



# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Monday, December 13, 2004**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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### Major releases

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- **New motor vehicle sales, October 2004**

Strong demand for passenger cars led to a 7.7% rebound in new motor vehicle sales in October, following two consecutive monthly declines. However, this gain was partially offset by lower sales in November, according to preliminary data.

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  - **Survey of Household Spending, 2003**

Canadians spent a bundle on new electronic devices, such as cameras, DVD players and cell phones in 2003, according to estimates from the latest Survey of Household Spending. They also spent less on new cars and trucks, but more on insurance and Internet services.

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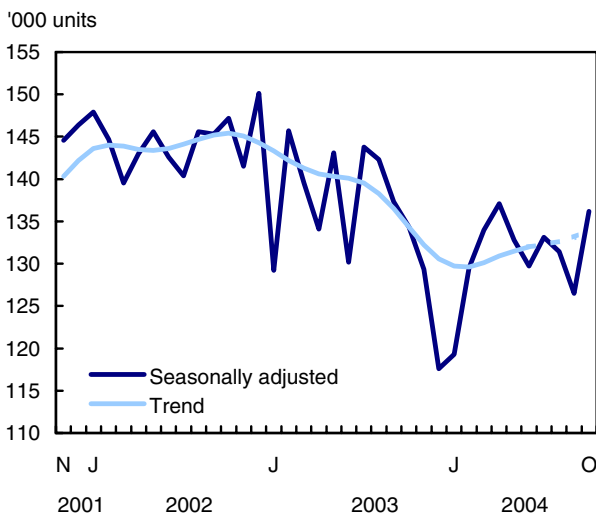
## Major releases

### New motor vehicle sales

October 2004

Strong demand for passenger cars led to a 7.7% rebound in new motor vehicle sales in October, following two consecutive monthly declines. However, according to preliminary auto industry figures, the number of new motor vehicles sold in November is estimated to have declined by 3.7%, mainly due to lower demand for passenger cars.

#### New motor vehicle sales rose sharply in October



The last few trend points could be subject to revisions when more data are added. This is indicated by the dashed line.

In all, consumers purchased 136,243 new vehicles in October, 9,700 more than in September and the second highest monthly sales level in 2004 after April. October was characterized by generous programs promoting the sales of new models.

Despite the substantial gain in October, cumulative sales for the first 10 months of 2004 remain 5.1% lower compared with the same period in 2003. New motor vehicle sales have been relatively stable in recent months, following a string of increases that began at the start of the year and peaked in April. Previously, sales had gone through a period of major declines throughout the second half of 2003. In the first half of 2003, sales showed sizable fluctuations while at the same time trending downward.

#### Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated. Seasonally adjusted provincial data back to January 1991 are available on CANSIM.

**Passenger cars** include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars. **Trucks** include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

**North American-built new motor vehicles** include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included with those for British Columbia.

The New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey is compiled on the basis of figures obtained from motor vehicle manufacturers and importers. These results may vary from those obtained directly from auto dealers, due to possible differences in record keeping.

#### Strong passenger car sales

Although sales of both categories of vehicles rose in October, consumers had their hearts set on passenger cars, which accounted for two-thirds of the increase compared with September.

Dealers reported selling 70,483 new passenger cars in October. This was an increase of 9.8% compared with September when sales fell substantially (-6.6%). The strength of the gain in overall car sales was mainly attributable to North American-built cars, which advanced 11.2%, fully offsetting the drop in September. Sales of overseas-built cars rose 6.2% in October. This was the second consecutive increase of roughly the same size.

Sales of North American-built cars have been trending upward since the start of 2004, following a period of declines throughout the second half of 2003. Sales of overseas-built cars have generally been moving downward since the start of 2003. Previously, they had posted an upward trend starting in the fall of 1996.

As for new trucks, 65,760 units were sold in October, up 5.5% from September. This increase followed two consecutive monthly declines. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

Sales of both passenger cars and trucks increased at the start of 2004, following a period of steep declines that were accentuated in the second half of 2003.

