

Statistics Canada

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MAJOR RELEASES

Retail trade, November 2003
 Retail sales fell 0.3% in November to \$26.3 billion. Even though the majority of retailers experienced sales increases in November, lower demand for motor vehicles pulled down total retail sales.

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2001 Census technical reports: Languages and mobility and migration

Now available online are the fourth and fifth in a series of 2001 Census technical reports that examine the quality of data from the 2001 Census. The 2001 Census Technical Report for Languages (92-383-XIE, free) and the 2001 Census Technical Report for Mobility and Migration (92-384-XIE, free) are aimed at informing users on the complexity of the data and on any difficulties that could affect their use. It explains the theoretical framework and the definitions used to gather the data, and describes unusual circumstances that could affect the data quality. Moreover, these reports touches upon data capture, edit and imputation, and deals with the historical comparability of the data. From the Census page, choose Reference, then 2001 Census technical reports.

For more information, contact the nearest Statistics Canada Regional Reference Centre.





MAJOR RELEASES

Retail trade

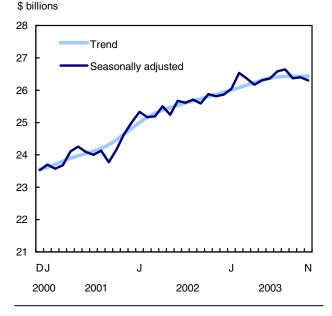
November 2003

Retail sales fell 0.3% in November to \$26.3 billion, after remaining essentially flat in October (+0.1%). Even though the majority of retailers experienced sales increases in November, lower demand for motor vehicles pulled down total retail sales. Excluding sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, the largest component of the automotive sector, retail sales advanced 0.6% in November.

Retail sales have weakened since the peak of \$26.6 billion reached last August, mainly because of weaker sales by auto dealers. Consequently, sales returned to the average level seen in the first half of 2003.

Cumulative retail sales for the first 11 months of 2003 were 3.3% above those in the same period of 2002. This represents about half the 6.3% growth rate observed in the first 11 months of 2002.

Lower auto sales pull down retail trade in November



However, year-to-date retail sales growth is considerably different when removing sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers. Cumulative retail sales, minus auto sales, for the first 11 months of 2003 advanced 4.5%, compared with an increase of 5.4% in the same period of 2002.

Note to readers

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

In constant dollars, retail sales fell 0.6% in November, after increasing 0.5% in October.

November's weakness in retail sales was concentrated in the automotive sector (-1.8%), drug stores (-0.7%) and "other retail" stores (-0.2%). Other semi-durable goods stores, such as toy retailers and bookstores, were behind the soft decline observed in "other retail" stores.

In contrast, retailers in the furniture (+1.9%), clothing (+1.2%), general merchandise (+1.0%) and food (+0.6%) sectors enjoyed healthy sales gains in November.

Car dealers experience sales decline

Sales in the automotive sector fell for a fourth consecutive month in November (-1.8%). Motor and recreational vehicle dealers (-3.1%) and retailers of automotive parts, accessories and services (-0.7%) were behind November's sales decline in the automotive sector.

Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers fell to their lowest level in two years in November. In spite of attractive incentives, sales have fallen 7.7% since July.

Drugstore sales fell for only the second time so far in 2003, down 0.7% in November. Consumer spending in drugstores has generally been increasing since the spring of 2000.

Consumers return to furniture, clothing and general merchandise stores

Consumers returned to furniture stores in a buying mood, pushing sales up 1.9% in November. Sales in furniture stores had remained essentially flat in October (+0.2%) and dropped 1.7% in September. Despite showing half the growth rate of 2002, furniture stores are leading other retailers with a 6.0% cumulative sales gain in the first 11 months of 2003.

Sales in clothing stores advanced 1.2% in November, after remaining essentially unchanged in October (-0.1%). November's gain pushed sales up to their June level. Clothing stores have experienced seesawing sales in the last two years, resulting in a

mere 1.0% overall gain since December 2001. Over that period, sales fell in shoe stores and men's clothing stores, while remaining essentially flat in women's clothing stores. Stores in the "other clothing" category, selling a variety of women's, men's and children's clothing, posted the only sales gain (+5.5%) over the last two years.

