



The Daily

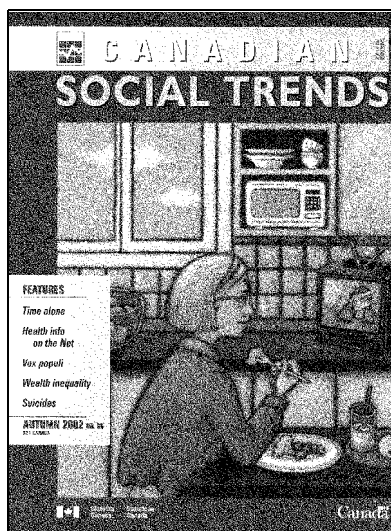
Statistics Canada

Tuesday, September 17, 2002
Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, July 2002** 3
Manufacturers marked the start of summer on an upbeat note. Fuelled by strong output of motor vehicles and petroleum and coal products, manufacturing shipments rose 1.0% in July to \$43.6 billion, the first increase in three months.
- **Time alone, 1998** 8
People who spend a lot of time by themselves are less likely to be very happy than those who spend little time alone. Meanwhile, about a quarter of Canadians would like more time to themselves, according to a new article in *Canadian social trends*.

(continued on page 2)



Canadian social trends Autumn 2002

Each quarter, *Canadian social trends* integrates data from many sources to examine emerging social trends and issues. The Autumn 2002 issue contains five articles.

The feature article, "Time alone," examines the groups of Canadians most likely to live alone, the amount of time spent alone on an average day, attitudes to spending time alone and the influence that time alone has on overall happiness; "Health information on the Net" explores the use of the Internet for health information; "Vox populi: Canadians who speak up" seeks to identify the basic characteristics of those Canadians who speak in a public forum; "Are Families getting richer" examines whether the gap between high-wealth families and low-wealth families has widened from 1984 to 1999; "Suicide deaths and attempts" looks at suicide deaths and hospitalized suicide attempts among Canadians aged 10 years or older from 1979 to 1998.

This issue of *Canadian social trends* also features the latest social indicators as well as information about Statistics Canada's products and services

The Autumn 2002 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 66 (11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27; 11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Susan Crompton (613-951-2556; cstsc@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division.



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MAJOR RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

July 2002

Manufacturers marked the start of summer on an upbeat note. Fuelled by strong output of motor vehicles and petroleum and coal products, manufacturing shipments rose 1.0% in July to \$43.6 billion, the first increase in three months. Following declines in May and June, shipments recovered to the highest level since April. Record low interest rates, an expanding labour market and healthy consumer confidence were factors contributing to greater manufacturing activity over the last 12 months.

In July, 14 of 21 industries reported higher shipments, representing 74% of the total. As well, five provinces and the territories reported higher shipments in July than in June. Ontario led the provinces with a 2.0% rise in shipments, the first increase since April. British Columbia and Manitoba also reported strong growth.

Shipments by province and for the territories

	June 2002	July 2002	June to July 2002
Seasonally adjusted			
	\$ millions		% change
Newfoundland and Labrador	206	188	-8.6
Prince Edward Island	108	103	-3.9
Nova Scotia	722	724	0.2
New Brunswick	1,090	1,077	-1.2
Quebec	10,298	10,201	-0.9
Ontario	23,075	23,541	2.0
Manitoba	933	964	3.4
Saskatchewan	610	582	-4.5
Alberta	3,370	3,384	0.4
British Columbia	2,786	2,858	2.6
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	3	6	66.8

To meet demand, manufacturers have also started to expand inventories in recent months. Inventories rose 0.6% in July, the third increase in four months. However, finished-product inventories, which have been trending down since summer 2001, declined a further 0.9% in July.

Manufacturing employment continues to expand

According to the most recent Labour Force Survey, 21,000 manufacturing jobs were added to the payrolls in August, following 14,200 new positions in July. So far in 2002, manufacturing employment has grown 6.7% (+149,000 jobs). Employment and labour

Note to readers

In addition to current-month estimates, data for the previous three months are regularly revised. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of company data, incorrect information reported earlier, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), and seasonal adjustments. Consult the appropriate CANSIM tables for revised data.

