



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 17, 2001

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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Passenger cars were largely responsible for the 4.0% drop in the number of new motor vehicles sold in February.

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MAJOR RELEASES

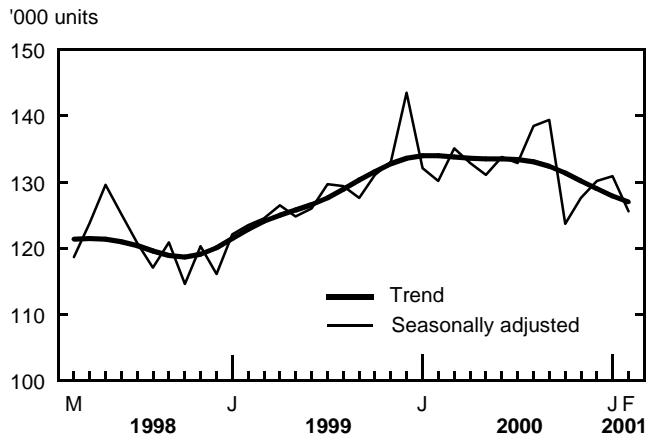
New motor vehicle sales

February 2001

Passenger cars were largely responsible for the 4.0% drop in the number of new motor vehicles sold in February. The percentage decrease in the number of new passenger cars sold was three times as large as that for trucks. In February, 125,615 new motor vehicles were sold.

February's decline put an end to the string of increases in new motor vehicle sales during the three previous months. Despite these rises, February sales were 9.9% lower than those of September 2000, the peak that preceded the steep drop in October (-11.2%). New motor vehicle sales have been slowing since the fall of 2000, following a fairly stable period that began at the start of that year. Previously new motor vehicle dealers had experienced robust growth extending back to late 1998.

New motor vehicle sales maintain a downward movement



Preliminary figures from the auto industry indicate a modest increase in March new motor vehicle sales.

Passenger car sales down

In February, 66,752 new passenger cars were sold, down 5.9% from January. This was the fourth decline in passenger car sales in five months; the only increase during this period was in December. February's drop for

Note to readers

Seasonally adjusted estimates of new motor vehicle sales have been revised for 1998, 1999 and 2000 to reflect an update in seasonal factors. Estimates of new motor vehicle sales unadjusted for seasonality have been revised for 2000 only.

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted. 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.

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

new passenger cars is mainly attributable to lower sales of North American-built passenger cars (-7.2%).

New passenger car sales have been slowing since the fall of 2000, following a period of generally rising sales that began in late 1998.

In February, 58,863 new trucks were sold, down 1.9% from January. This decline followed three consecutive monthly increases. Despite these increases, the number of new trucks sold in February was 8.8% lower than in September 2000, the month before sales dropped significantly.

Nearly all provinces saw lower February sales

New motor vehicles sales were down in all provinces in February compared with January, except in Saskatchewan (+0.3%). This was the fourth straight monthly increase reported in that province. As a result of these increases, the drop in sales since the summer of 2000 appears to be stabilizing. Before that, new motor vehicle sales in Saskatchewan had seen a period of modest growth extending back to the fall of 1998.

Prince Edward Island (-18.9%) and Nova Scotia (-12.9%) recorded the largest declines in sales in February compared with January. This was the third consecutive decrease for Prince Edward Island, while the decline in Nova Scotia followed two monthly increases.

In February, four other provinces — Newfoundland (-8.8%), Manitoba (-8.5%), Alberta (-6.2%), and New

Brunswick (-6.0%) — reported new motor vehicle sales decreases larger than the national average.

