



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, September 19, 2003

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Wholesale trade, July 2003** 2  
Wholesale sales rose a strong 1.1% in July, experiencing growth for the first time since January.
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## OTHER RELEASES

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**RELEASE DATES:** September 22 to 26 9

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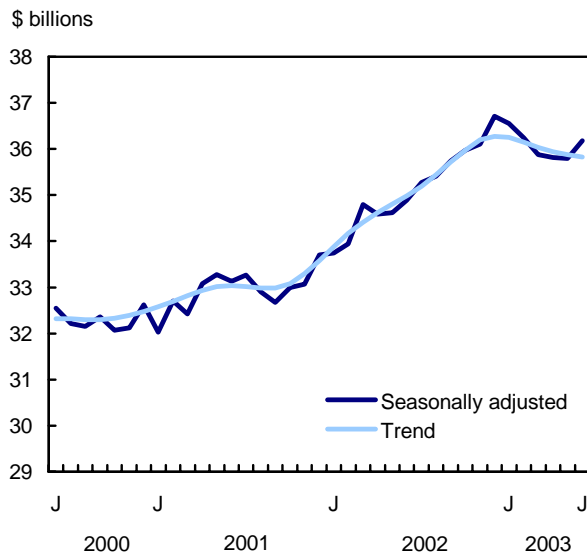
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Wholesale trade

July 2003

Wholesale sales grew 1.1% in July, as wholesalers sold \$36.2 billion worth of goods and services. Despite the growth, wholesale sales have been generally falling since February. This follows a period of strong growth for wholesale sales from the fall of 2001 to January 2003.

#### Despite the July increase in sales, the downward trend continues



The slowdown in wholesale sales since February was partly a reflection of weak international trade. Exports fell four times during this period. One of the many functions of wholesalers is to serve as intermediaries between Canadian manufacturers and foreign markets. Canadian wholesalers are responsible for 10% to 12% of exports and also play a key role in imports. Imports declined 1.4% in the first quarter and 4.6% in the second, reflecting a weakness in domestic demand for foreign goods.

Six of the eleven sectors posted an increase in July. The most significant increases were in computer and electronic products (+9.1%), lumber and building materials (+5.3%) and beverage, drug and tobacco products (+4.3%).

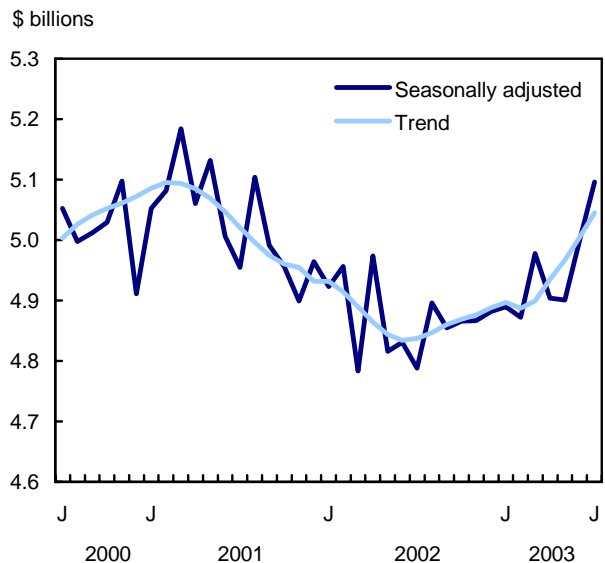
The July increase was partly dampened by lower wholesale sales in the other products category (-2.8%) (which includes seeds and chemicals, as well as

#### **Note to readers**

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

other farm supplies), and in motor vehicles, parts and accessories (-1.3%).

#### Sales of industrial machinery increasing since early 2003



In constant prices, wholesale sales decreased 0.2% in July.

#### **Wholesalers continue to benefit from business investment**

Sales of industrial machinery increased in July (+1.9%). Since the start of the year, sales in this sector, which are ranked fourth in importance to total wholesale sales, have been generally climbing. Lower interest rates, as well as the strength of the Canadian dollar during this period, helped reduce costs, which may have encouraged certain business investment.

The computer and electronic products sector experienced a marked rise in July (+9.1%). The launch of a new range of products early in the summer could have spurred-on the growth recorded this month.

Nonetheless, excluding the strong sales noted at the start of the year, sales have remained generally stable since the second quarter of 2002.

### The automobile sector continues to struggle

In July, wholesale sales of motor vehicles, parts and accessories fell for a sixth consecutive month (-1.3%). Lower import prices for automobiles may have contributed to the weakness observed since February. Wholesalers of motor vehicles, parts and accessories are major importers. This downward trend contrasts with the year 2002, when this sector was one of the major contributors to the increase posted amongst wholesalers.

