



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, November 22, 2000

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Retail trade**, September 2000 and third quarter 2000 2  
Retailers sold \$23.5 billion worth of goods and services in September, 0.4% more than in August.  
September marked the fifth consecutive monthly gain in retail sales.

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

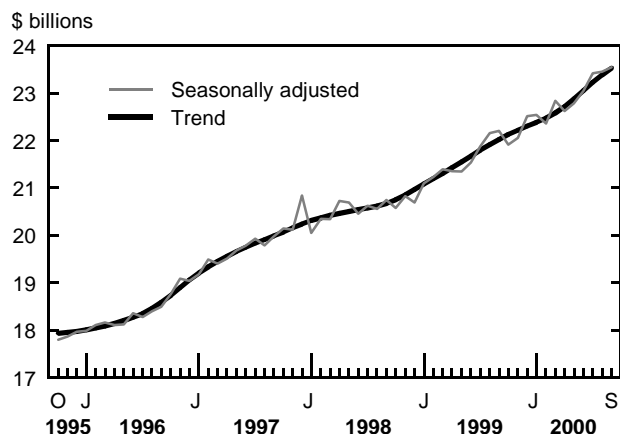
### Retail trade

September 2000 and third quarter 2000

Retailers sold \$23.5 billion worth of goods and services in September, 0.4% more than in August. In constant dollars, retail sales remained unchanged from August. Higher prices were observed for motor gasoline and clothing in September compared with August.

Retail sales have been rising for five straight months, although the gains were weaker in September and August. This follows a relatively slow start in 2000 and rapid growth throughout 1999. September's retail sales were 6.0% higher than those of September 1999.

#### Retail sales advanced for a fifth straight month



Consumers spent more in clothing (+3.3%), furniture (+2.2%), drug (+1.6%) and automotive (+0.5%) stores in September. The only significant sales reduction occurred in general merchandise stores (-1.1%), a second consecutive monthly decline in that sector.

Retailers in Alberta (+1.1%) and Ontario (+0.6%) reported the strongest sales increases in September, while those in Newfoundland (-0.7%), Saskatchewan (-0.6%) and Manitoba (-0.4%) saw lower consumer spending. Retailers in the remaining provinces saw little change in sales.

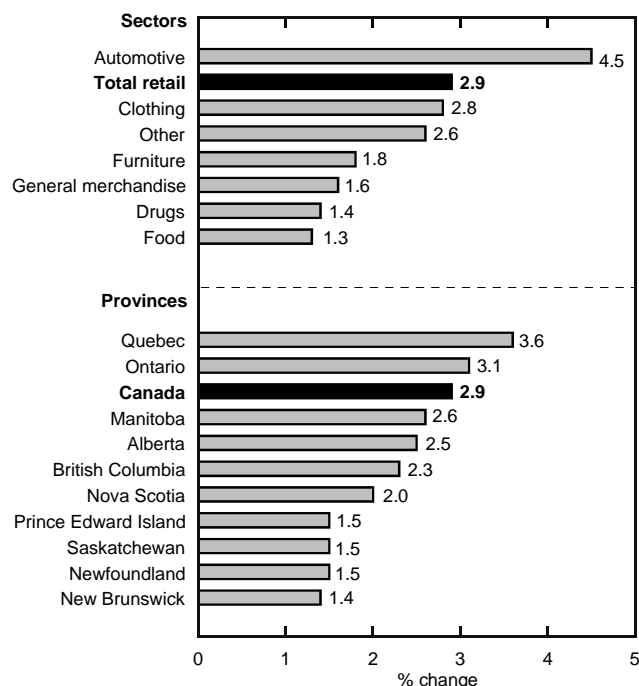
#### Third quarter retail sales driven by auto sector

Retail sales advanced 2.9% in the third quarter compared with the second. This quarterly increase was the strongest since the third quarter of 1999. All retail

sectors and provinces posted growing sales in the third quarter.

#### Quarterly retail sales

Third quarter over second quarter 2000



Retailers in the automotive sector led by a significant margin those of other sectors in the third quarter. Sales in the automotive sector jumped 4.5% in the third quarter, following a weaker gain (+0.6%) in the second quarter. The volatile sales in the automotive sector seen at the start of 2000 came after a period of strong increases that began in the fall of 1998.

