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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 24, 2001
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

NEW PRODUCTS

Travel-log
Spring 2001

The Spring 2001 issue of *Travel-log*, Statistics Canada's quarterly tourism newsletter, features the article "Canada benefiting from cruising boom," which describes trends in the cruise market for the East and West coasts.

According to the article, cruise ships sailing the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans are bringing international visitors to Canada in unprecedented numbers. In 2000, about 640,000 international passengers sailed on cruise ships on both coasts, up 17% over 1999 and almost three times the level in 1990. Most ports anticipate good seasons in 2001. For example, the Vancouver Port Authority has 350 ports of call scheduled between May and the end of October, representing a potential of more than one million passengers.

Each quarter, *Travel-log* examines the trends of the Travel Price Index. It also features the latest travel indicators, travellers' characteristics and the international travel account.

The Spring 2001 issue of *Travel-log* (87-003-XIE, $5/$16; 87-003-XPB, $13/$42) is now available. See *How to order products.* For more information, contact Monique Beyrouti (613-951-1673; fax: 613-951-2909; beyrmon@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

MAJOR RELEASES

Retail trade

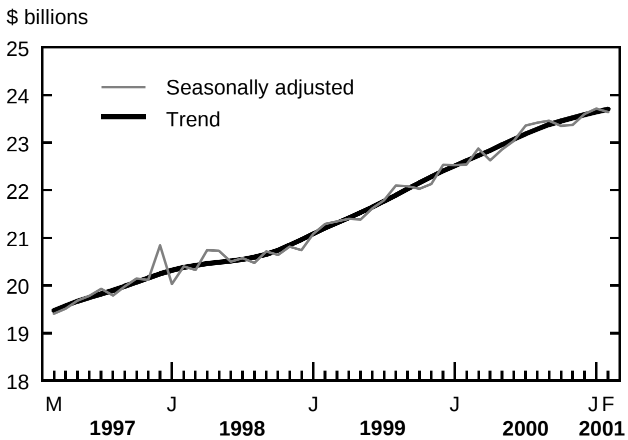
February 2001

Retail sales fell 0.3% in February to $23.6 billion after advancing 0.5% in January and 1.0% in December. Prior to December, retailers experienced a four-month period of essentially flat sales that followed important gains in May, June and July.

In constant dollars, retail sales declined 0.5% in February compared with January. The only significant price increases were confined to food and clothing.

In February, consumers spent less in the automotive sector (-1.8%), in the furniture sector (-1.5%) and in the clothing sector (-0.7%). Spending remained unchanged in general merchandise stores and increased only marginally in stores classified as other retail (+0.2%). The other retail category includes stores such as liquor, sporting goods, hardware and book stores. Food stores (+2.4%) and drug stores (+0.6%) posted the only significant monthly increases in February.

Retail sales declined in February after two months of strong increases



Sales setback for most retailers

Lower sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers (-3.5%) led to the 1.8% decline for the automotive sector in February. With this decline, motor and recreational vehicle dealers lost most of the sales gains reported in the previous three months. Sales by these dealers have weakened considerably since last summer, down 4.9% from the last peak reached in August 2000. Large cash rebates and attractive financing offers helped to stimulate sales of motor vehicles in most of the spring and summer 2000. In February 2001, sales by retailers of automotive parts, accessories and services advanced 2.4%, while higher prices for gasoline at the pump pushed sales up by 0.8% in gasoline service stations.

Note to users

Retail sales estimates are revised every year with the February release. The unadjusted monthly estimates in current and constant dollars for 1998, 1999, 2000 and January 2001 have been revised. Seasonal factors and seasonally adjusted estimates in current and constant dollars have also been revised for the period from January 1998 to January 2001. These revisions are now directly available on CANSIM II and CANSIM, and also by request from Statistics Canada. The revised 2000 estimates will also appear in the February 2001 issue of Retail trade *(63-005-XIB).*

After enjoying a robust January, retailers in the furniture sector posted a 1.5% decrease in February, their largest sales decline in more than a year. Sales in the furniture sector have been strong in the last four years, with annual gains ranging from 8.0% to 11.0%.

