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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

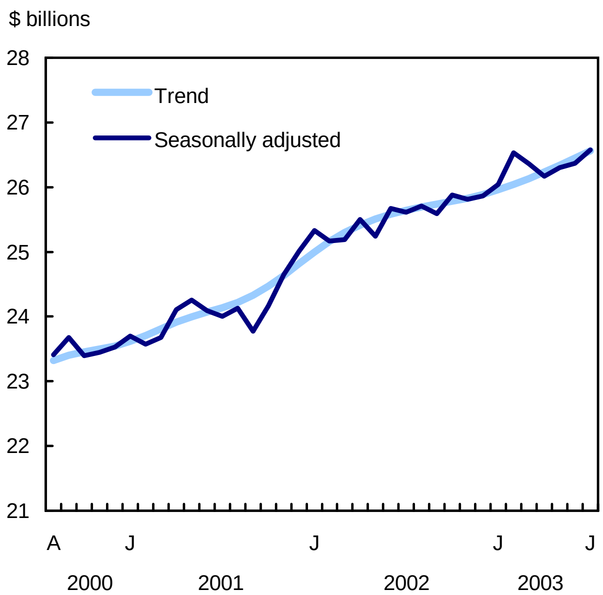
OTHER RELEASES

MAJOR RELEASES

Retail trade
July 2003

Retail sales advanced 0.8% in July to $26.6 billion, the third consecutive monthly gain. July's increase in retail spending was concentrated in the automotive, furniture and drug sectors. However, strong auto sales were responsible for the bulk of the growth. Excluding sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, the largest component of the automotive sector, retail sales fell 0.4% in July.

Strong auto sales drive up retail trade in July



In constant dollars, retail sales increased 0.6% in July.

Sales by retailers in July surpassed the previous peak of $26.5 billion reached in February. Previously, retail sales had been generally increasing since the fall of 2001.

Solid but volatile auto sales

In July, motor and recreational vehicle dealers posted their largest monthly sales gain in five months. Consumer spending at these dealers increased 4.2% in July, after a 2.6% cutback in June. These recent fluctuations continue a roller-coaster sales pattern observed since the start of 2003. Shifting demand by consumers, due to the use of aggressive incentive programs, may be behind these strong month-to-month sales fluctuations. Nevertheless, overall sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers remained strong, essentially at the same level as in the record year of 2002.

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

Higher gasoline prices at the pump led to a 2.1% gain in the sales value reported by gasoline service stations in July, following a 0.7% increase in June. These gains followed three months of significant declines, where sales fell 19.3% overall from March to May 2003.

Furniture sector on the rise

Retailers in the furniture sector posted July's second largest sales gain (+1.3%). Furniture stores are still benefiting from an active housing market. On a year-to-date basis, housing starts and sales in furniture stores have shown respective increases of 5.4% and 4.8% from the same period last year. However, these gains are relatively modest when compared with the cumulative gains for the first seven months of 2002, which were 27.0% for housing starts and 12.8% for furniture stores.

Drug stores enjoyed their seventh consecutive monthly increase in sales, with a 0.7% gain in July. Sales in drug stores have generally been increasing since the spring of 2000.

Setback in clothing sector

Sales in clothing stores fell 1.7% in July, following increases of 1.1% in June and 2.0% in May. Despite July's decline, sales in clothing stores have gained strength since the start of 2003, after remaining essentially flat in 2002.

In July, food retailers reported their second monthly sales decline since the start of 2003. Sales in food stores fell 1.1% in July, after advancing 2.1% in June. Growth in consumer purchases in food stores have been accelerating since 1999, partly the result of the growing share of non-food items found on the shelves.

Lower sales in department stores (-0.6%) led to a 0.2% decline for the general merchandise sector in

July. However, other general merchandise stores, which represent slightly more than 40% of all sales in this sector, posted their fourth consecutive monthly sales gain in July (+0.3%). Sales in the general merchandise sector have resumed growth since the start of 2003, after remaining essentially flat since the spring of 2002.

Quebec retailers left behind in July

Retail sales advanced in all provinces except Quebec (-0.3%). July's growth was particularly strong in Alberta, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Ontario, where retailers enjoyed sales increases above 1.0%.

The sales decline reported by Quebec retailers in July followed two consecutive monthly gains. While retail sales in Quebec advanced in the automotive, furniture and drug sectors, the decline in food stores was more pronounced than in any other province in July. Quebec's retail sales have generally been increasing since the fall of 2001.

Related indicators for August

Total employment fell slightly in August (-0.1%), a fourth decline in five months. Growth in employment has been virtually non-existent since the start of 2003 (up 0.3%), compared with a strong 2.6% overall gain in the first eight months of 2002. Housing starts advanced for a third consecutive month in August, up 4.7% from July. This increase brought housing starts to their second highest activity level since January 1990, surpassed only by February 2003. Based on preliminary figures from the auto industry, the number of new motor vehicles sold in August is expected to fall by about 1.0%, after jumping 12.6% in July.

