



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, January 21, 2002**

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Retail trade, November 2001** 2  
 Zero-percent financing offers from several auto manufacturers boosted motor vehicle sales, which led to a 1.4% increase in overall retail sales in November to \$24.6 billion. Excluding the strong sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales fell 0.6% in November.
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## OTHER RELEASES

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Provincial and territorial government enterprises finance, fiscal year ended nearest to December 31, 1999	6
Federal government enterprises finance, fiscal year ended nearest to December 31, 2000	6
Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey, February to June 2001	7
Steel wire and specified wire products, November 2001	7
Civil aviation operating statistics, November 2001	8
Air charter statistics, fourth quarter 2000 and annual 2000	8
Stocks of frozen poultry meat, January 1, 2002	8

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## NEW PRODUCTS 9

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## MAJOR RELEASES

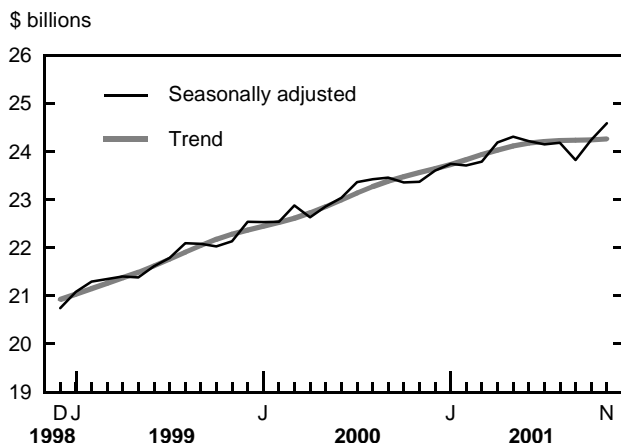
### Retail trade

November 2001

Retail sales advanced for a second consecutive month in November, up 1.4% to \$24.6 billion. This follows a 1.8% increase in October. While October's gain was broadly based, November's came mostly from incentive-driven sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers. Excluding sales by these dealers, retail sales fell 0.6% in November.

In constant dollars, retail sales advanced 2.1% in November after a similar gain in October (+2.4%). The only significant price movement affecting retail sales during these two months was gasoline prices, which dropped 17% over the period.

**Strong auto sales push up retail trade**



Prior to November, retail sales had remained essentially flat since April, except for the significant 1.5% drop in September. November's increase brought sales 1.6% higher than in April. However, November's retail sales—excluding sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers—were the same as April's. Before April, retailers enjoyed rising sales since the summer of 1998, except for a pause in the second half of 2000.

Despite signs of a slowdown in 2001, retailers posted a 4.4% cumulative sales gain in the first 11 months of the year compared with the same period in 2000. Drug stores and furniture stores led other retailers with year-to-date sales increases of approximately 7%. The remaining five retail sectors all posted cumulative gains of about 4% over the same period.

#### Note to readers

Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. Retail sales estimates for December 2001 and the 2001 annual review will be released on February 21. All year-to-date comparisons in this release use the sum of unadjusted estimates. The rest of the analysis is based, as usual, on seasonally adjusted estimates.

### Zero-percent financing rates drive up sales in auto sector

Sales in the automotive sector advanced 3.4% in November, on the strength of robust sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers. The introduction of zero-percent financing programs by several auto manufacturers resulted in a 6.9% jump in November sales. This was their largest monthly percentage sales gain since December 1997, when similar promotional programs were in place.

Sales increases in November and October by motor and recreational vehicle dealers followed a 2.9% drop in September. Prior to September, sales by these dealers had remained essentially flat since April.

Motor and recreational vehicle dealers get the majority of their revenues from selling or leasing new cars. The rest comes from selling used cars and recreational vehicles as well as parts and service. In November, unit sales of new motor vehicles reached their second highest level in 25 years, surpassed only in December 1997. A total of 143,730 new vehicles were sold in November, including heavy trucks and buses not sold by retailers.

Sales by gasoline service stations (-6.4%) continued to reflect lower gasoline prices at the pump in November. Gasoline service station sales have been falling since December 2000—they dropped 16.8% over the first 11 months of 2001. This followed almost two years of price-driven increases, which pushed up sales more than 50%.

