



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, April 9, 2001

For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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NEW PRODUCTS

Networked Canada

1993 to 1999

The publication *Networked Canada* provides the first-ever comprehensive statistical profile of Canada's rapidly evolving information and communications technology (ICT) sector. It is particularly useful for industry analysts, policy-makers, businesses, governments and educators.

Produced under Statistics Canada's Connectedness program, it examines the growth and performance of the ICT sector on the basis of such variables as economic output, employment, exports, imports, revenues and research and development. It also examines individual ICTs as commodities, notably the Internet, analysing their penetration and use across all economic sectors.

Networked Canada, 1993 to 1999 (56-504-XIE, \$38) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Heidi Ertl (613-951-1891) or George Sciadas (613-951-6389), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division.



OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales and stocks

February 2001

Department store sales fell to \$1.62 billion (seasonally adjusted) in February, down 1.1% from January. This decline followed two consecutive increases in December (+4.7%) and January (+4.4%). While down slightly in February, sales were still above the level reached in August 1999, a few months before the last restructuring in the industry.

Department store sales have maintained an upward movement that began in the spring of 2000. Previously, they had been declining since September 1999, following a period of increases that lasted more than a year.

At the national level, department store sales, unadjusted for seasonality, advanced 6.8% in February compared with February 2000. Year-over-year sales grew most in Alberta (+11.7%), followed by the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (+9.2%). Ontario (+7.5%) and Saskatchewan (+7.5%) also posted strong year-over-year gains. Nova Scotia (-2.9%) was the only province to report decreased sales.

Note: Seasonally adjusted data on department store sales were revised for 1998, 1999 and 2000 to reflect new seasonal factors.

Department store sales including concessions

	Feb. 2000	Feb. 2001	Feb. 2000 to Feb. 2001	Jan. to Feb. 2001	Jan.-Feb. 2000 to Jan.-Feb. 2001
	not seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	1,032.8	1,103.5	6.8	2,206.8	8.0
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ¹	20.4	21.0	3.2	41.6	5.3
Nova Scotia	29.7	28.9	-2.9	58.0	1.7
New Brunswick	22.8	23.0	1.1	46.6	6.0
Quebec	187.6	193.8	3.3	394.1	5.7
Ontario	442.0	475.1	7.5	949.5	8.1
Manitoba	43.6	46.0	5.6	91.2	7.4
Saskatchewan	36.7	39.4	7.5	79.3	9.3
Alberta	124.2	138.7	11.7	274.7	11.7
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut ¹	125.9	137.5	9.2	271.7	9.2

¹ For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island are combined as are data for British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 111, 112 (series 1) and 113 (series 3).

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

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

January 2001 (preliminary)

Sales by the group of large retailers totalled \$5.4 billion in January, up 5.4% from January 2000. All major commodity groups recorded year-over-year sales increases. Health and personal care products, other goods and services, and home furnishings and electronics posted the largest gains for the group. (All data in this release are unadjusted for seasonality.)

January sales of health and personal care products for the group of large retailers were up 11.1% from January 2000. Drug sales, which include prescription and over-the counter drugs, climbed 13.0%; sales of personal care products, which include cosmetics and other toiletries, were up 8.9%.

The all other goods and services category continued a strong advance. This commodity group posted a 10.5% increase over January 2000. This gain is largely attributable to fuel prices, which continued to be much higher than one year earlier. Sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives were up 20.5%.

Home furnishings and electronics sales were up 10.4% in January. After a moderate cooling-off period that started in July 2000, sales of home furnishings and electronics were reinvigorated in January 2001. The 10.4% year-over-year sales rise was back to a level similar to those posted in the latter half of 1999 and the first half of 2000.

In the home furnishings and electronics category, furniture sales were up 12.2% for the group of large retailers over January 2000. Consumer demand for most home electronic products also continued to increase. Sales of computer software (+44.6%); telephones and home office electronics (+25.8%); and televisions and audio/visual equipment (+15.9%) were all significantly higher than in January 2000. For the third month in a row, sales of computers, components and related equipment were weak for the group of large retailers, up 1.7% from January 2000.

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	Dec. 2000 ^r	Jan. 2000 ^r	Jan. 2001 ^p	Jan. 2000 to Jan. 2001
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Commodities				
Food and beverages	2,641	1,970	1,989	1.0
Clothing, footwear and accessories	2,255	800	834	4.2
Home furnishings and electronics	1,663	754	833	10.4
Health and personal care products	733	433	481	11.1
Housewares	427	261	281	7.6
Sporting and leisure goods	679	199	213	7.3
Hardware and lawn and garden products	270	138	142	2.3
All other goods and services	890	545	602	10.5
Total	9,558	5,100	5,374	5.4

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

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. ■

Networked Canada: The information and communications technology sector 1993 to 1999

This publication, *Networked Canada*, provides the first-ever comprehensive statistical profile of Canada's rapidly evolving information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

Produced under Statistics Canada's Connectedness program, it examines the growth and performance of the ICT sector on the basis of such variables as economic output, employment, exports, imports, revenues and research and development. It also examines individual ICTs as commodities, analyzing their penetration and use across all economic sectors: households, businesses and governments, including education.

