



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canada's balance of international payments, fourth quarter 2003**
 Canada's current account surplus with the rest of the world declined \$1.2 billion in the fourth quarter to \$6.7 billion on a seasonally adjusted basis.

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- **Retail trade, 2003 and December 2003**
 Lower demand for motor vehicles in December, coupled with poor sales in general merchandise and clothing stores, pulled total retail sales to their lowest level in a year. Retail sales dropped 1.2% in December, capping a relatively disappointing year for retail trade. In 2003, sales by retailers increased 3.1% from 2002, when sales had jumped 6.0%.

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- **Wholesale trade, 2003 and December 2003**
 Wholesale sales increased 0.8% in December. Despite this latest increase, wholesalers saw their sales grow only 3.6% in 2003, down sharply from 2002.

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MAJOR RELEASES

Canada's balance of international payments

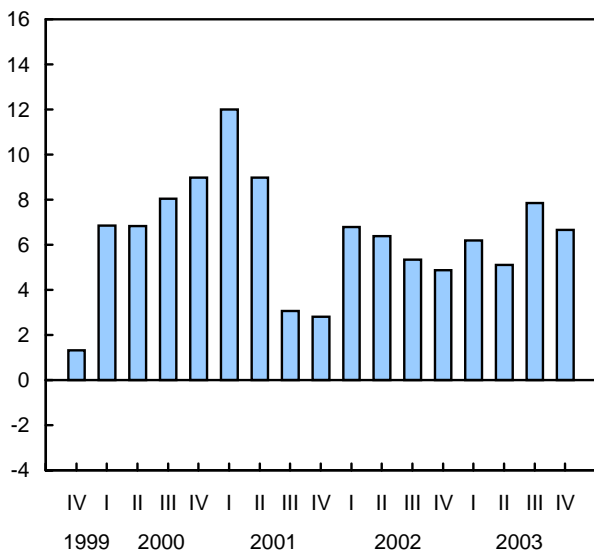
Fourth quarter 2003

Canada's current account surplus with the rest of the world declined \$1.2 billion in the fourth quarter to \$6.7 billion on a seasonally adjusted basis. This decline resulted from a lower surplus on trade in goods and a higher deficit on investment income. The current account surplus for all of 2003 was \$25.8 billion, the fourth consecutive year that exceeds \$20 billion.

The capital and financial account (not seasonally adjusted) showed funds flowing out of Canada to the rest of the world for a third straight quarter. Canada's direct investment abroad was the strongest in 10 quarters, while foreign portfolio investors injected funds into both Canadian stocks and bonds.

Current account balance

\$ billions Seasonally adjusted



In the fourth quarter, the Canadian dollar resumed its appreciation against the US dollar, while continuing to lose ground against other major currencies. The Canadian dollar finished 2003 at 77.13 US cents, up 13.7 cents or 21.7% from the start of the year.

Large revision to banking data

Third quarter banking data were revised because of a data processing error. This led, on a gross basis, to assets being increased by \$3.2 billion while on the liability side the revisions to deposits led to an increase of \$4.6 billion. The resulting revision to the total financial account amounted to a net inflow of \$1.4 billion.

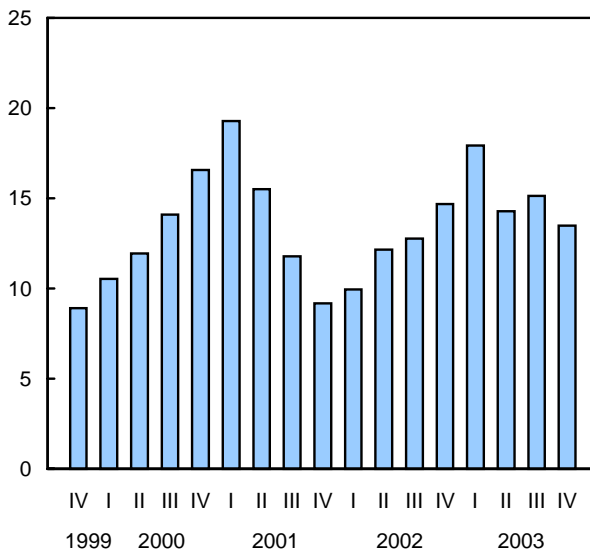
Current account

Goods surplus falls

The surplus on trade in goods was \$15.1 billion in the fourth quarter, down \$0.6 billion from the third quarter. Exports decreased by \$0.4 billion to \$98.2 billion, the lowest level in four years. Energy prices continued to play an important role in the fluctuation in nominal exports. They were largely responsible for the \$1.7 billion drop in value of energy exports. Partly offsetting this fall was a \$1.1 billion rebound in exports of industrial goods, which had declined over the previous four quarters.

Exports of energy products

\$ billions Seasonally adjusted



Imports increased by \$0.2 billion, with a rebound in passenger autos, up \$1.0 billion from a low third quarter.

