



Road Motor Vehicles

Fuel Sales

1999



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Statistics Canada
Transportation Division
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Road Motor Vehicles

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Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

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July 2001

Catalogue no. 53-218-XIE
ISSN 1480-753X

Frequency: Annual

Ottawa

La version française de cette publication est disponible sur demande.

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Acknowledgement

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Highlights

- Canadian gross sales of gasoline were 38 billion litres in 1999, a 2% increase over 1998.
- While Ontario and Québec were the top 2 provinces in terms of total gross gasoline sales, the Yukon, Alberta and Saskatchewan had significantly higher levels of per capita gross sales of gasoline.
- Sales of gasoline, diesel fuels and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for which road taxes were paid (Net Sales) reached 51 billion litres, up 5% over 1998.
- Gasoline accounted for 71% of the Net Sales of road use fuels in 1999.

Introduction

This publication presents information on fuel consumed by road vehicles in Canada, including gasoline, diesel and liquefied petroleum gas. Most of the data were obtained from provincial and territorial agencies responsible for the collection of road fuel taxes.

Excluded from the data are:

- sales of aviation gasoline and turbo-fuel;
- marine transport fuels;
- diesel oil consumed by railways; and
- fuels used for heating, industrial power, electricity generation or similar non-transportation purposes.

These data are captured for use by the Department of Finance as an input to the calculation of provincial fiscal equalization payments, pursuant to *the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act, 1987*. Readers should consult the sections on Data Collection and Methodology, Data Quality and Limitations, and Changes in Provincial Road Fuel Taxes when using these data for other purposes.

Motor Vehicle Fuel Sales in Canada

Gross sales of gasoline in Canada reached 38 billion litres in 1999, an increase of 2% over 1998. Because Ontario and Québec are the most heavily populated provinces in Canada, consumers in these two provinces purchased the most fuel. Gross sales of gasoline in Ontario reached 14 billion litres in 1999 and 8 billion litres in Québec.

However, these provinces did not have the highest gross gasoline sales per capita. Québec's rate was the lowest of the provinces at 1,314 litres per capita, while Ontario's 1,581 litres per capita was only slightly higher than the Canadian average of 1,569 litres per person (See Text Table 1).

The highest gross gasoline sales per capita were found in the Yukon Territory (3,001 litres per capita), Alberta (2,112 litres per capita) and Saskatchewan (2,058 litres per capita). Many factors may influence this result, such as differences in gasoline prices, provincial economic conditions, travelling distances for business and leisure, and the choice and/or availability of alternative transportation modes.

Text Table 1

Gross Sales of Gasoline Per Capita (Ages 16 and Above)

	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Québec	Ontario
1999	1,569	1,377	1,960	1,552	1,736	1,314	1,581
1998	1,556	1,310	1,861	1,665	1,703	1,339	1,534
1997	1,532	1,315	1,827	1,570	1,646	1,313	1,512
1996	1,519	1,290	1,826	1,556	1,689	1,309	1,482
1995	1,513	1,340	1,803	1,555	1,695	1,306	1,487
1994	1,524	1,348	1,831	1,601	1,701	1,278	1,505
1993	1,516	1,350	1,758	1,516	1,643	1,262	1,490
	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut
1999	1,672	2,058	2,112	1,447	3,001	1,721	465
1998	1,636	2,048	2,126	1,435	2,864	1,467	
1997	1,694	2,045	2,098	1,411	2,956	1,446	
1996	1,673	2,088	2,082	1,416	3,070	1,530	
1995	1,680	2,044	1,970	1,444	3,163	1,466	
1994	1,674	2,118	2,016	1,466	3,109	1,645	
1993	1,660	2,114	2,139	1,433	2,821	1,550	

Source: Statistics Canada CANSIM II Matrix 051-001.

Definition of Gross and Net Sales

Gross sales represents total sales of all road grades of gasoline for all uses, including off-road activities such as farming, forestry, construction or mining.

