



# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

Friday, June 20, 2003

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### MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Consumer Price Index, May 2003**

Canadian consumers paid 2.9% more in May than they did in May 2002 for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index basket. The 12-month increase continued to slow for the third consecutive month, as energy prices kept on falling from their recent highs.

3
  
- **Wholesale trade, April 2003**

Wholesale sales fell sharply in April (-1.1%), with \$35.9 billion in goods and services sold during the month. This was the third consecutive monthly decline and the sharpest recorded since September 2001 (-1.1%). Nevertheless, in constant prices, the decrease was only 0.2%.

6

*(continued on page 2)*

#### Focus on culture

Vol. 14, no. 2

*Focus on culture*, Statistics Canada's quarterly publication about culture statistics, presents analysis of important cultural issues and trends. The latest release features the article "Hitting a high note: Canadian recording artists in 1998," which examines the sound recording sector. Although 1998 data show that Canadian recording artists have taken the world by storm, foreign-controlled firms enjoyed a large slice of the profit pie. While these firms reported only 20% of the new releases by Canadian recording artists, they accumulated 49% of the net sales by Canadian singers and bands. These sales reached \$154 million in 1998, a 15% increase from 1995/96.

Although 1998 was a great year for Canadian artists, the sound recording industry is ever-changing and is currently facing difficult technological challenges. Illegal file swapping and downloading of music, as well as pirated CDs, have caused much concern in the industry about their impact on the sales of recordings.

This issue also contains an article on the donating of time and money by Canadians to culture and arts organizations that compares 2000 and 1997, as well as provincial data on movie attendance.

*Focus on culture*, Vol. 14, no. 2 (87-004-XIE, \$7/\$20; 87-004-XPB, \$9/\$27) is now available. The preview article from this publication, "Hitting a high note: Canadian recording artists in 1998" is available free of charge on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)).

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; fax: 613-951-9040; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca)) or Mary Cromie (613-951-6864; fax: 613-951-1333; [mary.cromie@statcan.ca](mailto:mary.cromie@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.



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**OTHER RELEASES**

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Monthly Survey of Large Retailers, April 2003	9
Youth court statistics, 2001/02	9
Canadian recording artists, 1998	11

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**NEW PRODUCTS** 12

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**RELEASE DATES: June 23 to 27** 14

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Consumer Price Index

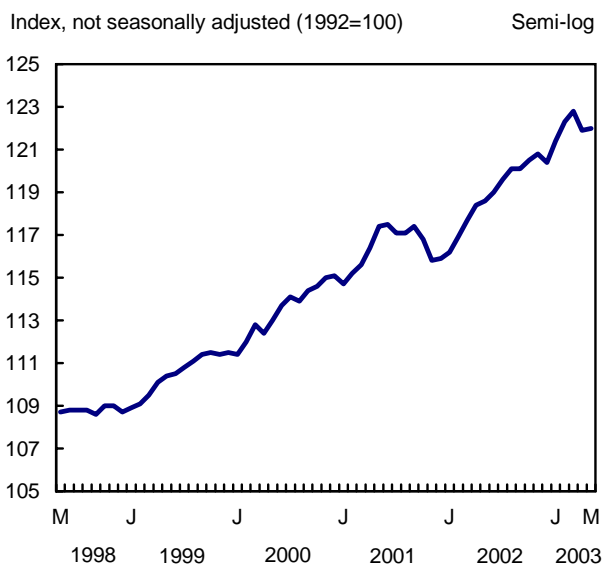
May 2003

Canadian consumers paid 2.9% more in May than they did in May 2002 for the goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. The 12-month increase continued to slow for the third consecutive month, as energy prices kept on falling from their recent highs. Excluding energy prices, the 12-month increase in the CPI was 2.7% for the second month in a row, after rising 3.2% in March.

Energy prices in May were 4.7% higher than in May 2002, a slowdown from the rates of 17.5% recorded in March and 6.2% in April. This smaller increase primarily reflects falling gasoline prices and narrows the gap between the All-items CPI and the CPI excluding energy. Natural gas prices fell on a monthly basis, lowering the 12-month increase in this index from 49.6% in April to 35.3% in May. April's electricity index was 11.0% lower than in April 2002, as a majority of Ontario consumers received refunds. In May, the impact of those refunds disappeared. However, a small number of companies refunded their consumers during the month, keeping the electricity index 1.3% lower than its May 2002 level. This rebound in the electricity index, along with higher food prices, contributed to keeping the increase in the All-items CPI comparable to that of April (+3.0%).