Unfilled orders are a stock of orders that will contribute to future shipments assuming that the orders are not cancelled.

New orders are those received whether shipped in the current month or not. They are measured as the sum of shipments for the current month plus the change in unfilled orders. Some people interpret new orders as orders that will lead to future demand. This is inappropriate since the "new orders" variable includes orders that have already been shipped. Readers should take note that the month-to-month change in new orders may be volatile, particularly if the previous month's change in unfilled orders is closely related to the current month's change.

Not all orders will be translated into Canadian factory shipments because portions of large contracts can be subcontracted out to manufacturers in other countries.

force growth in the manufacturing sector have been strong in Canada compared with the United States, where manufacturers mostly continued to draw from their inventories.

In July, manufacturing shipments in the United States increased 1.6%, following a 0.9% drop in June. This was in contrast to the January-to-July period, when US manufacturing shipments contracted 3.0%, compared with a significantly smaller drop of 0.8% in Canada. Manufacturing inventories also started to accumulate again in Canada, increasing in three of the last four months, after 10 consecutive declines. At the same time, US manufacturers continued to lower their inventory holdings.

According to the latest industrial capacity utilization rates, widespread increases were reported in the manufacturing sector. Manufacturers operated at 82.7% of capacity in the second quarter, up from 80.9% in the first. The rate of capacity use advanced in 18 of the 21 industry groups. Transportation equipment, wood products and chemicals were among the top contributors in the second quarter.

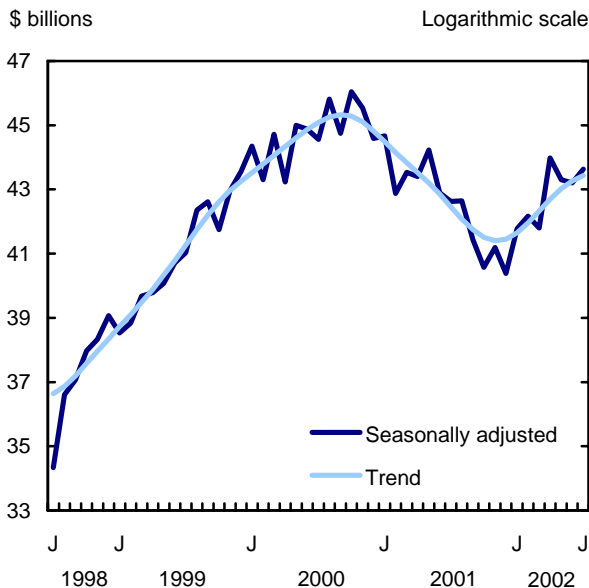
Motor vehicles boost shipments in July

Motor vehicle shipments rose 5.4% to \$5.9 billion, by far the largest increase of all manufacturing industries in July. This followed a 0.8% increase in June. Low interest rates, generous financing incentives and strong consumer confidence continued to drive sales to

near-record levels in Canada. As well, the United States reported robust demand for automobiles, contributing to lower dealer inventories. In addition, manufacturers stepped up production of new models for the coming year, and the resumption of overtime work was prevalent at some plants.

Shipments of petroleum and coal products rose 6.4% to \$2.8 billion in July, the fourth increase in five months. Several plants returned to full production levels following some temporary plant shutdowns in May and June. Prices for petroleum and coal products edged up 1.8% in July, after falling in May and June. Ongoing uncertainty in the Middle East will likely contribute to future volatility in this industry.

Motor vehicles boost shipments in July



Wood product shipments edge up after deep cuts in May and June

Following the re-instatement of the US-imposed duties on Canadian softwood lumber exports in late May, wood product shipments plunged 8.1% in June, after a 3.9% drop in May. July shipments recovered somewhat, rising 1.1% to \$2.3 billion. Although export demand for lumber softened in recent months, the investment boom in domestic new housing may have offset some of the foreign demand. Investment in new housing remained very strong, and the value of building permits reached an unprecedented high in July, totalling \$4.0 billion (+3.0%). According to July's building permits release, high construction intentions

in both residential and non-residential sectors were responsible for the new records. Prices for lumber, sawmill and other wood products also rose 0.5% in July, the first increase since March.

