



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, March 2, 2001
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 Year 2000 and December 2000 (preliminary)

In December, sales by the group of large retailers totalled \$9.6 billion, a 7.0% increase over December 1999. As in November, all major product lines sold by the group recorded year-over-year sales increases. Health and personal care products; other goods and services; home furnishings and electronics; as well as hardware and lawn and garden products performed above average compared with the other categories.

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	Nov. 1999 ^r	Nov. 2000 ^r	Nov. 1999 to Nov. 2000	Dec. 1999 ^r	Dec. 2000 ^p	Dec. 1999 to Dec. 2000
	unadjusted					
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
Commodities						
Food and beverages	2,008	2,151	7.1	2,510	2,642	5.3
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,426	1,535	7.6	2,121	2,255	6.3
Home furnishings and electronics	1,093	1,151	5.3	1,519	1,662	9.5
Health and personal care products	485	552	13.9	662	733	10.8
Housewares	308	323	5.0	414	427	3.2
Sporting and leisure goods	406	434	6.8	662	678	2.5
Hardware and lawn and garden products	205	211	3.3	251	270	7.6
All other goods and services	667	753	12.9	785	883	12.5
Total	6,598	7,111	7.8	8,922	9,550	7.0

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Sales of the all other goods and services category advanced 12.5% over December 1999. This was the largest year-over-year sales increase. As in recent months, higher gasoline prices continued to boost the value of sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives (+32.3%). Pet food also posted another strong month of sales, rising 19.9% from December 1999.

Sales of health and personal care products were up 10.8% in December; other toiletries and personal care products (+24.8%) and prescription drugs (+13.5%) were the largest contributors.

Sales of home furnishings and electronics by the group rose 9.5% in December compared with December 1999. Growth continued in furniture sales (+12.1%). Consumer demand for home electronics also continued to grow. Sales of computer software

(+19.7%); telephones and home office electronics (+17.8%); and televisions and audio/visual equipment (+13.9%) were all major contributors to this increase. However, sales of computers and computer components were down 2.7% from December 1999.

Clothing, footwear and accessories sales by the group of large retailers posted a near-average gain of 6.3% compared with December 1999. Advances were fairly consistent across the clothing subgroups; women's clothing and accessories rose 6.5% and men's clothing and accessories rose 5.7% — most notable in the men's subgroup was a 26.2% increase in outerwear. Sales of footwear grew 13.7%.

Among the seven major commodity groups, sporting and leisure goods posted the weakest sales increase in December, 2.5%. The largest advance in this category was in ski equipment (+24.8%); however, hunting, fishing and camping equipment (-9.3%) and toys (-0.5%) helped to drag down the overall advance.

For all of 2000, sales by the group of large retailers totalled \$75.9 billion, a 5.1% increase over 1999. These sales accounted for approximately 37.0% of total retail trade, excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers. Within the group of large retailers, sales by food stores were up 3.1%, by department stores 2.0%, and by the remaining stores 9.1%. Food stores accounted for 36.6% of the sales by the group in 2000; department store sales accounted for 24.1% and the rest of the group accounted for the remaining 39.3%.

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	1999	2000	1999 to 2000	1999	2000
	unadjusted			share of sales	
	\$ millions		% change	%	
Commodities					
Food and beverages	24,984	25,672	2.8	34.6	33.8
Clothing, footwear and accessories	14,700	14,871	1.2	20.4	19.6
Home furnishings and electronics	10,071	10,995	9.2	13.9	14.5
Health and personal care products	5,468	6,018	10.0	7.6	7.9
Housewares	3,395	3,539	4.3	4.7	4.7
Sporting and leisure goods	3,485	3,722	6.8	4.8	4.9
Hardware and lawn and garden products	2,846	3,027	6.4	3.9	4.0
All other goods and services	7,255	8,066	11.2	10.1	10.6
Total	72,204	75,911	5.1	100.0	100.0

All major product categories registered positive annual sales increases in 2000. Top-performing

categories were: all other goods and services category, owing in large part to higher gasoline prices; health and personal care products; and home furnishings and electronics.

The largest annual sales increase in 2000 was posted by the all other goods and services category, up 11.2% from 1999. Higher gas prices were the major contributor to the overall annual increase in this category. Within the all other goods and services category, sales of tobacco products and supplies accounted for 25.5% of sales; motor vehicle parts and services made up 22.7%, and automotive fuels, oils and additives 18.8%.

The health and personal care products category tallied the second largest annual growth in 2000 (+10.0%). Much of this increase resulted from higher sales of prescription drugs (+20.0%) and over-the-counter drugs (+10.1%).

