



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, April 13, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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- **New motor vehicle sales, February 2000** 2
The number of new motor vehicles sold dropped by 4.4% in February, the second decline in as many months.

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MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

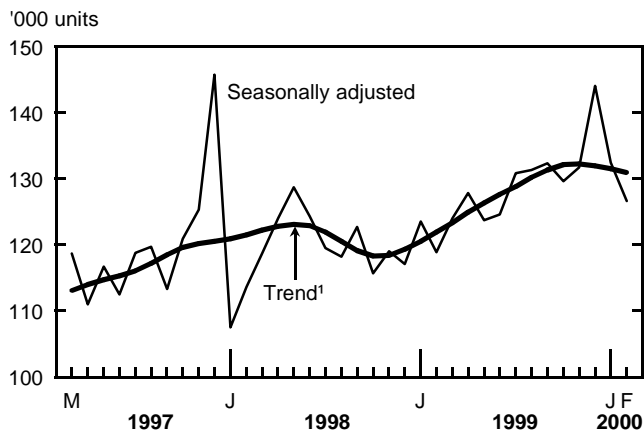
February 2000

The number of new motor vehicles sold dropped by 4.4% in February, the second decline in as many months. It fell 8.0% in January. The decline over the last two months came on the heels of a sizable 9.3% gain in December 1999.

Manufacturers reported sales of 126,593 new motor vehicles in February—5,791 fewer than in January. Both passenger cars and trucks contributed to the decline. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans, coaches and buses.

The upward movement in new motor vehicle sales since the end of 1998 has faltered in recent months. Sales were fairly stable through most of 1998, albeit with some large monthly fluctuations. According to preliminary figures from the auto industry, new motor vehicle sales were up in March.

A slow start in 2000 for new motor vehicle sales



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

Passenger car and truck sales down

The number of new passenger cars sold fell to 66,550 in February, a 5.2% drop from January. This is the second monthly decline after seven consecutive

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted provincial data from January 1991 to date are available on request.

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, coaches 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 imports (manufactured overseas).

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been included with the data for British Columbia.

advances that began in June 1999 and ended with a 12.4% surge in December.

Sales of new passenger cars have slowed down since the end of 1999, following an upward movement that began in the fall of 1998. Prior to that, sales had generally remained stable since the summer of 1997.

The number of new trucks sold in February declined for the second consecutive month (-3.4%). This decrease came in the wake of a 5.7% gain in December.

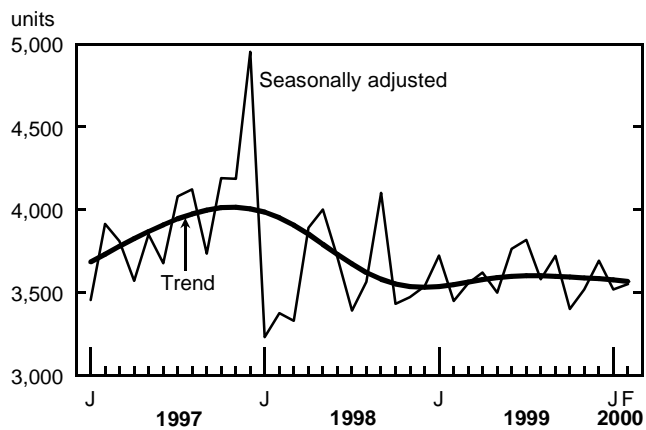
Overall, truck sales have remained relatively stable since the summer of 1999. They had advanced through the first part of 1999, following a year of declines in 1998. Truck sales have lost ground compared with car sales since the summer of 1999. At that time, they accounted for 49.1% market share compared with 47.3% in February.

Sales fall in nearly every province

The number of new motor vehicles sold in February fell in every province, except Manitoba. The largest decreases were in Newfoundland and Quebec.

In Manitoba, new motor vehicle sales totalled 3,553 in February, up 0.9% from the previous month. However, sales have been fairly stagnant in the province since the fall of 1998. Before that, they had been shrinking since the autumn of 1997.

Manitoba: Despite an increase in February, new motor vehicle sales have remained essentially unchanged since the fall of 1998



In February, new motor vehicle sales in Newfoundland slumped to 1,942, down 11.2% from January. Overall, sales have been unchanged since

the end of the summer of 1999, following an upward movement that started in early 1998.

