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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, July 21, 2003
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MAJOR RELEASES

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NEW PRODUCTS

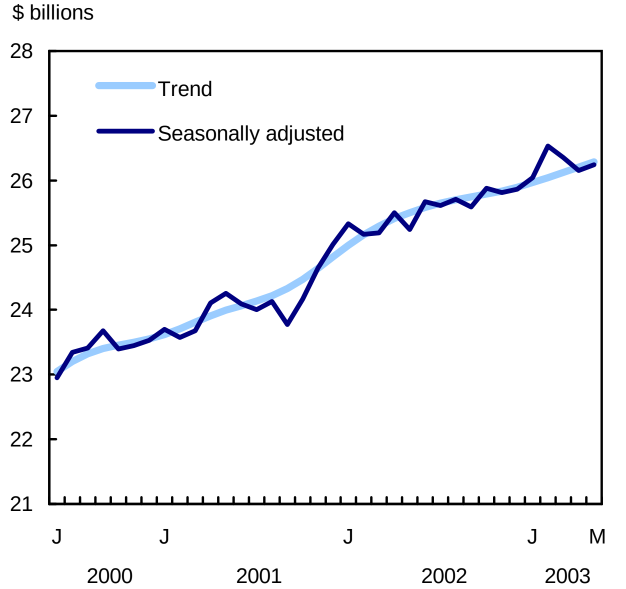
MAJOR RELEASES

Retail trade
May 2003

Retail sales increased 0.3% in May to $26.2 billion, the first sales gain in three months. Sales had fallen 0.8% in April and 0.7% in March. Previously, retailers had generally experienced rising sales since the September 2001 slump.

In the first five months of 2003, retail sales grew on average 0.3% per month, maintaining the same pace as in 2002.

First gain in three months in retail sales



In constant dollars, retail sales advanced 0.7% in May, after falling 0.2% in April and 0.7% in March.

All retailers posted sales increases in May, with the exception of supermarkets and grocery stores (-2.5%), gasoline service stations (-6.6%), and alcoholic beverage stores (-3.2%). Excluding sales by these retailers, retail sales increased 2.2% in May. May's strength in retail sales was concentrated in Ontario (+1.6%), Quebec (+0.6%) and Manitoba (+0.3%).

Consumers return to shopping in most stores

In May, consumers increased their spending 2.3% in the general merchandise sector, after staying away in the previous two months. Almost all of this increased spending occurred in department stores, which saw their sales jump 3.7% in May. Sales in the general merchandise sector gained strength with May's increase, after remaining essentially flat since the spring of 2002.

Consumers flocked back to the clothing sector in a buying mood, pushing sales up 2.0% in May, after cutting back on their spending in April (-0.7%). All types of clothing stores benefited from May's higher value of purchases in the clothing sector. Retailers in the clothing sector were affected by considerable volatility in consumer buying habits since early 2002, leaving sales essentially flat.

Retailers in the furniture sector posted a 1.9% sales gain in May. This was their largest monthly increase since January 2002 (+2.8%), the last month of a spending spree by consumers. Sales in furniture stores grew 10.0% from October 2001 to January 2002. Sales advances in furniture stores have been relatively modest ever since.

Sales in the automotive sector advanced 0.9% in May on the strength of motor and recreational vehicle dealers (+2.9%) and automotive parts, accessories and service stores (+2.2%). For a second consecutive month, lower gasoline prices at the pump continued to batter sales in gasoline service stations in May (-6.6%). Retailers in the automotive sector have experienced some large monthly swings in sales since the start of 2003, partly because of fluctuations in gasoline prices and incentive-driven motor vehicle sales. Previously, sales in the automotive sector had remained essentially flat since early 2002.

Sales in supermarkets and alcoholic beverage stores plummet

Sales in supermarkets and grocery stores fell 2.5% in May, after reaching record levels in the previous two months. May's decline, which was widespread across provinces, brought sales back more in line with the upward trend observed since early 1999. The most significant decline in May was reported by supermarkets and grocery stores in Ontario. These retailers had also enjoyed the largest sales gain in April. The outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome

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

(SARS) in the Toronto area may have stimulated sales in supermarkets and grocery stores in April because of a shift from restaurant meals to more home-cooked meals.

Alcoholic beverage stores posted a 3.2% drop in sales in May, reflecting the weaker growth reported by these retailers since the middle of 2002. Nevertheless, they have been enjoying annual sales gains above 5% since 1997.

Ontario retailers back in business

Retail sales advances in May were concentrated in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba; all other provinces posted declines.