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#### Consumer Price Index



### Slight increase from April to May

After falling from March to April, the CPI edged up 0.1% from April to May. The rise in the electricity index was the main factor behind this monthly increase, as the refunds received by Ontario consumers tapered off. Traveller accommodation prices were up, as is usually the case at this time of the year. Cigarette prices also added to the upward pressure. The increase in the CPI was slowed by the downward pressure from the drop in gasoline prices (-6.9%) and, to a lesser extent, the fall in the price of natural gas (-8.7%).

The 10.9% increase in the electricity index was entirely the result of the Ontario index, as was the 10.1% drop in April. The electricity companies in that province that credited their customers on their April bills returned to regular billing in May. The refunds are the result of December 2002 legislation by the provincial government that fixed the price of electricity at 4.3¢ per kilowatt-hour, retroactive to May 1, 2002.

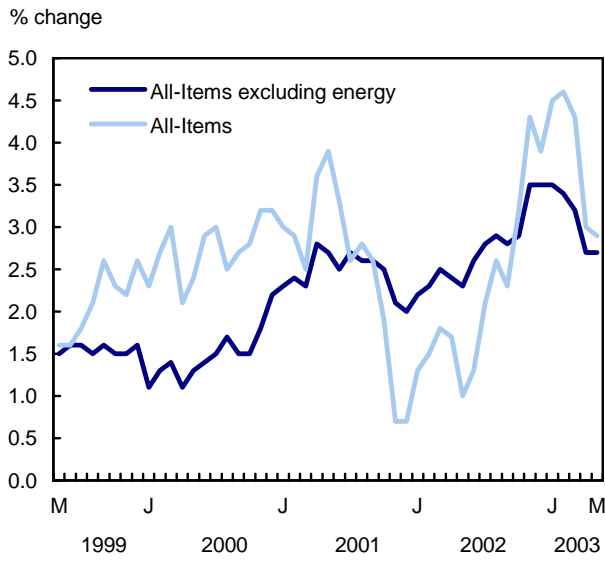
Traveller accommodation prices were up 6.2%, as hotel operators introduced their summer rates. This increase contrasts with the average increase of 10.7% over the last five years. The temporary exemption of the 5.0% retail sales tax for hotel and motel accommodations in Ontario that became effective May 1, 2003 partly counterbalanced the seasonal rate increase. The monthly increase for Ontario residents was only 2.7%, and the index remained 17.7% below its May 2002 level. The slowdown in the economy continued to have a major impact on the Canadian hotel industry, while the Ontario market felt the additional effect of the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).

Cigarettes prices increased 1.6%, mainly because of a manufacturer price increase in response to higher tobacco prices. Provincial sales taxes increased in Prince Edward Island and Manitoba. These tax changes came into effect in mid-April, so a residual amount of the increase is reflected in this month's index.

From April to May, gasoline prices have once again decreased across Canada (-6.9%), with drops ranging from 4.1% in Newfoundland and Labrador to 10.4% in Nova Scotia. This follows a decrease of 9.0% in April.

Natural gas prices fell 8.7% from April to May, the first drop in six months and the biggest drop in more than a year. This was mainly attributable to price decreases in Alberta resulting from reduced demand.

**Percentage change from the same month of the previous year**



**The seasonally adjusted CPI declined slightly from April to May**

After correcting for seasonal influences, the All-items CPI fell 0.1% in May, following a 0.7% decrease in April. The transportation index (-1.4%) was the major contributor to this decline, largely because of lower gasoline prices. A drop in the seasonally adjusted index for recreation, education and reading (-0.5%) also contributed to the monthly decrease. Increases for shelter (+0.5%), food (+0.2%), clothing and footwear (+0.7%), and alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (+0.4%) partly offset the decreases. The household operations and furnishings index, as well as the health and personal care index, remained unchanged.

