



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Monday, January 26, 2004**

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Wholesale trade, November 2003** 2  
Wholesale sales declined marginally (-0.1%) for a second consecutive month. The level of inventories rose slightly (+0.3%), after falling sharply in October (-1.2%).
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## OTHER RELEASES

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

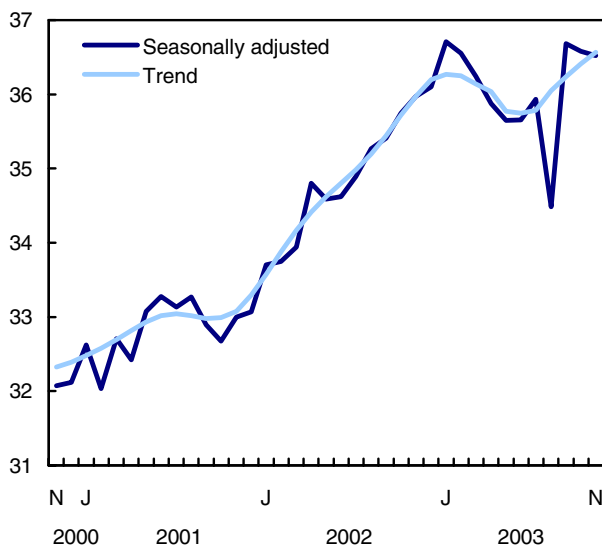
### Wholesale trade

November 2003

Wholesale sales declined slightly in November (-0.1%), with wholesalers selling goods and services worth \$36.5 billion. This followed a 0.3% decrease in October. For the first 11 months of 2003, wholesale sales rose 3.7% from the same period of 2002. However, this growth rate is much weaker than the rate observed for the same period of the previous year (+6.0%). Since February, sales had generally trended downwards, until levelling out by the beginning of summer. Prior to February, wholesale sales had a good stretch of growth extending back to the fall of 2001.

#### Wholesale sales decline slightly in November

\$ billions



Seven of the 11 trade groups reported an increase in November. The largest gains were in farm machinery (+2.3%), household goods (+1.5%) and computer and electronic products (+1.3%). The apparel and dry goods sector (-3.6%) and the "other products" category (-1.8%) registered the largest decreases.

Measured in constant prices, the volume of sales rose 0.3% in November. Price declines in the automotive sector and the computer and electronic products sector

#### Note to readers

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

greatly contributed to this increase in the volume of sales.

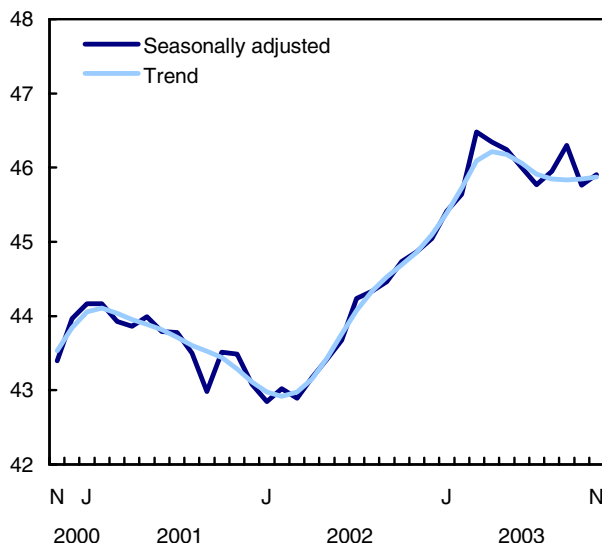
#### Wholesalers build up their inventories

The total value of wholesalers' inventories in November rose slightly (+0.3%) to \$45.9 billion. This rise was mainly attributable to computer and electronic products and to lumber and building materials. As a result of the increase in the level of inventories, the inventory-to-sales ratio also rose, from 1.25 in October to 1.26 in November.

In contrast, inventories of industrial machinery were down for a third consecutive month. The value of industrial machinery inventories accounts for approximately 22% of total inventories.

