

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, April 4, 2002

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

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 Real tourism spending in Canada dropped a substantial 1.2% in the fourth quarter compared with the third.

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NEW PRODUCTS

Remote data access: On-line service for research and analysis

Researchers can now access a unique on-line service for researching and analysing Statistics Canada's data on education.

Remote Data Access (RDA) is a pilot project of the Centre for Education Statistics. Using this service, researchers can write and test their own computer programs using a file with artificial data. They can then send these programs via the Internet to Statistics Canada, where they will be run on the actual microdata file. The results are returned to the client.

For the moment, the only survey file available is the 1998 Adult Education and Training Survey. However, the 2000 Program for International Assessment and the 2000 Youth in Transition Survey will soon be available.

This service is an alternative to Statistics Canada's research data centres and regional offices, which are not always accessible to researchers.

At the outset, Remote Data Access (81C0051) is available free. There will be a minimal charge after an evaluation period of about three to six months. RDA is available to any researcher, provided Statistics Canada has approved their project. See (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/rda/index.htm>). From Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca), choose *Learning resources* from the side menu, then *Postsecondary*, then *Remote Data Access*.

For more information about this service, contact Sylvie Ouellette (613-951-9204; sylvie.ouellette@statcan.ca), or Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; educationstats@statcan.ca), Centre for Education Statistics.

MAJOR RELEASES

National tourism indicators

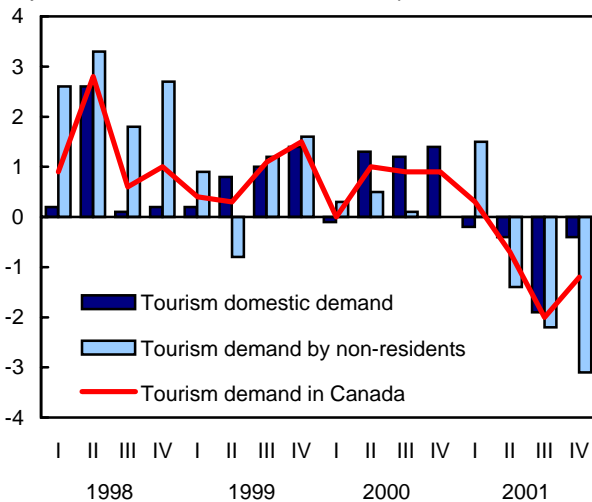
Fourth quarter 2001

Real tourism spending in Canada dropped a substantial 1.2% in the fourth quarter compared with the third. This was the third consecutive quarterly drop, and followed a 2.0% decline in the third quarter, reflecting the weaker economy and the events of September 11. However, the Canadian tourism industry was declining before these events took place.

Lower spending on air transportation (-5.8%) was the main reason for the fourth quarter downturn; travellers tended to avoid this means of transport due to security concerns, and carriers reduced the number of flights accordingly. However, the accommodation industry saw a 0.8% increase in spending compared with the third quarter.

Third consecutive decline in real tourism expenditures

Percentage change from previous quarter, adjusted for seasonal variation, constant prices



For a third consecutive quarter, the decrease in real tourism expenditures was more a result of lower non-resident demand than lower demand from Canadians. Non-residents spent 3.1% less in Canada in the fourth quarter, whereas Canadian tourists spent 0.4% less at the domestic level. Weak

Note to readers

Seasonally adjusted data and the associated percentage changes are presented at quarterly rates. Tourism spending is expressed in real terms (i.e., adjusted for price changes) as well as in current prices.

expenditures by foreign visitors were generalized; the strongest decrease was in the transportation industry, especially air transport.

