



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **New motor vehicle sales, January 2003** 2
Motor vehicle dealers reported a 14.1% decline in the number of new motor vehicles sold in January, the steepest drop since the ice storm of January 1998.
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NEW PRODUCTS

REGIONAL REFERENCE CENTRES

2001 Census topic-based tabulations (various levels of geography)

Additional topic-based tabulations for the "Language composition of Canada" and "Canadians on the move" topics are now available for various levels of geography.

These topic-based 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

New motor vehicle sales

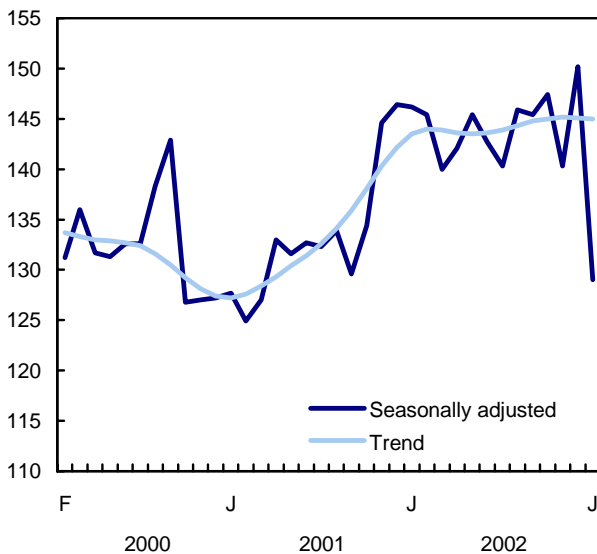
January 2003

The withdrawal of some incentive programs in January contributed to the 14.1% drop in the number of new motor vehicles sold during the month. This is the steepest drop since January 1998, when the ice storm slowed new motor vehicle sales in the affected provinces.

Motor vehicle dealers sold 129,036 new vehicles in January, down 21,145 units from the peak reached in December. This decrease was primarily due to plunging sales of North American-built passenger cars (-17.6%) and trucks in general (-17.3%). Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

New motor vehicle sales down sharply in January

'000 units



Despite sizable fluctuations in recent months, new motor vehicles sales have remained at relatively high levels since the beginning of 2002. Previously, sales had experienced a period of exceptional growth in the fourth quarter of 2001.

Preliminary figures from the auto industry indicate that in February, new motor vehicle sales turned around, making up much of the ground lost in January.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted provincial data from January 1991 are available on CANSIM.

Passenger cars include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. **Trucks** include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

North American-built new motor vehicles include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included with those of British Columbia.

Overseas-built cars continue to be popular

The appeal of overseas-built cars to consumers continued in January, while the withdrawal of some incentives contributed to the major drop in sales of North American-built vehicles.

Passenger car sales were down 11.3% in January to 72,184 units, cancelling out December's gain. The decline is entirely attributable to weak sales of North American-built cars, which plunged 17.6% in January.

Meanwhile, sales of overseas-built cars rose 3.3% from December to 25,184 units, continuing an upward movement that began in the summer of 1997.

The high and relatively stable level of new passenger car sales since the start of 2002 has faltered in recent months. Previously, sales had followed an upward movement since the start of 2001.

In January, the number of new trucks sold plummeted 17.3% from December to 56,852 units, returning to the level of September 2001, just before a period of exceptional growth in the fourth quarter of that year. January's drop followed a 1.8% rise in December, which had pushed truck sales to their highest level since December 1997.

Except for January, truck sales have been moving upward since the summer of 2002, after remaining stable during the first half of the year.

Sales decline across Canada

In January, new motor vehicle sales were down from December in all provinces, but the decrease was much smaller in the region formed by British Columbia and the

three territories (-0.9%). This region had reported one of the weakest sales increases in December (+1.1%).

New motor vehicle sales in the region formed by British Columbia and the three territories have been trending downward since the summer of 2002. Previously, they had gone through a period of strong growth that began at the start of 2001.

Alberta (-9.5%) and Quebec (-12.5%) were the only other provinces to post declines smaller than the national average. New vehicle sales in Alberta have been moving down since the summer of 2002. Previously, they had experienced a period of growth starting in early 2001. In Quebec, new motor vehicle sales have slowed in recent months, following a period of generally rising sales that began in the fall of 2001.

Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2402.

