



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, February 9, 1998**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

---

## MAJOR RELEASES

---

- **Department store sales and stocks, 1997 and December 1997** 2  
Annual 1997 department store sales jumped 10.3% over 1996 to \$15,929.3 million. The advance was more than double those of each of the previous three years.

---

## OTHER RELEASES

---

Railway carloadings, seven-day period ending January 21, 1998	4
Steel pipe and tubing, December 1997	4
Footwear statistics, fourth quarter 1997	4
Apartment building construction price indexes, fourth quarter 1997	4

---

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

---

6



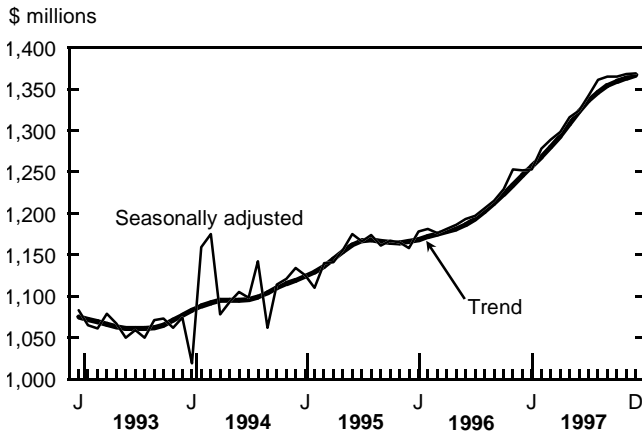
## MAJOR RELEASES

### Department store sales and stocks 1997 and December 1997

Annual 1997 department store sales jumped 10.3% over 1996 to \$15,929.3 million. The advance was more than double those of each of the previous three years. Provincially, the annual increase in department store sales over 1996 was broadly based. Alberta (+14.0%) experienced the greatest improvement, followed by Saskatchewan (+11.6%) and Ontario (+11.2%). Manitoba (+7.8%), Nova Scotia (+7.7%) and New Brunswick (+7.6%) recorded the lowest annual increases in department store sales.

The department store sector underwent a period of restructuring between 1993 and 1994. To ensure consistent analysis, all commodity references will be based on the structure of the sector as it stood in 1994.

Sales levelled off in latter part of 1997



Women's clothing and accessories, considered as a percentage of annual sales for all departments, maintained the largest share (14.3%) despite its steady decline from 16.4% in 1994. The share of men's clothing (9.1%), on the other hand, has not changed appreciably since 1994. Boys', girls', children's and infants' wear (a 5.8% share) declined 0.5 of a percentage point.

In shares of other departments, home entertainment equipment (6.0%) increased in share by 1.0 percentage point from 1994. In contrast, furniture and major appliances (6.2%) fell 1.1 percentage

#### Note to readers

This is the last release of the Department store sales and stocks in its current form. Sales by province and seasonally adjusted department store sales will continue to be released. However, with the January 1998 reference month, sales by commodity will be included as part of a new Monthly Survey of Large Retailers.

points. Gains were also posted in housewares and small electrical appliances (5.5%), with a share increase of 1.1 percentage points, and toys and games (4.3%), up 0.5 of a percentage point from 1994.

#### Sales flat in December

Department store sales in December 1997 remained relatively unchanged from November. December sales (\$1,369.2 million seasonally adjusted) were 0.1% higher than in the previous month, the fourth consecutive month of marginal increases. Sales were 9.4% higher than in December 1996 due to strong sales increases during the first eight months of the year. Prior to the recent slowdown, sales had been generally increasing since the 1993/94 restructuring, except for a pause in the last half of 1995.

All provinces posted year-over-year sales increases (unadjusted) in December, led by Alberta (+16.0%), Saskatchewan (+12.9%), and Manitoba (+11.8%). Department stores in New Brunswick (+9.2%) and Nova Scotia (+8.7%) posted the smallest year-over-year gains.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

Seasonally adjusted sales, inventory and accounts receivable data have been revised back to January 1994. Unadjusted sales for 1997 have also been revised. These revisions are now available on CANSIM, or upon request from the Retail Commodity Section, Distributive Trades Division.

The revised sales, inventory and accounts receivable totals will also appear in the December 1997 issue of *Department store sales and stocks*. The December 1997 issue of *Department store sales and stocks* (63-002-XPB, \$17/\$165) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Jason Randall (613-951-5668; Internet: [randjas@statcan.ca](mailto:randjas@statcan.ca)), Retail Commodity Section, Distributive Trades Division. □

Department store sales including concessions

	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1996 to Dec. 1997	Jan. to Dec. 1997	Jan.-Dec. 1996 to Jan.-Dec. 1997
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,529.3</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>15,929.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island	49.0	11.9	298.3	9.4
Nova Scotia	86.9	8.7	505.6	7.7
New Brunswick	63.6	9.2	379.5	7.6
Quebec	414.9	9.6	2,884.5	8.9
Ontario	1,094.8	11.4	6,707.8	11.2
Manitoba	104.3	11.8	661.9	7.8
Saskatchewan	82.2	12.9	517.7	11.6
Alberta	295.0	16.0	1,811.9	14.0
British Columbia, Yukon, and Northwest Territories	338.7	11.2	2,162.1	8.0



---

## OTHER RELEASES

---

### Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending January 21, 1998

Carloadings of freight (excluding intermodal traffic) during the seven-day period ending January 21, 1998, increased 7.3% to 4.4 million tonnes from the same period of last year. The number of cars loaded increased 5.7%.