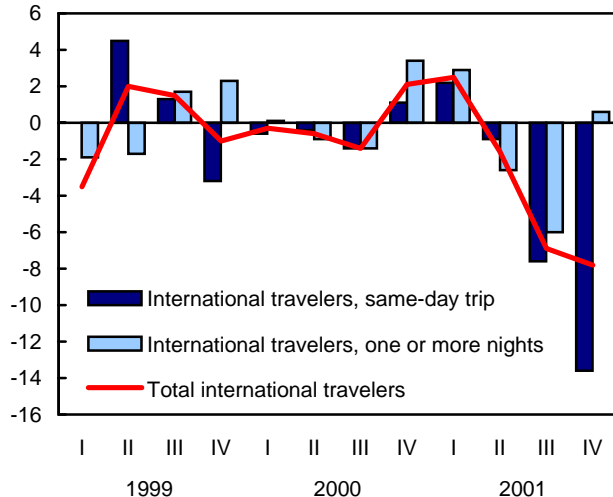
Fewer foreign visitors

The decrease in non-residents' spending in the fourth quarter was strongly correlated with fewer visits. Approximately 10.6 million foreigners visited Canada in the fourth quarter; this result was down 7.8% from the third, which in turn was down 7.0% from the second. The fourth quarter drop was more substantial for US visitors than for those from other countries.

Despite monthly increases in November and December, fewer foreigners visited during these months than in August.

Substantial drop in the number of international visitors to Canada

Percentage change from previous quarter, adjusted for seasonal variation

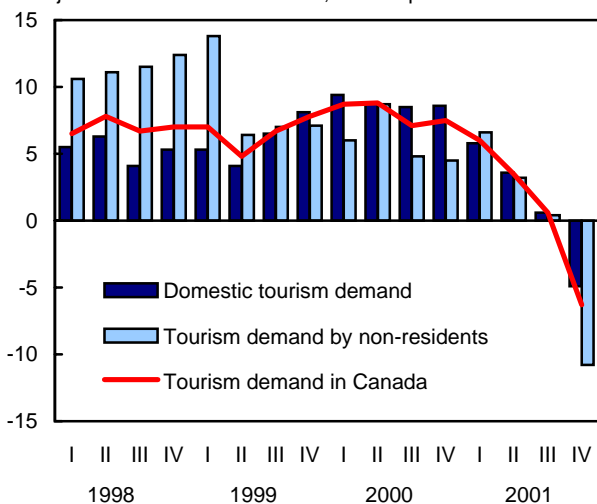


Data unadjusted for seasonality and expressed in current prices

Tourism expenditures in Canada reached \$10.1 billion in the fourth quarter, a 6.3% drop from the fourth quarter of 2000 — the strongest year-over-year decline recorded in the 15 years that this quarterly measure has been taken. As well, total tourism spending in the fourth quarter was lower than that of the first quarter — an unprecedented phenomenon. All the main expenditure categories declined compared with the fourth quarter of 2000, particularly accommodation (-13.3%) and transportation (-9.0%). Within the latter, the air transport component (-11.2%) was largely responsible for this decline.

Steep decline in tourism spending in Canada

Year-to-year percentage change, unadjusted for seasonal variation, current prices



Substantially fewer foreign visitors

The drop in tourism spending by non-residents is the main explanation for the strong downturn in overall expenditures. Even though spending by foreigners amounted to \$2.4 billion, or 23% of total expenditures in the fourth quarter, it declined a sharp 10.8% from the fourth quarter of 2000. This decrease was largely due to fewer visitors to Canada, and is probably related to the events of September 11. Consequently, the number of visits was down about 17% from the fourth quarter of 2000.

The number of US visitors also declined, albeit at different rates depending on the duration of their stay. Americans made about 4.8 million same-day trips and 2.5 million overnight trips, which are typically more expensive, in the fourth quarter. This translated into decreases of 23.1% and 2.7%, respectively, from the fourth quarter of 2000. The number of visitors from countries other than the United States also significantly declined (-21.5%), to about 650,000. Among foreign visitors, the most significant decrease was in travellers from the Asia-Pacific region, especially Japan (-48%).

Canadian travellers spending less within the country

Canadians' domestic tourism spending totalled \$7.7 billion in the fourth quarter, down 4.9% from the fourth quarter of 2000. As with non-residents, transportation (especially air transport) and accommodation expenditures fell farthest.

Fewer trips abroad

In addition to significantly cutting back spending on domestic travel in the fourth quarter, Canadians took far (nearly 23%) fewer trips abroad. While American visitors reduced their number of same-day trips to Canada far more than their overnight trips after September 11, Canadians reduced both same-day and overnight trips to the United States almost equally.

