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# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Friday, September 21, 2001**
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

## MAJOR RELEASES



## OTHER RELEASES

# MAJOR RELEASES

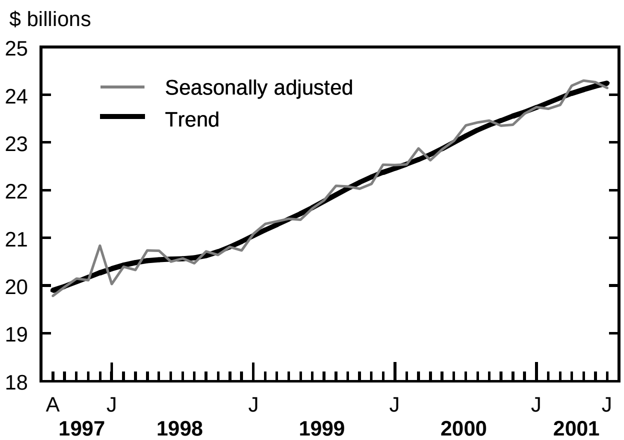
## Retail trade
July 2001

Retail sales fell for a second consecutive month in July, reflecting lower sales by gasoline service stations in both months. Retailers sold $24.1 billion worth of goods and services in July, 0.5% less than in June. This follows a small decline in June (-0.1%). Excluding sales by gasoline service stations, retail sales advanced 0.3% in July and 0.2% in June.

In constant dollars, retail sales remained unchanged in July.

The declines in July and June were preceded by six months of rapidly advancing sales. Within this period, sales advanced every month except for a modest 0.1% decline in February. From January to July, retailers have sold 5.2% more than in the first seven months of 2000. This compares with a 6.6% increase in the same period of 2000.

**Retail sales down for a second straight month**




Among the seven retail sectors, only automotive (-2.0%) and clothing (-1.2%) posted lower sales in July. These two sectors account for about 45% of all retail sales. Sales in furniture stores and drug stores remained essentially unchanged, but sales advanced 0.5% in food stores, 1.1% in stores classified as other retail and 1.4% in general merchandise stores. The other retail category includes stores such as liquor, sporting goods, hardware and bookstores.

***Note to readers***

*The base year for retail sales constant-dollar estimates has been changed from 1992 to 1997. Four new series starting with January 1992 were added on CANSIM II in table 800003.*

*Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.*

### Auto sector stalled by lower gasoline prices

For a second consecutive month, sales in the automotive sector were stalled by lower gasoline prices. Strong competition, mainly in metropolitan areas, resulted in lower gasoline prices at the pump in July (-9.6%) and June (-4.3%). This pushed down sales by gasoline service stations in July (-9.1%) and June (-3.6%). Sales by gasoline service stations reached a plateau at the start of 2001, after rising rapidly in the previous two years. In July, gasoline service station sales were 4.2% lower than in July 2000, but remained 34.0% above those of July 1998.

A 0.5% decline in the number of new motor vehicles sold in July was responsible for the 0.2% drop in sales reported by motor and recreational vehicle dealers. Other than new cars, sales by these dealers include used cars, boats and recreational vehicles as well as parts and service. Unit sales of new motor vehicles declined in the fall of 2000 and have continuously recovered since then. In July, the number of new motor vehicles sold was approximately the same as the monthly average in 2000, a record year.

### Consumers shifted from clothing stores to general merchandise stores

Consumer spending in clothing stores fell 1.2% in July, the third consecutive monthly decline. All store types in the clothing sector posted lower sales in June and July. Despite these declines, sales in clothing stores are still advancing but at a more moderate pace compared with the growth seen in the spring and summer of 2000. About 60% of all clothing is purchased from these specialty clothing stores, while the rest is mostly purchased from general merchandise stores and sporting goods stores.

Led by strong department store sales in July (+3.2%) and June (+1.2%), the general merchandise sector posted sales increases of at least 1.0% in both months. Department stores have shown considerable strength in sales since the fall of 2000. In July, department store sales were 10.6% higher than the monthly average in the fourth quarter of 2000. Part of this growth can be explained by the opening of several new department stores in that period. However, other general merchandise stores posted essentially unchanged sales since the middle of 2000.

