

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

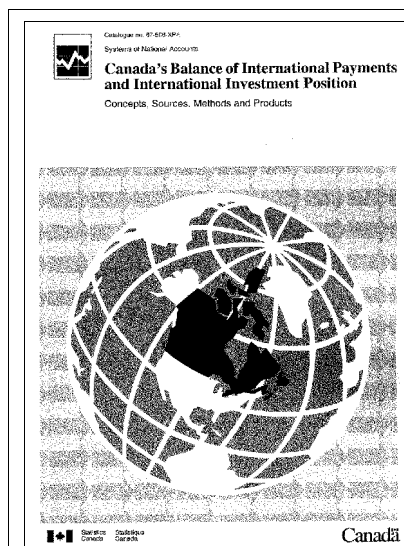
Friday, July 21, 2000  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Retail trade, May 2000**  
Retail sales advanced 0.4% in May, after declining in April.

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*(continued on following page)*



### Canada's balance of international payments and international investment position: Concepts, sources, methods and products

This new publication describes the statistical system used to produce Canada's balance of international payments and international investment position, including the concepts, sources, methods and products.

It presents the statistical system for these external accounts in three parts. The first two parts describe the systems for the balance of payments statement and the international investment position statement. All the main accounts of these two statements are described, from their concepts to statistical products available. The third part outlines the various aspects of the relationship between the balance of payments system and the international investment statistical system.

A concluding chapter sets out some of the challenges to maintain and enhance these statistical systems. Appendices provide a historical summary of statistics of both statements as well as the exchange rates of the Canadian dollar, and a chronology of events that have affected Canada's external accounts during the last half of the 1900s.

*Canada's balance of international payments and international investment position: Concepts, sources, methods and products (67-506-XPE, \$45; 67-506-XIE, free) is now available. See How to order products.*

For more information, contact Lucie Laliberté (613-951-9055) or Art Ridgeway (613-951-8907), Balance of Payments Division.

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**OTHER RELEASES**

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**RELEASE DATES:** July 24 to July 28 10

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## MAJOR RELEASES

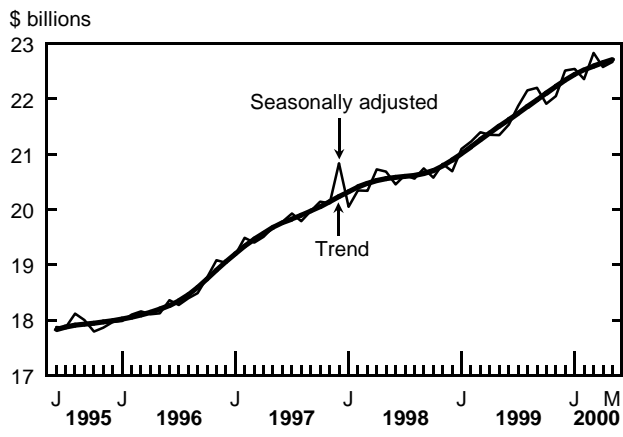
### Retail trade

May 2000

Retail sales advanced 0.4% in May to \$22.7 billion, driven by the automotive sector. Most other sectors also posted advances; only food stores (-1.3%) and furniture stores (-0.4%) suffered declining sales. When prices are held constant, retail sales remained unchanged in May from the previous month.

May's increase continued a pattern of volatile sales that have been observed since the fall of 1999. April's 1.1% decline in retail sales followed a 2.1% advance in March and a 0.8% decline in February. Several factors have contributed to the recent volatility in retail sales. A warmer-than-usual winter and cooler-than-normal spring have shifted consumers' spending patterns. Additional volatility has been caused by large swings in gasoline prices.

Modest advance in May



Retail sales had generally been rising sharply from the start of 1999, with slower advances in 2000. Retail sales in May were 6.2% higher than in May 1999.

#### Auto sector drives up sales

Sales in the automotive sector rose 1.5% in May, partially offsetting April's 3.4% decline. Within this sector, sales increased in automotive parts accessories and service stores (+5.7%), motor and recreational vehicle dealers (+0.9%) and gasoline service stations (+0.4%). After advancing strongly through most of 1999, sales in the automotive sector have been posting smaller gains so far in 2000.

Consumers returned to automotive parts, accessories and services stores; sales in those outlets in May bounced back from a 6.2% decline in April. Despite the volatility seen in recent months by these stores, sales have generally been rising since the fall of 1997.

Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers advanced in May (+0.9%) following a 3.0% decline in April. May's advance came despite a 1.5% reduction in the value of new motor vehicles sold. Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers includes the sales of new cars, used cars, boats and recreational vehicles as well as the sales of parts and services by these stores. Marine and recreational vehicle dealers, in particular, had buoyant sales. Despite May's advance, sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers have been weak through most of 2000 thus far, after strong advances throughout 1999.

Sales in gasoline service stations rose 0.4% in May, coincident with a 1.9% increase in prices at the pump. The price of gasoline started to rise sharply in February 1999. Over this period, the price of gasoline has jumped 37.4%, while sales in gasoline service stations have risen 34.7%. Prior to 1999, sales in gasoline service stations had been declining for two years.

