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MAJOR RELEASES

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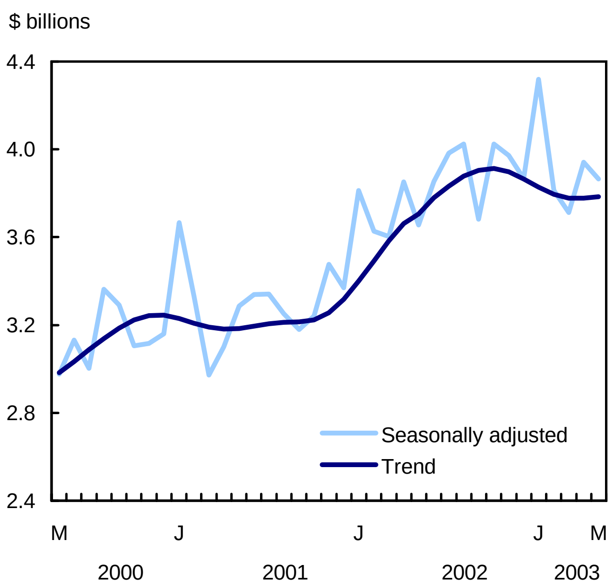
Building permits
May 2003

The value of building permits declined in May, as institutional intentions plummeted and construction intentions for single-family homes hit a 17-month low. Builders took out $3.9 billion worth of building permits, down 2.0% from April.

Municipalities issued $2.4 billion in permits for housing, as demand for multi-family dwellings pushed the total value of residential permits up 0.8%. In contrast, the value of permits for the single-family component fell for the fourth straight month.

In the non-residential sector, the value of permits fell 6.2% to $1.5 billion, as declines in permits for government and commercial projects offset an increase in industrial intentions.

Total value of permits lose ground



Despite month-to-month fluctuations this year, Canada's building sector is still performing strongly. On a year-to-date basis, the value of permits in all major components was higher than during the same five-month period in 2002. In total, municipalities issued $19.7 billion in permits from January to May, up more than $1 billion from the same period of 2002.

Provincially, the value of permits recorded the biggest decline in Manitoba, where intentions fell 63.3% to $79 million after surging in April as a result of two new hospital projects. Quebec experienced the next greatest decline, dropping 10.1% from April to $760 million.

The largest increase occurred in Ontario, where municipalities issued $1.7 billion in new permits, up $125 million from April.

Among census metropolitan areas, Québec, Toronto and Hamilton recorded the largest gains in May, while declines were strongest in Montréal and Winnipeg.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.*
>
> *The Building Permits Survey covers 2,350 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.*
>
> *The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (for example, waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.*

Residential sector: Fourth straight decline in single-family permits

Spurred by growth in multi-family permits, the value of residential permits issued in May recovered some of the ground lost in April, when the single- and multi-family sectors both experienced declines.

Builders took out $740 million in permits for multi-family housing, up 5.9% from April. This gain was propelled by a 10.7% increase in the value of permits for apartments and a 16.0% boost in permits for row house construction.

The single-family component experienced its fourth straight month of decline. Permits fell 1.3% to $1.6 billion, the lowest level since December 2001.

Nationally, permits to construct 17,262 dwelling units were taken out in May, up 0.3% from April. This gain was entirely the result of a 13.1% increase in apartments to 5,769, while numbers for all other categories of dwellings declined.

On a year-to-date basis, about 87,832 dwelling units have been authorized, down 0.2% from the same period of 2002. A decline of 7.7% in the single component offset a jump of 11.6% in the multi-family component.

