



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, October 15, 2002

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **New motor vehicle sales, August 2002** 2
After two months of decreases, new motor vehicle sales turned around in August. Sales rose 4.1%, erasing the declines in June and July.
- **Investment in non-residential building construction, third quarter 2002** 5
Investment in non-residential building construction reached a record high in the third quarter, as the private and public sectors both increased spending. Overall, businesses and governments spent nearly \$6.7 billion in the third quarter, up 3.5% from the second.

OTHER RELEASES

- Dairy statistics, August 2002 8
- Aircraft movement statistics, August 2002 8

NEW PRODUCTS



MAJOR RELEASES

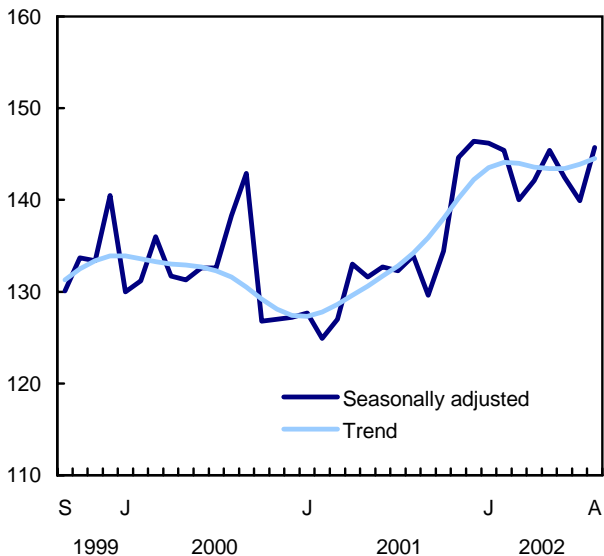
New motor vehicle sales

August 2002

After two months of decreases, new motor vehicle sales turned around in August. Sales rose 4.1%, erasing the declines in June and July. Sales of 145,748 new vehicles were reported in August, bringing sales to a level exceeded only in December 2001 and January 2002.

August sales recuperate losses from June and July

'000 units



New motor vehicle sales most recently peaked in December 2001 at 146,363 units. Since then, monthly sales have maintained a high average level of 143,437 units. As a result, sales continued at a record-setting pace during the first eight months of 2002, 10.0% higher than in the same period of 2001. Before this, new motor vehicle sales moved upward throughout 2001, but were generally stable for most of 2000, except for significant declines in the fall.

Preliminary figures from the auto industry indicate that new motor vehicle sales declined slightly in September, primarily because of decreased truck sales.

Truck sales roar ahead

In August, year-end inventory clear-outs and other dealer incentives pushed truck sales up 4.8%

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated. 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.

to 66,705 vehicles. Before this, sales had fallen 2.5% in June and 2.8% in July. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

In recent months, new truck sales have levelled off, following a period of generally accelerating growth that began in the summer of 2001. Truck sales were stable in the first part of 2001, following a period of declines in the fall of 2000.

Manufacturers reported dealer sales of 79,043 new cars in August, up 3.6% from July. Continued incentives and clearances of 2002 models pushed North American-built car sales up 7.3% in August. In contrast, sales of overseas-built passenger cars fell 4.5%.

The upward movement maintained by passenger car sales since the start of 2001 has slowed somewhat in recent months. Previously, sales had been generally stable since the start of 2000.

Manitoba and New Brunswick lead provincial sales

In August, new motor vehicle sales were up in most provinces. Manitoba and New Brunswick led the way, with increases of over 10% each. Manitoba's gain pushed sales to new heights, whereas New Brunswick's increase recuperated the losses posted in the previous four months.

Newfoundland and Labrador and Ontario each posted a 7.5% gain in August. The surge in sales for Ontario followed a 5.0% drop in July. Newfoundland and Labrador posted a third consecutive sales increase.

Only two provinces reported declines in new motor vehicle sales in August. Sales in the region formed

by British Columbia and the territories dropped 5.0%, the first decline in five months. Nevertheless, sales have continued to trend upwards since January 2001. Saskatchewan (-1.4%) was the only other province to report a decline in August. The remaining provinces posted gains in new motor vehicle sales ranging from 2.0% to 3.6%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2402.

