



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 14, 2001

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

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After two consecutive monthly increases, the number of new motor vehicles sold in January slipped 0.4% compared with December.
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NEW PRODUCTS



MAJOR RELEASES

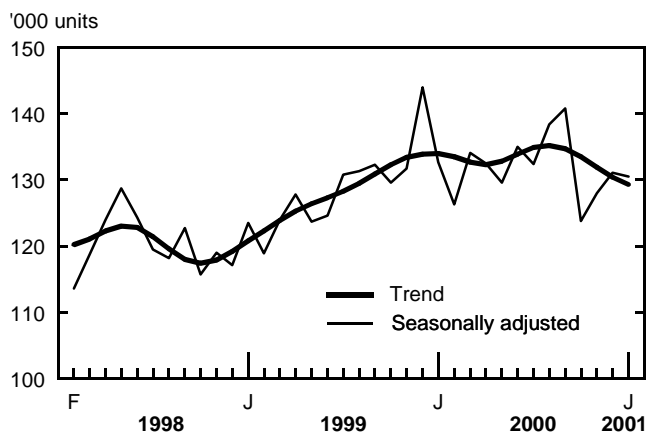
New motor vehicle sales

January 2001

After two consecutive monthly increases, the number of new motor vehicles sold in January slipped 0.4% compared with December. A total of 130,484 vehicles were sold in January, 579 fewer than in December. Both passenger cars and trucks contributed to this decline.

The November and December increases in new motor vehicle sales were not enough to offset the sizeable drop reported in October. Sales have been slowing since the fall of 2000. Previously, new motor vehicle sales had been showing robust growth since late 1998, except for a slight downturn at the start of 2000.

New motor vehicle sales remained weak



Preliminary figures from the auto industry show fewer new motor vehicles sold in February, primarily because of lower sales of passenger cars.

Sales of overseas-built cars up sharply

In January, 71,234 new passenger cars were sold, 0.6% fewer than in December. This decline is entirely attributable to weaker sales of North American-built passenger cars. Sales of North

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted, unless otherwise indicated. Seasonally adjusted provincial data from January 1991 to the present 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 vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

Data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been included with the data for British Columbia.

American-built passenger cars fell 3.2%, while sales of overseas-built passenger cars jumped 7.9%.

New passenger car sales have been moving downward since the fall of 2000, following a period of increases that lasted for about six months. New passenger car sales showed a slight downturn at the beginning of 2000, after a period of strong growth that started at the end of 1998.

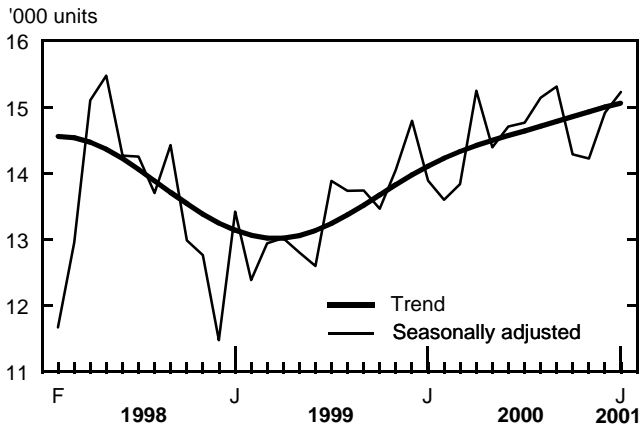
A total of 59,250 trucks were sold in January, 0.3% fewer than in December. This decrease followed gains in December (+3.0%) and November (+7.4%). Despite these rises, truck sales have been declining since the summer of 2000, following a period of growth that began in the spring of the same year. Before the spring of 2000, truck sales had been stable since mid-1999, after strong gains in the first half of that year.

Alberta built on 2000's strong performance

New motor vehicle sales varied considerably from province to province in January compared with December.

Alberta registered the largest gain in the number of new motor vehicles sold in January; 15,228 vehicles were sold, 2.1% more than in December. This was the second consecutive gain. Moreover, Alberta is the only province to continue showing general increases in new motor vehicle sales. This upward trend has been observed since the start of 1999. Previously, sales had moved downward throughout 1998.

New motor vehicle sales rose in Alberta



Quebec (+1.4%), Manitoba (+1.2%) and Saskatchewan (+1.1%) followed with the only other

increases in January. Sales were up for the third straight month in Quebec and Saskatchewan and for the second consecutive month in Manitoba.