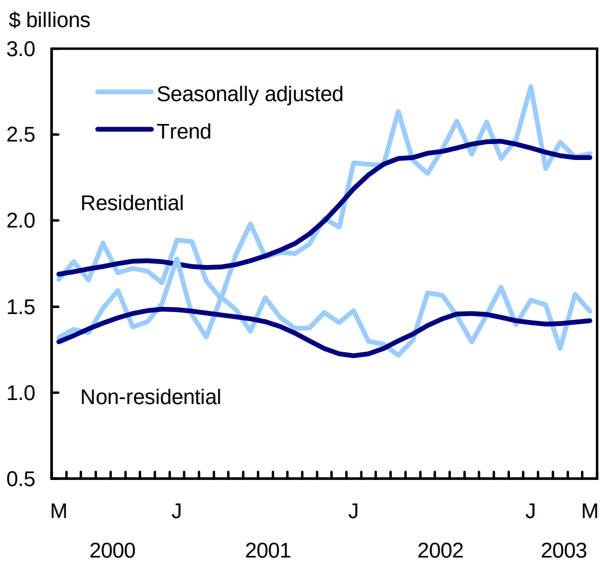
Despite favourable mortgage rates and the continuing overall health of the Canadian economy, demand for single-family permits continues to cool from record highs at the start of the year. On a 12-month basis, prices for new housing increased 4.5% nationally, according to the New Housing Price Index, offsetting the impact of mortgage rate reductions as the housing affordability index continues to show that home ownership costs remain low. Given the continued affordability and declining construction intentions of single-family homes, this could signify that much of the pent-up demand for new single-family homes is loosing momentum and that the sector is reaching a new equilibrium.

Among the provinces, British Columbia experienced the biggest increase in the value of permits (+8.7% to $353 million) in May, driven by growth in the row housing and single-house segments. It was followed by Nova Scotia (+54.0% to $69 million), where apartment and single permits fuelled the gains.

The biggest declines occurred in Quebec (-4.1% to $446 million) and Saskatchewan (-34.8% to $31 million), where multi-family permits slumped in both cases.

On a year-to-date basis, about $12.3 billion worth of residential permits were issued in the first five months of 2003, up 2.7% from the same period of 2002. The sector continues to forge some year-to-date records, with all classes of permits except for row housing testing new heights. Builders have taken out $8.8 billion in single-family permits (+0.5%) and $3.5 billion in multi-family permits (+8.6%).

Residential sector gains while non-residential sector retrenches



Non-residential sector pulled down by decline in the institutional component

A decline in the institutional component, coupled with a small decrease in the commercial component, more than offset gains in industrial intentions in May.

After doubling in April, institutional intentions fell 21.0% in May to $444 million. Most of the decline came from social service building and hospital projects, while educational projects recorded a substantial increase for a second month in a row. Manitoba recorded the largest decrease after a huge gain in April.

Commercial projects recorded a slight decline of 0.3% to $733 million in May. This was still 8.1% above the average monthly value in 2002. The office building and hotel and restaurant categories showed the most significant losses, while the laboratory and trade and service categories recorded substantial increases. Significant declines in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta slightly offset increases in Ontario, Prince Edward Island and British Colombia.

Intentions in the industrial component rose 8.4% to $297 million, most of this activity coming from the manufacturing plant category. Ontario recorded the most significant increase after two monthly decreases.

Provincially, Manitoba recorded the largest decrease in the non-residential sector (-73.9% to $46 million) after huge gains in April as a result of two major hospital projects. In contrast, gains in all three components led Ontario to the strongest increase (+21.6% to $677 million)

The non-residential sector continued to level off at a high level of activity. On a year-to-date basis, non-residential building intentions reached $7.4 billion, up 11.8% from the same period of 2002, with increases in all three components.

The year-to-date value for industrial building permits reached $1.5 billion from January to May, up 15.7% from the same period of 2002, followed by the institutional component at $2.2 billion (+12.0%). Construction intentions for commercial projects also contributed to the advance, increasing 10.3% to $3.7 billion.

Among the provinces, Ontario had the largest gain (+11.0% to $3.3 billion) in the wake of strong increases in non-residential permits issued in census metropolitan areas of Oshawa, Hamilton and Toronto. Ontario was followed by Manitoba, Alberta and Quebec. New Brunswick recorded the largest decrease (-30.1 % to $72 million).

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The May 2003 issue of *Building permits* (64-001-XIE, $14/$145) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The June 2003 building permit estimates will be released August 5.

