



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, December 23, 2002

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Retail trade, October 2002** 2
Consumers went on a shopping spree in October, catching up primarily on clothing and automobile purchases. Retail sales advanced 1.7% in October to \$26.0 billion, after remaining essentially flat since June.
 - **Canada's international transactions in securities, October 2002** 6
In October, foreign investors made their largest monthly investment in Canadian securities thus far in 2002, \$3.8 billion, as they bought debt instruments but sold equities. At the same time, Canadian investors sold off a record amount of foreign securities, mostly foreign bonds.
-

OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours, October 2002	9
Department store sales and stocks, November 2002	11
Stocks of frozen and chilled meat products, December 2002	12
Definitions of "rural", 1996	12
Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports, September 2002	13
For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers, third quarter 2002	13
Health Indicators	13

NEW PRODUCTS 14



MAJOR RELEASES

Retail trade

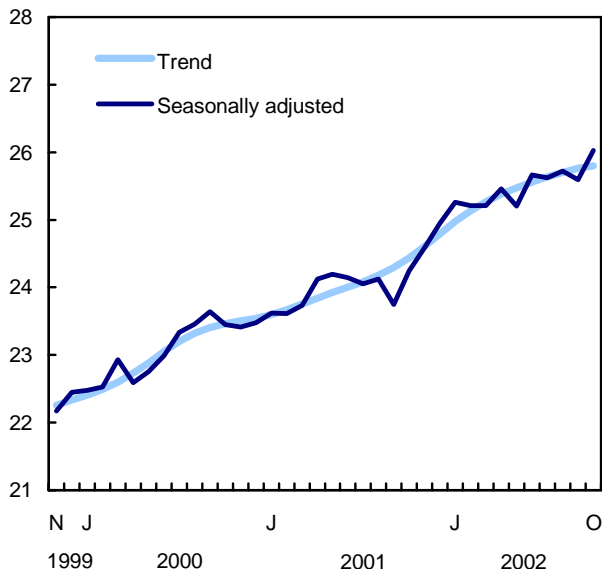
October 2002

Consumers went on a shopping spree in October, catching up primarily on clothing and automobile purchases. Retail sales advanced 1.7% in October to \$26.0 billion, after remaining essentially flat since June. So far in 2002, retailers reported their largest monthly sales gain in June (+1.8%).

Before June, sales by retailers had remained essentially unchanged since the start of the year, after advancing rapidly in the last three months of 2001 and in January 2002. Monthly sales increases averaged 1.6% in that four-month period. Despite the lack of sustained growth so far this year, retail sales for the first ten months of 2002 were up 6.4% from the same period of 2001. In comparison, the sales growth in 2001 for the same period was 4.4%.

Widespread gains across retail sectors in October

\$ billions



All retail sectors posted higher sales in October, with the largest increases in the clothing (+5.1%), automotive (+2.3%) and general merchandise (+1.6%) sectors. Consumers were back shopping for clothing and footwear in October after having stayed away in the summer months. In October, car dealers posted their strongest sales gains in almost a year, after experiencing essentially flat sales since April.

Note to readers

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

On average, retail prices changed little in October and September. In constant dollars, retail sales rose 1.6% in October, after falling 0.5% in September.

Consumers went clothes shopping in October

After staying away for three consecutive months, consumers were back shopping for clothing and footwear in October. Sales in clothing stores jumped 5.1% in October, marking the second largest monthly increase in nine years, after the 5.9% gain in June 2002. Just as cool weather in May pushed forward some purchases to June, warmer-than-usual weather in August and September may have led some consumers to postpone their back-to-school clothing purchases.

All types of clothing stores posted significant sales increases in October, with shoe stores (+7.4%) and other clothing stores (+6.2%) leading the way. Stores in the other clothing category sell a variety of women's, men's and children's clothing. So far in 2002, sales in the clothing sector have been fluctuating around their January level, after rising rapidly in the fall of 2001.

General merchandisers also benefited from increased spending on clothing and footwear in October. Sales in the general merchandise sector advanced 1.6% in October, after three consecutive monthly declines. Within this sector, department stores posted a 3.7% sales gain in October. Clothing and footwear purchases represent about one-third of every dollar spent in department stores. October's gain in department stores brought sales back to their January level, after a period of general increases that began in the spring of 2000.

