



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, September 22, 2000

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

July 2000 (preliminary)

Sales by the group of large retailers totalled \$6.2 billion in July, up 1.5% from July 1999. Several retailers that were included in the 1999 estimates have now left the group; these changes in the composition of the group affect, to some extent, year-over-year sales comparisons. (All data in this release are unadjusted for seasonality.)

Sales of food and beverages by the group of large retailers were down 3.3% in July, following a 5.4% increase in June. Clothing, footwear and accessories sales were down 2.1% from July 1999. Sales of the remaining major product categories sold by the group were up compared with July 1999.

A number of factors may have contributed to the decrease in sales of food and beverages in July compared with the same month of 1999. First, a restructuring of the food industry affecting several large supermarket chains took place in 1999. Second, the July 1 holiday fell on a Saturday this year, which reduced the number of Saturday shopping days in July and may also have shifted some purchases into June as people shopped earlier in the week for the holiday weekend.

July sales of clothing, footwear and accessories by the group of large retailers decreased 2.1% from July 1999. Sales of women's clothing and accessories were down 4.3%, posting the fourth consecutive month of year-over-year sales decreases. Sales of men's clothing and accessories were relatively unchanged (+0.07%), while sales of both girls' and boys' clothing and accessories declined. However, sales of infants' and children's clothing and accessories grew 4.7% over July 1999. Since May 1999, year-over-year sales of

infants' and children's clothing and accessories by the group of large retailers have advanced every month.

Sales of hardware and lawn and garden products by the group posted the largest year-over-year increase, rising 12.0%. After a sluggish spring, lawn and garden products posted a healthy 17.0% gain over July 1999. Sales of hardware and home renovation products rose 6.5%.

Sales in the all other goods and services category posted the second largest increase in July, up 7.9% over July 1999. Higher gasoline prices, which were well above July 1999 levels, continued to be the driving factor. Automotive fuels, oils and additives were up 36.6% over July 1999. Sales of stationery, office supplies, cards and gift wrap were also strong in July, advancing 23.9% over the same month last year.

Growth in year-over-year sales of home furnishings and electronics (+6.4%) and health and personal care products (+6.2%) slowed in July compared with earlier months. A year-over-year decrease in the sales of small electrical appliances (-5.3%) and a lower increase in personal care products (+1.8%) put downward pressure on both these categories. The 6.2% gain in sales of health and personal care products is the smallest year-over-year increase recorded in this category since January of 1998 (the first month for which this comparison is available).

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

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	June 1999	June 2000 ^r	June 1999 to June 2000 unadjusted	July 1999	July 2000 ^p	July 1999 to July 2000
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Commodities						
Food and beverages	2,040	2,151	5.4	2,206	2,133	-3.3
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,182	1,200	1.5	1,111	1,087	-2.1
Home furnishings and electronics	740	814	10.0	823	876	6.4
Health and personal care products	424	487	14.9	452	481	6.2
Housewares	261	278	6.5	291	298	2.5
Sporting and leisure goods	282	297	5.4	291	309	6.1
Hardware and lawn and garden products	362	398	9.7	266	298	12.0
All other goods and services	598	683	14.2	646	697	7.9
Total	5,890	6,308	7.1	6,086	6,179	1.5

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Pension plans in Canada

January 1, 1999

Data on employer plans (registered pension plans), their membership and plan provisions are now available from the Pension Plans in Canada database. The Pension Plans in Canada Survey is a census of all registered pension plans in the country. Statistics are derived largely from administrative data provided by the 10 pension supervisory authorities.

The publication, *Pension plans in Canada: Statistical highlights and key tables* (74-401-SPB, \$40; 74-401-SIB, \$30) will be available in October. See *How to order products*.

To obtain statistical tables providing key information, custom tabulations or further information, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012 income@statcan.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

July 2000 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for July. Other selected data about these products are also available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; hardele@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat — A weekly review, September 22, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE (\$3/\$109).

Infomat — A weekly review, September 22, 2000
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE (\$4/\$145).

Canada's mineral production, preliminary estimates 1999
Catalogue number 26-202-XIB
 (Free).

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, July 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.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCD are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

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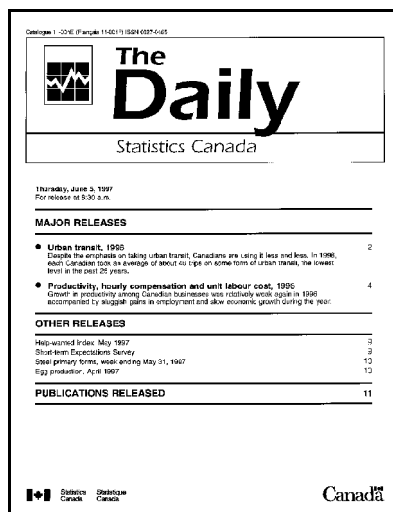
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RELEASE DATES: SEPTEMBER 25 TO SEPTEMBER 29

September 25 to September 29

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
25	Canada's international transactions in securities	July 2000
26	Population estimates	July 1, 2000
26	Multifactor productivity	1999
27	Employment, earnings and hours	July 2000
28	Industrial Product and Raw Materials Price Indexes	August 2000
28	Divorces	1998
29	Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry	July 2000
29	National tourism indicators	Second quarter 2000
