

Statistics Canada

Monday, November 24, 2003

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- Wholesale trade, September and third quarter 2003
 Wholesale sales grew strongly in September (+6.1%), following the 4.1% drop observed in August as a result of the power outage. The robust growth was mainly attributable to Ontario wholesalers, who saw their activities return to normal levels. Wholesale sales were also very strong in Quebec.
- **Retail trade,** September and third quarter 2003
 Consumer spending in retail stores fell 0.8% in September to \$26.4 billion, the first decline in five months. Nevertheless, retail sales advanced 1.1% in the third quarter from the second.

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MAJOR RELEASES

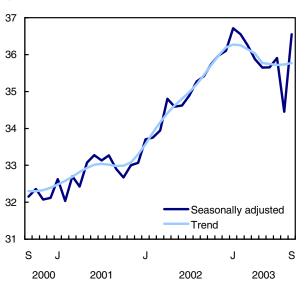
Wholesale trade

September and third quarter 2003 (preliminary)

In September, wholesalers sold goods and services worth \$36.6 billion, an increase of 6.1%. All trade groups posted an increase. However, only six of the nine trade groups that lost ground last month as a result of the blackout bounced back. Sales have been very volatile the last few months. Before this, sales had been generally trending downwards since the start of the year, after mainly rising from fall 2001 to January 2003.

Strong growth in September for wholesale sales

\$ billions



In August, wholesalers saw their sales decline 4.1%. Ontario wholesalers bore the brunt of the decline, as a result of manufacturing production stoppages due to the blackout in Ontario and part of the United States. Ontario accounts for approximately half of Canadian wholesale sales. With their activities returning to normal in September, Ontario wholesalers posted an 8.7%

Note to readers

Estimates from the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

increase in sales, which greatly contributed to the rise at the national level. Excluding Ontario, wholesale sales would have increased 3.6%.

All sectors benefited from the sales growth in September

The rise in wholesale sales was registered in all sectors. The most notable increase was in motor vehicles, parts and accessories (+22.3%).

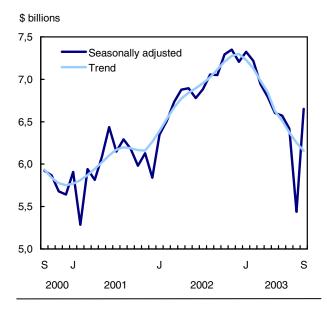
Major increases were also experienced in other trade groups, such as metals and hardware (+6.1%) and lumber and building materials (+4.6%). The strong performance of the housing market — new home construction, home resale and renovation — continued to stimulate wholesale sales in these sectors.

In constant dollars, wholesale sales were up 6.0% in September.

Wholesale sales receive powerful boost as automobile production returns to normal

In September, wholesale sales in the automotive sector registered a very strong monthly advance (+22.3%). This rise ended a string of seven consecutive declines, the longest period of contraction ever recorded in this sector (since the beginning of the series in January 1981). September's advance was greater than the 15.3% drop recorded the previous month. In August, wholesale sales in this sector had been greatly affected by the halt in automobile production in Ontario and part of the United States. The return of US production to normal levels in September greatly influenced imports, which are the main source of supply for wholesalers. Imports rose 22.8% for passenger cars and 20.9% for trucks and other vehicles in September.

Despite the increase in September, the sales trend for automobile sector continues to decline



The sharp increase in sales in September, however, did not prevent wholesalers in the automotive sector from posting a third consecutive quarterly decline (-7.3%). The first and second quarters had seen declines of 1.7% and 7.1%, respectively. This sector is also the only one to have experienced negative growth for the first nine months of 2003 compared with the same period of 2002 (-1.9%). The 3.7% decrease in the number of new vehicles sold in Canada during this period contributed to these declines.

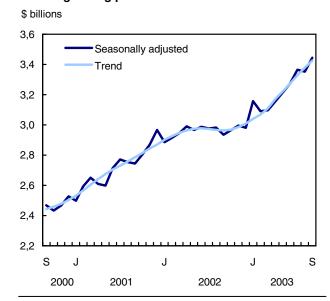
Total wholesale sales decline for a second consecutive quarter

Despite September's strong increase in total wholesale sales, third quarter sales saw a slight decline of 0.2%, following a 2.1% decrease in the second quarter. These two contractions were largely attributable to weak sales in the automotive sector.