Within the auto sector, sales were up 5.0% for motor and recreational vehicle dealers, 3.6% for gasoline service stations and 3.2% for automotive parts, accessories and services stores in the third quarter. Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers were propelled by a 4.6% increase in the number of new motor vehicles sold in the third quarter. The third quarter sales gain posted by gasoline service stations reflected gasoline prices that were 4.0% higher than in the second quarter.

Third quarter sales in clothing stores (+2.8%) and in stores classified as "other retail" (+2.6%) advanced at

a rate close to the quarterly gain for all retail. Sales in clothing stores have been advancing rapidly since the fall of 1999, after a period of weaker gains in the spring and summer of that year. Retail stores classified as other retail, which include liquor stores, sporting goods stores, hardware stores and bookstores, have seen generally rising sales since mid-1996.

Sales of furniture stores (+1.8%) and general merchandise stores (+1.6%) were also on the rise in the third quarter. Furniture stores have had weaker sales increases since the spring of 2000, after a four-year period of strong gains. Weaker sales of furniture and household appliances in recent months may have affected sales by general merchandise stores. Declines in August and September have tempered the upward movement in general merchandise store sales observed since the spring of 2000. Prior to the spring, sales in these stores had been falling since the summer of 1999, after a one-year period of advances.

Sales in drug stores (+1.4%) and food stores (+1.3%) lagged behind those of all other retail stores in the third quarter. Drug store sales have picked up in 2000, after rising slowly since the fall of 1998. Food stores have seen increasing sales since the spring of 1996.

#### **Quebec and Ontario led other provinces**

Quebec reported a 3.6% increase in sales in the third quarter; in the second quarter, it was the only province to report a decline (-0.4%). All retail sectors in Quebec except drug stores helped to push up sales in the third quarter. However, sales were particularly strong in the automotive sector. Retail sales in Quebec started the year slowly but have gained strength in the recent months.

Retail sales in Ontario advanced 3.1% in the third quarter, adding strength to the already strong upward movement observed since the summer of 1996. Although all retail sectors posted higher sales in the third quarter, advances were strongest in the automotive and clothing sectors.

#### **Related October indicators**

Preliminary figures from the auto industry indicate a sizeable drop in the number of new motor vehicles sold in October, especially trucks. Declines in part-time jobs were offset by advances in full-time jobs in October, resulting in a marginal 0.1% gain in total employment compared with September. Housing starts rose 4.9% in October from September; only British Columbia and Ontario saw increases.

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

The September 2000 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155; 63-005-XPB, \$21/\$206) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Retail sales estimates for October will be released on December 20.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; [gratpau@statcan.ca](mailto:gratpau@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. □

## Retail sales

	Sept. 1999	June 2000 <sup>r</sup>	July 2000 <sup>r</sup>	Aug. 2000 <sup>r</sup>	Sept. 2000 <sup>p</sup>	Aug. to Sept. 2000	Sept. to Sept. 2000
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions				% change		
<b>Food</b>	<b>4,917</b>	<b>5,052</b>	<b>5,116</b>	<b>5,135</b>	<b>5,127</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,550	4,678	4,738	4,752	4,746	-0.1	4.3
All other food stores	367	374	379	382	381	-0.3	3.9
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>1,144</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>10.9</b>
Shoe stores	129	133	136	132	136	2.8	5.2
Men's clothing stores	126	133	134	133	131	-1.5	3.6
Women's clothing stores	362	384	381	382	393	2.8	8.7
Other clothing stores	553	603	617	609	637	4.7	15.2
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>11.7</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	941	1,020	1,036	1,027	1,051	2.4	11.7
Household furnishings stores	216	231	242	237	241	1.8	11.8
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>8,913</b>	<b>9,291</b>	<b>9,471</b>	<b>9,549</b>	<b>9,592</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,070	6,173	6,294	6,384	6,405	0.3	5.5
Gasoline service stations	1,584	1,838	1,856	1,833	1,892	3.2	19.5
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,259	1,281	1,321	1,332	1,295	-2.8	2.8
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,579</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>2,656</b>	<b>2,616</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,355</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>2,484</b>	<b>2,501</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	709	733	751	739	730	-1.2	3.0
Other durable goods stores	588	619	616	629	627	-0.4	6.6
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,058	1,113	1,117	1,133	1,143	0.9	8.1
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>22,207</b>	<b>23,051</b>	<b>23,418</b>	<b>23,456</b>	<b>23,549</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>16,138</b>	<b>16,878</b>	<b>17,124</b>	<b>17,072</b>	<b>17,145</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland	359	377	378	381	379	-0.7	5.7
Prince Edward Island	101	103	105	105	105	0.3	4.6
Nova Scotia	689	715	725	715	714	0.0	3.7
New Brunswick	560	577	576	586	587	0.1	4.7
Quebec	5,124	5,255	5,398	5,383	5,396	0.2	5.3
Ontario	8,459	8,854	8,991	9,025	9,076	0.6	7.3
Manitoba	776	779	798	798	795	-0.4	2.5
Saskatchewan	657	684	686	687	683	-0.6	4.0
Alberta	2,557	2,657	2,703	2,691	2,721	1.1	6.4
British Columbia	2,852	2,975	2,983	3,008	3,016	0.3	5.7
Yukon	28	29	28	28	28	-1.0	-0.6
Northwest Territories	31	31	33	33	32	-0.2	3.2
Nunavut	15	15	15	15	16	2.3	6.6