2001 review

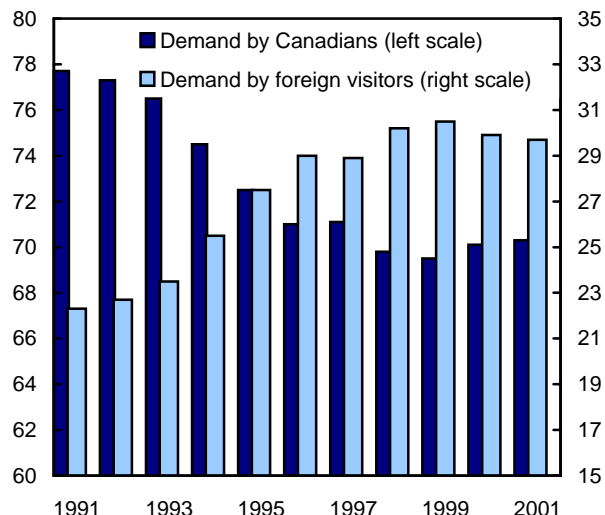
The year 2001 saw lower tourism activity in Canada, and was marred by September 11. Real tourism expenditures in Canada declined 0.1% in 2001 from 2000, after rising 3.2% in 2000 from 1999. The drop is due to non-residents' expenditures, which fell 1.3% from 2000. Domestic demand — purchases made by Canadians — gained a slight 0.4%.

Various factors, such as the global economic slowdown, the continued strength of the American dollar compared with the Canadian and the events of September 11, may have affected the country's tourism activities in 2001.

The proportion of spending by non-residents was 29.7%, compared with 70.3% for Canadians. These proportions were virtually the same for a second consecutive year; in the 10 previous years, the proportion of non-residents' expenditures had grown consistently from 22% in 1989.

Composition of tourism demand in Canada remains stable

Percentage of total demand



In 2001, the Canadian travel balance (including passenger fares) — the difference between foreign visitors' expenditures in Canada and expenditures by Canadians abroad — recorded the lowest deficit since 1987, \$2.5 billion.

Inflation in the Canadian tourism industry, as measured by the implicit price index for tourism goods and services, rose 1.4% in 2001. Prices for recreational and entertainment services climbed most sharply (+4.3%), while prices for both transportation and accommodation increased less than 1%. In contrast, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all goods and services rose 2.5% in 2001. The stronger CPI gain reversed the trend of the past four years, when the implicit price index for tourism goods and services showed stronger gains.

Available on CANSIM: tables 387-0001 to 387-0009.

The fourth quarter 2001 issue of the *National tourism indicators* (13-009-XIB, free) can be downloaded from Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *National accounts*. To order a paper copy of the publication (13-009-XPB, free), contact the client services officer (613-951-3640; fax: 613-951-3618; iead-info-dcdr@statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jacques Delisle (613-951-3796) or James Temple (613-951-0269), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

Tourism expenditures

	Fourth quarter 2000	First quarter 2001	Second quarter 2001	Third quarter 2001	Fourth quarter 2001	Fourth quarter 2000 to fourth quarter 2001 % change
	\$ millions current, unadjusted					
Tourism expenditures						
Tourism demand in Canada	10,774	11,014	13,604	19,866	10,093	-6.3
Tourism demand by non-residents	2,643	2,325	4,466	7,072	2,357	-10.8
Tourism domestic demand	8,131	8,689	9,138	12,794	7,736	-4.9
Transportation						
Tourism demand in Canada	4,973	4,889	5,507	7,434	4,525	-9.0
Tourism demand by non-residents	669	578	1,115	1,839	569	-14.9
Tourism domestic demand	4,304	4,311	4,392	5,595	3,956	-8.1
Accommodation						
Tourism demand in Canada	1,328	1,313	1,967	2,797	1,151	-13.3
Tourism demand by non-residents	556	537	1,058	1,514	465	-16.4
Tourism domestic demand	772	776	909	1,283	686	-11.1
Food and beverage services						
Tourism demand in Canada	1,599	1,623	2,306	3,443	1,552	-2.9
Tourism demand by non-residents	649	569	1,030	1,620	599	-7.7
Tourism domestic demand	950	1,054	1,276	1,823	953	0.3
Other tourism commodities						
Tourism demand in Canada	919	1,297	1,349	2,030	924	0.5
Tourism demand by non-residents	239	211	430	680	229	-4.2
Tourism domestic demand	680	1,086	919	1,350	695	2.2
Other commodities						
Tourism demand in Canada	1,955	1,892	2,475	4,162	1,941	-0.7
Tourism demand by non-residents	530	430	833	1,419	495	-6.6
Tourism domestic demand	1,425	1,462	1,642	2,743	1,446	1.5