Weak consumer spending in all types of clothing stores in February led to a 0.7% sales decline in the clothing sector. Retail sales in this sector remained essentially unchanged since the fall of 2000 after advancing rapidly in the previous 12 months.

In February, retailers in the general merchandise sector posted no change in sales after two months of strong increases. Within this sector, the decline in department store sales (-1.1%) was offset by an increase in sales by other general merchandise stores (+1.4%). The rapid sales growth observed since early 1997 in other general merchandise stores has slowed since the summer of 2000. In contrast, department stores showed two slowdowns — in the spring of 1998 and in the second half of 1999. These slowdowns were mostly associated with restructuring in department stores.

As in December 2000, higher prices of fresh products explained a large part of February's sales increase in food stores (+2.4%). Food stores had posted a 2.8% decline in January when food prices remained essentially unchanged compared with the previous month. In 2000, retailers in the food sector experienced their strongest annual increase in sales since 1997.

Lower sales in all provinces except British Columbia

In February, retail sales declined in all provinces except in British Columbia (+1.5%). However, this sales increase in British Columbia followed a 1.1% decline in January, when most of the other provinces experienced strong sales. Retailers in British Columbia have generally been reporting strong sales gains since the fall of 1998 after a year of declines. British Columbia and Alberta continue to report strong sales gains, while other provinces have been affected by sales slowdowns during the second half of 2000.

Related indicators for March 2001

Total employment increased 0.2% in March following a decline of similar size in February and no change in January. Housing starts were down (-1.5%), while the number of new motor vehicles sold in March increased from February according to preliminary figures from the automotive industry.

Available on CANSIM: tables 800001-800005 and matrices 2399 and 2400 (main matrices), 2299, 2397, 2398, 2401-2416 and 2418-2420.

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

The February 2001 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, $16/$155; 63-005-XPB, $21/$206) will be available soon. See *How to order products.*

Retail sales estimates for March 2001 will be released on May 22.

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 Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; *gratpau@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. □

Retail sales

	February 2000[r]	November 2000[r]	December 2000[r]	January 2001[r]	February 2001[p]	January to February 2001	February 2000 to February 2001
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Food	**4,981**	**5,175**	**5,282**	**5,133**	**5,254**	**2.4**	**5.5**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,612	4,798	4,903	4,750	4,873	2.6	5.7
All other food stores	369	377	379	383	381	-0.6	3.2
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,094**	**1,151**	**1,148**	**1,163**	**1,171**	**0.6**	**7.0**
Clothing	**1,243**	**1,297**	**1,288**	**1,308**	**1,298**	**-0.7**	**4.5**
Shoe stores	148	146	147	143	143	0.3	-3.1
Men's clothing stores	131	122	121	128	122	-4.9	-6.7
Women's clothing stores	374	391	388	400	400	-0.1	6.7
Other clothing stores	590	638	632	637	634	-0.6	7.4
Furniture	**1,223**	**1,292**	**1,299**	**1,346**	**1,325**	**-1.5**	**8.3**
Household furniture and appliance stores	991	1,040	1,052	1,088	1,073	-1.4	8.3
Household furnishings stores	232	251	247	258	252	-2.2	8.6
Automotive	**9,032**	**9,357**	**9,410**	**9,516**	**9,342**	**-1.8**	**3.4**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,964	6,065	6,075	6,234	6,013	-3.5	0.8
Gasoline service stations	1,800	1,982	1,989	1,970	1,985	0.8	10.3
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,267	1,310	1,346	1,312	1,344	2.4	6.0
General merchandise stores	**2,550**	**2,593**	**2,675**	**2,707**	**2,706**	**0.0**	**6.1**
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,418**	**2,507**	**2,502**	**2,541**	**2,545**	**0.2**	**5.2**
Other semi-durable goods stores	716	713	716	719	718	-0.2	0.3
Other durable goods stores	610	641	642	647	654	1.0	7.1
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,092	1,152	1,144	1,174	1,174	-0.1	7.5
Total retail sales	**22,541**	**23,371**	**23,604**	**23,714**	**23,642**	**-0.3**	**4.9**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**16,577**	**17,306**	**17,529**	**17,480**	**17,628**	**0.8**	**6.3**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland	369	382	379	381	377	-0.9	2.2
Prince Edward Island	103	103	105	105	103	-2.0	-0.1
Nova Scotia	704	715	728	726	691	-4.7	-1.9
New Brunswick	566	582	582	595	590	-0.9	4.3
Quebec	5,163	5,287	5,395	5,368	5,361	-0.1	3.8
Ontario	8,632	8,979	9,032	9,108	9,059	-0.5	4.9
Manitoba	779	786	793	804	799	-0.7	2.6
Saskatchewan	674	677	675	692	688	-0.6	2.1
Alberta	2,557	2,718	2,732	2,791	2,778	-0.4	8.6
British Columbia	2,918	3,064	3,102	3,066	3,113	1.5	6.7
Yukon	28	28	30	27	31	13.9	10.8
Northwest Territories	32	34	36	35	36	3.0	11.6
Nunavut	15	16	16	16	16	1.1	8.1

