

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Friday, June 23, 2000**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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There are no major releases today.

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### Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

April 2000 (preliminary)

Sales by the group of large retailers totalled \$5.9 billion, up 3.9% from April 1999. Changes in 1999 to the composition of the group of large retailers affects year-over-year sales comparisons. This is especially true in the food sector, where several supermarket chains have been restructured. (All data in this release are unadjusted for seasonality.)

The largest year-over-year increase for the group of large retailers was that of sales of home furnishings and electronics (+13.1%). Strong consumer demand continued to fuel sales of big-ticket items in April. Sales of home electronics by the group continued to push ahead, rising 16.6% compared with April 1999, furniture sales were up 14.8%, appliance sales advanced 12.0%, and home furnishings (e.g., artwork, linens and floor coverings) rose 6.9%.

Among the major categories, sporting and leisure goods posted the second highest increase in April compared with April 1999 (+8.1%). Higher sales of leisure goods, especially sales of pre-recorded audio and video tapes and discs (+24.0%) and sales of toys and games (+17.5%) drove the growth in this category. However, sales of sporting goods by the group were down compared with April 1999 with the exception of other sporting goods, which includes in-line skates, sailboards and tennis equipment (+15.3%) and ski equipment and accessories (+12.1%).

Health and personal care products sold by the group posted the third highest year-over-year increase (+7.0%) in April compared with April 1999. April was the first month since January 1998 (the first month for which this comparison is available) in which a single-digit increase in year-over-year sales was posted for health and personal care products. The slowdown

was mostly owing to declining sales of cosmetics and fragrances (-8.2%). Sales of prescription (+19.1%) and over-the-counter (+10.4%) drugs continued to advance at a healthy pace.

Sales of the other goods and services category by the group advanced 5.8% over April 1999. Within this category, sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives rose 27.7% (following a year-over-year increase of 43.6% in March). Energy prices fell during April, but remained well above where they were in April 1999.

Food and beverage products sales by the group were up 3.9% from April 1999. The timing of the Easter holiday may have affected sales of candy and snacks (+30.2%). Easter fell in mid-April this year, compared with the beginning of April 1999. Easter-related sales occurred mostly in April this year, while last year a large portion occurred in March.

Housewares sales rose slightly (+1.1%) in April from April 1999, while sales of hardware and lawn and garden products slipped (-0.4%). Hardware and lawn and garden sales were flat largely because of colder April temperatures, which may have dampened store traffic and consumer interest.

Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories, the second largest commodity group in this survey, fell 3.2% in April compared with April 1999. Sales of women's and men's clothing and accessories, footwear, and jewellery and watches were down from April 1999. Sales of infants' and children's and girl's and boy's clothing and accessories, as well as luggage and leather goods were up.

For general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Catherine Draper (613-951-0669; [drapcat@statcan.ca](mailto:drapcat@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. □

## Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	March 1999	March 2000 <sup>r</sup>	March 1999 to March 2000 unadjusted	April 1999	April 2000 <sup>p</sup>	April 1999 to April 2000
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
<b>Commodities</b>						
Food and beverages	2,005	2,111	5.3	2,077	2,159	3.9
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,009	1,038	2.9	1,129	1,093	-3.2
Home furnishings and electronics	672	764	13.6	669	757	13.1
Health and personal care products	415	465	11.9	424	453	7.0
Housewares	238	265	11.4	259	262	1.1
Sporting and leisure goods	213	226	5.9	249	269	8.1
Hardware and lawn and garden products	170	196	15.7	285	284	-0.4
All other goods and services	527	611	16.0	578	612	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,249</b>	<b>5,676</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>5,670</b>	<b>5,889</b>	<b>3.9</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

## Domestic travel 1999

The number of trips Canadians took within the country remained relatively stable in 1999; 145.4 million trips compared with 144.3 million in 1998. Domestic travel weakened during the second half of 1999 (-6.1%), cancelling almost all the progress of domestic tourism made during the first half of the year (+10.6%). As well, an increase in travel by Canadians to the United States (+7%) and a surge in gasoline prices marked the second half of 1999.

For the second consecutive year, Canadians who travelled the most in Canada did so for purposes of pleasure. In 1999, travellers made 56.2 million pleasure trips, representing 39% of all domestic travel, up 4.4% over the previous year. The 51.1 million trips for the purpose of visiting relatives or friends ranked second in importance, down 1.9% from 1998. Business and convention travel decreased by 2.7%, to 19.4 million trips in 1999, while travel for personal and other purposes increased 1.6% to 18.7 million trips.

Travel by car, which represented 92% of all domestic trips in 1999, remained almost unchanged (+1.0%) at 133.6 million trips in 1999. Travellers aged 45 to 54 and those aged 65 and over contributed the most in sustaining the level of domestic travel by car in 1999; 7.4% and 6.3% respectively.

