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The Daily

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

(continued on page 2)

Education quarterly review
Volume 9, number 1

The February 2003 issue of *Education quarterly review*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for education statistics, contains three articles.

The first, titled "Unions and training: A study based on the Adult Education and Training Survey," explores the effects of unions on the incidence of job-related training and the role unions play in influencing who pays for job-related training.

"Understanding the rural-urban reading gap" uses data from the 2000 Programme for International Student Assessment to examine differences in reading performance between students in rural and urban schools in each province.

"Relative earnings of British Columbia university graduates" examines the distribution of annual earnings of university graduates in that province from the classes of 1974 through 1996.

The February 2003 issue of *Education quarterly review,* Vol. 9, no. 1 (81-003-XIE, $16/$51) is now available. The article "Unions and training: A study based on the Adult Education and Training Survey" is available on Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*) as a free preview of this publication. From the *Our products and services* page, choose *In depth*.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; *educationstats@statcan.ca*), Centre for Education Statistics.

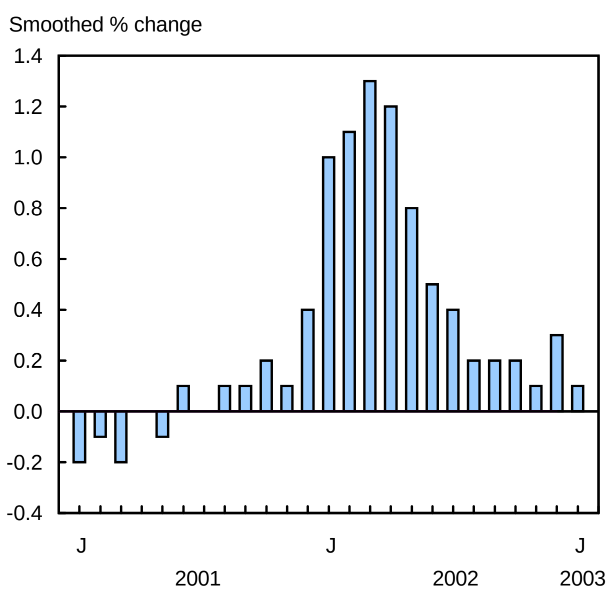
MAJOR RELEASES

Leading indicators
January 2003

In January, the growth of the composite leading indicator returned to the 0.1% gain in November, after a brief upturn to 0.3% in December. Six of the 10 components fell, four more than in December and the most in over a year; in 2002, growth this slow largely reflected hefty losses in the stock market. The slowdown in January reflects renewed drops in the stock market but also a drop in housing and slower business demand.

The recent 3-month rally of the Toronto stock market came to an end in January, repeating the slumps that began the new year in each of the previous two years. Real estate and consumer stocks lost ground as household spending slowed at the start of the new year.

Composite Index



Business demand weakened for both manufactured goods and services. The drop in services was concentrated in the west, where non-residential building permits also eased from their peak in the middle of last year. New orders fell in response to widespread weakness in export demand. Still, the average workweek remained close to its post-World War II peak, a sign of optimism among manufacturers. At the same time, the climate for exports was boosted by the first gain in the US leading indicator since June 2002, erasing the gap between it and the Canadian index for the first time in nearly two years.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

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

A more detailed analysis of the components is available on Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*). 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, the January 2003 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 Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Leading Indicators

	August 2002	September 2002	October 2002	November 2002	December 2002	January 2003	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**178.6**	**178.9**	**179.3**	**179.4**	**179.9**	**180.1**	**0.1**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	125.7	125.8	127.0	128.4	128.4	125.5	-2.3
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,544	2,546	2,554	2,565	2,583	2,596	0.5
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	7,136	6,840	6,558	6,443	6,445	6,437	-0.1
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	109,207	110,182	111,392	111,846	111,329	111,215	-0.1
US composite leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	110.3	110.2	110.2	110.0	110.0	110.1	0.1
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2	39.2	0.0
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	22,052	22,062	22,173	22,076	22,046	21,956	-0.4
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.78	1.80	1.81	1.80	1.80	1.79	-0.01
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	1,778	1,783	1,789	1,796	1,805	1,814	0.5
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	7,711	7,682	7,675	7,660	7,693	7,653	-0.5
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	179.1	179.2	179.6	180.2	181.2	180.1	-0.6

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

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers
Annual 2002 and December 2002

Large retailers recorded strong sales growth in 2002, exceeding the growth rate seen in 2000 and 2001.

The group of about 80 large retailers in this survey saw sales rise in all major commodity groups for 2002, with increases ranging from 2.9% to 12.6% for the year. Total sales increased 6.1% in 2002, exceeding the annual gains of 5.6% in both 2000 and 2001. These retailers represent about 38% of total annual retail sales, excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers.

Sales in December reached $10.2 billion, up only slightly from December 2001. (Data in this release have not been seasonally adjusted. All percentages represent year-over-year changes.)

Annual sales for the group of large retailers

	2001	2002	2001 to 2002	2001	2002
	Unadjusted			Share of sales	
	$ millions		% change	%	
Commodities					
Food and beverages	26,394	27,562	4.4	32.8	32.3
Clothing, footwear and accessories	15,470	15,920	2.9	19.2	18.6
Home furnishings and electronics	11,928	12,854	7.8	14.8	15.1
Health and personal care products	6,721	7,565	12.6	8.3	8.9
Housewares	3,769	3,934	4.4	4.7	4.6
Sporting and leisure goods	4,137	4,489	8.5	5.1	5.3
Hardware and lawn and garden products	3,242	3,387	4.5	4.0	4.0
All other goods and services	8,845	9,673	9.4	11.0	11.3
Total	**80,506**	**85,385**	**6.1**	**100.0**	**100.0**

In 2002, sales of health and personal care products increased 12.6% from 2001, the strongest increase among all the commodity groups. Except for 2000, this group has led annual sales increases since the survey started in 1997, as the large retailers continued to expand into the pharmaceutical market. Drug sales (+14.8%) led the increases in health and personal care products, and accounted for over half of its growth in 2002. Drug sales include prescription and over-the-counter drugs, as well as vitamins, herbal remedies and other health supplements.