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

## Retail sales

	Sept. 1999	Aug. 2000 <sup>r</sup>	Sept. 2000 <sup>p</sup>	Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000
unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Food</b>	<b>4,898</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>5,275</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,541	4,898	4,898	7.9
All other food stores	357	384	377	5.5
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>15.0</b>
Shoe stores	139	137	150	8.0
Men's clothing stores	119	113	125	5.1
Women's clothing stores	374	365	428	14.5
Other clothing stores	585	659	697	19.1
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>14.1</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	960	1,042	1,099	14.5
Household furnishings stores	220	248	247	12.4
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,033</b>	<b>10,029</b>	<b>9,629</b>	<b>6.6</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,165	6,680	6,433	4.4
Gasoline service stations	1,623	1,983	1,932	19.0
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,246	1,366	1,264	1.5
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>2,564</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>2,680</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>7.9</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	720	788	741	2.9
Other durable goods stores	574	674	609	6.1
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,051	1,217	1,180	12.3
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>22,261</b>	<b>24,246</b>	<b>23,829</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>16,097</b>	<b>17,566</b>	<b>17,396</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland	355	408	380	7.2
Prince Edward Island	102	123	107	4.8
Nova Scotia	680	747	713	4.8
New Brunswick	559	623	594	6.2
Quebec	5,158	5,633	5,437	5.4
Ontario	8,521	9,186	9,243	8.5
Manitoba	775	816	804	3.8
Saskatchewan	651	714	685	5.1
Alberta	2,532	2,767	2,742	8.3
British Columbia	2,852	3,146	3,047	6.8
Yukon	29	33	29	-0.6
Northwest Territories	32	33	33	2.6
Nunavut	14	16	15	8.2

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



## OTHER RELEASES

### Employment Insurance

September 2000 (preliminary)

An estimated 335,420 Canadians (unadjusted for seasonal trends) received regular Employment Insurance benefits in September, a decrease of 9.5% from September 1999. In all provinces and territories, the number of regular Employment Insurance benefit recipients decreased or remained the same from September 1999; Nunavut was the only exception.

#### Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	Sept. 1999	Sept. 2000 <sup>P</sup>	Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000
unadjusted for seasonality			
			% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>370,560</b>	<b>335,420</b>	<b>-9.5</b>
Newfoundland	26,350	24,030	-8.8
Prince Edward Island	5,290	4,890	-7.6
Nova Scotia	20,970	20,800	-0.8
New Brunswick	21,520	19,730	-8.3
Quebec	133,290	121,490	-8.9
Ontario	76,090	70,360	-7.5
Manitoba	8,750	7,870	-10.1
Saskatchewan	7,270	6,930	-4.7
Alberta	25,310	19,500	-23.0
British Columbia	44,080	38,250	-13.2
Yukon	630	520	-17.5
Northwest Territories	640	640	0.0
Nunavut	300	360	20.0

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

Regular benefit payments (adjusted for seasonal trends) were \$585.2 million in September, off 4.4% from August and off 3.6% compared with September 1999. The number of claims dropped 5.4% from August to September to 207,700.

Statistics Canada and Human Resources Development Canada have discovered an underestimation in the calculation of the number of beneficiaries of Employment Insurance. This affects the beneficiaries file from January 1997 to April 2000. Consequently, the departments have agreed to correct the underestimation and conduct an historical revision to correct the data series dating back to January 1997.