The August 2002 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). 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. □

New motor vehicle sales

	August 2001	July 2002 ^r	August 2002 ^p	August 2001 to August 2002	July to August 2002
Seasonally adjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	133,928	139,949	145,748	8.8	4.1
Passenger cars	73,304	76,299	79,043	7.8	3.6
North American ¹	51,650	52,501	56,312	9.0	7.3
Overseas	21,654	23,798	22,731	5.0	-4.5
Trucks, vans and buses	60,624	63,651	66,705	10.0	4.8
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,146	2,052	2,206	2.8	7.5
Prince Edward Island	408	402	416	2.0	3.5
Nova Scotia	3,651	3,925	4,065	11.3	3.6
New Brunswick	3,138	3,164	3,488	11.2	10.2
Quebec	33,361	34,674	35,928	7.7	3.6
Ontario	53,698	53,781	57,833	7.7	7.5
Manitoba	3,608	3,992	4,432	22.8	11.0
Saskatchewan	3,225	3,503	3,455	7.1	-1.4
Alberta	15,753	16,948	17,293	9.8	2.0
British Columbia ²	14,941	17,509	16,630	11.3	-5.0
	August 2001	July 2002	August 2002 ^p	August 2001 to August 2002	
Unadjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	139,030	141,101	150,865	8.5	
Passenger cars	78,974	78,979	84,511	7.0	
North American ¹	52,873	52,993	57,576	8.9	
Overseas	26,101	25,986	26,935	3.2	
Trucks, vans and buses	60,056	62,122	66,354	10.5	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,449	2,402	2,497	2.0	
Prince Edward Island	431	486	444	3.0	
Nova Scotia	3,635	4,071	4,128	13.6	
New Brunswick	3,167	3,122	3,491	10.2	
Quebec	36,983	37,047	39,960	8.0	
Ontario	55,967	53,876	59,989	7.2	
Manitoba	3,664	4,041	4,666	27.3	
Saskatchewan	3,218	3,400	3,533	9.8	
Alberta	15,122	15,647	16,429	8.6	
British Columbia ²	14,394	17,009	15,728	9.3	

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

² Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

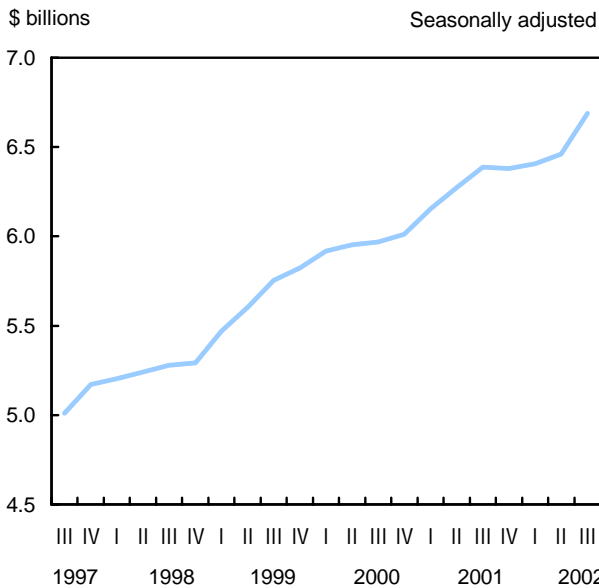


Investment in non-residential building construction

Third quarter 2002

Investment in non-residential building construction reached a record high in the third quarter, as the private and public sectors both increased spending. Overall, businesses and governments spent nearly \$6.7 billion in the third quarter, up 3.5% from the second.

Increase in non-residential building construction



This broke the previous record of \$6.5 billion set in the second quarter. Investment rose significantly in all three components — commercial, industrial and institutional. The business sector accounts for 71% of total investment.

Spending on institutional building construction amounted to \$2.0 billion, up 3.8%. Investment in commercial construction reached \$3.4 billion, up 2.2%, and spending on industrial buildings rose 6.7% to \$1.3 billion.

At the provincial level, the strongest increase (in dollar terms) occurred in Ontario, where investment rose 8.2% to \$3.0 billion. Investment in Alberta fell 10.7% to \$659 million.

Non-residential investment rose in 21 of 28 census metropolitan areas. Toronto, Calgary and Montréal recorded the largest decreases; Thunder Bay had the biggest gain. Census metropolitan areas accounted for 67% of total investment in non-residential building construction, practically unchanged from the second quarter.

