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MAJOR RELEASES

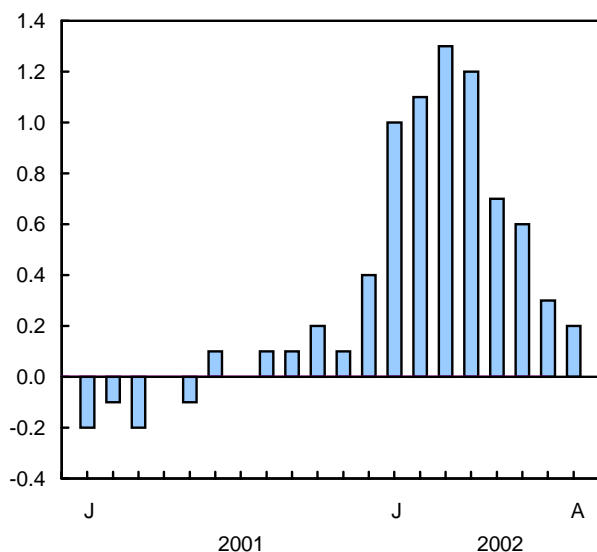
Composite Index

August 2002

The leading indicator posted its thirteenth straight increase in August, with the 0.2% gain comparable to its slightly upward-revised growth of 0.3% in July. Manufacturing continued to account for most of the four components (out of 10) that rose. These gains offset downturns in the US leading indicator and in services employment. One component was flat.

Composite Index

Smoothed % change



New orders for durable goods registered a fifth consecutive increase. Demand for information technology picked up, and the auto industry benefited from the reintroduction of low financing programs. With the average workweek already at a high level, manufacturers continued to turn to more hiring to meet their growing workforce needs.

Household spending growth was still concentrated in housing and related goods. Housing starts returned to the 10-year high they touched in January. The housing index continued to ease slightly from its 25-year high set in May because of a slowdown of existing home sales, which accompanied shortages in some parts of the country. Furniture and appliance sales rose 0.3%.

In the United States, the first drop in the leading indicator in 15 months was caused largely by the slump in the stock market, compounded by lower orders for investment goods and falling consumer confidence. Americans remained reluctant to travel, which coincided with the first drop in services employment in Canada since 2001, led by food and accommodation.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 1601.

For more information on the economy, the September 2002 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010-XPB, \$23/\$227) 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 Philip Cross (613-951-9162), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Composite Index

	March 2002	April 2002	May 2002	June 2002	July 2002	August 2002	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	173.1	175.2	176.5	177.5	178.1	178.4	0.2
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	129.8	131.2	132.0	127.9	126.4	125.8	-0.5
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,528	2,534	2,540	2,543	2,543	2,541	-0.1
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	7,650	7,697	7,691	7,591	7,384	7,136	-3.4
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	107,258	107,423	107,312	107,434	108,162	109,207	1.0
US composite leading indicator (1992=100) ³	109.2	109.7	110.0	110.2	110.3	110.2	-0.1
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	39.0	39.0	39.1	39.1	39.1	39.1	0.0
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	20,060	20,334	20,750	21,319	21,675	21,900	1.0
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.66	1.69	1.71	1.74	1.77	1.78	0.01 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	1,701	1,730	1,750	1,768	1,774	1,780	0.3
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	7,484	7,668	7,756	7,789	7,771	7,744	-0.3
Unsmoothed composite	177.3	177.7	177.2	179.8	178.5	178.5	0.0

¹ Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

² Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

³ The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

⁴ The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.

⁵ Difference from previous month.