### Furniture sector back in business

After reporting weak sales in the first nine months of 2001, retailers in the furniture sector posted strong sales gains in October (+2.0%) and November (+2.3%). Prior to 2001, sales in the furniture sector had been advancing rapidly since the spring of 1996. Retailers in the furniture sector generate approximately 40% of their total sales from household appliances and furniture,

and about 30% from sales of home electronics and computers.

### **Consumers reduce spending in general merchandise stores and food stores**

Lower sales by department stores in November (-2.0%) pushed sales down 1.0% for the general merchandise sector. November's decline in department store sales occurred despite the opening of several new stores during the month. Department store sales have weakened in recent months after a period of increases that began in the spring of 2000.

Food store sales declined 0.4% in November, the first decrease in eight months. Generally, sales in food stores have been advancing rapidly since early 2000.

Sales in clothing stores stalled in November (+0.1%), after advancing rapidly in October (+3.8%). Despite November's weak gain, retailers still recorded their second highest sales level since the record high posted in April. The opening of several high-traffic clothing stores boosted sales by 4.2% in that month. Sales in clothing stores remained generally flat in the first nine months of 2001, except in April, after nearly four years of continuous growth.

### **Provincial retail picture improves**

Retailers in most provinces shared in the October and November sales gains.

All provinces posted sales increases of at least 0.7% in November. Newfoundland and Labrador was the exception, with a marginal 0.1% decline, following a 3.1% gain in October. The strongest gains were reported by retailers in Ontario and Manitoba (both +2.0%).

For the first 11 months of 2001, Alberta (+9.0%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+8.8%) outpaced other provinces in cumulative retail sales compared with the same period of 2000. Retail sales in Manitoba (+5.9%) and British Columbia (+5.7%) advanced at a slower pace over the same period. The remaining provinces posted cumulative sales advances in 2001 of between 2.3% and 4.2%.

### **Related indicators for December**

Total employment edged down 0.1% in December, continuing the general flat trend seen throughout 2001. From December 2000 to December 2001, the total number of jobs grew 0.2%. During this period, all the growth reported was in part-time jobs; full-time employment pulled back. The number of housing starts in December advanced 4.0% from November. This brought the total number of starts in 2001 to 163,200, the busiest year since 1992. Automotive industry sources report sales of new motor vehicles continued to rise in December from November.

### **Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0001 to 080-0005.**

The November 2001 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155) will be available shortly. See *How to order products*.

To order data, or for general information, contact Client Services (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; [paul.gratton@statcan.ca](mailto:paul.gratton@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. □

## Retail sales

	November 2000	August 2001 <sup>r</sup>	September 2001 <sup>r</sup>	October 2001 <sup>r</sup>	November 2001 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2001	November 2000 to November 2001
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,175</b>	<b>5,398</b>	<b>5,403</b>	<b>5,413</b>	<b>5,393</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,798	4,992	4,997	5,004	4,985	-0.4	3.9
All other food stores	377	406	406	408	408	-0.2	8.0
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>1,212</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>1,234</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,325</b>	<b>1,296</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Shoe stores	146	147	146	148	150	1.6	3.3
Men's clothing stores	122	119	114	118	117	-0.2	-3.7
Women's clothing stores	391	401	388	399	400	0.2	2.2
Other clothing stores	638	659	647	681	680	-0.1	6.5
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>1,351</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,040	1,090	1,084	1,113	1,133	1.8	8.9
Household furnishings stores	251	267	267	264	276	4.6	10.0
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,357</b>	<b>9,583</b>	<b>9,390</b>	<b>9,567</b>	<b>9,892</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,065	6,350	6,167	6,390	6,833	6.9	12.7
Gasoline service stations	1,982	1,832	1,901	1,767	1,654	-6.4	-16.6
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,310	1,401	1,322	1,411	1,405	-0.4	7.3
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>2,708</b>	<b>2,622</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>2,596</b>	<b>2,548</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	713	731	723	738	766	3.9	7.5
Other durable goods stores	641	640	620	638	633	-0.9	-1.3
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,152	1,225	1,204	1,226	1,224	-0.2	6.2
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>23,371</b>	<b>24,182</b>	<b>23,820</b>	<b>24,242</b>	<b>24,584</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>17,306</b>	<b>17,832</b>	<b>17,653</b>	<b>17,852</b>	<b>17,751</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	382	421	411	424	423	-0.1	10.9
Prince Edward Island	103	108	104	108	109	1.0	5.6
Nova Scotia	715	725	728	737	749	1.6	4.8
New Brunswick	582	584	575	598	605	1.2	3.9
Quebec	5,287	5,522	5,420	5,491	5,526	0.7	4.5
Ontario	8,979	9,137	8,960	9,136	9,320	2.0	3.8
Manitoba	786	829	832	847	864	2.0	9.9
Saskatchewan	677	690	695	708	714	0.9	5.5
Alberta	2,718	2,908	2,848	2,932	2,967	1.2	9.1
British Columbia	3,064	3,177	3,164	3,178	3,218	1.2	5.0
Yukon	28	29	30	31	35	11.3	22.6
Northwest Territories	34	36	36	37	37	1.6	11.0
Nunavut	16	16	16	16	16	2.0	4.2

