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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, October 22, 2003
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

2001 Census cumulative electronic profiles and topic-based tabulations (various levels of geography)

Additional cumulative electronic profiles, as well as additional topic-based tabulations for the "Place of work," "Commuting to work" and "Earnings of Canadians" topics are now available for various levels of geography.

These profiles and tabulations are available for a fee (costs vary depending on geography level) in Beyond 20/20 format from the Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre nearest you.

MAJOR RELEASES

Retail trade

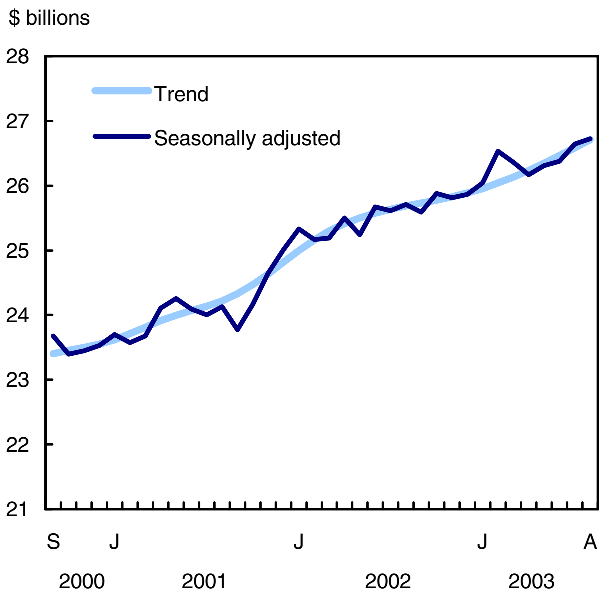
August 2003

Consumer spending in retail stores advanced for a fourth consecutive month in August. Retail sales increased 0.3% in August to a record $26.7 billion. This followed a 1.0% sales jump in July. Sales growth has been accelerating in the last few months, continuing a general pattern of increases seen since the fall of 2001.

August's increase reached 0.9% after excluding sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers from total retail. Shoppers spent more in furniture (+2.3%), general merchandise (+0.9%) and food (+0.5%) stores, while staying away from clothing (-1.8%) and drug (-0.7%) stores.

In constant dollars, retail sales fell slightly in August (-0.1%), after posting strong advances in the previous three months. Consumers faced a 9.0% jump in gasoline prices at the pump in August.

Fourth straight gain in retail sales



Furniture sector leads growth

Retailers in the furniture sector continued to benefit from strong consumer spending in August, with sales up 2.3% from July. This was their second largest monthly sales gain since January 2002, surpassed only by a 2.4% increase in May 2003. Furniture stores have led other retailers in terms of sales growth since the beginning of 2003, stimulated partly by a strong housing market. Consumers have increased their spending in furniture stores by 7.0% from January to August.

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

Strong August for department stores

Consumers returned to department stores in August, after a lull in the previous two months. Shoppers increased their spending in department stores by 1.6% in August, pushing sales up 0.9% in the general merchandise sector. Other general merchandise stores, also included in this sector, posted unchanged sales in August after experiencing four months of strong increases. Sales in the overall general merchandise sector have generally been increasing since the beginning of 2003, after remaining essentially flat since the spring of 2002.

Sale advances by gasoline service stations in August (+5.5%), boosted by higher prices at the pump, offset the lower sales reported by motor and recreational vehicle dealers (-1.3%). This left sales in the automotive sector essentially unchanged in August (+0.1%), after posting a sizable gain in July (+3.2%).

Clothing stores lose some thread

In August, clothing stores experienced a second straight disappointing month. Sales fell 1.8% in August and 1.7% in July, cancelling the gains of the previous two months. These recent declines left clothing store sales at about the same level seen throughout 2002. All types of clothing stores posted sales declines in August, except men's clothing stores (+2.3%).

In August, drug stores posted their first sales decline (-0.7%) since December 2002. From January to July, sale advances in drug stores averaged 0.6% per month.

Half the provinces post large increases

Retailers in Saskatchewan (+1.9%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.8%), Prince Edward Island (+1.6%), British Columbia (+1.6%) and Quebec (+0.8%) posted sizable sale increases in August.