Homicides

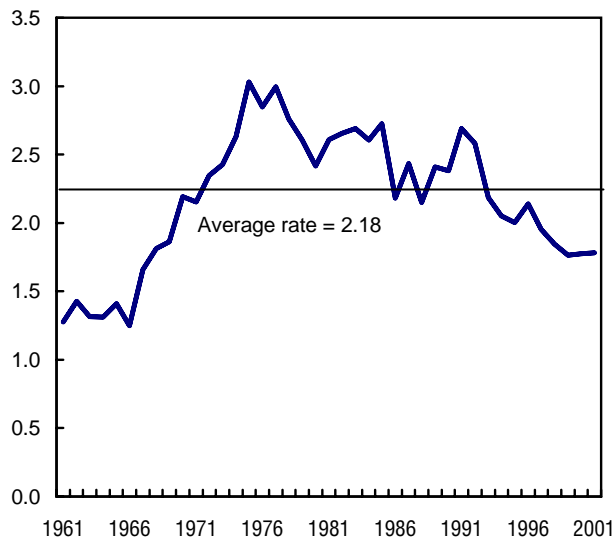
2001

Spousal homicides increased in 2001 for the first time in six years, but the rate of youths charged with homicide dropped to a 30-year low. Overall, the national homicide rate remained stable for the third consecutive year.

Police reported a total of 554 homicides in 2001, eight more than in 2000. The national homicide rate, which has generally been declining since the mid-1970s, was 1.78 homicides for every 100,000 individuals, similar to levels during the late 1960s.

Homicide rate similar to levels during 1960s

Rate per 100,000 individuals



Most victims of homicide knew their killer. In 2001, about 45% of all solved homicides were committed by an acquaintance, and 43% by a family member. The remaining 13% of victims were killed by a stranger, a proportion that has remained relatively constant over the past 10 years.

Spousal homicides rise

Police classified a total of 183 homicides in 2001 as family-related, 52 more than in 2000. However, 2001's total was only slightly higher than the annual average of 175 from 1991 to 2000.

Note to readers

Aggregate statistics on homicide in Canada for 2001 were originally released in The Daily on July 17, 2002 as part of a wide-ranging report on crime. This report represents a more detailed analysis of the homicide data.

The Criminal Code classifies homicide as first-degree murder, second-degree murder, manslaughter or infanticide. Deaths caused by criminal negligence, suicides, and accidental or justifiable homicides are not included.

A total of 86 spousal homicides were reported in 2001, up from 68 in 2000, the first increase since 1995. Spousal slayings accounted for 47% of all family homicides and one-fifth of solved homicides in 2001.

The number of men accused of killing their current wife or ex-wife rose from 52 in 2000 to 69 in 2001, with virtually all of this increase occurring in Ontario. The number of women accused of killing their husband (16) was unchanged from 2000. One homicide was committed by a same-sex spouse.

Homicides by other intimate partners, such as boyfriends or girlfriends, decreased from 23 in 2000 to 12 in 2001. In total, 52% of all female victims and 8% of all male victims in 2001 were killed by an individual with whom they had an intimate relationship at one time, either through marriage or dating.

The other family-related homicides included 26 victims killed by their father or step-father, 17 by their mother or step-mother, 21 by their son, 4 by their daughter, 8 by a sibling and the remaining 21 by an extended family member.

Most multiple-victim homicides and murder-suicides were family-related, and the vast majority of accused persons in these types of incidents were male.

Plunge in youth homicides

The rate of young people aged 12 to 17 accused of homicide declined for the third year in a row, resulting in the lowest rate in 30 years.

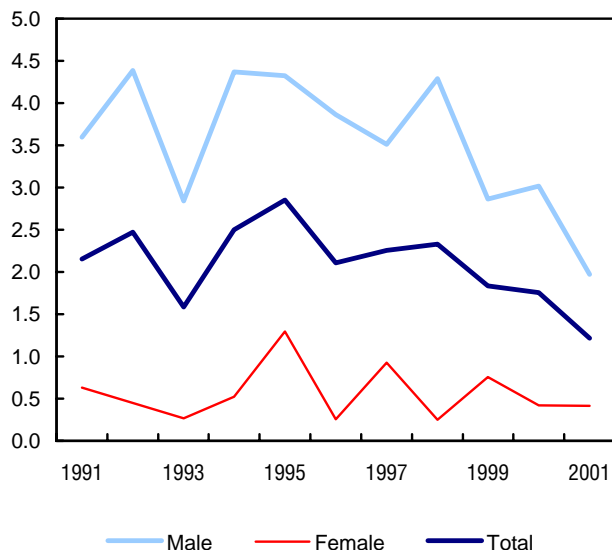
There were 30 young people accused of committing homicide in 2001, 13 fewer than in 2000, and considerably less than the annual average of 52 during the previous decade.

