



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **International travel account, third quarter 2001**
 Canada's international travel deficit—the difference between what Canadians spend abroad and what foreigners spend in Canada—doubled in the third quarter.

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- **Characteristics of international travellers, second quarter 2001**
 Overnight international travel to Canada reached its highest level for a second quarter in the 27 years that travel data have been collected. The biggest factor was a record 4.2 million Americans who headed north of the border from April to June.

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NEW PRODUCTS



MAJOR RELEASES

International travel account

Third quarter 2001 (preliminary)

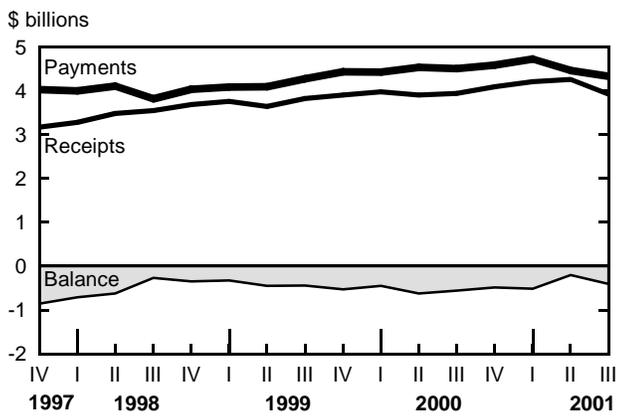
Canada's international travel deficit—the difference between what Canadians spend abroad and what foreigners spend in Canada—doubled in the third quarter.

The deficit increased from a revised \$202 million in the second quarter—the lowest travel deficit since the third quarter of 1986—to \$407 million in the third quarter.

The major factor was a sharp decline in spending by foreign travellers in Canada. From July to September, foreign residents injected an estimated \$3.9 billion into the Canadian economy, 7.9% less than in the second quarter and the first decrease since the second quarter of 2000. Canadian residents spent \$4.3 billion outside the country in the third quarter, down 2.9% from the second.

The September 11 events in the United States may have contributed to these declines in travel spending during the third quarter, as the number of trips to and from Canada fell significantly afterwards.

Travel receipts down for the first time since the second quarter of 2000



Foreigners made 11.5 million same-day and overnight trips to Canada in the third quarter, down 7.4% from the second. Also, travel abroad by Canadian residents fell 4.9% to just under 10.8 million trips.

Note to readers

This international travel account analysis is based on preliminary quarterly data, which are seasonally adjusted. Amounts are in Canadian dollars and are not adjusted for inflation.

Receipts represent spending by foreigners travelling in Canada, including education and medical spending. **Payments** represent spending by Canadians travelling abroad, including education and medical spending.

Overseas countries are those other than the United States.

Lower Canadian spending brought down travel deficit with United States

Travel and spending by Canadians in the United States both fell in the third quarter. Canadians took 9.5 million same-day and overnight trips south of the border, 8.4% less than in the second quarter. They spent an estimated \$2.6 billion in the United States from July to September, down 6.0% from the second quarter. During the same period, the Canadian dollar fell an average 0.3% against its American counterpart.

Americans spent just over \$2.5 billion in Canada, down 4.7% from the second quarter. Their number of trips fell 7.3% to slightly more than 10.5 million.

As a result, the travel deficit with the United States declined for the fifth consecutive quarter to \$54 million, from a revised \$95 million in the second quarter. This was the lowest travel deficit with the United States in more than 10 years.

Travel deficit with overseas nations tripled

Canada's travel deficit with countries other than the United States climbed to \$353 million in the third quarter from a revised \$107 million in the second, due to a significant drop in travel spending by overseas residents.

Overseas travellers spent just under \$1.4 billion in Canada, 13.2% less than they did in the second quarter. They took 8.4% fewer same-day and overnight trips in the third quarter, down to 1.0 million.

Canadian residents, for their part, took 1.2 million trips to overseas destinations in the third quarter, up a slight 0.4% from the second.

Their spending on those trips rose 2.1% to just over \$1.7 billion. These increases occurred despite the

depreciation of the Canadian dollar against most foreign currencies during the period.

