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## MAJOR RELEASES

- Wholesale trade, August 2004

Wholesale sales grew for a sixth consecutive month in August (+0.7\%). This gain was attributable in part to a surge in sales in the machinery and electronic equipment sector.

- Leading indicators, September 2004

The growth in the composite index continued to slow in September ( $+0.3 \%$ ), following advances of $0.5 \%$ in August, $0.7 \%$ in July and a two-year high of $1.0 \%$ in June.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

## Wholesale trade

August 2004
Wholesale sales grew for a sixth consecutive month in August (+0.7\%). This gain was attributable in part to a surge in sales in the machinery and electronic equipment sector. Wholesalers sold $\$ 38.3$ billion worth of goods and services in August.

Total wholesale sales, which have shown strong increases since September 2003, strengthened in 2004, spurred on by flourishing international trade and a strong manufacturing sector. Previously, sales went through a period of decline starting in March 2003.


In August, sales advanced in five of the seven sectors, notably machinery and electronic equipment, the "other products" category and automotive products. Excluding the automotive sector, sales rose 0.5\%.

Declines were observed in two sectors: food, beverages and tobacco products ( $-1.7 \%$ ) and personal and household goods (-2.1\%).

In constant dollars, wholesale sales rose $0.8 \%$ in August.

## Sales of machinery and electronic equipment show increased strength

Following a $1.2 \%$ rise in July, sales in the machinery and electronic equipment sector grew by $2.5 \%$ in August. This gain was largely concentrated in sales of computers and other electronic equipment (+3.8\%) and office and professional equipment ( $+4.7 \%$ ).

Since the start of 2004, sales of computers and other electronic equipment have shown signs of strength owing to robust demand for products such as laptops and cellular phones. Even so, sales have remained below the record levels reached in 2000 and prior to the collapse that occurred in 2001.

## Strong global demand boosts sales in the "other products" category

Wholesale sales in the "other products" category jumped $3.1 \%$ in August to $\$ 4.6$ billion. This followed an advance of $0.3 \%$ in July. Wholesalers in this category have had five increases in the past six months.

This growth was partly due to strong global demand for chemical products and other agricultural supplies. Big increases in the prices of some agricultural products also encouraged some farmers to boost production.

Global demand also stimulated the sales of recycled metal wholesalers, who have largely benefited from an increase in the prices of metal products since the start of the year.

## Nova Scotia posts the largest gain

Nova Scotia wholesalers saw sales rise $8.9 \%$ in August, a third consecutive increase. Gains were observed in numerous trade groups, notably building materials and the "other products" group. Following a strong period of growth in 2002, sales started to decline beginning with the second quarter of 2003, but have gained strength in recent months.

Alberta wholesale sales rebounded in August (+3.6\%) after two consecutive declines. The increase was attributable to the machinery and equipment group and the "other products" category. Since the start of the year, sales in Alberta were up 11.0\% compared with the same period in 2003. Wholesale sales in this province have generally been rising since September 2003, following a period of stability that began in February 2003.

The $2.2 \%$ drop in wholesale sales in Quebec was mainly attributable to weak sales in the food products and apparel groups in August.

## Inventory-to-sales ratio at record low

Increased sales, combined with stable inventories, caused the inventory-to-sales ratio to decline in August to a record low of 1.16, down from 1.17 in July. Since September 2003, the ratio has followed a slight downward trend after a period of increases that began in December 2002.


Wholesalers' inventories remained unchanged in August. The trend in overall inventories has generally been upward since November 2003, following a five-month period when wholesalers reduced their inventories.

Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 to 081-0010.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The August 2004 issue of Wholesale Trade (63-008-XIB, \$15/\$150) will be available soon.

Wholesale trade estimates for September 2004 will be released on November 19.

