



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, November 14, 2002
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **New motor vehicle sales, September 2002** 2
The number of new motor vehicles sold declined slightly in September, after a surge in August.
Sales declined 0.4%, but remained at an elevated level.

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NEW PRODUCTS



MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

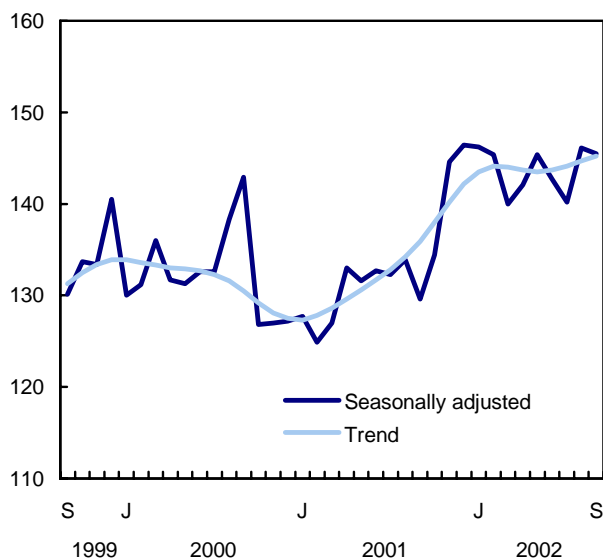
September 2002

The number of new motor vehicles sold declined slightly in September (-0.4%), after a surge in August (+4.1%). Sales of 145,462 new vehicles were reported, remaining at near-record levels.

Despite reported concerns that new motor vehicle sales in Canada can not be sustained at current levels, they have not shown any sign of dropping to date. Since peaking in December 2001, sales have fluctuated around a monthly average of 144,006 units. Year-to-date sales in September were up 10.3% from the same period of 2001.

September sales stable

'000 units



In 2001, new motor vehicle sales moved upward throughout the year; sales were generally stable for most of 2000, except for significant declines in the fall.

Preliminary figures from the auto industry indicate that the number of new motor vehicles sold increased in October, mostly the result of stronger truck sales. Preliminary figures indicate only a slight increase in new car sales.

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

Truck sales responsible for slight decline

In September, new motor vehicle incentive programs and year-end inventory clear-outs continued across the country. Manufacturers reported dealer sales of 79,484 new cars, virtually unchanged from August.

Sales of North American-built cars declined 1.4%, after a 7.4% increase in August. However, sales of overseas-built passenger cars increased 3.5%, after a 4.4% drop in August.

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.

Continued incentives and clearances of 2002 models were not enough to maintain an upward movement in truck sales in September. After a 4.8% jump in August, truck sales declined 0.9% to 65,978 vehicles. 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.

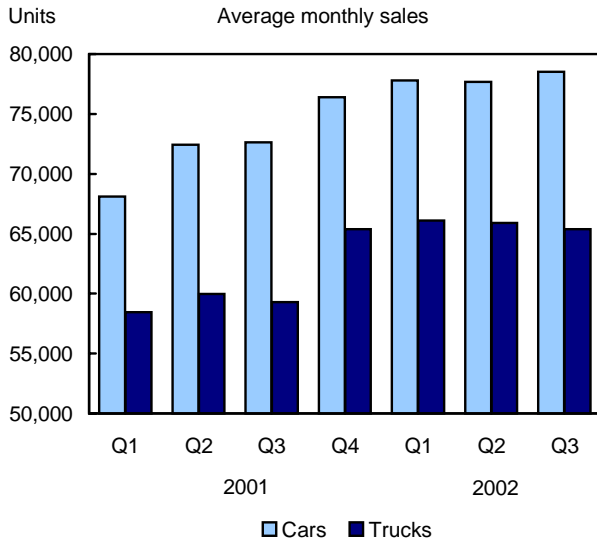
Quarterly sales stable

New motor vehicle sales in the third quarter remained almost unchanged (+0.3%) from the second, when they declined 0.3%. However, third quarter sales were 9.1% higher than in the third quarter of 2001.

Sales of new passenger cars in the third quarter increased 1.1% from the second. This increase was moderated by a 0.6% decline in new truck sales in the third quarter. Despite being down slightly from the

second quarter, truck sales were up 10.2% from the third quarter of 2001. New car sales in the third quarter were 8.1% above the third quarter of 2001.

Car sales up and truck sales down slightly in third quarter



Sales vary from one province to the next

The number of new motor vehicles sold at the provincial level in September did not change a great deal from August, except in Manitoba. Only Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.1%), Quebec (+1.0%) and Prince Edward Island (+0.7%) posted gains. Sales were virtually unchanged in Ontario and Alberta.

Sales in Manitoba dropped a sharp 8.4%, giving up most of the 11.9% increase seen in August. Declines of less than 3.0% were seen in the remaining provinces.