International travel account receipts and payments

	Third quarter 2000 ^r	Second quarter 2001 ^r	Third quarter 2001 ^p	Second to third quarter 2001
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
United States				
Receipts	2,390	2,663	2,537	-4.7
Payments	2,824	2,757	2,591	-6.0
Balance	-435	-95	-54	
All other countries				
Receipts	1,547	1,596	1,385	-13.2
Payments	1,675	1,703	1,738	2.1
Balance	-128	-107	-353	
Total				
Receipts	3,936	4,258	3,923	-7.9
Payments	4,499	4,460	4,330	-2.9
Balance	-563	-202	-407	

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Note: Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyn Lapierre (613-951-3720) or Client Services, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca). ■

Characteristics of international travellers

Second quarter 2001

Overnight international travel to Canada posted its highest second-quarter result in the 27 years that international travel data have been collected. More than 5.4 million travellers arrived from foreign countries in the second quarter, up 3.4% from the second quarter of 2000.

This increase is mainly the result of a 5.7% rise in overnight travel from the United States. An estimated 4.2 million American travellers came to Canada, a record for a second quarter. However, travel from overseas markets declined on a quarterly basis for the first time in two years.

Selected characteristics of U.S. overnight trips by mode of transport

	Person-trips ('000)	Average number of nights	Average spending per person-trip \$	Average spending per night
Total	4,250	4.0	517	130
Auto	2,577	3.9	372	96
Plane	1,072	4.9	996	204
Other	601	2.9	286	99

Canadian travel to the United States declined 3.9% in the second quarter, but Canadians took 8.2% more trips to overseas nations, the fifth straight year-over-year quarterly increase.

All regions gained from record American trips

All regions gained from the growth in travel from the United States during the second quarter. The Atlantic Provinces led the way with jumps of 13.1% in overnight visits and 37.9% in spending.

An estimated 169,000 Americans visited Saskatchewan and Manitoba during the second quarter, up 11.7% from the second quarter of 2000 and the second highest increase.

Gains were not quite as strong in Ontario (+8.0%), Quebec (+5.1%), and in British Columbia and Alberta combined (+6.3%). All regions enjoyed a double-digit increase in spending.

Michigan sent the most travellers to Canada, 522,000, a 9.0% increase, followed by New York with 519,000. Louisiana posted the strongest advance, sending 24,000 travellers to Canada, three times as many as in the second quarter of 2000.

More than half the trips to Canada by American residents were for a holiday, and car travel was still their preferred way of getting here. In the second quarter,

they made 2.6 million car trips to Canada, up 5.6% over the second quarter of 2000. Air travel rose 5.2% to 1.1 million trips, a record for a second quarter. The proportion of Americans travelling by air in a second quarter grew from 19% in 1994 to 25% in 2001. Air travellers tend to stay longer and spend more per trip than do car travellers.

Overseas travel posts first decline since the first quarter of 1999

Travel from overseas markets dropped 4.6% in the second quarter. This is the first drop since the first quarter of 1999, when overseas travel to Canada started to rebound after the Asian financial crisis.

Of the 12 most important overseas markets, all but Mexico posted declines. The number of trips from Mexico jumped 10.6% to 42,800. Travel was down from Europe (-4.8%) and Asia (-5.0%). Over the last six years, several foreign currencies, including the French franc, German mark, Swiss franc, and Dutch guilder, have depreciated against the Canadian dollar, strongly affecting the performance of Canada's major markets.

Fewer Canadians travelling to the United States

Canadians made 3.6 million overnight trips to the United States in second quarter, down 3.9% from the second quarter of 2000. This marked the third consecutive year-over-year quarterly decrease, and another quarter in which the number of Americans visiting Canada surpassed the number of Canadians going south of the border.

Travel to Florida increased 2.3% to 524,000 trips, while the number of nights spent there rose 3.2%. Almost half of the nights Canadians spent in the United States during the second quarter were in Florida. Arizona recorded a relatively small number of visits, 77,000, compared with other more popular states. But each Canadian stay in Arizona averaged more than three weeks (27 nights), compared with only three nights in New York State.