Intermodal traffic (piggyback) tonnage totalled 284 000 tonnes, down 7.3% from the same period of last year. The year-to-date figures show a decrease of 17.9%.

Total traffic (carloadings of freight and intermodal traffic) increased 6.3% during the period. This brought the year-to-date total to 12.8 million tonnes, up 9.1% from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For further information on this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; Internet: [larocque@statcan.ca](mailto:larocque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

### Steel pipe and tubing

December 1997

Steel pipe and tubing production for December totalled 197 461 tonnes, a 27.9% increase from 154 424 tonnes a year earlier.

Year-to-date production to the end of December 1997 totalled 2 443 975 tonnes, up 14.2% from 2 140 739 tonnes during the same period in 1996.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.**

The December 1997 issue of *Steel pipe and tubing* (41-011-XPB, \$7/\$62) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; Internet: [shinand@statcan.ca](mailto:shinand@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Footwear statistics

Fourth quarter 1997

Manufacturers produced 4,708,692 pairs of footwear in the fourth quarter of 1997, up 13.3% from the 4,154,500 pairs produced in the same quarter a year earlier.

January-to-December 1997 production totalled 18,911,294 (revised) pairs of footwear, up 8.7% from

the 17,392,230 pairs produced during the same period in 1996.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 8.**

The fourth quarter 1997 issue of *Footwear statistics* (33-002-XPB, \$8/\$25) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Sharon Boyer (613-951-5669; Internet: [boyesha@statcan.ca](mailto:boyesha@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Apartment building construction price indexes

Fourth quarter 1997

The price index for apartment building construction rose 0.3% to 127.9 (1986=100) in the fourth quarter of 1997 over the previous quarter, and 2.1% over the fourth quarter of 1996.

Ottawa registered the highest quarterly change (+0.7%), followed by Calgary (+0.6%), Toronto and Edmonton (+0.3%), Montréal and Vancouver (+0.2%), and Halifax (+0.1%).

**Note:** The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in seven major urban areas across Canada (Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver). Besides the city indexes and seven city composites there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical). These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors who report on the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

**Apartment building construction price indexes**  
Fourth quarter 1997 (1986=100)

	Fourth quarter 1997	Fourth quarter 1996 to fourth quarter 1997	Third quarter 1997 to fourth quarter 1997
	% change		
<b>Composite</b>	<b>127.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Halifax	113.4	-2.4	0.1
Montréal	121.5	3.1	0.2
Ottawa	135.9	2.0	0.7
Toronto	131.8	1.7	0.3
Calgary	131.7	3.0	0.6
Edmonton	129.0	2.5	0.3
Vancouver	133.5	2.0	0.2

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 2046.**

The fourth quarter 1997 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in March. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Elvira Marinelli (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-2848; Internet: [marielv@statcan.ca](mailto:marielv@statcan.ca)), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Cereal and oilseeds review**, November 1997  
**Catalogue number 22-007-XPB**  
 (Canada: \$15/\$149; outside Canada: US\$15/US\$149).

**Retail trade**, November 1997  
**Catalogue number 63-005-XPB**  
 (Canada: \$21/\$206; outside Canada: US\$21/US\$206).

**The sugar situation**, quarterly period ended  
 December 1997  
**Catalogue number 32-013QXPB**  
 (Canada: \$13/\$41; outside Canada: US\$13/US\$41).

**All prices exclude sales tax.**

### How to order publications

Simplify your data search with the *Statistics Canada Catalogue* (11-204-XPE, \$16; outside Canada: US\$16).

Its keyword index will guide you to statistics on Canada's social and economic activity.

#### Order publications by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

**1-800-267-6677**

From other countries call:

**1-613-951-7277**

To fax your order:

**1-800-889-9734**

Address changes or account inquiries:

**1-800-700-1033**



Internet:

**order@statcan.ca**

**To order a publication by mail write:** Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Operations and Integration Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

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

Catalogue 11-001E (P) April 11-001E/11-001E/11-001E/11-001E	
	
Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 5, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Urban transit, 1995</b> Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, 68% of Canadians took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996</b> Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4
<b>OTHER RELEASES</b>	
Help-wanted Index, May 1997	3
Short-term Expectations Survey	3
Steel primary forms, season ending May 31, 1997	12
Egg production, April 1997	13
<b>PUBLICATIONS RELEASED</b>	<b>11</b>
	

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by E-mail, send an E-mail message to [listproc@statcan.ca](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Editor: Duncan Currie (613-951-1103, [currdun@statcan.ca](mailto:currdun@statcan.ca))

Head of Official Release: Chantal Prévost (613-951-1088, [prevcha@statcan.ca](mailto:prevcha@statcan.ca))

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 1998. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.