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

## Wholesale merchants' sales

\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \& \[
\begin{gathered}
\hline \text { August } \\
2003
\end{gathered}
\] \& \[
\begin{gathered}
\hline \text { March } \\
2004^{r}
\end{gathered}
\] \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& \hline \text { June } \\
\& 2004^{r}
\end{aligned}
\] \& \[
\begin{gathered}
\text { July } \\
2004^{r}
\end{gathered}
\] \& \[
\begin{gathered}
\hline \text { August } \\
2004^{\mathrm{p}}
\end{gathered}
\] \& July
2004
to
August
2004 \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
\hline \text { August } \\
2003 \\
\text { to } \\
\text { August } \\
2004 \\
\hline
\end{array}
\] \\
\hline \& \& seas \& adjust \& \& \& \& \\
\hline \& \& \& millions \& \& \& \% \& \\
\hline Total, wholesale sales \& 33,119 \& 37,642 \& 37,893 \& 38,081 \& 38,345 \& 0.7 \& 15.8 \\
\hline Farm products \& 389 \& 410 \& 394 \& 396 \& 409 \& 3.2 \& 5.2 \\
\hline Food, beverages and tobacco products Food products Alcohol and tobacco \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
6,965 \\
6,355 \\
610
\end{array}
\] \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
7,208 \\
6,508 \\
700
\end{array}
\] \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
7,166 \\
6,506 \\
660
\end{array}
\] \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
7,381 \\
6,698 \\
683
\end{array}
\] \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
7,258 \\
6,610 \\
648
\end{array}
\] \& -1.7
-1.3
-5.0 \& 4.2
4.0
6.3 \\
\hline \begin{tabular}{l}
Personal and household goods \\
Apparel \\
Household and personal products Pharmaceuticals
\end{tabular} \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
4,828 \\
746 \\
2,128 \\
1,955
\end{array}
\] \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
\mathbf{5 , 2 6 3} \\
760 \\
2,322 \\
2,180
\end{array}
\] \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
\mathbf{5 , 1 5 4} \\
726 \\
2,307 \\
2,120
\end{array}
\] \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
5,196 \\
689 \\
2,370 \\
2,136
\end{array}
\] \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
5,087 \\
676 \\
2,332 \\
2,078
\end{array}
\] \& -2.1
-1.9
-1.6
-2.7 \& 5.3
-9.3
9.6
6.3 \\
\hline Automotive products Motor Vehicles Motor vehicle parts and accessories \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& \mathbf{6 , 2 4 3} \\
\& 4,909 \\
\& 1,334
\end{aligned}
\] \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 7,684 \\
\& 6,223 \\
\& 1,461
\end{aligned}
\] \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 7,984 \\
\& 6,452 \\
\& 1,532
\end{aligned}
\] \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 7,694 \\
\& 6,174 \\
\& 1,519
\end{aligned}
\] \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 7,792 \\
\& 6,265 \\
\& 1,527
\end{aligned}
\] \& 1.3
1.5
0.5 \& 24.8
27.6
14.4 \\
\hline Building materials Building supplies Metal products Lumber and millwork \& \[
\begin{array}{r}
4,100 \\
2,483 \\
776 \\
841
\end{array}
\] \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& \mathbf{5 , 0 6 1} \\
\& 2,931 \\
\& 1,049 \\
\& 1,082
\end{aligned}
\] \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& \mathbf{5 , 1 0 2} \\
\& 2,908 \\
\& 1,075 \\
\& 1,119
\end{aligned}
\] \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& \mathbf{5 , 2 2 0} \\
\& 2,926 \\
\& 1,120 \\
\& 1,174
\end{aligned}
\] \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& \mathbf{5 , 2 7 6} \\
\& 2,929 \\
\& 1,193 \\
\& 1,154
\end{aligned}
\] \& 1.1
0.1
6.5
-1.7 \& 28.7
17.9
53.8
37.3 \\
\hline Machinery and electronic equipment Machinery and equipment Computer and other electronic equipment Office and professional equipment \& \[
\begin{aligned}
\& 6,647 \\
\& 2,843 \\
\& 2,206 \\
\& 1,598
\end{aligned}
\] \& 7,632
3,231
2,699
1,702 \& 7,622
3,290
2,639
1,692 \& 7,711
3,330
2,707
1,673 \& 7,900
3,339
2,809
1,752 \& 2.5
0.2