Canadians took 1.3 million trips by plane in the second quarter, down 5.9%. In addition, auto trips south of the border were down 4.3% to 1.9 million trips.

Canadians took 1.9 million trips south of the border for holiday reasons during the second quarter, down 0.9%. About 592,000 went for business purposes, a 22.4% decline.

Growth in Canadian travel overseas

Canadians took 1.1 million overnight trips to overseas countries in the second quarter, up 8.2%

from the second quarter of 2000. This was the fifth consecutive year-over-year quarterly increase.

Overseas travel from Canada in the second quarter has almost doubled over the past decade, from 604,000 trips in the second quarter of 1991 to just over 1.1 million in the second quarter of 2001.

Although travel to the United Kingdom was down 28.5% from the second quarter of 2000, it remained the most popular overseas destination in the second quarter; Canadians made 172,000 visits. Mexico ranked second, despite a 4.5% drop in Canadian visits. However, travel to Cuba more than doubled (+128.4%), and Cuba placed fourth as the most popular overseas destination for Canadians.

This release summarizes data now available from the International Travel Survey. Tables as well as statistical profiles and micro-data files of characteristics of international travellers for the second quarter are now available on request.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Danielle Shaienks (613-951-5095) or Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Canadians' preferred international destinations

	Visits 2000	Visits 2001	2000 to 2001 % change
	('000)		
United States			
New York	594	648	9.2
Florida	513	524	2.3
Washington	425	395	-7.2
Michigan	325	329	1.0
California	238	216	-9.1
Arizona	59	77	31.7
Overseas			
United Kingdom	241	172	-28.5
Mexico	144	138	-4.5
France	125	110	-11.7
Cuba	40	91	128.4
Germany	79	82	3.9

OTHER RELEASES

Travel between Canada and other countries September 2001

Travel both by foreigners to Canada and Canadians to points abroad plummeted following the September 11 events in the United States. The aftermath of the events had a profound impact on all forms of travel, especially between Canada and the United States, from overnight trips to same-day car trips.

Overall travel to Canada declined 23.9% in September compared to September 2000. Over the same period, the number of trips taken by Canadians abroad fell 23.3%.

When adjusted for seasonality, travel to Canada dropped 25.4% in September compared with August, while Canadian travel outside the country decreased 19.7%. These declines were the largest recorded since the introduction of the current methodology in 1972. Foreigners made 3.2 million same-day and overnight trips to Canada in September. (Data are seasonally adjusted and cover both same-day and overnight trips, unless otherwise stated.)

The decrease was particularly significant for U.S. residents, who made 26.6% fewer trips to Canada in September than they did in August. Travel by overseas residents declined 12.6% over the same period.

Canadians made an estimated 3.1 million trips out of the country in September, down 19.7% from August. Canadian travel to the United States fell 21.6%, while travel to overseas destinations fell only 4.0%.

Americans made 18.6% fewer overnight trips to Canada in September than in August. Canadian overnight travel to the United States dropped 14.6% to below the one-million-trip mark (997,000).

Overnight travel by plane was particularly hard hit. The number of overnight trips Americans took by plane to Canada fell 25.6% in September to 246,000, while the number of such trips by Canadians to the United States fell 28.3%.

Meanwhile, the number of overnight car trips by Americans to Canada decreased 19.0% to 696,000. For their part, Canadians took 601,000 overnight car trips to the United States, down 7.9%.

Same-day car trips between Canada and the United States showed significant declines in both directions. Canadians made 1.6 million car excursions south of the border in September, down 24.5% from August; the number of such trips by Americans to Canada declined 28.1% to 1.6 million.

