



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

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New truck sales were largely responsible for a 1.9% increase in the number of motor vehicles sold in August compared with July.

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NEW PRODUCTS



MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

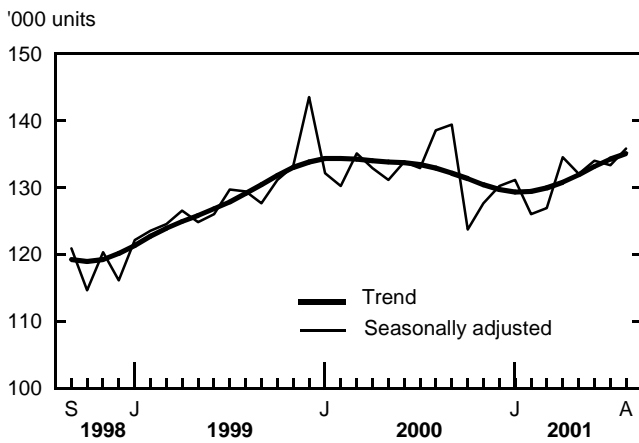
August 2001

New truck sales were largely responsible for a 1.9% increase in the number of motor vehicles sold in August compared with July. Dealers reported selling 135,829 new vehicles in August, up 2,539 units from July. Trucks accounted for more than three-quarters of this increase.

August saw the highest monthly new motor vehicle sales since September 2000. However, they are 2.6% short of those in September 2000, which was the strongest month in that year.

New motor vehicle sales maintained the upward movement that began at the start of the year, partly owing to incentives that manufacturers offered to sell their 2001 models. Previously, sales had been slowing since the fall of 2000, following fairly stable sales since the start of that year.

New motor vehicle sales have continued to rise since the start of 2001



Preliminary figures from the auto industry indicate a drop in the number of new motor vehicles sold in September, primarily because of lower truck sales.

Major gain for trucks despite growing popularity of cars

Truck sales were 3.3% higher in August than in July. This was the second largest increase this year, exceeded only by April's 5.6% gain. In all, 61,629 trucks

Note to readers

All the data in this release are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted provincial data from January 1991 are available on CANSIM.

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 and buses.

North American-built new motor vehicles include those manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

For reasons of confidentiality, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included in British Columbia.

rolled out of dealer showrooms in August, 1,979 more than in July, when sales fell 1.2%. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

Truck sales have generally maintained an upward movement since the start of 2001, following a period of declines extending over the second half of 2000. Previously, truck sales had generally been stable since mid-1999.

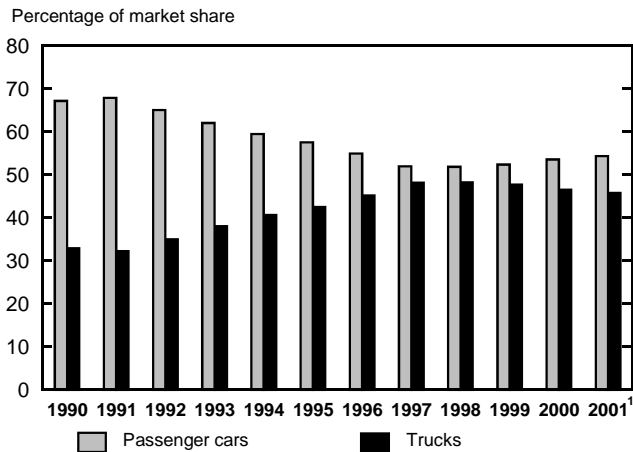
The number of new passenger cars sold was up in August for a sixth consecutive month, surpassing July sales by 0.8%. A total of 74,200 new cars were purchased in August, the fourth highest monthly sales in the past 10 years. Sales of overseas-built cars advanced 2.8% in August compared with July, while sales of North American-built cars were unchanged.

Although car sales did not rise as markedly as truck sales in August compared with July, they are largely responsible for the upward movement in overall new motor vehicle sales since the start of 2001.

Gap between cars and trucks widening again

New passenger cars have been regaining favour with consumers after losing ground to trucks during most of nineties. In 1990, twice as many cars as trucks were sold—cars accounted for 67% of all new motor vehicle sales, compared with 33% for trucks. The gap subsequently narrowed so that, by 1998, cars accounted for only slightly more than 52% of all motor vehicles sold. The trend has since reversed, with a widening gap in favour of cars. The re-emerging popularity of cars might in part be explained by economic considerations. With gasoline prices starting to rise in early 1999, buyers appear to prefer vehicles that use less fuel.

Passenger cars popularity on the rise



¹ Cumulative for the first eight months.

Sales up in all provinces

The number of new vehicles sold advanced in all provinces in August compared with July. Newfoundland and Saskatchewan (+5.9%) posted the largest gains.

For both provinces, the increase followed a decline in sales in July. New motor vehicle sales in both provinces began an upward movement at the start of 2001, following a period of decline over the second half of 2000.

Prince Edward Island (+4.8%), Quebec (+4.6%) and Manitoba (+2.2%) also reported monthly increases above the national average. Whereas in Quebec, August's gain followed declining sales in July, the gains in Prince Edward Island and Manitoba were, respectively, the third and second in a row.

Available on CANSIM: tables 790001 and 790002.