Sales declined in January in all the Atlantic provinces and in the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut; they were virtually unchanged in Ontario.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

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

For data or 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 Michael Scrim (613-951-5668), Distributive Trades Division. □

New motor vehicle sales

	January 2000	December 2000 ^r	January 2001 ^p	January 2000 to January 2001	December 2000 to January 2001
seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	132,717	131,063	130,484	-1.7	-0.4
Passenger cars	70,553	71,643	71,234	1.0	-0.6
North American ¹	52,966	54,502	52,742	-0.4	-3.2
Overseas	17,587	17,140	18,492	5.1	7.9
Trucks, vans and buses	62,165	59,420	59,250	-4.7	-0.3
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,186	2,007	1,883	-13.9	-6.2
Prince Edward Island	392	437	416	6.1	-4.8
Nova Scotia	3,893	3,707	3,661	-6.0	-1.2
New Brunswick	3,599	3,194	3,172	-11.9	-0.7
Quebec	32,905	32,458	32,924	0.1	1.4
Ontario	55,327	53,358	53,346	-3.6	0.0
Manitoba	3,537	3,532	3,573	1.0	1.2
Saskatchewan	3,061	3,004	3,037	-0.8	1.1
Alberta	13,890	14,916	15,228	9.6	2.1
British Columbia ²	13,926	14,449	13,245	-4.9	-8.3
	January 2000	December 2000	January 2001 ^p	January 2000 to January 2001	
unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	93,968	116,162	96,791	3.0	
Passenger cars	46,026	58,223	48,782	6.0	
North American ¹	36,374	45,215	37,666	3.6	
Overseas	9,652	13,008	11,116	15.2	
Trucks, vans and buses	47,942	57,939	48,009	0.1	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	1,186	1,239	1,063	-10.4	
Prince Edward Island	238	332	253	6.3	
Nova Scotia	2,429	3,049	2,442	0.5	
New Brunswick	2,319	2,650	2,087	-10.0	
Quebec	20,180	23,717	21,246	5.3	
Ontario	40,428	48,643	41,373	2.3	
Manitoba	2,619	3,326	2,809	7.3	
Saskatchewan	2,412	3,016	2,553	5.8	
Alberta	10,840	15,544	12,365	14.1	
British Columbia ²	11,317	14,646	10,600	-6.3	

^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

Stillbirths

1998

Canada recorded its lowest-ever number of stillbirths with a gestational age of 28 weeks or more, known as late fetal deaths, in 1998.

Medical officials reported 1,079 stillbirths at 28 weeks or more in 1998, down 8.1% from 1997. Since 1990, the number of late fetal deaths has fallen 30.8%.

There were 3.1 stillbirths at 28 weeks or more for every 1,000 total births (live births plus stillbirths) in 1998, compared with 3.4 in 1997 and 3.8 in 1990. These improvements are a continuation of a long-term trend starting as far back as the 1920s, when stillbirth data were first collected. The 1998 stillbirth rate was about one-tenth of that of 1928, when the nation recorded 30.5 stillbirths for every 1,000 total births (or 3% of all births).

The Canadian Perinatal Surveillance System reports that this dramatic decline in stillbirths since 1928 may be attributed to several factors, including improvements in community health practices such as better nutrition and sanitation, and improvements in maternal health and education. Other studies cite factors such as advances in medical surveillance, more accessible health care and optimal intervals between pregnancies, aided by the widespread use of contraceptives.

Because of differences in reporting requirements, stillbirth data are released for two gestation periods: 28 or more weeks; and 20 or more weeks (including a few stillbirths with either an unknown gestation period or a gestation period of less than 20 weeks but weighing 500 or more grams).

In 1998, there were 1,987 stillbirths with a gestational age of 20 or more weeks (or 5.8 for every 1,000 total births), down 7.3% from 1997 and down 18.1% from 1990.

Stillbirth rates are substantially more frequent for older women — 11.2 per 1,000 among women aged 40 to 44 and 15.9 per 1,000 among those 45 and over. Women 20 to 34 had the lowest stillbirth rate, 5.3 for every 1,000 births of 20 or more

weeks. The rate among teenage girls was slightly higher, 7.6 per 1,000 births.

Stillbirths are more likely to occur in a multiple-birth event. In 1998, only 0.5% of all singleton births were stillborn at 20 or more weeks. In contrast, 1.7% of all babies in twin events and 2.4% of those in triplet events were stillborn.

Births — Shelf tables, 1998 (84F0210XPB, \$20) is now available, and contains data on both births and stillbirths. To order the shelf table or to request custom tabulations, contact Client Custom Services (613-951-1746; fax: 613-951-0792; hd-ds@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Leslie Geran (613-951-5243; gerales@statcan.ca), or Patric Blouin (613-951-1670; fax: 613-951-0792; patric.blouin@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division. ■

Work absence rates

2000

Data are now available on absences from work for personal reasons (illness or disability) and personal or family responsibilities for 2000.

Absence rates vary considerably among groups of workers. Factors include family circumstances, age, industry, occupation, work schedule and leave entitlements. The data provide work absence rates for men and women by: age, education, and presence of children; detailed industry and occupation groups; whether the employer is public- or private-sector; union coverage, workplace size, job tenure and job permanency; and province, region and census metropolitan area.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 8540-8591.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ernest B. Akyeampong (613-951-4624; fax: 613-951-5113; akyeern@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Industry price indexes, January 2001
Catalogue number 62-011-XPB (\$22/\$217).

Births — Shelf tables, 1998
Catalogue number 84F0210XPB (\$20).

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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Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

Catalogue 11-001E (P) (single) 11-001E/11-001E-001E-001E

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in expenditures on taking urban transit; Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of 860 out of 5 ps on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Harbourfront Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **522 production, April 1997** 12

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Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

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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