



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, December 21, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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Declining sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers pushed down total retail sales by 1.4% in October to \$21.9 billion.
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MAJOR RELEASES

Retail trade

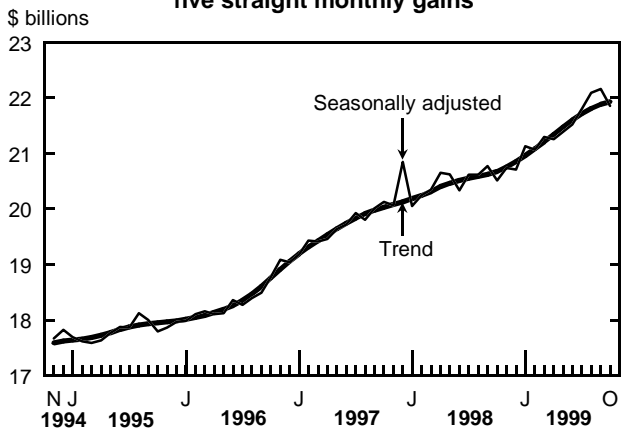
October 1999

Declining sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers pushed down total retail sales by 1.4% in October to \$21.9 billion. This follows a 0.3% increase in September, which was a fifth consecutive monthly gain. Excluding sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales advanced 0.8% in October.

Despite October's setback, retail sales have generally been increasing since the fall of 1998 after slowing down in the spring and summer of that year. Prior to the slowdown in 1998, sales had generally been rising for more than two years.

Retail sales for the first 10 months of 1999 were 5.3% higher than the same period in 1998. Holding prices constant, the year-to-date increase was 3.7%.

Retail sales set back in October following five straight monthly gains



In October, consumers reduced spending in the automotive sector (-4.8%) and at general merchandise stores (-0.6%). On the other hand, they spent more in furniture stores (+5.0%), clothing stores (+4.1%) and in stores classified as "other retail" (+1.4%). The "other retail" category includes retailers such as liquor stores, sporting goods stores, hardware stores and book stores.

Auto sales get pulled over

October's retreat in sales within the automotive sector came mostly from lower sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers. After four months of strong

increases, sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers fell 7.1% in October. This was the largest monthly decline since January 1998 (-12.9%).

Industry sources suggest that strong sales in recent months in both Canada and the United States led to early liquidation of 1999 models. This early sellout, coupled with a shortage of popular 2000 models due to strong consumer demand, could have resulted in lower sales in October. Overall, motor and recreational vehicle dealers have generally been reporting advancing sales since mid-1996.

In October, automotive parts, accessories and services stores posted a 0.4% reduction in sales, completely offsetting the gain in September. Sales in these stores have remained essentially unchanged since the start of 1999 after a year of increases. Still running on higher gasoline prices, sales in service stations increased 0.9%. Over the last 10 months, sales by gasoline service stations have increased 19.7% after about three years of general declines.

Consumers stayed away from general merchandise stores

Consumers reduced spending in general merchandise stores in October after three months of increases. Within this sector, sales at department stores fell by 0.8%, following a weak 0.1% gain in September. Department store sales include those resulting from the liquidation of inventories held by Eaton's stores. After a 1.9% jump in September, sales by other general merchandise stores were also down in October (-0.4%). Sales in the overall general merchandise sector have increased considerably in 1999 after a period of relatively flat sales in the spring and summer of 1998. Cumulative year-to-date sales in 1999 were 7.9% higher than the same period in 1998.

Furniture and clothing sectors bounced back

After three months of weak sales, the furniture sector resumed its strong upward movement started in the spring of 1996. During the first 10 months of 1999, cumulative sales in the furniture sector were 8.8% higher than the same period of 1998, marking the largest year-to-date percentage change of all retail sectors.

In October, clothing stores recaptured losses of the previous two months. All types of clothing stores posted increasing sales in October, with shoe stores (+7.7%) leading the way. Overall, retailers in clothing stores

have experienced advancing sales since early 1996, punctuated by periods of weak sales increases.

Auto sector dragged down sales across provinces

For the first time since January 1998, retail sales were down in all provinces in October. As in January 1998, lower sales in the automotive sector accounted for the weakness seen in all provinces this October.