The decline in 2001 was largely the result of a decrease in the number of male youths accused of homicide. Despite this decline, males still accounted

for 83% of homicides committed by youths, similar to the proportion of 87% among adults.

Youth homicide rate lowest in three decades

Rate per 100,000 youth 12 to 17 years



Majority of both victims and accused had criminal records

Two-thirds of the 485 people accused of homicide had a criminal record, consistent with previous years. The majority of these individuals had been previously convicted of a violent offence, including four for homicide.

Of these four, three had completed their prison sentence and were living in the community, and one was in a correctional institution when the homicide occurred.

In addition, 51% of the 505 homicide victims over the age of 12 also had a criminal record. Prior convictions for violent offences were the most common. A total of 139 victims had been previously convicted of a violent offence, including two for homicide.

One in nine homicides a gang-related slaying

Police reported 62 victims of gang-related slayings, down from 72 in 2000. However, they accounted for one out of every nine homicides in 2001. Gang-related homicides have almost tripled since the early 1990s. Two-thirds involved drug trafficking or the settling of accounts.

From 1991 to 2000, Quebec accounted for the majority of all gang-related incidents. However, in 2001,

Quebec accounted for only 37%, because of an increase in incidents in Ontario.

Firearms involved in about one-third of homicides

Firearms were involved in 31% of all homicides in 2001, a proportion consistent with previous years.

Of the 171 firearm-related homicides, 110 were committed with a handgun, 46 with a rifle or shotgun, 7 with a sawed-off rifle or shotgun, 3 with a fully automatic firearm, and 5 with another type of firearm.

Handguns were used in 65% of all firearm homicides. This proportion has risen from 46% in 1998 as a result of the continuing decline in the number of homicides involving rifles or shotguns.

A further 31% of homicide victims were stabbed to death in 2001; 22% of victims died as a result of beatings and 8% from strangulation or suffocation. Eight babies died in 2001 as a result of shaken baby syndrome.

Homicide rates generally higher in western Canada

Homicide rates were higher in the West than in the East in 2001, which has generally been the case in the past.

Among the provinces, Manitoba recorded the highest rate (2.96 homicides for every 100,000 individuals) for the second year in a row, followed by Saskatchewan (2.66).

Newfoundland and Labrador, with one homicide, reported the lowest rate for the third consecutive year, followed by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Nova Scotia's rate was its lowest since 1963, and the rate in British Columbia was the lowest since 1964.

Homicides by province or territory

	2001		2000 ^r		Average 1991 to 2000	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Canada	554	1.78	546	1.77	616	2.10
Newfoundland and Labrador	1	0.19	6	1.12	6	1.01
Prince Edward Island	2	1.44	3	2.17	1	0.89
Nova Scotia	9	0.95	15	1.59	19	2.06
New Brunswick	8	1.06	10	1.32	11	1.45
Quebec	140	1.89	150	2.03	148	2.04
Ontario	170	1.43	156	1.34	189	1.72
Manitoba	34	2.96	30	2.62	32	2.86
Saskatchewan	27	2.66	26	2.54	26	2.53
Alberta	70	2.28	59	1.96	65	2.35
British Columbia	85	2.08	85	2.09	113	3.01
Yukon	1	3.35	2	6.54	2	5.19
Northwest Territories	4	9.79	1	2.44	4	8.76
Nunavut	3	10.65	3	10.94

^r Revised figures.

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

Among Canada's nine largest metropolitan areas, Winnipeg reported the highest homicide rate at 2.77 victims for every 100,000 population; Ottawa reported the lowest rate (0.36), its lowest since 1984. Among metropolitan areas with populations between 100,000 and 500,000, Regina had the highest rate (3.53), and Sherbrooke, with no homicides, had the lowest.