Retailers in Ontario bounced back with a 1.6% sales gain, after a 2.3% drop in April. With the exception of food, all retail sectors in Ontario enjoyed rising sales in May. The most significant increase occurred in the automotive sector, where the number of new motor vehicles sold jumped 10.7%. Retail sales in Ontario have generally been advancing since the fall of 2001, despite periods of weaker growth.

Retail sales in Quebec rose 0.6% in May, offsetting the loss in April. Quebec retailers have generally been reporting sales advances since the fall of 2001. In Manitoba, retail sales increased 0.3% in May, adding some strength to the weak upward movement observed since the start of 2003. Previously, retail sales in Manitoba had remained essentially flat since the spring of 2002.

Related indicators for June

A surge in part-time jobs in June led to a 0.3% gain in total employment, following two months of slight declines. Housing starts increased 6.3% in June, after falling for three consecutive months from a 15-year high in February. Based on preliminary figures from the auto industry, the number of new motor vehicles sold in June fell by about 10%, after advancing 8.4% in May. Auto sales have been extremely volatile since the start of 2003, but remained strong.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The May 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

	May 2002	February 2003[r]	March 2003[r]	April 2003[r]	May 2003[p]	April to May 2003	May 2002 to May 2003
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Food	**5,521**	**5,777**	**5,850**	**5,929**	**5,796**	**-2.2**	**5.0**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,130	5,371	5,431	5,522	5,384	-2.5	5.0
All other food stores	391	406	419	407	412	1.3	5.3
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,302**	**1,316**	**1,329**	**1,329**	**1,338**	**0.6**	**2.7**
Clothing	**1,313**	**1,346**	**1,358**	**1,349**	**1,375**	**2.0**	**4.8**
Shoe stores	144	150	151	147	149	1.1	3.3
Men's clothing stores	115	110	107	104	108	3.7	-6.3
Women's clothing stores	391	385	395	389	400	2.7	2.3
Other clothing stores	663	700	705	709	719	1.5	8.5
Furniture	**1,531**	**1,545**	**1,562**	**1,562**	**1,592**	**1.9**	**4.0**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,239	1,227	1,242	1,247	1,270	1.8	2.4
Household furnishings stores	291	318	320	315	322	2.2	10.4
Automotive	**10,121**	**10,910**	**10,668**	**10,415**	**10,512**	**0.9**	**3.9**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,833	7,040	6,879	6,867	7,063	2.9	3.4
Gasoline service stations	1,869	2,342	2,250	2,021	1,888	-6.6	1.0
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,419	1,528	1,540	1,527	1,561	2.2	10.0
General merchandise stores	**2,792**	**2,886**	**2,849**	**2,842**	**2,909**	**2.3**	**4.2**
Department stores	1,630	1,699	1,681	1,655	1,717	3.7	5.4
Other general merchandise stores	1,162	1,187	1,168	1,187	1,192	0.4	2.5
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,665**	**2,753**	**2,739**	**2,726**	**2,721**	**-0.2**	**2.1**
Other semi-durable goods stores	772	811	790	789	796	1.0	3.2
Other durable goods stores	669	673	673	661	673	1.8	0.5
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,224	1,269	1,276	1,276	1,252	-1.9	2.3
Total, retail sales	**25,245**	**26,532**	**26,356**	**26,153**	**26,243**	**0.3**	**4.0**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**18,411**	**19,492**	**19,477**	**19,286**	**19,180**	**-0.6**	**4.2**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	415	439	442	444	439	-1.1	6.0
Prince Edward Island	111	111	110	112	110	-1.8	-1.1
Nova Scotia	759	772	770	776	770	-0.7	1.5
New Brunswick	606	611	610	621	605	-2.5	-0.1
Quebec	5,808	6,063	6,078	6,042	6,076	0.6	4.6
Ontario	9,333	10,010	9,943	9,716	9,867	1.6	5.7
Manitoba	884	894	902	901	903	0.3	2.1
Saskatchewan	749	782	798	790	783	-0.8	4.6
Alberta	3,120	3,282	3,228	3,254	3,205	-1.5	2.7
British Columbia	3,372	3,468	3,376	3,404	3,389	-0.5	0.5
Yukon	32	36	35	33	33	-0.1	5.9
Northwest Territories	41	45	45	42	44	4.1	7.2
Nunavut	17	18	18	18	18	-2.6	5.9