The three Prairie provinces led provincial declines in sales during October. After four consecutive monthly gains, retail sales were down 5.4% in Manitoba and 3.1% in Alberta. Retail sales in Manitoba and Alberta have generally been increasing since the fall of 1998 after staying relatively flat for the rest of that year. In Saskatchewan, diminishing sales in the last two months (-3.3% in October and -1.2% in September) offset a sequence of monthly increases that started in March 1999. Overall, retail sales in Saskatchewan have shown no progress since the start of 1998.

Retail sales in Quebec fell 1.2% in October after increasing in the previous three months. Retailers in Quebec have experienced rising sales since the summer of 1998, despite a slowdown in sales during the first half of 1999.

Retail sales in British Columbia were down 1.1% in October following a 1.7% gain in September. Since the fall of 1998, sales in British Columbia have recaptured losses observed during the rest of that year.

Consumers in Ontario reduced spending in retail stores for a second consecutive month in October (-0.6%). These monthly declines come after an eight-month stretch of advances in retail sales. Ontario's retailers have been experiencing increasing sales since mid-1996.

Related indicators for November

Advances in full-time jobs pushed up total employment for a third consecutive month in November (+0.4%). Sources in the automotive industry indicated an increase in the number of new motor vehicles sold in November. Housing starts increased 5.1% in November compared with the previous month.

Available on CANSIM: 2399 and 2400 (main matrices), 2299, 2397, 2398, 2401-2416 and 2418-2420.

The October 1999 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XPB, \$21/\$206; 63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, contact the Client services unit (613-951-3549; 1-877-421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; gratpau@statcan.ca), Retail Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division. □

Retail sales

	Oct. 1998	July 1999 ^r	Aug. 1999 ^r	Sept. 1999 ^r	Oct. 1999 ^p	Sept. to Oct. 1999	Oct. 1998 to Oct. 1999
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions				% change		
Food	4,821	4,889	4,914	4,914	4,909	-0.1	1.8
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,455	4,528	4,551	4,551	4,548	-0.1	2.1
All other food stores	366	361	363	364	361	-0.7	-1.3
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,084	1,120	1,119	1,124	1,126	0.1	3.8
Clothing	1,169	1,213	1,201	1,168	1,216	4.1	4.1
Shoe stores	135	136	132	128	138	7.7	2.2
Men's clothing stores	131	129	133	127	132	4.0	0.8
Women's clothing stores	362	374	376	359	377	5.0	4.1
Other clothing stores	540	573	561	554	569	2.7	5.3
Furniture	1,063	1,153	1,155	1,138	1,195	5.0	12.5
Household furniture and appliance stores	856	937	941	927	976	5.3	14.0
Household furnishings stores	206	215	214	211	219	3.8	6.3
Automotive	7,758	8,517	8,754	8,848	8,428	-4.8	8.6
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,246	5,857	5,993	6,079	5,650	-7.1	7.7
Gasoline service stations	1,289	1,444	1,511	1,514	1,529	0.9	18.6
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,222	1,216	1,250	1,254	1,249	-0.4	2.2
General merchandise stores	2,350	2,541	2,569	2,590	2,574	-0.6	9.6
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,267	2,366	2,374	2,370	2,404	1.4	6.0
Other semi-durable goods stores	707	724	734	714	728	2.0	3.0
Other durable goods stores	575	578	584	584	591	1.2	2.7
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	985	1,064	1,056	1,072	1,085	1.2	10.2
Total, retail sales	20,511	21,798	22,087	22,153	21,852	-1.4	6.5
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	15,265	15,941	16,094	16,074	16,202	0.8	6.1
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland	329	342	344	352	346	-1.8	5.0
Prince Edward Island	86	98	97	100	99	-1.4	15.1
Nova Scotia	641	667	677	680	680	-0.1	6.0
New Brunswick	486	544	557	549	543	-1.1	11.6
Quebec	4,775	5,041	5,060	5,098	5,035	-1.2	5.4
Ontario	7,739	8,379	8,583	8,467	8,418	-0.6	8.8
Manitoba	726	747	768	772	731	-5.4	0.6
Saskatchewan	625	642	658	650	628	-3.3	0.5
Alberta	2,316	2,451	2,478	2,571	2,492	-3.1	7.6
British Columbia	2,719	2,815	2,790	2,838	2,807	-1.1	3.3
Yukon	26	27	27	28	26	-6.3	2.4
Northwest Territories	..	32	33	33	34	1.9	..
Nunavut	..	14	14	15	14	-4.8	..

