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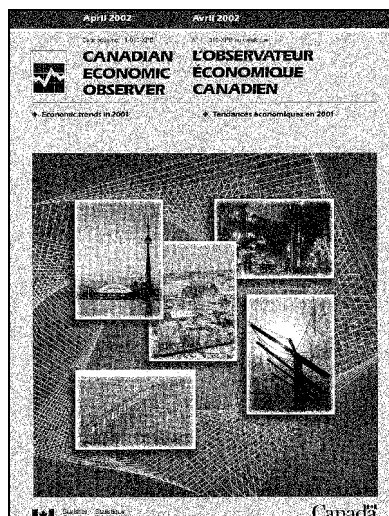
MAJOR RELEASES

- **New motor vehicle sales, February 2002** 3
New motor vehicle sales edged down 0.4% in February from January. Despite this decline, which followed four consecutive monthly increases, February's sales level was one of the highest in 25 years.

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Canadian economic observer April 2002

The April issue of Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, *Canadian economic observer*, analyses current economic conditions, summarizes the major economic events that occurred in March and presents a feature article on economic trends in 2001. A separate statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and the major industrial nations.

The April 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Volume 15, number 4 (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) is now available. See *How to order products*. Visit the *Canadian economic observer's* page on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, and on that page see the banner ad for *Canadian economic observer*. For more information, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca), Current Economic Analysis Group.



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MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

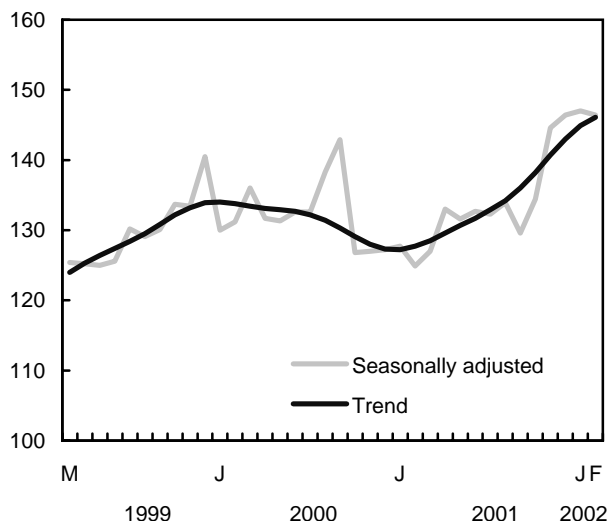
February 2002

New motor vehicle sales edged down 0.4% in February from January. Despite this decline, which followed four consecutive monthly increases, February's sales level was one of the highest in 25 years. In all, 146,386 new motor vehicles were sold, up 17.2% from February 2001.

The upward movement observed in new motor vehicle sales throughout 2001 was reinforced by incentives offered in the fourth quarter. For most of 2000, sales were generally stable, with the exception of significant declines in the fall.

Despite February's decline in new motor vehicle sales, the upward movement continues

'000 units



Preliminary figures from the auto industry show fewer new motor vehicles sold in March, primarily the result of lower truck sales.

Truck sales up slightly in February

New truck sales rose for a fifth straight month. In February, they advanced 0.4% from January to 68,457 units — a near-record number, eclipsed only by the all-time high reached in December 1997. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

New truck sales began moving upward in the summer of 2001. Earlier in the year, truck sales were

Note to readers

Seasonally adjusted estimates of new motor vehicle sales have been revised for 1999, 2000 and 2001 to reflect an update in seasonal factors. Estimates of new motor vehicle sales unadjusted for seasonality have been revised for 2001 only. Due to the constant evolution of seasonal factors, revisions can be more significant for some months of the year. However, the annual sum of unadjusted figures corresponds to the annual sum of adjusted estimates.

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted. 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 those manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included with that of British Columbia.

generally stable, following declines in the fall of 2000. Previously, sales remained stable for a year.

A total of 77,929 new passenger cars were sold in February, down 1.2% from January. This decline followed four consecutive monthly increases. February's decrease in sales of new passenger cars was mainly attributable to North American-built cars (-2.3%), which registered their second decline in as many months. Sales of overseas-built cars advanced 1.3% in February compared with January, their seventh gain in eight months. The only decrease was posted in December 2001.

Despite the decline in sales of new passenger cars in February, the upward movement that began early in 2001 continued. February's sales were up 16.0% from February 2001. Previously, sales had generally been stable since the start of 2000, following an upward movement that began at the end of 1998.

Prairie provinces record the only gains

In February, only the Prairie provinces reported higher new motor vehicle sales compared with January. For Manitoba (+3.9%) and Alberta (+0.8 %), February's gains were the second in a row — both provinces saw sizable increases in January. In Saskatchewan, February's advance of 3.7% followed a sharp drop in the previous month. New motor vehicle sales in the Prairie provinces have maintained a general upward movement since the start of 2001.