In 1999, the sector contributed \$43.3 billion to Canada's gross domestic product (GDP), not including ICT wholesaling, which accounted for 6.9% of business sector GDP. Economic output in the ICT sector increased by a remarkable 78.3% between 1993 and 1999. This

was almost three times the growth rate of the total business sector (+27.8%), and more than three times the growth in the total economy (+21.8%).

The ICT sector employed 421,000 people in 1998, 3.5% of economy-wide employment. Employment between 1993 and 1998 increased 23.0%, more than twice the growth rate of the entire economy (+10.0%).

The sector's revenues reached \$78.8 billion in 1998 (not including ICT wholesaling), or 4.4% of total industry revenues.

Trade also grew at a remarkable pace, as both imports and exports more than doubled between 1993 and 1999. In 1999, ICT exports of goods and services totalled \$30.3 billion, accounting for 8.0% of total exports. Imports reached \$53.8 billion, accounting for 15.4% of the total. The ICT sector's spending on research and development reached \$4.2 billion in 1998, accounting for 46.0% of total private sector spending on research and development.

Networked Canada, 1993 to 1999 (56-504-XIE, \$38) 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 Heidi Ertl (613-951-1891) or George Sciadas (613-951-6389), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Personal income and expenditure by province 2000

Personal income rose in all provinces and territories in 2000. Alberta, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories recorded gains of at least 7.0%. Ontario and Nunavut also outperformed the national average of 6.1%. The gains posted in Quebec, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Atlantic provinces were sizable but below the national average. Yukon posted the lowest growth, 3.0%.

Labour income surged in all provinces and territories except Yukon, where growth stalled. The generally strong increase came from both employment gains and rising average earnings. The robust 8.5% advance in labour income in Alberta was concentrated in the construction, commercial services and manufacturing industries. Wages and salaries in Ontario and Quebec benefited from federal pay equity payments.

Farm operators posted variable results. Manitoba and Saskatchewan felt the effects of continued weakness in grain and oilseed prices, which have been low since 1997. However, net incomes were bolstered by increased payments from farm aid programs, as well

as higher revenues for livestock producers as a result of strong demand.

Higher labour income, along with tax cuts, gave an extra boost to personal disposable income in Alberta and Ontario. Manitoba posted growth in excess of 6%, owing to a surge in labour income and a recovery in farm income. The solid growth of disposable income was reflected in strong increases in personal expenditure in all provinces. Alberta posted the best personal expenditure performance, which pushed up retail sales a solid 8.9%.

Household spending

	Personal income	Personal expenditure on consumer goods and services
	% change	
Canada	6.1	5.8
Newfoundland	4.4	5.1
Prince Edward Island	5.1	6.4
Nova Scotia	4.7	5.4
New Brunswick	4.9	5.0
Quebec	5.7	4.9
Ontario	6.4	6.3
Manitoba	7.0	4.6
Saskatchewan	4.4	5.1
Alberta	7.3	7.5
British Columbia	5.3	5.3
Yukon	3.0	5.3
Northwest Territories	8.5	6.1
Nunavut	6.4	5.3

Available on CANSIM: matrices 8969, 9205-9216, 9218, and 9232.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-3640; iead-info-dcrd@statcan.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division. ■

Shipments of office furniture products

December 2000

Shipments of office furniture products totalled \$1,310.2 million in the six-month period ended December 31, 2000, up 24.0% compared with \$1,056.9 million shipped during the same period of 1999.

Data on manufacturers' shipments of office furniture products for the last half of 2000 are now available. Data for province of destination as well as exports are also available.

The December 2000 issue of *Shipments of office furniture products*, Vol. 29, no. 2 (35-006-XIB, \$11/\$21) 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 Don Grant (613-951-5998 grantdo@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Egg production

February 2001 (preliminary)

Egg production estimates for February are now available.

Available on CANSIM: 1145, 1146 and 5689-5691.

To order *Production of eggs* (23-003-XPB, \$110), contact Julie Gordon (613-951-5039), Agriculture Division.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Sandy Giefeldt (613-951-2505) or Gilles Beaudry (613-951-7128; gilles.beaudry@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Egg production, February 2001
Catalogue number 23-003-XPB (\$110).

Shipments of office furniture products, Vol. 29 no. 2, December 2000
Catalogue number 35-006-XIB (\$11/\$21).

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, February 2001
Catalogue number 46-002-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Networked Canada, 1993 to 1999
Catalogue number 56-504-XIE (\$38).

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

Order products by phone:

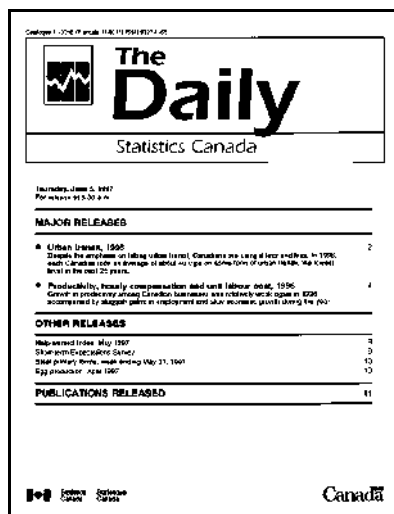
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