Offsetting the overall increase in total manufacturing shipments was a substantial 19.2% drop in production of aerospace products and parts, which wiped out most of June's gains (+23.2%). Persistent uncertainty in the international aviation sector continued to hamper Canadian aerospace manufacturing. Year-to-date production of aerospace product and parts in Canada fell 19.8%, compared with a 10.9% drop in output of non-defence aircraft and parts in the United States.

Manufacturers' inventories strengthen for the second straight month

Following a year of significant inventory reductions, manufacturers may be showing signs of confidence in the economy. In recent months, inventories have started to gradually accumulate once again. In July, inventories increased for the third time in four months, rising 0.6% to \$62.1 billion, a five-month high. This supports the data from July's Quarterly Business Conditions Survey, which indicated that manufacturers were satisfied that their inventories were under control.

While Canadian manufacturers began to rebuild their inventories, their counterparts in the United States continued to maintain the more conservative approach of inventory reductions. Although inventories slipped just 0.1% in July, the US manufacturing sector has steadily reduced stock holdings since early in 2001.

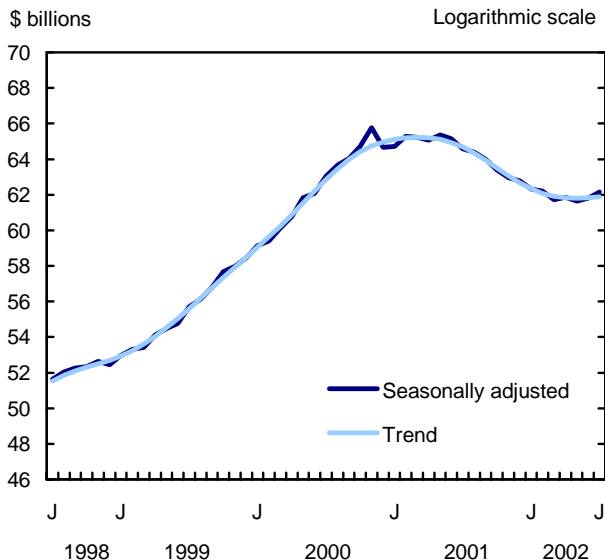
In Canada, July's inventory increase was concentrated in raw material inventories, which jumped 1.7% to \$27.4 billion, the highest since November 2001. Goods-in-process inventories edged up 0.4% to \$15.9 billion. Finished-product inventories retreated 0.9% to \$18.9 billion, the lowest level in two years. Finished products have been steadily decreasing since their peak of \$20.2 billion in June 2001. The trend for finished products remained stable for the fourth straight month.

Manufacturers in the pharmaceutical and medicine industry contributed to the 2.5% advance in chemical product inventories in July. Inventories reached \$5.3 billion, closing in on October 2001's record high. The machinery industry reported its first inventory increase in five months, as stocks edged up 1.2% to \$4.6 billion. Inventories of petroleum and coal products rose 3.3% to \$1.6 billion, recovering from decreases in May and June.

Slightly offsetting these increases, the aerospace product and parts industry reported its second decrease

in three months, as inventories fell 0.6% to \$7.8 billion. Ongoing uncertainty in the global aerospace market continued to impede this industry.

