



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 10, 2002

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, fourth quarter 2001 and annual 2001** 2
Consumer spending in retail stores increased for all major commodities in 2001, especially for health and personal care products as well as home furnishings and electronics.
-

OTHER RELEASES

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products, February 2002 5

NEW PRODUCTS 6



MAJOR RELEASES

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

Fourth quarter 2001 and annual 2001

Consumer spending in retail stores increased for all major commodities in 2001, especially for health and personal care products as well as home furnishings and electronics.

Retailers sold just under \$21.0 billion worth of health care and personal products, such as cosmetics, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, eyewear and other toiletries, up 9.0% from 2000. This was the highest annual increase of all the major commodity groups. Spending on home furnishings and electronics rose 6.9% to just under \$23.0 billion.

Higher prescription drug prices (+4.0% from 2000) explain only part of the annual increase in spending on health and personal care products. Within the category, sales of prescription drugs rose 10.9% from 2000. Sales of non-prescription drugs, including vitamins and supplements, increased 7.6%.

Drug stores captured about 56% of the health and personal care market in 2001. However, this proportion was down from about 62% in 1997. In contrast, food stores captured a greater share, rising to 19% in 2001 from 16% in 1997.

Annual sales, all retail stores

Commodity	2000	2001	2000 to 2001
	\$ millions		% change
Food and beverages	61,748	63,868	3.4
Health and personal care products	19,247	20,978	9.0
Clothing, footwear and accessories	26,117	26,865	2.9
Home furnishings and electronics	21,481	22,973	6.9
Motor vehicles, parts and services	80,179	83,978	4.7
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	21,958	21,925	-0.1
All other goods and services	47,124	49,863	5.8
Total	277,855	290,450	4.5

Overall consumer spending in retail stores increased 4.5% in 2001 despite worries of an economic slowdown. However, this was the weakest annual gain since 1998. Total sales in 2001 hit \$290.5 billion.

In the fourth quarter, consumer spending was up 5.5% compared with the fourth quarter of 2000. This followed a weak 2.1% year-over-year increase in the third quarter, largely in reaction to the events of September 11.

Note to readers

The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey analyses quarterly retail sales at the national level on the basis of commodities, using data from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. The survey was designed to break down the sales of retail industries into commodities, allowing for the study of commodities across, as well as within, retail industries.

More than one-third of total consumer spending on vehicles and gas

Consumers devoted more than one-third of their spending in retail stores in 2001 to motor vehicles and related products and services, including gasoline and oil. In contrast, they spent only about one-fifth on food and beverages.

Total retail spending on new and used cars and trucks as well as parts, services, gasoline and oil, hit \$105.9 billion in 2001, up 3.7% from 2000. This represented just over 36% of total retail spending in stores. Consumers spent \$63.9 billion on food and beverages, up 3.4%. This accounted for 22% of total spending.

Sales of new motor vehicles increased 4.0% in 2001, and used vehicle sales rose 6.3%. New motor vehicles accounted for two-thirds of all motor vehicle sales, and used vehicles the remaining one-third.

Consumers spent \$21.9 billion on gas and oil, virtually unchanged from 2000. This follows large price-driven annual increases of 23.5% in 2000 and 12.0% in 1999. Lower gasoline prices in the latter part of 2001 helped to stabilize this spending.

Sales of home furnishings and electronics did well in 2001 but fell short of previous years' growth

Although strong, the 6.9% increase in home furnishings and electronics sales in 2001 was lower than the annual increases of the previous three years.

Within the category, results were mixed. Although shoppers spent more on furniture (+5.1%) and home electronics (+6.9%), these were the smallest annual rises since the survey began in 1997.

However, sales of appliances rose 6.6%, their biggest annual increase since the start of the survey, due to strong sales of small electrical appliances (+8.5%).

As well, sales of home furnishings other than furniture and appliances, such as bedding, linens, floor coverings, draperies, lamps and artwork did very well — up 9.1%, the highest annual increase since the start of the survey. Sales of these products in specialty stores were very strong — up 14.4% over 2000. In comparison, these sales rose only 1.4% in general merchandise stores.