Tourism expenditures

	2000	2001	2000 to 2001	Second quarter 2001	Third quarter 2001	Fourth quarter 2001	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2001
	\$ millions 1992		% change	\$ millions 1992 (seasonally adjusted)			% change
Tourism expenditures							
Tourism demand in Canada	44,348	44,305	-0.1	11,202	10,980	10,843	-1.2
Tourism demand by non-residents	13,621	13,443	-1.3	3,412	3,336	3,233	-3.1
Tourism domestic demand	30,727	30,862	0.4	7,790	7,644	7,610	-0.4
Transportation							
Tourism demand in Canada	17,512	17,296	-1.2	4,375	4,286	4,167	-2.8
Tourism demand by non-residents	3,659	3,503	-4.3	889	876	820	-6.4
Tourism domestic demand	13,853	13,793	-0.4	3,486	3,410	3,347	-1.8
Accommodation							
Tourism demand in Canada	5,750	5,536	-3.7	1,409	1,353	1,364	0.8
Tourism demand by non-residents	2,835	2,752	-2.9	706	679	653	-3.8
Tourism domestic demand	2,915	2,784	-4.5	703	674	711	5.5
Food and beverage services							
Tourism demand in Canada	7,409	7,568	2.1	1,908	1,885	1,884	-0.1
Tourism demand by non-residents	3,192	3,221	0.9	816	798	789	-1.1
Tourism domestic demand	4,217	4,347	3.1	1,092	1,087	1,095	0.7
Other tourism commodities							
Tourism demand in Canada	4,463	4,448	-0.3	1,124	1,106	1,095	-1.0
Tourism demand by non-residents	1,187	1,190	0.3	302	296	290	-2.0
Tourism domestic demand	3,276	3,258	-0.5	822	810	805	-0.6
Other commodities							
Tourism demand in Canada	9,214	9,457	2.6	2,386	2,350	2,333	-0.7
Tourism demand by non-residents	2,748	2,777	1.1	699	687	681	-0.9
Tourism domestic demand	6,466	6,680	3.3	1,687	1,663	1,652	-0.7



OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index

March 2002

The Help-wanted Index (1996=100) rose to 126 in March, up 1.6% from February. This was the first gain in 18 months.

Increases in New Brunswick (+3.3%), Prince Edward Island (+2.8%) and Ontario (+2.3%) were partly offset by decreases in the Prairie provinces.

The national index was down 25.0% from March 2001.

Help-wanted Index

(1996=100)

	March 2001	Feb. 2002	March 2002	Feb. to March 2002	March to March 2002
	Seasonally adjusted and smoothed				% change
Canada	168	124	126	1.6	-25.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	203	180	180	0.0	-11.3
Prince Edward Island	246	178	183	2.8	-25.6
Nova Scotia	162	132	133	0.8	-17.9
New Brunswick	179	150	155	3.3	-13.4
Quebec	162	119	119	0.0	-26.5
Ontario	188	130	133	2.3	-29.3
Manitoba	175	152	150	-1.3	-14.3
Saskatchewan	141	135	131	-3.0	-7.1
Alberta	176	138	137	-0.7	-22.2
British Columbia	135	95	95	0.0	-29.6

Note: The Help-wanted Index is compiled from the number of help-wanted ads published in 22 newspapers in 20 major metropolitan areas, and is considered an indicator of labour demand, measuring companies' intentions to hire new workers. These indices have been seasonally adjusted and smoothed to ease month-to-month comparisons.