Retail sales in Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec have increased rapidly since the beginning of 2003. In contrast, recent gains in Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia have been barely enough to offset weaker sales in the previous months.

Retailers in Ontario posted a slight 0.2% sales decline in August, after enjoying a 1.4% increase in shoppers' spending in July. The province was struck by a blackout in August. Consumers spent less in the automotive and clothing sectors, while they increased spending in food stores to replenish their supplies. Ontario retailers have shown little progress in sales since early 2003, after experiencing rising sales since the fall of 2001.

Related indicators for September

Total employment rose 0.3% in September, ending two months of small declines. Employment growth has been relatively weak since the beginning of 2003 (+0.6%), compared with the healthy 2.9% gain observed in the first nine months of 2002. The level of housing starts remained high in September, despite falling 1.1% from August. September's decline followed three months of sizable increases, in which housing starts jumped almost 22% over the three-month period. The number of new motor vehicles sold in September is estimated to have declined about 2% from August, based on preliminary figures obtained from the auto industry.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0001 to 080-0005 and 076-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The August 2003 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, $18/$166) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Data on retail trade for September 2003 will be released on November 24.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; *paul.gratton@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Retail sales

	August 2002	May 2003r	June 2003r	July 2003r	August 2003p	July to August 2003	August 2002 to August 2003
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Food	**5,630**	**5,785**	**5,914**	**5,847**	**5,879**	**0.5**	**4.4**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,229	5,374	5,502	5,439	5,476	0.7	4.7
All other food stores	401	411	412	408	403	-1.3	0.4
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,305**	**1,342**	**1,353**	**1,366**	**1,356**	**-0.7**	**3.9**
Clothing	**1,347**	**1,379**	**1,393**	**1,369**	**1,344**	**-1.8**	**-0.2**
Shoe stores	150	150	154	150	149	-0.7	-0.9
Men’s clothing stores	113	108	108	104	106	2.3	-5.8
Women’s clothing stores	399	401	410	404	396	-1.9	-0.6
Other clothing stores	685	720	721	712	693	-2.6	1.1
Furniture	**1,527**	**1,601**	**1,613**	**1,639**	**1,677**	**2.3**	**9.8**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,228	1,281	1,305	1,318	1,357	2.9	10.6
Household furnishings stores	300	321	307	321	320	-0.2	6.8
Automotive	**10,339**	**10,531**	**10,377**	**10,713**	**10,729**	**0.1**	**3.8**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,823	7,071	6,892	7,196	7,105	-1.3	4.1
Gasoline service stations	2,033	1,903	1,913	1,975	2,083	5.5	2.5
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,482	1,558	1,573	1,542	1,540	-0.1	3.9
General merchandise stores	**2,829**	**2,922**	**2,930**	**2,927**	**2,954**	**0.9**	**4.4**
Department stores	1,656	1,721	1,719	1,711	1,738	1.6	4.9
Other general merchandise stores	1,173	1,201	1,211	1,216	1,216	0.0	3.7
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**2,733**	**2,745**	**2,797**	**2,779**	**2,783**	**0.1**	**1.8**
Other semi-durable goods stores	786	796	797	793	794	0.1	1.0
Other durable goods stores	676	669	680	670	674	0.6	-0.2
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,271	1,280	1,321	1,316	1,314	-0.1	3.4
Total, retail sales	**25,709**	**26,306**	**26,377**	**26,640**	**26,722**	**0.3**	**3.9**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**18,885**	**19,235**	**19,485**	**19,444**	**19,617**	**0.9**	**3.9**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	425	445	453	455	463	1.8	8.9
Prince Edward Island	109	110	109	110	112	1.6	2.5
Nova Scotia	764	770	778	781	783	0.2	2.5
New Brunswick	610	608	621	624	620	-0.8	1.5
Quebec	5,862	6,091	6,128	6,132	6,181	0.8	5.4
Ontario	9,697	9,891	9,858	9,993	9,976	-0.2	2.9
Manitoba	897	908	911	917	914	-0.3	1.8
Saskatchewan	758	782	775	782	797	1.9	5.2
Alberta	3,132	3,210	3,242	3,321	3,299	-0.6	5.3
British Columbia	3,360	3,397	3,407	3,427	3,480	1.6	3.6
Yukon	34	33	33	34	34	-0.3	0.1
Northwest Territories	42	44	43	45	44	-1.1	5.0
Nunavut	18	18	18	18	18	-2.9	-2.4

