



# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Friday, November 22, 2002**

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

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### MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Retail trade, September 2002 and third quarter of 2002** 3  
 Consumer spending in retail stores fell 0.5% in September, after advancing 0.4% in August. Retail sales increased slightly in the third quarter (+0.7%), reflecting little growth in recent months.
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#### Canada food stats

*Canada food stats* is an easy-to-use CD-ROM that provides access to a broad spectrum of food statistics and indicators. It contains information on per capita food consumption and food prices, nutrition, supply and demand, as well as data on the food industry, processing, employment, productivity, trade and much more.

This product, developed by Statistics Canada's Agriculture Division in co-operation with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, contains over 65 formatted reports with, in some cases, up to 40 years of data, along with topical analyses. There are also a number of data sets available for the provinces, along with selected quarterly and monthly statistics. It is an invaluable research tool for nutritionists, food industry analysts, market researchers, or consumers who are just looking for reliable data on food.

Making a query is simple. Just select the data series, geographic area and time period, then submit the query. Click on *Show data* and the results will be displayed. You can also download results to your own software application.

The *Canada food stats* CD-ROM (23F0001XCB, \$75/\$120) is now available. The subscription includes two issues, released in July and November. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-2860; [foodstats@statcan.ca](mailto:foodstats@statcan.ca)) or Client Services (1-800-465-1991), Agriculture Division.



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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Retail trade

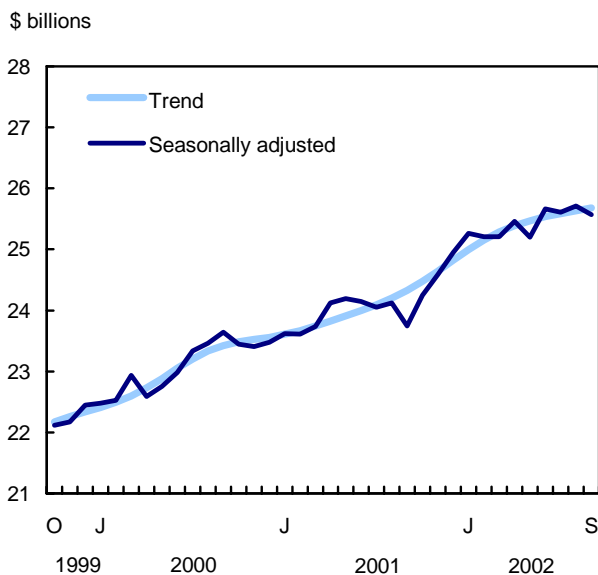
September 2002 and third quarter of 2002

Consumer spending in retail stores fell 0.5% in September, after advancing 0.4% in August. Retail sales have remained essentially flat since June, fluctuating between \$25.6 billion and \$25.7 billion.

The exceptionally hot weather from July to September led to lower sales of clothing and footwear. Clothing stores and general merchandise stores have reported continuously declining sales since the most recent peak reached in June. Clothing and footwear account for about one-quarter of all sales in general merchandise stores. Furthermore, sales of big-ticket items, such as furniture and motor vehicles, have been lacklustre since the spring of 2002.

Despite little change in recent months, retailers managed to post a 0.7% sales gain in the third quarter compared with the second, when sales rose 0.8%. These relatively weak quarterly sales gains follow strong increases of 2.6% in both the first quarter of 2002 and the fourth quarter of 2001.

#### Retail sales remain essentially flat since June



In constant dollars, retail sales fell 0.5% in September, after a 0.2% gain in August. Sales by retailers in constant dollars were up slightly in the third quarter (+0.2%), after declining 0.4% in the second.

In September, only two of the seven retail sectors posted sales increases. Sales advanced 0.8% in the

#### Note to readers

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

"other retail" sector and 0.7% in the furniture sector. Most of the strength in the "other retail" sector came from a 1.8% increase in sales of alcoholic beverages by liquor, wine and beer stores. Retail sales fell in the clothing (-2.3%), general merchandise (-1.4%) and automotive (-0.9%) sectors, but remained essentially unchanged in drug stores (-0.2%) and food stores (-0.1%).

#### Weak back-to-school sales in clothing and general merchandise stores

The traditional back-to-school clothing purchases in August and September have been weak in 2002. The hot weather in this period may have led some consumers to postpone their clothing purchases.

Clothing stores posted their third consecutive monthly sales decline in September (-2.3%), resulting in a 2.0% loss in the third quarter. Retailers in the clothing sector have generally been experiencing sales declines since the start of 2002, after a period of strong sales in the fourth quarter of 2001.