The August 2001 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

To order data or for general information, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. □

New motor vehicle sales

	August 2000	July 2001 ^r	August 2001 ^p	August 2000 to August 2001	July to August 2001
Seasonally adjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	138,524	133,290	135,829	-1.9	1.9
Passenger cars	73,514	73,640	74,200	0.9	0.8
North American ¹	55,168	52,617	52,595	-4.7	0.0
Overseas	18,346	21,023	21,605	17.8	2.8
Trucks, vans and buses	65,011	59,650	61,629	-5.2	3.3
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,087	2,018	2,138	2.4	5.9
Prince Edward Island	404	393	412	2.0	4.8
Nova Scotia	3,650	3,641	3,663	0.4	0.6
New Brunswick	3,454	3,088	3,138	-9.1	1.6
Quebec	34,313	32,679	34,187	-0.4	4.6
Ontario	57,790	53,851	54,258	-6.1	0.8
Manitoba	3,741	3,549	3,626	-3.1	2.2
Saskatchewan	3,328	3,064	3,244	-2.5	5.9
Alberta	15,331	16,024	16,052	4.7	0.2
British Columbia ²	14,426	14,983	15,110	4.7	0.8
	August 2000	July 2001	August 2001 ^p	August 2000 to August 2001	
Unadjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	141,733	130,499	139,025	-1.9	
Passenger cars	78,559	73,503	78,974	0.5	
North American ¹	56,540	51,019	52,873	-6.5	
Overseas	22,019	22,484	26,101	18.5	
Trucks, vans and buses	63,174	56,996	60,051	-4.9	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,400	2,305	2,449	2.0	
Prince Edward Island	417	473	431	3.4	
Nova Scotia	3,634	3,707	3,634	0.0	
New Brunswick	3,471	3,017	3,167	-8.8	
Quebec	37,057	33,927	36,985	-0.2	
Ontario	59,790	52,510	55,960	-6.4	
Manitoba	3,770	3,478	3,665	-2.8	
Saskatchewan	3,305	2,858	3,219	-2.6	
Alberta	14,316	14,279	15,121	5.6	
British Columbia ²	13,573	13,945	14,394	6.0	

^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

Oils and fats

August 2001

Production of all types of deodorized oils totalled 93 139 metric tonnes in August, up 2.0% from 91 321 tonnes in July.

Domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 9 965 tonnes; deodorized shortening oil totalled 24 635 tonnes; and deodorized salad oil totalled 31 090 tonnes in August.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030012.

The August 2001 issue of *Oils and fats*, Vol. 52, no. 8 (32-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electronic commerce and technology use

2000

Electronic commerce is becoming an established feature of the business landscape. From 1999 to 2000, the value of orders received by the private sector over the Internet, with or without online payment, grew 73% to \$7 billion, doubling in importance from 0.2% to 0.4% of total operating revenue. Over the same period, the proportion of businesses selling online declined, as

Internet selling became more concentrated among fewer, larger businesses. By contrast, the proportion of businesses buying goods or services on the Internet grew—nearly one in five private enterprises bought goods or services online.

In addition to buying and selling goods and services on the Internet, 10% of private enterprises used Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) over proprietary networks. EDI used over proprietary networks was most prevalent in health care, finance and insurance, utilities, wholesale trade and manufacturing industries.

The use of other information and communications technologies generally advanced from 1999 to 2000, and the percentage of employees with Internet access rose.

The public sector has been leading in the use of these technologies; nearly all public sector institutions used the Internet in 2000. Nearly three-quarters of them had a Web site, and those sites were generally more sophisticated than those in the private sector. More public sector institutions used e-mail, and a higher percentage of public sector employees had direct access to e-mail.

Electronic commerce and technology use (56F0004MIE, free), the fifth issue of the Connectedness Series, is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *Communications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Greg Peterson (613-951-3592, greg.peterson@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Gross domestic product by industry, July 2001
Catalogue number 15-001-XIE (\$11/\$110).

Supply and disposition of crude oil and natural gas,
June 2001
Catalogue number 26-006-XPB (\$19/\$186).

Oils and fats, August 2001, Vol. 52, no. 8
Catalogue number 32-006-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Electronic commerce and technology use, No. 5
Catalogue number 56F0004MIE
(free).

**1998 Survey of Household Spending data quality
indicators**, 1998
Catalogue number 62F0026MIE01001
(free).

**1999 Survey of Household Spending data quality
indicators**, 1999
Catalogue number 62F0026MIE01002
(free).

Methodology of the Survey of Household Spending,
Catalogue number 62F0026MIE01003
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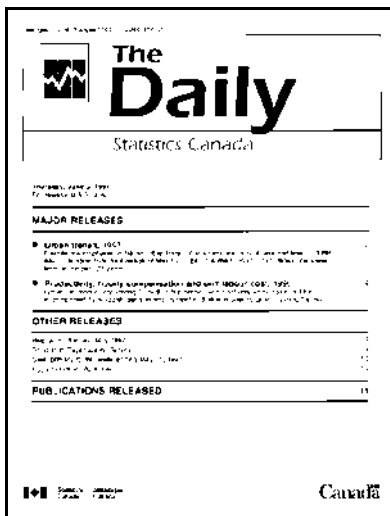
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