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

Retail sales

	August 2002	July 2003r	August 2003p	August 2002 to August 2003
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Food	**6,104**	**6,146**	**6,220**	**1.9**
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,688	5,716	5,805	2.1
All other food stores	416	430	415	-0.3
Drug and patent medicine stores	**1,298**	**1,351**	**1,335**	**2.8**
Clothing	**1,419**	**1,248**	**1,393**	**-1.9**
Shoe stores	160	141	158	-1.4
Men's clothing stores	103	92	95	-8.3
Women's clothing stores	395	381	388	-1.6
Other clothing stores	761	633	752	-1.2
Furniture	**1,576**	**1,623**	**1,710**	**8.5**
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,266	1,295	1,385	9.5
Household furnishings stores	310	328	324	4.5
Automotive	**10,838**	**11,813**	**10,898**	**0.5**
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	7,088	7,965	7,071	-0.2
Gasoline service stations	2,230	2,139	2,285	2.5
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,521	1,708	1,542	1.4
General merchandise stores	**2,814**	**2,821**	**2,910**	**3.4**
Department stores	1,639	1,582	1,709	4.3
Other general merchandise stores	1,176	1,238	1,201	2.2
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	**3,030**	**2,983**	**3,044**	**0.4**
Other semi-durable goods stores	834	840	826	-1.0
Other durable goods stores	742	672	731	-1.4
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,455	1,471	1,487	2.2
Total, retail sales	**27,080**	**27,984**	**27,509**	**1.6**
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	**19,992**	**20,019**	**20,438**	**2.2**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	474	499	505	6.6
Prince Edward Island	131	133	131	0.3
Nova Scotia	819	838	815	-0.4
New Brunswick	663	666	656	-1.0
Quebec	6,239	6,549	6,412	2.8
Ontario	10,068	10,361	10,122	0.5
Manitoba	949	957	941	-0.8
Saskatchewan	797	820	820	2.9
Alberta	3,285	3,432	3,379	2.9
British Columbia	3,553	3,622	3,624	2.0
Yukon	40	41	38	-3.2
Northwest Territories	43	48	45	2.9
Nunavut	19	18	18	-5.5

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

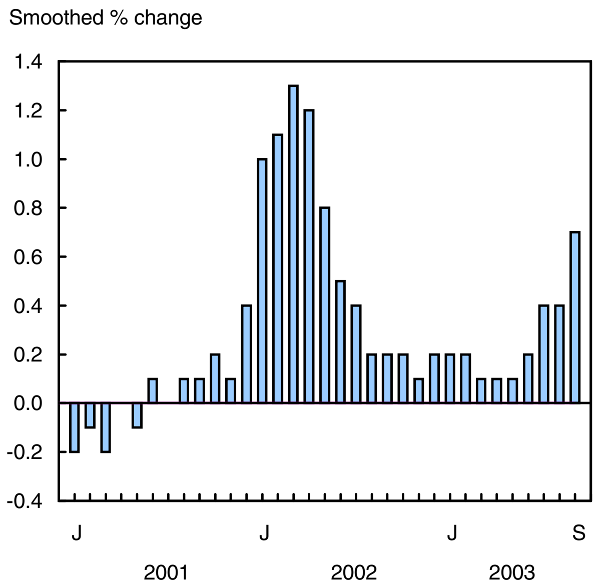
■

Leading indicators

September 2003

The composite leading index continued to accelerate, from revised gains of 0.4% in July and August to 0.7% in September. Growth also continued to broaden, as seven of the ten components rose, one more than in August. These increases, the largest since early 2002, have already begun to be translated into higher output and employment. The housing-related components again spearheaded growth, reinforced by a strong advance by the US leading index. The recent slump in manufacturing eased slightly.

