Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, August 22, 2002
Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

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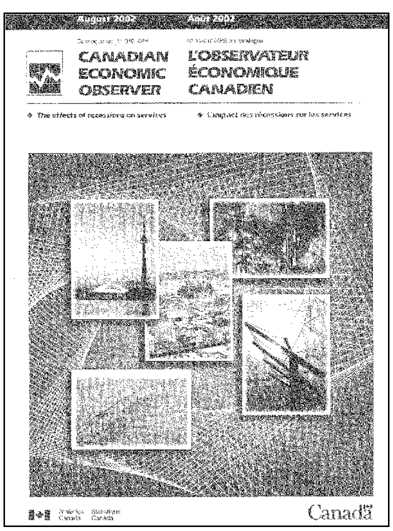


Canadian economic observer

August 2002

The August 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 July and presents a feature article on the effect of recessions on services industries. 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 August 2002 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Vol. 15, no. 8 (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.

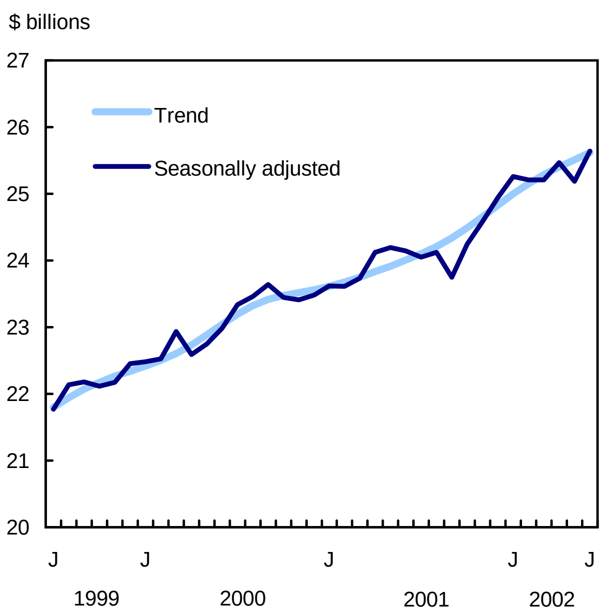
MAJOR RELEASES

Retail Trade

June 2002 and second quarter 2002

Retail sales rose 1.8% in June to $25.6 billion, offsetting May's 1.1% decline. All sectors except drugs and furniture contributed to this increase. Previously, retail sales increased 1.0% in April and remained almost unchanged in February and March. Despite June's increase, retail sales have not progressed much since January, following four months of sharp advances. Before October 2001, retail sales showed little movement in the spring and summer of 2001, followed by a significant drop in September.

Retail sales bounced back in June



In constant dollars, retail sales were up 1.7% in June after a 0.8% decline in May. Despite June's increase, retail sales in the second quarter declined 0.2% (in constant dollars) compared with the first.

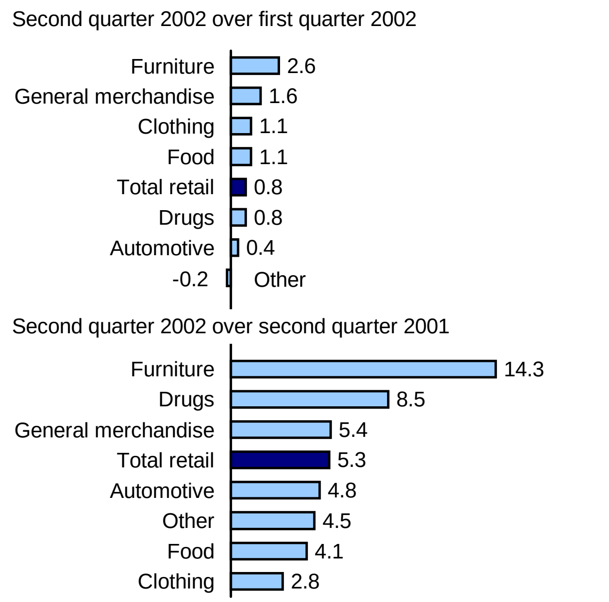
In June, only the drug (-0.5%) and furniture (-0.3%) sectors posted sales decreases. All remaining sectors reported higher sales, with clothing stores (+5.4%), general merchandise stores (+3.9%) and the other retail category (+3.0%) posting the most significant increases. Sales were also up in the automotive (+1.6%) and food (+0.8%) sectors.