Car buyers back in showrooms

Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers jumped 2.3% in October, after remaining essentially unchanged since April. Consumers were back in showrooms in October, pushing the number of new vehicles sold in that month to an all-time record of 148,626 units. With financing incentives still in place in October, the new 2003 models and the liquidation of 2002 vehicles provided added stimulus for sales. So far this year, motor and recreational vehicle dealers

managed to sustain the sales level reached in the fall of 2001, bringing their year-to-date sales to 10.2% above those observed in the same period of 2001.

Sales in food stores increased 1.1% in October, after remaining flat in September. About one-quarter of all sales in food stores come from non-food items. Food retailers have generally experienced solid growth so far in 2002, pushing year-to-date sales up 4.6% from the same period of 2001. This was their strongest year-to-date gain, in the first ten months of the year, since 1997.

In October, consumers spent about the same in furniture stores (+0.2%) as in September. Sales in furniture stores have plateaued since May, after increasing rapidly since the spring of 2001. Despite the lack of growth in recent months, furniture store sales remain exceptionally strong. For the first ten months of 2002, sales in furniture stores were up 12.1% from the same period of 2001.

Strong sales across provinces

All provinces posted healthy gains in retail sales in October, ranging from 0.7% in Nova Scotia to 3.1% in Saskatchewan. The only exception was a 3.7% decline in Newfoundland and Labrador, which offset the increase observed in the previous month. Retail sales in Newfoundland and Labrador have remained essentially flat since the middle of 2001.

October's sales advances in Quebec (+1.9%) and Ontario (+1.8%) followed four months of little growth. Nevertheless, consumer spending in retail stores has increased considerably since the fall of 2001 in these provinces. During the first ten months of 2002, cumulative retail sales were up 6.6% in Quebec and 5.8% in Ontario from the same period of 2001.

Sales gains by retailers in Alberta (+2.0%) and British Columbia (+1.6%) followed three months of

essentially flat sales. Retailers in these provinces have generally been reporting rising sales since the spring of 1999. Year-to-date retail sales advanced 8.7% in Alberta and 6.0% in British Columbia from the same period of 2001.

Related indicators for November

Total employment rose 0.3% in November, bringing the overall gain in the number of jobs created since the start of 2002 slightly above the half-million mark. According to preliminary results from the auto industry, the number of new motor vehicles sold in November fell sharply, following a 2.0% gain in the previous month. Housing starts declined 3.0% in November, after a 10.2% jump in October. Nevertheless, year-to-date results remain exceptionally strong for sales of new motor vehicles (+10.4%) and for housing starts (+26.2%) compared with the same period of 2001.

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 October 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). 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), Distributive Trades Division. □

Retail sales

	October 2001	July 2002 ^r	August 2002 ^r	September 2002 ^r	October 2002 ^p	September to October 2002	October 2001 to October 2002
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Food	5,372	5,582	5,610	5,605	5,669	1.1	5.5
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,967	5,188	5,204	5,203	5,272	1.3	6.1
All other food stores	406	394	406	402	398	-1.0	-2.0
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,222	1,299	1,308	1,305	1,311	0.5	7.3
Clothing	1,338	1,355	1,356	1,323	1,390	5.1	3.9
Shoe stores	148	155	150	145	156	7.4	5.4
Men's clothing stores	116	115	114	111	113	1.4	-2.8
Women's clothing stores	396	403	399	388	401	3.2	1.3
Other clothing stores	678	683	692	678	720	6.2	6.3
Furniture	1,384	1,502	1,521	1,530	1,533	0.2	10.8
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,122	1,210	1,225	1,226	1,228	0.2	9.4
Household furnishings stores	261	292	296	304	305	0.4	16.7
Automotive	9,619	10,308	10,370	10,298	10,534	2.3	9.5
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,440	6,851	6,856	6,860	7,020	2.3	9.0
Gasoline service stations	1,772	1,960	2,042	1,987	2,039	2.6	15.0
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,407	1,497	1,471	1,451	1,474	1.6	4.8
General merchandise stores	2,700	2,855	2,832	2,791	2,836	1.6	5.0
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,610	2,721	2,727	2,742	2,755	0.5	5.5
Other semi-durable goods stores	741	779	793	795	809	1.8	9.2
Other durable goods stores	640	668	664	664	668	0.7	4.4
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,229	1,274	1,271	1,283	1,277	-0.4	3.9
Total, retail sales	24,246	25,621	25,724	25,593	26,028	1.7	7.4
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	17,806	18,770	18,867	18,733	19,008	1.5	6.8
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	424	426	425	438	422	-3.7	-0.5
Prince Edward Island	108	111	110	111	112	1.3	3.8
Nova Scotia	737	763	767	772	778	0.7	5.5
New Brunswick	596	611	610	609	613	0.8	2.9
Quebec	5,495	5,887	5,896	5,872	5,985	1.9	8.9
Ontario	9,110	9,622	9,702	9,611	9,786	1.8	7.4
Manitoba	845	892	899	879	892	1.6	5.6
Saskatchewan	711	762	758	741	764	3.1	7.4
Alberta	2,944	3,120	3,122	3,126	3,187	2.0	8.2
British Columbia	3,190	3,333	3,342	3,340	3,394	1.6	6.4
Yukon	32	34	34	34	35	3.0	9.5
Northwest Territories	37	42	42	43	43	-1.6	14.5
Nunavut	16	17	18	18	17	-1.7	8.8