However, quarterly sales in some sectors showed a solid performance. This was especially the case with lumber and building materials, which registered an increase of 8.0% in the third quarter. Higher prices for some materials and strong US and Canadian demand in the construction industry had a major effect on sales in this sector.

Sales of beverage, drug and tobacco products rose 5.4%, the third consecutive quarter of expansion. The increase may in part be explained by a rise in the price of various drugs, as well as the increase in exports of drugs by some pharmacies selling via the Internet.

Sales of beverage, drug and tobacco products showing strong performance



All provinces posted an increase in September

All provinces experienced an increase in sales in September. The greatest advance was registered in Ontario (+8.7%), compared with the 7.5% drop in August. The strong presence of certain sectors in Ontario, such as the automotive sector, helped push up wholesale sales in that province. Similar to total wholesale sales, sales in Ontario have been volatile in recent months. Prior to this, sales had been generally falling since the start of the year.

Quebec (+4.8%) and Saskatchewan (+5.0%) also saw hefty increases in sales. Quebec showed strong sales of beverage, drug and tobacco products, as well as metals and hardware. For its part, Saskatchewan mainly benefited from increased sales in the "other products" category, which includes agricultural chemicals and other farm supplies.

Inventories up for a second consecutive month

In September, inventories registered an increase similar to the previous month (+0.5%). This rise is largely attributable to automotive wholesalers. Nevertheless, the sharp increase in sales contributed to a drop in the inventory-to-sales ratio, from 1.34 in August to 1.27 in September. Throughout 2001 to the end of the first quarter of 2002, the ratio had generally moved downward. It remained flat for the following three quarters and has been climbing since February 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0001 and 081-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The September 2003 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XIB, \$15/\$150) will be available shortly. See *How to order products*.

Estimates for wholesale sales for October will be released on December 23.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean Lebreux (613-951-4907), Distributive Trades Division.

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	September	June	July	August	September	August	September
	2002	2003 ^r	2003 ^r	2003 ^r	2003 ^p	to	2002
						September	to
						2003	September
				annanally ad	liveted		2003
<u>-</u>				seasonally ad	justea		
			\$ millions			% char	nge
Sales, all trade groups	35,411	35,655	35,911	34,454	36,550	6.1	3.2
Food products	5,725	5,742	5,722	5,654	5,734	1.4	0.2
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,935	3,273	3,365	3,352	3,445	2.8	17.4
Apparel and dry goods	670	667	663	664	682	2.8	1.8
Household goods	1,030	1,034	1,043	1,017	1,046	2.8	1.6
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	7,049	6,572	6,420	5,439	6,652	22.3	-5.6
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating							
equipment and supplies	2,149	2,087	2,058	1,995	2,116	6.1	-1.5
Lumber and building materials	2,864	2,849	3,019	3,060	3,202	4.6	11.8
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	657	797	796	677	687	1.5	4.6
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and							
supplies	4,855	4,989	5,142	4,895	5,112	4.4	5.3
Computers, packaged software and other							
electronic machinery	2,613	2,662	2,874	2,649	2,719	2.6	4.1
Other products	4,863	4,983	4,810	5,052	5,155	2.0	6.0
Sales by province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	219	220	230	230	232	1.0	5.9
Prince Edward Island	55	61	63	64	65	0.7	17.5
Nova Scotia	592	647	625	630	636	0.8	7.3
New Brunswick	417	437	459	436	441	1.2	5.9
Quebec	7,159	7,177	7,314	7,277	7,626	4.8	6.5
Ontario	17,796	17,867	18,061	16,711	18,160	8.7	2.0
Manitoba	1,054	1,058	1,023	989	1,020	3.1	-3.2
Saskatchewan	1,078	1,009	987	963	1,010	5.0	-6.3
Alberta	3,605	3.796	3.766	3.740	3,837	2.6	6.4
British Columbia	3,401	3,351	3,357	3,385	3,493	3.2	2.7
Yukon	10	11	10	11	10	-2.8	5.0
Northwest Territories	24	19	17	16	18	10.5	-22.6
Nunavut	2	1	1	1	1	18.2	-33.3
Inventories, all trade groups	44,463	46,005	45,816	46,025	46,246	0.5	4.0
Food products	3,401	3,592	3,568	3,587	3,672	2.4	8.0
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,379	3,720	3,694	3,878	3,815	-1.6	12.9
Apparel and dry goods	1,290	1,358	1,367	1,358	1,355	-0.3	5.0
Household goods	1,669	1,644	1,629	1,666	1,690	1.4	1.3
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,641	7,362	7,220	6,975	7,146	2.4	7.6
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating	-,-	,	, -	-,-	, -		
equipment and supplies	3,696	3,702	3,683	3,730	3,602	-3.4	-2.6
Lumber and building materials	4,352	4,509	4,518	4,610	4,692	1.8	7.8
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,854	1,999	1,988	1,962	2,005	2.2	8.2
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and	.,	.,	.,	-,	_,	=:=	0.2
supplies	10,220	10,293	10,267	10,319	10,310	-0.1	0.9
Computers, packaged software and other	. 0,220	. 5,255	,	. 5,510	. 0,0 10	0.1	0.0
electronic machinery	1,986	1,878	1,858	1,822	1,840	1.0	-7.4
Other products	5,973	5,947	6,025	6,117	6,120	0.1	2.5
Other products	5,575	5,547	0,025	0,117	0,120	0.1	2.5