In the electronics category, sales of telephones and home office electronics soared 16.4%, likely the result of the increased popularity of cellular telephones. In addition, sales of televisions and audio/video equipment, as well as computers and software, were both up 6.6%. (For historical reasons, stores specializing in selling computers are classified as wholesalers, and are therefore excluded from these estimates).

Sales of home electronics rose 8.5% in specialty stores, compared with 5.4% in general merchandise stores.

Weakest gains in clothing, footwear

Clothing, footwear and accessories recorded sales of \$26.9 billion, up 2.9% in 2001, the weakest annual gain since the inception of the survey. Within the clothing category, spending on children's and infants' clothing was up 5.8%, followed by women's clothing (+4.1%). Spending on men's clothing fell 0.7%, the first decline since the survey started.

Spending on women's clothing amounted to \$11.5 billion in 2001, or 55% of all clothing expenditures, compared with \$6.1 billion spent on men's clothing.

Sales results varied depending on the type of retailer. Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories at general merchandise stores were nearly unchanged (-0.4%) in 2001 after declining in 2000. However, in 2001, sales in specialty stores were up 4.0% and sales at sporting goods stores rose 6.5%.

Fourth quarter sales up

Consumers spent \$78.9 billion in retail stores in the fourth quarter, up 5.5% over the fourth quarter of 2000. (Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality; all percentage changes are year-over-year).

The fourth quarter increase was stronger than the annual year-over-year growth and was largely due to strong sales of motor vehicles, parts and services (+12.1%) and home furnishings and electronics (+9.6%). Incentive programs for motor vehicles, a strong housing market and a possible stay-at-home effect after the

events of September 11 helped to boost sales of automobiles and home furnishings and electronics.

Quarterly sales, all retail stores

Commodity	Fourth quarter 2000 ^r	Third quarter 2001 ^r	Fourth quarter 2001 ^p	Fourth quarter 2000 to fourth quarter 2001
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Commodity				
Food and beverages	16,434	16,452	16,997	3.4
Health and personal care products	5,330	5,158	5,846	9.7
Clothing, footwear and accessories	8,682	6,523	8,879	2.3
Home furnishings and electronics	6,873	5,635	7,537	9.6
Motor vehicles, parts and services	18,573	21,204	20,816	12.1
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	5,884	5,756	4,912	-16.5
All other goods and services	13,042	12,806	13,936	6.9
Total	74,818	73,534	78,923	5.5

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Within the home furnishings and electronics category, consumers spent 12.3% more on televisions and audio/video equipment, the largest year-over-year increase since the second quarter of 2000. Sales of the latest electronic products for Christmas may have helped to stimulate sales in this category. Computer components, software and related equipment were up 10.6%.

Consumers spent 16.5% less on gas and oil in the fourth quarter, due to lower prices at the pump.

Expenditures on health and personal care products were up 9.7% in the fourth quarter. Within this category, sales of personal care items such as cosmetics and toiletries recorded the largest year-over-year quarterly increase (+11.6%) since the start of the survey.

Sales of prescription drugs increased 9.7% in the fourth quarter, following four consecutive quarters of double-digit growth.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0010.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; 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), Distributive Trades Division. □

Commodity share of sales within store types
2001

	Food stores	Drug stores	Clothing and shoe stores	Household furniture, appliance and household furnishing stores	General merchandise and automotive parts, accessories and service stores	Other retail stores	All retail stores
%							
Commodity							
Food and beverages	76.9	5.5	0.1	0.1	10.2	6.9	22.0
Health and personal care products	6.3	81.7	0.8	0.1	6.9	1.2	7.2
Clothing, footwear and accessories	0.4	0.5	92.1	0.0	16.1	3.0	9.2
Home furnishings and electronics	0.4	3.5	1.9	86.2	12.9	1.0	7.9
Motor vehicles, parts and services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	24.6	55.0	28.9
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	15.4	7.5
All other goods and services	14.1	8.7	5.0	13.1	27.8	17.5	17.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Commodity share of sales across store types
2001