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This downward movement first appeared in sales of passenger cars, which began to decline in the fall of 2002. For truck sales, the weakness began to appear in mid-2003.

### **Nearly all provinces post gains**

The number of new motor vehicles sold increased in October in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, where it remained almost unchanged from September when it was the only province to register an increase. For each of the other provinces, October's gain was one of the largest monthly advances in 2004.

Quebec (+5.3%), the region formed by British Columbia and the territories (+4.4%) and Manitoba (+3.2%) also posted gains below the national average (+7.7%).

### **Almost half the increase occurred in Ontario**

In Ontario, motor vehicle sales surged 9.7% to 52,001 units in October, an increase of 4,598 vehicles compared with September. This figure represents 47%

of the national increase registered in October. Sales had declined in September and August in Ontario.

Despite the rebound in October, sales in Ontario remain relatively stable, following a string of increases that began at the start of the year and peaked in April. Previously, sales had gone through a period of major declines throughout the second half of 2003.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.**

The October 2004 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007-XIE, \$14/\$133) will soon be available.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for November 2004 will be released on January 14, 2005.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363), Distributive Trades Division

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## New motor vehicle sales

	October 2003	September 2004 <sup>r</sup>	October 2004 <sup>p</sup>	October 2003 to October 2004	September to October 2004
seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
<b>New motor vehicles</b>	<b>134,272</b>	<b>126,543</b>	<b>136,243</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>7.7</b>
Passenger cars	69,678	64,213	70,483	1.2	9.8
North American <sup>1</sup>	49,369	45,296	50,390	2.1	11.2
Overseas	20,310	18,917	20,093	-1.1	6.2
Trucks, vans and buses	64,594	62,330	65,760	1.8	5.5
<b>New motor vehicles</b>					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,122	2,017	2,361	11.3	17.1
Prince Edward Island	427	409	408	-4.4	-0.2
Nova Scotia	4,005	3,723	4,014	0.2	7.8
New Brunswick	3,027	2,989	3,285	8.5	9.9
Quebec	34,435	32,141	33,852	-1.7	5.3
Ontario	51,669	47,403	52,001	0.6	9.7
Manitoba	3,775	3,743	3,862	2.3	3.2
Saskatchewan	3,492	3,058	3,468	-0.7	13.4
Alberta	16,135	16,095	17,364	7.6	7.9
British Columbia <sup>2</sup>	15,186	14,965	15,628	2.9	4.4
	October 2003	September 2004	October 2004 <sup>p</sup>	October 2003 to October 2004	
unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
<b>New motor vehicles</b>	<b>124,427</b>	<b>130,699</b>	<b>123,552</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	
Passenger cars	65,226	66,729	63,898	-2.0	
North American <sup>1</sup>	44,518	46,308	44,405	-0.3	
Overseas	20,708	20,421	19,493	-5.9	
Trucks, vans and buses	59,201	63,970	59,654	0.8	
<b>New motor vehicles</b>					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,655	2,118	1,785	7.9	
Prince Edward Island	377	425	373	-1.1	
Nova Scotia	3,363	3,392	3,429	2.0	
New Brunswick	2,514	2,884	2,710	7.8	
Quebec	31,122	33,223	29,481	-5.3	
Ontario	49,181	50,266	48,196	-2.0	
Manitoba	3,558	4,145	3,555	-0.1	
Saskatchewan	3,299	3,252	3,283	-0.5	
Alberta	15,574	16,606	16,677	7.1	
British Columbia <sup>2</sup>	13,784	14,388	14,063	2.0	

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

1. Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

2. Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

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## Survey of Household Spending

2003

Canadians spent a bundle last year on new electronic devices, such as cameras, DVD players and cell phones, according to estimates from the latest Survey of Household Spending. They also spent less on new cars and trucks, but more on insurance and Internet services.

The popularity of DVD players skyrocketed in 2003, with more than half of all Canadian households now reporting them, up sharply from 36% in 2002.

More than 54% of households reported having at least one cell phone, up slightly from 52% in 2002. Households spent an average of \$290 on cellular services, up 12% from 2002, and more than 40% higher than in 2001. Cell phones now account for nearly \$3 of every \$10 spent on all telephone services.