Composite index



All the indicators of household demand strengthened further. House sales supplanted housing starts as the source of growth in housing, which posted its largest gain (3.3%) since early in 2002. Sales of other durable goods rose for the fourth month in a row. The household sector has accounted for most of the growth in employment from January to September.

The US leading indicator rose 0.5%, its largest advance in 17 months. As in Canada, housing dominated, with building permits hitting their highest level of the year. Manufacturing also showed signs of improving. New orders for durable goods rose for the first time in 11 months. The downward trend of the average workweek moderated, with losses due to the blackout completely recouped in September.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

A more detailed analysis of the components is available on Statistics Canada's website. From the *Canadian statistics* page, choose *Economic conditions*, then click on the banner ad for *Canadian economic observer*. From that page, choose *Issues of CEO*, then *Composite index*. For more information on the economy, consult the September 2003 issue of *Canadian economic observer*, Vol. 16, no. 9 (11-010-XIB, $17/$170; 11-010-XPB, $23/$227), now available. See *How to order products*.

The leading indicators for October 2003 will be released on November 25.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Leading indicators

	April 2003	May 2003	June 2003	July 2003	August 2003	September 2003	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	180.8	180.9	181.3	182.0	182.8	184.1	0.7
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	128.9	129.3	130.4	131.6	134.5	138.9	3.3
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,625	2,620	2,626	2,625	2,619	2,619	0.0
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	6,534	6,583	6,665	6,806	7,039	7,206	2.4
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	109,899	111,227	112,065	114,032	115,994	117,666	1.4
US composite leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	110.1	110.0	110.1	110.3	110.7	111.3	0.5
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	39.2	39.2	39.1	39.0	38.7	38.6	-0.3
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	20,770	20,585	20,274	20,196	20,131	20,172	0.2
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.77	1.75	1.74	1.73	1.71	1.69	-0.02[5]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	1,843	1,848	1,852	1,862	1,875	1,894	1.0
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	7,653	7,648	7,664	7,697	7,735	7,755	0.3
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	180.6	181.4	183.1	184.3	184.4	187.4	1.6

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.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Hog inventories

Third quarter 2003

Canadian hog producers reduced their inventories modestly in the third quarter. All provinces experienced limited declines.

Inventories edged down to 14.4 million hogs as of October 1, 2003, down 1.2% from July 1 and 3.3% from October, 2002.

Despite the decline in the total inventory, the size of the breeding herd remained about the same compared with July 1 and, in fact, increased 2.9% compared with October 2002. This structural change in the industry is linked to rising exports of weaner (young) pigs to the United States to be fed south of the border.

Inventories peaked in October 2002. However, a combination of poor prices for hogs and high prices for feed grains led to diminishing profits, if not losses for some producers. In turn, this led to a decline in the number of hogs held on farms.

Hog prices and price prospects have been improving following a collapse in the fall of 2002, although they remain well below the higher prices experienced as recently as 2001. The September 2003 price was about 25% higher than the price in September 2002, which was the lowest point in the year. Many hogs are produced under contract, protecting the producers from short-term fluctuations in cash prices.

Hog prices are primarily determined in the United States, where they strengthened following the collapse one year ago fuelled by demand and rising beef prices. The closure of the US border to Canadian beef on May 20 was also a factor. Beef prices rose as supplies south of the border tightened, boosting pork prices at the same time.

Exports of pork meat rose as countries such as the United States, Japan, Mexico and Australia imported more pork. Exports from January to August were up 22% from the same period of 2002.

Exports of live hogs, primarily to the United States, rose 24% in the first nine months of 2003, compared with the same period of 2002. Slaughter slowed down during the third quarter, dropping below both the previous quarter and the comparable quarter in 2002.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3460.