To order data, contact Vere Clarke (613-951-6556 or 1-800-579-8533; *clarver@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Labonté (613-951-9690; *labomic@statcan.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Value of building permits

Provinces/Territories	April 2003[r]	May 2003[p]	April to May 2003	January to May 2002	January to May 2003	January–May 2002 to January–May 2003
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
Canada	**3,942.1**	**3,864.3**	**-2.0**	**18,550.5**	**19,650.4**	**5.9**
Residential	2,370.0	2,389.7	0.8	11,975.8	12,296.6	2.7
Non-residential	1,572.1	1,474.6	-6.2	6,574.7	7,353.8	11.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	29.9	29.5	-1.5	147.5	138.7	-6.0
Residential	22.7	22.5	-0.7	106.3	97.8	-8.0
Non-residential	7.3	7.0	-3.9	41.2	40.9	-0.9
Prince Edward Island	17.1	26.4	54.1	52.5	70.5	34.4
Residential	8.0	6.2	-22.7	40.5	34.5	-14.8
Non-residential	9.1	20.2	122.1	11.9	36.0	201.6
Nova Scotia	88.9	106.0	19.2	329.2	409.8	24.5
Residential	45.0	69.2	54.0	251.2	249.9	-0.5
Non-residential	43.9	36.7	-16.4	78.0	160.0	105.1
New Brunswick	56.3	46.3	-17.6	267.5	234.1	-12.5
Residential	38.7	30.5	-21.3	164.3	162.0	-1.4
Non-residential	17.6	15.9	-9.6	103.2	72.1	-30.1
Quebec	844.8	759.6	-10.1	3,448.8	3,993.5	15.8
Residential	465.4	446.2	-4.1	2,051.6	2,492.1	21.5
Non-residential	379.4	313.4	-17.4	1,397.2	1,501.4	7.5
Ontario	1,599.4	1,724.5	7.8	8,664.1	8,680.7	0.2
Residential	1,042.5	1,047.1	0.4	5,667.0	5,353.4	-5.5
Non-residential	556.8	677.3	21.6	2,997.1	3,327.3	11.0
Manitoba	216.4	79.4	-63.3	380.9	524.3	37.6
Residential	41.6	33.9	-18.7	184.3	200.6	8.8
Non-residential	174.8	45.6	-73.9	196.6	323.7	64.7
Saskatchewan	89.1	76.5	-14.2	282.4	357.9	26.7
Residential	47.0	30.6	-34.8	105.2	161.7	53.8
Non-residential	42.2	45.9	8.8	177.2	196.2	10.7
Alberta	504.8	503.4	-0.3	2,695.3	2,702.9	0.3
Residential	331.0	341.9	3.3	1,852.9	1,750.9	-5.5
Non-residential	173.8	161.5	-7.1	842.5	952.0	13.0
British Columbia	490.5	478.0	-2.5	2,199.1	2,482.7	12.9
Residential	324.6	352.9	8.7	1,514.9	1,773.7	17.1
Non-residential	165.9	125.1	-24.6	684.2	709.0	3.6
Yukon	2.8	8.5	206.1	9.8	20.2	105.7
Residential	1.8	2.4	33.8	8.2	7.4	-9.8
Non-residential	1.0	6.2	501.6	1.7	12.8	674.7
Northwest Territories	1.5	18.0	1,084.4	48.5	25.5	-47.3
Residential	1.2	5.5	356.5	20.9	10.7	-48.5
Non-residential	0.3	12.6	3,754.9	27.6	14.8	-46.5
Nunavut	0.6	8.1	1,209.5	24.9	9.5	-62.0
Residential	0.5	0.9	74.1	8.6	1.9	-77.8
Non-residential	0.1	7.3	5,806.5	16.3	7.6	-53.6

r *Revised data.*
p *Preliminary data.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals because of rounding.*

