



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Moderate alcohol consumption and heart disease** 2  
 A new study has found that moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages is associated with a reduced risk of subsequent diagnosis of heart disease, or death attributed to it, among women aged 40 or older, but not among men of the same age.
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### Census profiles: Dissolved census subdivisions 2001

Profiles for the "Population and dwelling counts" and "Age and sex" topics are now available at the dissolved census subdivisions (CSDs) level. The dissolved CSD concept has been established to provide a means of tabulating 2001 Census data for census subdivisions as they were delineated for the previous census in 1996.

These profiles and a new mapping feature are now available for free on Statistics Canada's Web site ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the home page, choose *Community profiles*. For more information, contact the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.



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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Moderate alcohol consumption and heart disease

A new study has found that moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages is associated with a reduced risk of subsequent diagnosis of heart disease or death attributed to it among women aged 40 or older, but not among men of the same age.

Women who reported consuming two to nine drinks in the week before they were interviewed in 1994/95 had less than half the odds of being diagnosed with heart disease or dying from it over the next four years than did women who were lifetime abstainers.

These associations persisted when controlling for the impact of other factors known to influence the risk of heart disease. Given the small size of the survey sample relative to other studies, it is significant that this association emerged in only four years.

Although previous studies have indicated a protective effect of moderate drinking for both sexes, the National Population Health Survey (NPHS) data showed no such association for men.

#### Male and female drinking patterns differ

Alcohol consumption reported to the NPHS differed substantially by sex. In 1994/95, 13% of women were lifetime abstainers, compared with only 6% of men. A higher proportion of women than men reported drinking occasionally, but men were more likely than women to report moderate or heavy consumption.

Among women aged 40 or older, 11% of lifetime abstainers and 14% of former drinkers were newly diagnosed with heart disease or died from it from 1994/95 to 1998/99. Over the same period, just 4% of light drinkers and about 3% of moderate drinkers were diagnosed with heart disease or died from it.

#### Other factors affect heart disease

The following factors were taken into account in this analysis: age, household income, education, self-perceived health, diagnosis of diabetes or high blood pressure, family history of heart disease, leisure-time physical activity, body mass index, smoking and, for women, hormone replacement therapy. Even when adjusting for these other risk factors, the link between moderate alcohol consumption — that is, two

#### Note to readers

*This release is based on an article entitled "Moderate alcohol consumption and heart disease," published in Health reports, Vol. 14, no. 1, which examines patterns of alcohol consumption in relation to a subsequent new diagnosis of heart disease or death attributed to it.*

*The analysis is based on longitudinal data from the first three cycles of the National Population Health Survey (NPHS), conducted in 1994/95, 1996/97 and 1998/99. Cause of death was established with information from the Canadian Mortality Database.*

*The study followed 3,379 women and 2,635 men who were 40 or older in 1994/95, and who reported to the NPHS at that time that they had not been diagnosed with heart disease.*

*Data on alcohol consumption in 1994/95 by these individuals were studied in relation to a diagnosis of, or death due to, heart disease during the next four years.*

to nine drinks per week — and a diagnosis of heart disease, or death caused by it, persisted for women. No relationship between drinking and heart disease emerged for men.

A number of other factors were significantly associated with heart disease. Men and women aged 55 to 69 or aged 70 or older had higher odds of being diagnosed with heart disease or dying from it, than those aged 40 to 54.

A family history of heart disease was strongly predictive of the condition for both sexes. On the other hand, physical activity was protective against it.

Men who reported having diabetes in 1994/95 had over twice the odds of being diagnosed with heart disease or of dying from it, compared with men who were not diabetic.

Men who were overweight or obese in 1994/95 had higher odds of a subsequent diagnosis of, or death attributed to, heart disease than did men whose weight was in the acceptable range. However, women classified as overweight had lower odds of a new diagnosis of heart disease, compared with women whose weight was classified as acceptable. There was no clear link between obesity and heart disease for women.

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) was not significantly associated with heart disease. This may be because the analysis did not differentiate between estrogen users and combined therapy users, or because of insufficient statistical power (only 14% of women reported HRT use).