The preliminary data on the number of beneficiaries, aggregated at the provincial level for August and September, were tabulated by Human Resources Development Canada and provided to Statistics Canada. These preliminary data are unadjusted for seasonal trends.

**Note:** Users are cautioned against making any analytical comparisons between these data and any monthly or historical data previously released in *The Daily* and on CANSIM.

#### Employment Insurance statistics

	Sept. 1999	Aug. 2000	Sept. 2000	Aug. to Sept. 2000	Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000
seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	607.0	611.9	585.2	-4.4	-3.6
Claims received ('000)	208.9	219.5	207.7	-5.4	-0.6
unadjusted for seasonality					
				% change	
All beneficiaries ('000)	531.8	601.5 <sup>P</sup>	495.3 <sup>P</sup>	-17.7	-6.9
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	370.6	447.9 <sup>P</sup>	335.4 <sup>P</sup>	-25.1	-9.5
Claims received ('000)	189.0	170.3	168.1	-1.3	-11.1
Payments (\$ millions)	674.3	783.2	665.9	-12.0	-1.2
year-to-date (January to September)					
		1999	2000	1999 to 2000	
				% change	
Claims received ('000)		1,823.7	1,765.8	-3.2	
Payments (\$ millions)		9,187.8	8,609.5	-6.3	

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Note:** All beneficiaries includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (e.g., due to layoff) or special benefits (e.g., due to illness).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 5700-5704 and 5707.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Justin Lacroix (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-4087; [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)), Labour Statistics Division. ■

### Natural gas sales

September 2000 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 4 220 million cubic metres in September, up 10.2% over September 1999. The increase was the result of increased demand by the industrial and residential sectors. Use by the industrial sector (including direct sales) rose 11.7% over

September 1999, owing to higher use of natural gas for electricity generation and stronger demand by the chemical industry.

Year-to-date sales were up 7.1% over the same period in 1999. Industrial sector sales (including direct sales) continued to grow strongly, posting an 11.1% increase over the same period last year. Consumption by the residential sector increased 1.0%, while the commercial sector decreased 1.1%.

## Natural gas sales

	Sept. 2000 <sup>P</sup>	Sept. 1999	Sept. 1999 to Sept. 2000
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas sales</b>	<b>4 220 198</b>	<b>3 829 812</b>	<b>10.2</b>
Residential	540 036	478 847	12.8
Commercial	393 427	408 975	-3.8
Industrial	1 712 039	1 459 503	11.7
Direct	1 574 696	1 482 487	
	year-to-date		
	2000 <sup>P</sup>	1999	1999 to 2000
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas sales</b>	<b>51 919 346</b>	<b>48 493 819</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Residential	10 406 697	10 306 233	1.0
Commercial	7 325 473	7 410 473	-1.1
Industrial	16 459 432	15 091 765	11.1
Direct	17 727 744	15 685 348	

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 1052-1055.

The September 2000 issue of *Natural gas transportation and distribution* (55-002-XIB, \$13/\$125) 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 Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567; [smalgar@statcan.ca](mailto:smalgar@statcan.ca)) or Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; [talewis@statcan.ca](mailto:talewis@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Crushing statistics

October 2000

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 294 098 metric tonnes of canola in October, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 123 385 tonnes and meal production was 183 017 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 5687.

The October 2000 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be released in January 2001. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sue Anderson (613-951-3859, [sue.anderson@statcan.ca](mailto:sue.anderson@statcan.ca)) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856; [karen.gray@statcan.ca](mailto:karen.gray@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, September 2000**  
Catalogue number 31-001-XPB (\$20/\$196).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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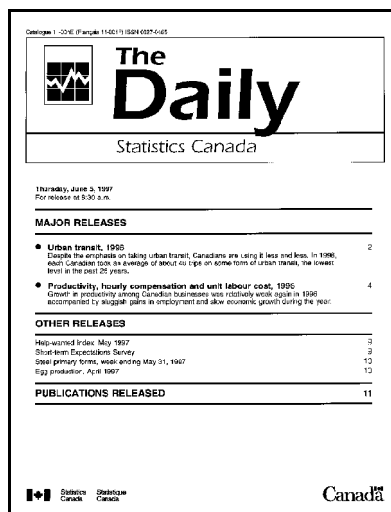
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Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, [vradtom@statcan.ca](mailto:vradtom@statcan.ca))

Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), [simamad@statcan.ca](mailto:simamad@statcan.ca)

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