Juristat: Homicide in Canada, 2001, Vol. 22, no. 7 (85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70; 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93) 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 Information and Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Available on CANSIM: tables 253-0001 to 253-0006.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 3315.

Homicides by census metropolitan area

	2001			2000 ^r			Average 1991 to 2000	
	Population	Number	Rate ¹	Population	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
Population 500,000 or more								
Toronto	4,881,392	78	1.60	4,763,232	81	1.70	80	1.84
Montréal	3,511,845	78	2.22	3,474,915	75	2.16	83	2.45
Vancouver	2,078,824	44	2.12	2,058,736	42	2.04	55	2.95
Calgary	971,532	15	1.54	947,344	16	1.69	17	2.00
Edmonton	956,805	25	2.61	941,788	19	2.02	24	2.66
Ottawa ²	844,969	3	0.36	828,557	8	0.97	12	1.53
Québec	693,064	5	0.72	690,521	12	1.74	11	1.57
Winnipeg	684,778	19	2.77	682,090	17	2.49	18	2.64
Hamilton	680,561	13	1.91	672,173	10	1.49	12	1.85
Total	15,303,770	280	1.83	15,059,356	280	1.86	311	2.20
Population 250,000 to 499,999								
Kitchener	431,696	6	1.39	423,200	8	1.89	6	1.49
London	426,307	6	1.41	422,131	2	0.47	5	1.18
St. Catharines–Niagara	393,083	5	1.27	390,874	4	1.02	7	1.70
Halifax	359,186	3	0.84	355,874	8	2.25	8	2.44
Victoria	318,796	4	1.25	317,145	7	2.21	6	2.06
Windsor	313,838	3	0.96	306,795	6	1.96	7	2.38
Oshawa	305,308	1	0.33	298,893	2	0.67	4	1.35
Hull ³	261,981	2	0.76	257,514	2	0.78	4	1.41
Total	2,810,195	30	1.07	2,772,426	39	1.41	46	1.73
Population 100,000 to 249,999								
Saskatoon	230,517	1	0.43	230,979	7	3.03	6	2.82
Regina	198,125	7	3.53	199,276	7	3.51	5	2.42
St. John's	176,163	1	0.57	175,817	3	1.71	3	1.42
Chicoutimi–Jonquière	158,740	1	0.63	160,486	4	2.49	1	0.73
Sudbury	156,714	5	3.19	158,126	1	0.63	4	2.27
Sherbrooke	154,865	0	0.00	153,623	4	2.60	2	1.34
Trois-Rivières	141,535	1	0.71	141,644	4	2.82	2	1.41
Saint John	128,058	1	0.78	127,730	1	0.78	2	1.87
Thunder Bay	124,581	3	2.41	125,833	1	0.79	4	2.88
Total	1,469,298	20	1.36	1,473,514	32	2.17	29	1.94
Census metropolitan area total	19,583,263	330	1.69	19,305,296	351	1.82	386	2.11
Population less than 100,000	11,498,624	224	1.95	11,464,373	195	1.70	230	2.06
Canada	31,081,887	554	1.78	30,769,669	546	1.77	616	2.09

^r Revised figures.

¹ Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

² Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Hull Census metropolitan area.

³ Hull refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Hull Census metropolitan area.

