



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, May 22, 2001  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

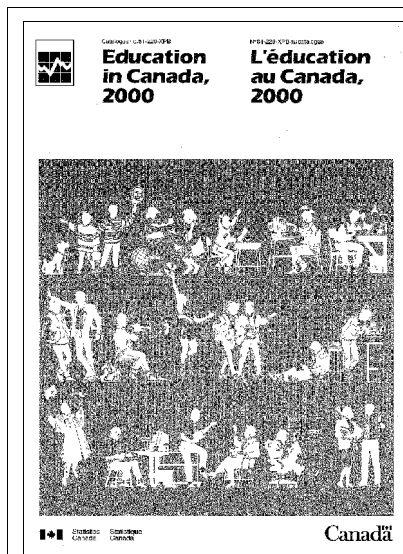
## MAJOR RELEASES

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Retailers sold \$23.7 billion worth of goods and services in March, up 0.3% from February.

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### Education in Canada 2000

Need more data on education in Canada? Want to research issues and trends in more depth? Consult *Education in Canada*, our annual review of statistics on Canadian education. *Education in Canada* summarizes data on institutions, enrolment, graduates, teachers and finance for all levels of education. Its 206 pages, which include 71 tables, present a comprehensive overview of the key variables in Canadian education.

Ten-year time series are shown for most variables at the Canada level and five-year time series at the provincial level. The publication also provides demographic data from the Census and educational attainment, labour force participation rates and unemployment rates of the adult population from the Labour Force Survey.

*Education in Canada, 2000* (81-229-XIB, \$38; 81-229-XPB, \$51) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Client Services, Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca)).



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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Retail trade

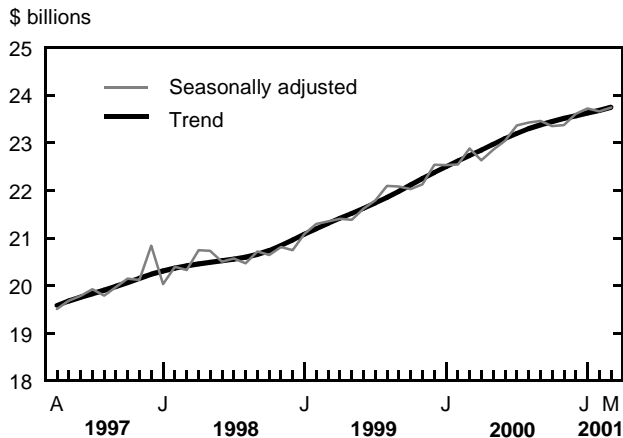
March 2001 and first quarter 2001

Retailers sold \$23.7 billion worth of goods and services in March, up 0.3% from the previous month. This increase offset the 0.3% decline in February.

Retailers reported strong monthly sales increases in January 2001 (+0.5%) and December 2000 (+1.0%), after experiencing a period of essentially flat sales that started in July 2000. In March 2001, retail sales were 1.6% higher than they were in July 2000. In constant dollars, sales were up 1.1% over the same period.

Despite not growing over February and March, retail sales were 1.1% higher in the first quarter of 2001 than in the fourth quarter of 2000. This quarterly gain followed unchanged sales in the last quarter of 2000 (+0.1%) compared with the third quarter.

Retail sales have idled since January



Consumers spent considerably more during March compared with February in furniture stores (+1.9%) and in clothing stores (+0.9%) than in other retail establishments. Smaller sales advances were noted in the automotive sector (+0.5%), in general merchandise stores (+0.4%) and in drug stores (+0.4%). Food stores posted a 0.3% sales decline in March.