Sales by general merchandisers were also down for a third consecutive month in September (-1.4%). Within this sector, sales fell 3.5% in department stores, but advanced 1.8% in other general merchandise stores. Department store sales were down 1.0% in the third quarter, marking the first quarterly decline since the fourth quarter of 1999, when Eaton's stores were closing down. With the exception of the third quarter, department stores have been posting weak sales advances since the start of 2002. Previously, department stores had enjoyed rapid growth from September 2001 to January 2002, when sales jumped 10.7%.

#### Sales of big-ticket items in neutral

Sales of big-ticket items, such as furniture and motor vehicles, gradually lost steam in 2002 after remarkably strong growth in the fourth quarter of 2001.

Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers remained unchanged in September and August, after falling 1.0% in July. Consequently, sales were down 0.3% in the third quarter, following a 1.8% decline in the second quarter. Despite these weaker results, motor and recreational vehicle dealers are still enjoying

historically high monthly sales. For the first nine months of 2002, sales by these dealers were 10.3% higher than in the same period of 2001.

Furniture stores posted flat sales in the third quarter (+0.1%), in spite of two consecutive monthly gains in September (+0.7%) and August (+1.3%). Nevertheless, consumer spending in furniture stores remained strong, partly reflecting the high activity level in new home construction. Cumulative furniture store sales for the first nine months of 2002 were up 12.3% from the same period of 2001.

#### **Ontario retailers post first decline in four months**

Ontario's retail sales fell 0.8% in September after three consecutive months on the rise. Despite September's decline, retailers in Ontario enjoyed the second largest quarterly sales gain in the third quarter (+1.7%), surpassed only by Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.0%). With the exception of a short-lived pause in early 2002, retailers in Ontario have enjoyed rising sales since September 2001 after a one-year period of essentially flat sales.

Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.7%) led the three provinces posting retail sales gains in September. Consumer spending in retail stores also advanced in Nova Scotia (+0.8%) and Prince Edward Island (+0.7%). In the third quarter, Newfoundland and Labrador retail sales picked up after remaining essentially unchanged since mid-2001.

Four provinces posted weaker retail sales in the third quarter than the national gain of 0.7%. Retail sales remained weak throughout the third quarter in British

Columbia (-0.8%), Manitoba (-0.6%), Alberta (+0.1%) and Quebec (+0.4%). Retailers in these provinces have not experienced any sales growth since the spring of 2002, after enjoying strong sales gains since the fall of 2001.

#### **Related indicators for October**

Total employment continued to climb in October (+0.2%), pushing the number of jobs created so far in 2002 to 459,000. Strong truck sales led to an increase in the total number of new motor vehicles sold in October according to preliminary results from the auto industry. Housing starts jumped 10.4% in October to 220,400 units, marking the highest activity level since March 1990.

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

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2406.**

The September 2002 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155) 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](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

	September 2001	June 2002 <sup>r</sup>	July 2002 <sup>r</sup>	August 2002 <sup>r</sup>	September 2002 <sup>p</sup>	August to September 2002	September 2001 to September 2002
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,371</b>	<b>5,542</b>	<b>5,579</b>	<b>5,604</b>	<b>5,597</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,967	5,147	5,184	5,198	5,196	0.0	4.6
All other food stores	404	394	394	407	401	-1.3	-0.8
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>8.1</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,294</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Shoe stores	147	156	154	150	145	-3.0	-1.2
Men's clothing stores	112	118	114	113	111	-2.6	-1.5
Women's clothing stores	388	417	402	399	390	-2.0	0.7
Other clothing stores	647	705	680	688	672	-2.3	3.9
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>12.4</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,100	1,227	1,211	1,227	1,231	0.3	11.9
Household furnishings stores	263	291	291	295	301	2.2	14.6
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,352</b>	<b>10,288</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>10,363</b>	<b>10,270</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>9.8</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,109	6,920	6,851	6,851	6,854	0.0	12.2
Gasoline service stations	1,915	1,885	1,953	2,043	1,973	-3.4	3.0
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,327	1,483	1,496	1,469	1,443	-1.8	8.7
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,616</b>	<b>2,891</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>2,834</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,545</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>2,721</b>	<b>2,730</b>	<b>2,753</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	722	802	778	792	795	0.4	10.2
Other durable goods stores	619	666	669	664	663	-0.1	7.1
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,204	1,259	1,274	1,274	1,294	1.6	7.5
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>23,748</b>	<b>25,661</b>	<b>25,609</b>	<b>25,712</b>	<b>25,572</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>17,640</b>	<b>18,741</b>	<b>18,757</b>	<b>18,861</b>	<b>18,718</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	414	418	427	426	438	2.7	5.7
Prince Edward Island	104	105	111	110	111	0.7	6.1
Nova Scotia	723	758	763	766	772	0.8	6.9
New Brunswick	573	610	611	610	610	-0.1	6.3
Quebec	5,390	5,884	5,880	5,889	5,855	-0.6	8.6
Ontario	8,923	9,595	9,621	9,703	9,630	-0.8	7.9
Manitoba	831	892	893	899	873	-3.0	5.1
Saskatchewan	699	753	761	756	739	-2.3	5.7
Alberta	2,850	3,155	3,117	3,119	3,118	0.0	9.4
British Columbia	3,159	3,399	3,329	3,338	3,332	-0.2	5.5
Yukon	30	33	34	34	34	-1.8	11.3
Northwest Territories	36	40	42	42	44	2.7	20.3
Nunavut	16	17	17	18	18	-1.0	10.9