r Revised figures.

Preliminary figures.

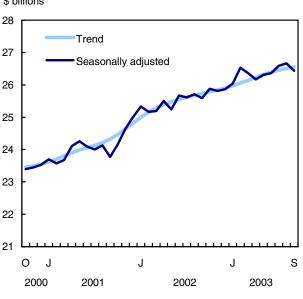
Retail trade

September and third quarter 2003

Consumer spending in retail stores fell 0.8% in September to \$26.4 billion, the first decline in five months. This followed a 0.3% sales increase in August. Despite September's decline, retail sales advanced 1.1% in the third quarter, after remaining essentially unchanged in the second (-0.1%). Previously, retail sales had been generally increasing since the fall of 2001.

In constant dollars, retail sales fell 0.8% in September but rose 1.0% in the third quarter.

First sales decline in five months for retailers \$ billions



In September, spending cutbacks pushed down retail sales in the automotive (-1.8%), furniture (-1.4%), food (-1.2%) and general merchandise (-0.6%) sectors. However, consumers increased their spending in the drug (+2.6%), clothing (+2.3%) and "other retail" (+0.5%) sectors. The "other retail" category includes stores selling goods such as liquor, sporting goods, hardware, jewellery and bookstores.

Retail sales pick up in third quarter

All retail sectors except clothing and food posted higher sales in the third quarter compared with the second. Retailers in the furniture and drug sectors drove sales growth in the third quarter, with respective increases of 3.6% and 2.2% from the second quarter. On a year-over-year basis, the gains were even more significant in furniture (+8.3%) and drug (+5.5%) stores.

Note to readers

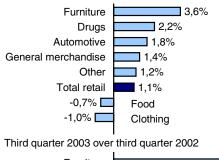
Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.

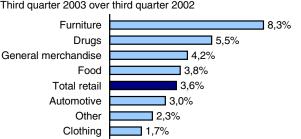
Special study

A new article analysing sales trends in the \$21-billion retail clothing sector from 1997 to 2002 is available in Analysis in brief (11-621-MIE2003006, free). It uses data from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey and the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey.

Quarterly retail sales by sector

Third quarter 2003 over second quarter 2003





Auto sector post largest decline in September

Lower sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers (-2.5%) and gasoline service stations (-1.5%) led to a 1.8% decline in the automotive sector in September. For their part, retailers of automotive parts, accessories and services posted their first monthly sales gain (+1.3%) in three months, resuming a pattern of general increases observed since 1995.

After a month of surging sales in July, motor and recreational vehicle dealers suffered sales declines in August and September. Nevertheless, these declines left sales at essentially the same high level seen since the beginning of 2002.

Sales in furniture stores fell 1.4% in September, after advancing for six consecutive months. Food retailers experienced a 1.2% sales decline in September, continuing a period of volatile sales observed since April. Shoppers spent 1.0% less in department stores in September, leaving sales in the general merchandise

sector down 0.6% from August. Nevertheless, sales by general merchandisers have been generally increasing since the beginning of 2003, after remaining essentially unchanged since the spring of 2002.

Sales bounce back in drug and clothing sectors

After falling 1.1% in August, sales in drug stores resumed their strong upward movement started at the beginning of the year, with a 2.6% gain in September. Clothing retailers enjoyed a 2.3% sales jump in September, after two months of sizeable declines. Consumer spending in clothing stores has risen marginally since the start of 2002.