Overall, households spent \$61,150 on average in 2003, a 1.8% increase from the previous year. Personal taxes accounted for an estimated 20% of the average household budget, shelter 19%, transportation 14% and food 11%, all about the same as in 2002.

Households in Ontario and Alberta and all three northern territories reported spending above the national average. Those in the Northwest Territories reported the highest spending at \$77,070 per household. Newfoundland and Labrador continued to have the lowest provincial average (\$48,920).

Households in Nunavut reported the highest average spending on food (\$12,380) almost double the national average.

### Electronic cameras, high-speed Internet soar in popularity

In addition to spending more on cell phones and DVDs, consumers were keen on cameras, spending \$340 per reporting household. Total spending on cameras was up 22% over 2002 to nearly \$880 million. This was 60% higher than in 2001 and has nearly doubled since 2000.

Meanwhile, total spending on film and processing was down 12% to \$900 million compared with 2002, or about \$120 per reporting household. The survey did not ask directly about digital cameras as opposed to conventional cameras, but it does appear that the new

#### Note to readers

*This release is based on data from the 2003 Survey of Household Spending (SHS). Data were collected by personal interviews conducted from January to March 2004 from a sample of more than 24,000 private households in all provinces and territories. The survey gathered detailed information on spending patterns, dwelling characteristics, and household equipment in 2003.*

*Since 1999, the SHS has included households in the northern territories in every odd numbered year. For 2003, data were collected in all 10 provinces and the territories. The 2002 data for Canada include the 10 provinces only.*

*The average spending for a category is calculated for all households, including those with and those without expenditures for the category, unless otherwise noted. Average spending includes sales taxes.*

*Comparisons of expenditures between years in this release are not adjusted for inflation. The rate of inflation for selected items is mentioned where it affects the analysis of year-to-year changes in spending.*

*To analyze the data by income level, households were divided into five groups or quintiles based on their income. Each quintile represents one-fifth of all households. Quintiles are created by ranking households in ascending order of total household income and partitioning the households into five groups such that the estimated number of households in each group is the same. Note that households in the lowest quintile have fewer members on average (1.6) than households in the highest quintile (3.5).*

technology had an impact. The 2004 survey will ask about spending on digital cameras.

Nearly 6 out of every 10 households reported having an Internet connection, up slightly from the 54% reported in 2002. A home Internet connection was reported by 59% of urban households and by 47% of rural households. Average spending on Internet services rose to \$170, up 8% from 2002.

The proportion of households with high-speed Internet connections continued to grow. More than 60% of households with Internet access reported using a high-speed connection, either cable or high-speed telephone in 2003, up from 50% in the previous year.

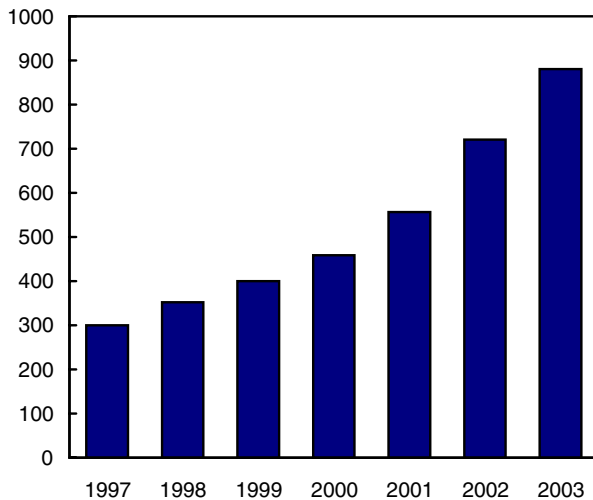
About 11% of rural households had high-speed service, more than double the proportion in 2002. But there was still a major urban-rural difference in Internet access as 40% of urban households reported using a high-speed Internet connection.

Nearly 7 out of 10 households reported owning a computer. About 22% of households reported buying

new computer hardware, a figure which has risen steadily every year since the survey began.

