



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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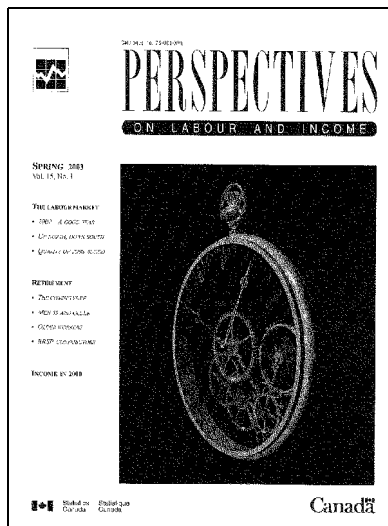
## MAJOR RELEASES

● **Retail trade, January 2003**

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After a lacklustre holiday season, retail sales advanced 0.7% in January to \$26.0 billion.

*(continued on page 2)*



### Perspectives on labour and income

Spring 2003

The Spring 2003 edition of *Perspectives on labour and income* is now available. Two articles, "The labour market: Up north, down south" and "2002 — a good year in the labour market," examine the divergent labour market trends in Canada and the United States in 2002. "Quality of jobs added in 2002" focusses on the types of jobs created in Canada during this period.

Older workers and their influence on the labour market now and in the future is another theme in this issue. "The retirement wave" examines the industries and occupations likely to be most affected as baby boomers retire. "Men 55 and older: work or retire?" and "Older workers and the labour market" explore various characteristics of older workers.

Rounding out the issue, "Profiling RRSP contributors" examines why one person is more likely than another to contribute to an RRSP, and "2000 income: An overview" provides a brief look at family incomes in 2000 and changes since 1980. All articles have appeared previously in online editions of *Perspectives*.

The Spring 2003 issue of *Perspectives on labour and income*, Vol. 15, no. 1 (75-001-XPE, \$18/\$58) is now available. See *How to order products*. For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; [henry.pold@statcan.ca](mailto:henry.pold@statcan.ca)), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



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## **OTHER RELEASES**

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## **NEW PRODUCTS**

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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Retail trade

January 2003

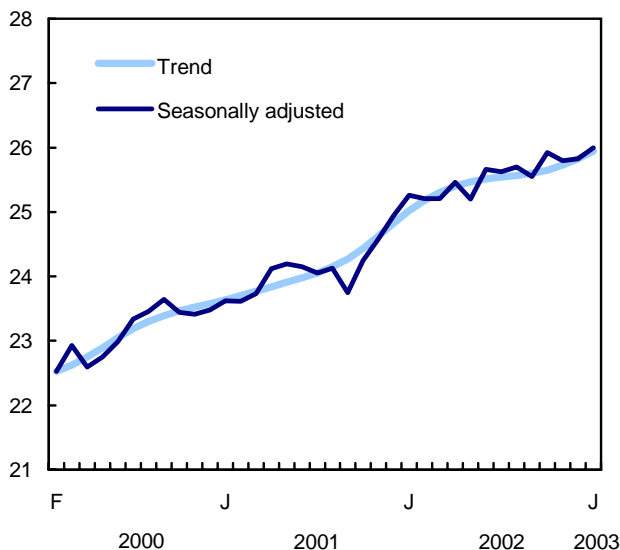
Retail sales advanced 0.7% in January to \$26.0 billion. This followed essentially unchanged sales in December (+0.1%) and a 0.5% decline in November. Excluding sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales increased 1.5% in January.

In 2002, despite a lacklustre holiday season, retailers posted their second largest annual sales gain in five years, with an increase of 6.0% from 2001. However, retail sales growth was modest over much of 2002, the annual growth stemming from gains observed in the fall of 2001 and January 2002.

In constant dollars, retail sales remained essentially unchanged in January (+0.1%). Consumers were faced with higher prices in the auto and food sectors in January.