The report *Hog statistics*, Vol. 2, no. 4 (23-010-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information, contact client services (1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Plourde (613-951-8716; *robert.plourde@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Hog inventories

October 1, 2003

	Breeding		Market Hogs				Total hogs	
	2003	2002 to 2003	2003	2002 to 2003	2003	2002 to 2003	2003	2002 to 2003
			Under 20 kg		20 kg and over			
	'000 head	% change	'000 head	% change	'000 head	% change	'000 head	% change
Canada	**1,588**	**2.9**	**4,551**	**2.1**	**8,295**	**-7.1**	**14,435**	**-3.3**
Atlantic	33	-8.8	101	-10.0	211	-8.5	345	-9.0
Quebec	419	0.9	1,315	2.8	2,601	-3.8	4,335	-1.4
Ontario	424	4.9	1,139	2.9	2,047	-6.2	3,610	-2.3
East	**876**	**2.4**	**2,554**	**2.2**	**4,860**	**-5.0**	**8,290**	**-2.1**
Manitoba	353	7.2	928	4.2	1,469	-11.2	2,750	-4.3
Saskatchewan	128	1.7	369	-5.5	713	-2.1	1,210	-2.8
Alberta	212	-0.7	654	4.0	1,154	-13.2	2,020	-7.0
British Columbia	20	4.8	46	-4.0	99	-0.3	165	-0.8
West	**713**	**3.6**	**1,997**	**2.0**	**3,436**	**-9.9**	**6,145**	**-4.8**

Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

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Deliveries of major grains

September 2003

Data on grain deliveries are now available for September.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.

The September 2003 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, $12/$120; 22-007-XPB, $17/$160) will be available in November. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*), or Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; *sue.anderson@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Crushing statistics

September 2003

According to the monthly survey of crushing plants, Canadian oilseed processors crushed 298,462 metric tonnes of canola in September, the second highest September crush ever. (A record 305,311 tonnes of canola were crushed in September 1997). Oil production totalled 122,916 tonnes in September, while meal production amounted to 187,895 tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.

The September 2003 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, $12/$120; 22-007-XPB, $17/$160) will be available in November. See *How to order products*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714; *les.macartney@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

National supply and disposition of major grains

1999/2000 to 2002/03

Data on the national supply and disposition of major grains for crop years 1999/2000 to 2002/03 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0011 and 001-0039.

The August 2003 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, $12/$120; 22-007-XPB, $17/$160) 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 Client Services (1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*), or Susan Anderson (613-951-3859; *sue.anderson@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

VISTA on the agri-food industry and the farm community: The expansion of large livestock farms between 1991 and 2001, October 2003
Catalogue number 21-004-XPB
(free).

Hog statistics, 2003, Vol. 2, no. 4
Catalogue number 23-010-XIE
(free).

Wholesale trade, August 2003, Vol. 66, no. 8
Catalogue number 63-008-XIB ($15/$150).

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

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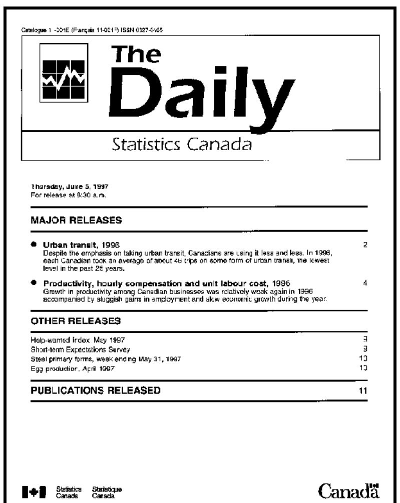
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The Daily
Statistics Canada

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.

OTHER RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Statistics Canada
Via Rail Building, Suite 200
123 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4V9

Local calls: (204) 983-4020
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-204-983-7543
E-mail: statswpg@solutions.net

Saskatchewan
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Park Plaza, Suite 440
2365 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 4K1

Local calls: (306) 780-5405
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-306-780-5403
E-mail: statcan@sk.sympatico.ca

Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Pacific Plaza, Suite 900
10909 Jasper Avenue, N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4J3

Local calls: (780) 495-3027
Toll free: 1-800-263-1136
Fax: 1-780-495-5318
E-mail: Sabrina.Pond@statcan.ca

British Columbia and the Yukon
Advisory Services
Statistics Canada
Library Square Tower, Suite 600
300 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 6C7

Local calls: (604) 666-3691
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