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Retail sales

	October 2001	September 2002 ^r	October 2002 ^p	October 2001 to October 2002
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Food	5,214	5,360	5,675	8.8
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,820	4,973	5,284	9.6
All other food stores	394	387	391	-0.8
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,228	1,246	1,313	6.9
Clothing	1,412	1,331	1,489	5.4
Shoe stores	163	150	174	6.4
Men's clothing stores	118	99	117	-0.8
Women's clothing stores	412	392	420	2.0
Other clothing stores	719	690	778	8.2
Furniture	1,409	1,523	1,556	10.4
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,131	1,221	1,233	9.0
Household furnishings stores	278	302	322	16.1
Automotive	9,428	10,225	10,352	9.8
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,122	6,842	6,685	9.2
Gasoline service stations	1,847	2,035	2,123	14.9
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,459	1,347	1,545	5.9
General merchandise stores	2,792	2,593	2,941	5.3
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,459	2,637	2,631	7.0
Other semi-durable goods stores	716	777	785	9.7
Other durable goods stores	562	613	591	5.2
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,182	1,247	1,255	6.2
Total, retail sales	23,941	24,915	25,955	8.4
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	17,819	18,073	19,271	8.1
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	413	426	416	0.8
Prince Edward Island	103	109	108	4.6
Nova Scotia	715	739	762	6.6
New Brunswick	596	591	614	3.1
Quebec	5,420	5,686	6,032	11.3
Ontario	9,018	9,395	9,736	8.0
Manitoba	838	853	889	6.1
Saskatchewan	723	719	782	8.1
Alberta	2,936	3,061	3,193	8.8
British Columbia	3,097	3,245	3,330	7.5
Yukon	30	33	33	9.3
Northwest Territories	36	42	41	15.2
Nunavut	16	18	18	10.4

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



Canada's international transactions in securities

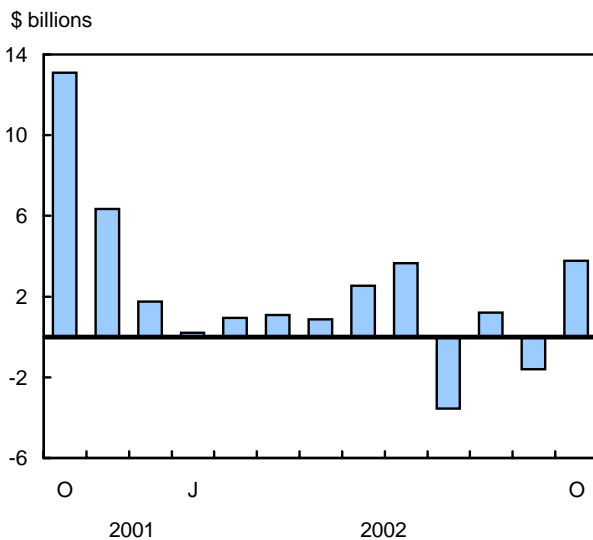
October 2002

In October, foreign investors made their largest monthly investment in Canadian securities thus far in 2002, \$3.8 billion, as they bought debt instruments but sold equities. At the same time, Canadian investors sold off a record amount of foreign securities, mostly foreign bonds.

