

The Daily

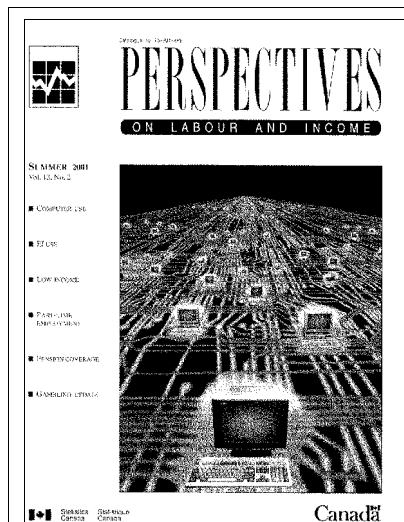
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 14, 2001
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **New motor vehicle sales, April 2001** 3
In April, new motor vehicle sales made by dealers were up 5.9% from March, the largest monthly increase since December 1999.

(continued on page 2)



Perspectives on labour and income Summer 2001

The feature article in the summer issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, "Working with computers," looks at the extent of computer use by Canadian workers, examining which workers are most likely to use a computer at their job, how often they use it, what they do with it and how they learned their computing skills. The study shows that, in the last decade, computer use has doubled among workers; almost 6 in 10 now use a computer at their job, and 78% use one daily.

The second article in this issue profiles repeat users of Employment Insurance, while another analyses which people were most likely to have had low income for several years. An update of trends in part-time work and an analysis of pension coverage and retirement savings complete the set of articles this quarter. Rounding out this issue is a fact sheet on gambling. These brief updates, begun this issue, will highlight recent statistics and trends on several popular themes, including gambling, work absences, unionization and age of retirement. The gambling fact sheet shows that net revenue from government-run lotteries, video lottery terminals and casinos rose from \$2.7 billion in 1992 to \$9.0 billion in 2000.

The Summer 2001 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Volume 13, number 2 (75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.

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NEW PRODUCTS

MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

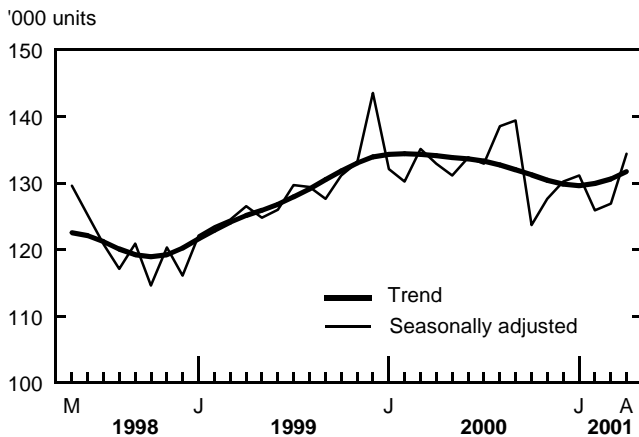
April 2001

In April, new motor vehicle sales by dealers were up 5.9% from March, the largest monthly increase since December 1999. This was the fifth increase in six months; the only decline was reported in February 2001 (-3.9%). However, April sales were 3.6% short of the peak reached in September 2000, the month before sales plunged 11.2%.

Dealers sold 134,372 new vehicles in April, 7,428 more than in March. This increase is attributable to sales of both new passenger cars and trucks. April sales were stimulated in part by incentives offered by some automobile manufacturers seeking to recapture lost market share.

April's gain marks a turnaround in new motor vehicle sales, following a downward movement that began in the fall 2000. Before that, sales had been fairly stable since the start of 2000. Previously, new motor vehicle dealers had seen robust growth since late 1998.

New motor vehicle sales rose sharply in April



Preliminary figures from the auto industry show fewer new motor vehicles sold in May, primarily because of a drop in truck sales. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

Sales up for both passenger cars and trucks

Sales of new passenger cars rose for a second straight month. In April, sales in this category

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted (unless otherwise indicated). Seasonally adjusted provincial data from January 1991 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 in British Columbia.

advanced 5.8% from March, when the increase was 0.6%. Both North American-built passenger cars (+5.4%) and those built overseas (+7.0%) contributed to April's sales gain.

The increases observed in March and April ended the downward movement in new passenger car sales since the fall of 2000. Previously, sales had been generally rising since late 1998.

As with passenger cars, new truck sales advanced for a second straight month. They were up 5.9% in April to 63,044 vehicles.

April's gain follows fairly stable truck sales in recent months. Prior to this, sales had been declining since the summer of 2000, following another stable period going back to the summer of 1999.