#### Retail sales start 2003 on the rise

\$ billions



Consumers were back shopping in clothing and general merchandise stores in January. After two months of weak sales, clothing (+3.1%) and general merchandise (+1.8%) stores led all other retail sectors in terms of growth in January. Sales were also on the rise in the automotive sector (+0.8%), and in food (+0.4%) and drug (+0.2%) stores. Furniture stores posted the only sales decline in January (-1.7%), after reporting five consecutive monthly gains.

#### Note to readers

Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. Updates to CANSIM table 076-0005, which include department store sales with concessions, will only be available with the Monthly Retail Trade Survey release from this point forward.

#### Consumers catch up on their clothing purchases

In January, the clothing sector (+3.1%) posted its first monthly sales gain in three months, bringing sales back to their October 2002 level. Increases in consumer purchases were observed in all types of clothing stores. January's gain was strongest in men's clothing stores (+6.5%) and shoe stores (+4.8%). Women's clothing stores and stores classified in the "other clothing" category were affected by falling prices in January. Sales in the clothing sector have been volatile since the start of 2002, remaining essentially flat over the year.

After two months of weak results, retailers in the general merchandise sector enjoyed a 1.8% sales increase in January. This was the strongest monthly sales gain for general merchandisers in seven months. Within this sector, both department stores (+2.1%) and other general merchandise stores (+1.5%) posted sales increases in January. Despite some fluctuations, department store sales have remained essentially flat since the start of 2002, after having increased rapidly in the fall of 2001. Sales in other general merchandise stores have been generally increasing since the fall of 2001, after declining for about a year.

#### Auto sector up despite lower sales by motor vehicle dealers

Increased sales in gasoline service stations (+4.9%) and automotive parts, accessories and service stores (+5.9%) led to a 0.8% sales increase in the auto sector in January. Sales in gasoline service stations were boosted by a 6.2% price jump at the pumps. Gasoline service stations have generally been reporting increasing sales since the start of 2002, after a period of general declines that began in early 2001. Retailers of automotive parts, accessories and services posted their largest monthly sales gain in nine months. January's sales increase by these retailers cancelled a sequence of general declines observed since the summer of 2002.

Motor and recreational vehicle dealers experienced a 1.6% sales decline in January. This was their second largest monthly decline since September 2001, after the 2.5% sales drop in November 2002. Sales by motor

and recreational vehicle dealers have been slowly declining since early 2002. Nevertheless, sales remain at historically high levels after jumping 7.3% in the fourth quarter of 2001.

### **First monthly sales decline in furniture stores in six months**

Furniture stores took a breather in January, after five consecutive months of rising sales. Consumers reduced spending in furniture stores in January (-1.7%), after sales increases that averaged 0.9% in each of the previous five months. Furniture stores led other retailers in sales growth in 2002 and have shown annual gains of at least 8.0% since 1997.

### **Retail sales bounce back in Alberta and British Columbia**

In January, retail sales bounced back in Alberta (+2.4%) and British Columbia (+2.1%) from a sizable decline in December (-1.9% and -1.2%, respectively). In Alberta, consumer spending in retail stores has been moderate since the start of 2002, following a period of strong monthly increases that began in the spring of 1999. In British Columbia, retail sales have generally been increasing since the start of 1999, marked by periods of weaker sales in the summers of 2001 and 2002.

Retailers in Quebec (+0.5%) and Ontario (+0.4%) posted similar sales increases in January. In Quebec, retail sales have remained essentially flat since early 2002, after a period of strong monthly gains that began in the fall of 2001. Retailers in Ontario experienced moderate sales increases in 2002, after

four months of strong gains from October 2001 to January 2002.

### **Related indicators for February**

Total employment advanced 0.4% in February, continuing the strong upward trend observed since the start of 2002. A total of 613,000 jobs were created over that 14-month period. A surge in new construction of multi-family homes led to a 34.3% jump in total housing starts in February. This sizable gain followed three months of lower construction activity, during which housing starts fell 16.6% overall.