Large foreign investment in Canadian bonds

Foreign investors made their largest investment in Canadian bonds so far in 2002, adding \$4.3 billion to their holdings in October. Foreign investors added \$6.7 billion to their holdings of bond issues of Canadian governments and their enterprises, but reduced their holdings of corporate bonds by \$2.5 billion. Foreign acquisitions of Canadian bonds were largely in the secondary market for federal government issues.

Foreign investment in Canadian securities¹



¹ Includes bonds, stocks and money market paper.

This was in contrast to the first seven months of 2002, when foreign investors favoured corporate bonds, buying \$12.1 billion worth, of which \$10.1 billion were for net new issues (new issues less retirements). October's investment came from European and Japanese investors; American investors were sellers for the first time in 13 months.

Related market information

In October, Canadian **short-term interest rates** fell a further 10 basis points but comparable US rates fell just 5 basis points, resulting in a narrowing of the gap to 115 basis points. The differential, which moved in favour of investment in Canada in March 2001, grew to 134 basis points in August 2002 before pulling back to its current level in October.

For **long-term interest rates**, the differential favouring investment in Canada widened for its fifth consecutive month, reaching 117 basis points in October. Prior to October, long-term rates in both countries had been falling consistently since March with American rates declining more than Canadian rates. This has resulted in the gap growing steadily in favour of investment in Canada.

Canadian **stock prices** managed a small 1.1% gain in October, after registering a sharp 6.5% loss in value in September. October's gain, only the third in the first 10 months of 2002, has resulted in a cumulative loss of 18.7% in Canadian stock prices (S&P/TSX composite index) so far in 2002. In comparison, American stock prices (Standard & Poor's composite 500 index) had a larger 8.6% gain in October following a much larger 11.0% loss in September. The cumulative loss of 22.8% over the first 10 months of 2002 continued to be higher than Canada's.

In October, the **Canadian dollar** posted its second largest monthly gain of 2002, up US1.20 cents against the American dollar to close in October at US64.21 cents. It is near the midway point of monthly closes, bottoming out at US62.42 in February and reaching a high of US65.95 cents in June.

Definitions

The data series on international security transactions cover portfolio transactions in stocks and bonds (both Canadian and foreign issues) and Canadian money market instruments (or paper).

Stocks include common and preferred equities, as well as warrants.

Debt securities include bonds and money market instruments.

Bonds have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

Money market instruments have an original term to maturity of one year or less. **Government of Canada paper** includes treasury bills and US-dollar Canada bills. **Other money market instruments** include treasury bills and other paper issued by other Canadian governments or their enterprises, bankers' acceptances, bearer demand notes of banks, commercial paper and other short-term paper.

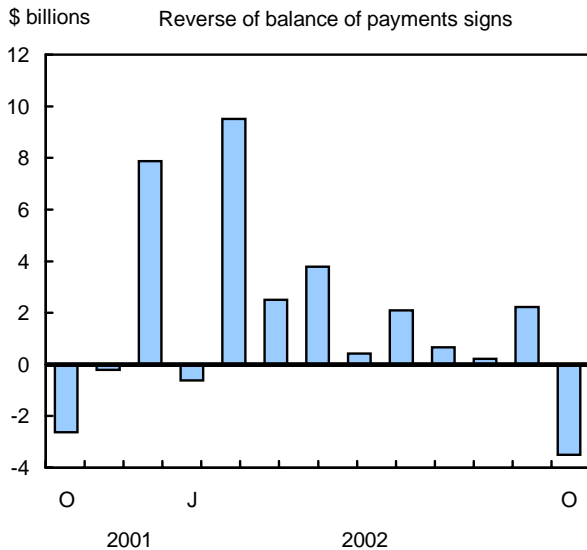
Canadian investors sell-off record amount of foreign securities

Canadian investors sold off a near-record \$2.9 billion of mainly US treasuries in October, after acquiring \$1.8 billion of foreign bonds in September. So far in 2002, however, Canadian investors have added \$3.3 billion worth to their holdings of foreign

bonds, compared with no net investment in foreign bonds for the same period of 2001.