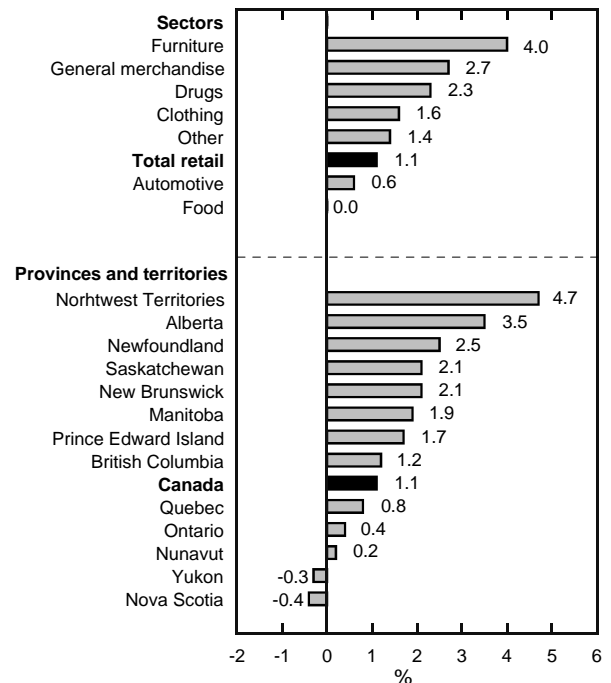
Retail sales advanced at least 1.0% during March in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Alberta and Prince Edward Island. Quebec retailers reported a 0.6% sales increase, while those in British Columbia posted a 0.6% decline. Sales in Ontario (-0.2%) fell slightly in March.

### Furniture led other sectors in the first quarter

Sales in furniture stores jumped 4.0% in the first quarter of 2001 compared with the last quarter of 2000. The housing market, still building on its 2000 performance, was partly responsible for the strong first quarter sales results in furniture stores. Retailers in the furniture sector have been reporting strong quarterly gains since the third quarter of 1996.

Quarterly retail sales

First quarter of 2001 over fourth quarter of 2000



A significant gain in department store sales (+4.8%) in the first quarter led to a 2.7% sales increase in the general merchandise sector. The opening of several new stores in late November 2000 stimulated department store sales in the first quarter of 2001. This was the strongest quarterly gain in department store sales since the third quarter of 1999 (+5.9%), when the stock of a major player was being liquidated.

### Automotive and food sectors lagged

The automotive and food sectors were the only groups reporting sales below the overall retail average in the first quarter.

In the automotive sector (+0.6%), lower sales by gasoline service stations in the first quarter (-0.7%) were mostly responsible for the weaker growth. The average price of gasoline at the pump fell 4.4% in the first quarter of 2001 compared with the fourth quarter of 2000. This was the first quarterly decline in gasoline prices since the last quarter of 1998. Motor and recreational vehicle dealers posted a 1.1% sales increase in the first quarter of 2001, after reporting a 3.6% decline in sales in the fourth quarter of 2000. Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers weakened in the fall of 2000, following a period of strong sales, mostly driven by incentives, in the spring and summer of that year.

After posting the strongest quarterly gain of all sectors in the fourth quarter of 2000 (+1.8%), sales in food stores remained unchanged in the first quarter of 2001. Retailers in the food sector experienced faster growth in 2000, posting their strongest annual sales increase in the last three years.

#### **Below-average quarterly gains in Ontario and Quebec**

Retail sales advanced in all provinces and territories in the first quarter of 2001, except Yukon (-0.3%) and Nova Scotia (-0.4%). The Northwest Territories (+4.7%) and Alberta (+3.5%) led other regions in terms of retail sales growth in the first quarter. However, retailers in Ontario (+0.4%) and Quebec (+0.8%) each posted sales increases below the national average for the second consecutive quarter. In March, retail sales in Ontario and Quebec were essentially at the same level as seen last July.

#### **Related indicators for April**

Total employment advanced 0.2% in both April and March, after a decline of similar size in February and no change in January. The number of housing starts in April rose 3.1%, following two monthly declines. In January, housing starts jumped 19.3%. Preliminary figures from the automotive industry show a sizeable increase in the number of new motor vehicles sold in April compared with March. In April, the Bank Rate was reduced to 5.25% from 5.75% in March.