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

## Retail sales

	November 2000	October 2001 <sup>r</sup>	November 2001 <sup>p</sup>	November 2000 to November 2001
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Food</b>	<b>4,997</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>5,310</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,636	4,827	4,921	6.2
All other food stores	362	398	389	7.5
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>8.3</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>1,414</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Shoe stores	159	164	168	5.5
Men's clothing stores	148	119	145	-1.9
Women's clothing stores	422	411	437	3.5
Other clothing stores	716	720	776	8.5
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>12.0</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,128	1,132	1,262	12.0
Household furnishings stores	293	283	328	12.1
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,102</b>	<b>9,439</b>	<b>9,629</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,651	6,151	6,413	13.5
Gasoline service stations	1,970	1,829	1,636	-17.0
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,480	1,459	1,580	6.7
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>3,151</b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>3,232</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,497</b>	<b>2,454</b>	<b>2,652</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	768	724	829	7.9
Other durable goods stores	629	558	621	-1.3
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,100	1,173	1,202	9.3
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>23,768</b>	<b>23,972</b>	<b>25,191</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>18,117</b>	<b>17,821</b>	<b>18,778</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	402	414	451	12.1
Prince Edward Island	101	103	108	7.0
Nova Scotia	736	715	788	7.0
New Brunswick	593	598	626	5.6
Quebec	5,302	5,421	5,582	5.3
Ontario	9,305	9,051	9,699	4.2
Manitoba	798	843	889	11.4
Saskatchewan	691	723	734	6.3
Alberta	2,763	2,933	3,036	9.8
British Columbia	3,005	3,089	3,197	6.4
Yukon	26	30	32	24.6
Northwest Territories	32	36	35	9.9
Nunavut	15	16	16	5.4

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

## OTHER RELEASES

### Provincial and territorial government enterprises finance

Fiscal year ended nearest to December 31, 1999

In 1999, government business enterprises earned after-tax profits of \$15.5 billion, \$1.5 billion more (+10.7%) than in 1998. Provincial and territorial government business enterprises posted profits of \$10.1 billion, accounting for more than 65% of all government enterprise profits in 1999. Federal enterprises earned \$5.0 billion and local government enterprises, \$0.4 billion.

Provincial and territorial lotteries, gaming, and liquor enterprises generated after-tax profits of slightly more than \$8.1 billion in 1999, which is approximately 1.5 times the profits of all chartered banks in Canada in that year. The profits earned by these government business enterprises in 1999 comprised most of the profits remitted to provincial and territorial governments.

In 1999, government business enterprises generated total revenues of \$98.7 billion, an increase of \$7.0 billion (+7.6%) from 1998. Total revenues of provincial and territorial enterprises reached \$65.5 billion, up \$6.3 billion (+10.6%). Total expenditures of government business enterprises reached \$85.6 billion in 1999, of which provincial and territorial enterprises accounted for \$55.4 billion, or 64.7%.

Provincial and territorial non-financial government business enterprises' average income for the five years from 1995 to 1999 represented 3.1% of the total income generated by the non-financial private sector enterprises in that period.