Dealers in Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario and the region formed by British Columbia, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut reported sales that were either unchanged or down slightly in February compared with January. New motor vehicle sales in these provinces have been moving upward since the start of 2001, following declines in the fall of 2000.

The other provinces all posted decreases in February compared with January. In the Maritime provinces, the drops followed gains in January. Despite February's declines, new motor vehicle sales in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick have maintained an upward movement since the start of 2001. February sales in the three provinces combined were 20.5% higher than in February 2001.

Quebec's sales fell for a second consecutive month in February. However, sales have been moving upward

since the spring of 2001, after declining since the fall of 2000. February sales in Quebec were up 11.4% from February 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.

The February 2002 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

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

New motor vehicle sales

	February 2001 ^r	January 2002 ^r	February 2002 ^p	February 2001 to February 2002	January to February 2002
Seasonally adjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	124,886	147,041	146,386	17.2	-0.4
Passenger cars	67,153	78,881	77,929	16.0	-1.2
North American ¹	48,687	55,457	54,205	11.3	-2.3
Overseas	18,467	23,424	23,724	28.5	1.3
Trucks, vans and buses	57,733	68,160	68,457	18.6	0.4
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,677	2,244	2,246	33.9	0.1
Prince Edward Island	323	436	434	34.4	-0.5
Nova Scotia	3,250	3,979	3,896	19.9	-2.1
New Brunswick	2,915	3,576	3,485	19.6	-2.5
Quebec	31,713	36,179	35,339	11.4	-2.3
Ontario	51,842	58,699	58,684	13.2	0.0
Manitoba	3,156	4,160	4,322	36.9	3.9
Saskatchewan	3,053	3,406	3,532	15.7	3.7
Alberta	14,299	17,657	17,799	24.5	0.8
British Columbia ²	12,658	16,705	16,649	31.5	-0.3
	February 2001	January 2002	February 2002 ^p	February 2001 to February 2002	
Unadjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	89,159	112,105	103,981	16.6	
Passenger cars	45,700	56,270	52,589	15.1	
North American ¹	33,571	41,820	37,067	10.4	
Overseas	12,129	14,450	15,522	28.0	
Trucks, vans and buses	43,459	55,835	51,392	18.3	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,063	1,303	1,405	32.2	
Prince Edward Island	187	288	250	33.7	
Nova Scotia	2,213	2,786	2,639	19.2	
New Brunswick	2,008	2,439	2,366	17.8	
Quebec	22,177	24,520	24,514	10.5	
Ontario	36,165	46,179	40,684	12.5	
Manitoba	2,298	3,340	3,140	36.6	
Saskatchewan	2,103	2,868	2,422	15.2	
Alberta	10,232	14,645	12,595	23.1	
British Columbia ²	10,713	13,737	13,966	30.4	

^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

Travel between Canada and other countries

February 2002

Travel to Canada from both the United States and overseas countries rose slightly in February compared with January.

Although overseas travellers exceeded pre-September 11 numbers in February, American travellers have yet to make up for lost ground, according to preliminary data on international travel.

An estimated 3.8 million travellers arrived in Canada in February, up 0.6% from January. The number of trips from overseas countries rose 2.8%; travel from south of the border edged up 0.4%. (Unless otherwise specified, the data are seasonally adjusted.)

An estimated 3.5 million Americans travelled to Canada in February, a number still 9.7% short of August levels. However, about 349,000 people from overseas countries visited Canada, up 0.5% compared with August.

The number of same-day car trips from the United States fell slightly in February, but the number of overnight trips rose 1.6%. US residents made 307,000 overnight trips to Canada by plane, 7.9% below pre-September 11 levels.

Canadian travel abroad declined in February for the first time in four months. International travel by Canadians is also still far short of pre-September 11 levels.

Canadians made 3.2 million international trips in February, down 5.2% from January and down 16.1% compared with August.

Almost 9 out of 10 of those trips were to the United States. Canadian travel south of the border fell 5.8% from January, due primarily to a sharp decline in same-day car trips. At the same time, travel to overseas countries declined 0.4% to 364,000 trips.

Canadians took 1,043,000 overnight trips to the United States in February, up 0.6%. Overnight car travel decreased 1.4%, but air travel rose 3.2%. Despite this increase, travel by plane was still almost 20% below pre-September 11 levels.

The majority of Canada's top 12 overseas markets showed increases in same-day and overnight trips to Canada in February. Travel from Hong Kong rose 21.9%, the largest increase, followed by Italy (+13.5%) and Taiwan (+8.5%). Declines were posted only by France (-2.7%) and Japan (-1.4%).

