



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, July 23, 2001**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

---

## MAJOR RELEASES

---

- **Retail trade, May 2001** 2  
Retail sales advanced 0.2% in May to \$24.3 billion, following a 1.8% increase in April.

---

## OTHER RELEASES

---

- Farm Product Price Index, May 2001 6
- Natural gas sales, May 2001 6
- Deliveries of major grains, June 2001 7

---

## NEW PRODUCTS

---



## MAJOR RELEASES

### Retail trade

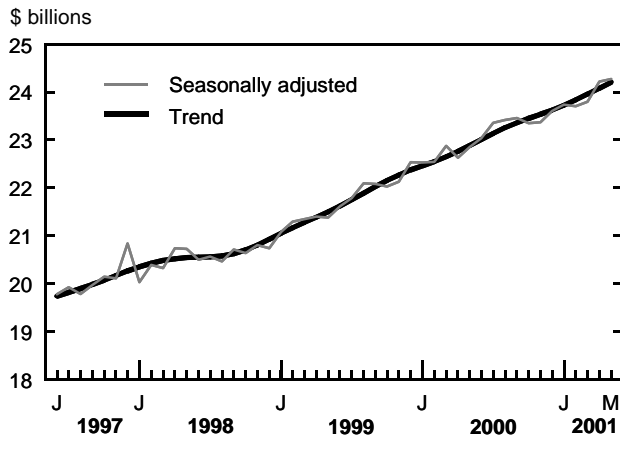
May 2001

Retail sales advanced 0.2% in May to \$24.3 billion, following a 1.8% increase in April. In constant dollars, sales fell 0.3% from April. Higher prices were reported for gasoline, cigarettes and fresh fruit.

Retail sales have gained strength since November 2000, after four consecutive months of essentially no gains. May sales were 3.8% higher than those of November 2000. Between November and May, increases were observed every month except for a modest decline in February (-0.1%).

In May, consumer spending rose at least 1.0% in stores classified as "other retail," in drug stores and in food stores. Sales remained unchanged in the automotive and furniture sectors in May, while they were down in clothing stores (-3.2%) and in general merchandise stores (-0.4%).

Little change in retail sales in May following April's strong gain



### Three out of seven retail sectors posted higher sales

Retail stores classified as "other" posted a 1.5% sales increase in May, following two months of little change. Within this sector, the group of stores that includes hardware stores, bookstores, and lawn and garden centres saw the largest gain, 3.5%. Since the start of 2001, sales in this group regained the ground lost in the second half of 2000.

Food retailers gained 1.0% in May, ending two months of unchanged sales. Higher prices for fresh fruit

(+4.5%) and cigarettes (+3.3%) may have contributed to the higher sales in food stores.

Drug stores posted their fifth consecutive monthly gain in May (+1.2%). Drug store sales have generally been advancing rapidly since the spring of 2000.

### Auto and furniture sectors stalled

In May, the sales gains for gasoline service stations — the result of higher gasoline prices — and higher sales for auto parts and services stores were entirely offset by lower sales for motor and recreational vehicle dealers. If sales by these dealers were excluded, total retail sales would have risen 0.6%.

The number of new motor vehicles sold fell 2.1% in May; this was one reason for the 1.0% sales decline reported by motor and recreational vehicle dealers. These dealers enjoyed strong gains in April (+4.6%) and March (+1.6%), after a period of weaker sales that started last fall. Previously, sales by these dealers had generally been advancing since the spring of 1999.

Sales increases at gasoline service stations in May (+2.6%) and April (+4.0%) were the strongest since September 2000. In May, sales by gasoline service stations were 57% higher than February 1999, the last month before retail gasoline prices started to climb. Over the same period, gasoline prices rose 54%.

Household furnishings stores posted higher sales in May (+1.6%), which offset lower sales (-0.4%) by household furniture and appliance stores. Sales in the furniture sector have been essentially flat since the start of 2001, after leading other sectors in the last four years.