Net sales refer to the sale of gasoline, diesel, and liquefied petroleum gas on which taxes were remitted at road-use rates. These net figures represent, with minor exceptions, the amount of taxable fuel actually consumed on public roads in Canada.

Fuel Sales Per Capita

Per capita values were calculated by dividing the quantity of fuel sold by the number of people in the driving age group, i.e. 16 years old and over. Population counts are from Statistics Canada's CANSIM table number 051-0001.

Net Sales

Net sales (where roadside tax was paid) of gasoline, diesel, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for motor vehicle use in 1999 reached 51 billion litres, an increase of 5% over 1998. Gasoline dominated fuel use, at 71% of the total, followed by diesel at 28%. LPG represented only 1% of the total sales volume. In 1999, net sales of gasoline for motor vehicle use in Canada was 1,499 litres of gasoline per capita.

Between 1998 and 1999, net sales of gasoline increased by 3% to 36 billion litres. Ontario accounted for 38% of all gasoline sold for motor vehicle use in Canada, with an additional 21% sold in Québec.

These results are consistent with information obtained by Statistics Canada's new Canadian Vehicle Survey (CVS) Catalogue Number 53F0004-XIE. CVS estimates of total vehicle-kilometres driven by road vehicles weighing less than 4500 kilograms (excluding motorcycles and mopeds) suggest that Ontario had the greatest road motor vehicle activity, with 27 billion vehicle-kilometres, or 38% of the total for Canada. Québec occupied second place with just under 15 billion vehicle-kilometres, or 21% of the total.

Long Term Fuel Consumption Appears Stable Despite More Automobiles

Road transportation is the predominant mode of transportation in Canada as it is in most industrial countries.

- In the urban environment, over 80% of workers use private vehicles for the journey to work (see Figure 1).

- Over 90% of all intercity trips are made in private vehicles (Figure 2).
- Approximately 40% of the total freight transported in Canada is moved in trucks.¹

Despite the predominance and growth of motor vehicle transportation, the volume of gasoline sold in 1999 was approximately the same as the level in 1979 (see Figure 3). The growth rate of motor vehicle registrations between 1976 and the present has been approximately 2 percent per year (see Figure 4).

The fact that more vehicles are using approximately the same volume of fuel can be explained, in part, by the introduction of and gradual switch to alternative energy forms. Another reason is that vehicle fleet fuel efficiencies have improved over the years.

The amount of gasoline used per capita and per registered vehicle² have both declined over the last three decades, with much of the decrease occurring in the early 1980s (see Figures 5 and 6).

Data Collection and Methodology

Fuel sales data for 1999 were obtained from nine provincial and three territorial governments. Data were collected by means of a paper questionnaire submitted monthly by the provinces and territories to Statistics Canada.

Data for the province that did not report in 1999 were estimated using two methods. Estimates of gasoline sales were developed from data published by the Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division of Statistics Canada (*Quarterly Report on Energy Supply-Demand in Canada, Catalogue No. 57-003*). Estimates of diesel and LPG sales were based on the average per capita consumption rates for Alberta, British Columbia, and Québec. These are the provinces with the largest populations and economies and as such represent a reasonable proxy for the province that did not supply the information.

Data Quality and Limitations

Methods for reporting gasoline sales across the country are generally consistent, since the use of gasoline is greater and more widespread than that of diesel or LPG in motor vehicles.

¹ Based on 1998 data published in *Trucking in Canada, Statistics Canada Catalogue Number 53-222-XIB*.

² Total vehicle registrations includes passenger automobiles, trucks and truck trailers, buses, motorcycles, mopeds and all other road motor vehicles but excludes trailers and snowmobiles. Data for 1999 were not used because of a change in methodology.

Net diesel sales are frequently influenced by fluctuations in the payment of rebates for off-road uses, such as farming, commercial fishing and logging. Users pay the full road-use tax when they purchase the fuel. As rebates are paid, the related quantity is deleted from the net sales by the province or territory concerned. Similar situations arise with retroactive rebate claims on gasoline. Generally, however, these are not large enough to cause a noticeable distortion.

