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MAJOR RELEASES

● **New motor vehicle sales, September 2001**

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A steep drop in September truck sales was largely responsible for a 5.3% drop in new motor vehicle sales from August.

(continued on page 2)



Canadian economic observer

November 2001

The November issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in October and presents two feature articles: mergers, acquisitions and foreign control between 1994 and 1998; and the labour market in the week of September 11. A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

A new internet edition of the *Historical statistical supplement* is also available today. It contains annual historical data for all series reported monthly in *Canadian economic observer*.

The November 2001 issue of the *Canadian economic observer*, Volume 14, number 11 (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) and the *Canadian economic observer historical statistical supplement 2000/01*, Volume 15 (11-210-XIB, \$21) are now available. Visit the *Canadian economic observer's* page on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, and on that page see the banner ad for *Canadian economic observer*. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.

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NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

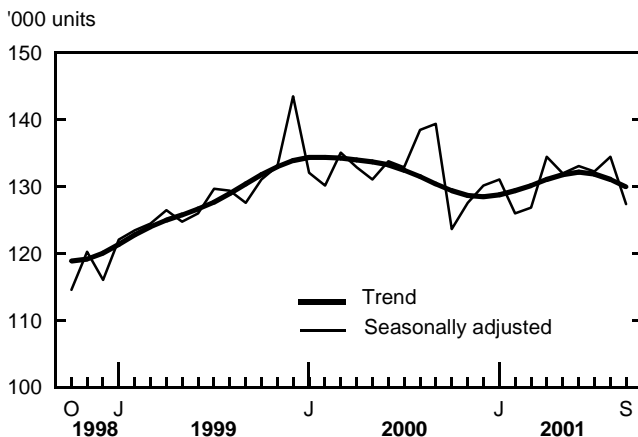
September 2001

A steep drop in September truck sales was largely responsible for a 5.3% decline in new motor vehicle sales compared with August. In all, 127,386 new motor vehicles were sold in September, down 7,154 vehicles from the previous month.

The decrease in new motor vehicles sold in September was the second largest monthly decline in 12 months, after an 11.2% drop in October 2000. September's retreat occurred despite the incentives manufacturers offered to clear their inventories of 2001 models. Consumer confidence was shaken, in part, by the tragic events of September 11. Reports from the auto industry suggest the incentives may have tempered the size of the fall.

As a result of September's decline, the general upward movement shown by new motor vehicles sales since the start of 2001 has faltered. Previously, sales were generally stable throughout most of 2000, before falling sharply that autumn.

New motor vehicle sales dropped sharply in September



Preliminary figures from the auto industry indicate an increase in both passenger car and truck sales in October.

Truck sales down sharply

September's decline in new truck sales was more than twice that of passenger cars. Compared with

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.

August, truck sales fell 7.6% to 56,424 units. This drop wiped out the 3.1% gain registered in August and was also, after the 16.2% fall in October 2000, the second largest monthly decrease since June 1998. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

With September's results, the market share for trucks slipped to 44.3%, the second lowest result in five years; the lowest result was posted in October 2000.

Following a period of stable sales that lasted a year until the fall of 2000, truck sales dropped sharply. Since the start of 2001, truck sales have been for the most part stable but at a lower level than in 2000.

In September, 70,962 passenger cars were sold, down 3.4% from August. This decrease followed a 0.6% gain seen in August. North American-built cars were largely responsible for the decline. They were down 4.6% from August, while overseas-built cars were down only 0.8%.

The upward movement in new passenger car sales since the start of the year appears to have ended. Previously, sales had been generally stable since the start of 2000, following an upward movement that began at the end of 1998.

Quarterly sales decline led by trucks

New motor vehicle sales were down 1.3% in the third quarter from the second. Compared with the third quarter of 2000, sales were down 4.0%. In both cases, almost the entire decrease was attributable to trucks.