**All-items excluding the eight most volatile components**

The All-items index excluding the eight most volatile components as defined by the Bank of Canada increased 2.3% from May 2002 to May 2003. The main contributors to this increase were automotive vehicle insurance premiums (+23.1%) and homeowners' replacement cost (+6.4%).

The All-items index excluding the eight most volatile components as defined by the Bank of Canada increased 0.5% from April to May. This increase is largely due to the disappearance of the effect of electricity refunds received in April by a large proportion of Ontario residents, the result of provincial legislation that was introduced in December 2002. Without the electricity refunds, the increase would have been 0.2%.

**Energy**

Nearly all of the 4.7% increase in the energy index from May 2002 to May 2003 was due to increases in the price of natural gas (+35.3%), with a much smaller contribution from fuel oil (+10.5%). The gasoline (-1.3%) and electricity (-1.3%) indexes exerted some downward pressure.

From April to May, energy prices fell 2.2%, with all the component indexes recording decreases except electricity. Slightly more than half of the downward pressure on the energy index was attributable to lower gasoline prices (-6.9%), which fell for the second consecutive month. Added pressure came from lower natural gas prices (-8.7%) and fuel oil prices (-11.8%).

**Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0001, 326-0002, 326-0012 and 326-0016 to 326-0018**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.**

Available at 7 a.m. on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the home page, choose *Today's news releases from The Daily*, then *Latest Consumer Price Index*.

The May 2003 issue of the *Consumer Price Index* (62-001-XIB, \$8/\$77; 62-001-XPB, \$11/\$103) is now available. See *How to order products*.

The June 2003 Consumer Price Index will be released on July 22.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call Louise Chaîné (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539) or Joanne Moreau (613-951-7130), Prices Division.

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**Consumer Price Index and major components**  
(1992=100)

	May 2003	April 2003	May 2002	April to May 2003	May 2002 to May 2003
Unadjusted					
	% change				
<b>All-items</b>	<b>122.0</b>	<b>121.9</b>	<b>118.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Food	122.8	122.4	120.4	0.3	2.0
Shelter	117.1	116.5	113.1	0.5	3.5
Household operations and furnishings	114.5	114.5	113.8	0.0	0.6
Clothing and footwear	103.4	103.8	104.6	-0.4	-1.1
Transportation	139.8	141.8	134.1	-1.4	4.3
Health and personal care	117.1	116.8	115.7	0.3	1.2
Recreation, education and reading	127.2	126.3	126.8	0.7	0.3
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	136.2	134.5	118.8	1.3	14.6
All-items (1986=100)	156.3				
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar expressed in cents, compared to 1992	82.0	82.0	84.3		
<b>Special aggregates</b>					
Goods	117.8	118.0	115.3	-0.2	2.2
Services	126.8	126.4	122.5	0.3	3.5
All-items excluding food and energy	120.4	120.2	117.0	0.2	2.9
Energy	134.4	137.4	128.4	-2.2	4.7
All-items excluding the 8 most volatile components <sup>1</sup>	122.7	122.1	119.9	0.5	2.3

<sup>1</sup> Excluded from the All-items CPI are the following eight volatile components, as defined by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. The Bank of Canada further adjusts this series to obtain their measure of core inflation, which also excludes the effect of changes in indirect taxes. For data and information on core inflation, please consult the Bank of Canada website ([www.bankofcanada.ca/inflation](http://www.bankofcanada.ca/inflation)).

**Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit**  
(1992=100)

	May 2003	April 2003	May 2002	April to May 2003	May 2002 to May 2003
Unadjusted					
	% change				
Newfoundland and Labrador	120.7	121.0	118.0	-0.2	2.3
Prince Edward Island	121.9	123.1	118.0	-1.0	3.3
Nova Scotia	123.5	123.9	120.0	-0.3	2.9
New Brunswick	122.1	123.0	118.3	-0.7	3.2
Québec	118.3	118.3	114.8	0.0	3.0
Ontario	122.7	122.3	119.5	0.3	2.7
Manitoba	125.1	125.4	123.2	-0.2	1.5
Saskatchewan	126.4	126.1	123.7	0.2	2.2
Alberta	129.4	130.2	123.5	-0.6	4.8
British Columbia	120.4	120.4	118.1	0.0	1.9
Whitehorse	119.8	120.3	117.3	-0.4	2.1
Yellowknife	118.9	119.2	116.0	-0.3	2.5
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	100.1	99.9	...	0.2	...