Preliminary results from the auto industry indicate a significant rise in the number of new motor vehicles sold in February, making up much of the ground lost in January, when unit sales dropped 14.1%.

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

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.**

The January 2003 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155) 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](mailto: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](mailto:paul.gratton@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. □

**Retail sales**

	January 2002	October 2002 <sup>r</sup>	November 2002 <sup>r</sup>	December 2002 <sup>r</sup>	January 2003 <sup>p</sup>	December 2002 to January 2003	January 2002 to January 2003
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,409</b>	<b>5,685</b>	<b>5,678</b>	<b>5,706</b>	<b>5,731</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,993	5,288	5,276	5,298	5,333	0.7	6.8
All other food stores	415	397	402	407	398	-2.4	-4.2
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>1,316</b>	<b>1,312</b>	<b>1,314</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Shoe stores	153	154	151	146	153	4.8	-0.1
Men's clothing stores	121	112	109	105	112	6.5	-7.3
Women's clothing stores	394	398	387	387	398	2.7	1.0
Other clothing stores	686	712	712	698	715	2.3	4.2
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>1,551</b>	<b>1,572</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,196	1,230	1,244	1,250	1,223	-2.1	2.3
Household furnishings stores	295	306	307	323	323	0.1	9.7
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>10,248</b>	<b>10,459</b>	<b>10,321</b>	<b>10,348</b>	<b>10,426</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	7,089	6,923	6,749	6,826	6,716	-1.6	-5.3
Gasoline service stations	1,735	2,062	2,100	2,080	2,182	4.9	25.7
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,424	1,474	1,472	1,442	1,528	5.9	7.3
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,795</b>	<b>2,826</b>	<b>2,831</b>	<b>2,827</b>	<b>2,879</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Department stores	1,667	1,657	1,664	1,660	1,694	2.1	1.6
Other general merchandise stores	1,127	1,170	1,168	1,167	1,185	1.5	5.1
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>2,736</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	772	803	795	793	776	-2.1	0.5
Other durable goods stores	652	668	674	669	683	2.2	4.8
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,263	1,265	1,271	1,262	1,263	0.1	0.0
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>25,262</b>	<b>25,925</b>	<b>25,797</b>	<b>25,824</b>	<b>25,995</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>18,173</b>	<b>19,002</b>	<b>19,047</b>	<b>18,998</b>	<b>19,279</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	424	422	423	436	427	-2.0	0.6
Prince Edward Island	111	111	111	111	111	0.2	0.3
Nova Scotia	764	771	761	772	759	-1.6	-0.6
New Brunswick	613	607	599	611	601	-1.6	-2.0
Quebec	5,655	5,943	5,874	5,880	5,908	0.5	4.5
Ontario	9,643	9,763	9,705	9,778	9,813	0.4	1.8
Manitoba	871	890	884	892	888	-0.4	2.0
Saskatchewan	735	762	759	768	765	-0.4	4.1
Alberta	3,080	3,173	3,172	3,111	3,187	2.4	3.5
British Columbia	3,273	3,387	3,412	3,370	3,440	2.1	5.1
Yukon	37	34	33	33	33	1.8	-9.7
Northwest Territories	41	43	44	44	45	0.5	10.0
Nunavut	16	17	19	19	19	-0.6	16.4