The January 2003 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007-XIB, \$13/\$124) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

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 Cl rance Kimanyi (613-951-6363; clerance.kimanyi@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

□

New motor vehicle sales

	January 2002	December 2002 ^r	January 2003 ^p	January 2002 to January 2003	December 2002 to January 2003
Seasonally adjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	146,241	150,181	129,036	-11.8	-14.1
Passenger cars	78,709	81,417	72,184	-8.3	-11.3
North American ¹	55,398	57,040	47,000	-15.2	-17.6
Overseas	23,311	24,377	25,184	8.0	3.3
Trucks, vans and buses	67,532	68,763	56,852	-15.8	-17.3
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,226	2,705	1,632	-26.7	-39.7
Prince Edward Island	436	417	325	-25.5	-22.1
Nova Scotia	3,973	4,298	3,619	-8.9	-15.8
New Brunswick	3,572	3,693	2,886	-19.2	-21.9
Quebec	35,963	37,892	33,143	-7.8	-12.5
Ontario	58,487	59,828	49,324	-15.7	-17.6
Manitoba	4,138	4,267	3,463	-16.3	-18.8
Saskatchewan	3,392	3,723	3,068	-9.6	-17.6
Alberta	17,487	17,193	15,557	-11.0	-9.5
British Columbia ²	16,566	16,165	16,020	-3.3	-0.9
	January 2002	December 2002	January 2003 ^p	January 2002 to January 2003	
Unadjusted					
	Number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	112,105	143,312	95,477	-14.8	
Passenger cars	56,270	70,478	49,890	-11.3	
North American ¹	41,820	52,048	34,345	-17.9	
Overseas	14,450	18,430	15,545	7.6	
Trucks, vans and buses	55,835	72,834	45,587	-18.4	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,303	1,765	964	-26.0	
Prince Edward Island	288	384	210	-27.1	
Nova Scotia	2,786	3,817	2,348	-15.7	
New Brunswick	2,439	3,283	1,914	-21.5	
Quebec	24,520	31,452	22,031	-10.2	
Ontario	46,179	59,743	37,490	-18.8	
Manitoba	3,340	4,311	2,696	-19.3	
Saskatchewan	2,868	3,995	2,446	-14.7	
Alberta	14,645	18,238	12,550	-14.3	
British Columbia ²	13,737	16,324	12,828	-6.6	

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

² Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.



OTHER RELEASES

Steel primary forms — weekly data

Week ending March 8, 2003 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending March 8 totalled 305 662 metric tonnes, up 2.5% from 298 100 tonnes a week earlier and 0.3% from 304 652 tonnes in the same week of 2002.

The year-to-date total as of March 8 was 2 883 555 tonnes, down 2.7% from 2 962 900 tonnes in the same period of 2002.

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

Steel pipe and tubing

January 2003

Data on production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0003.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2105.

The January 2003 issue of *Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing*, Vol. 27, no. 1 (41-011-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. ■

Public sector employment

2002 (preliminary)

Employment in the Canadian public sector rose for the third straight year in 2002 (+30,397 jobs), rebounding from tight overall budgetary control and government re-structuring during the 1990s.

However, in 2002, employment in the sector — which comprises all three levels of government, including government business enterprises, health and social service institutions, and school boards, universities and colleges — was still well below the peak level of 1992.

In 2002, the public sector averaged over 2,849,600 jobs. In contrast, in 1992 the public sector consisted of more than 3,063,200 jobs. Employment declined annually from 1992 to 1999, at which point it began to recover.

More than half (52%) of the decline in public sector employment from 1992 to 1999 came from general public administration — federal (including armed forces), provincial and territorial, and local administrations.

In the same manner, the addition of 37,166 jobs in general government from 1999 to 2002 explains close to 50% of the increase in public sector employment during the same period. The vast majority of these jobs (95%) were in the federal government.

Note: Public sector employment does not distinguish between full-time and part-time employees. Data for the fourth quarter of 2002 are preliminary estimates, and figures for the first three quarters have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: tables 183-0002 and 183-0004.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 1728.

For general information, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767; fax: 613-951-0661; joanne.rice@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daniel Salois (613-951-0379; salodan@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing, January 2003, Vol. 27, no. 1
Catalogue number 41-011-XIB (\$5/\$47).

Connectedness series: A Profile of employment in computer and telecommunications industries, no. 9
Catalogue number 56F0004MIE (free).

Exports by country, January–December 2002, Vol. 59, no. 4
Catalogue number 65-003-XMB (\$62/\$206).

Exports by country, January–December 2002, Vol. 59, no. 4
Catalogue number 65-003-XPB (\$124/\$412).

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 are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

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Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 9:30 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 six rides 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

- Map-warmed index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 3
- Steel primary tones, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr 1997 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Each centre has facilities to retrieve information from CANSIM, Statistics Canada's data retrieval system. A telephone inquiry service is available with toll-free access for those located outside local calling areas. Many other valuable services—from seminars to consultations—are also offered. For information, contact your nearest Regional Reference Centre.

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