### Total revenues of non-financial enterprises

Fiscal year ended nearest to December 31

	Provincial and territorial government business enterprises		All private
	\$ billions	%	\$ billions
1990	42.6	3.4	1,256.2
1995	44.7	3.2	1,385.2
1996	45.6	3.1	1,491.0
1997	45.8	2.8	1,612.7
1998	52.6	3.2	1,648.0
1999	58.4	3.3	1,749.6
Five-year average	49.4	3.1	1,577.3

At the end of 1999, the total assets of provincial and territorial enterprises reached \$187.3 billion, up from \$181.1 billion at the end of 1998. The gross

debt (total liabilities) rose \$12.1 billion to \$169.9 billion in 1999.

**Note:** The release of the 1999 provincial and territorial government business enterprise finances completes the composite finances for the three levels of government business enterprises. In December 2000 and October 2001, Statistics Canada published the 1999 data of the federal and local government business enterprise finances. These data can be found in CANSIM tables 385-0011, 385-0013, and 385-0015.

The government business enterprise component contains all entities that are: controlled by a government; engaged in commercial operations; and similar in motivation to private business enterprises. It is divided into federal government business enterprises, provincial and territorial government business enterprises, and local government business enterprises. The provincial and territorial government business enterprises are involved in activities such as hydroelectricity, gaming, and liquor sales.

**Available on CANSIM: table 385-0015 and 385-0016.**

Data are available by custom and special tabulation. For more information, or general inquiries on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767; [ricejoa@statcan.ca](mailto:ricejoa@statcan.ca)).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Marc de Beaumont (613-951-1829; [debejea@statcan.ca](mailto:debejea@statcan.ca)) or Denis Labelle (613-951-0700; [labeden@statcan.ca](mailto:labeden@statcan.ca)), Public institutions Division. ■

### Federal government enterprises finance

Fiscal year ended nearest to December 31, 2000

Federal government business enterprises (including monetary authorities) earned an after-tax profit of \$5.0 billion in 2000, up 28.7% from 1999. Monetary authorities (the Bank of Canada and the Exchange Fund Account) accounted for \$4.5 billion of this total, an increase of \$0.8 billion (+22.2%) over 1999. The financial enterprises posted after-tax profits of \$0.7 billion, and non-financial enterprises a loss of \$0.2 billion.

Total assets of federal government business enterprises rose \$10.8 billion, or 7.5%, to \$155.1 billion

at the end of 2000. Gross debt (total liabilities) reached \$148.2 billion, up \$10.0 billion, or 7.3%, from 1999. As a result, total net worth advanced \$0.8 billion to \$6.9 billion in 2000.

### Federal government business enterprises

Fiscal years ended nearest to December 31

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
	\$ millions				
<b>Total income</b>	<b>19,262</b>	<b>20,181</b>	<b>20,694</b>	<b>20,553</b>	<b>23,150</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>16,017</b>	<b>16,708</b>	<b>16,636</b>	<b>16,468</b>	<b>17,923</b>
Net Income (loss) before provision for income tax	3,245	3,473	4,057	4,085	5,228
Net income (loss) after provision for income tax	3,211	3,440	3,920	3,864	4,974
Remitted profits to federal government	2,772	2,782	3,358	3,727	4,564

Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0011 to 385-0013.

Data are available by custom and special tabulations. To order data, or for general inquiries on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767; [ricejoa@statcan.ca](mailto:ricejoa@statcan.ca)).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Marc de Beaumont (613-951-1829; [debejea@statcan.ca](mailto:debejea@statcan.ca)) or Jean Émard (613-951-1847; [emarjea@statcan.ca](mailto:emarjea@statcan.ca)), Public Institutions Division. ■

### Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey

February to June 2001

The national smoking rate is now at its lowest level in more than three decades of monitoring smoking.

An estimated 5.7 million people, or 23% of the population aged 15 and over, smoked either daily or occasionally during the first half of 2001, according to the Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey. This the lowest level since regular monitoring of smoking began in 1965, when an estimated 50% of the population smoked.

Twenty-five percent of men were smokers, compared with 21% of women.

The lowest prevalence rate was in British Columbia, where about 17% of those aged 15 and over were smokers. Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, both at 28%, were among the provinces with highest smoking rates.

At the national level, each daily smoker puffed an average of about 16 cigarettes a day during the first half of 2001, down from 21 in 1981.