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**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 3225.**

The article "Moderate alcohol consumption and heart disease" is now available in *Health Reports*, Vol. 14, no. 1 (82-003-XIE, \$15/\$44; 82-003-XPE, \$20/\$58). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathryn Wilkins (613-951-1769; [kathryn.wilkins@statcan.ca](mailto:kathryn.wilkins@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division.

This issue of *Health Reports* contains two other articles. The first, "Ontario hospitals — mergers, shorter stays and readmissions," shows that hospital characteristics that may indicate restructuring, such as a recent administrative merger or a decrease

in average length of stay, were not associated with 30-day readmissions of pneumonia or acute myocardial infarction patients. For more information on this article, contact Claudio E. Pérez (613-951-1733), Health Statistics Division.

The second, "Hip and knee replacement," demonstrates that the numbers and rates of hip and knee replacement among seniors increased substantially from 1981/82 to 1998/99, but length of stay for both procedures declined. For more information on this article, contact Wayne J. Millar (613-951-1631), Health Statistics Division.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Marie P. Beaudet (613-951-7025; [beaumar@statcan.ca](mailto:beaumar@statcan.ca)), Health Statistics Division. ■

## OTHER RELEASES

### Department store sales and stocks

August 2002

Department store sales dropped 1.4% to \$1.76 billion (seasonally adjusted) in August from July. Slower back-to-school sales reported by the industry may have contributed to this decline, which followed two months of growth.

Since the 5.0% increase in January, department store sales have levelled off, fluctuating around a month-to-month average of \$1.77 billion. Before that, sales had been moving upward since the spring of 2000.

In August, average department store sales per location totalled \$2.39 million, virtually unchanged from January. However, average sales per location increased 5.3% from August 2001. There were 739 locations in August 2002, up from 731 in August 2001.

### Department store sales including concessions

	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2002	Aug. 2001 to Aug. 2002	Jan. to Aug. 2002	Jan.-Aug. 2001 to Jan.-Aug. 2002
	Unadjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions	% change
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1,631.0</b>	<b>1,730.2</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>12,302.8</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island <sup>1</sup>	40.9	45.1	10.1	287.3	13.7
Nova Scotia	48.4	56.1	15.9	368.9	15.3
New Brunswick	39.7	42.2	6.3	272.4	7.1
Quebec	291.4	313.7	7.6	2,315.1	10.8
Ontario	692.2	724.8	4.7	5,176.5	7.0
Manitoba	66.2	68.2	3.1	490.4	5.0
Saskatchewan	57.1	63.5	11.2	438.9	7.6
Alberta	201.4	218.1	8.3	1,527.2	8.5
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut <sup>1</sup>	193.7	198.6	2.5	1,426.1	5.0

<sup>1</sup> For reasons of confidentiality, data for Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island are combined, as are data for British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

At the national level, department store sales, unadjusted for seasonality, advanced 6.1% in August from August 2001. During the same one-year period, sales increased in all provinces. Nova Scotia, the group formed by Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan each registered double-digit increases. Alberta, Quebec, and New Brunswick each posted an increase of at least 6.0%.

The remaining provinces had year-over-year sales increases of less than 5.0%.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 076-0001 to 076-0003.**

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto: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](mailto:elton.cryderman@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. ■

### Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

Second quarter 2002

Consumer spending in retail stores increased for all major commodity groups except one in the second quarter from the second quarter of 2001. The largest year-over-year increase was in sales of home furnishings and electronics.

Sales of home furnishings and electronics soared 11.6% to \$5.6 billion. With the exception of the first quarter of 2000, this was the largest increase since the inception of the survey in 1997. The strong housing market continued to support sales in this category, as consumers purchased items for their homes.

Year-over-year sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives declined for the fourth consecutive quarter. These declines were largely the result of lower prices at the pump.

Clothing, footwear and accessories showed the smallest increase (+2.7%), but this was still its largest year-over-year increase in a year. Clothing prices were down marginally from the second quarter of 2001.

Overall, shoppers spent \$80.4 billion on goods and services from April to June, up 5.6% from the second quarter of 2001.