3.8
4.7 \& 18.8
17.4
27.3
9.6 <br>
\hline Other products \& 3,947 \& 4,383 \& 4,473 \& 4,484 \& 4,623 \& 3.1 \& 17.1 <br>
\hline Sales, province and territory Newfoundland and Labrador \& 217 \& 222 \& 224 \& 210 \& 203 \& -3.7 \& -6.5 <br>
\hline Prince Edward Island \& 49 \& 58 \& 53 \& 50 \& 50 \& -1.0 \& 1.0 <br>
\hline Nova Scotia \& 536 \& 480 \& 499 \& 507 \& 553 \& 8.9 \& 3.2 <br>
\hline New Brunswick \& 439 \& 454 \& 444 \& 429 \& 437 \& 1.9 \& -0.5 <br>
\hline Quebec \& 6,556 \& 7,167 \& 7,238 \& 7,464 \& 7,299 \& -2.2 \& 11.3 <br>
\hline Ontario \& 16,985 \& 19,806 \& 19,908 \& 19,885 \& 20,077 \& 1.0 \& 18.2 <br>
\hline Manitoba \& 848 \& 960 \& 1,014 \& 937 \& 939 \& 0.2 \& 10.7 <br>
\hline Saskatchewan \& 889 \& 966 \& 1,007 \& 981 \& 1,003 \& 2.2 \& 12.8 <br>
\hline Alberta \& 3,383 \& 3,902 \& 3,846 \& 3,824 \& 3,960 \& 3.6 \& 17.1 <br>
\hline British Columbia \& 3,193 \& 3,605 \& 3,640 \& 3,774 \& 3,803 \& 0.8 \& 19.1 <br>
\hline Yukon \& 8 \& 7 \& 7 \& 7 \& 7 \& -3.0 \& -18.5 <br>
\hline Northwest Territories \& 14 \& 14 \& 12 \& 12 \& 14 \& 11.6 \& -5.0 <br>
\hline Nunavut \& 1 \& 1 \& 1 \& 1 \& 2 \& 117.7 \& 50.2 <br>
\hline
\end{tabular}

[^0]Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio


[^1]
## Leading indicators

September 2004
The growth in the composite index continued to slow in September ( $+0.3 \%$ ), following advances of $0.5 \%$ in August, $0.7 \%$ in July and a two-year high of $1.0 \%$ in June. The sources of growth were the narrowest in 16 months. The slowdown reflects a marked deceleration for the US leading indicator and a levelling off of housing after unsustainable gains in the spring. Overall, 6 of the 10 components rose, 1 less than in August as sales of durable goods turned down.


The growth of the US leading indicator stalled for the first time in 16 months. The components related to household demand all retreated. This slackening followed several months of disappointing job reports, reflected in an upturn in initial demands for unemployment insurance. The outlook for exports is further complicated by the rise in the Canadian dollar and soaring commodity prices.

In Canada, the housing index posted a second straight drop ( $-0.8 \%$ ). Housing starts plateaued while the inventory of vacant units continued to increase, to their highest level since July 2001. The increase in inventories was especially marked in Quebec, notably Montréal. Conversely, housing starts strengthened on the Prairies in September, buoyed by the booming resource sector.

Business spending remained upbeat. Capital spending drove an eleventh straight increase in new orders. The ratio of shipments to stocks rose by more than $1 \%$ for a fifth straight month, reaching its highest level in four years. These gains, however, were not reflected in manufacturers' demand for labour, as the average workweek fell for the fourth month in a row and employment has been little changed since January. Services employment grew steadily over the last three months.

The stock market snapped out of a two-month slump, led by gains in the resource sector, notably energy and metals. The greater role of resources explains why the stock market in Canada has outperformed the United States.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

A more detailed analysis of the components is available online. From the Canadian statistics page, choose Economic conditions, then click on the banner ad for Canadian Economic Observer. From that page, choose Issues of CEO, then Composite Index. For more information on the economy, consult the October 2004 issue of Canadian Economic Observer, Vol. 17, no. 10 (11-010-XIB, \$19/\$182; 11-010-XPB, \$25/\$243), which will be available tomorrow.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Francine Roy (613-951-3627; ceo@statcan.ca) Current Economic Analysis Group.