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

## Retail sales

	September 2001	August 2002 <sup>r</sup>	September 2002 <sup>p</sup>	September 2001 to September 2002
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,374</b>	<b>6,095</b>	<b>5,358</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,974	5,673	4,974	0.0
All other food stores	400	422	384	-3.9
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,148</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>8.7</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>1,327</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Shoe stores	157	158	149	-5.2
Men's clothing stores	105	104	99	-5.9
Women's clothing stores	403	393	392	-2.6
Other clothing stores	678	762	687	1.3
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,567</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>12.0</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,103	1,261	1,224	11.0
Household furnishings stores	258	306	299	16.0
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,139</b>	<b>10,850</b>	<b>10,236</b>	<b>12.0</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,957	7,111	6,856	15.1
Gasoline service stations	1,931	2,231	2,043	5.8
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,251	1,508	1,337	6.9
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,469</b>	<b>2,807</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,491</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	710	838	781	9.9
Other durable goods stores	585	723	612	4.6
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,195	1,448	1,260	5.4
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>23,324</b>	<b>27,045</b>	<b>24,934</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>17,367</b>	<b>19,935</b>	<b>18,078</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	400	473	427	6.8
Prince Edward Island	104	131	109	5.5
Nova Scotia	693	818	740	6.7
New Brunswick	560	661	591	5.6
Quebec	5,283	6,257	5,673	7.4
Ontario	8,803	10,059	9,438	7.2
Manitoba	812	947	851	4.9
Saskatchewan	680	798	717	5.4
Alberta	2,807	3,265	3,056	8.9
British Columbia	3,102	3,533	3,238	4.4
Yukon	29	40	33	11.9
Northwest Territories	35	44	42	19.1
Nunavut	16	19	18	12.1

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



## OTHER RELEASES

### Natural gas sales

September 2002 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 3 936 million cubic metres in September, up 2.7% from September 2001. The residential (+4.7%) and commercial (+10.1%) sectors both posted gains. Use of natural gas by the industrial sector (including direct sales) rose 1.3% from September 2001.

Year-to-date sales at the end of September were up 3.2% from the same period of 2001. The residential (+5.0%) and commercial (+3.7%) sectors both posted gains. Industrial sector sales (including direct sales) increased 2.2% from the same period of 2001.

### Natural gas sales

	September 2002 <sup>P</sup>	September 2001	September 2001 to September 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas sales</b>	<b>3 935 519</b>	<b>3 833 182</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Residential	489 639	467 450	4.7
Commercial	470 304	427 137	10.1
Industrial	1 356 867	1 353 477	1.3
Direct	1 618 709	1 585 118	
<b>Year-to-date</b>			
	2002 <sup>P</sup>	2001	2001 to 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
<b>Natural gas sales</b>	<b>49 868 396</b>	<b>48 341 753</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Residential	11 895 336	11 329 517	5.0
Commercial	9 171 216	8 840 325	3.7
Industrial	13 480 330	13 847 790	2.2
Direct	15 321 514	14 324 121	

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Note:** Since March, direct sales relating to the residential and commercial sectors have been allocated to the appropriate sectoral sale category.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004. (These tables will be available soon.)**

The September 2002 issue of *Natural gas transportation and distribution* (55-002-XIB, \$13/\$125) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [energ@statcan.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact

John Svab (613-951-7382; [john.svab@statcan.ca](mailto:john.svab@statcan.ca)) or Tom Lewis (613-951-3596; [tom.lewis@statcan.ca](mailto:tom.lewis@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### Construction type plywood

September 2002

Firms produced 184 405 cubic metres of construction type plywood in September, up 4.9% from 175 794 cubic metres produced in September 2001.