#### Total spending on cameras and accessories, 1997 to 2003

\$ millions



However, average spending on computer hardware was down 5% in 2003 to \$230, which was 20% below the peak of \$290 reached in 2000. This decline was mainly due to a continuing drop in prices which fell 10% from 2002, according to the Consumer Price Index.

#### Households report fewer vehicle purchases, higher operating expenses

Household spending on transportation last year was an average of \$8,350, down 1% from 2002.

This was the result of an 8% decline in spending on the purchase of cars and trucks, (including vans and SUVs), which was partly offset by a 3% increase in operating expenses. The decline was in line with retail sales figures from the Retail Commodity Survey. The Survey of Household Spending includes spending on both new and used vehicles.

Average spending on vehicle operating expenses rose 3% to \$4,080. Respondents reported that spending on their private and public automotive insurance premiums rose 9% to a record high average of \$1,170. Spending on registration fees rose by about 10%.

Despite rising energy prices, households reported little change in spending on gasoline in 2003. Retail trade data showed flat or decreasing sales of gasoline in the last eight months of 2003.

Average spending on public transportation, which includes fares as well as city and interurban transit, increased 4% to \$720 per household.

#### Shelter: Households spending more on owning, less on renting

Spending on shelter increased 3% on average to \$11,580 in 2003. This was mostly due to a 5% increase in spending for owned living quarters.

Spending on services for purchasing homes, such as real estate commissions, legal fees, appraisals and surveying was up an average of 16%, while mortgage insurance expenditures rose 19%. Spending on homeowner insurance premiums was up 10% to about \$360.

Although average annual rents remained about the same (\$7,020), spending for rented living quarters was down by an average 3% in 2003 because fewer households reported rental payments. This reflects the increased vacancy rate, from 1.7% to 2.2% in 2003, reported by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's annual Rental Market Survey.

Average spending on utilities (water, heating fuel and electricity) for all households increased by 7% from \$1,860 to \$1,990. Spending on heating fuel was up 13% to \$730.

Households living in the Northwest Territories reported the highest average shelter costs of over \$14,400, 24% above the national average, due to higher than average rent, heating and utility costs.

#### Recreation: Spending highest on cable, satellite services

The top three annual household expenditures on recreational services were: rental of cable and satellite services (\$460); package travel tours (\$350); and sports and recreational facility memberships and user fees (\$310).

Households spent much more on live performing arts (\$80) than on live sports events (\$50). But both were smaller than the average of \$110 that households spent on going out to movies. Rental of videos and DVDs averaged about \$90 per household.

Satellite television use continued to grow. Average spending on satellite service rental jumped 24% to about \$120 in 2003, while average cablevision service rental rose 5% to \$340.

Satellite television receivers were reported by 23% of households, up from 21% a year earlier. About 65% of households reported subscribing to cable television, down slightly from 67% in 2002 and 68% in 2001.

Over half of rural households reported satellite subscriptions compared with only 17% of urban households. This was partly the result of different levels of infrastructure for the two technologies in urban and rural areas.

Three-quarters of all households reported some spending on games of chance in 2003, a similar proportion to previous years. But net spending on games of chance fell 13% to an average of \$270 per household.

### **Education, health care and pensions**

Average spending on education rose 9% in 2003 to about \$1,010, largely the result of a 13% increase in spending on postsecondary tuition. This increase in education expenses varied among the provinces, with the bulk of the increase reported by households in Ontario and British Columbia.

Households reported spending an average of \$1,590 on health care, unchanged from 2002. Households in Alberta reported the highest average spending on health care, at \$2,040, followed by British Columbia at \$1,920. Households in Nunavut reported the lowest average spending (\$590), while Northwest Territories was second lowest at \$1,060.

Household spending on personal insurance and pension contributions, excluding registered retirement savings plans, grew 3% to \$3,510, mostly because of increases in contributions to Canada and Quebec pension plans.

### **Food, shelter, clothing, account for over half of spending by lowest income households**

For the purposes of this analysis, households were divided into five groups according to their income, with each group representing 20%, or one-fifth of all households.