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

Retail sales

	February 2000[r]	January 2001[r]	February 2001[p]	February 2000 to February 2001
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Food	**4,524**	**4,779**	**4,627**	**2.3**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,194	4,450	4,299	2.5
All other food stores	330	329	329	-0.4
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,032**	**1,133**	**1,072**	**3.9**
Clothing	**832**	**958**	**847**	**1.8**
Shoe stores	89	108	85	-4.3
Men's clothing stores	83	99	75	-9.2
Women's clothing stores	261	289	268	2.9
Other clothing stores	399	462	418	4.8
Furniture	**979**	**1,121**	**1,024**	**4.7**
Household furniture and appliance stores	791	914	828	4.7
Household furnishings stores	188	207	196	4.5
Automotive	**7,407**	**7,975**	**7,369**	**-0.5**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	4,836	5,070	4,658	-3.7
Gasoline service stations	1,593	1,798	1,715	7.7
Automotive parts, accessories and services	979	1,106	996	1.7
General merchandise stores	**1,889**	**1,991**	**1,953**	**3.4**
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**1,816**	**1,931**	**1,865**	**2.7**
Other semi-durable goods stores	507	529	492	-2.9
Other durable goods stores	455	516	478	4.9
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	854	886	896	4.9
Total retail sales	**18,479**	**19,887**	**18,757**	**1.5**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**13,643**	**14,816**	**14,100**	**3.3**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland	289	295	284	-1.5
Prince Edward Island	78	82	75	-3.7
Nova Scotia	574	601	549	-4.4
New Brunswick	446	475	450	0.8
Quebec	4,176	4,416	4,183	0.2
Ontario	7,044	7,617	7,163	1.7
Manitoba	648	684	648	0.0
Saskatchewan	555	600	548	-1.3
Alberta	2,103	2,392	2,212	5.2
British Columbia	2,505	2,658	2,579	3.0
Yukon	21	21	23	8.6
Northwest Territories	28	29	31	10.2
Nunavut	13	13	14	3.9

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

■

Principal field crops: seeding intentions

March 31, 2001

Prairie farmers intend to grow more spring wheat, dry peas, barley, summerfallow and oats in 2001, while slashing seeded areas for durum wheat and canola. Eastern farmers, meanwhile, are anticipating a record acreage of grain corn.

More western farmers were undecided about what they intend to plant this spring than in many other years, according to the March Intentions Survey. Given the current economic conditions of uncertain price expectations and soaring fuel and fertilizer costs, it makes sense that farmers this year would prefer crops requiring lower input costs such as dry peas, spring wheat, barley and oats.

In the southern areas of Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan, provincial reports indicate dry conditions while southeastern Saskatchewan and southeastern Manitoba are expecting wet soil conditions during planting season. These factors will influence the amount and types of crops producers will actually be able to seed.