Retailers in the general merchandise sector enjoyed a 1.0% sales increase in November, after two months of weak results. Within this sector, sales by other general merchandise stores jumped 2.0% in November, while sales in department stores increased only 0.3%. General merchandisers have generally enjoyed rising sales since the start of 2003, after experiencing essentially flat sales in the second half of 2002.

Retail sales down in six provinces

In November, consumer spending in retail stores fell in Prince Edward Island (-2.3%), Saskatchewan (-1.0%), New Brunswick (-0.8%), Nova Scotia (-0.7%), Ontario (-0.6%) and Quebec (-0.6%).

Ontario's retail sales fell for a fourth straight month in November. Retail sales in Quebec have remained essentially flat since last June, while sales in Saskatchewan have generally been declining since March 2003. Retailers in Prince Edward Island have seen little change in sales in the last two years. In New Brunswick, consumers have generally been reducing their spending in retail stores since April 2003. Retail sales in Nova Scotia have declined slightly since last July.

Related indicators for December

Growth in total employment remained strong in December (+0.3%). A total of 219,000 jobs have been created in the last four months of 2003, compared with only 52,000 in the first eight months of the year. Housing starts advanced 1.2% in December, after a sizable 10.8% drop in November. In 2003, the activity on new housing projects reached its highest level since 1988. It is estimated that the number of new motor vehicles sold in December fell about 9% from November, based on preliminary data from the auto industry.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The November 2003 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XIB, \$18/\$166) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Data on retail trade for December 2003 will be released on February 26.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; 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), Distributive Trades Division.

Retail sales

	November 2002	August 2003 ^r	September 2003 ^r	October 2003 ^r	November 2003 ^p	October to November 2003	November 2002 to November 2003
			sea	sonally adjuste	ed		2003
			\$ millions			% cha	nge
Food	5,678	5,876	5,813	5,897	5,930	0.6	4.4
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,280	5,471	5,405	5,492	5,521	0.5	4.6
All other food stores	398	405	408	405	408	0.7	2.5
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,313	1,355	1,383	1,387	1,377	-0.7	4.9
Clothing	1,355	1,343	1,376	1,375	1,391	1.2	2.7
Shoe stores	153	147	150	147	147	0.5	-3.5
Men's clothing stores	110	106	106	105	105	0.0	-4.5
Women's clothing stores	386	401	404	396	405	2.4	4.8
Other clothing stores	706	689	716	728	734	0.8	4.0
Furniture	1,550	1,671	1,642	1,646	1,678	1.9	8.2
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,241	1,347	1,312	1,308	1,332	1.8	7.3
Household furnishings stores	309	324	330	338	346	2.3	11.9
Automotive	10,334	10,649	10,399	10,321	10,135	-1.8	-1.9
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,754	7,016	6,807	6,821	6,607	-3.1	-2.2
Gasoline service stations	2,103	2,101	2,051	1,964	2,003	2.0	-4.7
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,477	1,532	1,542	1,536	1,525	-0.7	3.2
General merchandise stores	2,833	2,958	2,937	2,940	2,969	1.0	4.8
Department stores	1,664	1,732	1,712	1,712	1,717	0.3	3.2
Other general merchandise stores	1,169	1,226	1,226	1,228	1,252	2.0	7.1
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,751	2,794	2,816	2,831	2,826	-0.2	2.7
Other semi-durable goods stores	797	796	823	815	799	-2.0	0.2
Other durable goods stores	682	684	684	695	704	1.2	3.2
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,271	1,313	1,310	1,321	1,323	0.2	4.1
Total, retail sales	25,813	26,645	26,367	26,397	26,305	-0.3	1.9
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle							
dealers	19,059	19,629	19,560	19,576	19,699	0.6	3.4
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	420	461	445	443	444	0.2	5.8
Prince Edward Island	110	111	110	110	108	-2.3	-2.2
Nova Scotia	760	778	751	770	765	-0.7	0.7
New Brunswick	598	610	597	599	595	-0.8	-0.6
Quebec	5,881	6,154	6,106	6,153	6,115	-0.6	4.0
Ontario	9,710	9,959	9,941	9,900	9,838	-0.6	1.3
Manitoba	883	913	918	905	918	1.4	3.9
Saskatchewan	761	798	788	769	761	-1.0	0.1
Alberta	3,177	3,286	3,216	3,244	3,252	0.3	2.4
British Columbia	3,416	3,477	3,395	3,408	3,414	0.2	-0.1
Yukon	33	34	34	33	34	3.2	2.3
Northwest Territories	45	44	45	44	43	-1.9	-3.4
Nunavut	19	19	20	18	18	-1.8	-4.5

Revised figures. Preliminary figures.