The other goods and services category posted an increase of 9.4% from 2001. The driving force behind this increase was a 15.1% rise in tobacco sales. However, the price of tobacco products and supplies increased 31.9% from 2001, implying a decline in the real volume of sales. Tobacco sales accounted for about 40% of the increase in the other goods and services category.

Sporting and leisure goods showed strong sales for the group of large retailers in 2002, up 8.5% from 2001. Leisure goods were particularly popular in 2002, as consumers increased their spending on pre-recorded DVDs, CDs and video tapes by an impressive 15.1%. Toy sales also increased a substantial 8.1%.

Home furnishings and electronics rounded out the major commodity groups with an above-average finish for 2002. Sales rose 7.8% from 2001. Indoor furniture (+9.6%) and major appliances (+12.9%) were the hot items from this category in 2002. Sales were aided by a booming housing market combined with low interest rates and favorable financing options provided by many large retailers.

Clothing, footwear and accessories had the weakest sales growth in 2002. This was partly due to a drop in price for clothing and footwear from 2001 (-0.7%). Sales of women's and girls' apparel and accessories continued the trend of recent years, increasing at a greater rate in 2002 than sales of men's and boys'.

Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	Nov. 2002[r]	Dec. 2001	Dec. 2002[p]	Dec. 2001 to Dec. 2002
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Commodities				
Food and beverages	2,378	2,626	2,601	**-1.0**
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,628	2,305	2,271	**-1.5**
Home furnishings and electronics	1,335	1,830	1,904	**4.1**
Health and personal care products	714	789	836	**6.0**
Housewares	351	450	448	**-0.5**
Sporting and leisure goods	524	784	852	**8.6**
Hardware and lawn and garden products	226	276	277	**0.3**
All other goods and services	893	943	981	**4.0**
Total	**8,048**	**10,004**	**10,171**	**1.7**

[r] *Revised figures.*
[p] *Preliminary figures.*

In December, sporting and leisure goods had the largest year-over-year sales increase for the group of large retailers. Sales of food and beverages, clothing, footwear and accessories, and housewares all recorded slight year-over-year declines. The remaining commodity groups posted small to moderate increases from December 2001.

The sporting and leisure goods category ended the year on a high note, almost entirely as a result of leisure goods sales. Toy sales posted gains of 10% or more in December, as did sales of pre-recorded DVDs, CDs and video tapes.

Sales of health and personal care products were generally strong, although they were pulled down by a 2.4% decline in the sales of cosmetics and fragrances. Sales of other toiletries and personal care products (excluding cosmetics and fragrances) were up 10.8%, and drug sales (which include prescription and over the counter drugs as well as vitamins and herbal remedies) continued a year-long trend of growth, up 8.5% from December 2001.

Clothing, footwear and accessory sales dipped 1.5% in December. Footwear sales (-8.2%) and men's clothing sales (-3.0%) provided most of the downward movement. One of the few bright spots in this category was a 9.1% increase in jewellery and watch sales.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 5027.

A data table is also available in the *Canadian Statistics* module of Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*).

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. ■

Residential Telephone Service Survey

November 2002

A microdata file from November's Residential Telephone Service Survey is now available. Information in this file (56M0001XCB, $500) refers to telephone service penetration rates in the 10 provinces.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 4426.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; *ssd@statcan.ca*), Special Surveys Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

September 2002

There were 67,174 take-offs and landings recorded in September at the 109 airports without air traffic control towers, down 2.1% from September 2001 when 111 airports reported 68,602 take-offs and landings.

The September 2002 monthly report, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is 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 on 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.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: 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. ■

National Tenant Satisfaction Survey

2002

Data from the National Tenant Satisfaction Survey, conducted between December 2001 and March 2002 on behalf of Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), are now available.

This survey covered federal government employees who work in buildings for which PWGSC is responsible. It measured the level of employee satisfaction with aspects such as their work environment, amenities and availability of services within their office building, and the level of satisfaction with day-to-day operations and maintenance.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax: 613-951-4527; *ssd@statcan.ca*), Special Surveys Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Production of eggs, December 2002
Catalogue number 23-003-XIB
(free).

Residential Telephone Service Survey, November 2002
Catalogue number 56M0001XCB ($500).

Education quarterly review, Vol. 9, no. 1
Catalogue number 81-003-XIE ($16/$51).

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

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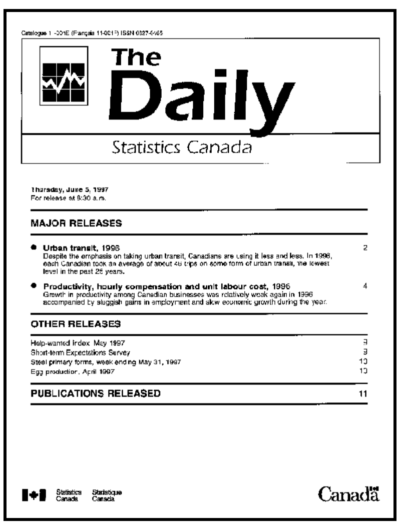
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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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 4? trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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