Travel by plane, however, fell 4.6% for a total of 6.1 million trips in 1999. This decrease was due to a decline in business travel from 1998.

Trips by bus were up 10.1% in 1999, for a yearly total of 3.8 million trips. More than one-fifth of these trips

were made by travellers aged 65 or more, a 26.2% rise from the previous year. With respect to travel by train, boat or other means, there were 1.9 million trips in 1999, an 11.3% decrease over 1998.

Of the 145.4 million trips made in Canada by Canadians in 1999, 70.8 million were same-day trips, and 74.6 million included at least one night. Compared with 1998, same-day trips increased by 1.4%, while overnight trips remained relatively stable (0.2%).

The number of nights Canadians stayed away from home decreased marginally (-0.5%) to 243.8 million nights. Nights spent in a commercial establishment fell 1.7% to 92.6 million, while nights spent with relatives or friends or at other private establishments rose 0.2% to 151.2 million nights. Employment in the accommodation industry in 1999 was up by only 1% over 1998.

Expenditures for domestic travel totalled \$19.8 billion in 1999, a 4.7% increase over the \$18.9 billion spent in 1998. This is primarily owing to a 4.6% rise in travel expenditures, as measured by the Travel Price Index.

Food and beverage expenditures and accommodation expenditures accounted for 41% or \$8.2 billion in 1999.

The transportation portion represented 39% (7.7 billion dollars) of total travel expenditures for 1999. This is a 5.2% increase over the previous year. This hike is largely the result of higher gasoline and local transportation prices, as well as an increase in the number of trips made by car and by bus.

## Domestic travel

	Person-trips	Expenditures	Person-trips change 1998 to 1999	Expenditures change 1998 to 1999
	millions	\$ billion	%	
First quarter	29.5	3.6	13.7	6.0
Second quarter	36.4	4.7	8.2	5.6
Third quarter	49.6	6.9	-3.8	6.4
Fourth quarter	29.9	4.6	-9.7	0.6
1999	145.4	19.8	0.8	4.7

**Note:** Domestic travel is defined as any trip of 80 kilometers or more one way taken by Canadian residents and having a Canadian destination. Trip variations showing Canadians going to the United States come from the International Travel Survey.

For additional context and perspective on the tourism industry, contact Ed Thompson (613-946-2145; fax: 613-954-3826; [thompson.ed@ic.gc.ca](mailto:thompson.ed@ic.gc.ca)), Canadian Tourism Commission.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 3822.**

Basic data on domestic travel can be accessed free on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). See *Canadian Statistics* page. Various statistical profiles and microdata files are available on request. To request data, contact Michel Campbell at (613-951-9169; fax 613-951-2909; [michel.campbell@statcan.ca](mailto:michel.campbell@statcan.ca)). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lizette Gervais-Simard at (613-951-1672; fax: 613-951-2909; [gervliz@statcan.ca](mailto:gervliz@statcan.ca)), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

## Couriers and local messengers industry

1998 (preliminary) and 1997 (revised)

The 1998 preliminary results of the Survey of Couriers and Local Messengers Industry shows strong growth in revenue compared with the 1997 revised results, but also a significant decrease in operating margins.

Fueled by a strong Canadian economy and the rapid growth of e-commerce, the estimated 11,319

establishments comprising the couriers and local messengers industry in 1998 generated an operating revenue of \$4.3 billion. This represents an increase of 9.6% over the revised \$3.9 billion in 1997. The couriers showed slightly stronger growth from 1997 to 1998, advancing 9.8% compared with 8.6% for local messengers. The small-sized couriers and local messengers (+17.1%), those with annual revenue of less than \$1 million, and the medium-sized enterprises (+18.5%), those with annual revenue between \$1 million and \$25 million, showed the largest increases in operating revenue. The operating revenue of large-size couriers and local messengers rose 7.3%.

Operating expenses increased by 12.0%, however, reaching \$3.9 billion in 1998 compared with \$3.5 billion in 1997. All major expense categories showed significant increases, with the exceptions of property and business taxes. Notably, salaries, wages and benefits increased by \$118 million (+8.7%) to \$1.5 billion, and other purchased services, mainly payments to owner-operators and purchased transportation services, rose by \$208 million (+17.9%) to \$1.4 billion.

The faster rate of increase of operating expenses compared with operating revenue translated into a 13.9% decrease (-\$50 million) in operating margin, to \$311 million. The operating margin decreased more for couriers (-15.0%) than for local messengers (-11.7%). The decline in operating margin was particularly significant for medium-sized couriers and local messengers (-37.5%).

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 10100-10130, 10134 and 10234.**

A special article, including an analytical text, data tables and graphs, will be available in a few weeks in the *Surface and marine service bulletin* (50-002-XIB, \$10/\$62). See *How to order publications*.