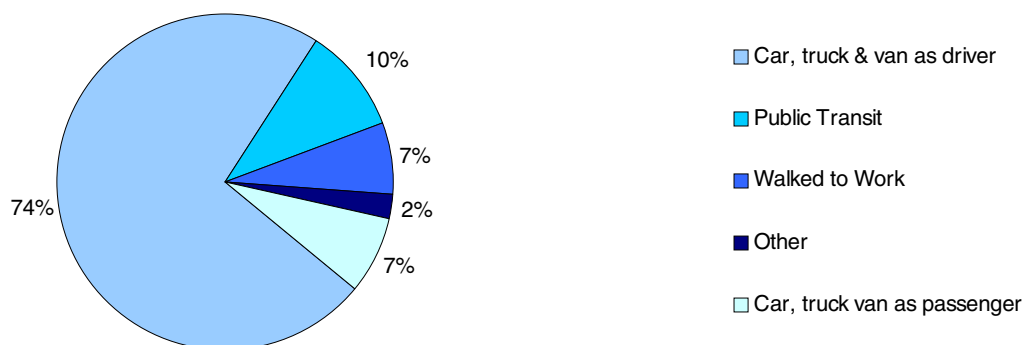
LPG sales for road use have been declining gradually since 1993 for Canada as a whole. In some jurisdictions, the removal of a road-use tax on LPG was responsible for this decline, as the quantities sold are no longer reported through the taxation mechanism.

Effective April 1, 1999, the Northwest Territories was divided into two jurisdictions, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. For 1993-1998, data for the entire region was included in the Northwest Territories, but beginning in 1999, the activity attributed to Nunavut was separated from the total. In tables with monthly information, reporting for Nunavut begins with its creation in April, 1999.

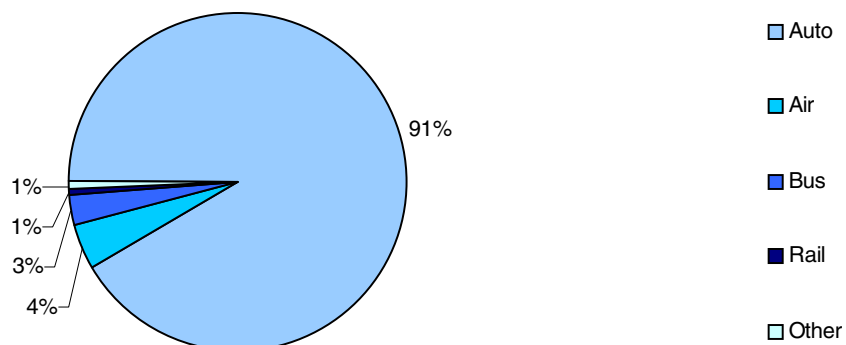
Changes in Provincial Road Fuel Taxes

Some major changes in provincial regulations related to energy consumption have occurred place over the years. These policy changes impact on the data collected, and influence both comparisons between years and between jurisdictions in Canada.

- The province of Quebec removed the tax on LPG as of May 1997.
- Alberta abolished the road-use tax effective April 1978 and reinstated this tax effective July 1987.
- The Government of Saskatchewan:
 - Abolished the road-use tax in April 1982 and reinstated it in July 1987;
 - Introduced a Fuel Tax Rebate Program on June 22, 1988, including fuel purchased for personal use, retroactive to June 22, 1987. Revisions were made to the net fuel sales data for the years 1987 and 1988;
 - Introduced changes to the tax rates and the rebate programs on March 31, 1989. For fuel purchased in 1989, the program rebated only half of the tax paid on fuel for personal use while fuel purchased for farming and other primary producing activities was still eligible for a full rebate;
 - Eliminated the rebate for fuel purchased for personal use on January 1, 1990; and,
 - Eliminated the rebate for farm-use gasoline on May 8, 1992.
- Since January 1986, the Government of New Brunswick has given a 25% rebate to farmers, fishermen and truckers. This rebate is part of the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA).
- The Government of British Columbia removed the road-use tax on LPG effective April 1982.