... Figures not available.

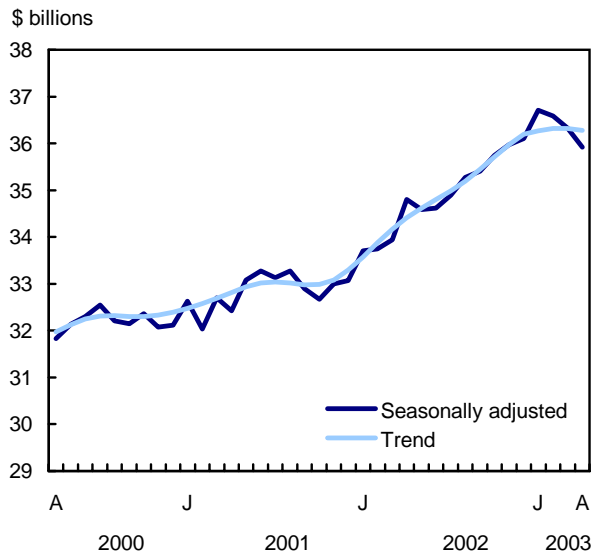
## Wholesale trade

April 2003

Wholesale sales fell sharply in April (-1.1%), with \$35.9 billion in goods and services sold during the month. This was the third consecutive monthly decline and the sharpest recorded since September 2001 (-1.1%).

This current period of contraction follows a period of growth that ran from the fall of 2001 to January 2003. Despite the declines reported in the past few months, year-to-date wholesale sales are 6.9% higher than for the same period of 2002.

### Since February, wholesale sales have shown a decline



In April, 5 of the 11 wholesale trade groups reported a drop in sales. The decline, like those in the previous two months, can be attributed chiefly to the drop in sales of motor vehicles, parts and accessories (-4.2%). Other groups that also saw significant declines in terms of percentage in April were metals and hardware (-5.5%), the other products category (-1.0%), farm machinery (-3.3%) and industrial machinery (-0.7%).

In constant prices, wholesale sales fell 0.2% in April. All groups registered a price decrease, except the beverage, drug and tobacco products group. The groups that had major impacts on the constant price were motor vehicles, parts and accessories, the other products category, and computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery.

### Note to readers

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

### Demand of new motor vehicle dealers has stalled in recent months

Reflecting the weakness in new vehicle sales at new car dealers since the beginning of the year, motor vehicle wholesale sales fell for a third consecutive month (-4.2%). The very weak job growth reported since the beginning of the year, compared with the same period of 2002, may have had a dissuasive effect on new car sales during this period. Also, a number of other factors may have, at least in part, shaken consumer confidence, including the impact of the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and uncertainty because of the war in Iraq. Previously, motor vehicle wholesale sales had generally grown since the end of 2001, when numerous incentives were introduced.

### Industrial and agricultural enterprises reduce orders with wholesalers

Wholesalers whose main customer base is the industrial and farm groups have experienced a drop in demand from those businesses. Sales of industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies fell 0.7%, partly cancelling out the increase posted in March. This group remains highly dependent on the manufacturing sector. According to April's Business Conditions Survey, manufacturers were concerned about a drop in the level of new and backlog orders. The wholesale industrial machinery group is the fourth largest in terms of sales and the largest among wholesalers in terms of inventories.

Meanwhile, wholesalers of farm machinery, equipment and supplies saw their sales decrease 3.3%.

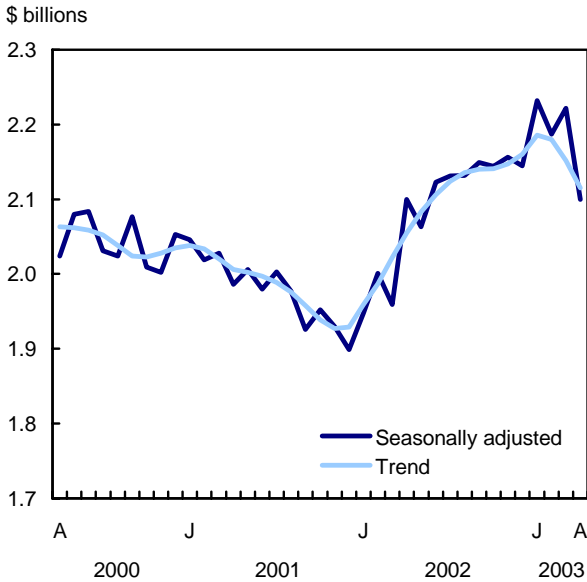
### The housing market continues to have a positive effect

The lumber and building materials group (+1.5%) and the household goods group (+1.0%) both posted growth in April. Wholesale sales in these groups have been generally increasing since the housing boom started in the summer of 2001.