Seeding intentions of major grains and oilseeds

Crop	2000	2001	2000 to 2001
	millions of acres		percent change
Total wheat	**27.6**	**27.3**	**-1**
Spring wheat	20.1	20.9	4
Barley	12.6	12.8	2
Canola	12.1	9.3	-23
Oats	4.5	4.9	9
Durum wheat	6.5	5.3	-18
Corn for Grain	2.9	3.1	7
Soybeans	2.6	2.5	-4
Field Peas	3.1	3.6	16
Flaxseed	1.5	1.4	-7
Summerfallow	11.6	13.3	15

Dry peas to set another consecutive record for seeded area

Dry pea acreage was expected to reach a record 3.6 million acres in 2001, a 16% increase from the record 3.1 million acres in 2000. Most of the increased area will be in Saskatchewan. The pea plant is the host for organisms which have the ability to fix nitrogen from the air, thus eliminating the need for the application of expensive nitrogen fertilizers. Peas are being used increasingly in domestic animal rations and are exported to Western Europe as well.

> ***Note to Users***
>
> *The March Intentions Survey of 12,200 farm operators was conducted by telephone during the last week of March. This report contains producers' seeding intentions for field crops in the coming crop year 2001–2002. Since these seeding intentions reflect producers' plans in March, they may differ from what will actually be seeded later in the year. Changes in market outlook, expected prices and spring weather conditions, as well as the published seeding intentions themselves, may alter prospective cropping patterns. Estimates of actual seeded areas will be released on June 29.*

Canola acreage drops

Producers of canola, Canada's major oilseed, reported that they intend to cut acreage to 9.3 million acres, a drop of 2.8 million acres from 2000 and the lowest since 1996 when seeded area was 8.7 million acres. High input costs for fertilizer and chemicals are the main deterrents to higher seeded area.

Spring wheat and durum wheat exchange acreage

Lower inputs costs for spring wheat coupled with market forecasts that predict price increases in the near future are incentives for boosting acreage to 20.9 million acres, 0.8 million acres more than last year.

Western farmers expect to plant 5.3 million acres of durum wheat, a drop of 1.2 million acres from last year's level. As a comparison, the recent five-year average is 5.8 million acres and the record was last set in 1998 at 7.3 million acres. Falling preliminary price forecasts for durum based on continued lower international demand are discouraging producers.

Record grain corn crop expected in the East

In 2001 eastern corn producers reported that they intend to seed a record 3.0 million acres, 200,000 acres more than the 2.8 million acres in 2000. The popularity of grain corn is based on its use in the primary ration for the hog industry in the two highest hog producing provinces, Ontario and Quebec, as well as input to the growing fuel ethanol industry.

Available on CANSIM: tables 10004, 10010, 10017-20, and matrices 1025-1043, 1046-1051, 3541-3565.

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

Field crop reporting series no. 2: March intentions of principal field crop areas, Canada, 2001 (22-002-XIB, $11/$66; 22-002-XPB, $15/$88) 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 David Burroughs at (613-951-5138; *dave.burroughs@statcan.ca*) or David Roeske (613-951-0572; *david.roeske@statcan.ca*) Agriculture Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Farm families' total income

1998

Farm families obtained proportionally more income from non-farm sources in 1998 than they did in 1997, according to analysis of data from personal income tax returns. Income from non-farming activities accounted for approximately 71 cents of every dollar in farm family income in 1998, two cents higher than in 1997.

On average, farm family income was $61,108 in 1998, up 3.2% from 1997, a slower pace of increase than the 4.2% gain in 1997.

This overall increase in 1998 resulted from a 6.1% gain in off-farm income, which offset a 3.3% decline in net farm operating income (before depreciation). Average off-farm income amounted to $43,677 in 1998, about 71% of total income. Average net farm operating income totalled $17,432, or 29% of total income.

Almost four-fifths of farm families had off-farm employment income, which averaged $29,309 in 1998, up 7.0% from 1997. In 1998, the labour market remained robust, thus offering good employment opportunities. The Labour Force Survey reported that employment in Canada in all sectors grew at a healthy pace for a second consecutive year in 1998, up 2.6% from 1997.

Also contributing to the growth in average total income were a 7.3% increase in average pension income, and a 6.8% increase in other off-farm income, which included increased payouts from the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA provides financial assistance to producers by stabilizing their net income).

Investment income of farm families fell 1.2% in 1998 due to a 5.4% drop in dividend income from taxable Canadian corporations. Average investment income declined at a slower pace than in 1997 (-3.7%) due to higher interest rates - the Bank of Canada rate rose from an average of 3.52% in 1997 to 5.10% in 1998. Average interest income increased 0.7%. Three-quarters of farm families received investment income, unchanged from 1997.