Value of building permits

Census metropolitan area	April 2003[r]	May 2003[p]	April to May 2003	January to May 2002	January to May 2003	January–May 2002 to January–May 2003
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions		% change	$ millions		% change
St. John's	23.3	21.2	-9.2	102.2	99.2	-3.0
Halifax	32.0	65.4	104.5	171.3	218.5	27.6
Saint John	7.8	7.6	-2.7	35.2	37.2	5.9
Saguenay	20.9	20.6	-1.6	53.1	62.5	17.8
Québec	58.3	105.5	80.9	283.1	430.5	52.1
Sherbrooke	20.0	14.5	-27.7	94.3	81.4	-13.6
Trois-Rivières	15.2	9.3	-38.6	58.2	56.0	-3.7
Montréal	503.9	393.8	-21.9	1,781.8	2,082.1	16.9
Gatineau	48.4	38.4	-20.6	186.4	190.9	2.4
Ottawa	185.4	142.7	-23.0	699.6	725.6	3.7
Kingston	13.9	35.9	158.9	135.7	93.9	-30.8
Oshawa	73.8	84.7	14.8	266.2	441.7	65.9
Toronto	685.2	728.6	6.3	3,738.1	3,753.7	0.4
Hamilton	71.1	110.4	55.2	474.1	529.9	11.8
St. Catharines–Niagara	26.1	51.6	97.9	254.3	216.1	-15.0
Kitchener	68.6	89.6	30.6	422.5	416.7	-1.4
London	87.8	53.4	-39.2	291.3	314.6	8.0
Windsor	45.5	28.4	-37.6	307.3	240.2	-21.8
Sudbury	8.2	6.2	-25.0	57.0	33.1	-42.0
Thunder Bay	4.4	9.0	102.3	84.9	44.0	-48.2
Winnipeg	145.9	38.4	-73.7	185.8	341.9	84.0
Regina	49.9	18.0	-63.9	59.3	124.5	110.0
Saskatoon	18.3	29.0	58.0	129.3	121.7	-5.9
Calgary	207.8	202.1	-2.7	1,095.6	1,208.4	10.3
Edmonton	119.3	144.5	21.2	639.8	708.5	10.7
Abbotsford	10.6	12.8	20.7	61.0	76.6	25.6
Vancouver	286.9	265.1	-7.6	1,363.9	1,407.9	3.2
Victoria	32.1	44.1	37.4	186.1	205.8	10.6

r *Revised data.*
p *Preliminary data.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals because of rounding.*

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Sound recording

2000

From soul to swing, Canadians are lining up to buy their jazz and blues. Sales of jazz and blues labels are enjoying a surge, soaring 45.4% from 1998 to 2000, while sales of almost all other forms of music declined.

In total, Canadian labels reported more than $861.4 million worth of revenues from the sale of sound recordings in 2000, down 3.4% from two years earlier.

Jazz and blues labels accounted for almost $55.0 million, or 6% of the total, up from 4% of the market in 1998 and only 2% in 1995. Jazz and blues has grown in popularity in recent years, with an explosion of jazz and blues festivals throughout North America.

Most other categories of music lost market share from 1995 to 2000. Popular music and rock recordings continued to dominate the market, with sales of $622.9 million, down 4.4% from 1998. Their share of the market fell from almost 76% in 1995 to 72% in 2000.

Sales of recordings totalled $52.5 million in classical and related music, down 11.9% from 1998, while sales of country and folk recordings declined 15.4% to $43.9 million. The biggest drop occurred in children's music, where sales tumbled 35.0 % to only $13.0 million. This cut the market share of children's music in half, from 3% in 1995 to 1.5% in 2000.

Sales increased in only one other category of music, the "other" category which is a mix of relaxation, easy listening, Christian, gospel, dance, sound track, hip-hop, rap and ethnic recordings. Recordings in this category generated $74.0 million in sales, a 4.8% increase.

The 3.4% decline in overall sales raises questions about the impact of Internet technology on the industry. A major factor in the decline could be that consumers are downloading music from the Internet. Other factors could include competition for the entertainment market, the prices of compact discs and the volatility of the recording sector in general.

Recording artists: sales fall but new releases by Canadian artists hold steady

Canadian artists put out 1,034 new releases in 2000, almost unchanged from 1,023 in 1998. On the other hand, foreign artists issued 5,620 releases in 2000, a drop of 1.5% from 1998.