Ontario against the trend in September

Shoppers in Ontario spent slightly more in September (+0.2%) than in August, when the province was struck by a blackout. Shoppers in each of the other provinces reduced their overall spending in retail stores in September.

Food and furniture were the only sectors in Ontario to post lower sales in September. Retail sales in Ontario were partially stimulated by a 2.1% increase in the number of new motor vehicles sold in September. In fact, Ontario was the only province to post an increase in sales of new motor vehicles in that month. Retailers in Ontario have not yet surpassed their sales peak reached in February.

Related indicators for October

Total employment increased 0.4% in October after a gain of similar magnitude in September (+0.3%).

About 164,000 jobs were created since the beginning of 2003, with slightly more than two-thirds of these jobs created in September and October alone. The activity on new housing projects continued to be strong in October, with housing starts posting a 2.2% increase from September. October's increase brought housing starts to their second highest activity level since January 1990, surpassed only by February 2003. It is estimated, based on preliminary data from the auto industry, that the number of new motor vehicles sold in October fell by about 2% from September.

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

Data on retail trade for October 2003 will be released on December 22.

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 Michael Scrim (613-951-5668), Distributive Trades Division.

R	eta	il	sa	وما

	September	June	July	August	September	August	September	
	2002	2003 ^r	2003 ^r	2003 ^r	2003 ^p	to September 2003	2002 to September 2003	
_	seasonally adjusted							
			\$ millions			% char	nge	
Food	5,617	5,916	5,835	5,869	5,797	-1.2	3.2	
Supermarkets and grocery stores All other food stores	5,221 397	5,503 413	5,426 409	5,465 404	5,393 405	-1.3 0.1	3.3 2.0	
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,304	1,356	1,370	1,355	1,391	2.6	6.7	
Clothing	1,325	1,393	1,369	1,341	1,372	2.3	3.6	
Shoe stores	147	153	150	147	150	1.9	2.2	
Men's clothing stores	110	108	104	106	105	-0.3	-4.6	
Women's clothing stores	387	410	404	401	404	0.7	4.5	
Other clothing stores	680	721	711	687	712	3.7	4.7	
Furniture	1,535	1,610	1,635	1,667	1,645	-1.4	7.1	
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,229	1,302	1,313	1,345	1,316	-2.1	7.1	
Household furnishings stores	306	308	322	323	328	1.8	7.4	
Automotive	10,280	10,354	10,677	10.680	10,489	-1.8	2.0	
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,812	6,872	7,167	7,050	6,872	-2.5	0.9	
Gasoline service stations	2,008	1,911	1,968	2,094	2,062	-1.5	2.7	
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,459	1,571	1,541	1,535	1,555	1.3	6.6	
General merchandise stores	2,797	2,930	2,927	2,959	2,941	-0.6	5.2	
Department stores	1,593	1,718	1,709	1,735	1,719	-1.0	7.9	
Other general merchandise stores	1,204	1,212	1,217	1,223	1,223	0.0	1.5	
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,735	2,801	2,783	2,790	2,804	0.5	2.5	
Other semi-durable goods stores	788	799	796	797	813	2.1	3.2	
Other durable goods stores	676	680	672	681	681	0.0	0.7	
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,271	1,322	1,315	1,312	1,310	-0.2	3.1	
Total, retail sales	25,592	26,359	26,595	26,662	26,438	-0.8	3.3	
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle	40 700	40.407	40.40=	40.044	10.500			
dealers	18,780	19,487	19,427	19,611	19,566	-0.2	4.2	
Provinces and territories					.=-			
Newfoundland and Labrador	437	452	453	460	452	-1.7	3.5	
Prince Edward Island	110	109	110	112	110	-1.6	-0.5	
Nova Scotia New Brunswick	769 607	777 620	778 622	777 612	747 603	-3.9 -1.5	-2.9 -0.6	
Quebec	5,847	6,125	6.119	6.156	6.123	-0.5	4.7	
Ontario	9,614	9,861	9,980	9,977	9,995	0.2	4.0	
Manitoba	881	911	915	912	909	-0.4	3.2	
Saskatchewan	745	776	782	797	794	-0.4	6.6	
Alberta	3,131	3,233	3,323	3,289	3,211	-2.4	2.6	
British Columbia	3,358	3,400	3,416	3,471	3,395	-2.2	1.1	
Yukon	33	33	34	34	34	1.0	3.7	
Northwest Territories	43	43	45	45	45	0.4	3.1	
Nunavut	18	19	18	19	20	4.2	9.4	

Revised figures. Preliminary figures.