Figure 1. The Journey to Work

Source: 1996 Census Nation Tables, Statistics

Figure 2. Intercity Mode Choice

Source: Statistics Canada Canadian Travel Survey.

Figure 3. Gross Gasoline Fuel Sales in Canada

'000,000 Litres

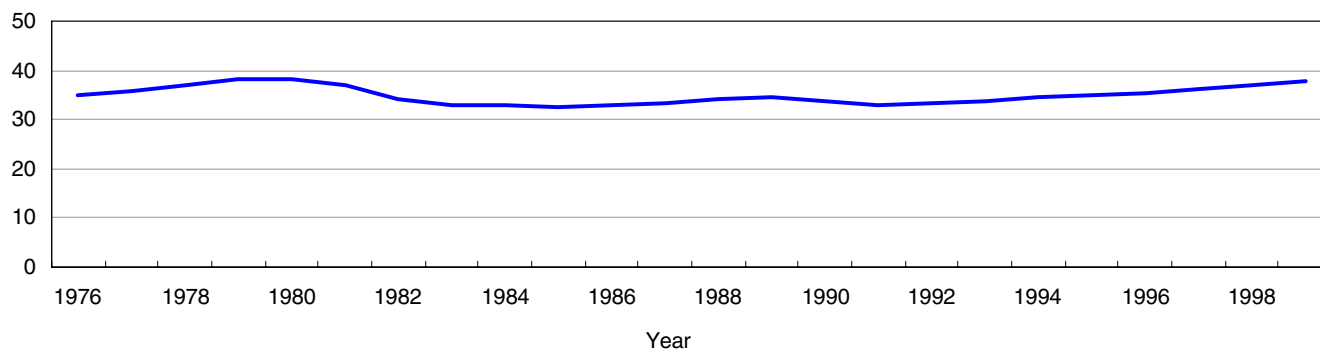
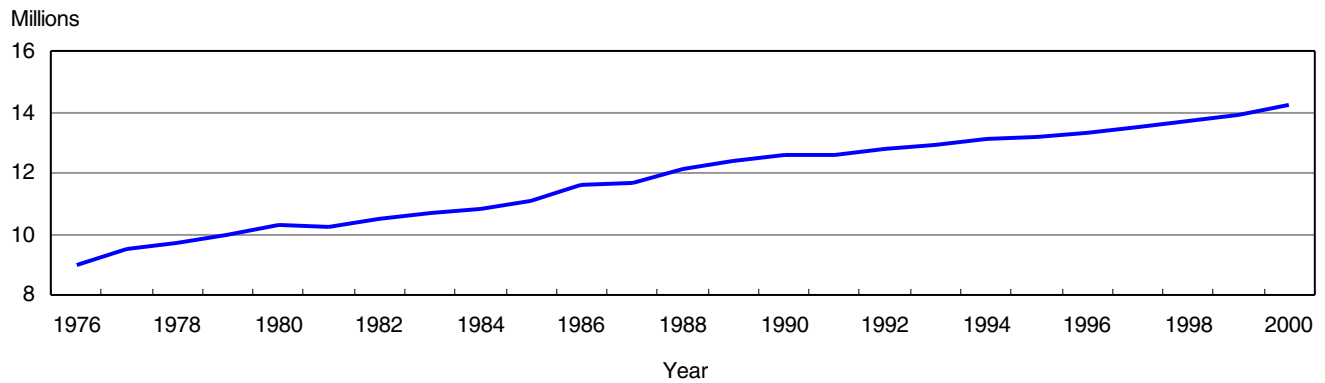


Figure 4. Passenger Car Registrations



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM : Matrix 356.