Travel between Canada and other countries

	Aug. 2001 ^r	Sept. 2001 ^p	Aug. to Sept. 2001	Sept. 2001 ^p	Sept. 2000 to Sept. 2001
	Seasonally adjusted			Unadjusted	
	'000	% change		'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad¹	3,844	3,086	-19.7	3,039	-23.3
To the United States	3,429	2,687	-21.6	2,698	-25.6
To other countries	415	399	-4.0	341	1.9
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,178	1,645	-24.5	1,652	-29.1
Total trips, one or more nights	1,583	1,396	-11.9	1,338	-14.3
United States ²	1,168	997	-14.6	997	-18.8
Car	653	601	-7.9	651	-8.5
Plane	406	292	-28.3	210	-43.1
Other modes of transport	109	104	-4.2	136	-7.5
Other countries ³	415	399	-4.0	341	1.9
Travel to Canada¹	4,240	3,163	-25.4	3,614	-23.9
From the United States	3,890	2,856	-26.6	3,167	-24.1
From other countries	350	306	-12.6	447	-22.7
Same-day car trips from the United States	2,293	1,647	-28.1	1,680	-28.9
Total trips, one or more nights	1,685	1,392	-17.4	1,718	-19.3
United States ²	1,346	1,096	-18.6	1,287	-18.2
Car	859	696	-19.0	802	-15.9
Plane	330	246	-25.6	265	-28.6
Other modes of transport	157	155	-1.4	220	-11.6
Other countries ³	339	296	-12.7	431	-22.3
Most important overseas markets⁴					
United Kingdom	76	68	-10.8	103	-12.9
Japan	39	28	-28.5	44	-49.1
Germany	29	27	-6.9	52	-26.1
France	29	27	-7.2	48	-23.2
Australia	14	14	0.5	19	-9.5
South Korea	13	12	-9.9	13	-7.9
Hong Kong	11	10	-12.7	9	-29.3
Mexico	14	9	-32.6	10	-22.1
Netherlands	9	9	-6.8	14	-14.3
Taiwan	10	8	-21.0	10	-46.0
Switzerland	8	8	-3.6	11	-17.3
China	8	7	-7.1	10	16.1

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

² Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

³ Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only via the United States.

⁴ Includes same-day trips and those of one or more nights.

Canadian travel to overseas countries was the least affected by September's general downward trend. Canadians took 399,000 overnight trips to overseas destinations, down 4.0% from August. Overseas residents made 296,000 overnight trips to Canada, down 12.7%.

Most of Canada's top 12 overseas markets showed decreases in same-day and overnight trips in September. Mexico posted the strongest loss in travel to Canada (-32.6%), followed by Japan (-28.5%) and Taiwan (-21.0%). Australia was the only market showing an increase (+0.5%).

Available on CANSIM: tables 4270001-4270006.

The September 2001 issue of *International travel, advance information*, Vol. 17, no. 9 (66-001-PIB, \$6/\$55) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sylvie Bonhomme (613-951-5366; sylvie.bonhomme@statcan.ca) or Client Services, (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Employment, earnings and hours

September 2001 (preliminary)

Average weekly earnings for all employees increased a slight \$1.22 in September to \$669.16. On a year-over-year basis, average weekly earnings were up 1.9% from September 2000.

By industry, average earnings gains since September 2000 were strongest in service-producing industries, especially education, health and social services and information and culture. Earnings increases in goods-producing industries were less robust, due mostly to earnings weakness in construction, a result of declining earnings for salaried and other employees in construction since September 2000.

Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees were \$17.07 in September, up 7 cents from August and up 3.2% from September 2000. Average weekly hours

for hourly paid employees were unchanged at 31.2; average overtime hours were down slightly from August.

In September, the number of employees on payrolls fell a slight 6,600 (-0.05%). The largest employment loss was in professional, scientific and technical services. Manufacturing also had another substantial employment loss (-5,500) in September. Manufacturing employment has dropped in every month of 2001 except July, and is down 50,000 employees since December 2000. Six of ten provinces had employment declines in September. Quebec recorded the largest gain (+2,500), due to employment gains in construction.

Note: With the January 2001 data, the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours began publishing its estimates based on the North American Industry Classification (NAICS). The NAICS-based estimates are not comparable to the previously published estimates based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of 1980. To facilitate this transition, a NAICS-based historical database from January 1991 to December 2000 has been produced. A concordance table between NAICS and SIC codes is available on request. A description of the conversion process and its impact on the data is also available in the January 2001 issue of *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XIB \$24/\$240) or may be obtained from Jean Leduc (613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca). For more information on the NAICS, consult the *Statistical methods* page on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca).