#### Food stores are starved of sales

Consumers spent 1.3% less in food stores than they did in April. About one-quarter of food store sales come from non-food items, many of which are seasonal in nature. Sales of these items may have been partially affected by the cooler-than-normal weather seen in much of Canada in May. Sales in food stores have been rising gradually since the spring of 1996.

Clothing stores posted a 0.6% advance in May; men's clothing, women's clothing and shoe stores regained some of the ground that they had lost in April. Unseasonable weather has caused some volatility in clothing stores' sales in recent months. Sales in clothing stores have generally been rising since the start of 1996.

A small advance was also seen in general merchandise stores (+0.3%). Within this sector, the 0.2% decline in department store sales was more than offset by advances by other general merchandise stores (+1.0%). Sales in general merchandise stores have been flat since the summer of 1999; falling department store sales have been offset by gains in other general merchandise stores.

Drug store sales were virtually unchanged (+0.1%). Sales in drug stores have been rising slowly since the

summer of 1997, except for a pause in the second half of 1998. Furniture store sales were off 0.4% in May, but have been advancing since the spring of 1996.

### Ontario posts strongest advance

Retailers in Ontario (+1.7%) and Saskatchewan (+1.1%) enjoyed the strongest advances in May. Retailers in the Northwest Territories (-3.5%), Prince Edward Island (-1.5%), Yukon (-1.3%) and British Columbia (-1.2%) suffered the largest declines.

Ontario's increase came largely on the strength of the automotive sector, although most other sectors posted advances. Consumers have been spending more in Ontario retail stores since the summer of 1996.

The gains in Saskatchewan were also broad-based; only the food sector posted significant declines. Retail sales in Saskatchewan have been rising slowly since the start of 1999 after declining through most of 1998.

With May's decline, retail sales in British Columbia fell 1.7% short of the peak reached in December 1999. Retail sales had been rising from the fall of 1998 to the end of 1999, following a one-year slump.

### Related indicators for June

In June, employment was virtually unchanged (-0.1%). The number of housing starts fell for a fourth consecutive month (-1.8%). The price of gasoline rose 6.3% compared with May. Preliminary figures from the auto industry indicate an increase in the number of new motor vehicles sold in June.

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

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

Retail sales estimates for June will be released on August 21.

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 Greg Peterson (613-951-3592; [petegre@statcan.ca](mailto:petegre@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. □

## Retail sales

	May 1999	Feb. 2000 <sup>r</sup>	March 2000 <sup>r</sup>	April 2000 <sup>r</sup>	May 2000 <sup>p</sup>	April to May 2000	May to May 2000
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions				% change		
<b>Food</b>	<b>4,906</b>	<b>4,980</b>	<b>5,018</b>	<b>5,097</b>	<b>5,030</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,539	4,606	4,641	4,718	4,642	-1.6	2.3
All other food stores	367	374	377	379	388	2.4	5.8
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Shoe stores	140	137	144	130	133	2.3	-5.3
Men's clothing stores	127	131	132	126	131	4.3	3.4
Women's clothing stores	378	377	391	371	379	2.0	0.4
Other clothing stores	561	579	592	596	587	-1.5	4.6
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>1,256</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>11.3</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	913	988	1,012	1,024	1,018	-0.6	11.5
Household furnishings stores	211	230	230	232	233	0.6	10.4
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>8,151</b>	<b>8,887</b>	<b>9,245</b>	<b>8,934</b>	<b>9,065</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>11.2</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,455	5,830	6,113	5,930	5,984	0.9	9.7
Gasoline service stations	1,459	1,781	1,809	1,764	1,770	0.4	21.3
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,237	1,276	1,322	1,240	1,311	5.7	6.0
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>2,554</b>	<b>2,562</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>2,388</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	710	703	726	709	709	-0.1	-0.2
Other durable goods stores	583	613	606	587	600	2.3	2.9
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,072	1,080	1,093	1,092	1,099	0.7	2.5
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>21,349</b>	<b>22,359</b>	<b>22,833</b>	<b>22,579</b>	<b>22,675</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>15,894</b>	<b>16,529</b>	<b>16,720</b>	<b>16,650</b>	<b>16,691</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland	352	362	372	373	372	-0.5	5.6
Prince Edward Island	94	103	101	104	103	-1.5	9.3
Nova Scotia	678	697	706	695	696	0.2	2.7
New Brunswick	552	559	590	573	575	0.2	4.1
Quebec	5,013	5,122	5,309	5,171	5,151	-0.4	2.7
Ontario	8,123	8,523	8,698	8,611	8,754	1.7	7.8
Manitoba	729	777	781	770	777	0.9	6.6
Saskatchewan	636	666	678	665	672	1.1	5.8
Alberta	2,346	2,572	2,606	2,627	2,620	-0.3	11.7
British Columbia	2,754	2,902	2,913	2,913	2,879	-1.2	4.5
Yukon	27	28	29	29	29	-1.3	5.2
Northwest Territories	30	32	34	32	31	-3.5	4.0
Nunavut	14	15	16	15	15	0.9	8.2