Solved homicides by accused-victim relationship¹

Relationship type-victims killed by:	2001		2000 ^r		Average 1991 to 2000	
	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%	Number of victims	%
Family relationship						
Spousal relationship						
Husband (legal and common-law)	52	12.1	38	9.3	49	9.9
Husband (separated and divorced)	17	4.0	14	3.4	18	3.7
Wife (legal and common-law)	13	3.0	13	3.2	16	3.3
Wife (separated and divorced)	3	0.7	3	0.7	2	0.4
Current or ex-same-sex spouse	1	0.2	0	0.0
Total spousal	86	20.0	68	16.7	85	17.4
Father	26	6.1	21	5.1	27	5.4
Mother	17	4.0	10	2.5	16	3.3
Child	25	5.8	18	4.4	19	3.9
Sibling	8	1.9	6	1.5	10	2.1
Other family relation	21	4.9	8	2.0	18	3.7
Total non-spousal	97	22.6	63	15.4	90	18.5
Total family	183	42.7	131	32.1	175	35.8
Acquaintance						
Current or ex-boyfriend/girlfriend/other intimate	12	2.8	23	5.6	24	5.0
Close friend	28	6.5	31	7.6	31	6.3
Authority figure	1	0.2	5	1.2
Business associate (legal)	11	2.6	7	1.7	14	2.9
Criminal relationships	25	5.8	27	6.6	36	7.3
Neighbour	24	5.6	10	2.5	21	4.4
Casual acquaintance	90	21.0	105	25.7	112	22.9
Total acquaintance	191	44.5	208	51.0	240	49.0
Stranger	54	12.6	68	16.7	71	14.4
Unknown relationship	1	0.2	1	0.2	5	0.9
Total solved homicides	429	100.0	408	100.0	489	100.0

^r Revised figures.

¹ Includes only those homicides in which there were known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.



OTHER RELEASES

Employment, earnings and hours

July 2002 (preliminary)

Average weekly earnings for all employees in July were \$677.97, up a slight 0.3% from June. Most industries and all provinces recorded small earnings increases in July.

Compared with July 2001, average weekly earnings were up 1.8%. The strongest gains were in health and social services (+4.5%), education (+3.7%), and transport and warehousing (+3.6%). Finance and insurance was the only industry recording a decline (-1.3%), partly because of lower bonuses and special payments.

Average hourly earnings for hourly paid employees stood at \$17.17 in July, up a slight 0.2% from June and 1.7% higher than in July 2001. Average weekly hours for these employees edged up from 31.7 to 31.8 hours per week, the result of an increase in overtime hours.

Strong growth in payroll employment resumed in July with a gain of 57,800. This followed a more modest gain of 22,800 in June. Employment has increased for eight months in a row, growing by 314,900 (+2.5%) since December 2001.

Employment growth in July by industry was strongest in manufacturing (+16,000), retail trade

(+7,500) and health care and social services (+10,100). Manufacturing increased as a result of strong gains in transportation equipment, fabricated metals, and food. Employment in this industry is up by 55,700 since December 2001 (+2.8%), reflecting the strong gains in manufacturing shipments in 2002.

Employment by province in July showed strong employment gains in Ontario (+22,900) and Quebec (+14,000). Ontario had substantial gains in manufacturing (+11,100); gains in Quebec were widespread by industry. Alberta (+4,900) and British Columbia (+3,900) had smaller increases.

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0046.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment by industry, and other labour market indicators will be available soon standard tables in the monthly publication *Employment, earnings and hours* (72-002-XIB, \$24/\$240). Annual averages for 2001 are now available through CANSIM and by custom tabulations from Labour Statistics Division.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Frindt (613-951-4069), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