### Six provinces benefit from increased wholesale sales

Six provinces benefited from the increase in wholesale sales in July. The most noteworthy increases were posted in New Brunswick (+4.6%) and Quebec (+2.4%). Strong sales in beverage, drug and tobacco products, as well as the lumber and construction material sector, partly explain the increase posted in New Brunswick. For their part, Quebec wholesalers greatly benefited from healthy sales of food products and of beverage, drug and tobacco products.

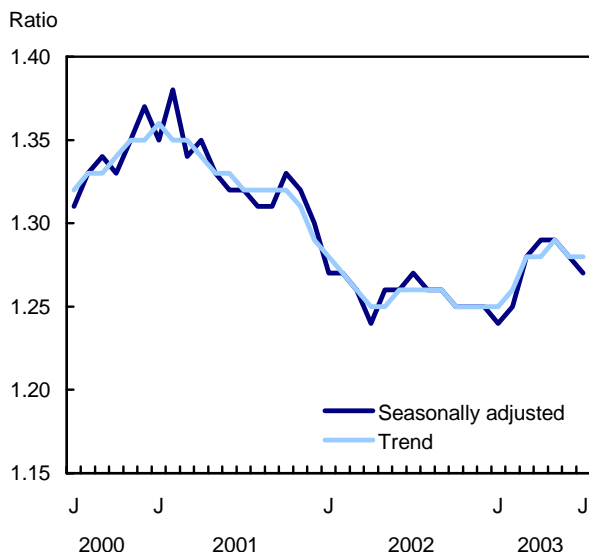
Among the provinces experiencing a decline, Nova Scotia was the most notable. Nova Scotia experienced a 3.2% decrease, partly cancelling out the gains achieved in the previous month (+3.9%). Weak sales of industrial machinery were the main cause.

### Inventory-to-sales ratio declines slightly

Decreasing inventories and increasing sales reduced the inventory-to-sales ratio, falling from 1.28 in June to 1.27 in July. A strong reduction in motor vehicles, parts and accessories inventories have contributed, in part, to the ratio's fall in both June and July.

In July, inventories fell 0.4%, mainly because of the decrease in inventories within the automotive sector.

### Since the beginning of the year, the inventory-to-sales ratio has increased



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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The July 2003 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Estimates for wholesale sales for August will be issued on October 21.

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

□

**Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories**

	July 2002	April 2003 <sup>r</sup>	May 2003 <sup>r</sup>	June 2003 <sup>r</sup>	July 2003 <sup>p</sup>	June to July 2003	July 2002 to July 2003
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Sales, all trade groups</b>	<b>34,890</b>	<b>35,876</b>	<b>35,817</b>	<b>35,791</b>	<b>36,182</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Food products	5,577	5,779	5,729	5,755	5,731	-0.4	2.8
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,976	3,155	3,222	3,278	3,418	4.3	14.9
Apparel and dry goods	635	663	678	667	668	0.2	5.2
Household goods	1,011	1,059	1,039	1,042	1,059	1.6	4.8
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,884	6,792	6,707	6,682	6,599	-1.3	-4.1
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,131	2,094	2,066	2,087	2,079	-0.4	-2.5
Lumber and building materials	2,829	2,866	2,878	2,843	2,994	5.3	5.8
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	681	746	842	814	813	0.0	19.4
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,788	4,904	4,901	5,000	5,096	1.9	6.4
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,745	2,757	2,686	2,681	2,924	9.1	6.5
Other products	4,633	5,062	5,068	4,941	4,803	-2.8	3.7
<b>Sales by province and territory</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	230	214	215	218	223	2.3	-3.0
Prince Edward Island	54	60	61	59	57	-3.0	6.0
Nova Scotia	620	613	622	646	626	-3.2	0.9
New Brunswick	435	443	445	441	461	4.6	5.9
Quebec	7,153	7,361	7,176	7,152	7,322	2.4	2.4
Ontario	17,526	18,025	17,913	18,021	18,232	1.2	4.0
Manitoba	1,051	1,051	1,124	1,066	1,039	-2.5	-1.2
Saskatchewan	981	1,001	1,074	1,013	1,002	-1.1	2.1
Alberta	3,501	3,651	3,777	3,802	3,815	0.3	9.0
British Columbia	3,302	3,423	3,381	3,343	3,377	1.0	2.3
Yukon	10	12	11	11	10	-1.5	5.0
Northwest Territories	24	19	17	19	17	-8.1	-28.6
Nunavut	3	2	2	1	1	-38.0	-69.9
<b>Inventories, all trade groups</b>	<b>44,235</b>	<b>46,345</b>	<b>46,264</b>	<b>45,989</b>	<b>45,796</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Food products	3,337	3,455	3,488	3,590	3,584	-0.2	7.4
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,325	3,707	3,638	3,712	3,702	-0.3	11.3
Apparel and dry goods	1,265	1,353	1,355	1,362	1,375	0.9	8.7
Household goods	1,663	1,672	1,638	1,638	1,623	-0.9	-2.4
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,472	7,218	7,450	7,372	7,189	-2.5	11.1
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	3,816	3,768	3,741	3,712	3,712	0.0	-2.7
Lumber and building materials	4,279	4,632	4,642	4,496	4,510	0.3	5.4
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,910	1,959	1,987	1,996	1,986	-0.5	4.0
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	10,267	10,191	10,248	10,292	10,250	-0.4	-0.2
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,057	1,972	1,927	1,884	1,890	0.3	-8.1
Other products	5,844	6,418	6,150	5,936	5,976	0.7	2.3