## Leading indicators

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { April } \\ & 2004 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { May } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 2004 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { July } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { August } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { September } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | Last month of data available |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | \% change |
| Composite leading indicator (1992=100) | 193.4 | 195.2 | 197.1 | 198.4 | 199.3 | 199.9 | 0.3 |
| Housing index (1992=100) ${ }^{1}$ | 139.0 | 141.8 | 145.8 | 147.5 | 146.0 | 144.8 | -0.8 |
| Business and personal services employment ('000) | 2,622 | 2,613 | 2,607 | 2,608 | 2,609 | 2,611 | 0.1 |
| S\&P/TSX stock price index ( $1975=1,000$ ) | 8,472 | 8,511 | 8,516 | 8,450 | 8,408 | 8,493 | 1.0 |
| Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ${ }^{2}$ | 121,413 | 123,226 | 125,724 | 127,180 | 128,323 | 129,298 | 0.8 |
| U.S. composite leading indicator $(1992=100)^{3}$ | 114.2 | 114.5 | 114.9 | 115.2 | 115.4 | 115.4 | 0.0 |
| Manufacturing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average workweek (hours) | 38.7 | 38.8 | 38.7 | 38.6 | 38.5 | 38.4 | -0.3 |
| New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ${ }^{4}$ | 21,811 | 22,305 | 22,723 | 22,909 | 23,049 | 23,216 | 0.7 |
| Shipments/inventories of finished goods ${ }^{4}$ | 1.78 | 1.81 | 1.84 | 1.86 | 1.88 | 1.90 | $0.02^{5}$ |
| Retail trade |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ${ }^{4}$ | 1,991 | 2,009 | 2,028 | 2,041 | 2,050 | 2,063 | 0.6 |
| Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ${ }^{4}$ | 7,458 | 7,463 | 7,495 | 7,558 | 7,637 | 7,622 | -0.2 |
| Unsmoothed composite leading indicator | 197.7 | 198.4 | 200.6 | 199.6 | 200.3 | 200.6 | 0.1 |

[^2]
## OTHER RELEASES

## Travel between Canada and other countries

 August 2004Travel to Canada from other countries fell by $4.0 \%$ in August. Meanwhile, Canadian travel to other countries edged down $0.2 \%$ compared with July.

Travel from the United States to Canada fell $4.5 \%$ as an estimated 2.7 million American residents made a cross-border trip. Meanwhile, Canadian travel to the United States remained virtually unchanged ( $+0.1 \%$ ). (Unless otherwise specified, data are seasonally adjusted).

Concerns about border delays as a result of increased security may have influenced travellers as the number of American residents making car trips to Canada plummeted. Just over 1.3 million Americans made same-day car trips in August, the lowest figure on record. Overnight car travel also declined $5.6 \%$ compared with July. All modes of overnight travel from the United States to Canada fell in August.

Travel by Canadian residents to the United States remained stable in August as 2.9 million made a trip. Same-day car travel was relatively unchanged $(+0.1 \%)$ and overnight travel rose. While the number of overnight trips by plane fell $3.9 \%$, the decline was offset by a $4.9 \%$ increase in overnight car trips. The value of the Canadian dollar increased for the third consecutive month to US 76.2 cents.

Travel to Canada from other countries increased slightly ( $+0.2 \%$ ). Meanwhile, travel to overseas countries
by Canadians continued to decline in August. Canadian residents made 451,000 overseas trips, down $2.6 \%$ from July. This was the sixth monthly decline in the last eight months and the lowest level since October 2003.

Travel to Canada from overseas countries, however, has increased in five of the last seven months. An estimated 345,000 travellers arrived in Canada in August, up $0.2 \%$ from July. Travel was also up in 7 of Canada's top 12 overseas markets. Switzerland led the way with an $8.0 \%$ monthly increase, followed by Hong Kong ( $+6.7 \%$ ). Meanwhile, travel from the United Kingdom fell $16.7 \%$ after setting a record high in July.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The August 2004 issue of International Travel, Advance Information, Vol. 20, no. 8 (66-001-PIE, \$7/\$59) is now available. See How to order products.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; cult.tourstats@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; frances.kremarik@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