**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 March 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 April will be released on June 21.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto: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](mailto:gratpau@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. □

**Retail sales**

	March 2000	December 2000	January 2001 <sup>r</sup>	February 2001 <sup>r</sup>	March 2001 <sup>p</sup>	February to March 2001	March to March 2000
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,026</b>	<b>5,282</b>	<b>5,135</b>	<b>5,259</b>	<b>5,243</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,654	4,903	4,750	4,874	4,859	-0.3	4.4
All other food stores	372	379	384	385	384	-0.1	3.4
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>7.1</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Shoe stores	155	147	143	143	141	-1.4	-8.7
Men's clothing stores	132	121	128	122	122	-0.5	-7.6
Women's clothing stores	392	388	402	406	409	0.7	4.3
Other clothing stores	598	632	639	637	648	1.7	8.4
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>9.6</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,002	1,052	1,086	1,077	1,101	2.3	9.9
Household furnishings stores	234	247	258	252	253	0.6	8.3
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,245</b>	<b>9,410</b>	<b>9,509</b>	<b>9,329</b>	<b>9,378</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,100	6,075	6,237	6,016	6,101	1.4	0.0
Gasoline service stations	1,841	1,989	1,962	1,967	1,950	-0.9	5.9
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,304	1,346	1,310	1,347	1,327	-1.4	1.8
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,547</b>	<b>2,675</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>2,715</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,444</b>	<b>2,502</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	726	716	721	725	730	0.7	0.7
Other durable goods stores	610	642	646	653	649	-0.6	6.3
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,108	1,144	1,174	1,173	1,166	-0.6	5.2
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>22,877</b>	<b>23,604</b>	<b>23,717</b>	<b>23,657</b>	<b>23,737</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>16,777</b>	<b>17,529</b>	<b>17,481</b>	<b>17,641</b>	<b>17,635</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland	376	379	384	385	397	3.1	5.7
Prince Edward Island	101	105	105	104	105	1.3	4.4
Nova Scotia	703	728	725	692	721	4.1	2.5
New Brunswick	588	582	595	587	585	-0.3	-0.4
Quebec	5,305	5,395	5,374	5,385	5,415	0.6	2.1
Ontario	8,758	9,032	9,098	9,024	9,006	-0.2	2.8
Manitoba	779	793	805	802	802	0.0	2.9
Saskatchewan	682	675	692	688	687	-0.3	0.8
Alberta	2,581	2,732	2,796	2,787	2,838	1.8	10.0
British Columbia	2,929	3,102	3,066	3,118	3,099	-0.6	5.8
Yukon	29	30	27	31	29	-6.9	0.9
Northwest Territories	33	36	35	36	37	4.1	12.1
Nunavut	16	16	16	16	16	0.4	3.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

## Retail sales

	March 2000	February 2001 <sup>r</sup>	March 2001 <sup>p</sup>	March 2000 to March 2001
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Food</b>	<b>4,963</b>	<b>4,633</b>	<b>5,320</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,612	4,300	4,953	7.4
All other food stores	351	333	367	4.6
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Shoe stores	126	85	116	-8.5
Men's clothing stores	101	76	97	-4.0
Women's clothing stores	331	273	353	6.7
Other clothing stores	517	420	568	9.8
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>11.3</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	906	829	1,018	12.4
Household furnishings stores	218	196	233	7.0
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,553</b>	<b>7,389</b>	<b>9,480</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,584	4,665	6,442	-2.2
Gasoline service stations	1,783	1,723	1,849	3.7
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,186	1,000	1,189	0.2
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>1,948</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>1,872</b>	<b>2,153</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	567	498	571	0.8
Other durable goods stores	496	478	527	6.2
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	987	896	1,055	6.9
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>22,078</b>	<b>18,801</b>	<b>22,872</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>15,494</b>	<b>14,136</b>	<b>16,430</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland	358	289	392	9.6
Prince Edward Island	87	76	92	5.2
Nova Scotia	663	550	683	3.0
New Brunswick	553	451	548	-0.9
Quebec	5,194	4,212	5,295	1.9
Ontario	8,381	7,149	8,557	2.1
Manitoba	766	652	790	3.1
Saskatchewan	644	550	648	0.7
Alberta	2,495	2,217	2,759	10.5
British Columbia	2,860	2,589	3,026	5.8
Yukon	27	23	26	-0.6
Northwest Territories	35	30	40	15.8
Nunavut	16	14	17	6.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Labour productivity and multifactor productivity

2000 (revised)

This release updates detailed industry data on labour and multifactor productivity in Canada's business sector.

