



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, July 30, 1998

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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Department store sales and stocks June 1998

Department store sales were down 4.9% in June (\$1,348.9 million seasonally adjusted) compared with May (\$1,419.0 million). This follows a 1.3% (revised) decline in May 1998. Part of the sales decline can be attributed to the closure of a number of department store locations in June. June was the third consecutive month of decreasing department store sales — the first time this has occurred since the first quarter of 1993.

On a year-over-year basis, seasonally adjusted sales were 1.8% higher in June compared with the same month a year earlier. This compares with double-digit year-over-year increases for most of 1997 and the first four months of 1998.

Unadjusted for seasonality, department store sales were 0.8% higher in June compared with June 1997. Alberta (+6.7%) and Saskatchewan (+2.7%) led the provinces in year-over-year sales gains. British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories (-1.4%), Quebec (-0.8%) and New Brunswick (-0.1%)

saw sales decline in June 1998 compared with the same month a year earlier.

Note: The procedure for revising previously released department store data is being changed, effective with this release. The raw data will be revised for the previous month, when new information is made available to Statistics Canada. The seasonally adjusted data will be revised for the previous three months (i.e., seasonally adjusted data have been revised for March, April and May, as part of the June data release). This change, which is being implemented for all data previously released for 1998, will bring department store revision practices in line with other monthly retail trade surveys.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111-113.

For further information on this release, contact Leslie Kiss (613-951-3556) Retail Commodity Section, Distributive Trades Division.

Department store sales including concessions

	June 1997	June 1998	June 1997 to June 1998	Jan to June 1998	Jan- June 1997 to Jan- June 1998
unadjusted					
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	1,253.6	1,263.7	0.8	7,010.2	9.0
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ¹	22.3	22.7	1.8	123.2	10.6
Nova Scotia	37.4	37.5	0.3	208.3	9.6
New Brunswick	28.2	28.2	-0.1	154.5	10.0
Quebec	239.7	237.8	-0.8	1,313.9	8.6
Ontario	534.2	537.9	0.7	2,958.3	9.8
Manitoba	53.5	53.5	0.0	294.2	8.7
Saskatchewan	42.0	43.1	2.7	232.0	10.5
Alberta	135.4	144.4	6.7	817.5	14.0
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories ¹	160.9	158.6	-1.4	908.3	2.1

¹ For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia, the Yukon and Northwest Territories are combined.

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

June 1998 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 734 900 cubic metres in June, up 1.8% from the same month a year earlier. Sales increased for four of the seven major product groups over the same period in 1997. The largest increases were recorded for heavy fuel oil (+70 700 cubic metres or +12.9%), diesel fuel oil (+55 500 cubic metres or +3.1%) and motor gasoline (+54 400 cubic metres or +1.7%). The sales of "other refined products" declined in June (-47 100 cubic metres or -4.9%). This product group contains products such as asphalt, stove oil, petroleum coke and lube oils.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products were up 1 152 000 cubic metres or 2.6% over the same period in 1997. Sales increased for five of the seven major product groups. The advance for heavy fuel oil (+633 500 cubic metres or +18.2%) was mainly due to greater use of the product for electricity generation. Favorable retail prices contributed to increased consumption of motor gasoline (+563 900 cubic metres or +3.2%). As a result of milder temperatures since the beginning of 1998, sales of light fuel oil, usually in demand during the heating period, fell 16.7% (-554 200 cubic metres).

Sales of refined petroleum products

	June 1997	June 1998	June 1997 to June 1998 %
	thousands of cubic metres		change
Total, all products	7,598.1	7,734.9	1.8
Motor gasoline	3,151.4	3,205.8	1.7
Diesel fuel oil	1,788.3	1,843.8	3.1
Light fuel oil	183.3	169.7	-7.4
Heavy fuel oil	546.4	617.1	12.9
Aviation turbo fuels	571.4	598.4	4.7
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	403.5	393.4	-2.5
All other refined products	953.8	906.7	-4.9

	Jan. 1997 to June 1997	Jan. 1998 to June 1998	Jan.- June 1997 to Jan.- June 1998 %
	thousands of cubic metres		change
Total, all products	43,766.3	44,918.3	2.6
Motor gasoline	17,463.2	18,027.1	3.2
Diesel fuel oil	10,095.6	10,425.5	3.3
Light fuel oil	3,318.9	2,764.7	-16.7
Heavy fuel oil	3,474.8	4,108.3	18.2
Aviation turbo fuels	2,757.7	2,930.0	6.2
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	2,414.3	2,412.4	-0.1
All other refined products	4,241.8	4,250.3	0.2

¹ Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

The June 1998 issue of *Refined petroleum products* (45-004-XPB, \$21/\$206), will be available in September. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Michel Palardy (613-951-7174; palamic@statcan.ca), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending July 25, 1998 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending July 25, 1998 totalled 279 378 metric tonnes, down 4.8% from the week-earlier 293 416 tonnes and down 4.9% from the year-earlier 293 678 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was

9 252 407 metric tonnes, a 7.1% increase compared with 8 637 187 tonnes for the same period in 1997.

For further information on this release, contact Huguette Montcalm (613-951-9827; monthug@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Crude petroleum and natural gas production,

April 1998

Catalogue number 26-006-XPB

(Canada: \$19/\$186; outside Canada: US\$19/US\$186).

Production and disposition of tobacco products ,

June 1998

Catalogue number 32-022-XPB

(Canada: \$7/\$62; outside Canada: US\$7/US\$62).

Homeowner repair and renovation expenditure,

1996

Catalogue number 62-201-XPB

(Canada: \$31; outside Canada: US\$31).

National population health survey overview, 1996/97

Catalogue number 82-567-XIB

(Canada: \$26; outside Canada: US\$26).

All prices exclude sales tax.

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• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was notably weak again in 1995 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow modest growth during the year.	4
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