Although sales by foreign artists declined steadily throughout the late 1990s, they still dominated the Canadian market. In 2000, sales by Canadian artists accounted for only 16% of total sales, almost unchanged from 15% five years earlier.

In 2000, sales of recordings by Canadian artists totalled $138 million, down 10.4% from 1998, but up 8.5% from 1995.

At the same time, sales of recordings by foreign artists tallied $723.4 million, down 1.9% from 1998 and down 3.3% from 1995.

Sound recording industry: large decline in profits

The sound recording industry consisted of 331 companies in 2000, up from 280 in 1998. They issued 6,654 new releases, down slightly from 6,728. Larger companies dominate the sound recording industry.

In 2000, the largest 12% of companies accounted for 87 % of all new releases. Smaller companies that exist to produce, in some cases, a single release tend to enter and exit the market with great rapidity.

The profits of companies declined considerably from 1998 to 2000, as expenses outpaced revenues. Companies accumulated $157.6 million in profits, down 17.0%. Their combined profit margin dropped to 11.9% from 14.9% in 1995.

Competition for the entertainment market can be stiff. According to the Survey of Household Spending, each Canadian household spent an average of almost $400 on rental of cablevision and satellite services in 2001, but only $141 on compact discs, audio tapes, videos and videodiscs.

Diversity appeared to be a key for the industry. While the sales of recordings produced from their own masters or leased masters declined in 2000, labels relied on other sources of revenues. Income from distributing the works of others, selling imported finished goods, royalties and from partnerships with others reached $457.9 million in 2000, up 5.9%. Combined with general sales, this put total revenues at $1.3 billion, down slightly from two years earlier.

However, expenses rose 2.4% to almost $1.2 billion, lowering the profit margin. Interest charges and depreciation, as well as increased cost of goods sold, drove up expenditures.

Record labels sliced total employment from 3,377 people in 1998 to just over 3,300 in 2000, reducing both full-time and part-time staff. Even so, combined salaries, benefits and freelance fees still increased 12.0% to about $167.6 million.

Situation more volatile for Canadian-controlled companies

Canadian-controlled firms fared more poorly than their foreign-controlled counterparts did during the last half of the 1990s. Sales by Canadian-controlled firms fell 7.7% during this five-year period compared with a drop of only 0.6% for foreign-controlled firms, which are mostly large Canadian subsidiaries of multinational firms.

Foreign-controlled companies dominated the sound recording industry in Canada in 2000, accounting for 87% of total sales. Foreign-controlled firms had net sales of $749.3 million in 2000, while Canadian firms had net sales of just over $112.1 million.

Foreign-controlled companies sold $74.0 million worth of recordings by Canadian artists, accounting for 54% of all sales by Canadian artists in 2000.

Canadian-controlled companies sold $63.9 million in recordings by Canadian artists, down 18.6% from 1998. The Canadian-controlled sector is a tough one, with these record labels having a smaller roster of artists than their foreign-controlled counterparts. The volatile nature of this business implies that hit albums are difficult to release on a yearly basis. It is likely that a larger roster of artists would increase the possibility of increasing sales from a hit record.

Expenses outpaced revenues for both foreign- and Canadian-controlled firms from 1998 to 2000. This left Canadian-controlled firms with a profit margin of 7.1%, down from 8.3% in 1998. The profit margin for foreign-controlled firms fell from 15.2% to 12.7%.

Canadian-controlled firms continued to rely on freelancers or part-time staff. Canadian-controlled companies had 1,202 employees and freelancers, only 48% of whom were full-time. Foreign-controlled companies had 2,103 workers.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3115.

Selected data from the Sound Recording Survey are now available in table format in *Sound recording* (87F0008XDB, $50). See *How to order products*. Special tabulations are available on a cost-recovery basis.