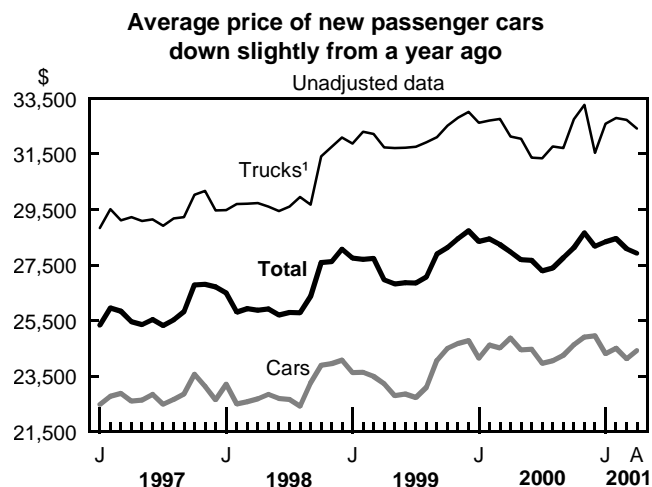
Average price of new passenger cars was down slightly

The average selling price, unadjusted for seasonality, of a new vehicle in April was \$27,925, a price practically unchanged (-0.2%) from the same month in 2000. Over the same one-year period, the average price of a new truck (excluding most heavy trucks and buses) rose 1.4% to \$32,417. The average price of new passenger cars was \$24,422 in April 2001, down 1.8% from the same month in 2000.

North American-built cars sold for an average of \$23,571 in April, down 0.9% from April 2000. The average price of North American-built passenger cars has remained relatively stable since the fall of 1999.

New overseas-built passenger cars sold for an average of \$26,522 in April, down 5.6% from April 2000. The average price of overseas cars is subject to some volatility.

The average price reflects actual price movements, owing in part to incentives offered by manufacturers, as well as consumer preferences. Consumers have their choice of available models, optional equipment and changes to standard equipment. These factors influenced the average price to varying degrees.



¹ Data do not include most heavy trucks and buses.

Sales up in almost all provinces

The number of new motor vehicles sold in April was up from March in all provinces except Newfoundland

(-0.4%). That decline followed a major increase (+18.8%) in March. New motor vehicle sales in Newfoundland have stabilized in recent months, following decreases that began in the summer of 2000.

The largest gain compared with March occurred in Manitoba (+16.6%), following drops in March (-0.2%) and February (-8.3%). Despite this gain, new motor vehicle sales in Manitoba were more or less at the same level as at the start of 1999.

The second largest sales increase in April occurred in New Brunswick (+11.8%). This second consecutive monthly sales gain in New Brunswick halted a downward movement of sales that began in the fall of 1999.

Quebec (+6.6%), Prince Edward Island (+6.1%) and Ontario (+6.0%) also posted sales gains above the national average. For Quebec and Prince Edward Island, this was the second consecutive increase; Ontario's gain in April followed two successive declines.

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

The April 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 Cl rance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; kimacle@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. □

New motor vehicle sales

	April 2000	March 2001 ^r	April 2001 ^p	April 2000 to April 2001	March to April 2001
seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	132,855	126,944	134,372	1.1	5.9
Passenger cars	71,125	67,403	71,328	0.3	5.8
North American ¹	54,014	49,220	51,870	-4.0	5.4
Overseas	17,111	18,183	19,458	13.7	7.0
Trucks, vans and buses	61,729	59,541	63,044	2.1	5.9
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,023	1,983	1,976	-2.3	-0.4
Prince Edward Island	411	375	398	-3.2	6.1
Nova Scotia	3,850	3,450	3,623	-5.9	5.0
New Brunswick	3,340	3,028	3,386	1.4	11.8
Quebec	32,309	31,972	34,089	5.5	6.6
Ontario	54,543	50,970	54,040	-0.9	6.0
Manitoba	3,599	3,311	3,860	7.3	16.6
Saskatchewan	3,091	3,089	3,202	3.6	3.7
Alberta	15,132	15,119	15,705	3.8	3.9
British Columbia ²	14,557	13,646	14,093	-3.2	3.3
	April 2000	March 2001	April 2001 ^p	April 2000 to April 2001	
unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	147,619	143,189	150,179	1.7	
Passenger cars	82,521	75,779	83,053	0.6	
North American ¹	62,095	55,553	59,087	-4.8	
Overseas	20,426	20,226	23,966	17.3	
Trucks, vans and buses	65,098	67,410	67,126	3.1	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	2,619	2,323	2,491	-4.9	
Prince Edward Island	425	339	421	-0.9	
Nova Scotia	4,920	3,901	4,555	-7.4	
New Brunswick	4,016	3,525	4,111	2.4	
Quebec	38,688	38,206	41,353	6.9	
Ontario	57,508	55,702	57,144	-0.6	
Manitoba	3,743	3,684	4,017	7.3	
Saskatchewan	3,324	3,354	3,382	1.7	
Alberta	16,570	16,581	17,137	3.4	
British Columbia ²	15,806	15,574	15,568	-1.5	

^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

Steel primary forms

Week ending June 9, 2001 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending June 9 totalled 298 403 metric tonnes, down 0.7% from 300 647 tonnes a week earlier and down 4.6% from 312 924 tonnes in the same week of 2000. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 6 485 541 tonnes, down 13.0% from 7 452 610 tonnes produced in the same period of 2000.