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

.. Figures not available.

Retail sales

	Oct. 1998	Sept. 1999 ^r	Oct. 1999 ^p	Oct. 1998 to Oct. 1999
unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Food	5,031	4,901	4,993	-0.7
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,664	4,542	4,631	-0.7
All other food stores	367	359	363	-1.1
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,098	1,100	1,125	2.5
Clothing	1,264	1,219	1,313	3.8
Shoe stores	154	139	158	2.2
Men's clothing stores	140	120	138	-1.1
Women's clothing stores	382	374	401	5.0
Other clothing stores	588	586	616	4.7
Furniture	1,123	1,176	1,239	10.3
Household furniture and appliance stores	904	960	1,009	11.6
Household furnishings stores	218	216	229	5.0
Automotive	7,795	8,970	8,285	6.3
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,186	6,161	5,438	4.9
Gasoline service stations	1,340	1,566	1,588	18.5
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,269	1,243	1,259	-0.8
General merchandise stores	2,507	2,500	2,680	6.9
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,216	2,365	2,325	5.0
Other semi-durable goods stores	686	723	700	2.1
Other durable goods stores	522	566	531	1.7
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,008	1,076	1,094	8.6
Total, retail sales	21,034	22,230	21,960	4.4
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	15,847	16,069	16,522	4.3
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland	340	349	346	1.9
Prince Edward Island	87	101	96	11.3
Nova Scotia	656	673	677	3.1
New Brunswick	508	551	551	8.4
Quebec	4,933	5,134	5,065	2.7
Ontario	7,862	8,534	8,409	7.0
Manitoba	763	774	751	-1.6
Saskatchewan	671	652	661	-1.4
Alberta	2,395	2,538	2,527	5.5
British Columbia	2,751	2,847	2,804	1.9
Yukon	26	29	25	-2.1
Northwest Territories	..	34	33	..
Nunavut	..	14	14	..

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

.. Figures not available.

OTHER RELEASES

Quarterly population estimates

October 1, 1999

Revised quarterly population estimates for Canada, the provinces and the territories are available today. The estimates were calculated using new methods to better reflect patterns of emigration from Canada.

These new methods were developed after the 1996 Census showed that the population estimates program underestimated emigration. As a result, population estimates have been revised back to 1996. Emigration now takes into account three groups of individuals: permanent emigrants, individuals who had emigrated and have returned to Canada, and people temporarily abroad.

As of October 1, 1999, the nation's population stood at 30,572,500, an increase of just 252,200, or 0.83%, from October 1, 1998. This represents a slight rebound from the 0.81% rate registered for the year ending October 1, 1998. However, both rates of growth were lower than the 1.02% rate for the year ending October 1, 1997.

The major factors behind these fluctuations in growth rates have been changes in the number of immigrants and non-permanent residents.

The population increased in all provinces and territories except for Newfoundland, Saskatchewan and the Yukon between October 1, 1998 and October 1, 1999. Nunavut had the largest increase (+2.4%), followed by Alberta (+1.7%) and Ontario (+1.2%). Interprovincial migration was the most important factor in different growth rates among the provinces and territories. While Ontario attracted over half of all immigrants to Canada, half of all total emigrants had Ontario as their last place of residence in this country.

For more details on the new methods, please see the papers on new methods that are posted on the Statistics Canada Web site (www.statcan.ca). Look under "Concepts, definitions and methods".

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1, 2, 4-6, 397, 5731, 5772-5779, 6470, 6516 and 6981; tables 10102, 20104 and 40102.

For more information on demographic estimates, contact Lise Champagne (613-951-2320). For further information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts and data quality of the population estimates, contact Daniel Larrivée (613-951-0694), or François Nault (613-951-9582), Demography Division.