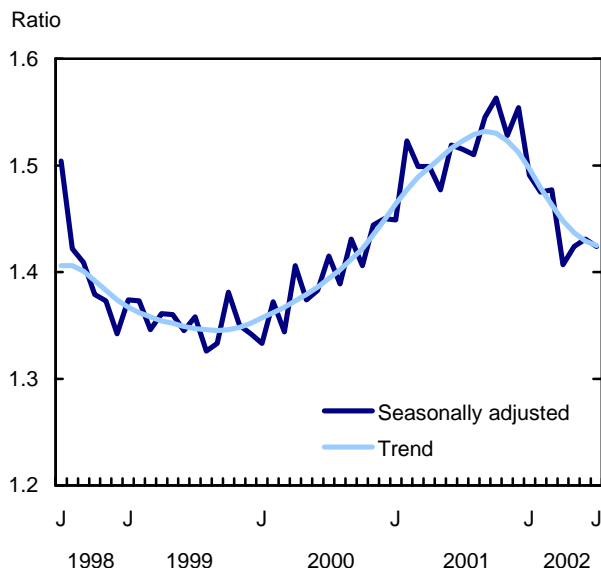
Manufacturers' inventories rise for the second straight month



The inventory-to-shipment ratio eased back slightly to 1.42 in July. Since April 2001, the ratio has lingered around this level, partly because of manufacturers' recent efforts to restore their inventories. In 2001, as the economy weakened and demand subsided, manufacturers scaled back production significantly to reduce inventories. The inventory-to-shipment ratio remained well below the nine-year high of 1.56 in October 2001.

Finished-product inventories declined for the fourth straight month. The decrease, combined with July's 1.0% rise in shipments, contributed to a slight improvement in the finished-product inventory-to-shipment ratio this month. The ratio, which had stabilized at 0.44 in recent months, slipped to 0.43 in July, the lowest since late 2000. The trend, which had been gradually declining since October 2001, remained flat for a third month. The ratio is a key measure of the time that would be required in order to exhaust finished-product inventories if shipments were to remain at their current level.

Inventory-to-shipment ratio improves slightly in July



Unfilled orders fall back

Unfilled orders decreased 0.9% to \$46.6 billion in July, the first decline since April. Following the economic downturn of 2001, unfilled orders had improved in recent months. July orders were subdued by the ongoing uncertainty in the aviation sector. Orders for aerospace products and parts tumbled 3.6% to \$17.6 billion in July, the tenth consecutive drop and the lowest level of orders since May 2002. Excluding the aerospace product and parts industry, unfilled orders rose 0.8%.

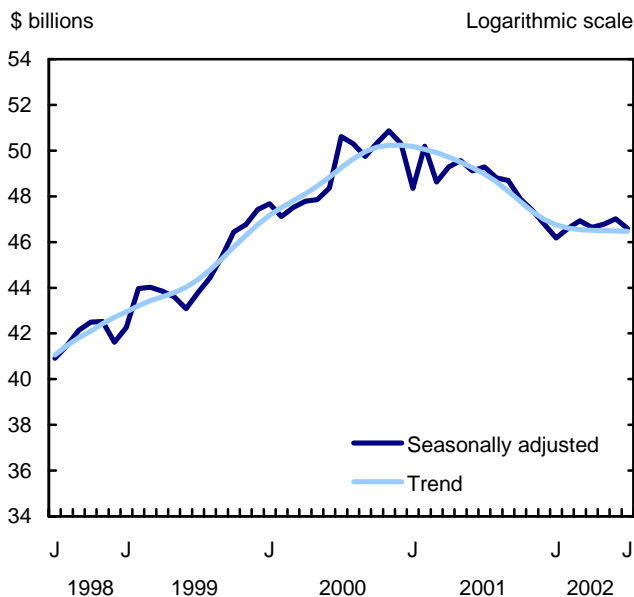
Slightly offsetting July's overall decrease, manufacturers of computer and electronic products reported a 4.6% rise in unfilled orders to \$4.3 billion, the fifth increase in a row for this industry. Orders for computers and their components dried up throughout 2001, as the high-tech sector slumped. Manufacturers in the electrical equipment, appliance and component industry reported a 5.6% rise in unfilled orders, only the second increase for the industry since January 2001. Key areas of the electrical equipment, appliance and component industry supply the telecommunications sector.

Although Canadian unfilled orders fell back in July, the United States reported a slight improvement as orders increased 0.3%, following a 1.6% drop in June. This was the first increase in US unfilled orders since March.

