



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, July 8, 1999

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

First quarter 1999 (preliminary)

Sales at retail stores advanced 5.0% in the first quarter of 1999 compared with the same quarter of 1998. By commodity, health and personal care products recorded the largest year-over-year increase (+12.8%) but drug stores lost ground to other retailers in sales of these products. (Data in this release have not been adjusted for seasonality.)

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

	First quarter 1998 ^r	First quarter 1999 ^p	First quarter 1998 to first quarter 1999
	unadjusted		
	\$000,000		% change
Commodities			
Food and beverages	13,683	13,587	-0.7
Health and personal care products	3,743	4,222	12.8
Clothing, footwear and accessories	4,321	4,580	6.0
Home furnishings and electronics	3,571	3,891	9.0
Motor vehicles, parts and service	15,183	16,412	8.1
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	3,582	3,428	-4.3
All other goods and services	8,185	8,751	6.9
Total	52,268	54,872	5.0

^r revised data

^p preliminary data

The health and personal care category includes products such as prescription and over-the-counter drugs, vitamins and other herbal remedies, cosmetics and fragrances, eyewear and other types of toiletries. All components within the category did

well on a year-over-year basis, especially sales of over-the-counter drugs (including vitamins and herbal remedies), which rose 19.8%. Prescription drugs had the smallest year-over-year increase (+9.8%).

The rise in sales of health and personal care products was not consistent across all store types. For example, sales of these products jumped 24% in each of food stores as well as general merchandise stores in combination with home and auto supply stores. In the first quarter of 1999, consumers spent \$751.2 million on health and personal care products at food stores and another \$596.4 million at general merchandise and home and auto supply stores. In comparison, sales of these products at drug stores rose only 6.9% (to reach \$2,547.2 million).

As a result, drug stores lost ground in their market share of health and personal care products. In the first quarter of 1998, consumers bought 63.7% of all their health and personal care products at a drug store; this was down to 60.3% in the first quarter of 1999.

Health and personal care products made up 7.7% of all the commodities sold by retailers in the first quarter of 1999. Sales of motor vehicles, parts and service accounted for the biggest share (29.9%), followed by sales of food and beverages (24.8%), clothing, footwear and accessories (8.3%), home furnishings and electronics (7.1%) and automotive fuels, oils and additives came (6.2%). Sales of all other goods and services accounted for 15.9%.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; retailinfo@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. For information on the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ghysline Forget (613-951-9791), Retail Commodity Section, Distributive Trades Division. □

Commodity share of sales within store types

First quarter 1999

	Food stores	Drug stores	Clothing and shoe stores	Household furniture, appliance and household furnishing stores	General merchandise and automotive parts, accessories and service stores	Other retail stores	All retail stores
%							
Commodities							
Food and beverages	78.7	6.6	0.4	0.0	11.8	6.4	24.8
Health and personal care products	5.5	80.0	1.2	0.0	6.7	1.2	7.7
Clothing, footwear and accessories	0.3	0.5	91.2	0.1	16.6	2.8	8.3
Home furnishings and electronics	0.4	3.0	1.2	85.9	12.8	0.9	7.1
Motor vehicles, parts and service	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	27.3	58.9	29.9
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	12.9	6.2
All other goods and services	13.4	10.0	5.9	13.4	23.3	16.9	15.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

Commodity share of sales across store types

First quarter 1999

	Food stores	Drug stores	Clothing and shoe stores	Household furniture, appliance and household furnishing stores	General merchandise and automotive parts, accessories and service stores	Other retail stores	All retail stores
%							
Commodities							
Food and beverages	79.5	1.5	0.1	0.0	7.7	11.2	100.0
Health and personal care products	17.8	60.3	0.7	0.0	14.1	7.0	100.0
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1.0	0.3	52.2	0.0	32.1	14.4	100.0
Home furnishings and electronics	1.5	2.4	0.8	60.4	29.2	5.7	100.0
Motor vehicles, parts and service	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	14.8	85.1	100.0
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.9	89.4	100.0
All other goods and services	21.0	3.6	1.8	4.2	23.6	45.8	100.0
Total	25.0	5.8	4.8	5.0	16.2	43.2	100.0

Note: Data may not add to totals due to rounding.

Steel primary forms

Week ending July 3, 1999 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending July 3, 1999 totalled 299 962 tonnes, up 2.1% from the week-earlier 293 705 tonnes and up 0.2% from the year-earlier 299 427 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 8 093 000 tonnes, a 2.8% decrease compared with 8 324 093 tonnes for the same period in 1998.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Railway carloadings

Seven-day period ending June 21, 1999

Non-intermodal traffic loaded during the seven-day period ending June 21, 1999 decreased 5.4% to 4.6 million tonnes compared with the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 1.4%.

Intermodal traffic tonnage totalled 390 000 tonnes, an 8.3% increase from the same period of 1998. The year-to-date figures increased 12.1%.

Total traffic decreased 4.4% during the seven-day period. This brought the year-to-date total to 120.3 million tonnes, a 2.2% decrease from the previous year.

All year-to-date figures have been revised.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

May 1999

Steel pipe and tubing production for May totalled 189 858 tonnes, a 3.3% decrease from 196 407 tonnes a year earlier.

Year-to-date production to the end of May totalled 1 013 163 tonnes, down 7.0% from 1 088 196 tonnes during the same period in 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 35.

The May 1999 issue of *Steel pipe and tubing* (41-011-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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 Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Interprovincial Wholesale Commodity Survey

1996

The 1996 estimates for annual sales and purchases of wholesalers are now available. Included are data for Canada, each province and territory, and the major Canadian regions. Origin and destination estimates are also available for the 11 major trade groups based on the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

Commodity tabulations and aggregations are available on a cost recovery, print-on-demand basis.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067 or 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Catherine Mamay (613-951-9683; mamacat@statcan.ca), Wholesale Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Production and shipments of steel pipe tubing,
May 1999
Catalogue number 41-011-XIB
(Canada: \$5/\$47).

Coal and coke statistics, April 1999
Catalogue number 45-002-XPB
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Service bulletin: communications, vol. 29, no. 1
Catalogue number 56-001-XIB
(Canada: \$10/\$32).

Electric power statistics, April 1999
Catalogue number 57-001-XPB
(Canada: \$12/\$114; outside Canada: US\$12/US\$114).

Exports by commodity, April 1999
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB
(Canada: \$37/\$361; outside Canada: US\$37/US\$361).

Exports by commodity, April 1999
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB
(Canada: \$78/\$773; outside Canada: US\$78/US\$773).

Labour force information, week ending June 19
Catalogue number 71-001-PPB
(Canada: \$11/\$103; outside Canada: US\$11/US\$103).
Available at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, July 9.

Employment, earnings and hours, April 1999
Catalogue number 72-002-XPB
(Canada: \$32/\$320; outside Canada: US\$32/US\$320).

All prices exclude sales tax.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; and -XPB or -XPE denote a paper version.

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 65 trips 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 notably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-wire index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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Editor: Dan Smythe (613-951-1103, smytdan@statcan.ca)

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

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