All provinces posted sales gains in June, except Prince Edward Island (-5.6%) and Nova Scotia (-0.2%). Retail sales advances ranged from 0.5% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 3.2% in Ontario.

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

Retail sales advanced 0.8% in the second quarter from the first, a third consecutive quarterly gain. All sectors except other retail saw rising sales in the second quarter.

Retail sales by sector (in % change)



Furniture stores lead the second quarter

Despite a 0.3% decline in June, the furniture sector led all sectors with a 2.6% gain in the second quarter, the fourth consecutive quarterly increase. Sales in the furniture sector were 14.3% higher than in the second quarter of 2001. A healthy housing market and strong demand for consumer electronics propelled sales growth in this sector.

Significant sales gains in June for department stores (+3.9%) and other general merchandise stores (+3.7%) led to a 1.6% gain in the second quarter in the general merchandise sector, following a 3.2% gain in the first quarter. Within the sector, sales by department stores advanced 7.1% in the second quarter from the second quarter of 2001; other general merchandise stores advanced 3.1%.

In the second quarter, sales advanced 1.1% in both the food and clothing sectors. Food store sales have been on the rise since the second quarter of 1996. Higher sales in women's clothing stores (+2.7%) and men's clothing stores (+1.7%) were responsible for the sales increase in clothing stores in the second quarter.

In the automotive sector (+0.4%), lower quarterly sales by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers (-1.7%) were mostly responsible for the weaker growth. Gasoline service stations sales, however, were up 6.5% in the second quarter. Retail sales in the automotive sector were up 4.8% from the second quarter of 2001.

Drug store sales rose 0.8% from the first quarter. This followed the 4.1% gain in the first quarter, the strongest quarterly gain by drug stores in nine years. Drug stores posted the second strongest year-over-year sales gain (+8.5%) of all retail sectors in the second quarter.

Mixed signals from the provinces in the second quarter

Retail sales advanced in the second quarter in Quebec and the four western provinces. Manitoba (+2.4%), British Columbia (+2.1%) and Quebec (+1.9%) reported the largest quarterly increases.

Lower sales in the second quarter were reported in all provinces of the Atlantic region and in Ontario. Retailers in Ontario saw their sales decline 0.5% from the first quarter, following gains of 2.7% in both the first quarter of 2002 and the fourth quarter of 2001. The largest quarterly declines in sales were in Prince Edward Island (-1.4%) and New Brunswick (-1.2%).

Related indicators for July

Employment surged 326,000 (+2.2%) from January to July, for an average monthly gain of 47,000. Since the beginning of 2002, the number of housing starts rose 24.5% from the same period of 2001. Sources in the automotive industry indicate that the number of new motor vehicles sold in July declined compared with June.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0001 to 080-0005.

The June 2002 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, $16/$155) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Retail trade estimates for July will be released on September 23.

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 Pierre Desjardins (613-951-9682; *pierre.desjardins@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. □