For general information, or to order special or standard tables, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; or 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040 *cult.tourstats@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Erika Dugas (613-951-1568, fax: 613-951-1333; (*erika.dugas@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

Revenue from the sale of recordings by musical category

	1995	1998	2000	1995	2000
	$'000			Market share (%)	
Popular music/rock	663,471	651,533	622,894	75.8	72.3
Classical and related	49,538	59,653	52,528	5.7	6.1
Jazz and blues	19,847	37,816	54,993	2.3	6.4
Country and folk	65,366	51,930	43,912	7.5	5.1
Children's	25,996	20,059	13,040	3.0	1.5
Other	50,917	70,655	74,036	5.8	8.6
Total sales of recordings	**875,135**	**891,646**	**861,402**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Profile of the sound recording industry in Canada

	1995	1998	2000
	Number		
Number of companies	254	280	331
Number of new releases	6,655	6,728	6,654
By Canadian artists	828	1,023	1,034
Other	5,827	5,705	5,620
Employment (includes freelancers)	3,221	3,377	3,305
	$'000		
Net sales of recordings	875,135	891,646	861,402
Sales of recordings by Canadian artists	127,163	154,048	137,969
Other sales of recordings	747,973	737,598	723,433
Other revenues	262,744	432,234	457,862
Total revenue	1,137,879	1,323,880	1,319,264
Total expenses	968,732	1,134,042	1,161,698
Profit/loss before taxes	169,147	189,838	157,566
Salaries, benefits and freelancer fees	135,114	149,829	167,648

Profile of Canadian-controlled companies

	1995	1998	2000
	Number		
Number of companies	239	263	315
Number of new releases	1,968	1,950	2,051
By Canadian artists	667	821	868
Other	1,301	1,129	1,183
Employment (includes freelancers)	877	975	1,202
	$'000		
Net sales of recordings	121,475	103,447	112,111
Sales of recordings by Canadian artists	55,599	78,541	63,932
Other sales of recordings	65,876	24,907	48,179
Other revenues	65,125	67,199	76,771
Total revenue	186,599	170,646	188,882
Total expenses	172,548	156,545	175,425
Profit/loss before taxes	14,052	14,101	13,456
Salaries, benefits and freelancer fees	20,665	21,954	31,925

Profile of foreign-controlled companies

	1995	1998	2000
	Number		
Number of companies	15	17	16
Number of new releases	4,687	4,778	4,603
By Canadian artists	161	202	166
Other	4,526	4,576	4,437
Employment (includes freelancers)	2,344	2,402	2,103
	$ '000		
Net sales of recordings	753,661	788,198	749,291
Sales of recordings by Canadian artists	71,564	75,507	74,037
Other sales of recordings	682,097	712,691	675,254
Other revenues	197,620	365,036	381,091
Total revenue	951,280	1,153,234	1,130,382
Total expenses	796,185	977,497	986,273
Profit/loss before taxes	155,095	175,738	144,110
Salaries, benefits and freelancer fees	114,449	127,875	135,723

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OTHER RELEASES

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

First quarter 2003

Year-over-year spending in retail stores in the first quarter was up for all major commodity groups, except in the largest category, motor vehicles, parts and services.

In total, consumers spent $68.6 billion on goods and services in the first quarter, up 4.7% from the first quarter of 2002. This follows a 4.9% year-over-year increase in the fourth quarter of 2002. These gains were the slowest since the third quarter of 2001, when sales were affected by the events of September 11. The war in Iraq and general economic uncertainty may have contributed to the weak sales results.

Spending on motor vehicles, parts and services in the first quarter amounted to $19.7 billion, down 0.2% from the first quarter of 2002. Year-over-year sales of new vehicles (cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles) remained virtually unchanged. For the past two quarters, despite continued incentives, the year-over-year sales growth of new vehicles has slowed significantly, compared with the strong growth seen since the fourth quarter of 2001. Sales of used vehicles fell 10.4% from the first quarter of 2002, which was particularly strong. In contrast, spending on automotive parts and accessories was up 9.1%.

The largest year-over-year increase by commodity occurred in automotive fuels, oils and additives, where spending was up 32.6% from the first quarter of 2002. This increase, which was largely price-driven, accounted for one-half of the year-over-year gain for all commodities. Pump prices for gasoline were up 26.3%.