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

## Retail sales

	May 1999	April 2000 <sup>r</sup>	May 2000 <sup>p</sup>	May 1999 to May 2000
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,032</b>	<b>5,038</b>	<b>5,076</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,650	4,659	4,674	0.5
All other food stores	382	379	401	5.2
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>1,079</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Shoe stores	165	130	154	-6.3
Men's clothing stores	126	111	127	1.2
Women's clothing stores	404	356	405	0.1
Other clothing stores	535	533	552	3.0
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>12.4</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	829	902	928	11.9
Household furnishings stores	206	207	236	14.5
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,336</b>	<b>9,206</b>	<b>10,894</b>	<b>16.7</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,477	6,371	7,564	16.8
Gasoline service stations	1,503	1,640	1,836	22.2
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,356	1,195	1,494	10.2
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,457</b>	<b>2,361</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>2,159</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	807	633	812	0.7
Other durable goods stores	585	526	595	1.7
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,100	1,000	1,115	1.4
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>22,659</b>	<b>22,081</b>	<b>24,549</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>16,183</b>	<b>15,710</b>	<b>16,985</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland	377	359	404	7.3
Prince Edward Island	99	95	109	10.6
Nova Scotia	708	671	736	3.9
New Brunswick	591	556	632	6.9
Quebec	5,543	5,268	5,803	4.7
Ontario	8,540	8,283	9,454	10.7
Manitoba	761	749	819	7.6
Saskatchewan	655	643	704	7.6
Alberta	2,467	2,549	2,801	13.5
British Columbia	2,843	2,834	3,007	5.8
Yukon	30	27	32	8.3
Northwest Territories	31	32	32	2.7
Nunavut	15	16	16	6.4

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### National Population Health Survey: Food Insecurity Supplementary Survey

1998/99

Data are now available from the Food Insecurity Supplementary Survey, conducted as part of the household component of the 1998/99 National Population Health Survey (NPHS) on behalf of Human Resources Development Canada.

The food insecurity supplement surveyed NPHS respondents who were deemed to be "food insecure." To be considered food insecure, individuals reported that they, or someone in their household, had had at least one of the following three concerns in the previous 12 months: they worried that there would not be enough to eat because of a lack of money; they did not have enough food to eat because of a lack of money; or they were not eating the quality or variety of foods they wanted to because of a lack of money.

The supplement surveyed about 1,300 people on the difficulties they had shopping for food, on actions they took to stretch their food money, on feeding their children and on expenditures for housing.

To order custom tabulations, contact Client Custom Services (613-951-1746; fax: 613-951-0792; [hd-ds@statcan.ca](mailto:hd-ds@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mario Bédard (613-951-8933; fax: 613-951-4198; [mario.bedard@statcan.ca](mailto:mario.bedard@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada or Satya Brink (819-953-6622; fax: 819-953-8868; [satya.brink@spg.org](mailto:satya.brink@spg.org)), Applied Research Branch, Human Resources Development Canada. ■

### Canadian potato production

2000 (preliminary), 1999 (revised)

Preliminary estimates of the area planted in 2000, revisions to the 1999 area planted and harvested, and production data for Quebec and Canada are now available. Data are tabulated by province.

#### Available on CANSIM: matrix 1044.

These data are available in *Canadian potato production* (22-008-UPB, \$21). See *How to order products*. This publication (22-008-UIB, free) can be downloaded from Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)); on the *Products and services* page, choose *Downloadable publications (free)*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barb McLaughlin, (902-893-7251), Agriculture Division. ■

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Infomat — A weekly review**, July 21, 2000  
Catalogue number **11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

**Infomat — A weekly review**, July 21, 2000  
Catalogue number **11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

**Canadian potato production, 2000** (preliminary)  
Catalogue number **22-008-UIB**  
(Free).

**Canadian potato production, 2000** (preliminary)  
Catalogue number **22-008-UPB** (\$21).

**Canada's balance of international payments  
and international investment position, concepts,  
sources, methods and products**  
Catalogue number **67-506-XIE**  
(Free).

**Canada's balance of international payments  
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Catalogue 11-001E (F) (en) (en) 11-001E/11-001E001E-001E



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.



**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 20 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 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

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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: JULY 24 TO JULY 28**

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**July 24 to July 28**  
(Release dates are subject to change.)

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<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
24	<b>Canada's international transactions in securities</b>	May 2000
25	<b>Composite Index</b>	June 2000
25	<b>Family violence</b>	1999
26	<b>Radio listening</b>	Autumn 1999
26	<b>Survey of Book Publishers and Exclusive Agents</b>	1998/99
27	<b>Industrial Product Price Index</b>	June 2000
27	<b>Raw Materials Price Index</b>	June 2000
27	<b>Employment, earnings and hours</b>	May 2000
28	<b>Employment Insurance</b>	May 2000

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