Machinery and equipment imports fell \$0.8 billion, as most of the components had lower values in the fourth quarter.

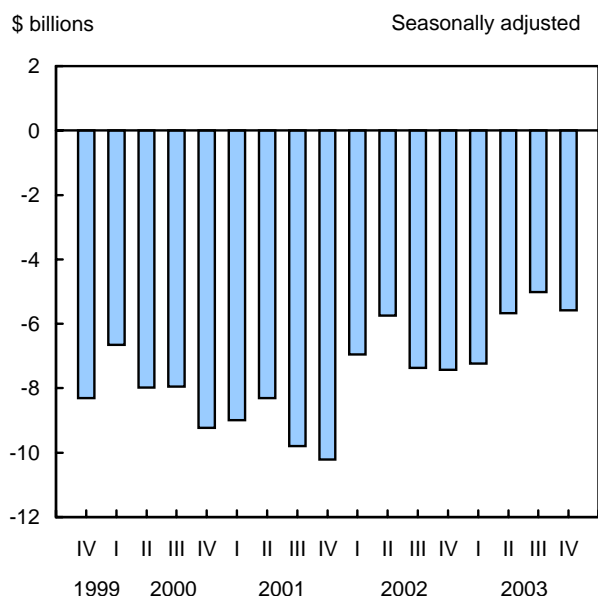
For 2003 as a whole, nominal exports and imports both declined, with imports down more than 4% and exports more than 3%. The goods surplus rose \$2.4 billion to \$60.2 billion. The lower value for exports came as higher prices for energy products were more than offset by lower values of exports for machinery and equipment and automotive products. On the import side, there were large declines in import values for machinery and equipment and automotive products, partly offset by higher import values of energy products, although more modest than those for exported energy.

Between 2000, when both export and import values peaked, and 2003, exports decreased by \$28.5 billion and imports, by \$20.9 billion. Machinery and equipment and in particular telecommunication and related equipment saw the largest drops in both exports and imports during that period. Surpluses in automotive products and in forestry products have been reduced by \$9.1 billion and \$8.2 billion respectively over this period. On the positive side, the surplus in energy products rose \$6.1 billion over these three years.

Lower profits earned on direct investment abroad

After the lowest deficit on investment income in more than 10 years was registered in the third quarter, the deficit increased \$0.6 billion to \$5.6 billion in the fourth quarter.

Investment income balance



The profits earned by Canadian direct investors abroad dropped \$0.6 billion to \$3.7 billion, led by lower returns in the energy and the finance and insurance sectors.

As a large part of the Canadian securities owned by foreign portfolio investors are issued in US dollars, the stronger Canadian dollar contributed to the \$0.2 billion reduction in interest paid on these securities.

In 2003, interest paid on these Canadian securities was \$1.9 billion lower than in 2002. This was the main factor in the \$4.0 billion reduction in the investment income deficit for 2003. The other important factor was a \$1.2 billion drop in interest payments on foreign currency deposits. In both cases, it was mostly related to the stronger dollar.

Services deficit remains stable

In the fourth quarter, the deficit on services declined by less than \$0.1 billion to \$2.9 billion. The largest change came from travel, where higher expenditures on travel abroad led to a \$0.2 billion increase in the deficit. There were a record number of Canadians travelling to countries other than United States in the fourth quarter. At the same time, US travellers started to visit Canada in larger numbers again after two very slow quarters.

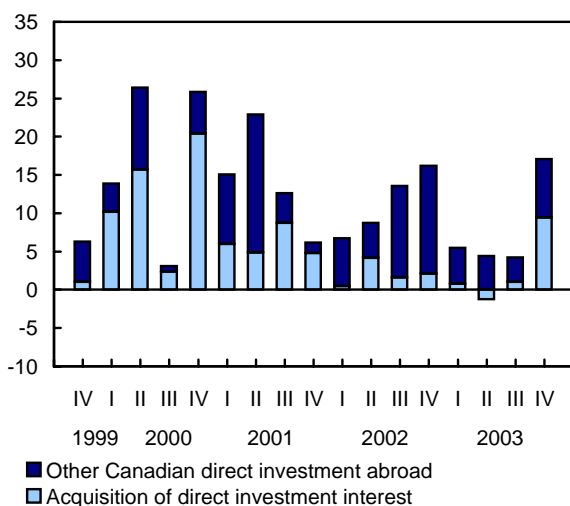
While the trade balances for all major categories of services remained largely unchanged from the third to the fourth quarter, the overall deficit on services trade for 2003 increased \$3.2 billion to reach \$11.5 billion.

During the year, the travel deficit increased \$2.4 billion to reach \$4.3 billion, the highest deficit in a decade. Spending by foreign visitors fell \$2.1 billion. Several factors such as concerns about SARS and mad cow disease led to a considerably lower number of visitors to Canada in 2003. There were 13% less visitors spending at least one night in Canada in 2003 than in 2002.