## Travel between Canada and other countries

|  | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { July } \\ 2004^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { August } \\ 2004^{p} \end{gathered}$ | July to August 2004 | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { August } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { August } \\ 2003 \\ \text { to } \\ \text { August } \\ 2004 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | seasonally adjusted |  |  | unadjusted |  |
|  | '000 |  | \% change | '000 | \% change |
| Canadian trips abroad ${ }^{1}$ | 3,323 | 3,315 | -0.2 | 4,342 | -1.7 |
| to the United States | 2,860 | 2,864 | 0.1 | 3,835 | -2.1 |
| to other countries | 463 | 451 | -2.6 | 507 | 1.3 |
| Same-day car trips to the United States | 1,688 | 1,689 | 0.1 | 2,077 | -5.0 |
| Total trips, one or more nights | 1,585 | 1,588 | 0.2 | 2,218 | 1.6 |
| United States ${ }^{2}$ | 1,122 | 1,137 | 1.3 | 1,711 | 1.7 |
| Car | 660 | 692 | 4.9 | 1,254 | 3.7 |
| Plane | 370 | 355 | -3.9 | 298 | -4.6 |
| Other modes of transportation | 93 | 89 | -3.5 | 159 | -1.1 |
| Other countries ${ }^{3}$ | 463 | 451 | -2.6 | 507 | 1.3 |
| Travel to Canada ${ }^{1}$ | 3,168 | 3,040 | -4.0 | 5,190 | -4.9 |
| from the United States | 2,823 | 2,695 | -4.5 | 4,607 | -7.7 |
| from other countries | 345 | 345 | 0.2 | 583 | 25.3 |
| Same-day car trips from the United States | 1,368 | 1,324 | -3.3 | 1,994 | -12.6 |
| Total trips, one or more nights | 1,616 | 1,565 | -3.2 | 2,928 | 0.3 |
| United States ${ }^{2}$ | 1,281 | 1,231 | -3.9 | 2,365 | -4.1 |
| Car | 794 | 749 | -5.6 | 1,496 | -11.0 |
| Plane | 335 | 331 | -1.1 | 532 | 19.1 |
| Other modes of transportation | 153 | 151 | -1.1 | 338 | -0.1 |
| Other countries ${ }^{3}$ | 335 | 333 | -0.5 | 562 | 24.0 |
| Most important overseas markets ${ }^{4}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| United Kingdom | 83 | 69 | -16.7 | 108 | 15.2 |
| Japan | 35 | 32 | -9.2 | 51 | 69.8 |
| France | 28 | 29 | 5.8 | 58 | 34.4 |
| Germany | 26 | 26 | -1.4 | 50 | 13.7 |
| Australia | 16 | 16 | 3.6 | 22 | 30.9 |
| South Korea | 14 | 14 | 2.7 | 24 | 12.0 |
| Mexico | 14 | 14 | -1.2 | 25 | 27.6 |
| Netherlands | 10 | 11 | 3.8 | 19 | 36.2 |
| Hong Kong | 9 | 10 | 6.7 | 16 | 15.8 |
| China | 8 | 9 | 6.3 | 14 | 27.5 |
| Switzerland | 8 | 9 | 8.0 | 15 | 26.5 |
| Taiwan | 9 | 8 | -12.9 | 11 | 7.8 |

[^3]
## Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

Second quarter 2004
Consumers warmed to spending on hardware, lawn and garden products in the second quarter of 2004, according to the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey.

In total, $\$ 90.3$ billion was spent in retail stores in the second quarter of 2004, up from $\$ 74.0$ billion in the first quarter. Data have not been adjusted for seasonality.

This is the second release where data collected from this survey are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002), which is not comparable to the previously used Standard Industrial Classification (SIC 1980). In the NAICS 2002, the retail sector now includes home renovation centres and computer and software stores,
which were previously classified in the wholesale trade sector in the SIC 1980. In addition, all automotive repair shops have been transferred from the retail trade sector to the services sector.

Spending on hardware, lawn and garden products reached $\$ 7.3$ billion in the second quarter of 2004, almost double first quarter sales. Spending on these products accounted for 8 cents of every retail dollar spent in the second quarter, compared with only 5 cents in the first quarter. This reflects the seasonal nature of these products (sales normally surge in the spring as consumers start gardening and outdoor home renovation projects).