Pulled down by decreases in the aerospace product and parts industry and the computer and electronic products industry, new orders fell for the third straight

month following a strong start to 2002. New orders were \$43.2 billion in July, down 0.5% from June. New orders surged 4.7% in the United States, following a 2.5% decrease last month. New orders for aircraft and parts, as well as for machinery, boosted US orders this month.

Lower unfilled orders reported in July



Available on CANSIM: tables 304-0014 and 304-0015.

Information on methods and data quality: survey number 2101 in the Integrated Meta Data Base.

The July 2002 issue of the *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001-XIB, \$15/\$147) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; fax: 613-951-9499; manufact@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the release, contact Russell Kowaluk (613-951-0600; kowarus@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. □

Shipments, inventories and orders in all manufacturing industries

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders		Inventories- to-shipments ratio
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	
July 2001	42,633	-0.6	64,585	-0.9	49,292	0.3	42,804	0.9	1.51
August 2001	42,651	0.0	64,404	-0.3	48,806	-1.0	42,165	-1.5	1.51
September 2001	41,429	-2.9	63,998	-0.6	48,694	-0.2	41,317	-2.0	1.54
October 2001	40,570	-2.1	63,392	-0.9	47,880	-1.7	39,756	-3.8	1.56
November 2001	41,190	1.5	62,954	-0.7	47,401	-1.0	40,712	2.4	1.53
December 2001	40,380	-2.0	62,767	-0.3	46,789	-1.3	39,768	-2.3	1.55
January 2002	41,782	3.5	62,311	-0.7	46,178	-1.3	41,170	3.5	1.49
February 2002	42,168	0.9	62,213	-0.2	46,596	0.9	42,586	3.4	1.48
March 2002	41,803	-0.9	61,724	-0.8	46,931	0.7	42,137	-1.1	1.48
April 2002	43,982	5.2	61,861	0.2	46,641	-0.6	43,693	3.7	1.41
May 2002	43,299	-1.6	61,646	-0.3	46,784	0.3	43,442	-0.6	1.42
June 2002	43,200	-0.2	61,797	0.2	47,016	0.5	43,432	-0.0	1.43
July 2002	43,629	1.0	62,138	0.6	46,589	-0.9	43,202	-0.5	1.42

Manufacturing industries except motor vehicle, parts and accessories

	Shipments		Inventories		Unfilled orders		New orders	
	Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	% change
July 2001	34,744	-0.7	61,172	-1.0	47,738	0.4	34,938	1.0
August 2001	35,009	0.8	61,022	-0.2	47,211	-1.1	34,481	-1.3
September 2001	33,758	-3.6	60,729	-0.5	47,150	-0.1	33,697	-2.3
October 2001	33,312	-1.3	60,111	-1.0	46,427	-1.5	32,589	-3.3
November 2001	33,555	0.7	59,667	-0.7	45,946	-1.0	33,074	1.5
December 2001	32,808	-2.2	59,489	-0.3	45,273	-1.5	32,135	-2.8
January 2002	34,114	4.0	58,890	-1.0	44,578	-1.5	33,419	4.0
February 2002	33,969	-0.4	58,798	-0.2	45,007	1.0	34,398	2.9
March 2002	33,955	-0.0	58,362	-0.7	45,299	0.6	34,247	-0.4
April 2002	35,103	3.4	58,431	0.1	44,970	-0.7	34,774	1.5
May 2002	35,009	-0.3	58,169	-0.4	45,072	0.2	35,111	1.0
June 2002	34,847	-0.5	58,278	0.2	45,317	0.5	35,092	-0.1
July 2002	34,932	0.2	58,559	0.5	44,853	-1.0	34,469	-1.8

Time alone

1998

People who spend a lot of time by themselves are less likely to be very happy than those who spend little time alone. Meanwhile, about a quarter of Canadians would like more time to themselves, according to a new article in *Canadian social trends*.

About one in four individuals who responded to the 1998 General Social Survey (GSS) said "yes" when asked if they would like to spend more time alone.