Canadian investment in foreign stocks has slowed since April and turned into a record \$0.6 billion divestment in October, consisting entirely of overseas equities. There have been few divestments of foreign stocks by Canadian investors over the past decade.

Canadian investment in foreign securities¹



¹ Includes bonds and stocks.

Foreign investors buy short-term paper but again sell equities

Foreign investors returned to the Canadian money market with a small \$0.4 billion investment in October, after having reduced their holdings by \$2.0 billion over August and September.

Although the cumulative investment by foreign investors in the first ten months of 2002 has been negligible, the same period of 2001 saw a near \$8 billion reduction in foreign holdings of Canadian money market instruments. An investment of \$0.8 billion made by European investors in October was partly offset by a divestment by American investors.

In October, Canadian short-term rates fell a further 10 basis points and comparable US rates fell just 5 basis points, resulting in a narrowing of the gap to 115 basis points, continuing to favour investment in Canada.

Foreign investors reduced their holdings of Canadian stocks by \$0.9 billion in October, similar to September. October's reduction continued to be focussed on secondary market shares with very little activity occurring in the areas of new share offerings or mergers and acquisitions. The selling continued to come from American investors. Canadian stock prices (S&P/TSX composite index) managed a small 1.1% gain in October, after registering a sharp 6.5% loss in value in September. October's gain was only the third in the first ten months of 2002.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0018 to 376-0029 and 376-0042.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1532, 1534, 1535 and 1537.

The October 2002 issue of *Canada's international transactions in securities* (67-002-XIE, \$14/\$132) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Donald Granger (613-951-1864), Balance of Payments Division. □

Canada's international transactions in securities

	July 2002	August 2002	September 2002	October 2002	January to October 2001	January to October 2002
\$ millions						
Foreign investment in Canadian securities	-3,541	1,210	-1,605	3,780	22,758	9,132
Bonds (net)	-304	2,219	100	4,279	28,333	13,201
Outstanding	1,661	3,474	106	4,463	9,346	12,146
New issues	4,360	978	4,822	2,542	63,263	37,490
Retirements	-6,232	-2,721	-5,025	-3,157	-45,741	-37,852
Change in interest payable ¹	-93	488	197	431	1,466	1,417
Money market paper (net)	223	-1,261	-753	436	-7,940	294
Government of Canada	383	-337	-176	22	-5,259	611
Other	-161	-924	-576	414	-2,681	-318
Stocks (net)	-3,460	253	-952	-935	2,365	-4,363
Outstanding	-3,825	-1,406	-1,399	-997	2,007	-9,220
Other transactions	366	1,659	447	62	359	4,857
Canadian investment in foreign securities	-658	-223	-2,228	3,504	-30,049	-17,304
Bonds (net)	-520	792	-1,752	2,855	241	-3,349
Stocks (net)	-139	-1,014	-476	649	-30,290	-13,955

¹ Interest accrued less interest paid.

Note: A minus sign (-) indicates an outflow of money from Canada, that is, a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada or an increase in Canadian investment abroad.



OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

October 2002 (preliminary)

In October, average weekly earnings for all employees were estimated at \$683.53, up \$3.14 (+0.5%) from September. All provinces and territories recorded earnings increases, led by Prince Edward Island (+1.0%) and Quebec (+0.9%).

Compared with October 2001, average weekly earnings were up 2.1%, with strong gains in education (+5.3%), manufacturing (+3.2%) and public administration (+3.2%). The largest decline was in real estate and leasing (-2.0%). Arts and entertainment also recorded a drop (-1.6%).

Average earnings for hourly employees were unchanged at \$17.15 per hour in October, unchanged from September but up 0.7% from October 2001. Average weekly hours for hourly employees were up slightly (+0.1 hours) to 31.9 hours per week. Gains in average weekly earnings for hourly employees (+1.9%) since October 2001 were mostly due to gains in paid hours (+1.1%).

Total payroll employment increased substantially in October (+46,500), with the strongest gains in construction (+9,300) and wholesale (+7,200). Health and social services also rose substantially (+6,800), but most employment gains in this industry were due to the end of work stoppages.