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 July 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

	July 2002	April 2003[r]	May 2003[r]	June 2003[r]	July 2003[p]	June to July 2003	July 2002 to July 2003
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Food	**5,614**	**5,928**	**5,790**	**5,912**	**5,845**	**-1.1**	**4.1**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,221	5,522	5,379	5,499	5,439	-1.1	4.2
All other food stores	393	406	411	413	406	-1.7	3.3
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,293**	**1,331**	**1,343**	**1,354**	**1,363**	**0.7**	**5.4**
Clothing	**1,344**	**1,354**	**1,381**	**1,396**	**1,372**	**-1.7**	**2.1**
Shoe stores	154	148	150	154	152	-1.4	-1.4
Men's clothing stores	113	104	108	109	104	-4.7	-8.4
Women's clothing stores	402	392	402	410	405	-1.1	0.8
Other clothing stores	675	710	721	723	711	-1.7	5.4
Furniture	**1,505**	**1,565**	**1,599**	**1,609**	**1,630**	**1.3**	**8.3**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,212	1,252	1,279	1,302	1,313	0.9	8.4
Household furnishings stores	293	313	320	307	316	2.9	7.8
Automotive	**10,285**	**10,410**	**10,519**	**10,365**	**10,665**	**2.9**	**3.7**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,813	6,863	7,069	6,887	7,175	4.2	5.3
Gasoline service stations	1,968	2,019	1,891	1,903	1,944	2.1	-1.2
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,504	1,527	1,559	1,574	1,545	-1.8	2.8
General merchandise stores	**2,848**	**2,849**	**2,921**	**2,926**	**2,919**	**-0.2**	**2.5**
Department stores	1,679	1,658	1,721	1,717	1,707	-0.6	1.6
Other general merchandise stores	1,169	1,191	1,200	1,209	1,212	0.3	3.7
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,724**	**2,734**	**2,748**	**2,803**	**2,780**	**-0.8**	**2.1**
Other semi-durable goods stores	779	789	797	798	794	-0.4	1.9
Other durable goods stores	675	661	669	681	669	-1.8	-0.9
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,269	1,284	1,282	1,324	1,317	-0.5	3.8
Total, retail sales	**25,613**	**26,171**	**26,300**	**26,365**	**26,574**	**0.8**	**3.8**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**18,800**	**19,307**	**19,231**	**19,478**	**19,399**	**-0.4**	**3.2**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	424	446	444	452	455	0.6	7.3
Prince Edward Island	110	112	110	109	111	1.4	1.1
Nova Scotia	763	777	772	779	790	1.4	3.6
New Brunswick	614	626	607	623	633	1.7	3.2
Quebec	5,846	6,046	6,085	6,123	6,107	-0.3	4.5
Ontario	9,635	9,719	9,892	9,858	9,966	1.1	3.4
Manitoba	894	902	909	911	916	0.5	2.5
Saskatchewan	762	788	781	774	780	0.7	2.3
Alberta	3,124	3,257	3,211	3,243	3,310	2.1	6.0
British Columbia	3,348	3,404	3,393	3,398	3,409	0.3	1.8
Yukon	34	33	33	33	34	3.3	1.2
Northwest Territories	42	42	44	43	45	3.1	5.0
Nunavut	17	18	18	18	18	-0.5	6.0

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

Retail sales

	July 2002	June 2003r	July 2003p	July 2002 to July 2003
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Food	**5,752**	**5,824**	**6,144**	**6.8**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,347	5,404	5,721	7.0
All other food stores	405	420	423	4.5
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,272**	**1,323**	**1,346**	**5.8**
Clothing	**1,221**	**1,360**	**1,246**	**2.0**
Shoe stores	144	164	143	-0.9
Men’s clothing stores	99	116	92	-6.8
Women’s clothing stores	377	417	382	1.2
Other clothing stores	601	664	629	4.6
Furniture	**1,492**	**1,558**	**1,616**	**8.3**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,190	1,251	1,296	8.9
Household furnishings stores	302	306	320	5.9
Automotive	**11,269**	**11,680**	**11,785**	**4.6**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	7,439	7,979	7,943	6.8
Gasoline service stations	2,182	1,987	2,132	-2.3
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,648	1,713	1,710	3.8
General merchandise stores	**2,711**	**2,892**	**2,815**	**3.8**
Department stores	1,539	1,664	1,582	2.8
Other general merchandise stores	1,172	1,228	1,233	5.1
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,882**	**2,895**	**2,982**	**3.5**
Other semi-durable goods stores	827	860	841	1.7
Other durable goods stores	674	670	671	-0.4
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,381	1,365	1,470	6.4
Total, retail sales	**26,601**	**27,532**	**27,934**	**5.0**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**19,162**	**19,553**	**19,991**	**4.3**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	457	483	502	9.7
Prince Edward Island	132	119	134	2.0
Nova Scotia	806	826	850	5.5
New Brunswick	647	663	678	4.7
Quebec	6,117	6,467	6,524	6.7
Ontario	9,917	10,299	10,333	4.2
Manitoba	921	935	956	3.8
Saskatchewan	795	799	820	3.2
Alberta	3,202	3,335	3,420	6.8
British Columbia	3,505	3,504	3,610	3.0
Yukon	41	38	41	0.6
Northwest Territories	45	45	48	6.3
Nunavut	17	18	18	6.4

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

■

OTHER RELEASES

Deliveries of major grains
August 2003

Data on grain deliveries are now available for August.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.

