



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, November 15, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **New motor vehicle sales, September 2000** 2
The number of new motor vehicles sold in September advanced for a second consecutive month, rising 1.8% compared with August.
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OTHER RELEASES

- Apartment Building Construction Price Index, third quarter 2000 5
 - Air travel between Canada and the United States, first quarter 1999 5
 - Dairy statistics, September and October 2000 5
-

- NEW PRODUCTS** 6
-



MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

September 2000

The number of new motor vehicles sold in September advanced for a second consecutive month, rising 1.8% compared with August, when sales rose a substantial 5.2% over July. In all, 142,548 new vehicles were purchased in September, 2,586 more units than in August. Both passenger cars and trucks contributed to this increase. (Unless otherwise indicated, all figures in this release are seasonally adjusted.)

Incentives offered by manufacturers to clear out 2000 model year inventories helped to sustain the rise in new motor vehicle sales that started in the spring. Previously, new motor vehicle sales had generally been stagnant since the fall of 1999, after a strong upward movement that began at the end of 1998.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated. Seasonally adjusted provincial data from January 1991 to the present are available on CANSIM.

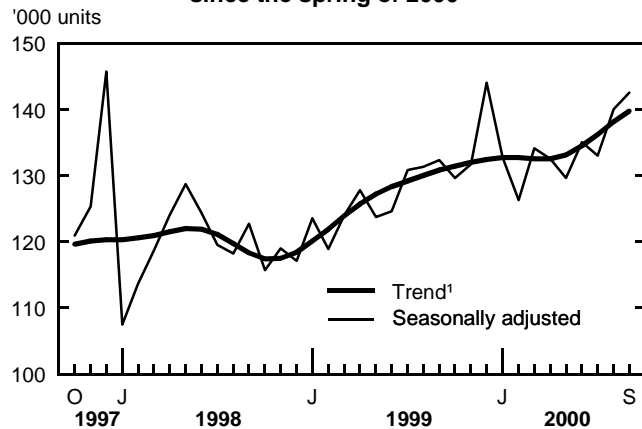
Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

North American-built new motor vehicles include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

Data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been included with the data for British Columbia.

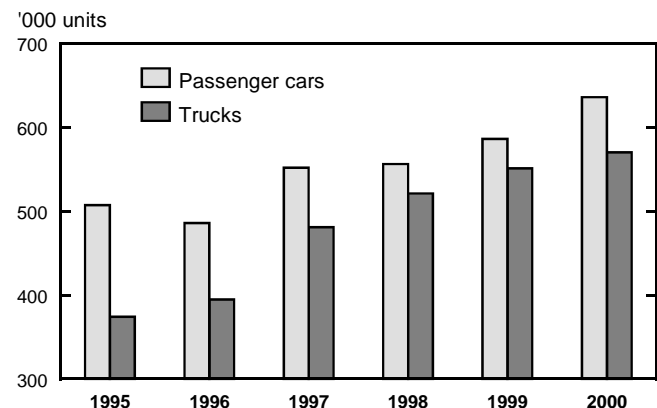
over the strong performance in the first nine months of 2000.

New motor vehicle sales have been rising since the spring of 2000



¹ The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.

Cumulative new motor vehicle sales for the first nine months of the year



Passenger cars propelled cumulative sales

New motor vehicle sales for the first nine months of 2000 were 6.1% higher than in the same period of 1999, when they had increased 5.5%. Cumulative sales of new passenger cars grew faster than those of trucks. In the first nine months, sales of new passenger cars rose 8.5% compared with the same period in 1999; for new trucks, the increase was only 3.5%.

However, preliminary figures from the auto industry, which indicate a sizable drop in October new motor vehicle sales, especially for trucks, could cast a shadow

Third straight monthly increase in sales of new passenger cars

In September, 75,592 new passenger cars were sold, 2.0% more than in August. This follows gains of 5.9% in August and 2.8% in July. September's increase over August is largely attributable to sales of overseas-built cars, which advanced 5.3%; sales of North American-built cars rose only 0.9%.

Since the start of 2000, sales of new overseas-built passenger cars have grown at a faster pace than have sales of North American-built cars. Since January, the number of overseas-built passenger cars sold has grown

by 11.5%, compared with 5.7% for North American-built cars during the same period.

Partly as a result of the gains in recent months, sales of new passenger cars have rebounded following a period of declines that started at the end of 1999. Previously, sales had been rising since the fall of 1998.

For a second straight month, the number of new trucks sold increased in September, up 1.6% from August. A total of 66,956 trucks were sold in September, an increase of 1,080 units. Trucks include minivans, sport utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

New truck sales have been rising since the start of the year, following a period of stagnant sales starting in the summer of 1999. Previously, truck sales had registered strong gains throughout the first half of 1999.

Sales up in almost all provinces

Prince Edward Island registered the largest increase in new motor vehicle sales in September (+13.5%), after another sizable gain in August (+9.8%). These increases followed a sharp drop in July (-20.8%). Nevertheless, new motor vehicle sales in Prince Edward Island have generally improved since the spring of 2000, following a period of declines extending back to the fall of 1999.