Figure 5. Gross Gasoline Sales Per Capita (Drivers 16 Years of Age and Over)

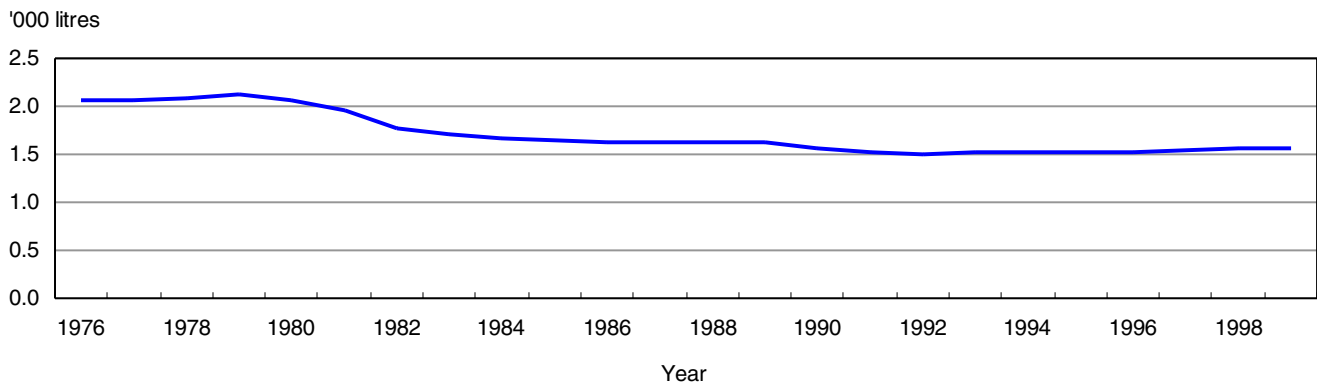


Figure 6. Gross Gasoline Sales Per Registered Vehicle

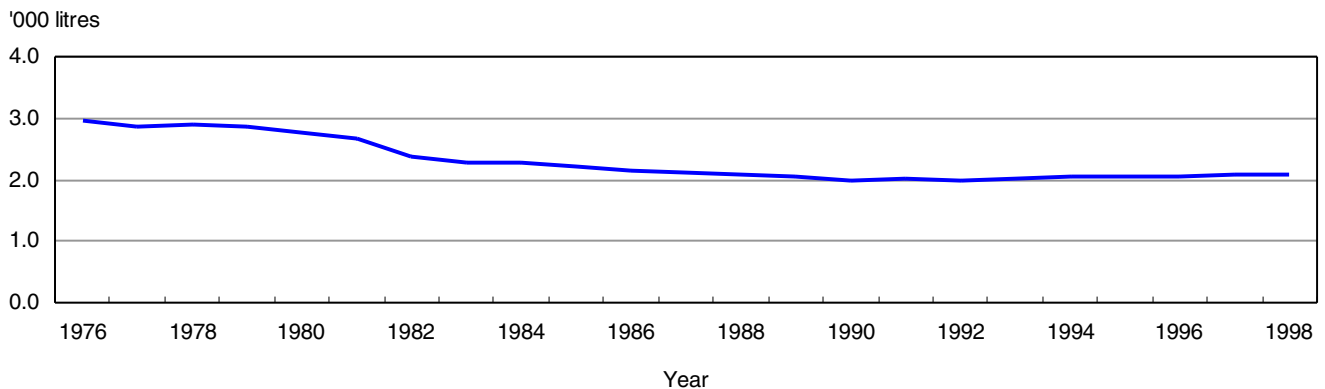


Table 1

Net Sales of Gasoline by Province and Territory, 1995-1999 On Which Tax Was Paid at Road-Use Rates