	Food stores	Drug stores	Clothing and shoe stores	Household furniture, appliance and household furnishing stores	General merchandise and automotive parts, accessories and service stores	Other retail stores	All retail stores
%							
Commodity							
Food and beverages	76.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	8.0	14.0	100.0
Health and personal care products	19.3	56.4	0.6	0.1	16.4	7.3	100.0
Clothing, footwear and accessories	0.9	0.3	54.5	0.0	29.9	14.4	100.0
Home furnishings and electronics	1.1	2.2	1.3	61.4	28.0	5.9	100.0
Motor vehicles, parts and services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	14.6	85.3	100.0
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	91.4	100.0
All other goods and services	18.1	2.5	1.6	4.3	27.8	45.7	100.0
Total	21.9	5.0	5.5	5.6	17.2	44.8	100.0

OTHER RELEASES

Domestic sales of refined petroleum products

February 2002 (preliminary)

Sales of refined petroleum products totalled 7 176 000 cubic metres in February, down 5.2% from February 2001. Sales decreased for five of the seven major product groups; the largest drop was for heavy fuel oil (-245 500 cubic metres or -34.7%).

Sales of aviation turbo fuels fell 83 800 cubic metres, or 17.7%, compared with February 2001. However, aviation turbo fuel oil sales rose for the fourth consecutive month in February, to 390 300 cubic metres.

Motor gasoline sales totalled 2 919 600 cubic metres, up 50 300 cubic metres or 1.8% from February 2001. Sales of regular non-leaded gasoline rose 1.0% and premium gasoline, 12.1%, but sales of mid-grade gasoline dropped 5.2% from February 2001.

Year-to-date sales of refined petroleum products were down 945 800 cubic metres, or 6.1%, from the same period in 2001. Sales fell for six of the seven major product groups; the largest decrease was for heavy fuel oil (-379 000 cubic metres or -26.1%). Only motor gasoline posted a year-to-date increase in sales (+94 400 cubic metres or +1.6%).

Sales of refined petroleum products

	Feb. 2001 ^r	Feb. 2002 ^p	Feb. 2001 to Feb. 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	7 572.2	7 176.0	-5.2
Motor gasoline	2 869.3	2 919.6	1.8
Diesel fuel oil	1 757.2	1 747.2	-0.6
Light fuel oil	694.5	666.8	-4.0
Heavy fuel oil	707.1	461.6	-34.7
Aviation turbo fuels	474.1	390.3	-17.7
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	353.7	358.1	1.2
All other refined products	716.3	632.4	-11.7

	Jan. to Feb. 2001 ^r	Jan. to Feb. 2002 ^p	Jan.-Feb. 2001 to Jan.-Feb. 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Total, all products	15 614.3	14 668.5	-6.1
Motor gasoline	5 910.4	6 004.8	1.6
Diesel fuel oil	3 589.8	3 492.3	-2.7
Light fuel oil	1 515.6	1 341.1	-11.5
Heavy fuel oil	1 451.9	1 072.9	-26.1
Aviation turbo fuels	937.6	722.5	-22.9
Petrochemical feedstocks ¹	762.0	761.3	-0.1
All other refined products	1 447.1	1 273.7	-12.0

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

¹ Materials produced by refineries that are used by the petrochemical industry to produce chemicals, synthetic rubber and a variety of plastics.

Available on CANSIM: table 134-0004.

To order data, or for general information, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eleonore Harding (613-951-5708; hardele@statcan.ca), or Gerry Desjardins (613-951-4368, desjger@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Women in Canada: Work chapter updates, April 2002
Catalogue number 89F0133XIE
(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.

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 *Products and services and Fee publications (\$)*.

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

Catalogue 11-001E (F) (single) 11-001E (11-001E) 0017-0103

The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, 68% of Canadian trips are a average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was initially weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Highered Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **EGY production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001E.

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".

Editor: Tom Vradenburg (613-951-1103, tom.vradenburg@statcan.ca)
Head of Official Release: Madeleine Simard (613-951-1088), madeleine.simard@statcan.ca

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 11-001E, along with date and page references.