Among the provinces, employment growth for the month was strongest in Quebec (+20,800) and Alberta (+5,400). Ontario recorded a modest gain (+5,000), reversing September's decline. All provinces and territories recorded an employment increase in October except for Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Steady employment growth over the past year has brought job gains since October 2001 to 434,600.

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0046.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2612.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment, and other labour market indicators will be available in January standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240). See *How to order products*. Annual averages for 2001 are now available through CANSIM and by custom tabulations from Labour Statistics Division.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jamie Brunet (613-951-6684), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

	October 2001	September 2002 ^r	October 2002 ^p	September to October 2002	October 2001 to October 2002
Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	Seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	669.48	680.39	683.53	0.5	2.1
Forestry, logging and support	843.61	850.35	850.40	0.0	0.8
Mining and oil and gas	1,156.59	1,173.20	1,173.35	0.0	1.4
Utilities	1,008.63	1,026.91	1,028.43	0.1	2.0
Construction	795.98	807.23	814.15	0.9	2.3
Manufacturing	812.39	836.58	838.16	0.2	3.2
Wholesale trade	777.46	774.64	779.91	0.7	0.3
Retail trade	433.14	436.21	436.92	0.2	0.9
Transportation and warehousing	751.83	767.64	770.44	0.4	2.5
Information and cultural industries	808.35	817.22	819.79	0.3	1.4
Finance and insurance	838.13	841.11	852.86	1.4	1.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	618.24	590.47	605.97	2.6	-2.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	886.30	903.45	908.04	0.5	2.5
Management of companies and enterprises	839.79	849.10	848.58	-0.1	1.0
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	533.46	538.23	537.72	-0.1	0.8
Educational Services	706.45	738.92	743.69	0.6	5.3
Health care and social assistance	591.53	607.85	610.04	0.4	3.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	490.38	480.26	482.36	0.4	-1.6
Accommodation and food services	288.57	289.41	287.63	-0.6	-0.3
Other services (excluding public administration)	527.86	526.38	530.08	0.7	0.4
Public administration	760.11	783.00	784.70	0.2	3.2
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	607.49	620.29	624.42	0.7	2.8
Prince Edward Island	525.59	534.44	539.54	1.0	2.7
Nova Scotia	574.62	587.82	589.86	0.3	2.7
New Brunswick	595.86	610.27	613.73	0.6	3.0
Quebec	629.86	642.45	648.54	0.9	3.0
Ontario	716.07	726.31	729.61	0.5	1.9
Manitoba	594.92	603.75	605.70	0.3	1.8
Saskatchewan	600.51	611.45	612.47	0.2	2.0
Alberta	688.38	699.88	702.89	0.4	2.1
British Columbia	665.48	673.10	675.14	0.3	1.5
Yukon	758.92	758.94	760.36	0.2	0.2
Northwest Territories ¹	869.62	886.3	892.25	0.7	2.6
Nunavut ¹	776.02	809.34	810.59	0.2	4.5

^p Preliminary estimates.

^r Revised estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Number of Employees