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. ■

Education at a glance

2001

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has published *Education at a glance: OECD indicators, 2001 Edition*. The report presents an updated range of internationally comparable OECD education indicators.

The indicators in this volume represent the consensus of professional thinking on how to measure the current state of education world-wide. The thematic organization of the volume and the background information accompanying the tables and charts make this publication a valuable resource for anyone interested in analysing education systems across countries.

The education indicators for Canada were calculated from data provided by Statistics Canada as part of its involvement with the Canadian Education Statistics Council, which includes the provincial and territorial deputy ministers of education.

The full report is available on the OECD's Web site (www.oecd.org).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Per-capita food consumption

2000

Canadians continue to include more cereal products and lower-fat varieties of milk in their diets according to per-capita food consumption data.

The data also reflect changes in lifestyle patterns. For example, the growing number of coffee shops featuring traditional and speciality coffees has fuelled an increase in coffee consumption. In 2000, each Canadian drank just over 101 litres of coffee, up from 99 litres in 1999 and 96 litres in 1990.

After declining in the early 1990s, tea consumption is on the rise, perhaps in response to the growing availability of speciality teas and literature promoting the health benefits of tea. In 2000, Canadians sipped just over 70 litres per person, up from almost 68 litres in 1999, and only 42 litres in 1990.

In addition, consumers are eating more pasta, specialty and multi-grain breads, and cereal-based snacks. As a result, consumption of cereal products increased to almost 89 kilograms per person in 2000, up from 74 kilograms in 1990. Wheat flour accounted for just over 80% of all cereal products consumed.

Although consumers have shifted away from high-fat milk and butter, it appears that this shift has moderated. Following steady declines during the 1990s, consumption of fluid milk rebounded slightly in 2000 to 88 litres per person, up from just over 87 litres in 1999. Lower-fat varieties such as 1% and skim milk accounted for more than 29% of all milk consumed in 2000, more than double the level at the start of the 1990s.

Cheese consumption stood at about 12 kilograms per person in 2000, consistent with trends in the 1990s when each Canadian ate more than 11 kilograms a year. Butter consumption has stabilized, after dipping to historically low levels in the late 1990s. In 2000, each Canadian ate nearly 3 kilograms of butter, slightly below 1999 levels, but above the record low level of just over 2.5 kilograms in 1997.

According to data previously released in *The Daily*, red meat consumption reached 63 kilograms per person in 2000, down from 64 kilograms in 1999. A decrease in beef consumption contributed in large part to this decline, although beef still represented almost 50% of all red meat consumed. Per capita pork consumption reached close to 29 kilograms, its highest level since 1989.

Per-capita consumption of poultry reached 35 kilograms per person in 2000, up more than 1 kilogram per person from 1999. Each Canadian consumed 29 kilograms of chicken.

These data represent food available for consumption. They do not represent actual quantities of food consumed because they do not allow for losses, such as waste or spoilage, in stores, households, private institutions or restaurants.

Available on CANSIM: tables 20010, 20011 and 20019 and matrices 2259 and 2268-2272.

Historical consumption data for the years 1986 to 2000 for dairy products, beverages, eggs, pulses and nuts, sugars and syrups, cereals, meats and poultry, as well as detailed information on production, stocks, international trade and supplies used by manufacturers will be available in July in *Food consumption in Canada, Part I* (32-229-XIB, \$26; 32-229-XPB, \$35). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Debbie Dupuis (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2553; fax: 613-951-3868) or Sandra Falcone (613-951-8726), Agriculture Division. ■

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics profile series

1999

This series of 10 profiles analyses the experiences of various groups as victims and offenders in the criminal justice system, as well as their perceptions of the criminal justice system.

The profiles are based on Statistics Canada sources and include a mix of demographic, economic and justice data as well as information specific to each group.

The groups profiled are Aboriginal people; visible minorities, people with disabilities, people with literacy problems, people with low incomes, children and youth, immigrants, religious groups, seniors and women. The series was funded by the federal Policy Research Initiative.

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics profile series (85F0033MIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Justice*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Production of poultry and eggs, 2000
Catalogue number **23-202-XIB** (\$29).

Consumer Price Index, May 2001
Catalogue number **62-001-XIB** (\$8/\$77).
Available at 7 am Friday, June 15

Consumer Price Index, May 2001
Catalogue number **62-001-XPB** (\$11/\$103).
Available at 7 am Friday, June 15

Exports by country, Vol. 58, no. 1,
January–March 2001
Catalogue number **65-003-XMB** (\$62/\$206).

Exports by country, Vol. 58, no. 1,
January–March 2001
Catalogue number **65-003-XPB** (\$124/\$412).

Perspectives on labour and income, Summer 2001,
Vol. 13, no. 2
Catalogue number **75-001-XPE** (\$18/\$58).

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics profile
series, 1999
Catalogue number **85F0033MIE**
(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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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are getting it less and less. In 1996, about 10 percent took an average of about 15 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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