Women aged 25 to 44 with children under the age of five were most likely to express this wish. About 58% of these women said they wished to have more time alone, compared with 34% of men in the same circumstances.

Being time-stressed also made a difference. About 60% of highly time-stressed individuals wanted more time alone, compared with 31% of those with moderate levels of time stress and only 8% of those with low levels. (Respondents were defined as highly time-stressed if they agreed with at least 7 out of 10 questions about time stress; four to six affirmative responses indicated moderate time stress.)

However, the GSS also found that people who spent a lot of time by themselves were less likely to be very happy with their lives than those who spent little time alone.

For example, 48% of those who spent less than two hours alone on an average day reported being very happy, compared with 37% of those who spent eight or more hours by themselves. This difference was greatest among seniors, and almost non-existent among those aged 45 to 64.

Overall, about 30% of people living alone said they felt very happy, compared with 44% of those with a spouse and children, and 48% with only a spouse. Part of the difference in happiness may be explained by levels of income. Generally, individuals living alone have less income than those living with a partner. Individuals with higher incomes are more likely to say they are very happy.

According to the GSS, on an average day in 1998, Canadians aged 15 and over spent 5.9 hours alone, compared with 4.4 hours in 1986, excluding personal care activities such as sleep and personal hygiene.

Time spent alone grew in nearly every group, but particularly among men aged 45 to 64, who reported an increase of more than two hours from 1986 to 1998. In contrast, women reported an increase of about 1.2 hours on their own, regardless of age. People spent more time alone during paid and unpaid work, as well as during leisure activities. The advent of personal entertainment devices and home computers may have contributed to more leisure time alone.

Note to readers

This release is based on an article titled "Time alone" in the Autumn issue of Canadian social trends, available today.

Data on time spent alone are from the 1986, 1992 and 1998 General Social Surveys on the time use of Canadians. Respondents were asked to indicate who was with them during each activity on the reference day. Those who said they were alone were recorded as spending time alone for the duration of that activity.

Data on living alone are taken from the Census of Population and the 2001 Labour Force Survey. The concept of living alone refers to being the sole occupant of a private dwelling. Persons living alone are therefore not necessarily alone in the sense of being socially isolated. (Excluded are those who live in collective dwellings such as hotels, hospitals, residences, institutions, camps, jails and rooming houses, representing about 1.6% of the population in 1996.)

Women with young children have the least time alone

Parents aged 25 to 44 spent less time alone than others on an average day in 1998. As children grow older and the need to spend time with them declines, the time parents have to spend by themselves rises to about the same level as that of people without children.

Parents aged 45 to 64, who tend to have older children, spent 5.9 hours alone, compared with 6.0 hours for people the same age without children. Mothers with children all aged five and under spent the least time alone — 3.6 hours on an average day — compared with 5.1 hours for mothers with children aged 5 to 12, and 5.7 hours for mothers with teenagers.

Older people spent much more time by themselves than younger ones. In 1998, Canadians aged 75 or over spent 8.0 hours alone on an average day, compared with 4.7 hours reported by young people aged 15 to 24.

Women under 65 years of age spent less time by themselves than men of the same age. Even on the job, women spent 30% of their time working alone in 1998, compared with 40% for men.

This difference may reflect the fact that women are somewhat more concentrated in health care and teaching professions, as well as in sales and services occupations, which involve a lot of client interaction.

Living alone has soared in the past half century

From 1951 to 2001, the proportion of Canadians aged 15 and over who live alone increased more than four times, from almost 3% to just over 12%. The rise in the number of people living alone reflects in part the aging of the population, as more people find themselves on their own after the death of a partner.

Not only are more Canadians living alone, but they also began doing so at a younger age. According to the GSS, adults aged 25 to 34 in 1995 were six times as likely to have lived alone at the age of 15 to 24 as their senior counterparts aged 65 and over.

About 23% of seniors reported first being on their own at age 55 or older, probably as a result of widowhood in many cases. About 47% had never lived alone.