Sales in furniture stores changed little in July (+0.1%), continuing the period of flat sales observed since the start of 2001. Prior to this year, the furniture sector saw four years of strong sales growth.

### Manitoba and Newfoundland break the pattern

Manitoba and Newfoundland each posted 1.8% sales increases in July. The only other province seeing higher sales in July was Nova Scotia (+0.2%). The automotive sector was entirely responsible for July's sales rise in Manitoba, while the gain in Newfoundland was broadly based. Retailers in these two provinces have posted strong sales gains in the first seven months of 2001. In July, retail sales in Manitoba were 5.9% higher than in December 2000, and in Newfoundland 11.6% higher over the same period.

In July, retail sales dropped by at least 1.0% in New Brunswick, British Columbia and Quebec. Sales in New Brunswick have generally been declining in 2001, after two years of increases. Despite July's decline, British Columbia retailers have seen generally rising sales since the start of 1999. July's lower retail sales in Quebec represented a third consecutive monthly decline. However, these declines did not offset the 3.7% sales advance posted in April 2001. Retail sales in Quebec have generally been rising since the summer of 1998.

### Related indicators for August

Total employment edged down for a third consecutive month, falling 0.1% in August. The number of new motor vehicles sold in August was up compared with July, according to sources in the automotive industry. Sales of new motor vehicles have generally been advancing since the start of 2001, making up for most of the ground lost in the fall of 2000. Housing starts bounced back in August with a 11.8% rise from July, when they fell 13.5%.

### Available on CANSIM: tables 800001-800005.

The July 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 August will be released on October 22.

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 Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; *paul.gratton@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. □

## Retail sales

| | July 2000 | April 2001r | May 2001r | June 2001r | July 2001p | June to July 2001 | July 2000 to July 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Seasonally adjusted | | | | | | |
| | $ millions | | | | | % change | |
| **Food** | **5,114** | **5,265** | **5,332** | **5,332** | **5,357** | **0.5** | **4.7** |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores | 4,739 | 4,868 | 4,934 | 4,931 | 4,948 | 0.3 | 4.4 |
| All other food stores | 375 | 397 | 398 | 400 | 409 | 2.1 | 8.9 |
| **Drug and patent medicine stores** | **1,128** | **1,192** | **1,206** | **1,204** | **1,203** | **0.0** | **6.6** |
| **Clothing** | **1,282** | **1,377** | **1,327** | **1,312** | **1,296** | **-1.2** | **1.1** |
| Shoe stores | 151 | 148 | 149 | 145 | 144 | -0.5 | -4.1 |
| Men's clothing stores | 132 | 124 | 125 | 123 | 120 | -1.9 | -8.6 |
| Women's clothing stores | 380 | 423 | 404 | 397 | 385 | -3.1 | 1.3 |
| Other clothing stores | 620 | 683 | 648 | 647 | 646 | -0.1 | 4.3 |
| **Furniture** | **1,275** | **1,315** | **1,322** | **1,344** | **1,345** | **0.1** | **5.5** |
| Household furniture and appliance stores | 1,031 | 1,062 | 1,063 | 1,082 | 1,084 | 0.2 | 5.1 |
| Household furnishings stores | 244 | 253 | 259 | 262 | 261 | -0.1 | 7.3 |
| **Automotive** | **9,414** | **9,767** | **9,803** | **9,753** | **9,555** | **-2.0** | **1.5** |
| Motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 6,219 | 6,429 | 6,366 | 6,393 | 6,383 | -0.2 | 2.6 |
| Gasoline service stations | 1,881 | 1,968 | 2,058 | 1,983 | 1,802 | -9.1 | -4.2 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services | 1,313 | 1,370 | 1,379 | 1,376 | 1,370 | -0.5 | 4.3 |
| **General merchandise stores** | **2,663** | **2,720** | **2,717** | **2,744** | **2,783** | **1.4** | **4.5** |
| **Retail stores not elsewhere classified** | **2,485** | **2,552** | **2,592** | **2,577** | **2,606** | **1.1** | **4.9** |
| Other semi-durable goods stores | 741 | 727 | 752 | 743 | 755 | 1.7 | 1.9 |
| Other durable goods stores | 621 | 647 | 647 | 642 | 642 | 0.0 | 3.4 |
| All other retail stores not elsewhere classified | 1,123 | 1,178 | 1,193 | 1,192 | 1,209 | 1.4 | 7.7 |
| **Total, retail sales** | **23,360** | **24,188** | **24,298** | **24,265** | **24,145** | **-0.5** | **3.4** |
| **Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers** | **17,141** | **17,759** | **17,932** | **17,872** | **17,762** | **-0.6** | **3.6** |
| **Provinces and territories** | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland | 379 | 394 | 410 | 416 | 423 | 1.8 | 11.5 |
| Prince Edward Island | 104 | 105 | 106 | 108 | 108 | -0.3 | 4.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 726 | 725 | 736 | 733 | 735 | 0.2 | 1.3 |
| New Brunswick | 573 | 607 | 581 | 585 | 575 | -1.6 | 0.4 |
| Quebec | 5,375 | 5,670 | 5,596 | 5,580 | 5,522 | -1.0 | 2.7 |
| Ontario | 8,972 | 9,155 | 9,204 | 9,129 | 9,098 | -0.3 | 1.4 |
| Manitoba | 797 | 822 | 833 | 825 | 840 | 1.8 | 5.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 687 | 690 | 698 | 694 | 691 | -0.4 | 0.5 |
| Alberta | 2,674 | 2,857 | 2,897 | 2,909 | 2,904 | -0.2 | 8.6 |
| British Columbia | 2,996 | 3,083 | 3,155 | 3,203 | 3,169 | -1.1 | 5.7 |
| Yukon | 28 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 29 | -2.8 | 4.3 |
| Northwest Territories | 32 | 35 | 36 | 36 | 35 | -3.6 | 7.4 |
| Nunavut | 15 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 17 | -0.7 | 10.6 |