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 September 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

	September 2001	August 2002 ^r	September 2002 ^p	September 2001 to September 2002	August to September 2002
Seasonally adjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	129,589	146,050	145,462	12.2	-0.4
Passenger cars	71,638	79,465	79,484	11.0	0.0
North American ¹	49,861	56,719	55,934	12.2	-1.4
Overseas	21,777	22,746	23,551	8.1	3.5
Trucks, vans and buses	57,951	66,585	65,978	13.9	-0.9
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,047	2,221	2,246	9.7	1.1
Prince Edward Island	394	419	422	7.1	0.7
Nova Scotia	3,335	4,087	3,973	19.1	-2.8
New Brunswick	3,060	3,515	3,471	13.4	-1.3
Quebec	32,246	36,134	36,496	13.2	1.0
Ontario	52,934	58,040	58,002	9.6	-0.1
Manitoba	3,544	4,451	4,079	15.1	-8.4
Saskatchewan	3,126	3,455	3,420	9.4	-1.0
Alberta	15,372	17,275	17,266	12.3	-0.1
British Columbia ²	13,530	16,453	16,088	18.9	-2.2
	September 2001	August 2002	September 2002 ^p	September 2001 to September 2002	
Unadjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	127,045	150,865	144,297	13.6	
Passenger cars	68,935	84,511	79,125	14.8	
North American ¹	46,601	57,576	54,782	17.6	
Overseas	22,334	26,935	24,343	9.0	
Trucks, vans and buses	58,110	66,354	65,172	12.2	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,940	2,497	2,198	13.3	
Prince Edward Island	385	444	434	12.7	
Nova Scotia	3,011	4,128	3,726	23.7	
New Brunswick	2,753	3,491	3,267	18.7	
Quebec	31,288	39,960	36,850	17.8	
Ontario	52,178	59,989	58,247	11.6	
Manitoba	3,793	4,666	4,311	13.7	
Saskatchewan	3,315	3,533	3,569	7.7	
Alberta	15,042	16,429	16,866	12.1	
British Columbia ²	13,340	15,728	14,829	11.2	

^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.

OTHER RELEASES

Aircraft movement statistics

September 2002 (preliminary)

There were 424,036 take-offs and landings recorded in September at the 43 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers, up 6.3% from September 2001.

The September 2002 issue of *Aircraft movement statistics*, Vol. 1, no. 9 (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Transport and warehousing*. Previous issues are available on Transport Canada's website (<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 September.

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. ■

Biotechnology use and development

2001

Preliminary data are now available from the 2001 Biotechnology Use and Development Survey.

To order data tables, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Namatié Traoré (613-951-4489; namatie.traore@statcan.ca) or Lara Raoub (613-951-2629; lara.raoub@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Low income cutoffs for 2001 and low income measures for 2000

Low income cutoffs (LICOs) for 2001 and low income measures (LIMs) for 2000, before and after tax, are now available.

The updated thresholds for both measurements are contained in a single publication, *Low income cutoffs from 1992 to 2001 and low income measures from 1991 to 2000*. The publication incorporates a detailed description of the methods used to arrive at both measurements. It also explains how base years are defined and how LICOs are updated using the Consumer Price Index.

LICOs are income thresholds, determined by analysing family expenditure data, below which families will likely devote a larger share of income to the necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family would. To reflect differences in the costs of necessities among different community and family sizes, LICOs are defined for five categories of community size and seven of family size.

LIMs, on the other hand, are strictly relative measures of low income, set at 50% of adjusted median family income. These measures are categorized according to the number of adults and children present in families, reflecting the economies of scale inherent in family size and composition.

Although LICOs are often referred to as poverty lines, they have no official status as such, and Statistics Canada does not recommend their use for this purpose. For more information, refer to the article, "On poverty and low income" in this new publication or on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Statistical methods* page, under *Methodology*, choose *New surveys and discussion papers*.

The publication *Low income cutoffs from 1992 to 2001 and low income measures from 1991 to 2000* (75F0002MIE, no. 5, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Personal finance and household finance*.

To order this report or custom tabulations, 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

Agriculture and rural working paper series, 1990–1998, no. 59
Catalogue number 21-601-MIE
(free).

Aircraft movements statistics, September 2002,
Vol. 1, no. 9
Catalogue number 51F0001PIE
(free).

Low income cutoffs from 1992 to 2001 and low income measures from 1991 to 2000
Catalogue number 75F0002MIE2002005
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

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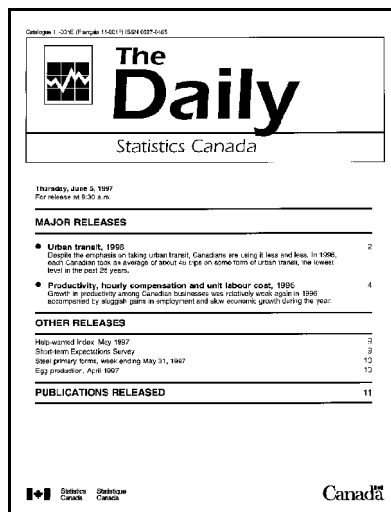
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