Retail sales

	June 2001	March 2002r	April 2002r	May 2002r	June 2002p	May to June 2002	June 2001 to June 2002
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Food	**5,298**	**5,453**	**5,484**	**5,483**	**5,528**	**0.8**	**4.3**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,900	5,052	5,087	5,092	5,138	0.9	4.9
All other food stores	398	400	397	391	390	-0.2	-2.0
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,201**	**1,291**	**1,284**	**1,305**	**1,299**	**-0.5**	**8.2**
Clothing	**1,307**	**1,342**	**1,388**	**1,320**	**1,391**	**5.4**	**6.5**
Shoe stores	146	146	152	144	155	7.4	5.8
Men's clothing stores	120	117	124	117	119	1.8	-0.2
Women's clothing stores	392	399	421	394	414	5.2	5.5
Other clothing stores	648	679	692	665	703	5.7	8.5
Furniture	**1,349**	**1,487**	**1,511**	**1,529**	**1,524**	**-0.3**	**13.0**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,093	1,200	1,219	1,243	1,233	-0.8	12.8
Household furnishings stores	257	287	292	286	291	1.8	13.6
Automotive	**9,720**	**10,152**	**10,263**	**10,124**	**10,283**	**1.6**	**5.8**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,384	6,916	6,862	6,851	6,933	1.2	8.6
Gasoline service stations	1,956	1,848	1,926	1,857	1,873	0.9	-4.2
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,380	1,388	1,475	1,416	1,478	4.3	7.0
General merchandise stores	**2,705**	**2,793**	**2,834**	**2,788**	**2,896**	**3.9**	**7.1**
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,568**	**2,689**	**2,702**	**2,637**	**2,717**	**3.0**	**5.8**
Other semi-durable goods stores	743	780	774	771	800	3.7	7.7
Other durable goods stores	639	661	667	657	667	1.5	4.3
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,186	1,249	1,262	1,208	1,250	3.5	5.4
Total, retail sales	**24,146**	**25,207**	**25,467**	**25,187**	**25,639**	**1.8**	**6.2**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**17,763**	**18,292**	**18,605**	**18,336**	**18,706**	**2.0**	**5.3**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	416	416	432	415	417	0.5	0.3
Prince Edward Island	108	111	113	111	104	-5.6	-3.5
Nova Scotia	726	771	760	763	761	-0.2	4.8
New Brunswick	585	618	601	605	609	0.7	4.1
Quebec	5,542	5,792	5,840	5,818	5,881	1.1	6.1
Ontario	9,079	9,475	9,570	9,284	9,577	3.2	5.5
Manitoba	825	867	906	880	892	1.3	8.1
Saskatchewan	697	737	739	743	753	1.2	8.0
Alberta	2,891	3,033	3,085	3,113	3,154	1.3	9.1
British Columbia	3,195	3,300	3,332	3,367	3,401	1.0	6.4
Yukon	30	33	30	32	33	4.5	10.1
Northwest Territories	36	40	42	40	40	-0.8	11.9
Nunavut	17	17	17	17	17	0.4	0.1

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

Retail sales

	June 2001	May 2002[r]	June 2002[p]	June 2001 to June 2002
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Food	**5,634**	**5,826**	**5,696**	**1.1**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,210	5,417	5,287	1.5
All other food stores	424	409	409	-3.4
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,185**	**1,334**	**1,254**	**5.8**
Clothing	**1,290**	**1,354**	**1,351**	**4.8**
Shoe stores	161	172	167	3.9
Men’s clothing stores	128	118	126	-1.9
Women’s clothing stores	400	434	413	3.3
Other clothing stores	601	630	646	7.4
Furniture	**1,338**	**1,446**	**1,465**	**9.5**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,074	1,162	1,175	9.4
Household furnishings stores	264	283	290	9.8
Automotive	**11,102**	**12,208**	**11,441**	**3.1**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	7,512	8,575	7,877	4.9
Gasoline service stations	2,077	1,985	1,971	-5.1
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,513	1,647	1,593	5.3
General merchandise stores	**2,669**	**2,775**	**2,855**	**7.0**
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,729**	**2,848**	**2,830**	**3.7**
Other semi-durable goods stores	807	887	862	6.8
Other durable goods stores	637	674	660	3.6
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,284	1,287	1,308	1.8
Total, retail sales	**25,947**	**27,790**	**26,892**	**3.6**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**18,435**	**19,215**	**19,015**	**3.1**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	464	461	447	-3.7
Prince Edward Island	124	120	116	-6.5
Nova Scotia	797	821	807	1.2
New Brunswick	642	674	647	0.8
Quebec	5,977	6,740	6,232	4.3
Ontario	9,827	10,231	10,071	2.5
Manitoba	872	948	913	4.8
Saskatchewan	742	799	784	5.7
Alberta	3,049	3,343	3,252	6.6
British Columbia	3,361	3,558	3,525	4.9
Yukon	36	35	38	6.2
Northwest Territories	40	42	44	9.4
Nunavut	16	18	16	-0.4

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms

Week ending August 17, 2002 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 17 totalled 267 621 metric tonnes, down 10.2% from 298 042 tonnes a week earlier and 8.1% from 291 088 tonnes in the same week of 2001. The year-to-date total as of August 17 was 10 252 065 tonnes, up 8.0% from 9 496 852 in the same period of 2001.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Deliveries of major grains

July 2002

Data on July grain deliveries are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.