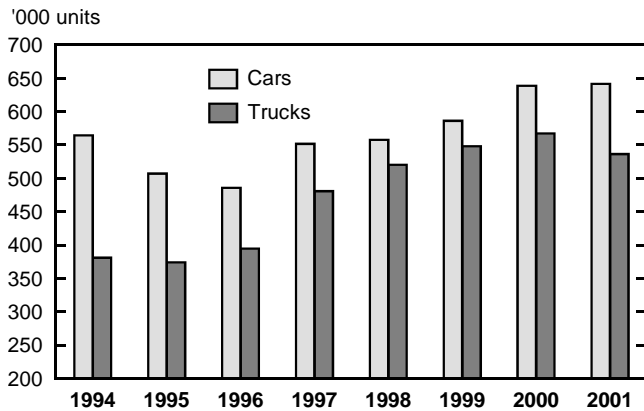
Sales of passenger cars declined just 0.2% in the third quarter compared with the second, while truck sales fell 2.7%. In the new passenger car category, the drop in quarterly sales was entirely due

to North American-built cars (-1.9%). Overseas-built cars rose 3.9% in the third quarter compared with the second.

Year-to-date truck sales go into reverse

Motor vehicle sales to the end of September were 2.3% lower than in the same period of 2000, which was a record year for sales. Year-to-date truck sales are down 5.4% from 2000, but new passenger car sales have actually edged up 0.4%.

Year-to-date sales of new motor vehicles for the first nine months of the year



Sales were down in all provinces

New motor vehicle sales were down in all provinces in September compared with August. The largest decreases were reported in Nova Scotia (-10.5%) and the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (-9.8%).

As for year-to-date sales to the end of September, the only provinces to post year-over-year increases were Alberta (+5.0%), the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (+0.6%), and Quebec (+0.2%).

Available on CANSIM: tables 790001 and 790002.

The September 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 the Client Services Unit (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 Cl rance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. □

New motor vehicle sales

	September 2000	August 2001 ^r	September 2001 ^p	September 2000 to September 2001	August to September 2001
Seasonally adjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	139,384	134,540	127,386	-8.6	-5.3
Passenger cars	74,858	73,494	70,962	-5.2	-3.4
North American ¹	55,827	51,895	49,530	-11.3	-4.6
Overseas	19,031	21,599	21,432	12.6	-0.8
Trucks, vans and buses	64,525	61,046	56,424	-12.6	-7.6
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,079	2,126	1,975	-5.0	-7.1
Prince Edward Island	452	413	391	-13.5	-5.3
Nova Scotia	3,636	3,624	3,244	-10.8	-10.5
New Brunswick	3,595	3,108	2,973	-17.3	-4.3
Quebec	33,985	33,855	31,961	-6.0	-5.6
Ontario	59,793	53,849	52,136	-12.8	-3.2
Manitoba	3,588	3,597	3,349	-6.7	-6.9
Saskatchewan	3,193	3,231	3,070	-3.9	-5.0
Alberta	15,011	15,811	14,828	-1.2	-6.2
British Columbia ²	14,053	14,928	13,459	-4.2	-9.8
	September 2000	August 2001	September 2001 ^p	September 2000 to September 2001	
Unadjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	146,361	139,025	127,045	-13.2	
Passenger cars	76,175	78,974	68,935	-9.5	
North American ¹	55,547	52,873	46,601	-16.1	
Overseas	20,628	26,101	22,334	8.3	
Trucks, vans and buses	70,186	60,051	58,110	-17.2	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,086	2,449	1,940	-7.0	
Prince Edward Island	455	431	385	-15.4	
Nova Scotia	3,535	3,634	3,011	-14.8	
New Brunswick	3,529	3,167	2,753	-22.0	
Quebec	35,890	36,985	31,288	-12.8	
Ontario	62,596	55,960	52,178	-16.6	
Manitoba	4,290	3,665	3,793	-11.6	
Saskatchewan	3,533	3,219	3,315	-6.2	
Alberta	16,202	15,121	15,042	-7.2	
British Columbia ²	14,245	14,394	13,340	-6.4	

^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

Travel between Canada and other countries September 2001

The release of September 2001 data for travel between Canada and other countries, originally scheduled for tomorrow, November 16, has been delayed as a result of operational difficulties arising from the events of September 11.

This information is expected to be available in the last week of November.