The survey, conducted since 1999 by Statistics Canada on behalf of Health Canada, provides timely, reliable and continuous data on tobacco use and related issues. Its objective is to track changes in smoking status and consumption, especially for populations most at risk, such as people aged 15 to 24. Data cited from previous years has been derived from other surveys. This wave, conducted from February to June 2001, collected data from about 10,700 respondents. Data from the second wave, conducted from July to December 2001, will be available by the spring of 2002.

An estimated 34% of young adults aged 20 to 24 were smokers, still the highest incidence of any age group. Among men in this age group, just under 36% smoked, well below the 47% in 1981. The rate among women in this age group was at 32%, a big drop from 50% in 1981.

In the first half of 2001, 23% of teens aged 15 to 19 were smokers. About 26% of teenage girls smoked, compared with 42% of girls in 1981. Twenty percent of teenage boys smoked, compared with 46% of teenage boys in 1981.

An estimated 25% of teens reported taking action to quit during the first half of the year, the highest proportion of all age groups.

The percentage of ex-smokers continues to grow. In the first half of 2001, 25% of the population 15 years and older, or about 6.1 million people, reported that they had quit. Former smokers have outnumbered current smokers for several years.

For more information on the survey results contact Anne Zaborski, Tobacco Control Program, Health Canada (613-954-0152; [anne\\_zaborski@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:anne_zaborski@hc-sc.gc.ca)) or visit the program's Web site ([www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/tobacco/ctums\\_splash.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hppb/tobacco/ctums_splash.html)).

For information on the public-use microdata file, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; [ssd@statcan.ca](mailto:ssd@statcan.ca)), Special Surveys Division. ■

### Steel wire and specified wire products

November 2001

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 57 065 metric tonnes in November, up 0.2% from 56 927 tonnes in November 2000. Production and export market data for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0010.

The November 2001 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products*, Vol. 56, no. 11 (41-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact David Routliffe (613-951-4925; [david.routliffe@statcan.ca](mailto:david.routliffe@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## **Civil aviation operating statistics**

November 2001

Air Canada reported that total passenger-kilometres flown grew 10% in November from October. With this growth, Air Canada regained about half the passenger-kilometres it had lost in September and October. The September and October numbers were down about 1 billion, or 17%, from August. (All data are seasonally adjusted.)

**Available on CANSIM: table 401-0001.**

November 2001 operational data on civil aviation for Air Canada will appear in the February 2002 issue of *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82). A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Lund (613-951-0125) or Lisa Di Piéto (613-951-0146), Transportation Division. ■

## **Air charter statistics**

Fourth quarter 2000 and annual 2000 (preliminary)

In the fourth quarter of 2000, 677,159 passengers travelled on international charter flights, 3.6% fewer than in the fourth quarter of 1999.

During all of 2000, 3.88 million passengers flew on international air charters, 9.6% fewer than in 1999. Charter traffic to and from Europe (-43.9%) saw the largest decrease from 1999. The decline is largely due to the transfer of charter services to scheduled services.

The February 2002 issue of *Aviation service bulletin* (51-004-XIB, \$8/\$82) will be available soon. A print-on-demand service is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; [kathie.davidson@statcan.ca](mailto:kathie.davidson@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## **Stocks of frozen poultry meat**

January 1, 2002 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on January 1 totalled 63 800 metric tonnes, up 29.6% from January 1, 2001.

**Available on CANSIM: tables: 003-0023 and 003-0024.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; [sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca](mailto:sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca)) or Rita Athwal (613-951-5022; [rita.athwal@statcan.ca](mailto:rita.athwal@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■



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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Rural and small-town Canada analysis bulletin**, Vol. 3, no. 5, 1989–2000  
**Catalogue number 21-006-XIE**  
(free).

**Steel wire and specified wire products**, Vol. 56, no. 11, November 2001  
**Catalogue number 41-006-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Consumer Price Index**, Vol. 80, no. 12, December 2001  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XIB** (\$8/\$77).  
**Available at 7 am Tuesday, January 22**

**Consumer Price Index**, Vol. 80, no. 12, December 2001  
**Catalogue number 62-001-XPB** (\$11/\$103).  
**Available at 7 am Tuesday, January 22**

**Wholesale trade**, Vol. 64, no. 11, November 2001  
**Catalogue number 63-008-XIB** (\$14/\$140).

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

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