Retail sales

2002	2003 ^r unadjus	2003 ^p ted	2002 to September 2003
E 257	•	ted	September
E 257	•	ted	
E 257	•	ted	2003
E 257	•		
E 257	\$ millione		
E 257	ψ HIIIIIIIII ψ		% change
5,357	6,218	5,580	4.2
			4.4
380	416	385	1.3
1,248	1,333	1,343	7.6
1,330	1,391	1,378	3.6
150	155	151	0.7
			-2.8
			4.7
690	746	722	4.5
1,526	1,704	1,655	8.5
1,222	1,377	1,320	8.0
304	326	335	10.4
10,227	10,864	10,567	3.3
6,833	7,039	7,001	2.5
		2,103	3.0
1,352	1,535	1,464	8.3
2,595	2,921	2,696	3.9
1,464	1,709	1,544	5.5
1,132	1,213	1,152	1.8
2,642	3,054	2,718	2.9
			4.6
			0.4
1,243	1,487	1,281	3.1
24,925	27,485	25,939	4.1
18,092	20,446	18,938	4.7
			4.1
			0.5
			-2.3
			-0.1
			5.1
			4.8
			4.3
			8.0 3.4
			3.4 2.0
			2.0 5.9
			5.9 2.7
			11.3
	4,977 380 1,248 1,330 150 99 391 690 1,526 1,222 304 10,227 6,833 2,042 1,352 2,595 1,464 1,132 2,642 771 628 1,243	4,977 5,802 380 416 1,248 1,333 1,330 1,391 150 155 99 94 391 395 690 746 1,526 1,704 1,222 1,377 304 326 10,227 10,864 6,833 7,039 2,042 2,290 1,352 1,535 2,595 2,921 1,464 1,709 1,132 1,213 2,642 3,054 771 826 628 741 1,243 1,487 24,925 27,485 18,092 20,446 425 503 109 131 740 812 591 649 5,665 6,391 9,412 10,134 852 942 719 821 3,068 3,384 3,251 3,614	4,977 5,802 5,195 380 416 385 1,248 1,333 1,343 1,330 1,391 1,378 150 155 151 99 94 96 391 395 410 690 746 722 1,526 1,704 1,655 1,222 1,377 1,320 304 326 335 10,227 10,864 10,567 6,833 7,039 7,001 2,042 2,290 2,103 1,352 1,535 1,464 2,595 2,921 2,696 1,464 1,709 1,544 1,132 1,213 1,152 2,642 3,054 2,718 771 826 807 628 741 630 1,243 1,487 1,281 24,925 27,485 25,939 18,092 20,446 18,938 425 503 443 100

8

Revised figures. Preliminary figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Restaurants, caterers and taverns

September 2003

Total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns in September were an estimated \$2.86 billion, up 1.9% from the September 2002 estimate.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

The September 2003 issue of *Restaurant, caterer* and tavern statistics (63-011-XIE, \$7/\$59) 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 Alain Mbassegue (613-951-2011), Services Industries Division.

Electric power generating stations 2002

Data on electric power generating stations are now available for 2002. The survey provides a list of generating stations in Canada and includes the name, ownership, year of installation, capacity (in kilowatts), type of fuel or water supply, and source (hydro, steam, internal combustion, combustion turbine, nuclear, wind and tidal).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2193.

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; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending November 15, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending November 15 totalled 265 260 metric tonnes, down 18.2% from 324 398 tonnes a week earlier and 11.5% from 299 828 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of November 15 was 13 741 789 tonnes, down 1.9% from 14 013 792 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

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.

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

July 2003

The July 2003 monthly report, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is now available on Transport Canada's website (http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm).

Note: The TP141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (those with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's website.

For more information about this website, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; *villenm@tc.gc.ca*) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; *rajanis@tc.gc.ca*), Transport Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

Refined petroleum products

July 2003

Data on the supply and disposition and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for July 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Income and Expenditure Accounts technical series: Trends in provincial and territorial economic statistics, 1981–2002, no. 43
Catalogue number 13-604-MIE2003043 (free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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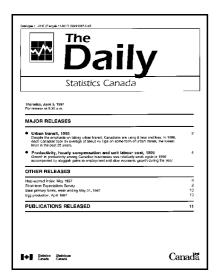
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