For their part, wholesale sales of metals and hardware fell 5.5% in April. Wholesalers specializing in the sale of metal products destined primarily for the

industrial sector accounted for the largest share of this group's decline. During the past few months, this group has begun to show signs of weakness, after rising since the start of 2002.

**In April, sales of metals and hardware decrease**



**Wholesale trade decline in eight provinces**

Wholesale trade was down in eight provinces. Except for the territories, only Prince Edward Island (+7.4%) and Quebec (+0.9%) posted growth. Six provinces reported declines greater than the national average (-1.1 %).

Saskatchewan, where sales were down 5.1%, had the sharpest contraction. The decline in this province could be largely attributed to the farm machinery group and the other products category, which includes such products as agricultural chemicals and seeds and feed. These two groups represent about half of the wholesale trade in Saskatchewan. Despite April's decline, sales in Saskatchewan for the first four months of 2003 were up 3.8% from the same period of 2002.

Every province and territory posted positive year-over-year growth, except Newfoundland and Labrador (-6,6%). Despite the decline reported in April, wholesale sales in this province have been generally stable since the beginning of 2003. Previously, they showed a declining trend from June to December 2002, which cancelled out the gains made during the first five

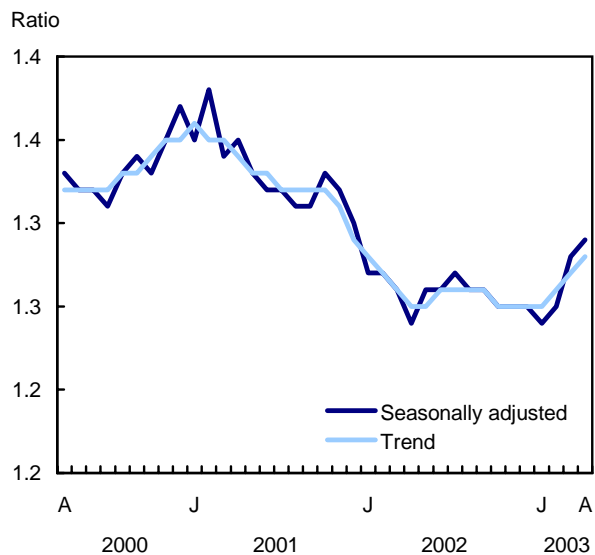
months of 2002. Prior to this, sales had been generally stable for two years.

**The inventory-to-sales ratio continues to increase**

While the total value of inventories, \$46.4 billion, remained almost unchanged in April (-0.1%), the inventory-to-sales ratio continued to grow, from 1.28 in March to 1.29 in April. Since the start of 2003, the ratio has generally risen, as a result of weakness in wholesale sales during the period.

Although total inventory levels remained relatively stable in April, some trade groups reported significant changes. The largest reductions in inventories were among food products and household goods wholesalers. These offsetted the increases reported in the motor vehicles and computer and electronics groups.

**The inventory-to-sales ratio has been on the rise since the beginning of the year**



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

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.**

The April 2003 issue of *Wholesale trade* (63-008-XIB, \$14/\$140) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Wholesale trade estimates for May will be released on July 18.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about

the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean Lebreux (613-951-4907; [jean.lebreux@statcan.ca](mailto:jean.lebreux@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division.

### Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	April 2002	January 2003 <sup>r</sup>	February 2003 <sup>r</sup>	March 2003 <sup>r</sup>	April 2003 <sup>p</sup>	March to April 2003	April 2002 to April 2003
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Sales, all trade groups</b>	<b>34,800</b>	<b>36,712</b>	<b>36,582</b>	<b>36,325</b>	<b>35,920</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Food products	5,376	5,830	5,808	5,824	5,826	0.0	8.4
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,991	3,157	3,091	3,087	3,106	0.6	3.8
Apparel and dry goods	615	666	620	655	664	1.3	7.9
Household goods	975	1,061	1,017	1,057	1,068	1.0	9.5
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,879	7,326	7,222	6,985	6,690	-4.2	-2.7
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,100	2,232	2,187	2,222	2,100	-5.5	0.0
Lumber and building materials	2,689	2,895	2,855	2,787	2,830	1.5	5.3
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	773	710	726	753	729	-3.3	-5.7
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,974	4,890	4,879	4,953	4,918	-0.7	-1.1
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,817	2,852	2,990	2,774	2,818	1.6	0.0
Other products	4,610	5,092	5,187	5,227	5,173	-1.0	12.2
<b>Sales by province and territory</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	226	211	209	214	211	-1.2	-6.6
Prince Edward Island	53	52	58	57	61	7.4	14.9
Nova Scotia	603	632	628	621	612	-1.5	1.5
New Brunswick	433	456	454	449	446	-0.8	3.0
Quebec	7,034	7,443	7,275	7,315	7,381	0.9	4.9
Ontario	17,651	18,471	18,467	18,210	17,983	-1.2	1.9
Manitoba	1,010	1,008	1,046	1,057	1,050	-0.7	3.9
Saskatchewan	997	1,050	1,067	1,052	998	-5.1	0.1
Alberta	3,459	3,743	3,781	3,775	3,669	-2.8	6.1
British Columbia	3,306	3,614	3,569	3,543	3,477	-1.9	5.2
Yukon	10	11	10	10	12	16.8	18.7
Northwest Territories	15	18	14	19	20	1.0	26.6
Nunavut	2	3	2	2	2	3.1	33.7
<b>Inventories, all trade groups</b>	<b>43,173</b>	<b>45,417</b>	<b>45,667</b>	<b>46,467</b>	<b>46,428</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>7.5</b>
Food products	3,278	3,351	3,394	3,522	3,437	-2.4	4.8
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,247	3,507	3,581	3,696	3,705	0.2	14.1
Apparel and dry goods	1,248	1,369	1,314	1,355	1,366	0.8	9.4
Household goods	1,604	1,709	1,732	1,796	1,680	-6.5	4.7
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,245	6,923	6,796	7,139	7,210	1.0	15.5
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	3,593	3,793	3,807	3,835	3,785	-1.3	5.3
Lumber and building materials	4,211	4,541	4,584	4,671	4,673	0.0	11.0
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,914	1,898	1,922	1,944	1,954	0.5	2.1
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	10,162	10,107	10,056	10,148	10,187	0.4	0.2
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	1,962	1,962	1,964	1,875	1,985	5.9	1.2
Other products	5,707	6,257	6,517	6,486	6,447	-0.6	13.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



## OTHER RELEASES

### Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

April 2003

Most commodity groups posted gains in April, except clothing, footwear and accessories, and hardware and lawn and garden products. Overall sales for the group of large retailers amounted to \$6.9 billion, up 6.1% from April 2002.

Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories posted their largest year-over-year sales decrease in more than five years in April, with sales slumping 5.3% from April 2002. This follows two consecutive months of flat year-over-year sales. Sales of women's clothing and accessories dropped the most (-7.7%) and sales of men's clothing fell 6.5%. The only bright spot in clothing sales was children's clothing, which increased 5.7%. Unusually cold and wet weather in some parts of the country and the outbreak of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) could be reasons behind this decline. (All data in this release are unadjusted for seasonality and all percentages are year-over-year changes).

#### Sales by commodity for the group of large retailers

	March 2003 <sup>r</sup>	April 2002 <sup>r</sup>	April 2003 <sup>p</sup>	April 2002 to April 2003
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions		% change	
<b>Commodities</b>				
Food and beverages	2,302	2,147	2,401	11.8
Clothing, footwear and accessories	1,102	1,275	1,208	-5.3
Home furnishings and electronics	924	895	918	2.5
Health and personal care products	670	589	647	9.8
Housewares	306	292	310	6.2
Sporting and leisure goods	270	292	336	15.2
Hardware and lawn and garden products	195	338	326	-3.5
All other goods and services	763	741	826	11.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,533</b>	<b>6,571</b>	<b>6,973</b>	<b>6.1</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

Sales by large retailers of hardware and lawn and garden products fell 3.5% from April 2002, pulled down by weaker demand for lawn and garden furniture, equipment and plants (-8.6%). Within this latter commodity group, sales of outdoor power equipment plunged 32.5%. This drop accounts for 80% of the total sales decrease in hardware and lawn and garden products.