	July 2001	June 2002 ^r	July 2002 ^p	June to July 2002	July 2001 to July 2002
Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	Seasonally adjusted				
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	666.02	676.24	677.97	0.3	1.8
Forestry, logging and support	834.13	851.07	847.64	-0.4	1.6
Mining and oil and gas	1,147.39	1,169.53	1,175.63	0.5	2.5
Utilities	1,008.20	1,023.81	1,023.10	-0.1	1.5
Construction	799.06	798.92	802.41	0.4	0.4
Manufacturing	812.11	830.43	831.46	0.1	2.4
Wholesale trade	771.95	770.39	776.49	0.8	0.6
Retail trade	428.69	432.03	433.03	0.2	1.0
Transportation and warehousing	738.45	765.80	764.88	-0.1	3.6
Information and cultural industries	795.79	819.95	822.26	0.3	3.3
Finance and insurance	849.13	833.68	838.21	0.5	-1.3
Real estate and rental and leasing	601.28	611.43	615.69	0.7	2.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	888.23	898.57	897.60	-0.1	1.1
Management of companies and enterprises	839.39	845.57	846.47	0.1	0.8
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	531.63	535.58	537.54	0.4	1.1
Educational services	697.33	721.00	723.24	0.3	3.7
Health care and social assistance	580.85	606.69	606.83	0.0	4.5
Arts, entertainment and recreation	483.76	490.76	490.23	-0.1	1.3
Accommodation and food services	285.51	292.88	292.26	-0.2	2.4
Other services (excluding public administration)	520.35	530.28	528.80	-0.3	1.6
Public administration	758.87	775.26	779.09	0.5	2.7
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	601.87	612.28	615.15	0.5	2.2
Prince Edward Island	522.52	532.68	535.06	0.4	2.4
Nova Scotia	565.80	581.69	582.66	0.2	3.0
New Brunswick	591.56	602.09	608.04	1.0	2.8
Quebec	622.59	638.59	638.96	0.1	2.6
Ontario	713.47	721.80	724.42	0.4	1.5
Manitoba	597.82	602.28	605.14	0.5	1.2
Saskatchewan	597.55	605.62	606.72	0.2	1.5
Alberta	686.65	697.01	701.92	0.7	2.2
British Columbia	666.15	668.99	670.29	0.2	0.6
Yukon	756.94	766.99	758.17	-1.1	0.2
Northwest Territories ¹	858.62	880.41	880.81	0.0	2.6
Nunavut ¹	774.64	803.12	814.12	1.4	5.1

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Number of Employees

	May 2002	June 2002 ^r	July 2002 ^p	May to June 2002	June to July 2002
Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	Seasonally adjusted				
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	13,040.3	13,063.1	13,120.9	0.2	0.4
Forestry, logging and support	63.5	62.5	60.2	-1.6	-3.7
Mining and oil and gas	137.9	137.9	138.8	0.0	0.7
Utilities	113.4	112.5	112.2	-0.8	-0.3
Construction	599.8	600.8	603.2	0.2	0.4
Manufacturing	2,044.5	2,051.3	2,067.3	0.3	0.8
Wholesale trade	734.1	737.8	740.7	0.5	0.4
Retail trade	1,538.4	1,547.8	1,555.3	0.6	0.5
Transportation and warehousing	609.6	608.3	610.6	-0.2	0.4
Information and cultural industries	349.8	350.0	351.1	0.1	0.3
Finance and insurance	568.1	569.3	570.5	0.2	0.2
Real estate and rental and leasing	231.3	231.9	233.0	0.3	0.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	663.5	657.4	655.7	-0.9	-0.3
Management of companies and enterprises	87.8	89.0	90.2	1.4	1.3
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	555.9	563.9	568.8	1.4	0.9
Educational services	950.7	951.8	953.2	0.1	0.1
Health care and social assistance	1,300.0	1,306.3	1,316.4	0.5	0.8
Arts, entertainment and recreation	230.4	230.7	230.5	0.1	-0.1
Accommodation and food services	960.7	958.4	956.1	-0.2	-0.2
Other services (excluding public administration)	487.2	485.6	487.3	-0.3	0.4
Public administration	724.8	723.3	725.8	-0.2	0.3
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	184.8	183.7	182.9	-0.6	-0.4
Prince Edward Island	57.7	57.5	57.7	-0.3	0.3
Nova Scotia	363.2	366.1	367.0	0.8	0.2
New Brunswick	296.7	296.3	296.2	-0.1	0.0
Quebec	3,075.2	3,081.2	3,095.2	0.2	0.5
Ontario	5,092.0	5,110.7	5,133.6	0.4	0.4
Manitoba	513.2	513.7	514.6	0.1	0.2
Saskatchewan	375.2	376.2	377.4	0.3	0.3
Alberta	1,407.5	1,416.7	1,421.6	0.7	0.3
British Columbia	1,605.4	1,606.2	1,610.1	0.0	0.2
Yukon	15.1	15.1	15.1	0.0	0.0
Northwest Territories ¹	19.7	20.6	20.7	4.6	0.5
Nunavut ¹	10.4	10.4	10.3	0.0	-1.0

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Natural gas sales

July 2002 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 3 766 million cubic metres in July, up 4.2% from July 2001. Both residential (+17.8%) and commercial (+14.0%) sectors posted gains. Use of natural gas by the industrial sector (including industrial direct sales) rose 1.1% from July 2001, the result of higher demand by electric utilities.