The one-fifth of Canadian households with the lowest income spent about \$20,200 in 2003. Of this, almost 53% went to food, shelter and clothing. Personal income taxes claimed 3% of their budget.

In contrast, the group of households with the highest income spent an average of \$123,400 in 2003. They allocated about 28% of their budgets to food, shelter and clothing, while 29% went to personal income taxes.

The proportions for both groups were similar to 2002.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 203-0001 to 203-0020.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3508.**

Two tables presenting summary-level spending data are available free on the *Canadian Statistics* section of our Web site: *Canada and the provinces and selected metropolitan areas*. A third table, presenting data on dwelling characteristics and household equipment, is also available free.

The publication *User Guide for the Survey of Household Spending* (62F0026MIE2004003, free), which presents information about survey methodology, concepts, and data quality, is available free on our Web site. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Personal finance and household finance*.

Ten detailed tables are available at a cost of \$134 each. Tables now include medians. Of these 10 tables, 5 present detailed household spending data: Canada, provinces, territories and selected metropolitan areas (62F0031XDB); Household income quintile, Canada and provinces (62F0032XDB); Housing tenure, Canada (62F0033XDB); Household type, Canada (62F0034XDB); Size of area of residence, Canada (62F0035XDB).

The remaining five tables present data on dwelling characteristics and household equipment: Canada, provinces, territories and selected metropolitan areas (62F0041XDB); Income quintile, Canada (62F0042XDB); Housing tenure, Canada (62F0043XDB); Household type, Canada (62F0044XDB); Size of area of residence, Canada (62F0045XDB).

Custom tabulations are also available.

For more information about the Survey of Household Spending, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to purchase products, contact Client Services, Income Statistics Division (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; [income@statcan.ca](mailto:income@statcan.ca)).

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### Average household expenditure and budget share, 2001 to 2003

	Average expenditure		Share of budget	Average expenditure		Share of budget	Average expenditure		Share of budget
	2001			2002			2003		
	\$	%		\$	%		\$	%	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>60,090</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>61,150</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
Personal taxes	12,220	21.3		12,020	20.0		12,370	20.2	
Shelter	10,740	18.7		11,200	18.6		11,580	18.9	
Transportation	7,600	13.2		8,430	14.0		8,350	13.7	
Food	6,440	11.2		6,680	11.1		6,790	11.1	
Recreation	3,450	6.0		3,540	5.9		3,590	5.9	
Personal insurance payments and pension contributions	3,120	5.4		3,420	5.7		3,510	5.7	
Household operation	2,620	4.6		2,780	4.6		2,870	4.7	
Clothing	2,400	4.2		2,450	4.1		2,440	4.0	
Household furnishings and equipment	1,660	2.9		1,790	3.0		1,750	2.9	
Health care	1,420	2.5		1,590	2.6		1,590	2.6	
Gifts of money and contributions	1,260	2.2		1,440	2.4		1,520	2.5	
Tobacco products and alcoholic beverages	1,310	2.3		1,480	2.5		1,490	2.4	
Education	900	1.6		930	1.5		1,010	1.6	
Miscellaneous expenditures	860	1.5		900	1.5		900	1.5	
Personal care	960	1.7		830	1.4		830	1.4	
Reading materials	280	0.5		290	0.5		280	0.5	
Games of chance (net)	270	0.5		310	0.5		270	0.4	

### Average household expenditure by province and territory, 2003

	Total	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Transportation	Personal taxes
	\$					
<b>Canada</b>	<b>61,150</b>	<b>6,790</b>	<b>11,580</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>8,350</b>	<b>12,370</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	48,920	6,150	7,590	2,440	7,140	8,720
Prince Edward Island	49,450	6,040	8,740	1,920	7,580	7,780
Nova Scotia	54,300	6,140	9,400	2,120	8,100	10,060
New Brunswick	49,110	5,960	8,320	1,960	7,540	8,480
Quebec	54,200	6,730	9,140	2,190	7,290	11,980
Ontario	68,120	7,110	13,910	2,720	9,050	14,040
Manitoba	55,110	6,310	9,000	2,180	7,970	10,940
Saskatchewan	53,440	5,690	9,170	2,030	8,080	10,310
Alberta	66,490	6,750	12,120	2,670	9,410	13,220
British Columbia	60,090	6,780	12,310	2,260	8,250	10,490
Yukon	64,680	7,980	11,740	2,440	8,510	11,710
Northwest Territories	77,070	8,890	14,400	3,200	9,930	14,670
Nunavut	68,840	12,380	9,510	3,370	5,490	13,790