In Nova Scotia, new motor vehicle sales rose 3.4% in September over August. This was the second consecutive advance. Despite these two increases,

new motor vehicle sales in Nova Scotia have been edging down since the fall of 1999.

In September, the number of new motor vehicles sold in Ontario rose for a second straight month, advancing 3.0% compared with August. New motor vehicle sales in Ontario have been rising since the spring of 2000, after a pause that began in the fall of 1999.

The only declines in new motor vehicle sales in September were observed in Saskatchewan (-1.6%) and the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (-0.2%). Despite these decreases in September, sales have continued to rise since the fall of 1998 in Saskatchewan and since the summer of 1998 in the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

The September 2000 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For data or general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; 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), Distributive Trades Division. □

New motor vehicle sales

	Sept. 1999	Aug. 2000 ^r	Sept. 2000 ^p	Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000	Aug. to Sept. 2000
seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	132,271	139,962	142,548	7.8	1.8
Passenger cars	68,270	74,086	75,592	10.7	2.0
North American ¹	51,742	55,468	55,982	8.2	0.9
Overseas	16,528	18,618	19,611	18.7	5.3
Trucks, vans and buses	64,001	65,876	66,956	4.6	1.6
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,163	2,114	2,124	-1.8	0.5
Prince Edward Island	422	393	446	5.7	13.5
Nova Scotia	3,908	3,632	3,755	-3.9	3.4
New Brunswick	3,686	3,514	3,553	-3.6	1.1
Quebec	32,935	34,343	34,704	5.4	1.1
Ontario	55,573	58,948	60,710	9.2	3.0
Manitoba	3,722	3,786	3,850	3.4	1.7
Saskatchewan	2,979	3,404	3,350	12.5	-1.6
Alberta	13,739	15,322	15,581	13.4	1.7
British Columbia ²	13,144	14,506	14,475	10.1	-0.2
	Sept. 1999	Aug. 2000	Sept. 2000 ^p	Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000	
unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	136,298	141,733	146,361	7.4	
Passenger cars	69,515	78,559	76,175	9.6	
North American ¹	52,318	56,540	55,547	6.2	
Overseas	17,197	22,019	20,628	20.0	
Trucks, vans and buses	66,783	63,174	70,186	5.1	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,192	2,400	2,086	-4.8	
Prince Edward Island	413	417	455	10.2	
Nova Scotia	3,720	3,634	3,535	-5.0	
New Brunswick	3,485	3,471	3,529	1.3	
Quebec	34,148	37,057	35,890	5.1	
Ontario	57,265	59,790	62,596	9.3	
Manitoba	4,155	3,770	4,290	3.2	
Saskatchewan	3,133	3,305	3,533	12.8	
Alberta	14,383	14,316	16,202	12.6	
British Columbia ²	13,404	13,573	14,245	6.3	

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

² Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

OTHER RELEASES

Apartment Building Construction Price Index

Third quarter 2000

The composite price index for apartment building construction (1992=100) was 119.6 in the third quarter, a rise of 1.3% over the second quarter and a gain of 5.1% compared with the third quarter of 1999. This was the highest year-to-year increase since the third quarter of 1989, when the index rose 5.3%.

Calgary registered the highest quarterly gain (+2.0%), followed by Edmonton and Toronto (+1.7%), Ottawa (+1.5%), Vancouver (+0.9%), Montreal (+0.8%) and Halifax (+0.4%).

Toronto saw the highest year-over-year gain compared with the third quarter of 1999 (+8.6%), followed by Ottawa (+7.3%), Montréal (+5.6%), Calgary (+5.1%), Edmonton (+4.5%), Halifax (+2.9%) and Vancouver (+2.5%).

Apartment Building Construction Price Index (1992=100)

	Third quarter 2000	Third quarter 1999 to third quarter 2000	Second to third quarter 2000
	% change		
Composite Index	119.6	5.1	1.3
Halifax	111.6	2.9	0.4
Montréal	118.1	5.6	0.8
Ottawa	121.5	7.3	1.5
Toronto	125.6	8.6	1.7
Calgary	121.3	5.1	2.0
Edmonton	119.7	4.5	1.7
Vancouver	118.0	2.5	0.9

Note: The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in seven major urban areas across Canada (Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver). Besides each of the urban areas' indexes and the composite index, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by building trade groups (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.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 9932.

The third quarter 2000 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in December. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Denise Potvin (613-951-3350; fax: 613-951-1539; potvden@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Air travel between Canada and the United States

First quarter 1999

Preliminary air passenger origin and destination data are now available for the first three months of 1999. The data represent passengers who travelled on scheduled flights between Canada and the United States.

The air travel market data are available in electronic (TXT) format.

To order data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Carol Gudz (613-951-0124), Transportation Division. ■

Dairy statistics

September and October 2000 (preliminary)

Monthly dairy statistics for September and October are now available.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 3428, 5632-5638, 5650-5661, 5664-5667 and 5673.

These data will be included in the July–September 2000 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001-XIB, \$27/\$89; 23-001-XPB, \$36/\$119), which will be released in November. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

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Catalogue 11-001E (F) Article 11-001E (S) 001-001E



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Discards the stereotypes on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 45 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

11



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. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

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