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
	'000 litres				
Canada	36,214,138	35,310,983	34,829,563	33,842,542	33,493,306
Newfoundland	589,334	560,893	568,234	557,148	582,317
Prince Edward Island	209,466	196,093	190,371	187,175	183,612
Nova Scotia	1,157,828	1,169,651	1,143,415	1,132,802	1,123,567
New Brunswick	1,046,862	1,019,098	983,166	1,005,235	1,000,675
Québec	7,717,499	7,811,706	7,552,242	7,510,246	7,442,203
Ontario ¹	13,734,980	13,060,801	13,042,999	12,575,441	12,482,989
Manitoba	1,296,423	1,261,373	1,300,121	1,271,675	1,267,701
Saskatchewan	1,366,647	1,316,353	1,479,544	1,300,640	1,258,581
Alberta	4,491,300	4,406,400	4,214,800	4,024,600	3,910,900
British Columbia	4,489,276	4,400,671	4,251,691	4,172,347	4,134,984
Yukon	67,853	65,437	67,929	69,311	68,532
Northwest Territories ²	39,260	42,507	35,051	35,922	37,245
Nunavut ³	7,591				

¹ Estimated from Quarterly Report on Energy Supply - Demand in Canada, Catalogue 57-003.

² Up to April 1, 1999 Nunavut data was included with Northwest Territories.

³ Data for Nunavut are now available separately since April 1, 1999.

Note: Components may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Table 2

Gross Sales of Gasoline by Province and Territory, 1995-1999 On Which Tax Was Paid at Road-Use Rates

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
	'000 litres				
Canada	37,905,162	37,151,640	36,144,051	35,355,191	34,765,830
Newfoundland	600,319	571,420	578,706	569,669	595,362
Prince Edward Island	211,631	198,382	193,577	191,567	186,700
Nova Scotia	1,168,058	1,242,120	1,164,519	1,145,920	1,138,188
New Brunswick	1,052,937	1,026,425	988,649	1,008,483	1,006,164
Québec	7,772,208	7,871,178	7,664,448	7,580,490	7,503,656
Ontario ¹	14,374,872	13,745,331	13,356,000	12,888,131	12,775,650
Manitoba	1,479,682	1,437,655	1,482,549	1,458,478	1,456,325
Saskatchewan	1,617,272	1,599,962	1,586,594	1,609,309	1,561,839
Alberta	4,831,300	4,743,500	4,547,100	4,400,300	4,085,800
British Columbia	4,668,249	4,581,350	4,444,947	4,360,594	4,318,613
Yukon	70,128	68,447	71,731	73,563	72,815
Northwest Territories ²	50,913	42,507	35,051	35,922	37,245
Nunavut ³	7,591				

¹ Estimated from Quarterly Report on Energy Supply - Demand in Canada, Catalogue 57-003.

² Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) as defined before April 1999.

³ Data for Nunavut are now available separately since April 1, 1999.

Note: Components may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Table 3

Net Sales of Gasoline for Canada, by Month, 1995-1999 On Which Tax Was Paid at Road-Use Rates

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
	'000 litres				
January	2,840,314	2,778,679	2,761,130	2,633,307	2,597,112
February	2,732,296	2,589,997	2,586,623	2,615,583	2,504,944
March	2,971,729	2,807,899	2,670,514	2,627,409	2,607,059
April	2,888,619	2,803,890	2,747,175	2,681,459	2,548,657
May	2,770,451	2,631,110	2,954,303	2,855,064	2,899,311
June	3,255,067	3,096,577	3,023,668	2,810,804	2,925,370
July	3,244,906	3,257,033	3,206,896	3,112,555	3,028,922
August	3,321,684	3,263,116	3,128,512	3,208,751	3,161,362
September	3,083,356	2,984,934	2,997,622	2,887,600	2,861,188
October	3,048,024	3,056,256	3,015,053	2,906,061	2,832,909
November	3,001,001	2,938,465	2,767,382	2,704,680	2,746,978
December	3,056,870	3,103,027	2,970,685	2,799,269	2,780,083
Total	36,214,317	35,310,983	34,829,563	33,842,542	33,493,895

Table 4

Net Sales of Gasoline by Province and Territory, by Month, 1999 On Which Tax Was Paid at Road-Use Rates