The August 2003 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, $12/$120; 22-007-XPB, $17/$160) will be available in October. See *How to order products*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; *sue.anderson@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Crushing statistics
August 2003

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 209,845 metric tonnes of canola in August, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 88,220 tonnes while meal production amounted to 130,917 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.

The August 2003 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, $12/$120; 22-007-XPB, $17/$160) will be available in October. See *How to order products*.

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

Steel primary forms — weekly data
Week ending September 13, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending September 13 totalled 294 177 metric tonnes, down 4.0% from 306 315 tonnes a week earlier but up 20.5% from 244 091 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of September 13 was 10 996 637 tonnes, down 2.8% from 11 312 086 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

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. ■

Monthly railway carloadings
July 2003

In July, loadings on Canadian railways (excluding intermodal loadings) totalled 247,000 rail cars and 19.8 million metric tonnes, a 2.4% increase in tonnage from July 2002. Tonnage increased 7.4% from June to July, the result of increases in wheat, coal, and iron ores and concentrates, which more than offset decreases in sulphur, alumina and automobiles and mini-vans.

The cumulative tonnage of commodities loaded (excluding intermodal loadings) in the first seven months of 2003 reached 132.5 million metric tonnes, compared with 141 million tonnes in the same period of 2002.

Loadings for intermodal traffic, that is containers on flat cars and trailers on flat cars, increased 6% from the same period of 2002. Approximately 2.3 million metric tonnes of intermodal cargo were loaded in July 2003, up 1.8% from June.

Loadings originating from the United States reached 2.4 million metric tonnes, down 4.3% from June. The cumulative total for the first seven months of 2003 amounted to 17.6 million metric tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The July 2003 issue of *Monthly railway carloadings*, Vol. 80, no. 7 (52-001-XIE, $8/$77) 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 Jean-Robert Larocque (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Research and development in the health field

1988 to 2002 (preliminary)

The higher education sector, which includes universities and teaching hospitals, was responsible for 59 cents out of every dollar allocated to research and development in the health field last year.

New preliminary estimates show the higher education sector was the main driving force behind a 7.7% increase in research and development on health. In total, governments, businesses, educational institutions and non-profit organizations spent just over $4.4 billion in the health area in 2002.

The gain occurred despite a slight drop in total spending on research and development nationally. The health field is an important element of research and development, accounting for one-fifth (21%) of total spending on research and development last year.

The higher education sector performed just under $2.6 billion on research and development in health, up 9.9% from 2001. Businesses performed almost $1.6 billion, up 4.7%.

The public sector increased its funding for research and development on health by 9.3% last year, while the private sector's contribution rose 6.5%.

Spending on research and development in health represents a growing proportion of the total research and development expenditures in Canada, estimated at 20,7 billion in 2002. In 2002, health spending accounted for 21%, up from just under 20% in 2001 and about 15% in 1990.

The publication *Science statistics: Estimates of total spending on research and development in the health field in Canada, 1998 to 2000*, Vol. 27, no. 6 (88-001-XIB, $6/$59) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Janet Thompson (613-951-2580; *janet.thompson@statcan.ca*) or Antoine Rose (613-951-9919; *antoine.rose@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Monthly railway carloadings, July 2003, Vol. 80, no. 7
Catalogue number 52-001-XIE ($8/$77).

Wholesale trade, July 2003, Vol. 66, no. 7
Catalogue number 63-008-XIB ($14/$140).

Exports by commodity, July 2003, Vol. 60, no. 7
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB ($78/$773).

Exports by commodity, July 2003, Vol. 60, no. 7
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB ($37/$361).

Imports by commodity, July 2003, Vol. 60, no. 7
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB ($78/$773).

Imports by commodity, July 2003, Vol. 60, no. 7
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB ($37/$361).

Science statistics: Estimates of total spending on research and development in the health field in Canada, 1988 to 2000, Vol. 27, no. 6
Catalogue number 88-001-XIB ($6/$59).

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

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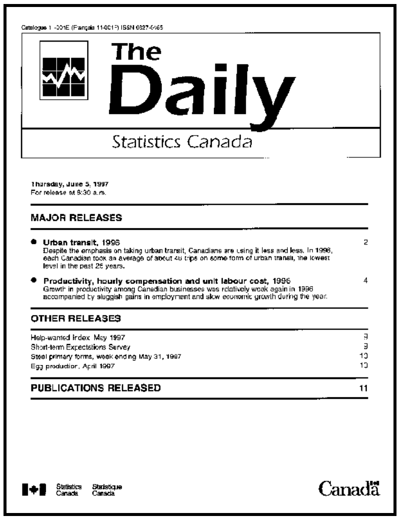

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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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 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

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