For more information, contact Sylvie Bonhomme (613-951-5366; fax: 613-951-2909) or Pearl Bellefeuille (613-951-1674), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Machinery and equipment price indexes Third quarter 2001

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (1986=100) was 137.9, up 0.1% from the second quarter. The domestic component increased 0.1%, while the imported component stayed constant. Compared with the third quarter of 2000, the overall index advanced 3.4%; the domestic component rose 1.6% and imported component, 4.8%.

Two industry groups contributed equally to the quarter-to-quarter rise in the index: manufacturing (+0.1%) and transport (+0.2%). However, both community, business and personal services as well as agriculture dropped 0.3% from the second quarter, offsetting most of the increases. The largest portion of the growth in manufacturing was due to increases in paper and allied products (+0.5%) and primary metals (+0.6%). Only two sectors lost ground—chemicals (-0.3%) and petroleum and coal (-0.2%). In the transport sector, air transport rose 0.4% and water transport was up 1.0%.

The year-over-year increase was led by manufacturing (up 3.7% from the third quarter of 2000), transport (+2.8%) and agriculture (+3.9%). Within the manufacturing sector, paper and allied products (+4.3%), chemicals (+4.1%), primary metals (+3.3%), transportation equipment (+3.9%) and food and beverages (+3.7%) led the way. The rise in transport was due to advances in electricity (+2.3%) and air transport (+6.5%).

In the third quarter, few commodities contributed to the index advance. Specialized industrial equipment

(+0.2%), aircraft (+0.7%), ships and boats (+1.0%) and office furniture (+1.0%) contributed substantially. However, declines in passenger automobiles (-0.9%) and office machinery (-2.1%) dampened the increase. In the case of specialized industrial equipment, the water transport and primary metals showed the strongest growth; the domestic component rose 1.2%, and 1.0%, respectively, for these industries; their imported counterparts rose 1.2% and 0.6%. Imported specialized industrial equipment for paper and allied products rose 0.8%.

The Canadian dollar was worth an average of 64.8 U.S. cents in the third quarter, a slight decrease of 0.04% from the second quarter and down 3.9% from the third quarter of 2000.

Machinery and equipment price index (1986=100)

	Relative importance	Third quarter 2001 ^P	Second to third quarter 2001	Third quarter 2000 to third quarter 2001
			% change	
Machinery and equipment price index	100.0	137.9	0.1	3.4
Agriculture	11.0	165.8	-0.3	3.9
Forestry	1.5	149.0	0.2	2.5
Fishing	0.6	127.6	0.5	0.6
Mines, quarries and oil wells	6.0	141.8	0.1	4.0
Manufacturing	29.9	146.9	0.1	3.7
Construction	3.5	146.2	0.2	4.0
Transportation, communication, storage and utilities	25.9	128.6	0.2	2.8
Trade	4.0	123.4	0.0	2.7
Finance, insurance and real estate	1.8	111.5	-0.1	2.2
Community, business and personal services	11.1	113.0	-0.3	2.4
Public administration	4.7	134.3	0.1	3.4

^P Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: tables 3270013, 3270014 and 3270016.

The third quarter issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in December. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606, fax 613-951-1539, infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Marriages

1998

The average Canadian bride and groom were well over 30 years old in 1998, according to new data on marriages.

The average age of a bride, including first-time brides as well as previously divorced women and widows, was 31.1 in 1998, up from 28.6 in 1988. The average man was wed at 33.7 years old in 1998, compared with 31.2 a decade earlier.

When marrying for the first time, men and women were also older than before. The average age of first-time brides in 1998 was 27.6 years, compared with 25.5 in 1988; first-time grooms averaged 29.6 years of age, compared with 27.6 in 1988.

In total, 152,821 couples were married in 1998, virtually unchanged (-0.3%) from 1997. The crude marriage rate in 1998 was 5.1 for every 1,000 population, well below the most recent peak of 7.0 in both 1988 and 1989, following a surge in remarriages after changes to the *Divorce Act*.