The timing of Easter, which occurred in April this year and in March last year, affected the year-over-year changes of certain commodities. For example, sales of food surged 12.8%, propelled by brisk sales of candy, confectionary and snack foods (+34.7%) and strong consumer purchases of dairy products (+17.9%) and fresh meat and poultry (+12.4%). Consumers also snapped toys and games (+34.9%), the best year-over-year performance in more than five years. Sales of pre-recorded DVDs, CDs and videotapes were up 34.2%.

Home furnishings and electronics sales, whose growth had been weakening since June 2002, posted a moderate 2.5% increase compared with April 2002. Sales of indoor furniture dropped 1.1% and those of home furnishings, 1.7%. Within home furnishings, sales of bedding, linens and bathroom accessories fell 8.3%. In contrast, sales of home electronics, computers and cameras rose 8.1%, driven by strong purchases of televisions and audio/video equipment (+7.4%) and telephones and home office electronics (+15.2%).

**Note:** This survey includes large retailers mainly in the food, clothing, home furnishings, electronics, sporting goods, and general merchandise sectors. These retailers represent about 38% of total annual retail sales, excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers.

**Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.**

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

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Norman Fyfe (613-951-8308; [norman.fyfe@statcan.ca](mailto:norman.fyfe@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. ■

### Youth court statistics

2001/02

The youth court caseload in Canada has been declining over the past decade, consistent with a decrease in charges laid by police, according to data from the Youth Court Survey.

Youth courts heard 85,640 cases during the 2001/02 fiscal year, 2% fewer than in 2000/01, and 16% fewer than in 1992/93.

Steady declines in cases involving property crimes were primarily responsible for the overall drop in caseload. Judges heard 33,086 property crime cases in youth courts in 2001/02. This is a drop of 41% from the 55,892 property cases heard in 1992/93.

The number of drug-related cases has tripled since 1992/93, going from 1,924 to 6,058. In 2001/02, two-thirds of these cases (4,058) were for possession of drugs.

Accused youth were found guilty in 6 out of 10 cases heard in youth courts in 2001/02. *Criminal Code* traffic offences had the highest conviction rate (71%); drug-related crimes had the lowest (54%).

About one-quarter of youth cases were withdrawn or dismissed. Proceedings were stayed in 12% of cases, and 1% resulted in findings of not guilty. Transfers to adult court were rare, accounting for only 48 cases; 30 of these involved violent crimes.

Youth court judges ordered a sentence of probation (alone or in combination with other sentences) more frequently than any other type of sentence in 2001/02. Two-thirds (66%) of all convicted youth cases received a probation order, averaging 368 days. The average length of these sentences has been getting longer — in 1992/93, it was 325 days.

Offences most likely to receive a sentence of probation were sexual assault (86% of convicted cases), drug trafficking (83%), robbery (80%), major assault (80%) and breaking and entering (80%).

The proportion of convicted youth cases receiving a sentence to secure custody increased gradually

from 12% of convicted cases in 1992/93 to 15% in 2001/02. However, the average length of these sentences got shorter over this period, declining from 94 days to 67 days.

Judges were more likely to use sentences to custody for violent crimes than for other types of crime. In 2001/02, 63% of convicted homicide cases resulted in a sentence of secure custody, while 25% resulted in open custody. Secure custody was ordered in 43% of attempted murder cases, while 21% of these cases resulted in a sentence of open custody.

Robbery also frequently resulted in a custody sentence, with 26% of convicted cases receiving secure custody and 25% getting open.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 252-0027 to 252-0039.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3309.**

The publication *Juristat: Youth court statistics, 2001/02*, Vol. 23, no. 3 (85-002-XIE, \$8/\$70, 85-002-XPE, \$10/\$93), is now available. See *How to order products*.