These revisions came from a normal process used in Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts, and from an Agency initiative to improve statistical coverage of surveys in the services sector. New survey information on the services sector has led to an upward revision in real value-added growth in the services sector in 1997. Equally important, some manufacturing and construction activities have been reclassified to the services industries, specifically in wholesale trade and services to businesses.

As a result of these revisions, the average annual labour productivity growth rate in the business sector has been revised upwards from 1.0% to 1.3% for the period from 1988 to 2000. The average annual growth rate in multifactor productivity has been revised from 0.7% to 0.8%. The higher revision to labour productivity growth comes from the adoption of a value-added measure at basic price to derive this ratio.

Productivity growth — a measure of the efficiency with which the economy transforms inputs into output — is important because it largely determines the increase in real income. Labour productivity measures the growth of output per hour worked; multifactor productivity, a broader indicator, measures the productive efficiency of labour input and capital input in combination.

While the trend in the overall productivity growth rate remains much the same as previously reported, revisions have resulted in shifts in the underlying sectoral components — the goods sector as opposed to the services sector.

In the goods sector, the growth in real value-added was revised downward from 5.7% to 4.4% for 1997. This decline was more than offset by an upward revision in the services sector. The growth rate of real value added in the services sector (excluding owner-occupied dwellings) in 1997 increased from 4.9% to 6.8%.

Moreover, growth in real value-added in the services sector has been revised upward for 1998 and 1999. This has produced a slight increase in the growth in real value-added for the entire business sector for the years 1997, 1998 and 1999. Real value-added was revised up 0.5 percentage points in 1997, 0.3 percentage points in 1998 and 0.4 percentage points in 1999.

These revisions had a downward impact on the growth of both labour and multifactor productivity

measures in goods-producing businesses after 1996. However, this downward shift was more than offset by an increase in productivity growth in services-producing businesses. For the business sector as a whole, the growth in labour productivity remained the same in 1997, but was revised upward for 1998 and 1999.

For services, the average annual growth rate in labour productivity from 1988 to 2000 was 1.2%, compared with 0.8% previously reported for the period 1988 to 1999. In manufacturing, the average annual growth rate from 1988 to 2000 was 2.1%, compared with 2.2% reported previously for the 1988–1999 period.

Revisions were also made for the multifactor productivity estimates. The average annual growth rate for multifactor productivity in services from 1988 to 2000 was 0.4%, compared with 0.2% for the period 1988 to 1999. In manufacturing, the average annual growth rate between 1988 and 2000 was 1.7%, compared with 1.6% reported previously for the 1988–1999 period.

In the manufacturing sector, both measures of productivity show that the performance in the 1990s remained much the same as it was in the 1980s. In contrast, productivity growth in the services sector was higher in the 1990s. Thus, the higher productivity growth in the business sector as a whole in the 1990s was due to the higher productivity growth in the services sector.

**Note:** The most detailed industry level data now incorporate final estimates from the input–output tables for 1996 and interim data for 1997, as announced in *The Daily* on September 28, 2000.

A more aggregated set of industry data also integrates subsequent revisions up to 1999 in the preliminary annual estimates of productivity. The estimates of gross domestic product for labour productivity are now calculated at basic prices rather than at factor costs and are, therefore, now consistent with the multifactor productivity estimates that already use a chain Fisher index of GDP valued at basic prices. This corresponds to GDP at factor cost adjusted for taxes and subsidies (for definitions of labour productivity and multifactor productivity and the business sector used here, see *Productivity Growth in Canada*, (15-204-XIE, \$35; 15-204-XPE, \$46). As of May 31, the Income and Expenditure Accounts will also adopt the chain Fisher index formula as the measure of real expenditure-based GDP (See *The Daily*, May 4).

The definition of the business sector used for productivity measures excludes all non-commercial production activities as well as the rental value of owner-occupied dwellings.

### Productivity performance based on real value-added

	1979 to 1988	1988 to 2000
	Annual growth rate (%)	
<b>Business sector</b>		
Labour productivity	1.1	1.3
Multifactor productivity	0.5	0.8
<b>Business sector — services</b>		
Labour productivity	0.8	1.2
Multifactor productivity	0.2	0.4
<b>Business sector — goods</b>		
Labour productivity	1.7	1.7
Multifactor productivity	0.7	1.2
<b>Manufacturing industries</b>		
Labour productivity	2.1	2.1
Multifactor productivity	1.7	1.7

**Note:** Real value-added (or real GDP) excludes among other things the GDP arising from rents of owner-occupied dwellings. Value-added is calculated at basic prices using a chain Fisher index formula.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 3830001, 3830003-3830005 and 3830007 and matrices 9456-9458 and 9460-9483.**

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.