Available on CANSIM: tables 2810023-2810040.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment and by sector, as well as other labour market indicators, will be available soon in standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Frindt or Jean Leduc (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	September 2000	August 2001 ^r	September 2001 ^p	August to September 2001	September 2000 to September 2001
	Seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	656.94	667.94	669.16	0.2	1.9
Forestry, logging and support	793.41	835.35	839.38	0.5	5.8
Mining and oil and gas	1,150.38	1,158.23	1,172.30	1.2	1.9
Utilities	1,000.35	1,004.28	1,004.01	0.0	0.4
Construction	809.36	795.81	796.90	0.1	-1.5
Manufacturing	802.14	813.37	812.59	-0.1	1.3
Wholesale trade	758.81	776.83	779.38	0.3	2.7
Retail trade	426.48	428.56	431.28	0.6	1.1
Transportation and warehousing	725.44	742.47	747.24	0.6	3.0
Information and cultural industries	765.44	795.66	800.46	0.6	4.6
Finance and insurance	840.01	854.88	852.85	-0.2	1.5
Real estate and rental and leasing	600.84	604.54	609.33	0.8	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	877.78	892.80	890.00	-0.3	1.4
Management of companies and enterprises	830.68	839.32	838.84	-0.1	1.0
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	523.04	532.15	531.95	0.0	1.7
Educational services	677.39	701.69	701.20	-0.1	3.5
Health care and social assistance	568.08	586.07	591.34	0.9	4.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	469.42	483.32	486.52	0.7	3.6
Accommodation and food services	275.48	287.81	287.54	-0.1	4.4
Other services (excluding public administration)	508.60	523.19	525.32	0.4	3.3
Public administration	749.06	759.88	762.11	0.3	1.7
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	601.94	604.61	606.70	0.3	0.8
Prince Edward Island	527.35	527.78	521.00	-1.3	-1.2
Nova Scotia	562.80	567.12	568.82	0.3	1.1
New Brunswick	595.46	595.12	592.52	-0.4	-0.5
Quebec	616.23	624.85	627.75	0.5	1.9
Ontario	701.90	715.16	716.25	0.2	2.0
Manitoba	588.17	600.05	596.93	-0.5	1.5
Saskatchewan	591.72	602.17	603.56	0.2	2.0
Alberta	667.44	689.37	689.31	0.0	3.3
British Columbia	658.14	665.67	664.71	-0.1	1.0
Yukon	741.37	756.38	754.36	-0.3	1.8
Northwest Territories ¹	..	861.42	855.71	-0.7	..
Nunavut ¹	..	782.53	786.15	0.5	..

^r Revised estimates.
^p Preliminary estimates.
¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.
 .. Figures not available.

Number of employees

Industry group (North America industry Classification System)	July 2001	August 2001 ^r	September 2001 ^p	July to August 2001	August to September 2001
	Seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	12,762	12,763	12,756	0.0	-0.1
Forestry, logging and support	77	77	75	0.0	-2.6
Mining and oil and gas	138	138	139	0.0	0.7
Utilities	112	112	112	0.0	0.0
Construction	574	577	581	0.5	0.7
Manufacturing	2,042	2,032	2,027	-0.5	-0.2
Wholesale trade	723	722	716	-0.1	-0.8
Retail trade	1,490	1,494	1,497	0.3	0.2
Transportation and warehousing	609	615	616	1.0	0.2
Information and cultural industries	343	344	345	0.3	0.3
Finance and insurance	555	555	555	0.0	0.0
Real estate and rental and leasing	215	216	216	0.5	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	643	644	634	0.2	-1.6
Management of companies and enterprises	83	83	84	0.0	1.2
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	527	528	529	0.2	0.2
Educational services	944	943	941	-0.1	-0.2
Health care and social assistance	1,246	1,249	1,249	0.2	0.0
Arts, entertainment and recreation	220	222	222	0.9	0.0
Accommodation and food services	943	944	944	0.1	0.0
Other services (excluding public administration)	474	476	478	0.4	0.4
Public administration	713	715	714	0.3	-0.1
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland	174	176	176	1.1	0.0
Prince Edward Island	57	57	57	0.0	0.0
Nova Scotia	355	357	356	0.6	-0.3
New Brunswick	287	290	290	1.0	0.0
Quebec	3,004	3,003	3,005	0.0	0.1
Ontario	4,999	4,998	4,988	0.0	-0.2
Manitoba	500	503	501	0.6	-0.4
Saskatchewan	367	368	369	0.3	0.3
Alberta	1,369	1,373	1,375	0.3	0.1
British Columbia	1,589	1,591	1,588	0.1	-0.2
Yukon	15	15	15	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories ¹	20	20	20	0.0	0.0
Nunavut ¹	9	10	10	11.1	0.0

