



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, July 3, 2001
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Department store sales and stocks

May 2001

Department store sales were \$1.64 billion (seasonally adjusted) in May, unchanged from April. May's result follows two successive months of increases, in April (+0.6%) and March (+0.4%).

Despite stable sales in May, the upward movement of department store sales that began in the spring of 2000 continued. Previously, sales had been declining since September 1999, following a period of increases that lasted more than a year.

In May, average department store sales per location totalled \$2.24 million, returning to their January 2001 level. May's average sales per location were 1.4% higher than in July 2000, the peak of that year. There were 732 locations in May, up from 717 in July 2000.

At the national level, department store sales unadjusted for seasonality advanced 9.7% in May compared with May 2000. Sales climbed in all provinces over the same one-year period. The largest increase was in the group formed by Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island (+24.0%); Quebec and the provinces west of Manitoba all posted year-over-year gains of at least 10.0%.

Department store sales including concessions

	May 2000	May 2001	May 2000 to May 2001	Jan. to May 2001	Jan.-May 2000 to Jan.-May 2001
Not seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	1,444.5	1,585.3	9.7	6,652.8	8.5
Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island ¹	27.5	34.1	24.0	139.1	16.2
Nova Scotia	41.1	43.9	6.7	183.3	2.0
New Brunswick	33.0	35.5	7.7	145.6	6.0
Quebec	277.4	305.1	10.0	1,222.4	6.8
Ontario	623.8	666.7	6.9	2,826.7	7.7
Manitoba	59.6	64.2	7.7	274.3	7.6
Saskatchewan	51.9	57.3	10.4	239.5	10.0
Alberta	167.4	195.7	16.9	825.4	13.3
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut ¹	162.7	182.9	12.4	796.6	9.8

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: tables 760001-760004 and 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. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Electric power statistics, Vol. 69, no. 4, April 2001
Catalogue number 57-001-XIB (\$9/\$85).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Statistics Canada

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Discusses the statistics on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six 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.

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