Wages and salaries were still the most important source of off-farm income in 1998, accounting for 61% of the total. Pension income accounted for 12% of total off-farm income, and investment income, 10%.

Families specializing in poultry and egg production had the highest average total income ($78,607), a slight 0.5% gain from 1997. Families operating tobacco farms were a close second at $78,244, followed by those operating grain and oilseed farms ($66,857). Families operating potato farms posted the largest percentage gain (+29.5%) due to substantial growth in both the average net farm operating income (+41.7%) and off-farm income (+21.3%).

Families who ran hog farms posted the largest decline in income (-23.6%) due to a substantial 55.2% decrease in average net farm operating income. They also had the lowest average total income ($42,165).

Among the provinces, farm families in Alberta reported the highest average total income ($65,158), up 5.4% from 1997, slightly higher than the average of $64,530 posted in Ontario. Families in Prince Edward Island had the largest percentage gain, up 15.1% to $57,482. This growth was due to a substantial gain (+39.8%) in the average net farm operating income. Farm families in Newfoundland recorded the only decline, down 4.0%. They also had the lowest average total income at $48,694.

Farm families in British Columbia reported the highest average off-farm income ($54,452), followed by those in Alberta ($49,246). Farm families in Quebec again recorded the lowest off-farm income ($31,559).

Off-farm income includes employment income (wages and salaries; and net off-farm self-employment income), investment income, pension income and other income (government social transfers — excluding pensions — such as social assistance payments and child tax benefits; Registered Retirement Savings Plan income; and other income such as alimony or maintenance income and NISA payouts).

Sources of farm families' income

	1997	1998	1997 to 1998
	$		% change
Off-farm employment income	27 393	29 309	7.0
Wages and salaries	24 830	26 748	7.7
Net non-farm self-employment	2 563	2 562	- -
Investment income	4 542	4 486	-1.2
Pension income	4 919	5 278	7.3
Other off-farm income	4 310	4 603	6.8
Total off-farm income[1]	**41 165**	**43 677**	**6.1**
Net farm operating income [2]	18 029	17 432	-3.3
Total farm families' income	**59 195**	**61 108**	**3.2**

- - *Amount too small to be expressed.*
1 *Excluding taxable capital gains.*
2 *Before capital cost allowance.*

These estimates refer to the income of families involved in a single unincorporated farm with gross operating revenue of $10,000 or more in 1998. Families are defined as husband and wife, legal or common law, with or without their never married children; or lone parent with at least one child, of any age, never married.

For custom data requests, contact the Client Services Unit (1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lina Di Piétro (613-951-3171; fax: 613-951-3868; *lina.dipietro@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

National income and expenditure accounts, quarterly estimates, Fourth quarter 2000
Catalogue number 13-001-XIB ($33/$109).

National income and expenditure accounts, quarterly estimates, Fourth quarter 2000
Catalogue number 13-001-XPB ($44/$145).

Field crop reporting series, Vol. 80 no. 2
Catalogue number 22-002-XIB ($11/$66).

Field crop reporting series, Vol. 80 no. 2
Catalogue number 22-002-XPB ($15/$88).

Sawmills and plaining mills, January 2001
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB ($9/$86).

Travel-log, Spring 2000
Catalogue number 87-003-XIE ($5/$16).

Travel-log, Spring 2000
Catalogue number 87-003-XPB ($13/$42).

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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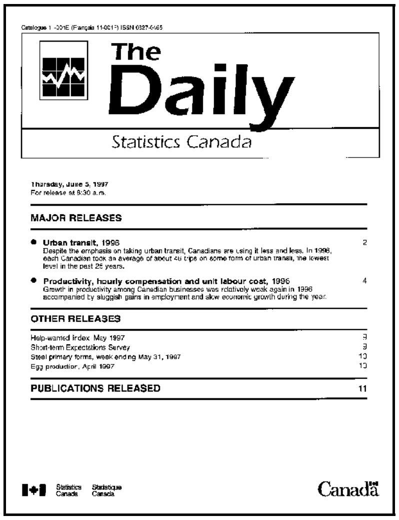

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 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.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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