### Clothing and general merchandise stores sold less

Lower sales in "other" clothing stores (-4.8%) and women's clothing stores (-3.4%) in May led to a 3.2% reduction in sales for the clothing sector. This followed a 4.2% increase in April. While lower prices for women's clothing stimulated sales in April, consumers apparently were not motivated by continued price cuts in May. Women's clothing prices continued to fall in May (-4.0%), after declining in April (-2.7%). Women's clothing stores and "other" clothing stores have been leading growth in the clothing sector since the start of 2000. Stores in the "other" category sell a variety of women's, men's and children's clothing.

Lower sales in department stores (-0.2%) and other general merchandise stores (-0.6%) in May led to a 0.4% decline in the general merchandise sector.

The other general merchandise store group has been primarily responsible for the flat sales in the sector since the start of 2001.

#### **New Brunswick and Quebec dampened national sales**

Retailers in New Brunswick (-4.1%) and Quebec (-1.4%) reported lower sales in May, after posting strong gains in April. Most sectors contributed to the declines in these two provinces. All remaining provinces enjoyed higher retail sales in May. Among the provinces with increasing sales, Ontario advanced at the slowest pace (+0.3%).

Retail sales were up 3.8% in May at the national level compared with November 2000, the last month before sales started to regain strength. Over this period, Newfoundland (+7.2%), Alberta (+6.1%), Quebec (+5.9%) and Manitoba (+5.3%) posted gains above the national average.

#### **Related indicators for June**

Total employment fell slightly in June (-0.1%), offsetting an increase of the same magnitude in May.

Sources in the automotive sector indicate a rise in the number of new motor vehicles sold in June compared with May. Housing starts jumped 13.7% in June, after declining 4.3% in May.

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

The May 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 June will be released on August 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**

	May 2000	February 2001 <sup>r</sup>	March 2001 <sup>r</sup>	April 2001 <sup>r</sup>	May 2001 <sup>p</sup>	April to May 2001	May to May 2001
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,028</b>	<b>5,262</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>5,259</b>	<b>5,311</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,655	4,876	4,871	4,863	4,918	1.1	5.6
All other food stores	373	386	386	396	393	-0.8	5.4
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>-3.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Shoe stores	146	144	142	148	149	0.7	2.5
Men's clothing stores	130	123	123	124	126	1.3	-3.1
Women's clothing stores	382	407	412	424	409	-3.4	7.1
Other clothing stores	597	638	647	684	651	-4.8	9.0
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,261</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,024	1,068	1,094	1,059	1,054	-0.4	2.9
Household furnishings stores	237	252	255	252	256	1.6	7.9
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,158</b>	<b>9,380</b>	<b>9,422</b>	<b>9,811</b>	<b>9,812</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.1</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,035	6,048	6,147	6,429	6,367	-1.0	5.5
Gasoline service stations	1,810	1,980	1,933	2,010	2,063	2.6	14.0
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,312	1,352	1,342	1,372	1,381	0.7	5.2
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,586</b>	<b>2,699</b>	<b>2,710</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,555</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	718	726	730	726	752	3.5	4.6
Other durable goods stores	613	653	648	652	655	0.4	6.9
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,117	1,173	1,172	1,177	1,187	0.9	6.3
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>22,854</b>	<b>23,706</b>	<b>23,798</b>	<b>24,221</b>	<b>24,271</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>16,818</b>	<b>17,658</b>	<b>17,651</b>	<b>17,793</b>	<b>17,903</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland	375	386	398	392	409	4.4	9.1
Prince Edward Island	102	104	105	105	105	0.5	3.0
Nova Scotia	697	693	722	722	734	1.8	5.4
New Brunswick	573	588	585	609	583	-4.1	1.7
Quebec	5,200	5,407	5,474	5,683	5,602	-1.4	7.7
Ontario	8,843	9,043	9,001	9,175	9,201	0.3	4.1
Manitoba	779	805	805	821	828	0.7	6.2
Saskatchewan	679	689	688	692	697	0.8	2.7
Alberta	2,603	2,789	2,829	2,857	2,885	1.0	10.8
British Columbia	2,928	3,120	3,111	3,087	3,145	1.9	7.4
Yukon	29	31	29	29	29	-0.6	-0.7
Northwest Territories	31	36	37	35	36	2.1	15.2
Nunavut	15	16	16	16	16	0.2	4.2