	August 2002	September 2002 ^r	October 2002 ^p	August to September 2002	September to October 2002
Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	Seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	13,176.3	13,188.4	13,234.9	0.1	0.4
Forestry, logging and support	59.7	60.5	61.2	1.3	1.2
Mining and oil and gas	140.2	141.9	143.0	1.2	0.8
Utilities	112.6	113.1	113.5	0.4	0.4
Construction	618.2	622.2	631.5	0.6	1.5
Manufacturing	2,071.1	2,060.6	2,056.3	-0.5	-0.2
Wholesale trade	749.3	743.0	750.2	-0.8	1.0
Retail trade	1,565.2	1,569.6	1,575.2	0.3	0.4
Transportation and warehousing	611.8	613.4	614.7	0.3	0.2
Information and cultural industries	353.4	350.9	351.1	-0.7	0.1
Finance and insurance	572.1	572.5	577.0	0.1	0.8
Real estate and rental and leasing	232.5	230.4	230.0	-0.9	-0.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	664.7	663.3	667.8	-0.2	0.7
Management of companies and enterprises	90.2	90.6	91.3	0.4	0.8
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	573.4	575.9	578.8	0.4	0.5
Educational Services	959.1	957.2	953.8	-0.2	-0.4
Health care and social assistance	1,319.7	1,325.2	1,332.0	0.4	0.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	231.5	232.4	232.2	0.4	-0.1
Accommodation and food services	955.3	957.1	960.0	0.2	0.3
Other services (excluding public administration)	488.1	490.9	493.2	0.6	0.5
Public administration	727.7	731.6	734.3	0.5	0.4
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	184.3	185.0	186.2	0.4	0.6
Prince Edward Island	58.2	58.5	59.0	0.5	0.9
Nova Scotia	371.2	371.5	374.7	0.1	0.9
New Brunswick	298.6	299.2	302.1	0.2	1.0
Quebec	3,125.1	3,120.0	3,140.8	-0.2	0.7
Ontario	5,154.6	5,149.6	5,154.6	-0.1	0.1
Manitoba	519.4	520.3	521.5	0.2	0.2
Saskatchewan	377.2	377.2	381.0	0.0	1.0
Alberta	1,418.8	1,426.6	1,432.0	0.5	0.4
British Columbia	1,615.7	1,620.1	1,622.0	0.3	0.1
Yukon	15.3	15.5	15.3	1.3	-1.3
Northwest Territories ¹	21.4	21.4	21.1	0.0	-1.4
Nunavut ¹	10.8	10.9	11.2	0.9	2.8

^p Preliminary estimates.

^r Revised estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Department store sales and stocks

November 2002

In November, consumers continued their spending in department stores, pushing sales to \$1.77 billion (seasonally adjusted), up 0.4% from October. This growth followed the much larger increase in October (+3.2%).

Following growth of 5.0% in January, department store sales have maintained their level. However, month-to-month sales have been relatively volatile, fluctuating around an average of \$1.76 billion. Before that, sales had been moving upward since the spring of 2000.

November department store sales, unadjusted for seasonality, were 6.8% higher than in November 2001. Sales advanced in all provinces. The largest year-over-year increase was observed in New Brunswick (+13.2%). Quebec and the Prairie provinces also posted sales gains higher or equal to the national growth rate. The remaining provinces posted year-over-year increases below that rate.

Unadjusted for seasonality, cumulative department store sales evolved differently in large urban centres than they did in other areas. The survey's definition of large urban centres includes the census metropolitan areas of Halifax–Dartmouth, Québec, Montréal, Ottawa–Gatineau, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. Sales grew almost

two times faster in other areas than in large urban centres in the first 11 months of 2002, compared with the same period of 2001. Year-to-date department store sales jumped 9.7 % in other areas and 4.9 % in the large urban centres. The strong sales growth in other areas can be explained, at least partly, by more new stores opening in these areas. Over the same period, the average number of stores rose from 400 to 408 in other areas and from 331 to 333 in the large urban centres.

Department store sales including concessions

	Nov. 2001	Nov. 2002	Nov. 2001 to Nov. 2002	Jan. to Nov. 2002	Jan.-Nov. 2001 to Jan.-Nov. 2002
Unadjusted					
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions	% change
Canada	2,056.2	2,195.1	6.8	17,879.3	7.2
Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island ¹	57.0	59.4	4.2	430.9	11.2
Nova Scotia	76.6	80.2	4.7	553.7	12.3
New Brunswick	56.0	63.4	13.2	416.6	7.6
Quebec	354.2	388.8	9.8	3,337.7	10.3
Ontario	882.7	934.9	5.9	7,526.5	5.9
Manitoba	80.1	85.5	6.8	706.3	4.8
Saskatchewan	68.0	72.9	7.1	629.5	7.2
Alberta	247.4	266.5	7.7	2,220.2	8.3
British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut ¹	234.3	243.6	4.0	2,058.0	4.1

¹ 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.

Available on CANSIM: table 076-0005.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2408.

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 Cl  rance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Stocks of frozen and chilled meat products December 2002

Total frozen and chilled red meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of December amounted to 80 981 metric tonnes, down 4% from 83 996 tonnes

in November but up 20% from 67 738 tonnes in December 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0005 and 003-0006.

Stocks of frozen and chilled meat products (23-009-XIE, free) is available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general 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), Agriculture Division. ■

Definitions of "rural" 1996

The working paper *Definitions of "rural"*, available today, compares several definitions for the term "rural" used by researchers for national and provincial analysis involving databases at Statistics Canada.