To request data, contact *productivity.measures@statcan.ca*. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Tarek M. Harchaoui (613-951-9856; *harctar@statcan.ca*), or Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; fax: 613-951-5403; *maynard@statcan.ca*), Micro-economic Studies and Analysis Division. ■

### Construction Union Wage Rate Index

April 2001

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada was unchanged in April from the March level of 117.8 (1992=100). The composite index was up 2.4% from April 2000.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 3270003 and 3270004 and matrices 956, 958 and 9922-9927.**

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 second quarter 2001 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in September. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Susie Boyd (613-951-9606; *infounit@statcan.ca*, fax: 613-951-1539) Prices Division. ■

### Shipments of rolled steel

March 2001

Rolled steel shipments for totalled 1 253 649 metric tonnes in March, up 15.8% from 1 083 034 tonnes in February, and down 11.8% from 1 421 033 tonnes in March 2000.

Year-to-date shipments at the end of March totalled 3 557 745 tonnes, down 10.5% from 3 973 459 tonnes in the same period of 2000.

**Available on CANSIM: table 3030010 and 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. ■

### Steel primary forms

March 2001

Steel primary forms production totalled 1 267 714 metric tonnes in March, down 16.9% from 1 525 673 tonnes in March 2000.

Year-to-date production reached 3 591 352 tonnes, down 17.8% from 4 368 604 tonnes in the same period of 2000.

**Available on CANSIM: table 3030010 and 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.



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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](mailto:milsomg@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Restaurants, caterers and taverns

March 2001

Estimated total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns for March were \$2.70 billion, an increase of 9.3% over the March 2000 estimate.

**Available on CANSIM: table 3550001 and matrix 62.**

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 Bill Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services Industries Division. ■

### Civil aviation operating statistics

January and February 2001

Air Canada reported a 1% increase in its total passenger-kilometres in January and a 2% decrease in February. (All data referred to here are seasonally adjusted.)

**Available on CANSIM: table 4010001 and matrix 385 (series 1 to 6).**

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 January and February operational data on civil aviation for Air Canada will appear, respectively, in the April and May 2001 issues of *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82). A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Lund (613-951-0125) or Lisa Di Piédro (613-951-0146), Transportation Division. ■

### Children and youth at risk: Symposium report

April 2000

The report *Children and youth at risk* documents the proceedings of a symposium held in Ottawa on April 6 and 7, 2000 to explore research and policy issues concerning the education of children who, for whatever reason, are at risk of not meeting the normal expectations of the education system.

It includes summaries of presentations, discussions and commissioned research papers. The themes and issues are summarized in a synthesis written by Dr. Robert Crocker of the faculty of education at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The symposium was held as an activity of the Pan-Canadian Education Research Agenda. The Canadian Education Statistics Council — a partnership between Statistics Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada — started this research program with a view to promoting research on policy issues in education of concern to researchers, policy-makers and practitioners. Human Resources Development Canada provided financial support for the symposium.

*Children and youth at risk — symposium report* (81-589-XIE, free; 81-589-XPB, free) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Education*. The report is also available on the Council of Ministers of Education Web site ([www.cmec.ca](http://www.cmec.ca)), which also contains information on the Pan-Canadian Education Research Agenda.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca); fax: 613-951-9040), Centre for Education Statistics. ■

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Imports by commodity, March 2001**  
Catalogue number **65-007-XMB** (\$37/\$361).

**Imports by commodity, March 2001**  
Catalogue number **65-007-XPB** (\$78/\$773).

**Education in Canada, 2000**  
Catalogue number **81-229-XIB** (\$38).

**Education in Canada, 2000**  
Catalogue number **81-229-XPB** (\$51).

**Children and youth at risk — symposium report,**  
April 2000  
Catalogue number **81-589-XIE**  
(Free).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.



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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](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

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