	January	February	March	April	May	June
'000 litres						
Canada	2,840,314	2,732,296	2,971,729	2,888,619	2,770,451	3,255,067
Newfoundland	43,212	42,253	48,774	45,741	50,636	51,567
Prince Edward Island	13,632	12,848	15,805	15,030	17,129	19,922
Nova Scotia	89,882	83,408	94,021	95,372	105,375	109,190
New Brunswick	79,177	74,853	72,231	75,729	88,633	97,242
Québec	619,061	606,871	646,320	615,169	681,726	739,410
Ontario ¹	1,060,247	1,026,242	1,146,938	1,080,608	1,043,046	1,231,567
Manitoba	103,706	96,465	107,576	90,050	102,072	117,374
Saskatchewan	111,612	106,900	123,953	132,049	-67,077	116,041
Alberta	387,100	347,000	330,600	374,000	355,800	372,900
British Columbia	325,442	328,962	376,245	357,791	384,849	384,432
Yukon	3,795	3,610	5,285	3,667	5,579	9,120
Northwest Territories ²	3,448	2,885	3,982	2,374	1,955	5,251
Nunavut ³	-	-	-	1,039	729	1,050
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Canada	3,244,906	3,321,684	3,083,356	3,048,024	3,001,001	3,056,870
Newfoundland	58,354	56,857	48,461	46,631	48,693	48,153
Prince Edward Island	22,848	24,467	17,657	17,432	15,355	17,341
Nova Scotia	114,921	95,284	85,368	84,335	99,146	101,526
New Brunswick	104,290	101,364	88,957	89,064	86,568	88,755
Québec	612,596	700,676	637,359	648,902	629,883	579,524
Ontario ¹	1,236,166	1,218,254	1,159,499	1,169,381	1,137,484	1,225,548
Manitoba	125,120	118,205	105,878	110,764	105,365	113,848
Saskatchewan	158,431	153,734	145,700	123,416	127,842	134,044
Alberta	383,700	414,500	401,800	377,000	379,500	367,400
British Columbia	413,928	426,436	381,388	373,893	363,800	372,111
Yukon	9,379	8,078	6,425	4,827	3,878	4,210
Northwest Territories ²	4,285	3,222	3,948	1,586	2,734	3,591
Nunavut ³	888	608	915	791	753	818

¹ Estimated from Quarterly Report on Energy Supply - Demand in Canada, Catalogue 57-003.

² Up to April 1, 1999 Nunavut data was included with Northwest Territories.

³ Data for Nunavut are now available separately since April 1, 1999.

Note: Components may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Table 5

Gross Sales of Gasoline by Province and Territory, by Month, 1999 On Which Tax Was Paid at Road-Use Rates

	January	February	March	April	May	June
'000 litres						
Canada	2,930,979	2,824,733	3,044,983	3,000,334	3,200,226	3,404,295
Newfoundland	43,817	43,228	50,071	46,904	51,911	52,309
Prince Edward Island	13,725	12,963	15,923	15,180	17,399	20,271
Nova Scotia	90,539	84,318	94,577	96,845	106,338	110,333
New Brunswick	79,852	74,978	72,823	76,656	88,862	97,649
Québec	624,855	613,978	648,883	620,866	681,830	743,514
Ontario ¹	1,094,090	1,060,960	1,175,210	1,122,400	1,204,852	1,288,029
Manitoba	116,914	106,459	121,719	104,269	116,665	134,257
Saskatchewan	115,041	107,833	125,996	133,712	137,840	139,342
Alberta	407,300	372,300	342,000	404,900	386,500	401,600
British Columbia	335,705	339,179	387,695	370,799	399,235	400,708
Yukon	3,929	3,785	5,446	3,836	5,793	9,426
Northwest Territories ²	5,211	4,750	5,088	2,928	2,271	5,808
Nunavut ³	-	-	-	1,039	729	1,050
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Canada	3,378,597	3,449,509	3,212,063	3,190,126	3,115,544	3,153,775
Newfoundland	59,103	57,507	49,626	48,221	49,043	48,577
Prince Edward Island	23,067	24,737	17,865	17,573	15,514	17,414
Nova Scotia	115,927	96,010	86,026	85,156	99,850	102,138
New Brunswick	105,307	101,620	89,382	90,053	86,813	88,942
Québec	616,027	702,530	641,511	653,361	642,711	582,142
Ontario ¹	1,287,097	1,265,134	1,207,900	1,223,900	1,180,900	1,264,400
Manitoba	141,349	138,474	127,205	125,244	120,361	127,214
Saskatchewan	163,455	152,334	146,223	131,641	128,520	135,335
Alberta	412,200	445,700	435,600	420,500	408,200	394,500
British Columbia	438,239	452,184	398,251	386,724	375,774	383,757
Yukon	9,714	8,308	6,650	4,956	3,999	4,287
Northwest Territories ²	6,224	4,361	4,908	2,006	3,106	4,253
Nunavut ³	888	608	915	791	753	818