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Government revenue attributable to tourism

1998

Tourism generated \$13.8 billion of revenue in Canada in 1998 for all three levels of government combined, according to a new research study. This translates into 30.1 cents for every dollar tourists spent in Canada (\$45.9 billion in 1998). The study also finds that tourism accounted for 4.0% of all government revenue in 1998. In comparison, tourism accounted for 2.3% of gross domestic product and 3.7% of all jobs in Canada in that year.

The federal government took in \$6.8 billion from tourism. Provincial and territorial governments received almost as much, \$6.2 billion. Municipal governments collected a much smaller \$0.8 billion from tourism. Taxes on products, for example the goods and services tax (GST) and provincial sales taxes, were the single largest source of revenue from tourism. Income taxes (on employment income and business profits) were the second most important source of revenue from tourism. Property taxes were the main source of tourism revenue for municipal governments.

Among industries, air transportation and accommodation generated the most tourism revenue for government. These two industries each accounted for \$1.3 billion in income taxes, other taxes on production and contributions to social insurance plans. Among commodities, fuel, recreation and entertainment, were the most important sources of tourism revenue for governments. Tourists' purchases of these commodities accounted for \$3.2 billion in taxes on products.

**Note:** This new research paper expands the coverage of sources of government revenue compared with a similar report released in 1998 with results for 1992. This new study covers 86% of the \$403 billion of revenue collected by the three levels of government in 1998. The previous study covered only 55% of government revenue in 1992. Because of this significant difference, among other factors, the results of the two studies are not directly comparable.

The research paper *Government revenue attributable to tourism, 1998* (13-604-MIE2003041, free; 13-604-MPE2003041, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *National accounts*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Conrad Barber-Dueck (204-275-3626), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. ■

### Cereals and oilseeds review

July 2003

The data from the July issue of the *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available, including data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries, and supply-disposition analyses.

The August situation report, an overview of current domestic and international market conditions, is also included in the July issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which 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 Les Macartney (613-951-8714; [les.macartney@statcan.ca](mailto:les.macartney@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

### Steel pipe and tubing

July 2003

Data on production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for July.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.**

The July 2003 issue *Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing*, Vol. 27, no. 7 (41-011-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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

July 2003

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

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2183.**

The July 2003 issue of *Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins*, Vol. 46, no. 7 (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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

August 2003

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in August from the July level of 128.0 (1992=100). The Composite index increased 2.3% from the August 2002 index.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for the basic rates and for rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.**

The third quarter 2003 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in January 2004. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Rebecca McDougall (613-951-3357; fax: 613-951-1539; [infounit@statcan.ca](mailto:infounit@statcan.ca)), Prices Division. ■

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Infomat — a weekly review**, September 19, 2003  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

**Infomat — a weekly review**, September 19, 2003  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

**Income and expenditure accounts technical series:  
Government revenue attributable to tourism**, 1998,  
no. 41  
**Catalogue number 13-604-MIE2003041**  
(free).

**Income and expenditure accounts technical series:  
Government revenue attributable to tourism**, 1998,  
no. 41  
**Catalogue number 13-604-MPE2003041**  
(free).

**Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing**,  
July 2003, Vol. 27, no. 7  
**Catalogue number 41-011-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins**, July 2003,  
Vol. 46, no. 7  
**Catalogue number 46-002-XIE** (\$5/\$47).

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

Design 1 - 2002 (F) Catalog 11-001-XIE 11-001-XIE 0001-0101



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-wanted index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr. 1997 13

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11



### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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*The Daily, September 19, 2003*

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**RELEASE DATES: SEPTEMBER 22 TO 26**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

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<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
22	<b>Retail trade</b>	July 2003
23	<b>Consumer Price Index</b>	August 2003
24	<b>Leading indicators</b>	August 2003
24	<b>Aboriginal peoples survey</b>	2001
24	<b>Travel between Canada and other countries</b>	July 2003
25	<b>International investment position</b>	Second quarter 2003
25	<b>Employment, earnings and hours</b>	July 2003
25	<b>E-STAT: The ultimate interactive learning tool</b>	2003
26	<b>National balance sheet accounts</b>	Second quarter 2003

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