Note to readers

This release presents seasonally adjusted data (unless otherwise stated), which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction. This series is based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions.

Work put in place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put in place patterns differ according to the value of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of some hundred thousand dollars.

Additional data from the Survey of Private and Public Investment are used to create this investment series. Investment in non-residential building data is benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

Investment in non-residential building construction by census metropolitan area

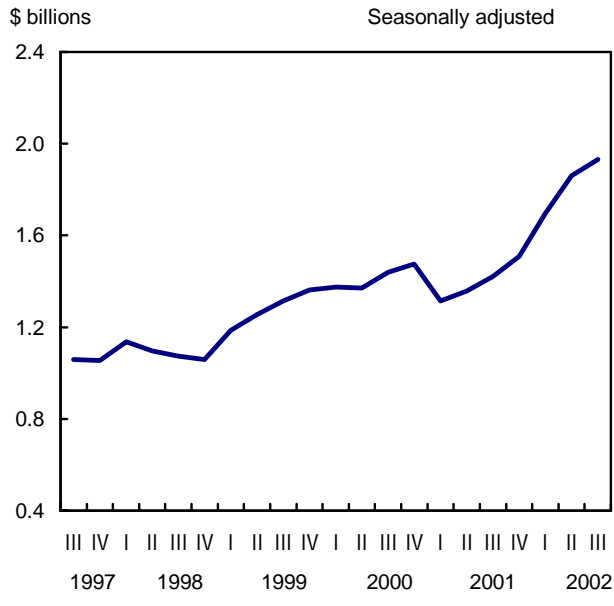
	Third quarter 2001	Second quarter 2002	Third quarter 2002	Second quarter to third quarter 2002
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
Total	4,459	4,364	4,479	2.6
Abbotsford	20	31	39	27.3
Calgary	290	264	238	-10.0
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	34	27	23	-13.1
Edmonton	164	172	152	-11.6
Halifax	76	29	40	37.1
Hamilton	155	168	153	-9.0
Hull	76	38	47	23.0
Kingston	15	18	31	72.9
Kitchener	146	189	211	11.5
London	119	172	180	4.8
Montréal	853	937	911	-2.8
Oshawa	53	58	66	14.2
Ottawa	361	303	318	4.8
Québec	137	163	164	0.9
Regina	42	26	34	32.4
Saint John	31	17	17	0.1
Saskatoon	64	53	58	10.7
Sherbrooke	28	27	35	29.5
St. Catharines-Niagara	78	81	104	28.3
St. John's	38	23	29	27
Sudbury	30	57	66	16.2
Thunder Bay	40	74	103	38.9
Toronto	989	860	833	-3.2
Trois-Rivières	32	24	30	21.4
Vancouver	393	366	390	6.8
Victoria	58	49	52	6.6
Windsor	54	84	102	21.6
Winnipeg	81	53	51	-3.7

On a year-to-date basis, investment in non-residential building construction from January to September reached \$19.6 billion, 3.9% higher than in the same period of 2001.

Institutional investment likely to exceed annual record

Government investment in non-residential building construction increased for the sixth consecutive quarter. At this pace, investment will likely exceed annual record levels.

Institutional investment reaching summit



From January to September, governments spent \$5.4 billion on institutional projects, which represents 98% of the total for all of 2001.

Growth in the third quarter was led by gains in projects for hospitals, clinics and health units.

Among the provinces and territories, Ontario had the largest quarterly increase (+9.1% to \$1.1 billion).

Thunder Bay recorded the strongest increase (+42.3% to \$95 million) among census metropolitan areas, as a result of construction of a new hospital. Montréal recorded the largest quarterly decline (-7.0% to \$123 million).

First growth in over a year in the commercial component

The increase in investment in the commercial sector in the third quarter halted a series of four straight quarterly declines.

The third-quarter gain was led mainly by an increase in investment in malls, stores and shopping centers, which surpassed growth in the usually stronger office

building sector. This reflects the strong performance of the Canadian economy in the last few months, especially in retail sales.