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Sawmills and planing mills

Third quarter 2001 and September 2001

Lumber manufacturers had to slow down their operations and, in some cases, even shut down mills and lay off workers in the third quarter. In fact after the second quarter, when quotas for exports to the United States disappeared, shipments in the third quarter suffered from countervailing duties of 19.3% on exports, from the economic slowdown, from September's terrorist attacks, and from the decline in residential construction activity.

Sawmills shipped 16 264.0 thousand cubic metres of lumber in the third quarter, down 6.6% from the second. This is the first quarterly drop after two consecutive increases, resulting in a 1.7% drop in the volume of shipments compared with the third quarter of 2000.

Despite declining mortgage rates, housing starts in Canada were down in the third quarter to an average of 156,100 units (seasonally-adjusted annual rate) compared with 163,400 in the second quarter. Similarly, the average number of housing starts in the United States was 1,574 thousand units (seasonally-adjusted annual rate) in the third quarter, down 1.8 % from the second.

At the same time as shipments declined, Canadian lumber exports dropped 10.3% in the third quarter compared with the second. In the past year, exports reached 38 146.1 thousand cubic metres, within 0.5% of that posted in the third quarter of 2000.

After significant increases in the first two quarters of 2001, lumber prices stabilized in the third quarter, partly the result of high inventories and market uncertainty. However, lumber prices in the third quarter

were markedly higher (+20.4%) than in the same period of 2000.

While stocks fell 6.1% in the third quarter, their levels remained high. This reduction in inventory followed three consecutive quarterly increases. Cumulative inventories for 2001 were 83 279.8 thousand cubic metres, up 7.7% from the third quarter of 2000.

On a monthly basis, sawmill shipments were 5 240.6 thousand cubic metres in September, down 3.2% from August. Moreover, shipments in September were down 10.1% from September 2000.

Lumber exports fell 8.8% in September from August, after decreasing 5.6% in August. Similarly, exports declined 9.6% compared with September 2000, to 3 889.1 thousand cubic metres.

Stocks reached 9 040.7 thousand cubic metres in September, up 2.6% compared with August. This increase followed two consecutive monthly declines.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030009.

The September 2001 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills*, Vol. 55, no. 9 (35-003-XIB, \$9/\$86) is now available.

To order data or for general information, 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 Daniel Dufour (613-951-5370; daniel.dufour@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Registered Retirement Savings Plan contributions 2000

Canadians contributed more to their Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) last year than they ever have, according to income tax returns for the 2000 tax year.

Almost 6.3 million taxfilers contributed just under \$29.3 billion—both were records.

The number of contributors was up 1.4% from 1999, and the level of contributions increased at almost twice that pace (+2.6%), after adjusting for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

To be eligible to contribute to an RRSP, a taxfiler must have either new room as a result of qualifying income from the previous year—generally employment income—or unused room from earlier years. In the tax year 2000, 86% of those who filed taxes were eligible to contribute to an RRSP. Of these eligible filers, about 34% actually made contributions. However,

the total contributions of \$29.3 billion represented only about 10% of the total room available to these individuals.