Independent living rose most among the elderly

In 2001, an estimated 1 million seniors were living on their own, the largest group of individuals living alone, and most were widows.

In 1971, 39% of widowed people aged 65 and over lived alone; by 2001, this proportion had increased to 72%. Although widowed men and women of all ages were more likely to live alone than in the past, independent living increased the most among those aged 85 and over.

However, seniors were not the only Canadians to report growing rates of living on their own. Individuals

aged 25 to 44 were also increasingly likely to experience this living arrangement. In 2001, the number of individuals in this age group living alone was estimated at just under one million. About 14% of men in this age group lived alone, nearly double the proportion among women.

Information on methods and data quality: survey numbers 4503, 3701 and 3901 in the Integrated Meta Data Base.

The article "Time alone" is now available in the Autumn 2002 edition of *Canadian social trends* (11-008-XIE, \$8/\$27; 11-008-XPE, \$11/\$36). See *How to order products*.

For more information on the article, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Warren Clark (951-2560; warren.clark@statcan.ca), Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division. ■

OTHER RELEASES

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

July 2002

Sales for the group of large retailers were up 8.1% in July from July 2001. Every major commodity group posted gains in July, with very large increases in hardware and lawn and garden products, as well as in health and personal care products. (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

	June 2002 ^r	July 2001	July 2002 ^p	July 2001 to July 2002
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
Commodities				
Food and beverages	2,304.3	2,121.2	2,256.9	6.4
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,357.3	1,099.4	1,166.7	6.1
Home furnishings and electronics	962.2	941.6	1,014.2	7.7
Health and personal care products	605.9	523.3	601.8	15.0
Housewares	304.1	309.7	327.1	5.6
Sporting and leisure goods	368.6	336.1	361.9	7.7
Hardware and lawn and garden products	498.2	303.8	356.5	17.4
All other goods and services	855.2	766.5	836.5	9.1
Total	7,255.9	6,401.5	6,921.8	8.1

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

Hardware and lawn and garden products posted their strongest year-over-year increase since June 1999. Sales were spurred by strong consumer demand for lawn- and garden-related products, including items such as garden tools, barbecues and outdoor lighting, which jumped 41.6% from July 2001.

Sales of prescription drugs (+19.9%) and other toiletries (+16.0%), excluding cosmetics and fragrances, drove the large year-over-year gains seen in the health and personal care products.

Food and beverage sales posted strong increases in July, with sales of fresh fruit and vegetables up \$43.1 million or 15.6% from July 2001. The price of fresh fruit and vegetables increased 5.0% for the period, accounting for only a small portion of that gain.

Clothing, footwear and accessories rose 6.1% from July 2001, a second consecutive year-over-year increase of this magnitude. Women's (+7.0%) and girls' (+15.7%) clothing had the strongest advances, whereas men's clothing sales were up only 3.6% and boys' clothing sales dropped 1.9%.

Home furnishings and electronics were up 7.7% in July, with the lion's share of the increase coming from the sales of household appliances (+15.6%). Sales of home electronics posted a relatively modest increase of 5.1%.

Note: This survey includes large retailers mainly in the food, clothing, home furnishings and electronics, sporting goods and general merchandise sectors. These retailers represent about 38% of total annual retail sales, excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

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 Elton Cryderman (613-951-0669; elton.cryderman@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Canadian social trends, Autumn 2002, no. 66
Catalogue number **11-008-XIE** (\$8/\$27).

Canadian social trends, Autumn 2002, no. 66
Catalogue number **11-008-XPE** (\$11/\$36).

New motor vehicle sales, July 2002, Vol. 74, no. 7
Catalogue number **63-007-XIB** (\$13/\$124).

Exports by country, January–June 2002, Vol. 59, no. 2
Catalogue number **65-003-XMB** (\$62/\$206).

Exports by country, January–June 2002, Vol. 59, no. 2
Catalogue number **65-003-XPB** (\$124/\$412).

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Statistics Canada

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
MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the enrollees on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 41 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 noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow moderate growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-wired Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Flag production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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