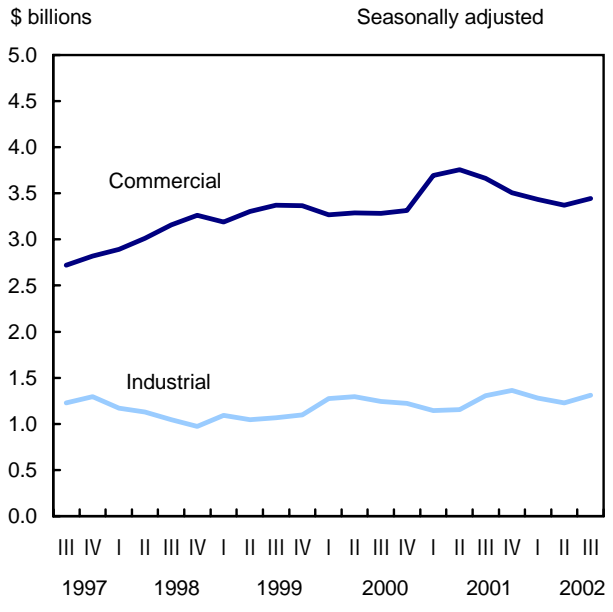
Marketing and retail merchandising groups may have taken advantage of growth opportunities by offering better locations to their clients.

However, a reported increase in office vacancy rates slowed investment in office buildings nationwide, with projects in Ontario the worst hit.

At the provincial level, Quebec had the largest growth in the commercial sector (+3.2% to \$1.0 billion); Alberta posted the biggest decrease (-6.7% to \$368 million).

The census metropolitan area of St. Catharines–Niagara had the largest increase, thanks to projects in the hotel and motel category; Toronto showed the largest decline.

Business sector investment growth resumes



First increase in the industrial component this year

Investment in industrial building construction recorded its first increase after two straight quarterly declines. However, year-to-date industrial investment at the end of September was up 5.9% from the same period of 2001.

Some factors in recent months could explain the present state of the industrial component. Growth in corporate profits since the beginning of 2002 could have given more autonomy in construction spending. Also, encouraging production outlook from manufacturers that

came out of July's Business Conditions Survey could have set favourable conditions for investment decisions.

Investment in non-residential building construction by province and territory

	Third quarter 2001	Second quarter 2002	Third quarter 2002	Second quarter to third quarter 2002
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Canada	6,387	6,460	6,688	3.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	160	69	49	-29.1
Prince Edward Island	34	72	79	9.0
Nova Scotia	136	84	94	11.7
New Brunswick	111	139	140	0.6
Quebec	1,518	1,576	1,620	2.8
Ontario	2,584	2,752	2,977	8.2
Manitoba	150	184	216	17.5
Saskatchewan	241	184	174	-5.4
Alberta	765	739	659	-10.7
British Columbia	659	613	632	3.1
Yukon	8	7	6	-13.0
Northwest Territories	18	35	26	-26.5
Nunavut	5	6	16	185.9

Gains in the industrial sector occurred mostly in Ontario (+20.7% to \$587 million). Alberta (-20.3% to \$155 million) showed the largest decline.

The census metropolitan area of Kitchener led gains with a 38.3% increase to \$36 million. Montréal recorded the largest decline (-23.1% to \$87 million).

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 5014.

More detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are also available in free tables on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Latest indicators*, then *Construction*.

To obtain data, contact Patrick Lemire (613-951-6321; patrick.lemire@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Valérie Gaudreault (613-951-1165; valerie.gaudreault@statcan.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Dairy statistics

August 2002 (preliminary)

Dairy farmers sold 598 000 kilolitres of milk and cream to dairies in August, down 5% from August 2001. Fluid milk sales stood at 235 000 kilolitres, and industrial milk sales at 363 000 kilolitres. Industrial milk is used to manufacture butter, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, milk powders and concentrates.

The third quarter 2002 issue of *The dairy review* (23-001-XIB, \$27/\$89), will be available in November. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

August 2002 (preliminary)

There were 452,792 take-offs and landings recorded in August at the 43 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers, down 5.4% from August 2001.

The August 2002 issue of *Aircraft movement statistics*, Vol. 1, no. 8 (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Transport and warehousing*. Past issues are available on Transport Canada's Web site (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/report/TP1496/tp1496.htm>).

Statistics for the 56 airports with Nav Canada flight service stations are also available for August.

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. ■

