

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales, May 2001
 New truck sales slipped in May, causing an overall decline of 2.1% in new motor vehicle sales compared with April.

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MAJOR RELEASES

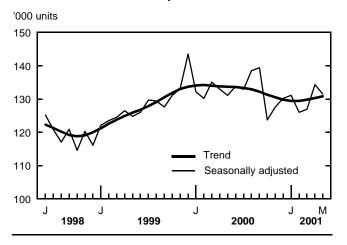
New motor vehicle sales

May 2001

New truck sales slipped in May, causing an overall decline of 2.1% in new motor vehicle sales compared with April. In May, 131,456 new motor vehicles were sold, down 2,824 from April. May's decline followed two consecutive monthly increases — a sharp rise of 5.8% in April preceded by a gain of 0.8% in March.

In recent months, new motor vehicle sales have generally been moving upward, following a downward movement that began in the fall of 2000. In the rest of 2000, sales were fairly stable, but at a higher level than in previous years.

Despite May's decline, new motor vehicle sales maintained an upward movement



Preliminary figures from the auto industry show a slight upturn in the number of new motor vehicles sold in June.

Fewer trucks sold

New truck sales declined 6.0% in May to 58,814 vehicles, wiping out the 5.7% gain posted in April. The strong advance in April was largely the result of manufacturers' incentives.

Sales of new trucks have been relatively unchanged since the start of 2001, following a downward movement that began in the summer of 2000. Previously, sales had been generally stable since the summer of 1999.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted. 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.

Overseas-built passenger cars saved the day

Outstanding sales of overseas-built passenger cars (+7.3%) in May pushed up overall sales of new passenger cars 1.3% compared with April. For overseas-built cars it was the second major increase in a row; sales gained 6.9% in April. Sales of North American-built passenger cars declined 1.0% in May after gaining 5.5% in April. The influx of consumers to overseas-built cars might be explained in part by the weakness of some Asian currencies against the U.S. and Canadian dollars. The decline of those currencies would have given Asian car makers more leeway to offer incentives.

With the gains in recent months, sales of new passenger cars have begun to turn around, following a period of declines that began in the fall of 2000. Previously, sales had been generally rising since late 1998.

Sales down in almost all provinces

The number of new motor vehicle sold in May was down from April in all provinces except the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (+3.4%) and Nova Scotia (+1.4%). In both these cases, sales increased for a third consecutive month.

New motor vehicle sales in the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have begun to turn around since the start of the year. Sales are now 2.0% higher than in May 2000. In Nova Scotia, sales have stabilized in recent months, following decreases that began at the start of 2000.

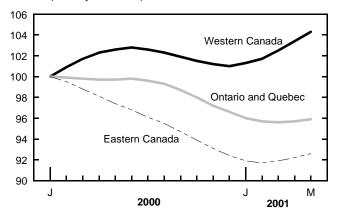
Sustained recovery of sales in the west

Since the start of the year, new motor vehicle sales have advanced rapidly in the west. They have grown at a slower pace in the east and have stabilized in Central Canada, which includes Ontario and Quebec.

In the west, the growth of new motor vehicle sales has come from each of the four provinces, whereas in the east, it has been mainly attributable to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In Central Canada, Ontario and Quebec have both posted fairly stable sales since the start of the year.

Trends of new motor vehicle sales by region

Indexes (January 2000=100)



Note: Eastern Canada consists of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Western Canada consists of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia (including Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut)

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

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

New motor vehicle sales					
	May	April	May	May	Apri
	2000	2001 ^r	2001 ^p	2000	to
				to	May
				May	2001
		seasona	ally adjusted	2001	
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	131,088	134,280	131,456	0.3	-2.1
Passenger cars	69,908	71,714	72,642	3.9	1.3
North American ¹	52,787	51,993	51,486	-2.5	-1.0
Overseas	17,120	19,721	21,156	23.6	7.3
Trucks, vans and buses	61,180	62,566	58,814	-3.9	-6.0
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland	1,665	1,976	1,907	14.5	-3.5
rince Edward Island	426	397	373	-12.4	-6.0
lova_Scotia	3,557	3,654	3,705	4.2	1.4
lew Brunswick	3,284	3,395	3,216	-2.1	-5.
Quebec	31,848	34,070	33,043	3.8	-3.
Ontario	54,372	53,858	52,349	-3.7	-2.8
Manitoba	3,485	3,826	3,683	5.7	-3.
Saskatchewan	3,104	3,205	3,197	3.0	-0.2
Alberta	14,941	15,682	15,288	2.3	-2.
British Columbia ²	14,406	14,216	14,694	2.0	3.4
	May 2000	April 2001	May 2001 ^p	May 2000 to May 2001	
	unadjusted				
	Nu	mber of vehicles		% change	
New motor vehicles	167,225	150,179	169,058	1.1	
Passenger cars	93,729	83,053	99,699	6.4	
North American ¹	72,033	59,087	71,405	-0.9	
Overseas	21,696	23,966	28,294	30.4	
rucks, vans and buses	73,496	67,126	69,359	-5.6	
lew motor vehicles					
lewfoundland	2,711	2,491	3,240	19.5	
Prince Edward Island	621	421	549	-11.6	
Nova Scotia	5,138	4,555	5,682	10.6	
New Brunswick	4,755	4,111	4,583	-3.6	
Quebec	42,928	41,353	45,022	4.9	
Ontario	67,751	57,144	64,752	-4.4	
Manitoba	4,105	4,017	4,416	7.6	
Saskatchewan	3,474	3,382	3,643	4.9	
Alberta	18,720	17,137	19,188	2.5	
British Columbia ²	17,022	15,568	17,983	5.6	

Revised figures.
Preliminary figures.
Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.
Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

OTHER RELEASES

Steel pipe and tubing

May 2001

Steel pipe and tubing production for May 2001 totalled 229 356 metric tonnes, a 1.6% decrease from 233 009 tonnes in May 2000.

Year-to-date production to the end of May 2001 totalled 1 105 929 tonnes, down 7.7% from 1 198 348 tonnes in the same period in 2000.

The May 2001 issue of *Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing*, Vol. 25, no. 5 (41-011-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030003 and matrix 35.

For general information or to order data, contact the Dissemination Officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca). 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.

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

May 2001

Estimated total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns for May were \$2.77 billion, an increase of 8.6% over the May 2000 estimate.

Available on CANSIM: table 3550001 and matrix 62.

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.

NEW PRODUCTS

The input-output structure of the Canadian economy, 1996 and 1997 Catalogue number 15-201-XPB (\$68).

Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing, May 2001, Vol. 25, no. 5
Catalogue number 41-011-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Industry price indexes, May 2001 Catalogue number 62-011-XPB (\$22/\$217). Science statistics, Vol. 25, no. 6 Catalogue number 88-001-XIB (\$6/\$59).

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:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

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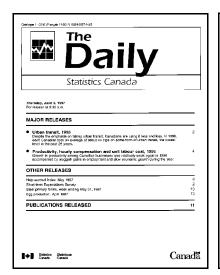
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Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



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