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Retail sales**

	May 2000	April 2001 <sup>r</sup>	May 2001 <sup>p</sup>	May 2000 to May 2001
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,048</b>	<b>4,955</b>	<b>5,491</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,666	4,564	5,082	8.9
All other food stores	382	390	409	7.3
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>8.6</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>1,259</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Shoe stores	169	147	175	3.6
Men's clothing stores	126	107	125	-0.4
Women's clothing stores	408	401	438	7.3
Other clothing stores	557	604	606	8.8
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	936	921	963	3.0
Household furnishings stores	239	227	255	6.6
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>10,301</b>	<b>11,739</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	7,535	7,079	7,992	6.1
Gasoline service stations	1,867	1,893	2,140	14.6
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,498	1,329	1,607	7.3
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,527</b>	<b>2,463</b>	<b>2,649</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,560</b>	<b>2,241</b>	<b>2,748</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	825	628	868	5.3
Other durable goods stores	604	573	649	7.4
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,131	1,040	1,231	8.8
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>24,578</b>	<b>23,516</b>	<b>26,394</b>	<b>7.4</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>17,043</b>	<b>16,436</b>	<b>18,402</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland	406	368	454	11.8
Prince Edward Island	109	94	113	4.2
Nova Scotia	728	690	777	6.7
New Brunswick	630	588	642	1.9
Quebec	5,797	5,728	6,382	10.1
Ontario	9,505	8,794	9,965	4.8
Manitoba	819	793	879	7.3
Saskatchewan	712	664	738	3.6
Alberta	2,754	2,757	3,066	11.3
British Columbia	3,038	2,961	3,292	8.4
Yukon	33	27	32	-1.3
Northwest Territories	32	34	37	15.5
Nunavut	16	16	17	5.8

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



## OTHER RELEASES

### Farm Product Price Index

May 2001

The prices farmers received for their agricultural commodities increased 2.8% in May compared with May 2000, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI). This follows a revised year-over-year increase of 2.1% in April.

The FPPI (1997=100) in May stood at 100.8, the highest level since June 1998 and up from a revised 100.0 in April.

Prices farmers received for all livestock and animal products were up 7.9% from May 2000. Crops, however, crops continued their downturn, falling 2.4%. The crops index has declined on a year-over-year basis every month for almost three years.

Compared with April, the livestock index was down 0.7% in May, whereas the crops index was up 2.6%. All the crop sub-indexes advanced, but all the livestock sub-indexes posted fell back, except for hogs (+4.1%), and poultry, which was unchanged.

The hog index was 104.5 — its highest level since August 1997. Hog prices began to slide in the fall of 1997, bottoming out at 30.0 in December 1998. Strong demand for pork both in Canada and abroad helped prices recover.

The largest month-to-month decrease in the livestock index was for cattle and calves; lower prices dropped the index 1.7%. However with continued strong international and domestic demand for beef, prices for cattle and calves remained high compared with last year, up 11.9% from May 2000.

Potatoes posted the biggest month-to-month increase (+7.0) of all the crop sub-indexes. However, compared with May 2000 potato prices were down 7.3%. May was the first month in which Prince Edward Island, the largest potato-exporting province, resumed shipments to the United States after six months.

The oilseed index stood at 71.9, its highest level since July 1999 and a 3.6% increase over April 2001. On a year-over-year basis, the oilseed index rose 5.4%, the fourth consecutive month of annual increases. Oilseed prices, like grain prices, have come under intense pressure over the last few years, as world stocks have been abundant.