Within the hardware, lawn and garden products category, hardware and home renovation products
(which includes such items as lumber, plumbing supplies and household paint) accounted for nearly 6 cents of every dollar spent in retail stores in the second quarter. Consumers spent $\$ 2.3$ billion on lawn and garden products or 2.5 cents of every retail dollar.

Of all the hardware, lawn and garden products sold in the second quarter, $70.4 \%$ were sold in building and outdoor home supplies stores and $18.0 \%$ in general merchandise stores.

Notwithstanding the seasonal increase in hardware, lawn and garden products, sales of motor vehicles, parts and services continued to drive sales.

Of every dollar spent in retail stores in the second quarter, consumers spent a substantial 24 cents on motor vehicles, parts and services, significantly more than the almost 16 cents they spent on food (excluding beverages). Consumers spent as much of their retail dollars (8 cents of every dollar) on alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and tobacco combined as they did on gasoline and oil.

Spending on motor vehicles, parts and services totalled $\$ 21.7$ billion in the second quarter of 2004. Sales of new vehicles accounted for $57.5 \%$ of these sales while used vehicle sales were almost one-quarter of these sales. Automotive parts, labour and rental receipts made up the remainder at $18.1 \%$.

Health and personal care products and clothing, footwear and accessories each accounted for 8 cents of every retail dollar. Of all the clothing, footwear and accessories sold, approximately two-thirds of the sales were in Clothing and Accessories stores and a little over one-quarter in General Merchandise Stores.

Of all the health and personal care products sold, about two-thirds were sold in pharmacies and personal care stores. Approximately the same proportion (16\%) was sold in food and beverage stores as was sold in general merchandise stores. Spending on prescription drugs in the second quarter amounted to $\$ 3.8$ billion, or roughly half of all the spending on health and personal care products.

The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality.

Note: For information on the retail trade industry classification in the NAICS 2002, please consult the Special Aggregation: Retail Trade and Wholesale Trade page on our Web site. From the Definitions, data sources and methods page, select the Industry link found in the Standard classifications section, or follow the link on the survey number found at the end of this release.

## Available on CANSIM: table 080-0018.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

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), Distributive Trades Division.

## Sales by commodity, all retail stores

|  | First quarter $2004^{r}$ ned |  | Second quarter $2004^{p}$ | Distribution |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | unadjusted |  | unadjusted |  |
|  | \$ millions |  | \$ millions |  |
| Commodity |  |  |  |  |
| Food and beverages | 17,089 | 23.1 | 18,958 | 21.0 |
| Health and personal care products | 7,007 | 9.5 | 7,216 | 8.0 |
| Clothing, footwear and accessories | 5,406 | 7.3 | 7,028 | 7.8 |
| Furniture, home furnishings and electronics | 6,799 | 9.2 | 7,298 | 8.1 |
| Motor vehicles, parts and services | 16,914 | 22.9 | 21,702 | 24.0 |
| Automotive fuels, oils and additives | 6,387 | 8.6 | 7,385 | 8.2 |
| Housewares | 1,556 | 2.1 | 1,672 | 1.9 |
| Hardware, lawn and garden products | 3,748 | 5.1 | 7,315 | 8.1 |
| Sporting and leisure goods | 2,425 | 3.3 | 2,860 | 3.2 |
| All other goods and services | 6,684 | 9.0 | 8,817 | 9.8 |
| Total | 74,015 | 100.0 | 90,251 | 100.0 |

[^4]
## Aquaculture

2003
Revenues from Canada's aquaculture industry declined last year in the wake of lower production and tumbling exports of farmed salmon.

The industry reported operating revenues of $\$ 731.5$ million in 2003, down $3.0 \%$ from the peak of $\$ 754.4$ million in 2002.

Sales of finfish fell $3.3 \%$ to $\$ 643.6$ million, driven by declining revenue from salmon, which dominates the industry. The decline occurred as production fell 12.9\% and exports declined.