The July 2002 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, $11/$112; 22-007-XPB, $15/$149) will be available in October. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; *sue.anderson@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Sawmills and planing mills

Second quarter 2002 and June 2002

After benefitting from the absence of penalties on their exports to the United States during the first half of the quarter, Canadian sawmills dramatically curtailed their shipments after May 21, when penalties kicked in.

Lumber shipments increased 9.0% from the first quarter and 1.3% from the second quarter of 2001, reaching 18,800.1 thousand cubic metres. This was essentially because of a good performance in April and the beginning of May; in late May, countervailing and antidumping duties were re-imposed, resulting in an 8.1% drop in lumber shipments from April and an additional 2.1% decrease in June from May.

Despite a 35.7% drop in June lumber exports from May, as measured by the International Trade Division, second quarter exports were 8.2% (unadjusted data) higher than first quarter exports. This was partly a result of the good performance earlier in the quarter when it was possible to ship on the US market without penalties.

However, lumber exports in the second quarter were 4.2% lower than in the second quarter of 2001, reflecting the continuing uncertainty created by the lumber dispute over the last year and some weakening in US demand in recent months.

After strong increases earlier in 2002, housing starts diminished during the second quarter. In the United States, housing starts averaged 1 652 700 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in the second quarter, down 4.2% from the first quarter.

Housing starts in Canada fell 1.7% in the second quarter, averaging 171 600 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) compared with 174 600 units in the first quarter.

Canadian exporters taking advantage of the absence of penalties to ship to the US market in April and early May resulted in downward pressure on lumber prices. According to the Industrial Product Price Index, lumber prices continued to slide in June, diminishing 3.5% from May, as a result of higher stocks and lower demand caused in part by the re-instatement of duties at the end of May.

Increased shipments in the second quarter compared with the first were widespread throughout the country, ranging from a 2.9% increase in the coastal region of British Columbia to 54.4% in Saskatchewan.

Lumber shipments in the second quarter were down from the second quarter of 2001 in Quebec (-8.0%) and Ontario (-7.1%), but were higher in Alberta (+14.7%) and British Columbia (+4.4%). British Columbia's increase was mostly the result of a 9.3% increase in the interior region; lumber shipments from the coastal region were down 15.9%.

On a monthly basis, Canadian sawmill shipments fell 2.1% in June from May, reaching 6 084.6 thousand cubic metres. Production decreased 5.2%, resulting in a 0.1% reduction in stocks.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.

The June 2002 issue of *Sawmills and planing mills*, Vol. 56, no. 6 (35-003-XIB, $9/$86) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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 Gilles Simard (613-951-3516; *simales@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Canadian economic observer, August 2002, Vol. 15, no. 8
Catalogue number 11-010-XPB ($23/$227).

Sawmills and planing mills, June 2002, Vol. 56, no. 6
Catalogue number 35-003-XIB ($9/$86).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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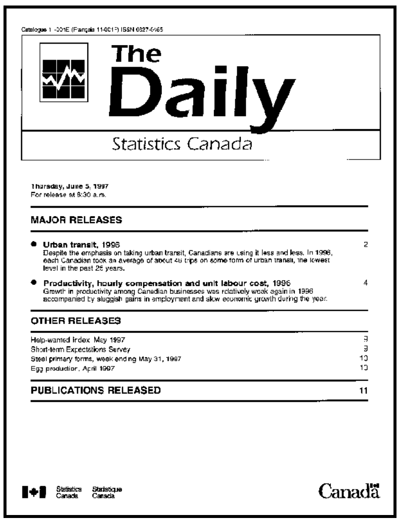
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 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 relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

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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