#### Inventories edge up in November

\$ billions

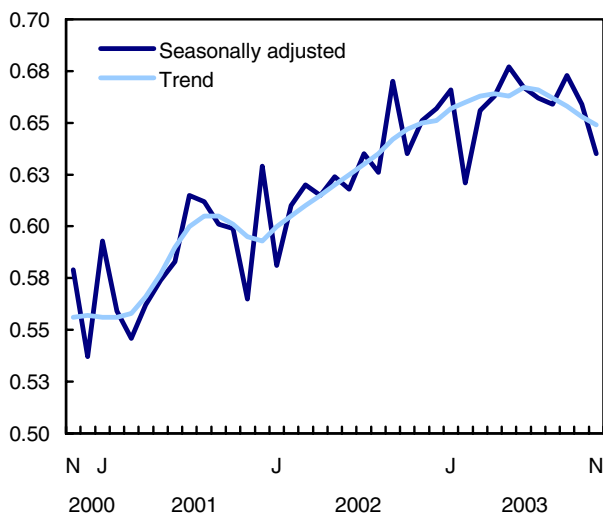


## Decline in apparel sales related to sharp drop in import prices

Wholesalers of apparel and dry goods wholesalers saw their sales decline 3.6% in November. This was the fifth decrease in the past six months. Compared with November 2002, sales in this sector were down 2.4%. However, apparel and dry goods wholesalers have enjoyed a 13.7% drop in the prices of clothing imports since November 2002, partly because of the appreciation in the Canadian dollar, as well as the lifting of Canadian quotas and custom tariffs on textiles and apparel from the 48 least advanced countries (LACs). The decline of some of their supply costs were followed by a reduction in their selling prices. The impact was significant, as sales volumes rose 3% in November from November 2002.

### Fifth decline in sales of apparel and dry goods in the past six months

\$ billions



## Decreased sales of chemical products pull down the "other products" category

Wholesalers of "other products" saw their first decline (-1.8%) in the last four months. This decline was partly attributable to chemical products and other agricultural supplies as well as household and industrial chemical products. However, these sectors had shown a strong increase in their sales in October. Despite the drop this month, wholesale sales in the "other

products" category have generally been trending upward since August, in contrast to the previous four months. Previously, this trade group had experienced a strong surge from July 2002 to March 2003.

## Farm machinery sales post modest turnaround in November

After declining for five consecutive months, the farm machinery sector posted a modest 2.3% increase in November. However, sales remain 20% below the record level reached in May 2003. At the start of the second quarter, this sector experienced a strong surge, largely due to prospects for good growth in the sales of Western farmers. However, the one case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, or mad cow disease) that was reported on May 20, 2003, had a major impact on farm income, possibly depressing wholesale sales.

## Half the provinces register a decrease in November

The largest decreases at the provincial level occurred in Prince Edward Island (-7.9%) and Nova Scotia (-2.3%). The drop recorded in Prince Edward Island was largely attributable to the food products and farm machinery sectors. For their part, Nova Scotia wholesalers saw steep declines in the automotive sector and the computer and electronic products sector.

The provinces experiencing the strongest gains were Saskatchewan (+4.6%) and Manitoba (+2.9%). Saskatchewan benefited primarily from increased sales in the farm machinery sector. Manitoba wholesalers showed increased sales in the "other products" category.

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

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

The November 2003 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XIB, \$15/\$150) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Wholesale sales estimates for December will be issued on February 26, 2004.

For data or general information, 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), Distributive Trades Division.