Year-to-date sales at the end of July were up 3.7% from the same period of 2001. Industrial sector sales (including industrial direct sales) posted a 3.0% increase from the same period of 2001.

Natural gas sales

	July 2002 ^P	July 2001	July 2001 to July 2002 % change
	Thousands of cubic metres		
Natural gas sales	3 766 002	3 614 489	4.2
Residential	445 183	377 837	17.8
Commercial	426 505	374 252	14.0
Industrial	1 317 085	1 451 128	
Direct	1 577 229	1 411 272	1.1
	Year-to-date		
	2002 ^P	2001	2001 to 2002
	Thousands of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas sales	42 094 457	40 603 325	3.7
Residential	10 999 467	10 455 312	5.2
Commercial	8 326 653	8 037 300	3.6
Industrial	10 678 707	11 104 675	
Direct	12 089 630	11 006 038	3.0

^P Preliminary figures.

Note: Since March, direct sales have been allocated to the appropriate sectoral sale category.

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.
(The tables will be available soon.)

The July 2002 issue of *Natural gas transportation and distribution* (55-002-XIB, \$13/\$125) will be available in November. See *How to order products*.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact John Svab (613-951-7382; john.svab@statcan.ca) or Andrew Beimers (613-951-2624; andrew.beimers@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Electric utility construction price indexes

Annual 2001 (revised) and first half 2002 (preliminary)

Construction costs for distribution systems in the first half of 2002 rose moderately (+0.8%) from the same period of 2001. The largest contributor to the increase was installation labour (+1.3%), which was moderated by the material component (+0.2%) and a decrease in distribution systems equipment (-1.0%). The revised 2001 data for distribution systems showed an increase of 0.6% from 2000.

Construction costs for the transmission line system series increased 1.6% in 2002, similar to the 1.7% increase in 2001. The transmission line component rose 1.5% following a gain of 0.6% in 2001. The

largest influence on the upward movement in 2002 was the increases for materials (+1.8%) and installation labour (+1.3%). For the same years, the substation component of the transmission line system rose 1.6% and 2.3% respectively. Station equipment was the largest contributor (+2.0%) to the advance in 2002.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0011.

The second quarter 2002 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) 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 Louise Chaîné, (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca) or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; fax: 613-951-2848; fishadr@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

August 2002

Manufacturers of tobacco products produced roughly as many cigarettes as they sold in August. Nevertheless, cigarette inventories rose as a result of adjustments (damaged, destroyed, stolen or recycled product and inventory adjustments).

Month over month, cigarette sales rose 9.0% from July to 3.2 billion cigarettes. However, this was down 11.0% from August 2001.

Year-to-date sales at the end of August totalled 27.4 billion cigarettes, down 7.0% from 29.6 billion cigarettes in the same period of 2001.

Cigarette production stood at 3.2 billion cigarettes, up a modest 1.0% from July but down 8.0% from the 3.5 billion cigarettes produced in August 2001. Year-to-date production totalled 28.3 billion cigarettes, down 3.0% from the same period of 2001.

Even though the number of cigarettes sold and the number produced were practically the same in August, the closing level of inventories rose to 5.1 billion cigarettes, up 2.0% from July as a result of inventory adjustments. This closing level of inventories was up 29.0% from the 4.0 billion in August 2001.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0007.

The August 2002 issue of *Production and disposition of tobacco products*, Vol. 31, no. 8 (32-022-XIB, \$5/\$47) 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 the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789;

613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

August 2002 (preliminary)

Placements of chicks from hatcheries on farms were estimated at 57.7 million birds in August, down 1.1% from August 2001. Turkey poult placements fell 1.4% to 1.9 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

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
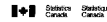

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