Spending on health and personal care products amounted to $5.7 billion, up 6.2%, the weakest increase since the fourth quarter of 2000. Consumers spent 8.1% more on prescription drugs than in the first quarter of 2002. This is slightly lower than the growth rates of the past year. Sales of non-prescription drugs and vitamins were up 6.4%. Sales of drugs (prescription and over-the-counter drugs) and vitamins accounted for 64.3% of the spending on health and personal care products. Cosmetics, fragrances, other toiletries and personal care products accounted for just over 30% of the spending on health and personal care products. The remainder, about 5%, went to sales of eyewear.

Consumers spent $5.2 billion on home furnishings and electronics (including furniture), up 1.4%, the weakest year-over-year growth since the survey started in 1997. Year-over-year growth in this category, which had been strong as a result of the housing boom, has eased off during the past six months.

Within the home furnishings and electronics commodity grouping, sales of indoor furniture declined 2.9%. Spending on home furnishings (floor coverings, draperies, bedding and home decorating products) was up 2.9% which was the weakest growth since the third quarter of 1998. Sales of major appliances rose 3.7% much slower than the double digit year-over-year increases seen in the past year.

Year-over-year sales of clothing, footwear and accessories amounted to $5.0 billion, up 1.3% from the first quarter of 2002. Men's clothing sales were up 1.1% while women's clothing sales rose 2.2%. Sales of children's clothing were down 0.9%. Clothing prices fell during the first quarter of 2003, especially for children's clothing (-3.3%). Sales of footwear were up 3.0% from the first quarter of 2002.

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

	First quarter 2002[r]	Fourth quarter 2002[r]	First quarter 2003[p]	First quarter 2002 to first quarter 2003
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Commodity				
Food and beverages	15,202	17,645	15,704	3.3
Health and personal care products	5,404	6,294	5,739	6.2
Clothing, footwear and accessories	4,965	8,924	5,032	1.3
Home furnishings and electronics	5,082	7,755	5,154	1.4
Motor vehicles, parts and services	19,732	21,070	19,698	-0.2
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	4,687	6,024	6,217	32.6
All other goods and services	10,500	14,984	11,093	5.6
Total	**65,573**	**82,697**	**68,637**	**4.7**

r *Revised data.*
p *Preliminary data.*

Note: The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Data have not been adjusted for seasonality. For example, no adjustment has been made for Easter, which occurred in the first quarter in 2002 but in the second quarter in 2003. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

Data for 2002 have been revised and are now available. 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 Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190; *ruth.barnes@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Total income of farm families

2000

Average total income of farm families recorded its largest gain in 10 years, according to analysis of data from personal income tax returns.

Farm families saw a 6.5% increase in average total income to $66,270 in 2000. The increase came as a result of a 7.2% rise in average off-farm income and a 4.7% increase, after two years of decline, in average net farm operating income (before depreciation).

Net farm operating income was bolstered by increased payments from farm aid programs combined with higher livestock and product revenues as a result of strong demand. The rise in average off-farm income was largely driven by a surge in labour income.

Families running hog and pig farms posted a healthy 24.6% gain in average total income in 2000 and earned just over $73,000 — well above the average income of all farm families. This was mostly the result of average net farm operating income rising just over 50%, as hog prices continued to rebound from a dismal period in late 1998. Increased marketings of slaughter hogs also helped.

Families specializing in potato farming, beef cattle ranching, other vegetable farming and oilseed and grain farming saw the next largest percentage gains in average total income.

Families operating fruit and tree nut farms saw the largest decline, followed by greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production, then poultry and egg production. Despite a 2.3% decline in average total income, families running poultry and egg farms recorded the highest average total income for the fourth year in a row.

Only families operating smaller business farms, with revenues between $10,000 and $49,999, made less money in 2000 than the year before. Owing to a 9.9% decline in their average net farm operating income, those families saw their average total income fall to $38,431 in 2000, a 0.3% drop from 1999.

For the most part, families whose focus was business tended to rely slightly more on off-farm income in 2000 than they did in 1999. Their share of off-farm income, which includes employment, investment and pension income, government social transfers, child tax payments and the like, was just under 59% in 2000, up slightly from the previous year.