□

## Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	November 2002	August 2003 <sup>r</sup>	September 2003 <sup>r</sup>	October 2003 <sup>r</sup>	November 2003 <sup>p</sup>	October to November 2003	November 2002 to November 2003
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Sales, all trade groups</b>	<b>35,974</b>	<b>34,488</b>	<b>36,682</b>	<b>36,577</b>	<b>36,523</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Food products	5,734	5,645	5,715	5,707	5,720	0.2	-0.2
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,995	3,352	3,450	3,484	3,451	-0.9	15.2
Apparel and dry goods	651	659	673	659	635	-3.6	-2.4
Household goods	1,023	1,021	1,052	1,058	1,074	1.5	5.0
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	7,349	5,467	6,766	6,620	6,639	0.3	-9.7
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,156	1,991	2,107	2,077	2,084	0.3	-3.3
Lumber and building materials	2,811	3,045	3,216	3,091	3,059	-1.0	8.8
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	694	680	678	656	670	2.3	-3.4
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,867	4,899	5,123	5,094	5,118	0.5	5.2
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,690	2,662	2,727	2,815	2,850	1.3	6.0
Other products	5,004	5,068	5,174	5,316	5,222	-1.8	4.4
<b>Sales by province and territory</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	212	229	231	229	232	1.3	9.4
Prince Edward Island	56	63	63	62	57	-7.9	2.9
Nova Scotia	637	631	634	643	629	-2.3	-1.3
New Brunswick	454	438	443	456	456	0.0	0.4
Quebec	7,142	7,266	7,583	7,492	7,444	-0.6	4.2
Ontario	18,315	16,733	18,347	18,175	18,169	0.0	-0.8
Manitoba	1,014	989	1,009	1,003	1,032	2.9	1.8
Saskatchewan	1,036	967	1,011	1,025	1,072	4.6	3.5
Alberta	3,613	3,749	3,832	3,944	3,904	-1.0	8.1
British Columbia	3,462	3,395	3,499	3,517	3,500	-0.5	1.1
Yukon	10	11	10	10	9	-6.2	-10.9
Northwest Territories	21	17	18	19	17	-8.8	-18.3
Nunavut	2	1	1	1	2	4.5	-34.3
<b>Inventories, all trade groups</b>	<b>44,861</b>	<b>45,950</b>	<b>46,297</b>	<b>45,762</b>	<b>45,903</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Food products	3,430	3,586	3,705	3,680	3,699	0.5	7.8
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,443	3,884	3,742	3,631	3,622	-0.3	5.2
Apparel and dry goods	1,301	1,353	1,350	1,354	1,317	-2.7	1.3
Household goods	1,748	1,665	1,699	1,727	1,758	1.8	0.6
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,698	6,967	7,206	7,096	7,126	0.4	6.4
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	3,744	3,723	3,596	3,545	3,567	0.6	-4.7
Lumber and building materials	4,426	4,589	4,705	4,533	4,588	1.2	3.7
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,857	1,963	2,014	2,034	2,071	1.8	11.5
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	10,247	10,273	10,247	10,075	9,976	-1.0	-2.6
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,033	1,830	1,900	1,890	1,971	4.3	-3.1
Other products	5,934	6,117	6,134	6,195	6,208	0.2	4.6

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



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## OTHER RELEASES

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### Restaurants, caterers and taverns

November 2003

Total receipts of restaurants, caterers and taverns in November were an estimated \$2.79 billion, up 1.6% over the November 2002 estimate.

**Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.**

The November 2003 issue of *Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Statistics* (63-011-XIE, \$7/\$59) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts methods or data quality of this release, contact Alain Mbassegue (613-951-2011), Services Industries Division. ■

### Monthly railway carloadings

November 2003

Total freight loaded by Canadian railway carriers in November reached 23.0 million metric tonnes. This represents a 4% decrease from October and a 6% increase from November 2002.

While November typically shows a decline from October, the year-over-year rise is partly a reflection of higher crop yield, which resulted in an increase in wheat and other cereal grain loadings. Increases in iron ore and potash loadings also contributed to the rise.

The non-intermodal portion of freight loaded on Canadian railroads in November totalled 263,000 carloads and 20.7 million tonnes. This represents a 3.7% drop in tonnage from October and a 6.8% increase from November 2002. Non intermodal freight represents approximately 90% of the total tonnage loaded on Canadian railways.