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Retail sales**

	January 2002	December 2002 <sup>r</sup>	January 2003 <sup>p</sup>	January 2002 to January 2003
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,190</b>	<b>6,008</b>	<b>5,604</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	4,818	5,506	5,245	8.9
All other food stores	372	501	358	-3.6
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Shoe stores	115	182	122	6.2
Men's clothing stores	98	202	95	-2.9
Women's clothing stores	285	598	295	3.6
Other clothing stores	501	1,154	544	8.5
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,033	1,903	1,068	3.4
Household furnishings stores	241	402	270	11.8
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>8,655</b>	<b>9,468</b>	<b>8,780</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,888	5,918	5,449	-7.4
Gasoline service stations	1,557	1,992	2,018	29.5
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,210	1,558	1,313	8.5
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,075</b>	<b>4,585</b>	<b>2,191</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Department stores	1,136	2,963	1,195	5.2
Other general merchandise stores	939	1,623	997	6.2
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,091</b>	<b>4,081</b>	<b>2,176</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	570	1,191	577	1.2
Other durable goods stores	531	1,197	575	8.4
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	989	1,693	1,023	3.4
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>21,537</b>	<b>30,181</b>	<b>22,448</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>15,650</b>	<b>24,263</b>	<b>16,999</b>	<b>8.6</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	335	502	340	1.5
Prince Edward Island	88	129	89	1.3
Nova Scotia	648	923	655	1.1
New Brunswick	505	711	500	-1.0
Quebec	4,743	6,395	4,974	4.9
Ontario	8,183	11,722	8,485	3.7
Manitoba	751	1,054	780	3.9
Saskatchewan	650	908	684	5.2
Alberta	2,673	3,721	2,802	4.8
British Columbia	2,884	4,007	3,055	6.0
Yukon	29	36	27	-7.0
Northwest Territories	35	50	40	13.7
Nunavut	14	22	16	15.2

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Legal aid

2001/02

Legal aid spending continued to grow, but the demand for legal aid services remained stable in the fiscal year 2001/02.

Total legal aid expenditures by Canada's legal aid plans reached just over \$593 million dollars in 2001/02, the equivalent of \$19 per capita. Total spending in 2001/02 increased 16% from the previous year. The last time expenditures exceeded this level was in 1995/96, when they were \$622 million.

Legal aid plans received 839,000 applications for assistance in 2001/02, a figure virtually unchanged from the previous year. The number of approved legal aid applications decreased 1% to 511,000. This was 34% below the peak of 769,000 approved applications in 1992/93.

Cases involving civil matters accounted for 55% of direct legal expenditures; the remaining 45% was spent on criminal cases.

Governments, both provincial/territorial and federal, continue to be the major source of funding for legal aid plans. They contributed \$534 million in 2001/02, or about 90% of total revenues of \$597 million. The remainder came from client contributions and cost recoveries (4%), legal profession contributions (1%), and other sources (6%).

**Available on CANSIM: table 258-0001 to 258-0004.**

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 3308.**

A data table is also available in the *Canadian statistics* module of Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). Choose *Justice and crime*, then *Police and courts*.

The annual report, *Legal aid in Canada: Resource and caseload statistics, 2001/02* (85F0015XIE, \$20) is now available. This product provides data on revenues, expenditures, caseload and personnel involved in delivering legal aid services in Canada. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023). ■

### Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

February 2003

Data for February on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0004.**

**Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2110.**

The February 2003 issue of *Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation*, vol. 55, no. 2 (44-004-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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division ■

### Deliveries of major grains

February 2003

Data on grain deliveries are now available for February.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.**

The February 2003 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be available in May. See *How to order products*.

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

## NEW PRODUCTS

**Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation**,  
February 2003, Vol. 55, no. 2  
Catalogue number **44-004-XIB** (\$5/\$47).

**Wholesale trade**, January 2003, Vol. 66, no. 1  
Catalogue number **63-008-XIB** (\$14/\$140).

**Perspectives on labour and income**, Spring 2003,  
Vol. 15, no. 1  
Catalogue number **75-001-XPE** (\$18/\$58).

**Legal aid in Canada: resources and caseload statistics, 2001–2002**  
Catalogue number **85F0015XIE** (\$20).

**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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#### MAJOR RELEASES



- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Changes in expenditures on taking urban transit; Canadians are riding it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of 860 out of 5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 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

- **High-wind Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 13

#### PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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