Defining this term is of paramount importance for researchers. The Canadian Rural Health Research Society recently completed a one-day workshop on defining the concept of "rural" for rural health research.

In addition, the federal Rural Secretariat is addressing the issue of defining the term because each of its regional offices wishes to produce a profile of the socio-economic characteristics of the rural population. It is, consequently, preferable to have a consistent definition of "rural".

Statistics Canada has published census data for one definition of "rural" for more than a century. This "census rural" definition refers to the population outside centres with a population of 1,000 or more.

However, one-third of this "census rural" population lives within the boundaries of census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations. A census metropolitan area has an urban core of 100,000 or more and a census agglomeration has an urban core of 10,000 or more. Both include all neighbouring towns and municipalities where more than 50% of the workforce commutes to the urban core.

Some analysts have noted that these "census rural" individuals are not "rural" in the sense that they have easier access to jobs in the city and easier access to cities to sell their goods and services. Consequently, for some policy and research issues, analysts often require a different definition of "rural".

This working paper recommends that analysts consider the scale of a rural issue — whether it is local,

community or regional — before selecting a definition. This will influence the type of territorial unit upon which to focus the analysis and the appropriate definition to use.

As a starting point, or benchmark, it recommends the "rural and small town" definition. "Rural" would therefore be defined as the population living outside census metropolitan areas and outside census agglomerations — that is, outside the commuting zone of larger urban centres. In 2001, 6.1 million (20.6%) Canadians were living in "rural and small town" areas.

The working paper *Definitions of "rural"*, 1996 (21-601-MIE, no. 61, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Valerie du Plessis (613-951-8233, valerie.du-plessis@statcan.ca). ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

September 2002

There were 540,252 take-offs and landings recorded in September at the 99 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers or flight service stations, up 5.9% from the 98 airports reported in September 2001.

The September 2002 monthly report, Vol. 1 (TP141, free) is now 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)

or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; 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), Transportation Division. ■

For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers

Third quarter 2002

The top 83 for-hire motor carriers of freight (Canada-based trucking companies earning \$25 million or more annually) generated operating revenues of \$1.80 billion and expenses of \$1.70 billion in the third quarter. Average per-carrier revenue (\$21.7 million) and expenses (\$20.5 million) both increased by a little more than 1% from the third quarter of 2001. This financial situation of the top for-hire carriers is similar to that in the third quarter of 2001.

The top for-hire carriers' operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) was 0.94, similar to the third quarter of 2001. A ratio of greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Denis Pilon (613-951-2707; fax: 613-951-0579; dpilon@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Health Indicators

Volume 2002, no. 2 of the *Health Indicators*, Cat. no. 82-221-XIE now includes additional data tables on smoking behaviour and self-rated health, based on the latest longitudinal data from the National Population Health Survey.

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

For more information or to order data, contact Brenda Wandell (613-951-8554), Health Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Definition of "rural", 1996, no. 61
Catalogue number 21-601-MIE
(free).

Stocks of frozen and chilled meat products,
December 2002
Catalogue number 23-009-XIE
(free).

Canadian international merchandise trade,
October 2002, Vol. 56, no. 10
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.

How to order products

Order products by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

1-800-267-6677

From other countries call:

1-613-951-7277

To fax your order:

1-877-287-4369

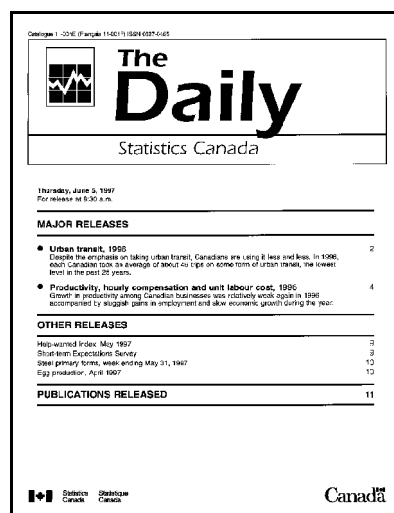
Address changes or account inquiries:

1-800-700-1033

To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to order@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) under the headings *Our products and services* and *Publications for sale* (\$).

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



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.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2002. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.