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

## Retail sales

| | July 2000 | June 2001[r] | July 2001[p] | July 2000 to July 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unadjusted | | | |
| | $ millions | | | % change |
| **Food** | **5,298** | **5,652** | **5,399** | **1.9** |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores | 4,910 | 5,229 | 4,982 | 1.5 |
| All other food stores | 388 | 423 | 417 | 7.7 |
| **Drug and patent medicine stores** | **1,092** | **1,187** | **1,168** | **6.9** |
| **Clothing** | **1,177** | **1,293** | **1,161** | **-1.3** |
| Shoe stores | 141 | 161 | 130 | -8.3 |
| Men's clothing stores | 116 | 131 | 103 | -10.9 |
| Women's clothing stores | 360 | 401 | 358 | -0.6 |
| Other clothing stores | 559 | 600 | 570 | 2.0 |
| **Furniture** | **1,273** | **1,331** | **1,339** | **5.2** |
| Household furniture and appliance stores | 1,025 | 1,060 | 1,071 | 4.5 |
| Household furnishings stores | 248 | 271 | 268 | 8.2 |
| **Automotive** | **9,816** | **11,108** | **10,114** | **3.0** |
| Motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 6,404 | 7,523 | 6,726 | 5.0 |
| Gasoline service stations | 2,038 | 2,076 | 1,943 | -4.6 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services | 1,374 | 1,509 | 1,445 | 5.1 |
| **General merchandise stores** | **2,486** | **2,683** | **2,556** | **2.8** |
| **Retail stores not elsewhere classified** | **2,646** | **2,739** | **2,727** | **3.1** |
| Other semi-durable goods stores | 778 | 813 | 791 | 1.7 |
| Other durable goods stores | 621 | 633 | 626 | 0.8 |
| All other retail stores not elsewhere classified | 1,247 | 1,293 | 1,310 | 5.1 |
| **Total, retail sales** | **23,787** | **25,992** | **24,465** | **2.9** |
| **Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers** | **17,383** | **18,469** | **17,739** | **2.0** |
| **Provinces and territories** | | | | |
| Newfoundland | 395 | 462 | 445 | 12.4 |
| Prince Edward Island | 122 | 123 | 127 | 4.5 |
| Nova Scotia | 754 | 804 | 766 | 1.6 |
| New Brunswick | 599 | 639 | 595 | -0.5 |
| Quebec | 5,516 | 5,998 | 5,632 | 2.1 |
| Ontario | 9,046 | 9,852 | 9,089 | 0.5 |
| Manitoba | 794 | 871 | 835 | 5.1 |
| Saskatchewan | 699 | 738 | 701 | 0.2 |
| Alberta | 2,687 | 3,061 | 2,910 | 8.3 |
| British Columbia | 3,092 | 3,352 | 3,277 | 6.0 |
| Yukon | 33 | 36 | 34 | 2.8 |
| Northwest Territories | 34 | 40 | 36 | 3.5 |
| Nunavut | 15 | 17 | 17 | 10.7 |