Year-to-date production at the end of September totalled 1 639 299 cubic metres, up 6.3% from 1 542 451 in the same period of 2001.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0005.**

The September 2002 issue of *Construction type plywood*, Vol. 50, no. 9 (35-001-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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. ■

### Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

August 2002

There were 576,819 take-offs and landings recorded in August at the 99 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers or flight service stations, down 6.0% from the number reported by 98 airports in August 2001.

The August 2002 monthly report, Vol. 1 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's website (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

**Note:** The TP141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (those with Nav Canada air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's website.

For more information about this website, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; [villenm@tc.gc.ca](mailto:villenm@tc.gc.ca)) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; [rajanis@tc.gc.ca](mailto:rajanis@tc.gc.ca)), Transport Canada.

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](mailto:aviationstatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## **Canadian Vehicle Survey**

Second quarter 2002

Vehicles covered in the Canadian Vehicle Survey travelled an estimated 81.7 billion kilometres in the second quarter. Among them, vehicles weighing less than 4 500 kilograms (and not used as a bus) travelled 75.7 billion kilometres, or 93% of the total in the second quarter.

The survey measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada, with the exception of some vehicles such as motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment.

Estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only.

The second quarter 2002 issue of the *Canadian Vehicle Survey* (53F0004XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,

contact the Transportation Division (1-866-500-8400 ; [transportationstatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:transportationstatistics@statcan.ca)). ■

## **Potato production**

2002 (preliminary) , 2000 and 2001 (revised)

Preliminary data for 2002 on area planted, area harvested, yield and production for potatoes by province are now available. Revised estimates of 2000 and 2001 area and production and preliminary data for the 2001 volume marketed and value are also available.

The 2002 estimate for potato area planted was 433,100 acres (175 400 hectares), up 3.4% from 2001. Production was up 11.9% to 104,113,000 hundredweights (4 722 500 metric tonnes) compared with 2001, when drought conditions resulted in a small potatoes crop.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0014.**

The November 2002 issue of *Canadian potato production — Updates* (22-008-UIB, free) is now available from Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, call 1-800-465-1991. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; [barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca](mailto:barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■



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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Infomat — a weekly review**, November 22, 2002  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

**Infomat — a weekly review**, November 22, 2002  
**Catalogue number 11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

**Canadian potato production — Updates**,  
November 2002  
**Catalogue number 22-008-UIB**  
(free).

**Canada food stats, 1960–2002**  
**Catalogue number 23F0001XCB** (\$75/\$120).

**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**, September 2002,  
Vol. 56, no. 9  
**Catalogue number 31-001-XIB** (\$15/\$147).

**Construction type plywood**, September 2002, Vol. 50,  
no. 9  
**Catalogue number 35-001-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Canadian Vehicle Survey**, Second quarter 2002  
**Catalogue number 53F0004XIE**  
(free).

**Wholesale trade**, September 2002, Vol. 65, no. 9  
**Catalogue number 63-008-XIB** (\$14/\$140).

**Canadian international merchandise trade**,  
September 2002, Vol. 56, no. 9  
**Catalogue number 65-001-XIB** (\$14/\$141).

**Canadian international merchandise trade**,  
September 2002, Vol. 56, no. 9  
**Catalogue number 65-001-XPB** (\$19/\$188).

**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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Catalogue 11-001-XIE (F) English 11-001-XIE001-0000-0000-0000-0000	
 <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> 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.	2
• <b>Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995</b> 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.	4
<b>OTHER RELEASES</b>	
Map-warmed Index, May 1997	3
Short-term Expectations Survey	9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997	12
Egg production, Apr. 1997	13
<b>PUBLICATIONS RELEASED</b>	<b>11</b>
 	

## **Statistics Canada's official release bulletin**

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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**RELEASE DATES: NOVEMBER 25 TO 29**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
25	<b>Canada's international transactions in securities</b>	September 2002
25	<b>Understanding the rural-urban reading gap</b>	2000
26	<b>Farm cash receipts</b>	Third quarter 2002
26	<b>Net farm income</b>	2001
26	<b>Employment Insurance</b>	September 2002
27	<b>Characteristics of international travellers</b>	Second quarter 2002
27	<b>International travel account</b>	Third quarter 2002
27	<b>Employment, earnings and hours</b>	September 2002
28	<b>Industrial Product Price and Raw Materials Price Indexes</b>	October 2002
28	<b>Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises</b>	Third quarter 2002
29	<b>National economic and financial accounts</b>	Third quarter 2002
29	<b>Balance of international payments</b>	Third quarter 2002
29	<b>Gross domestic product by industry</b>	September 2002