



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, November 8, 1999**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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There are no major releases today.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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## OTHER RELEASES

### Department store sales and stocks

September 1999

Consumers continued their spending spree in department stores during September. Their purchases in department stores totalled \$1,586.5 million, an increase of 0.9% over the sales reported in August (seasonally adjusted data). This is the sixth increase in as many months. Department store sales for September also include sales resulting from the liquidation of inventories held by the Eaton's stores.

Except for a slight decrease in the spring of 1998, department store sales have shown sustained growth since early 1996.

The surge in department store sales is reflected in an exceptional quarterly result. In the third quarter of 1999, department store sales were up 5.4% compared with the second quarter. This is the best quarterly result of the decade. Previously, the best two results were registered in the first quarters of 1994 (+4.5%) and 1998 (+4.0%).

#### Department store sales including concessions

	Sept. 1998	Sept. 1999	Sept. 1998 to Sept. 1999	Jan. to Sept. 1999	Jan.-Sept. 1998 to Jan.-Sept. 1999
Unadjusted					
	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,340.2</b>	<b>1,542.9</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>11,841.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island <sup>1</sup>	24.7	28.3	14.6	221.3	12.3
Nova Scotia	40.2	44.2	10.1	357.0	8.6
New Brunswick	31.2	34.9	11.6	260.9	6.3
Quebec	241.8	274.8	13.7	2,193.0	7.8
Ontario	574.6	670.0	16.6	5,066.6	10.1
Manitoba	52.9	61.8	16.7	490.3	7.3
Saskatchewan	42.8	49.9	16.5	393.8	8.2
Alberta	156.3	179.2	14.7	1,386.0	7.9
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut <sup>1</sup>	175.6	199.7	13.7	1,472.6	3.9

<sup>1</sup> For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are combined as are data for British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Unadjusted for seasonality, department store sales were up 15.1% in September compared with the same month in 1998. Sales increased by at least 10.0% in every province. The largest gains were in Ontario,

Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where sales advanced by at least 16.5%.

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

Data on stocks are available upon request.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-3549; 1 877 421-3067; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; [kimacle@statcan.ca](mailto:kimacle@statcan.ca)), Retail Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division. ■

### Non-residential building construction price index

Third quarter 1999

In the third quarter of 1999, the composite price index for non-residential building construction (1992=100) stood at 114.7, a 0.4% increase over the previous quarter and up 2.0% from the same quarter one year ago.

The index for Ottawa and Toronto increased 0.7% from the second quarter of 1999, followed by Montreal (+0.5%), Halifax, Calgary and Edmonton (+0.4%), and Vancouver (+0.1%).

#### Non-residential building construction price index

Third quarter 1999 (1992=100)

	Third quarter 1999	Third quarter 1998 to third quarter 1999	Second to third quarter 1999
% change			
<b>Composite</b>	<b>114.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Halifax	106.6	2.0	0.4
Montreal	112.0	1.6	0.5
Ottawa	113.8	2.3	0.7
Toronto	116.2	2.7	0.7
Calgary	115.6	2.4	0.4
Edmonton	115.0	2.0	0.4
Vancouver	116.0	0.9	0.1

**Note:** The non-residential building construction price index provides an indication of changes in construction costs in seven major urban areas (Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver). Three construction categories — industrial, commercial and institutional buildings — are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school). Besides the major urban areas and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the cost changes is available by trade group (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical) within the building types. These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material,

labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 9930 and 9931.**

The third quarter 1999 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in December. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; [chailou@statcan.ca](mailto:chailou@statcan.ca)), Client Services Unit, Prices Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Steel wire and products**, September 1999  
**Catalogue number 41-006-XIB**  
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

**Natural gas transportation and distribution**,  
July 1999  
**Catalogue number 55-002-XPB**  
(Canada: \$17/\$165; outside Canada: US\$17/US\$165).

**Energy statistics handbook**, October 1999  
**Catalogue number 57-601-UPB**  
(Canada: \$387; outside Canada: US\$387).

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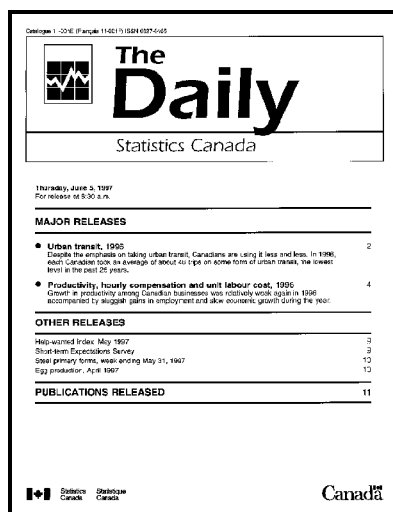
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