Home furnishings and electronics sales rose 14.3% in specialty stores compared with 5.5% in general merchandise stores. Historically, specialty stores have been gaining market share over general merchandise stores for sales of these commodities. Of all the home furnishings and electronics sold in the second quarter by retail stores, 65.1% was sold in specialty stores, compared with 60.9% in the second quarter of 1998. The market share for general merchandise

stores was 24.7% in the second quarter of 2002, down from 28.6% in the second quarter of 1998.

Within this commodity group, sales of major appliances rose 16.2%, the highest increase since the start of the survey. Indoor furniture sales were also strong at 11.3%. Sales of home electronics, computers (including software), cameras and telephones rose 9.6%, the highest year-over-year increase since the third quarter of 2000. Sales of televisions and audio/video equipment accounted for most of this increase. In addition, purchases of computers and software were up 12.7%. (For historical reasons, stores specializing in selling computers are classified as wholesalers and are therefore excluded from these estimates).

Consumer spending on motor vehicles, parts and services amounted to \$26.0 billion in the second quarter, up 8.4%. Sales have increased strongly over the last three quarters, partly because of incentive programs offered by dealers.

#### Sales by commodity, all retail stores

	Second quarter 2001 <sup>r</sup>	First quarter 2002 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 2002 <sup>p</sup>	Second quarter 2001 to second quarter 2002
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions		% change	
<b>Commodity</b>				
Food and beverages	16,068	15,286	16,533	2.9
Health and personal care products	5,167	5,414	5,673	9.8
Clothing, footwear and accessories	6,479	4,943	6,657	2.7
Home furnishings and electronics	5,004	5,073	5,583	11.6
Motor vehicles, parts and services	24,019	19,724	26,042	8.4
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	5,995	4,709	5,700	-4.9
All other goods and services	13,412	10,375	14,212	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,145</b>	<b>65,524</b>	<b>80,400</b>	<b>5.6</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised data.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary data.

Sales of new trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles advanced 12.0%. This is the third consecutive quarter showing double-digit year-over-year growth in sales. New car sales were up 6.8% and sales of used vehicles rose 8.4%.

Spending on health and personal care products rose 9.8% in the second quarter. Sales have been

strong in this category for the past year and a half. Sales of drugs (prescription and over-the-counter drugs) and vitamins account for over 60% of this category's sales.

Consumers spent 12.6% more on prescription drugs than in the second quarter of 2001, the second consecutive year-over-year growth of this magnitude. Sales of non-prescription drugs were up 9.1%.

Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories were up 2.7%, the largest increase in a year. Clothing prices declined marginally compared with the second quarter of 2001. The increase in sales for this category was the result of women's clothing (+3.6%); sales of men's clothing were relatively unchanged and children's clothing sales were up marginally (+0.7%). Footwear sales were up 4.7%.

**Note:** The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Data have not been adjusted for seasonality. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

**Available on CANSIM: table 080-0010.**

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190; [ruth.barnes@statcan.ca](mailto:ruth.barnes@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. ■

#### Steel primary forms

Week ending September 28, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending September 28 totalled 324 364 metric tonnes, up 10.7% from 292 911 tonnes a week earlier and 13.5% from 285 750 tonnes in the same week of 2001.

The year-to-date total as of September 28 was 11 968 884 tonnes, up 6.3% from 11 258 774 tonnes in the same period of 2001.

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

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**National income and expenditure accounts, quarterly estimates**, Second quarter 2002, Vol. 50, no. 2

**Catalogue number 13-001-XIB** (\$33/\$109).

**National income and expenditure accounts, quarterly estimates**, Second quarter 2002, Vol. 50, no. 2

**Catalogue number 13-001-XPB** (\$44/\$145).

**Employment, earnings and hours**, July 2002, Vol. 80, no. 7

**Catalogue number 72-002-XIB** (\$24/\$240).

**Health reports**, Vol. 14, no. 1

**Catalogue number 82-003-XIE** (\$15/\$44).

**Health reports**, Vol. 14, no. 1

**Catalogue number 82-003-XPE** (\$20/\$58).

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 <b>The Daily</b>	
Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 5, 1997	
For release at 9:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
• <b>Urban transit, 1995</b>	2
Despite the emphasis 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.	
• <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995</b>	4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses also noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	
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## Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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