To obtain data, please contact Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; [laroque@statcan.ca](mailto:laroque@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Masse (613-951-0365; [massrob@statcan.ca](mailto:massrob@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. □

## Couriers and local messengers industry

	1997 <sup>r,1</sup>	1998 <sup>p</sup>	Difference	% change
	\$ millions			
<b>Couriers and local messengers</b>				
Operating revenues	3,883	4,256	373	9.6
Operating expenses	3,523	3,945	422	12.0
Operating margin	361	311	-50	-13.9
<b>Couriers</b>				
Operating revenues	3,129	3,436	307	9.8
Operating expenses	2,896	3,238	342	11.8
Operating margin	233	198	-35	-15.0
<b>Local messengers</b>				
Operating revenues	755	820	65	8.6
Operating expenses	627	707	80	12.8
Operating margin	128	113	-15	-11.7
<b>Large-sized couriers and local messengers (revenues over \$25 million)</b>				
Operating revenues	3,006	3,224	218	7.3
Operating expenses	2,789	3,047	258	9.3
Operating margin	218	178	-40	-18.3
<b>Medium-size couriers and local messengers (revenues of \$1 million to \$25 million)</b>				
Operating revenues	357	423	66	18.5
Operating expenses	333	408	75	22.5
Operating margin	24	15	-9	-37.5
<b>Small-size couriers and local messengers (revenues less than \$1 million)</b>				
Operating revenues	520	609	89	17.1
Operating expenses	400	491	91	22.8
Operating margin	119	118	-1	-0.8

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

<sup>1</sup> Revisions to the 1997 results reflect the use of: updated survey and taxation data; improved source of information for the distribution of revenue and expenses by province and territory; and improved source of information to identify the survey population.

## Public sector employment

First quarter 2000 (preliminary)

The public sector employed an average of 2.8 million people during the first quarter. Employment increased 0.6% or 15,700 jobs from the first quarter of 1999. This is the fourth consecutive quarterly increase.

A 0.4% increase in government employment from the first quarter of 1999 explains most of the gain in public sector employment. The government work force, which consists of individuals who work for the federal, provincial/territorial and local governments, reached 2.6 million in the first quarter.

Employment in government business enterprises increased 2.2% in the first quarter. Government business enterprises employed an average 261,000 people between January and March.

These data, as well as other public sector employment, wages and salaries data are available on CANSIM and through custom tabulation.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 2720, 2860, 2863, 2864 and 2866.**

For general inquiries on the Public Institutions Division's products and services, or to order custom tabulations, contact Lisa McCambley (613-951-4354; fax: 613-951-0661; [lisa.mccambley@stcnet.statcan.ca](mailto:lisa.mccambley@stcnet.statcan.ca)), Public Institutions Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alain Paquet (613-951-8565; [paquala@statcan.ca](mailto:paquala@statcan.ca)), Public Institutions Division.

## Production and disposition of tobacco products

May 2000

Strong domestic sales boosted cigarette shipments in May, while production for the month declined. Inventories were reduced as shipments exceeded production.

May shipments of 4.7 billion cigarettes were up 40% over April and 18% ahead of those in May 1999. However, year-to-date shipments of 18.4 billion

cigarettes were 1% below shipments in the same period in 1999.

In May, 3.9 billion cigarettes were manufactured. This was 6% less than in April and 15% below May 1999. Year-to-date production of 19.5 billion cigarettes was 11% below that of the same period of 1999.

Inventories were drawn down 6% to 4.9 billion cigarettes at the end of May, and were 28% lower than closing inventories at the same period in 1999.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 46.**

The May 2000 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products* (32-022-XIB, \$5/\$47) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; [zylspet@statcan.ca](mailto:zylspet@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Infomat — A weekly review**, June 23, 2000  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

**Infomat — A weekly review**, June 23, 2000  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

**Production and disposition of tobacco products**,  
May 2000  
**Catalogue number 32-022-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Retail trade**, April 2000  
**Catalogue number 63-005-XIB** (\$16/\$155).

**Wholesale trade**, April 2000  
**Catalogue number 63-008-XIB** (\$14/\$140).

**Canadian international merchandise trade**,  
April 2000  
**Catalogue number 65-001-XIB** (\$14/\$141).

**Canadian international merchandise trade**,  
April 2000  
**Catalogue number 65-001-XPB** (\$19/\$188).

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
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 <b>The Daily</b> Statistics Canada	
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## 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](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

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**RELEASE DATES: JUNE 26 TO JUNE 30**

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**June 26 to June 30**  
(Release dates are subject to change.)

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27	<b>Multinationals and the Canadian innovation process</b>	1993
28	<b>Industrial Product Price Index</b>	May 2000
28	<b>Raw Materials Price Index</b>	May 2000
29	<b>Field crop reporting series: Seeded area, principal field crops</b>	2000
29	<b>Human activity and the environment</b>	2000
30	<b>Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry</b>	April 2000
30	<b>National tourism indicators</b>	First quarter 2000

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