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

■

# OTHER RELEASES

## Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

July 2001

Sales by the group of large retailers totalled $6.4 billion in July, a 3.2% increase over July 2000. The two largest commodity groups—food and beverages, and clothing, footwear and accessories—posted relatively flat sales compared with July 2000. Of the remaining commodity groups, increases in health and personal care products, other goods and services, and home furnishings and electronics led the way. Excluding the clothing and food commodity groups, sales by the group of large retailers rose 6.9% compared with July 2000. (All data in this release are unadjusted for seasonality.)

### Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

| | June 2001[r] | July 2000[r] | July 2001[p] | July 2000 to July 2001 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unadjusted | | | |
| | $ millions | | | % change |
| **Commodities** | | | | |
| Food and beverages | 2,269 | 2,130 | 2,121 | -0.4 |
| Clothing, footwear and accessories | 1,261 | 1,097 | 1,100 | 0.3 |
| Home furnishings and electronics | 905 | 891 | 953 | 7.0 |
| Health and personal care products | 544 | 475 | 521 | 9.6 |
| Housewares | 298 | 299 | 308 | 3.2 |
| Sporting and leisure goods | 334 | 312 | 326 | 4.4 |
| Hardware and lawn and garden products | 446 | 295 | 304 | 3.0 |
| All other goods and services | 773 | 705 | 769 | 9.2 |
| **Total** | **6,830** | **6,204** | **6,402** | **3.2** |

[r] *Revised figures.*
[p] *Preliminary figures.*

Clothing, footwear and accessory sales posted minimal growth (+0.3%) compared with July 2000. Sales of men's clothing and accessories (-4.8%) and women's clothing and accessories (-0.3%) both declined in July. Children's clothing (+5.5%) fared better than adult's clothing sales. Footwear sales also increased, 6.2% from July 2000.

Health and personal care products (+9.6%) posted the largest year-over-year advance for the group of large retailers and has done so for six of the last seven months. Prescription drug sales were the driving force behind July's sales growth. They accounted for about one-third of health and personal care product sales and one-half of their increase.

Home furnishings and electronics posted a 7.0% increase over July 2000. The strongest sales were seen in the household appliance and home furnishing sub-groups, which both posted year-over-year gains of about 10%. Furniture sales also continued to be strong for the group of large retailers, rising 7.0%. Home electronic sales were not as strong (+3.6%).

The Monthly Survey of Large Retailers provides a breakdown of sales on the basis of commodities at the national level for a group of about 80 large retailers. Sales data for more than 100 commodities are available on a monthly basis.

The survey includes large retailers mainly in the food, clothing, home furnishings, electronics, sporting goods, and general merchandise sectors. These retailers represent about 37% of total annual retail sales, excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers.

