



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, June 17, 2002

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

There are no major releases today.

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OTHER RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

April 2002

After a smaller year-over-year gain in March, sales by the group of large retailers showed increased strength in April, rising 6.5% from April 2001.

Sales of health and personal care products, hardware and lawn and garden products, and home furnishings and electronics were robust compared with April 2001. These were among the strongest gains seen for these three commodity groups over the past 12 months. Sporting and leisure goods was the only commodity group to post a year-over-year decrease in April. (Data in this release have not been seasonally adjusted. All percentages represent year-over-year changes.)

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	March 2002 ^r	April 2001	April 2002 ^p	April 2001 to April 2002
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions		% change	
Commodities				
Food and beverages	2,345	2,088	2,164	3.6
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,089	1,221	1,276	4.5
Home furnishings and electronics	933	798	899	12.7
Health and personal care products	595	502	580	15.6
Housewares	299	271	290	7.1
Sporting and leisure goods	280	297	291	-2.0
Hardware and lawn and garden products	197	299	344	15.0
All other goods and services	696	693	727	4.9
Total	6,434	6,170	6,571	6.5

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Sporting and leisure goods sales sank somewhat in April, after five months of year-over-year double-digit gains. Sales of toys and games declined sharply in April (-12.8%), partially a result of Easter sales taking place in March this year as opposed to April in 2001. Sporting goods sales were also weak for the group of large retailers. Bicycles, golf equipment, and equipment for team sports such as baseball and volleyball all posted decreases in sales compared with April 2001.

Health and personal care product sales were up 15.6% from April 2001, the largest increase in almost a year. The growth in sales was fairly evenly split between the two major components: drug sales (which include prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins

and herbal remedies) and personal care product sales (such as cosmetics, fragrances and other toiletries).

Sales of hardware and lawn and garden products increased 15.0% from April 2001 for the group of large retailers. The only weakness was seen in paint, wallpaper and related supplies. Almost half of the total increase in sales was seen in the category of other lawn- and garden-related products. This commodity group, which includes products such as garden tools, hoses, wheelbarrows, pools, playground centers and barbecues, was up more than 35% from April 2001.

April sales of home furnishings and electronics continued to show strength for the group of large retailers, with sales increases of 10% or more in three of the last four months. Home furnishing products, televisions and audio-video equipment, indoor furniture and major appliances all posted increases ranging from 12% to 18% compared with April 2001.

Clothing, footwear and accessory sales rose 4.5% in April, after a year-over-year decline of 1.3% in March. Women's clothing sales and footwear sales were at the root of this increase for the group of large retailers. Men's clothing sales increased slightly from April 2001, and children's clothing sales declined 5.8%.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

For general information or to order data, 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 Elton Cryderman (613-951-0669; elton.cryderman@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

April 2002

Total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns in April were an estimated \$2.67 billion, up 2.7% over the April 2001 estimate.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

The April 2002 issue of *Restaurant, caterer and tavern statistics* (63-011-XIE, \$6/\$55) 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 Bill Birbeck (613-951-3506), Services Industries Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

November 2001

There were 476,083 take-offs and landings recorded in November at the 98 airports with Nav Canada air traffic control towers and flight service stations, down 2.2% from November 2000. There were 100 airports in the tower and flight service station categories in November 2000; Churchill and Fort Simpson are now included with the data for airports without air traffic control towers.

Statistics for the airports without air traffic control towers participating in this survey are also available. In November, these 110 airports reported 55,615 take-offs and landings.

The November 2001 monthly report (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's Web site (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

For more information about this Web site, 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. ■

Travel arrangement services

2000 (preliminary)

Data for 2000 from the Annual Survey of Travel Arrangement Services are now available. The data are based on a panel of establishments representing the travel agencies and tour operators industries (North American Industry Classification System categories 561510 and 561520). A detailed analytical report that examines the supply-side of these industries will be available through the Canadian Tourism Commission.

The report was prepared by Statistics Canada in collaboration with the Canadian Tourism Commission. To obtain the report, contact Denisa Georgescu, (613-946-2136; georgescu.denisa@ctc-cct.ca), Canadian Tourism Commission. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality for this release, contact Adib Farhat (613-951-6306; adib.farhat@stacan.ca), Services Industries Division. ■

Organizational and technological change in the private sector

1998 to 2000

Available today is a second working paper based on data concerning organizational and technological change from the 2000 Survey of Electronic Commerce and Technology.

From 1998 to 2000, 4 out of 10 private sector firms introduced organizational change by improving organizational structures or implementing new management techniques.

About 44% of firms in the goods-producing sector adopted organizational change, compared with 38% of firms in the services-producing sector. Just over two-thirds of firms in services provided intangible services, with the remaining services firms offering goods-related services. Both of these sub-sectors showed the same propensity to adopt organizational change.

The size of firms had an impact on rates of adoption of organizational change. About 82% of companies with between 100 and 499 full-time employees adopted organizational change, twice the rate of 41% among enterprises with 1 to 99 full-time employees. Firms with 500 or more employees had the highest rate, 86%.

These findings might indicate that organizational change depends in part on the need for formal structures within firms, and that smaller firms (based on employment size) have less sophisticated organizational structures in place. Also, organizational change, which costs time and effort, has an impact on the firms' resources, especially for smaller firms.

The paper also showed that 44% of firms adopted technological change by introducing new or significantly improved technologies between 1998 and 2000.

The 2000 Survey of Electronic Commerce and Technology collected data on four methods of introducing technological change. Purchasing off-the-shelf technologies was the most popular method of introducing technological change in the private sector; this was done by three-quarters of the private sector enterprises that introduced changes. Customizing or significantly modifying existing technologies ranked second.

The working paper *An overview of organizational and technological change in the private sector, 1998-2000*, no. 9 (88F0006XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Research papers (free)*, then *Science and technology*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Earl (613-951-2880; louise.earl@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Work absence rates, 1991 to 2001, no. 11
Catalogue number **71-535-MPB** (\$50).

An overview of organizational and technological change in the private sector, 1998–2000
Catalogue number **88F0006XIE2002009** (free).

Federal government expenditure and personnel in the natural and social sciences, 1992–1993 to 2001–2002
Catalogue number **88F0006XIE2002010** (free).

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Thursday, June 13, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 20 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by modest gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

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