### Average expenditure on major spending categories by income quintile, 2003

	Lowest quintile	Second quintile	Third quintile	Fourth quintile	Highest quintile
	\$				
<b>Total spending</b>	<b>20,200</b>	<b>35,800</b>	<b>52,600</b>	<b>73,800</b>	<b>123,400</b>
Food	3,560	5,280	6,510	8,110	10,480
Shelter	6,330	8,360	10,750	13,620	18,870
Clothing	760	1,420	2,040	2,970	4,990
Transportation	2,300	5,000	7,960	10,930	15,580
Personal taxes	630	3,480	8,010	14,450	35,290



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## Other releases

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### Research Data Centres: Social and economic aspects of aging

Five papers, conducted under the Research Data Centres program, have been published in the current supplemental issue of the *Canadian Journal on Aging*. All five studies examine various social and economic aspects of aging in Canada.

"Geographic dimensions of aging in Canada, 1991 to 2001" compares the proportion of Canadians over the age of 65 between provinces and among Canada's 25 largest cities. The study shows that for many regions, the proportion of older Canadians is increasing.

Regional differences in the proportion of Canadians over the age of 65 are becoming increasingly influenced by net migration. The out-migration of young people from such cities as Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Chicoutimi and Trois-Rivières has resulted in increases in the proportion of older Canadians in these cities. In Toronto and Vancouver, the in-migration of people under the age of 65 continues to keep the proportion of older Canadians below the national average.

"Healthy aging at older ages: Are income and education important?" found that socio-economic factors, such as income and education, are associated with changes in health status. Canadians over the age of 50 in good health, with higher incomes and higher levels of education, are less likely to see their health deteriorate over a two-year period, in comparison to those with similar health status, but lower incomes or less education.

"The economic legacy of divorce and separation for women in old age" shows that separated and divorced individuals are the poorest of all older unattached women in Canada.

"A life course perspective on the relationship between socio-economic status and health: Testing the divergence hypothesis" and "Life cycle theory and the residential mobility of older Canadians" are also featured in the *Canadian Journal on Aging*.

These five papers used the National Population Health Survey, the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics or Census of the Population as their data sources. They are available in English only. The analyses for these projects were conducted in the secure environments of the Research Data Centres at McMaster University and University of Toronto.

The Research Data Centres program is part of an initiative by Statistics Canada, the Social Sciences and

Humanities Research Council and university consortia to help strengthen Canada's social research capacity and to support the policy research community. There are currently 11 centres operating at various universities across the country.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3225, 3236, 3889 and 3901.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of these articles, contact Dr. Byron G. Spencer, (905-525-9140, ext. 24594), Department of Economics, McMaster University.

The articles and journal are available from the University of Toronto Press. For more information, contact Emma Scratch (416-667-7849).

For more information about the Research Data Centre program, contact Gustave Goldmann (613-951-1472), Research Data Centre program. ■

### Register of Postsecondary Institutions

Statistics Canada maintains an up-to-date list of public and private, not-for-profit postsecondary institutions for statistical purposes. This list includes universities, colleges, trade/vocational institutes and school boards offering adult education programs. The *Register of Postsecondary Institutions* is now available online to researchers and the public.

The Register is designed to identify the universe of all public and not-for-profit postsecondary institutions in Canada. Institutions are classified in a more detailed level than in the past, so that users can identify, compare and analyse the information in a more comprehensive manner.

The Register will serve as a frame for surveys of postsecondary institutions in Canada. The Register is being made publicly available so that researchers, institutions and members of the public are aware of how Statistics Canada has classified institutions. Basic counts of institutions can also be generated for analytical purposes.