Available on CANSIM: tables 790001 and 790002, matrix 64.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The February 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 Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; kimacle@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

New motor vehicle sales

	February 2000 ^r	January 2001 ^r	February 2001 ^p	February 2000 to February 2001	January to February 2001
seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	130,232	130,906	125,615	-3.5	-4.0
Passenger cars	68,871	70,909	66,752	-3.1	-5.9
North American ¹	52,594	52,399	48,652	-7.5	-7.2
Overseas	16,276	18,509	18,100	11.2	-2.2
Trucks, vans and buses	61,361	59,998	58,863	-4.1	-1.9
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	1,986	1,855	1,691	-14.9	-8.8
Prince Edward Island	399	408	331	-17.0	-18.9
Nova Scotia	3,796	3,746	3,264	-14.0	-12.9
New Brunswick	3,607	3,076	2,890	-19.9	-6.0
Quebec	30,050	32,814	31,623	5.2	-3.6
Ontario	55,517	53,649	52,139	-6.1	-2.8
Manitoba	3,673	3,609	3,301	-10.1	-8.5
Saskatchewan	3,081	3,052	3,060	-0.7	0.3
Alberta	14,148	15,356	14,407	1.8	-6.2
British Columbia ²	13,973	13,342	12,909	-7.6	-3.2
	February 2000 ^r	January 2001 ^r	February 2001 ^p	February 2000 to February 2001	
unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	98,810	96,791	89,159	-9.8	
Passenger cars	50,495	48,782	45,700	-9.5	
North American ¹	38,829	37,666	33,571	-13.5	
Overseas	11,666	11,116	12,129	4.0	
Trucks, vans and buses	48,315	48,009	43,459	-10.1	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	1,317	1,063	1,063	-19.3	
Prince Edward Island	253	253	187	-26.1	
Nova Scotia	2,758	2,442	2,213	-19.8	
New Brunswick	2,679	2,087	2,008	-25.0	
Quebec	22,963	21,246	22,177	-3.4	
Ontario	41,011	41,373	36,165	-11.8	
Manitoba	2,739	2,809	2,298	-16.1	
Saskatchewan	2,263	2,553	2,103	-7.1	
Alberta	10,699	12,365	10,232	-4.4	
British Columbia ²	12,128	10,600	10,713	-11.7	

^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

Local government finance: Assets and liabilities

December 31, 1998

The net debt (defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets) of local governments was \$15.9 billion at December 31, 1998, a decrease of \$ 4.6 billion (-22.4%) from December 31, 1997. Financial assets were \$37.7 billion, and total liabilities were \$53.7 billion.

These statistics are based on the actual data released in local governments' annual reports as well as provincial governments' reports dated December 31, 1998 and converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System.

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments in Canada. Individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ. The FMS adjusts data from governments' Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. In other words, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements. A reconciliation statement of the two presentations is available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 3850014 and 3850017, matrices 3198 and 3241-3253.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

Data are available by custom and special tabulation. For more information on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767; joanne.rice@statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact A.J. Gareau (613-951-1826) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division. ■

Steel primary forms

February 2001

Steel primary forms production for February totalled 1 126 424 metric tonnes, a decrease of 19.1% from 1 392 498 tonnes in February 2000.

Year-to-date production was 2 323 638 tonnes, down 18.3% from 2 842 931 tonnes in the same period of 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030010, matrix 58 (level 2, series 3).

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Shipments of rolled steel

February 2001

Rolled steel shipments totalled 1 083 034 metric tonnes in February, down 11.3% from 1 221 062 tonnes in January and down 15.5% from 1 280 962 tonnes in February 2000.

Year-to-date shipments totalled 2 304 096 tonnes, down 9.7% from 2 552 426 tonnes in the same period of 2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030010, matrices 58 and 122 (series 22-25).

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Greg Milsom (613-951-7093; milsomg@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Domestic travel

Year 2000 and fourth quarter 2000 (preliminary)

Fourth quarter and annual 2000 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. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Primary iron and steel, February 2001
Catalogue number **41-001-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

Broadcasting and telecommunications service bulletin, Vol. 30, no. 4
Catalogue number **56-001-XIB** (\$10/\$32).

Telecommunications in Canada, 1998
Catalogue number **56-203-XIE** (\$32).

Entry exit component for labour interview, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, January 2000
Catalogue number **75F0002MIE00013**
(Free).

Labour interview questionnaire, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, January 2000
Catalogue number **75F0002MIE00015**
(Free).

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



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, about Canadian took an average of about 45 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 relatively weak, again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca)
Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), madeleine.simard@statcan.ca

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