**Available on CANSIM: table 800009.**

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 Elton Cryderman (613-951-0669; *elton.cryderman@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. ■

## Challenges to advanced technology adoption

Two research papers available today investigate challenges that firms in the manufacturing sector face in adopting new technologies.

*Impediments to advanced technology adoption for Canadian manufacturers* investigates the relative importance of various impediments, using data from the 1993 Survey of Innovation and Advanced Technology.

*Skill shortages and advanced technology adoption* focusses on the importance of skill shortages, using data from the 1998 Survey of Technology Adoption.

During the 1990s, the number of manufacturing plants using advanced technologies increased substantially (11F0019MIE01105; 11F0019MPE01105). Previous work has shown that plants that have successfully incorporated advanced technologies into their operations have enjoyed higher productivity and increased market share

(11F0019MIE01175; 11F0019MPE01175). However, despite these advantages, in 1998 more than half the plants in the manufacturing sector did not use any individual advanced technologies connected with design and engineering, processing and fabrication, network communications, or integration and control.

According to the study *Impediments to advanced technology adoption for Canadian manufacturers*, these firms faced five broad groups of problems. As could be expected, cost-related impediments were reported most frequently. These included equipment costs, as well as the costs of capital investment, technology acquisition, software development and maintenance expenses.

Other impediments related to: institutional problems, such as taxation and government regulation; labour problems, such as a shortage of skills and training difficulties; organizational problems, such as poor management attitude or worker resistance; and information problems, such as a lack of scientific and technical information or insufficient technical support from vendors. Of these, labour problems are most often cited, followed by organizational problems.

The study found that the more technologically complex a firm is, the greater the likelihood that it would report an impediment. Interestingly, the study found these barriers such as costs, labour and organization were not insurmountable, which suggests that problems arise as technologies are adopted but firms are able to deal with them. In addition, the nature of impediments differed from firm to firm. Younger establishments were more likely to report labour-related problems, while those related to organization were more likely in older, unionized firms.

The study *Skill shortages and advanced technology adoption* reports that, between 1993 and 1998, rates of adopting advanced technology doubled, raising concerns about shortages of skilled labour. The demand for skilled labour has increased as technological growth and expansion in the economy has accelerated. This growth has been particularly rapid in network communications technologies, which require a highly skilled work force.

The study concludes that labour shortages were not the impediment that blocked adoption of technology. Rather, plants for which skill shortages were considered an obstacle were more likely to adopt advanced technologies, and to adopt greater numbers of them.

According to this study, shortages developed as plants adopted new technologies. Plants for which shortages were a problem were also more likely to take action to resolve them, by hiring and training new employees and improving wages and benefits. This suggests that the lack of skilled labour, while a challenge, is not insurmountable.

Two-thirds of manufacturing firms that adopted advanced technology in the late 1990s reported a skill shortage, according to data from the 1998 Survey of Advanced Technology in Canadian Manufacturing. Shortages were greatest for machine operators, industrial engineers and machinists; one-quarter of plant managers reported a shortage in each of these areas. On a broader scale, shortages were greatest for professional and skilled trade workers; 40% of technology users saw a shortage in each of these areas. The category with the fewest shortages was management.

Overcoming the challenges associated with adopting new technology, including upgrading labour skills, had its rewards. Firms that did so generally incurred increased productivity and higher growth.

*Impediments to advanced technology adoption for Canadian manufacturers* (11F0019MPE01173, $5/$25; 11F0019MIE01173, free), and *Skill shortages and advanced technology adoption* (11F0019MPE01175, $5/$25; 11F0019MIE01175, free) are now available. The free versions can be downloaded from Statistics Canada's Web site (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free),* then *Science and technology*. The paper versions are available at the cost shown. See *How to order products*.

Research papers provide useful analyses that are, however, sensitive to the type of analytical model chosen, set of variables selected, and quality of the data used. All publications produced at Statistics Canada go through a peer review process to ensure that they meet professional standards.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Sabourin (613-951-3735; *sabodav@statcan.ca*), or John Baldwin (613-951-8588; *baldjoh@statcan.ca*), Micro-Economic Studies and Analysis Division. ■

## Crushing statistics

August 2001

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 197 758 metric tonnes of canola in August, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 84 177 tonnes, and meal production amounted to 122 702 tonnes.