Marriages and crude marriage rates

	1997	1998	1997 to 1998	Crude marriage rate, 1998 per 1,000 population
	Number		% change	
Canada	153,306	152,821	-0.3	5.1
Newfoundland	3,227	3,150	-2.4	5.8
Prince Edward Island	876	882	0.7	6.4
Nova Scotia	5,177	5,134	-0.8	5.5
New Brunswick	4,089	4,063	-0.6	5.4
Quebec	23,958	22,940	-4.2	3.1
Ontario	64,535	64,533	0.0	5.7
Manitoba	6,261	6,437	2.8	5.7
Saskatchewan	5,707	5,740	0.6	5.6
Alberta	17,254	17,813	3.2	6.1
British Columbia	21,845	21,749	-0.4	5.4
Yukon	167	167	0.0	5.3
Northwest Territories	210	213	1.4	3.2

Prince Edward Island had the highest marriage rate at 6.4 per 1,000 population, followed by Alberta at 6.1. Quebec, which had the lowest marriage rate in 1998 at 3.1, was also the province with the greatest decrease in marriage ceremonies between 1997 and 1998 (-4.2%). The declines, especially in Quebec, may be partly a result of the popularity of common-law relationships.

Grooms were older than the brides in 66% of the ceremonies in 1998, younger than the brides in 23%, and the same age in 11%. On average, brides and grooms were 5.2 years apart when the groom was the older partner, and 3.7 years apart when the groom was the younger.

Three-quarters of both brides and grooms got married for the first time in 1998. One-fifth (22%) of brides and grooms remarried following divorce, while only 3% of brides and grooms had been widowed prior to their marriage.

Marriages—shelf tables, 1998 (84F0212XPB, \$20) is now available. To order this product or custom tabulations, call Client Services (613-951-1746). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Leslie Geran (613-951-5243), Health Statistics Division. ■

Steel primary forms

Week ending November 10, 2001 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending November 10 totalled 289 573 metric tonnes, up 13.8% from 254 350 tonnes a week earlier but down 5.7% from 307 130 tonnes in the same week of 2000. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 12 926 605 tonnes, down 10.9% compared with 14 502 572 tonnes in the same period of 2000.

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 Dragos Ifrim (613-951-3527; dragos.ifrim@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Oils and fats

September 2001

Production of all types of deodorized oils totalled 88 815 metric tonnes in September, a decrease of 4.7% from 93 139 tonnes in August.

Domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 9 763 tonnes; deodorized shortening oil totalled 25 099 tonnes; and deodorized salad oil totalled 31 869 tonnes in September.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030012.

The September 2001 issue of *Oils and fats*, Vol. 52, no. 9 (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. ■

Pulpwood and wood residue statistics

August 2001

Pulpwood receipts totalled 2 524 683 cubic metres in August, down 10.3% from 2 815 890 cubic metres in August 2000. Wood residue receipts were 6 858 782 cubic metres, down 3.8% from 7 129 886 cubic metres in August 2000. Consumption of pulpwood and wood residue totalled 8 829 621 cubic metres, down 8.7% from 9 668 933 cubic metres in August 2000.

The closing inventory of pulpwood and wood residue increased 9.5% to 13 217 723 cubic metres, up from 12 067 279 cubic metres in August 2000. Year-to-date consumption of pulpwood and wood

residue totalled 76 533 594 cubic metres, down 3.0% from 78 935 388 cubic metres in the same period of 2000. Figures for 2000 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030008.

The August 2001 issue of *Pulpwood and wood residue statistics*, Vol. 44, no. 8 (25-001-XIB, \$6/\$55) 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 Sara Breen (613-951-3521; sara.breen@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

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Marriages—shelf tables, 1998
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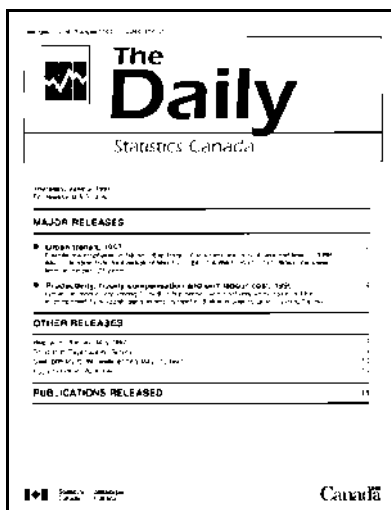
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