Contributions rose in most provinces and territories except Saskatchewan, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The number of contributors increased in just over half the provinces and territories.

The largest percentage gain in contributions was found in Yukon, up 10.2% from 1999. Taxfilers in New Brunswick contributed just over \$471 million, up 9.7%, the biggest gain among the provinces. Quebec taxfilers followed; their contributions rose 8.6% to \$6.6 billion.

Quebec recorded the largest increase in contributors (+5.2%). About 36% of eligible taxfilers in each of Ontario and Alberta made contributions, the highest proportion among the provinces and territories. These Ontario taxfilers contributed about 42% of the national total.

Last year's record level of contributions may have been the result of an increase in employment income. Median employment income for contributors in 2000 was \$39,400, up 1.8% from 1999. (The median is the point at which half of taxfilers are below and half are above.)

Some of the increase in contributors and amounts contributed for the 2000 tax year might also be explained by large pay equity payments to federal government employees.

These employees, many of whom live in the national capital region, may have contributed some of the income arising from this pay equity settlement to their RRSP. For the 2000 tax year, the number of contributors on the Quebec side of the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Hull increased 12%, and contributions jumped 35%. On the Ontario side, there were 6% more contributors, while contributions rose 15%.

In addition, more women contributed to an RRSP in 2000. Women accounted for 45% of contributors, up from 44% in 1999. They accounted for 39% of total contributions, up from 37% in 1999. Contributors in 2000 tended to be slightly older as well.

The median contribution in Canada last year was \$2,700, up slightly from \$2,600 in 1999. The median increased in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, after inflation was taken into account.

Databanks of *RRSP contributors* (17C0006, variable price), *RRSP contribution limit* (17C0011, variable price) and *Canadian taxfilers* (17C0010, variable price) are available for Canada, the provinces and territories, cities, towns, census metropolitan areas, census divisions, as well as areas as small as forward sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code) and letter carrier routes.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745; saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

RRSP contributors 2000

	Number of contributors	Change from 1999 %	Contributions \$	Change from 1999 (adjusted) %	Median contribution \$
Canada	6,291,170	1.4	29,280,163	2.6	2,700
Newfoundland	64,480	-1.6	284,661	1.2	2,400
Prince Edward Island	21,400	1.6	87,933	5.7	2,000
Nova Scotia	144,170	-0.7	628,727	4.2	2,200
New Brunswick	109,400	1.2	471,277	9.7	2,100
Quebec	1,532,980	5.2	6,565,568	8.6	2,400
Ontario	2,491,110	0.5	12,348,689	1.0	2,900
Manitoba	228,560	-1.3	915,623	1.0	2,200
Saskatchewan	190,490	-3.4	772,010	-0.9	2,400
Alberta	675,610	1.7	3,286,562	2.9	2,800
British Columbia	817,670	-0.6	3,840,387	-1.6	2,900
Yukon	6,090	3.2	29,799	10.2	3,200
Northwest Territories	6,990	-1.0	35,552	-6.1	3,600
Nunavut	2,240	4.2	13,376	-0.7	4,700

Domestic travel

Second quarter 2001 (preliminary)

Second quarter results from the Canadian Travel Survey are now available.

To obtain data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Brad Ruth (613-951-6433; brad.ruth@statcan.ca) or Jocelyn Lapierre (613-951-3720; jocelyn.lapierre@statcan.ca, Tourism Statistics Program.

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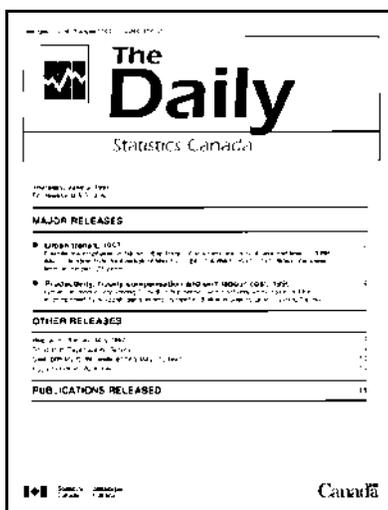
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

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