Families that operated non-business farms, on the other hand, saw their dependence on off-farm income drop from about 91% to 90%. Overall, income from non-farming activities accounted for about 74 cents of every dollar in farm family income in 2000, up slightly from the year before.

The publication *Farm and off-farm income statistics* (21-019-XIE, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (*www.statcan.ca*). From the *Our products and services pages*, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For custom data requests, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991; *agriculture@statcan.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lina Di Piétro (613-951-3171, fax 951-3868), *lina.dipietro@statcan.ca*), or Sylvana Beaulieu (613-951-5268, *sylvana.beaulieu@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. □

Average total income of farm families, by type of farm
2000

	Number of families	Total off-farm income[1]	Net farm operating income[2]	Total income	1999 to 2000
			$		% change
Poultry and egg production	1,980	41,790	37,808	79,598	-2.3
Dairy cattle and milk farming	12,690	22,990	51,265	74,256	5.3
Hog and pig farming	3,880	33,339	40,057	73,397	24.6
Potato farming	830	42,978	29,769	72,748	15.4
Oilseed and grain farming	52,740	52,590	18,351	70,940	5.7
Other crop farming	9,790	52,438	12,658	65,096	3.2
Other animal production	8,480	64,403	-363	64,040	5.0
Fruit and tree nut farming	3,720	53,478	8,093	61,571	-6.3
Beef cattle ranching and farming, including feedlots	49,640	49,591	10,217	59,809	10.4
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	2,000	40,101	18,035	58,136	-4.8
Other vegetable (except potato) and melon farming	1,900	39,287	15,678	54,966	6.6
Total	**147,680**	**48,682**	**17,588**	**66,270**	**6.5**

1 *Excluding taxable capital gains.*
2 *Before capital cost allowance.*

Average total income of farm families, by typology
2000

	Number of families	Total off-farm income[1]	Net farm operating income[2]	Total income	1999 to 2000
			$		% change
Business-focused farms	**75,130**	**40,264**	**28,593**	**68,858**	**3.9**
Small farms	13,970	34,762	3,668	38,431	-0.3
Medium farms	17,340	56,853	12,361	69,214	3.1
Large farms	40,220	35,033	39,699	74,732	3.1
Very large farms	3,590	40,193	79,695	119,888	4.4
Non-business-focused farms	**72,560**	**57,398**	**6,190**	**63,588**	**9.6**
Pension farms	35,140	45,508	13,759	59,266	5.7
Lifestyle farms	24,780	95,957	-2,229	93,728	8.8
Low-income farms	12,640	14,832	1,650	16,482	3.4
Total	**147,680**	**48,682**	**17,588**	**66,270**	**6.5**

1 *Excluding taxable capital gains.*
2 *Before capital cost allowance.*

■

For-hire motor carriers of freight, top carriers
First quarter 2003

The top 90 for-hire motor carriers of freight (Canada-based trucking companies earning $25 million or more annually) generated operating revenues of $1.93 billion and expenses of $1.84 billion in the first quarter. Average per-carrier revenue increased 0.5% from the first quarter of 2002, reaching $21.4 million. Average per-carrier expenses increased 0.6% to 20.4 million.

The top for-hire carriers' operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenues) was 0.95, similar to the first quarter of 2002. A ratio of greater than 1.00 represents an operating loss.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; *laroque@statcan.ca*) or Denis Pilon (613-951-2707; *denis.pilon@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. Fax: 613-951-0579. ■

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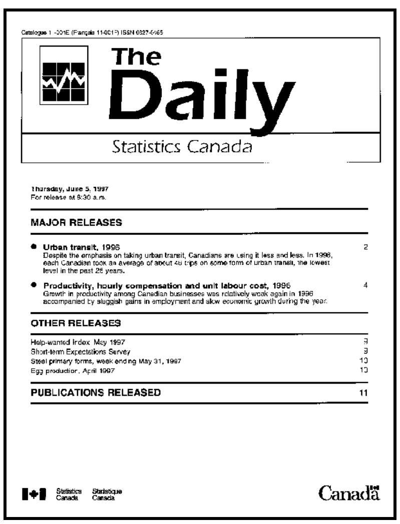
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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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