% higher than in the same period of 2001. Iron ore accounted for close to 80% of the activity at Port-Cartier, as their international shipments rose to 5.3 million tonnes from 2.9 million tonnes in the same period of 2001. Markets in Europe were the recipient of 73% of these cargoes. Shipments of wheat from Canadian and US Great Lakes ports transshipped through Port-Cartier to foreign destinations also gained during the period.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2751 and 2791.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division

Canada's top 20 ports by tonnage handled

	Domestic			International			Total		
	2001	2002	2001 to 2002	2001	2002	2001 to 2002	2001	2002	2001 to 2002
	'000 tonnes		% change	'000 tonnes		% change	'000 tonnes		% change
Vancouver	908	629	-30.7	36 918	32 669	-11.5	37 825	33 297	-12.0
Come-By-Chance	2 426	6 709	176.5	5 540	9 736	75.8	7 966	16 445	106.4
Saint John	958	1 628	69.9	11 436	11 243	-1.7	12 394	12 871	3.8
Sept-Îles/Pointe-Noire	1 996	1 618	-18.9	7 483	6 984	-6.7	9 479	8 602	-9.3
Montréal/Contrecoeur	1 420	1 215	-14.5	7 611	7 230	-5.0	9 032	8 444	-6.5
Québec/Lévis	1 480	1 344	-9.2	5 258	6 059	15.2	6 738	7 403	9.9
Port Hawkesbury	545	176	-67.7	11 035	6 741	-38.9	11 580	6 917	-40.3
Newfoundland Offshore	2 595	6 247	140.7	1 081	474	-56.2	3 676	6 721	82.8
Port-Cartier	778	1 134	45.8	3 050	5 493	80.1	3 828	6 627	73.1
Halifax	1 257	948	-24.6	5 612	5 093	-9.2	6 869	6 041	-12.1
Fraser River	3 921	3 739	-4.6	1 615	2 143	32.7	5 536	5 882	6.3
Nanticoke	261	565	116.3	5 780	5 283	-8.6	6 041	5 848	-3.2
Hamilton	2 152	2 128	-1.1	1 467	1 976	34.7	3 618	4 104	13.4
Thunder Bay	2 182	2 004	-8.2	1 134	1 258	10.9	3 317	3 262	-1.6
Howe Sound	2 488	2 161	-13.1	116	278	139.8	2 604	2 439	-6.3
Port-Alfred	68	18	-72.9	1 827	2 154	17.9	1 895	2 172	14.6
Baie-Comeau	751	478	-36.3	1 239	1 373	10.8	1 990	1 852	-7.0
Sault-Ste-Marie	205	204	-0.5	1 443	1 551	7.5	1 648	1 755	6.5
Sorel	1 214	816	-32.8	995	912	-8.3	2 209	1 728	-21.8
Windsor (Ont.)	963	736	-23.6	1 000	972	-2.8	1 964	1 708	-13.0
Sub-total	28 570	34 498	20.7	111 639	109 620	-1.8	140 209	144 118	2.8
Other ports	17 566	15 289	-13.0	23 186	21 804	-6.0	40 751	37 093	-9.0
Grand total	46 135	49 787	7.9	134 825	131 424	-2.5	180 961	181 211	0.1

Dairy statistics

March 2003 (preliminary)

Consumers purchased 245 000 kilolitres of milk and cream in March 2003, virtually unchanged from March 2002. Sales of milk fell 0.2% from March 2002 to 226 000 kilolitres. In contrast, sales of cream rose to 19 000 kilolitres, up 4% from March 2002.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0007 to 003-0012, 003-0029, 003-0033 and 003-0034.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The first quarter 2003 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001-XIB, \$27/\$89) 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 Anna Michalowska (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division.

Steel wire and specified wire products

March 2003

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for March.

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 March 2003 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products*, Vol. 58, no. 3 (41-006-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. ■

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

March 2003

Data on industrial chemicals and synthetic resins are now available for March.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2183.

The March 2003 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins*, Vol. 46, no. 3 (46-002-XIE, \$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. ■

Civil aviation operating statistics

2002

Air Canada reported that total passenger-kilometres grew 3% from 2001 to 2002.

Available on CANSIM: table 401-0001.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2712 and 2713.

Operational data for 2002 on civil aviation for Air Canada will appear in the next issue of *Aviation: service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8). A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Lund (613-951-0125; robert.lund@statcan.ca) or Lisa Di Piéto (613-951-0146; lisa.dipietro@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Canadian Vehicle Survey

Fourth quarter 2002

Vehicles covered in the Canadian Vehicle Survey travelled an estimated 88.3 billion kilometres in the fourth quarter of 2002. Among them, vehicles weighing less than 4 500 kilograms (and not used as a bus) travelled 81.4 billion kilometres, or 92% of the total for the quarter.

The survey measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada with the exception of some vehicles such as motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment.

Estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2749.

The fourth quarter 2002 issue of *The Canadian Vehicle Survey* (53F0004XIE, 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*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-866-500-8400; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Production of eggs, March 2003
Catalogue number 23-003-XIB
(free).

Canada's mineral production, preliminary estimate, 2002
Catalogue number 26-202-XIB
(free).

Steel wire and specified wire products, March 2003,
Vol. 58, no. 3
Catalogue number 41-006-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins,
March 2003, Vol. 46, no. 3
Catalogue number 46-002-XIE (\$5/\$47).

Canadian Vehicle Survey, Fourth quarter 2002
Catalogue number 53F0004XIE
(free).

Imports by commodity, March 2003, Vol. 60, no. 3
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB (\$37/\$361).

Imports by commodity, March 2003, Vol. 60, no. 3
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB (\$78/\$773).

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

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Design 1 - 2002, IP/00/041 11-001-XIE/0004-0007-01-01



Statistics Canada

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



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

- Map-based index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
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- Egg production, Apr 19 1997 13

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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.

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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.

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