Three other factors also had an affect on total revenue: low prices for farmed salmon, a strengthening Canadian dollar and outbreaks of disease. Although salmon prices improved modestly in 2003, they have been weak since 2000, partially because rising international competition resulted in an increased supply to the United States.

The value of aquaculture exports plunged $23.5 \%$ to $\$ 490.8$ million last year, as shipments of Atlantic salmon fell. The United States is Canada's most important customer when it comes to salmon, representing $95.0 \%$ of the international market.

Not surprisingly, the country's two largest aquaculture producing provinces generated lower sales of finfish in 2003. Finfish sales in British Columbia were down $3.3 \%$ to $\$ 317.7$ million, while sales in New Brunswick ( $-4.4 \%$ ) struggled to reach $\$ 263.0$ million. Lower production and exports, weak prices and outbreaks of disease adversely affected both provinces.

Meanwhile, revenue from molluscs rose 7.4\% to $\$ 66.9$ million. Mollusc sales in Prince Edward Island more than recovered from the declines posted in 2002,
advancing $13.2 \%$ to $\$ 30.0$ million, to account for $44.8 \%$ of the Canadian total.

Nationally, product expenses (the cost of products and services purchased from other businesses, excluding capital and labour costs) fell 4.9\% to $\$ 511.0$ million last year.

Purchases of fish and eggs along with transportation and storage costs dropped notably in 2003. However, feed costs, which accounted for $45.7 \%$ of all product expenses for finfish producers, declined marginally to $\$ 233.3$ million. Labour costs were also down.

The aquaculture industry produced a gross output (including sales, subsidies and inventory change) of $\$ 722.8$ million in 2003, down $\$ 34.0$ million from a year earlier.

The gross value added by the industry to the economy, or the difference between gross output and total product expenses, fell $1.8 \%$ from 2002 to $\$ 216.1$ million.

## Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0001 and 003-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2927, 3479 and 4701.

Aquaculture Statistics, 2003 (23-222-XIE, free) is now available online. From the Our products and service page, under Browse our Internet publications, choose Free, then Agriculture.

For general information, contact client services (1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Debbie Dupuis (613-951-2553; debbie.dupuis@statcan.ca) or Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; bernadette.alain @statcan.ca).

## Value added account: Aquaculture industry

|  | New Brunswick |  |  | British Columbia |  |  | Canada |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | $\begin{array}{r} 2001 \\ \text { to } \\ 2002 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2002 \\ \text { to } \\ 2003 \end{array}$ |
|  |  |  |  | \$'000 |  |  |  |  |  | \% change |  |
| Sales of aqua products/services | 277,100 | 282,300 | 269,200 | 312,400 | 349,600 | 338,190 | 690,030 | 734,100 | 714,975 | 6 | -3 |
| Total operating revenue | 282,500 | 286,600 | 273,250 | 326,900 | 357,950 | 342,800 | 716,800 | 754,350 | 731,495 | 5 | -3 |
| Gross output | 297,500 | 313,600 | 283,250 | 346,900 | 332,950 | 323,000 | 751,200 | 756,750 | 722,795 | 1 | -4 |
| Total of product inputs | 210,700 | 221,000 | 198,350 | 230,400 | 262,200 | 254,800 | 496,000 | 536,745 | 506,671 | 8 | -6 |
| Gross value added (factor cost) | 86,800 | 92,600 | 84,900 | 116,500 | 70,750 | 68,200 | 255,200 | 220,005 | 216,124 | -14 | -2 |

## Stocks of frozen poultry meat

October 1, 2004 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on October 1 totalled 62,376 metric tonnes, down 1.1\% from a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; Sandy.Gielfeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

## Crude oil and natural gas

August 2004 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for August 2004.

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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

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[^0]:    ${ }_{p}$ Revised figures.
    $p$ Preliminary figures.

[^1]:    $r$ Revised figures.
    p Preliminary figures.

[^2]:    1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).
    2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.
    3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.
    4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.
    5. Difference from previous month.
[^3]:    p Preliminary figures.
    Revised figures.

    1. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.
    2. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.
    3. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.
    4. Includes same-day and one or more night trips.
[^4]:    ${ }^{r}$ Revised data.
    $p$ Preliminary data.