The *Register of Postsecondary Institutions* will be updated on a quarterly basis to reflect changes occurring to postsecondary institutions. Statistics Canada performs updates based on information received from many sources.

## Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5075.

The *Register of Postsecondary Institutions* (81-005-XWE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Education*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800- 307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; [educationstats@statcan.ca](mailto:educationstats@statcan.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

## Study: Residential segregation by income in urban Canada

1991 to 1996

The study *Dimensions and Dynamics of Residential Segregation by Income in Urban Canada, 1991 to 1996* is being published in *Canadian Geographer*. This article is available online (<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com>).

The goal of this research was to develop measures for monitoring changes over time in residential segregation by income. This will contribute to future work that will compare trends in Canadian and American cities.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of the study or to obtain a copy, contact Dr. Nancy Ross (1-514-398-4307; [nancy.ross@mcgill.ca](mailto:nancy.ross@mcgill.ca)), McGill University or Christian Houle (613-951-3767; [christian.houle@statcan.ca](mailto:christian.houle@statcan.ca)), Business Labour and Market Analysis Division. ■

## Federal government finance: Assets and liabilities

As of March 31, 2004

At March 31, 2004, the federal government's net debt (defined as the excess of liabilities over financial assets) fell to \$523.6 billion, a decrease of \$2.8 billion from March 31, 2003. An increase of \$2.0 billion in financial assets and a reduction of \$0.8 billion in liabilities explain this drop.

As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), the federal government net debt decreased from 43.3% in 2003 to 41.7% in 2004, the lowest since 1984. Per capita, the net debt decreased from \$16,678 to \$16,437.

These statistics are based on the data released in the federal government's Public Accounts dated March 31, 2004 and converted to Statistics Canada's Financial Management System (FMS). The federal

government introduced full accrual accounting in their 2003 financial statements. To retain comparability with prior years, these changes are not included in the FMS presentation. A reconciliation to the assets, liabilities and net debt reported in the Public Accounts is available.

## Federal government net debt

	Net debt March 31	Net debt percentage of GDP	Net debt per capita
	\$ millions	%	\$
1971	18,581	19.9	863
1975	24,769	15.1	1,075
1980	72,555	24.0	2,971
1985	209,891	44.5	8,143
1991	395,075	58.3	14,142
1992	428,682	61.9	15,167
1993	471,061	65.9	16,472
1994	513,219	68.4	17,755
1995	550,685	68.7	18,852
1996	578,718	70.6	19,608
1997	588,402	67.8	19,732
1998	581,581	64.1	19,333
1999	574,468	60.5	18,949
2000	561,733	53.9	18,359
2001	545,300	48.9	17,640
2002	534,690	47.7	17,101
2003	526,492	43.3	16,678
2004	523,648	41.7	16,437

**Note:** The FMS provides a standardized presentation of government accounting for the federal, provincial and local governments in Canada. The individual governments' accounting systems are not directly comparable because the policies and structure of governments differ. The FMS adjusts data from governments Public Accounts and other records to provide detailed data that permit inter-government comparisons as well as compatible national aggregates that are consistent over time. As a result, FMS statistics frequently differ from the figures published in government financial statements.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 385-0010, 385-0014 and 385-0017 to 385-0019.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1702, 1709 and 1723.**

Data are available through custom and special tabulations. For more information, or general enquiries on the products or services of the Public Institutions Division, contact Joanne Rice (613-951-0767; [joanne.rice@statcan.ca](mailto:joanne.rice@statcan.ca)).

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,

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contact A.J. Gareau (613-951-1826) or Lyne Lafontaine (613-951-6288), Public Institutions Division. ■

### **Dairy statistics**

October 2004 (preliminary)

Consumers purchased 268 400 kilolitres of milk and cream in October 2004, down 2% from October 2003. Sales of milk dropped 2% from year ago levels while sales of cream were virtually unchanged.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.**

The fourth quarter 2004 issue of *The Dairy Review* (23-001-XIB, \$29/\$96) will be available in February 2005.

For more information, contact Anna Michalowska (613-951-2442 or toll free 1-800-465-1991; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

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
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