Available on CANSIM: table 277-0002.

To order data, or for general information, contact the Client Services Unit (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091) or Dominique Pérusse (613-951-4064), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Consolidated government finance: Assets and liabilities

March 31, 2000

The consolidated net debt (defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets) of the federal, provincial, territorial and local governments was \$830.4 billion at March 31, 2000, down \$18.3 billion, or 2.2%, from March 31, 1999.

As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), the net debt of these consolidated governments fell to 80.6% in 2000 from 89.8% in 1999. The per-capita net debt decreased to \$27,066 from \$27,908.

When the 2000 net debt of provincial, territorial and local governments are consolidated, Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest per-capita net debt (\$16,952), followed by Quebec (\$13,965) and Nova Scotia (\$11,177). Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories registered no net debt.

Consolidated net debt

March 31, 2000

Province or territory	Consolidated net debt \$ millions	Per capita \$	Population at April 1 '000
Newfoundland and Labrador	9,120	16,952	538
Prince Edward Island	1,077	7,804	138
Nova Scotia	10,518	11,177	941
New Brunswick	6,750	8,940	755
Quebec	102,910	13,965	7,369
Ontario	107,344	9,233	11,626
Manitoba	9,521	8,315	1,145
Saskatchewan	9,330	9,120	1,023
Alberta	(2,121)	(709)	2,993
British Columbia	14,272	3,522	4,052
Yukon	(258)	(8,323)	31
Northwest Territories	(111)	(2,707)	41
Nunavut	276	10,222	27

Note: The Financial Management System (FMS) provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for Canada's federal, provincial and local governments. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ. The FMS adjusts data from governments' Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. In other words, FMS statistics may not accord with the figures published in government financial statements. A reconciliation statement of the two presentations is available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0014, 385-0017 and 385-0019.

Data are available by custom and special tabulation. For more information, or to make general inquiries on the products or services of the Public Institutions

Division, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767; joanne.rice@statcan.ca).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Andy Gareau (613-951-1826) or Robert Larocque (613-951-1836), Public Institutions Division.

Consolidated net debt

March 31

Year	Consolidated net debt	Net debt as a % of GDP	Per-capita net debt	GDP first quarter	Population at April 1
	\$ millions	%	\$	\$ millions	'000
1980	109,658	36.2	4,491	302,788	24,419
1990	494,510	72.9	17,931	678,496	27,578
1991	532,636	78.4	19,065	679,752	27,938
1992	593,797	85.5	21,002	694,812	28,273
1993	667,196	93.0	23,314	717,080	28,618
1994	739,122	98.2	25,541	752,792	28,939
1995	797,582	99.2	27,258	803,804	29,261
1996	836,993	101.8	28,298	822,076	29,578
1997	851,118	97.8	28,472	870,048	29,893
1998	847,318	93.2	28,087	908,928	30,168
1999	848,660	89.8	27,908	944,736	30,409
2000	830,361	80.6	27,066	1,029,920	30,679

Steel primary forms

Week ending March 30, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 30 totalled 332 663 metric tonnes, down 0.7% from 334 896 tonnes a week earlier and up 17.9% from 282 153 tonnes in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total at the end of the reference week

was 4 000 744 tonnes, a 12.5% increase compared with 3 555 159 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.

NEW PRODUCTS

National tourism indicators, fourth quarter 2001
Catalogue number 13-009-XIB
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National tourism indicators, fourth quarter 2001
Catalogue number 13-009-XPB
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January 2002
Catalogue number 15-001-XIE (\$11/\$110).

Cereals and oilseeds review, Vol. 25, no. 1,
January 2002
Catalogue number 22-007-XIB (\$11/\$112).

Cereals and oilseeds review, Vol. 25, no. 1,
January 2002
Catalogue number 22-007-XPB (\$15/\$149).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are taking it less and less. In 1996, about 1.5 billion trips were taken 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 relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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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.

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