Sales of home furnishings and electronics by the group of large retailers advanced 9.2% in 2000. Within this category, sales of home electronics and indoor furniture moved ahead 13.4% and 10.2%, respectively. Appliance sales were up 6.7%, while sales of home furnishings (such as floor coverings, draperies and linens) rose 3.5%.

Sporting and leisure goods also recorded a healthy 6.8% annual sales increase in 2000. Sales of sporting goods alone were up 11.8% as a result of notable sales gains for all other sporting goods (+21.3%), exercise and fitness equipment (+20.3%), and ski equipment and accessories (+18.0%). Sales of leisure goods posted a weaker gain, 4.1%. The sale of toys, games and hobby supplies accounts for almost half of the leisure goods category, and posted 1% growth over 1999.

The smallest annual increase in 2000 was for sales of clothing, footwear and accessories (+1.2%). Consumers spent \$14.9 billion on clothing, footwear and accessories at stores belonging to the group of large retailers. Sales of women's and men's clothing and accessories moved slightly ahead of 1999 figures, advancing 0.9% and 0.8%, respectively. Sales of children's clothing and accessories (+3.2%), as well as footwear (+1.8%) fared somewhat better. Sales of luggage and jewelry were off 2.3% from 1999.

Note: The Monthly Survey of Large Retailers provides a breakdown of sales on the basis of commodities at the Canada level for a panel of about 80 large retailers. Sales data for more than 100 commodities are available on a monthly basis.

The retailers in this survey were included based on their sales and contribution to these industries: food; clothing; furniture, appliance and electronics; and

general merchandise. Some sporting goods stores are also included. A detailed list of retailers included in the survey is available upon request.

Data have not been adjusted for seasonality, or changes owing to differences in the number or significance of shopping days contained in the various months of the year.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 2395.

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 Elton Cryderman (613-951-0669; elton.cryderman@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

January 2001 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 8 025 000 cubic metres in January, up 7.7% from January 2000. Sales rose for six of the seven major product groups compared with January 2000; the largest gain was for heavy fuel oil (+222 500 cubic metres or +44.8%). The advance in heavy fuel oil sales reflects higher use of the product by utilities for electricity generation.

Total motor gasoline sales were up 135 700 cubic metres, or 4.6%, from January 2000. Sales of regular non-leaded gasoline grew 7.6%, while sales of mid- and premium grade gasoline dropped by 14.7% and 12.8%, respectively.

Sales of refined petroleum products

	Jan. 2000 ^r	Jan. 2001 ^p	Jan. 2000 to Jan. 2001 % change
	thousands of cubic metres		
Total, all products	7 453.3	8 025.0	7.7
Motor gasoline	2 918.7	3 054.4	4.6
Diesel fuel oil	1 770.8	1 858.1	4.9
Light fuel oil	731.8	752.8	2.9
Heavy fuel oil	496.2	718.7	44.8
Aviation turbo fuels	478.1	463.6	-3.0
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	370.7	409.1	10.4
All other refined products	687.0	768.3	11.8

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

¹ Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 628-642 and 644-647.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; hardele@statcan.ca) or Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368, desjger@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Changes to municipal boundaries, status and names

January 2, 2000 to January 1, 2001

The report, *Interim list of changes to municipal boundaries, status and names* summarizes the changes made to municipal boundaries, status and names that occurred between January 2, 2000 and January 1, 2001. These changes have been processed by Geography Division, and are based on information received from the provinces and territories.

Interim list of changes to municipal boundaries, status and names (92F0009XPB, \$25), released annually, is now available. See *How to order products*.

To order the report, or for more information, contact your nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre. ■

Financial statistics for railways 1999

Financial statistics for railways operating in 1999 are now available.

To obtain data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact J.R. Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat — A weekly review, March 2, 2001
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE (\$3/\$109).

Infomat — A weekly review, March 2, 2001
Catalogue number 11-002-XPE (\$4/\$145).

Interim list of changes to municipal boundaries, status and names, January 2, 2000 to January 1, 2001
Catalogue number 92F0009XPB (\$25).

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.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Discusses the attitudes on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-wind index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, vradtom@statcan.ca)

Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), simamad@statcan.ca

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The Daily, March 2, 2001

RELEASE DATES: MARCH 5 TO MARCH 9

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
7	Building permits	January 2001
7	Help-wanted Index	February 2001
9	Labour Force Survey	February 2001
9	Industrial capacity utilization rates	Fourth quarter 2000