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

Retail sales

	May 2002	April 2003[r]	May 2003[p]	May 2002 to May 2003
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Food	**5,825**	**5,772**	**6,275**	**7.7**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,417	5,364	5,842	7.8
All other food stores	408	408	433	6.2
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,331**	**1,293**	**1,358**	**2.0**
Clothing	**1,348**	**1,269**	**1,439**	**6.7**
Shoe stores	174	150	183	5.1
Men's clothing stores	118	91	115	-2.2
Women's clothing stores	432	386	452	4.7
Other clothing stores	625	642	689	10.3
Furniture	**1,450**	**1,384**	**1,544**	**6.5**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,161	1,096	1,227	5.7
Household furnishings stores	288	288	316	9.7
Automotive	**12,214**	**11,186**	**12,475**	**2.1**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	8,559	7,728	8,709	1.7
Gasoline service stations	1,993	1,922	1,958	-1.8
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,661	1,536	1,808	8.8
General merchandise stores	**2,780**	**2,615**	**2,939**	**5.7**
Department stores	1,590	1,524	1,707	7.4
Other general merchandise stores	1,190	1,091	1,232	3.5
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,866**	**2,428**	**2,960**	**3.3**
Other semi-durable goods stores	888	688	923	4.0
Other durable goods stores	687	597	693	0.9
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,291	1,142	1,343	4.1
Total, retail sales	**27,813**	**25,946**	**28,990**	**4.2**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**19,255**	**18,218**	**20,282**	**5.3**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	460	432	491	6.6
Prince Edward Island	120	103	119	-0.6
Nova Scotia	818	741	835	2.0
New Brunswick	675	617	670	-0.8
Quebec	6,707	6,262	7,054	5.2
Ontario	10,249	9,546	10,839	5.8
Manitoba	951	887	976	2.6
Saskatchewan	801	771	838	4.7
Alberta	3,363	3,206	3,457	2.8
British Columbia	3,573	3,289	3,612	1.1
Yukon	35	31	37	3.9
Northwest Territories	42	42	45	6.5
Nunavut	18	18	19	4.9

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

■

OTHER RELEASES

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

February 2003

The February 2003 monthly report, Vol. 1 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's website (*http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm*).

Note: The TP141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (those with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's website.

For more information about this website, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; *villenm@tc.gc.ca*) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; *rajanis@tc.gc.ca*), Transport Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: 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. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

May 2003

In June, Chicago corn futures prices were buoyed by the mid-month United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) report that lowered world ending stocks, but good growing conditions later weighed on prices. Despite tight soybean supplies, soybean futures prices showed some volatility as a result of a bearish mid-month report, mediocre exports and positive weather reports.

Winnipeg June canola futures prices rallied in the first half of the month despite appreciation in the Canadian dollar and good conditions in most of the Prairies. Heavier farm deliveries detracted from the rally during the rest of the month. Canola prices were supported by tight projected world stocks at the end of the current crop year, and by smaller crop prospects in competing origins. Canadian prices were internationally competitive. Barley futures prices were supported by the backlog of feeder cattle caused by the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) export ban and accompanying uncertainty about when the borders will be re-opened.

The data from the May 2003 issue of Cereals and oilseeds review are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, domestic processing, exports, farmer's deliveries, and supply-disposition analyses.

The June situation report, an overview of current domestic and international market conditions, is also included in the May issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, $11/$112; 22-007-XPB, $15/$149), which will be available in July 2003. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; *les.macartney@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

The Consumer Price Index, June 2003, Vol. 82, no. 6
Catalogue number 62-001-XIB ($8/$77).
Available at 7 a.m. Tuesday, July 22

The Consumer Price Index, June 2003, Vol. 82, no. 6
Catalogue number 62-001-XPB ($11/$103).
Available at 7 a.m. Tuesday, July 22

Wholesale trade, May 2003, Vol. 66, no. 5
Catalogue number 63-008-XIB ($14/$140).

Culture trade and investment project: culture goods trade estimates, 1996–2002
Catalogue number 87-007-XDB ($50).

Days of our lives: Time use and transitions over the life course: Work, parenthood and the experience of time scarcity, 1998, no. 1
Catalogue number 89-584-MIE2003001
(free).

Days of our lives: Time use and transitions over the life course: Transitions to union formation, 1998, no. 2
Catalogue number 89-584-MIE2003002
(free).

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

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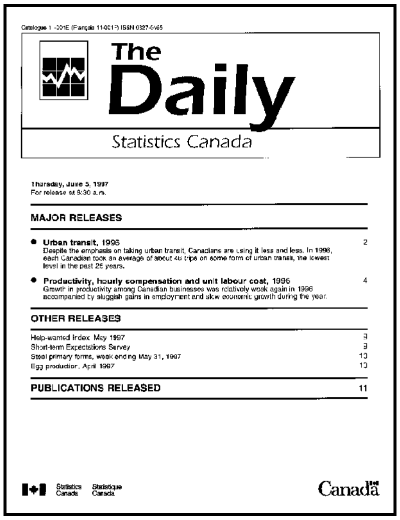

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The Daily

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.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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