Retail sales

5,676 5,286 390	2003 ^r unadjusted \$ millions		2002 to November 2003 % change
5,286	\$ millions 5,999		November 2003
5,286	\$ millions 5,999		2003
5,286	\$ millions 5,999		
5,286	\$ millions 5,999		% change
5,286	5,999		% change
5,286			
		5,743	1.2
	5,605 395	5,346 397	1.1 1.8
1,320	1,418	1,351	2.3
	•	•	1.2
			-5.7
			-6.0
			2.4
828	813	855	3.2
1.736	1.671	1.837	5.8
			4.9
360	356	394	9.4
9,757	10,228	9,178	-5.9
6,119	6,557	5,679	-7.2
2,009	2,060		-6.7
1,629	1,611	1,625	-0.2
3,400	3,070	3,548	4.4
			2.4
1,311	1,267	1,409	7.5
2,817	2,771	2,841	0.9
			-1.9
			3.0
1,281	1,339	1,301	1.6
26,274	26,671	26,084	-0.7
20,155	20,114	20,405	1.2
447	440	450	2.1
			-5.3
			-5.0 -2.0
			-2.0 -4.1
			1.5
			-1.6
			0.7
			-2.9
			-2.8 0.0
			-1.5
			-1.5 -0.4
			-5.3 -6.6
	1,568 177 134 429 828 1,736 1,377 360 9,757 6,119 2,009 1,629 3,400 2,089 1,311 2,817 866 670 1,281	1,568 1,514 177 170 134 111 429 420 828 813 1,736 1,671 1,377 1,315 360 356 9,757 10,228 6,119 6,557 2,009 2,060 1,629 1,611 3,400 3,070 2,089 1,803 1,311 1,267 2,817 2,817 866 802 670 629 1,281 1,339 26,274 26,671 20,155 20,114 447 440 109 795 776 616 610 5,806 6,267 10,093 10,006 904 917 774 792 3,256 3,288 3,382 3,371 31 42 44	1,568 1,514 1,587 177 170 167 134 111 126 429 420 440 828 813 855 1,736 1,671 1,837 1,377 1,315 1,443 360 356 394 9,757 10,228 9,178 6,119 6,557 5,679 2,009 2,060 1,874 1,629 1,611 1,625 3,400 3,070 3,548 2,089 1,803 2,139 1,311 1,267 1,409 2,817 2,771 2,841 866 802 850 670 629 690 1,281 1,339 1,301 26,274 26,671 26,084 20,155 20,114 20,405 447 440 456 109 109 103 795 776 774<

Revised figures. Preliminary figures.

OTHER RELEASES

Employment Insurance

November 2003 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in November was 571,310, down 1.4% from October. While this was the fourth consecutive monthly decline, the number was still 3.8% higher than in November 2002. Nova Scotia, Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon have all shown continuous decreases for at least the past three months. At the national level, the recent downward trend follows steady increases in the number of regular beneficiaries observed during the first half of 2003.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	November	October	November		
	2003 ^p	to	2002		
		November	to		
		2003	November		
			2003		
_	seasonally adjusted				
_	% change				
Canada	571,310	-1.4	3.8		
Newfoundland and	,- ,-				
Labrador	37,110	1.3	-3.2		
Prince Edward Island	7,910	0.6	-7.4		
Nova Scotia	29,880	-0.8	-3.7		
New Brunswick	33,750	-1.2	-3.8		
Quebec	186,980	-0.7	5.4		
Ontario	148,730	-1.0	12.2		
Manitoba	14,760	1.0	3.7		
Saskatchewan	13,080	0.5	3.8		
Alberta	33,570	-1.9	-3.5		
British Columbia	65,090	-4.2	0.9		
Yukon Territory Northwest Territories	900	-10.9	-10.9		
and Nunavut	1,180	3.5	-1.7		
•	unadjusted for seasonality				
-		% chan	ge		
Northwest Territories	850	18.1	-7.6		
Nunavut	340	13.3	30.8		

p Preliminary figures.

Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

Also on a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in November totalled \$752.6 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 243,590.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits for the week containing the fifteenth day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for December will be released on February 24.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division.

November October November October 2003 2003 2002 to

				November 2003	to November 2003
		SE	easonally adjusted		
				% chang	je
Regular beneficiaries Regular benefits paid (\$ millions) Initial and Renewal Claims received ('000)	571,310 ^p 752.6 ^p 243.6 ^p	579,700 ^p 771.5 ^r 229.2 ^r	550,620 722.4 233.0	-1.4 -2.5 6.3	3.8 4.2 4.5
_			unadjusted		
_				% chang	je
All beneficiaries ('000) (see note to users) Regular beneficiaries ('000) Initial and Renewal Claims received ('000) Payments (\$ millions)	799.3 ^p 510.5 ^p 297.1 1,076.0	724.0 ^p 446.1 ^p 253.2 1,011.7	769.9 494.3 280.5 1,024.2	10.4 14.4 17.3 6.4	3.8 3.3 5.9 5.1
		year-to-da	te (January to Nover	nber)	
-			2003	2002	2002 to 2003
					% change
Claims received ('000)			2,653.2	2,521.9	5.2

Payments (\$ millions) Revised figures.

Note: "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

Natural gas sales

November 2003 (preliminary)

Employment Insurance statistics

Natural gas sales totalled 7 054 million cubic metres in November, up 2.9% from November 2002. Colder-than-normal weather conditions for the regions west of Ontario contributed to the 10.0% increase in sales in the residential sector. The commercial sector had a slight sales decline of -0.9%. The industrial (including direct sales) sector showed an increase in sales of 1.1%.

Year-to-date sales at the end of November were up 1.8% from 2002. Both the residential (+4.6%) and commercial (+4.4%) sectors posted gains. Use of natural gas by the industrial sector (including direct sales) has declined 0.1% so far in 2003.

Natural gas sales

13,470.5

	November	November	November
	2003 ^p	2002	2002
			to
			November
			2003
	thousands of cu	% change	
Natural gas sales	7 054 428	6 856 250	2.9
Residential	1 854 051	1 685 742	10.0
Commercial	1 367 157	1 378 878	-0.9
Industrial	1 909 535	1 759 276	
			1.1
Direct	1 923 685	2 032 354	
		year-to-date	
	2003 ^p	2002	2002 to 2003
	thousands of cu	bic metres	% change
Natural gas sales	64 967 539	63 802 702	1.8
Residential	15 427 487	14 742 139	4.6
Commercial	11 821 683	11 321 453	4.4
Industrial	18 485 666	17 303 940	
Direct	19 232 703	20 435 170	-0.1

13,313.2

November

2002

1.2

Preliminary figures.

Preliminary figures.

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For general information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Després (613-951-3579: Lloyd pierre.després@statcan.ca) or Cundell (613-951-7346: llovd.cundell@statcan.ca). Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Asphalt roofing

December 2003

Data on asphalt roofing are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.

The December 2003 issue of Asphalt Roofing, Vol. 55, no. 12 (45-001-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; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

December 2003

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

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

The December 2003 issue of Mineral Wool Includina Fibrous Glass Insulation. 55. no. 12 (44-004-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), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

July 2003

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for July 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.

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; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

NEW PRODUCTS

Survey Methodology, December 2003, Vol. 29, no. 2 Catalogue number 12-001-XPB (\$30/\$58).

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, November 2003, Vol. 26, no. 11

Catalogue number 22-007-XIB (\$12/\$120).

Cereals and Oilseeds Review, November 2003, Vol. 26, no. 11

Catalogue number 22-007-XPB (\$17/\$160).

Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, December 2003, Vol. 55, no. 12 Catalogue number 44-004-XIB (\$6/\$51).

Asphalt Roofing, December 2003, Vol. 55, no. 12 Catalogue number 45-001-XIB (\$6/\$51).

Languages, 2001 Census Technical Report (reference products: 2001 Census)
Catalogue number 92-383-XIE (free).

Mobility and Migration, 2001 Census Technical Report (reference products: 2001 Census)
Catalogue number 92-384-XIE
(free).

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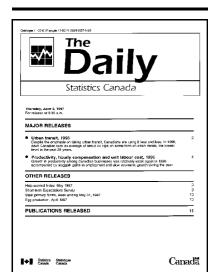
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