**Available on CANSIM: table 10005.**

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

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714, *les.macartney@statcan.ca*) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856, *karen.gray@statcan.ca*); Agriculture Division. ■

## Restaurant, caterers and taverns

July 2001

Receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns totalled an estimated $2.90 billion in July, an increase of 7.5% over July 2000.

**Available on CANSIM: table 3550001.**

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. ■

## Aircraft movement statistics

February 2001

Statistics on aircraft movements for the 98 Nav Canada air traffic control towers are now available. The number of take-offs and landings at these airports and flight service stations in February totalled 415,636, down 11.1% from February 2000.

Statistics for the 111 Canadian airports without air traffic control towers are also available.

The February 2001 monthly report is available on the Transport Canada's Web site at this URL: *http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/report/TP141E/tp141.htm*.

For more information concerning this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; *villenm@tc.gc.ca*) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; *rajanis@tc.gc.ca*).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; *aviationstatistics@statcan.ca*) Transportation Division. ■

## Pension plans in Canada

January 1, 2000

Data on employer plans (registered pension plans), their membership and plan provisions are now available from the Pension Plans in Canada Database. The Pension Plans in Canada Survey is a census of all registered pension plans in the country. Statistics are derived largely from administrative data provided by the 10 pension supervisory authorities.

*Pension plans in Canada* (74-401-XIB, $31; 74-401-XPB, $41) will be available in late fall. See *How to order products*.

To obtain statistical tables providing key information, custom tabulations or for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012 *income@statcan.ca*), Income Statistics Division. ■

# NEW PRODUCTS

**Infomat—A weekly review**, September 21, 2001
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE** ($3/$109).

**Infomat—A weekly review**, September 21, 2001
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE** ($4/$145).

**Impediments to advanced technology adoption for Canadian manufacturers**,
**Catalogue number 11F0019MIE01173**
(free).

**Impediments to advanced technology adoption for Canadian manufacturers**,
**Catalogue number 11F0019MPE01173** ($5/$25).

**Skill shortages and advanced technology adoption**,
**Catalogue number 11F0019MIE01175**
(free).

**Skill shortages and advanced technology adoption**,
**Catalogue number 11F0019MPE01175** ($5/$25).

**Wholesale trade**, Vol. 64, no. 7, July 2001
**Catalogue number 63-008-XIB** ($14/$140).

**Imports by commodity**, Vol. 58, no. 7, July 2001
**Catalogue number 65-007-XMB** ($37/$361).

**Imports by commodity**, Vol. 58, no. 7, July 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.**

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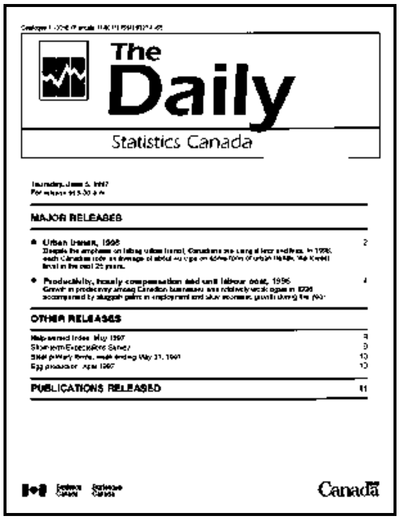
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# **RELEASE DATES:** SEPTEMBER 24 TO 28

(Release dates are subject to change.)

| Release date | Title | Reference period |
|---|---|---|
| 24 | **Canada's international transactions in securities** | July 2001 |
| 25 | **Quarterly demographic statistics: Population estimates** | Second quarter 2001 |
| 26 | **Composite Index** | August 2001 |
| 26 | **Employment, earnings and hours** | July 2001 |
| 28 | **Industrial product and raw materials price indexes** | August 2001 |
| 28 | **Real gross domestic product at factor cost by industry** | July 2001 |