Only four of the top dozen markets sent more visitors to Canada than they did in August: South Korea, Switzerland, Italy and Hong Kong.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

The February 2002 issue of *International travel, advance information*, Vol. 18, no. 2 (66-001-PIE, \$6/\$55) 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 Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; frances.kremarik@statcan.ca) or Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-2909; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	January 2002 ^r	February 2002 ^p	January to February 2002	August 2001 ^r to February 2002	February 2002 ^p	February 2001 to February 2002
	Seasonally adjusted				Unadjusted	
	'000		% change		'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad¹	3,397	3,219	-5.2	-16.1	2,619	-17.2
to the United States	3,031	2,855	-5.8	-16.6	2,199	-17.9
to other countries	366	364	-0.4	-11.8	420	-13.6
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,874	1,760	-6.1	-19.5	1,378	-20.2
Total trips, one or more nights	1,403	1,408	0.3	-11.1	1,178	-13.2
United States ²	1,037	1,043	0.6	-10.9	758	-13.0
Car	628	620	-1.4	-5.1	342	-0.7
Plane	318	328	3.2	-19.8	373	-22.0
Other modes of transport	90	95	5.2	-12.2	44	-12.4
Other countries ³	366	364	-0.4	-11.8	420	-13.6
Travel to Canada¹	3,793	3,815	0.6	-8.8	2,522	-10.0
from the United States	3,454	3,466	0.4	-9.7	2,333	-10.3
from other countries	340	349	2.8	0.5	189	-6.1
Same-day car trips from the United States	1,999	1,982	-0.8	-13.4	1,488	-15.4
Total trips, one or more nights	1,653	1,686	2.0	-0.3	965	1.6
United States ²	1,325	1,347	1.6	-0.5	779	3.5
Car	878	901	2.7	3.7	513	11.1
Plane	306	307	0.2	-7.9	213	-6.6
Other modes of transport	141	139	-1.8	-8.8	53	-15.3
Other countries ³	328	339	3.4	0.8	186	-5.8
Most important overseas markets⁴						
United Kingdom	71	72	1.6	-3.4	45	-5.1
Japan	34	34	-1.4	-10.7	17	-26.3
France	29	29	-2.7	-3.0	20	-12.8
Germany	28	28	0.1	-2.0	11	-11.7
South Korea	14	15	5.6	15.4	8	16.3
Australia	13	13	2.7	-3.5	8	-14.0
Mexico	12	13	2.7	-10.3	5	-0.4
Hong Kong	10	12	21.9	9.2	10	85.7
Taiwan	9	10	8.5	-6.6	6	10.8
Netherlands	9	9	3.9	-1.9	4	-9.6
Italy	8	9	13.5	10.1	3	-10.6
Switzerland	9	9	0.4	11.5	4	-3.2

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

² Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

³ Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

⁴ Includes same-day and one or more night trips.

Steel primary forms

Week ending April 13, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending April 13 totalled 312 637 metric tonnes, up 7.9% from 289 766 tonnes a week earlier and up 11.6% from 280 108 tonnes in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week was 4 603 147 tonnes, up 12.3% from 4 097 611 tonnes in the same period of 2001.

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

Subhani (613-951-4924; misbah.subhani@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Construction Union Wage Rate Index March 2002

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in March compared with 120.2 in February (1992=100). The composite index rose 2.0% compared with March 2001.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments.

Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

The first quarter 2002 issue of *Capital expenditure statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Chainé (613-951-9606; infounit@statcan.ca, fax: 613-951-1539), Prices Division. ■

Monthly railway carloadings
February 2002

The freight loaded by railways in February totalled 17.5 million metric tonnes (excluding intermodal traffic), down 7.7% from February 2001. Intermodal tonnage, made up of containers on flatcars and trailers on flatcars, was 1.8 million tonnes, up 8.6% compared with the same period in 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

The February 2002 issue of *Monthly railway carloadings*, Vol. 79, no. 2 (52-001-XIE, \$8/\$77) 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 Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat
April 1, 2002 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on April 1 totalled 62,131 metric tonnes, down 2.8% from March 1.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-2860; conrad.ogrodnik@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Canadian economic observer, April 2002, Vol. 15, no. 4
Catalogue number 11-010-XPB (\$23/\$227).

Canada's mineral production, preliminary estimates, 2001
Catalogue number 26-202-XIB
(free).

Monthly railway carloadings, February 2002, Vol. 79, no. 2
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International travel, advance information, February 2002, Vol. 18, no. 2
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES


• Urban transit, 1996 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took the average of about 10 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.	2
• Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.	4

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