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*.

For standard tables or more information on the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

### Cases heard in youth court by major crime category

Offence category	1992/93	2000/01	2001/02	2000/01 to 2001/02	
	Number of cases			% change	
<b>Total cases</b>	<b>101,691</b>	<b>87,617</b>	<b>85,640</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-16</b>
Violent crimes	19,402	22,674	22,510	-1	16
Property crimes	55,892	34,694	33,086	-5	-41
Administration of Justice offences	8,013	7,917	7,698	-3	-4
Other Criminal Code offences	6,519	4,506	4,525	0	-31
Criminal Code traffic offences	1,712	1,166	1,211	4	-29
Drug-related offences	1,924	5,767	6,058	5	215
Young Offenders Act offences	7,829	10,766	10,414	-3	33
Other federal statute offences	400	127	138	9	-66

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## Canadian recording artists

1998

Canadian recording artists have taken the world by storm, but foreign-controlled firms are enjoying a large slice of the profits pie.

Net sales for Canadian singers and bands flourished in 1998, reaching \$154 million, a 15% increase over 1995/96.

The article "Hitting a high note: Canadian recording artists in 1998," available today in *Focus on culture*, shows that Canada's domestic artists racked up impressive sales in 1998 and are an important force in the recording sector. Although the article is based on 1998 figures from the Sound Recording Survey, current national and international charts confirm this trend continues today.

The growth in Canadian artist sales was most remarkable for Canadian-controlled companies. They reported \$79 million in net sales by Canadian artists, representing a 51% majority market share of recordings by Canadians.

Even so, the struggle continued for many Canadian independent labels. Foreign-controlled firms were very successful at attracting and signing our established Canadian talent. Although these firms reported only 20% of the new releases by Canadian artists, they accumulated 49% of the net sales by Canadian singers and bands.

Competition in the recording industry is fierce. Producing high-quality recordings can require major financing, as can the marketing and promotion of these recordings. Canadian-controlled firms were, on average, smaller than foreign-controlled companies, as evidenced by their average budgets, revenues and employment. This was also evident in the number of new releases by Canadian artists. Domestic-controlled firms reported an average of three new releases by Canadian artists in 1998 compared to an average of 12 new releases reported by foreign-controlled firms.

The 1998 Sound Recording Survey revealed that larger firms — those with record-related revenues

of \$1 million and over — outperformed the smaller ones. Smaller companies (revenues of under \$100,000) battled deficits, while the larger firms reported profit margins.

Larger firms earned, on average, more than \$3 million from the sales of recordings by Canadian artists, compared with only \$14,000 for firms in the smallest revenue grouping. It is most likely that the larger firms are better able to compete for established or prominent emerging Canadian artists. In 1998, firms in the largest revenue grouping had, on average, five times the number of releases by Canadian artists than the smallest revenue grouping.

Although 1998 was a great year for Canadian artists, the sound recording industry is ever-changing, and difficult challenges, particularly technological ones, are causing headaches for this sector. Illegal file swapping and downloading of music, as well as pirated CDs have caused much concern in the industry about their impact on the sales of recordings. It is very likely that any effect these technological changes may have on future music sales will also affect the sales of recordings by Canadian artists.

### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3115.

*Focus on culture*, Vol. 14, no. 2 (87-004-XIE, \$7/\$20; 87-004-XPB, \$9/\$27) is now available. The preview article from this publication, "Hitting a high note: Canadian recording artists in 1998" is available free of charge on Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Erika Dugas (613-951-1568; [erika.dugas@statcan.ca](mailto:erika.dugas@statcan.ca)), Culture Statistics Program.

For more information on *Focus on Culture*, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; [cult.tourstats@statcan.ca](mailto:cult.tourstats@statcan.ca); fax: 613-951-9040) or Mary Cromie (613-951-6864; [mary.cromie@statcan.ca](mailto:mary.cromie@statcan.ca); fax: 613-951-1333), Culture Statistics Program. ■

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**Juristat: Youth court statistics**, 2001/02, Vol. 23, no. 3  
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**Juristat: Youth court statistics**, 2001/02, Vol. 23, no. 3  
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**Focus on culture**, Vol. 14, no. 2  
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