Quebec experienced the second-largest provincial decrease in February, as new motor vehicle sales fell to 29,281, down 10.6% from January. However, sales in the province have generally been rising since the summer of 1996, with the exception of a downturn between the spring and fall of 1998.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

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

For data or general 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 Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; kimacle@statcan.ca), Retail Trade Section, Distributive Trades Division. □

New motor vehicle sales

	Feb. 1999	Jan. 2000 ^r	Feb. 2000 ^p	Feb. 1999 to Feb. 2000	Jan. to Feb. 2000
seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	118,855	132,384	126,593	6.5	-4.4
Passenger cars	63,121	70,217	66,550	5.4	-5.2
North American ¹	50,581	52,819	50,537	-0.1	-4.3
Overseas	12,540	17,397	16,013	27.7	-8.0
Trucks, vans and buses	55,735	62,167	60,044	7.7	-3.4
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,016	2,186	1,942	-3.7	-11.2
Prince Edward Island	364	397	373	2.5	-6.0
Nova Scotia	3,409	3,880	3,728	9.4	-3.9
New Brunswick	3,201	3,621	3,577	11.7	-1.2
Quebec	30,186	32,764	29,281	-3.0	-10.6
Ontario	48,783	55,353	54,158	11.0	-2.2
Manitoba	3,450	3,520	3,553	3.0	0.9
Saskatchewan	2,614	3,059	3,041	16.3	-0.6
Alberta	12,387	13,803	13,523	9.2	-2.0
British Columbia ²	12,444	13,800	13,418	7.8	-2.8
	Feb. 1999	Jan. 2000	Feb. 2000 ^p	Feb. 1999 to Feb. 2000	
unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	90,913	93,968	98,803	8.7	
Passenger cars	46,803	46,026	50,495	7.9	
North American ¹	37,891	36,374	38,829	2.5	
Overseas	8,912	9,652	11,666	30.9	
Trucks, vans and buses	44,110	47,942	48,308	9.5	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	1,358	1,186	1,317	-3.0	
Prince Edward Island	227	238	253	11.5	
Nova Scotia	2,466	2,429	2,758	11.8	
New Brunswick	2,351	2,319	2,679	14.0	
Quebec	22,400	20,180	22,963	2.5	
Ontario	36,718	40,428	41,010	11.7	
Manitoba	2,592	2,619	2,739	5.7	
Saskatchewan	1,862	2,412	2,263	21.5	
Alberta	9,698	10,840	10,699	10.3	
British Columbia ²	11,241	11,317	12,122	7.8	

^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

Steel primary forms

Week ending April 8, 2000 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending April 8 totalled 296 531 tonnes, down by 9.0% from the week-earlier 325 951 tonnes and down 1.4% from the year-earlier 300 710 tonnes. The cumulative total at the end of the week was 4 603 157 tonnes, a 9.1% increase compared with 4 217 901 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

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. ■

Steel primary forms

February 2000

Steel primary forms production for February totalled 1 392 498 tonnes, an increase of 8.0% from 1 288 913 tonnes produced in February 1999.

Year-to-date production reached 2 842 931 tonnes, up 11.9% from 2 539 564 tonnes over the same period in 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; shinand@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Shipments of rolled steel

February 2000

Rolled steel shipments for February totalled 1 280 962 tonnes, up 0.7% from 1 271 464 tonnes in January and up 7.6% from 1 189 915 tonnes in February 1999.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of February 2000 totalled 2 552 426 tonnes, up 10.1% from 2 318 324 tonnes over the same period in 1999.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this

release, contact Andy Shinnan (613-951-3515; shinand@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Oils and fats

February 2000

Production of all types of deodorized oils in February totalled 95 058 tonnes, an increase of 0.2% from 94 908 tonnes in January. Year-to-date production for February 2000 was 189 966 tonnes, up 5.2 % compared with 180 561 tonnes for the same period in 1999.

Domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 9 573 tonnes. Sales of deodorized shortening oil were 22 440 tonnes, and those of deodorized salad oil sales amounted to 32 659 tonnes in February.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 185.

The February 2000 issue of *Oils and fats* (32-006-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 Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Industrial monitor on CD-ROM

April 2000

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* offers up-to-date data on more than 150 manufacturing industries and 33 other industries covering construction, wholesale trade and retail trade. This information is offered for 25 sectors, and can be purchased by individual sector or as a complete package.

For each industry, up to 50 variables are organized in the table viewer according to five table types: supply, demand, price, labour/employment, and investment/capital stock. The underlying database is also available via the series browser for more extensive time-series analysis and inter-industry comparisons.

The *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is linked to the Standard Industrial Classification manual, provides pop-up textual descriptions for every series and embodies consistent data conventions—all features designed to make analysis easy and accurate.

State-of-the-art functions offer searching, graphing, viewing, exporting and transforming capabilities, providing you the information quickly and easily.

The April 2000 issue of the *Industrial monitor on CD-ROM* is now available. An annual subscription (one CD-ROM per month) to the full package (15F0015XCB) costs \$995, a savings of more than 80% off the annual subscription price of \$258 per individual sector.

For more information, or to request a free demonstration CD-ROM, contact Yolande Chantigny (1 800 887-IMAD (4623); 613-951-IMAD (4623); fax: 613-951-3688; imad@statcan.ca), Industry Measures and Analysis Division, or contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Oils and fats, February 2000
Catalogue number 32-006-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Primary iron and steel, February 2000
Catalogue number 41-001-XIB (\$5/\$47).

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

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 Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Change in expenditures on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 hrs 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 noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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