Population estimates

As of October 1

	1996	1997	1998	1999
Canada	29,771,690	30,075,866	30,320,312	30,572,544
Newfoundland	558,722	551,400	543,949	540,978
Prince Edward Island	136,526	137,008	137,180	138,609
Nova Scotia	932,724	935,419	937,522	942,652
New Brunswick	753,472	754,270	753,880	755,709
Quebec	7,284,400	7,309,993	7,330,538	7,352,698
Ontario	11,147,658	11,298,352	11,422,770	11,559,632
Manitoba	1,134,779	1,136,051	1,138,819	1,144,782
Saskatchewan	1,020,808	1,022,417	1,027,410	1,027,343
Alberta	2,795,290	2,854,688	2,924,884	2,973,591
British Columbia	3,907,668	3,976,633	4,004,700	4,037,157
Yukon	32,112	31,989	31,063	30,412
Northwest Territories	41,713	41,593	41,062	41,807
Nunavut	25,818	26,053	26,535	27,174

Youth violent crime

1998

Statistics Canada today releases a *Juristat* presenting a detailed analysis of youth (aged 12 to 17) violent crime

data reported by Canadian police forces. Baseline data on this subject were first released last July as part of the *Juristat* entitled *Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998*. Today's *Juristat* addresses a number of additional questions relating to youth violence and differences

between crimes committed by male and female youths and between youth and adult offenders.

The rate of young people charged with violent crimes fell 1% in 1998, the third straight annual decline. However, despite these recent decreases, the rate of youths charged with violent crimes in 1998 was still 77% higher than it was a decade ago. The increase in violent crime among young people has been much greater than the increase for adults. Since 1988, the rate of violent crime among adults has increased only 6%.

In recent years, concern has grown about increasing violence by young women. However, the rate for female youths charged with violent crime was still only one-third the rate for their male counterparts. Since 1988, the rate of violent crime among female youths has more than doubled (+127%), compared with an increase of 65% among male youths.

For violent crime, two-thirds of female youths were charged with common assault, which is the least serious type of assault. For male youths, common assault represented only 46% of the charges for violent crimes. Male youths tended to be involved in more serious violent crimes, such as robbery and major assault, than female youths.

Female youths charged with violent crime tended to be younger than their male counterparts. Among male youths, the violent crime rate increased gradually with age, the highest rate being among 17-year-olds. Among females, the rate peaked at the ages of 14 and 15.

Young people tend to victimize others who are about the same age and who are known to them. Six in 10 victims of violent crime were acquaintances of the accused young person. More than half (52%) of the victims were youths themselves. Only 2% of victims of youth crime were aged 55 and over in 1998.

On a provincial basis, Prince Edward Island and Quebec had the lowest rates of violent crime among young people, while Manitoba and Saskatchewan had the highest. However, it should be noted that differences in practices and policies in the use of the alternative measures, such as pre-charge diversion of offenders, in each province and territory may explain a portion of the variations.

Among the nine largest census metropolitan areas, the rate of youths charged with violent crimes was highest in Winnipeg and lowest in Quebec City. Winnipeg also had the highest percentage of female youths charged with violent crime.

The vol. 19, no. 13 issue of *Juristat: Youth violent crime* (85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93; 85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (613-951-9023 or 1-800-387-2231), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

November 1999

Manufacturers shipped 4 151 323 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in November, up 16.4% from 3 566 651 square metres from a month earlier and a 34.4% jump from 3 087 710 square metres a year earlier.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of November 1999 totalled 30 313 536 square metres, a 1.3% increase from the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32-33).

The November issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation* (44-004-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact Bob Traversy (613-951-3531; travrob@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Cereals and oilseeds review

October 1999

Data from the October issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* are now available. The information includes data on production, stocks, cash and futures prices, crop quality, domestic processing, exports, farmers' deliveries and supply-disposition analyses.

The November situation report, an overview of current market conditions, both domestic and international, is also included in the October issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), which will be available in early January 2000. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; les.macartney@statcan.ca), Grain Marketing Unit, Agriculture Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation,
November 1999
Catalogue number 44-004-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Aviation service bulletin, vol. 31, no. 12
Catalogue number 51-004-XIB
(Canada: \$8/\$82).

**Touriscope: International travel, advance
information**, October 1999 (vol. 15, no. 10)
Catalogue number 66-001-XPB
(Canada: \$8/\$73; outside Canada: US\$8/US\$73).

Canada's balance of international payments, Third
quarter 1999
Catalogue number 67-001-XIB
(Canada: \$29/\$93).

Juristat: Youth violent crime, Vol. 19 no. 13
Catalogue number 85-002-XIE
(Canada: \$8/\$70).

Juristat: Youth violent crime, Vol. 19 no. 13
Catalogue number 85-002-XPE
(Canada: \$10/\$93; outside Canada: US\$10/US\$93).

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Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are taking it less and less. In 1996, about 1.4 billion trips, an average of about 4.5 per person, were taken 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.

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