Loadings for the intermodal portion (containers on flat cars and trailers on flat cars) totalled 2.3 million tonnes. Following the overall trend for all cargo loaded, where a decline from October and a rise from last year is observed, intermodal loadings showed a 6.4% drop from October and a 2% rise from November 2002. The steeper drop in intermodal loadings (-6.4%) compared with the one in overall loadings (-4%) could be a reflection of the stronger Canadian dollar. Since a significant proportion of intermodal loadings are destined for the United States, a stronger dollar may make Canadian goods less appealing for our southern neighbours.

The cumulative total for January to November (excluding intermodal loadings) climbed to 212.8 million tonnes, compared with 218.7 million tonnes for the same period in 2002. Weak coal loading had the greatest influence on the decline, while higher loadings of iron ore compared with the previous year played an important role in reducing the gap.

Cumulative tonnage for intermodal traffic for January to November reached 24.2 million tonnes, compared with 22.8 million tonnes for the same period of 2002.

Traffic received from the United States destined for Canada or passing through Canada back into the United States reached 2.7 million tonnes, down 2.6% from October. From January to November, US loadings destined for Canada reached 27.9 million tonnes, up from 24.6 million tonnes in the same period of 2002. The strength of the Canadian dollar, giving Canadian buyers a greater purchasing power, might explain part of the observed increase in received traffic.

**Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.**

The November 2003 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 80, no. 11 (52-001-XIE, \$9/\$83) 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 Jean-Robert Larocque (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; [TransportationStatistics@statcan.ca](mailto:TransportationStatistics@statcan.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

### Primary iron and steel

November 2003

Data on primary iron and steel are now available for November.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0010.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2106, 2116 and 2184.**

The November 2003 issue of *Primary Iron and Steel*, Vol 58, no. 11 (41-001-XIB, \$6/\$51) 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;

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613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

### **Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing** 2000, 2001 and 2002

Additional data about business financing provided by domestic banks are now available for reference years 2000, 2001 and 2002 from the Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing. These include data on debt financing and leasing data for domestic banks by authorization size, province and industry.

Statistics Canada conducts the Survey of Suppliers of Business Financing in partnership with Industry Canada and the Department of Finance, as part of a larger program of research into financing for small and medium-sized enterprises, the SME Financing Data Initiative.

#### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2514.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bruno Morin (613-951-0396; [bruno.morin@statcan.ca](mailto:bruno.morin@statcan.ca)), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

### **Particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard**

November 2003

Data on particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard are now available for November.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0002.**

#### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2141.**

The November 2003 issue of *Particleboard, Oriented Strandboard and Fibreboard*, Vol. 39, no. 11 (36-003-XIB, \$6/\$51) 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. ■

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## NEW PRODUCTS

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**Particleboard, Oriented Strandboard and Fibreboard**, November 2003, Vol. 39, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 36-003-XIB** (\$6/\$51).

**Primary Iron and Steel**, November 2003, Vol. 58, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 41-001-XIB** (\$6/\$51).

**Monthly Railway Carloadings**, November 2003, Vol. 80, no. 11  
**Catalogue number 52-001-XIE** (\$9/\$83).

**Quarterly Telecommunications Statistics**, Third quarter 2003, Vol. 27, no. 3  
**Catalogue number 56-002-XIE** (\$23/\$43).

**Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers: The Many Guises of Innovation: What We Have Learnt and Where We Are Heading**, 2003, no. 4  
**Catalogue number 88F0006XIE2004004** (free).

**Days of Our Lives: Time Use and Transitions Over the Life Course: The Time of Our Lives: Juggling Work and Leisure Over the Life Cycle**, 1998, no. 4  
**Catalogue number 89-584-MIE2003004** (free).

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
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 <b>The Daily</b> Statistics Canada	
Thursday, June 3, 1997 For release at 9:30 a.m.	
<b>MAJOR RELEASES</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban transit, 1996 Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 21 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.</li> </ul>	2
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