¹ Estimated from Quarterly Report on Energy Supply - Demand in Canada, Catalogue 57-003.

² Up to April 1, 1999 Nunavut data was included with Northwest Territories.

³ Data for Nunavut are now available separately since April 1, 1999.

Note: Components may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Table 6

Net Sales of Diesel Oil by Province and Territory, 1995-1999 On Which Tax Was Paid at Road-Use Rates

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
	'000 litres				
Canada	12,478,409	12,117,589	12,189,203	11,097,198	10,533,567
Newfoundland	152,174	149,750	147,363	141,611	142,912
Prince Edward Island	47,803	42,014	36,925	35,730	32,985
Nova Scotia	353,371	328,250	304,915	315,285	290,766
New Brunswick	395,416	383,899	391,080	369,005	368,065
Québec	3,018,154	2,990,116	2,962,338	2,697,172	2,602,754
Ontario ¹	4,028,500	3,772,900	3,785,600	3,452,500	3,321,300
Manitoba	442,795	439,040	435,316	435,218	404,763
Saskatchewan	797,386	774,161	874,091	666,350	596,404
Alberta	1,900,318	1,934,600	1,969,500	1,711,700	1,555,300
British Columbia	1,208,936	1,173,724	1,203,370	1,173,583	1,126,368
Yukon	33,705	32,192	30,746	46,158	48,013
Northwest Territories ²	99,851	96,943	47,959	52,786	43,937
Nunavut ³	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Estimated from Quarterly Report on Energy Supply - Demand in Canada, Catalogue 57-003.

² Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) as defined before April 1999.

³ Data for Nunavut are now available separately since April 1, 1999.

Note: Components may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Table 7

Net Sales of Liquefied Petroleum Gas, by Province and Territory, 1995-1999 On Which Tax Was Paid at Road-Use Rates

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
	'000 litres				
Canada	569,808	758,536	863,817	951,481	951,382
Newfoundland	2,787	2,726	2,807	2,842	2,548
Prince Edward Island	565	593	585	563	546
Nova Scotia	4,418	3,808	5,436	5,865	4,959
New Brunswick	3,596	3,401	3,476	3,720	3,611
Québec	-	-	488	2,334	1,940
Ontario ¹	264,453	384,400	414,700	450,500	395,300
Manitoba	15,036	15,120	17,236	20,949	20,428
Saskatchewan	61,200	62,186	92,186	84,801	84,804
Alberta	199,700	278,300	306,400	353,300	416,200
British Columbia	-	-	-	-	-
Yukon	18,054	17,973	20,503	26,607	21,046
Northwest Territories ²	-	-	-	-	-
Nunavut ³	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Estimated from Quarterly Report on Energy Supply - Demand in Canada, Catalogue 57-003.

² Northwest Territories (including Nunavut) as defined before April 1999.

³ Data for Nunavut are now available separately since April 1, 1999.

Note: Components may not add up to totals due to rounding.

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