### Farm Product Price Index

(1997=100)

	May 2000	April 2001 <sup>r</sup>	May 2001 <sup>p</sup>	May 2000 to May 2001	April to May 2001
	% change				
Grains	83.2	77.5	77.5	-6.9	0.0
Oilseeds	68.2	69.4	71.9	5.4	3.6
Specialty crops	92.3	82.1	82.5	-10.6	0.5
Fruit	110.7	96.0	96.5	-12.8	0.5
Vegetables	99.4	102.9	103.1	3.7	0.2
Potatoes	122.6	106.2	113.6	-7.3	7.0
Total crops	85.8	81.6	83.7	-2.4	2.6
Cattle and calves	121.9	138.8	136.4	11.9	-1.7
Hogs	100.3	100.4	104.5	4.2	4.1
Poultry	91.7	92.5	92.5	0.9	0.0
Eggs	93.8	101.1	101.0	7.7	-0.1
Dairy	104.5	111.2	110.0	5.3	-1.1
Total livestock and animal products	107.5	116.8	116.0	7.9	-0.7
<b>Total index</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Available on CANSIM: table 20021 and matrices 16000-16012.**

The May 2001 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 1, no. 5 (21-007-XIB, free) is available on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Agriculture*.

To order data, or for general information call 1-800-465-1991. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-3122; [gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca](mailto:gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

### Natural gas sales

May 2001 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 4 527 million cubic metres in May, down 8.2% from May 2000. Warmer-than-normal weather throughout Canada resulted in sharply lower sales to the residential (-25.2%) and commercial (-14.0%) sectors.

Sales to the industrial sector (including direct sales) fell 3.3% compared with May 2000, largely because of lower demand for natural gas by electric utilities and the chemical industry.

Year-to-date sales dropped 6.4% compared with the same period in 2000. Lower demand by the industrial sector, including direct sales, led to an 8.3%

decline compared with the same period of 2000. Sales to the residential (-4.3%) and commercial (-2.3%) sectors decreased, owing to milder weather in January, February and April.

### Natural gas sales

	May 2001 <sup>P</sup>	May 2000	May 2000 to May 2001
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas sales</b>	<b>4,526,972</b>	<b>4,933,972</b>	<b>-8.2</b>
Residential	633,873	846,988	-25.2
Commercial	475,540	552,954	-14.0
Industrial	1,646,340	1,676,004	-3.3
Direct	1,771,219	1,858,026	
	Year-to-date		
	2001 <sup>P</sup>	2000	2000 to 2001
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas sales</b>	<b>33,332,603</b>	<b>35,599,701</b>	<b>-6.4</b>
Residential	8,137,137	8,501,591	-4.3
Commercial	5,813,156	5,952,013	-2.3
Industrial	8,421,009	9,457,877	-8.3
Direct	10,961,301	11,688,220	

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 1290001-1290004 and matrices 1052-1055.**

The May 2001 issue of *Natural gas transportation and distribution* (55-002-XIB, \$9/\$86) will be available in September. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gary Smallbridge (613-951-3567; [gary.smallbridge@statcan.ca](mailto:gary.smallbridge@statcan.ca)) or Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; [tom.lewis@statcan.ca](mailto:tom.lewis@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Deliveries of major grains

June 2001

Data on June grain deliveries are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: table 10001 and matrices 976-981.**

The June 2001 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149), will be available in September. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; [sue.anderson@statcan.ca](mailto:sue.anderson@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Gross domestic product by industry, April 2001**  
Catalogue number 15-001-XIE (\$11/\$110).

**Farm product price index, Vol. 1, no. 5**  
Catalogue number 21-007-XIB  
(Free).

**Construction price statistics, First quarter 2001**  
Catalogue number 62-007-XPB (\$24/\$79).

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

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

**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: **1-800-267-6677**  
From other countries call: **1-613-951-7277**  
To fax your order: **1-877-287-4369**  
Address changes or account inquiries: **1-800-700-1033**

**To order a product by mail write:** Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

**To order by Internet:** write to [order@statcan.ca](mailto:order@statcan.ca) or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)) under the headings *Products and services* and *Fee publications* (\$).

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

Catalogue 11-001E (F) (single) 11-001E/ISSN 0897-6443

**The Daily**  
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997  
For release at 9:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Discusses the attitudes on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 4.5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- **Help-wanted index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Economic Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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".

Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, [tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca](mailto:tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca))  
Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), [madeleine.simard@statcan.ca](mailto:madeleine.simard@statcan.ca)

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2001. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001E, along with date and page references.