As a consequence of the lower number of foreign visitors coming to Canada and a higher number of Canadians visiting countries other than United States, the deficit for passenger fares increased by \$1.0 billion to reach \$1.8 billion in 2003.

Canadian direct investment abroad¹

\$ billions

¹ Reverse of Balance of Payments signs.**Financial Account****Direct investment abroad rebounds**

Canadian direct investment abroad rebounded strongly to \$17.1 billion in the fourth quarter, quadruple the average of the three previous quarters. More than half the investment came from acquisitions of foreign enterprises, which were at a three-year high. Two-thirds of the direct investment was invested in European Union countries; the remainder went to Asian countries and the United States. The investment was concentrated mainly in just two industry groups: finance and insurance and energy and metallic minerals.

Canadian demand for foreign securities on the rise

Canadian investors bought \$5.2 billion of foreign securities in the fourth quarter, their highest investment in a year and a half. Just over 60% was invested in foreign equities, with the remainder in foreign bonds.

Canadians split their \$3.2 billion investment in foreign shares between US and overseas equities. While the investment in shares was the highest for any quarter of 2003, the investment for the year, at \$4.3 billion, was the lowest in 13 years. Canadian

demand for foreign bonds, however, was at an all-time high in 2003, with an investment of \$8.2 billion. About half of this went to US treasury bonds with the remainder split between US corporate and overseas bonds.

Foreign portfolio investment in Canadian securities returns

Foreign portfolio investment of \$8.5 billion flowed into Canadian securities in the fourth quarter, largely reversing the reduction in holdings in the third quarter. Investment in Canadian securities for 2003 totalled \$15.2 billion. A robust foreign demand for Canadian equities made up 85% of this annual total with investment in debt securities accounting for the balance.

Foreign investors purchased \$5.2 billion of Canadian equities in the fourth quarter, an amount similar to that of the third quarter. However, while the investment in the third quarter went almost exclusively to existing shares, most of the fourth quarter investment was in new shares, largely issued to acquire foreign firms via share exchanges.

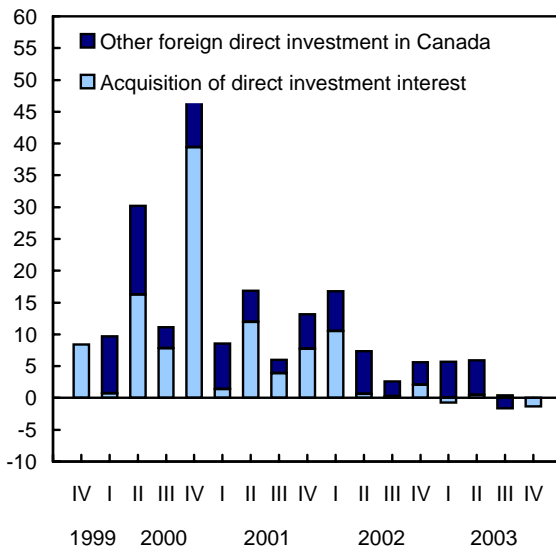
With Canadian stock prices surging, foreign investment in existing Canadian shares was substantial in 2003. It represented \$9.0 billion of the \$12.9 billion total. Canadian stock prices advanced 10.8% in the fourth quarter and 24.3% during 2003. It was a major turnaround from the 26.0% decline in share prices over 2001 and 2002.

In the fourth quarter, \$3.7 billion worth of Canadian bonds were purchased by foreign investors while they sold a small amount (\$395 million) of money market securities. The investment in bonds came after a major sell-off in the third quarter, totalling \$12.5 billion. In the fourth quarter, investors bought mostly corporate bonds and some issues of federal enterprises, partly offset by sales of bonds issued by the federal and provincial governments. On a currency basis, foreign investors bought \$7.9 billion of US-dollar denominated bonds but sold \$4.2 billion of bond issues denominated in Canadian dollars.

Foreign holdings of Canadian money market paper were reduced for a fourth straight quarter bringing the reduction to a total of \$4.4 billion for 2003. This more than reversed the \$3.8 billion accumulation in 2002. The foreign divestment in 2003 was spread across money market paper issued by all sectors, with the exception of federal treasury bills.

Foreign direct investment in Canada

\$ billions



Foreign direct investment in Canada turns negative

Foreign direct investors withdrew funds from Canada for a second straight quarter. While the amounts were low, a net withdrawal was last seen in the early 1990s. As a result, foreign direct investment in Canada for 2003 was the lowest in 10 years, at just \$8.3 billion. The acquisitions component of foreign

direct investment, which averaged \$28.1 billion annually from 1998 to 2002, was negative in 2003. In other words, on balance, residents bought back Canadian firms from foreign direct investors in 2003.

Other investment

Over the fourth quarter, the other investment category saw net capital inflows dominated by loans under repurchase agreements. Canada's international reserves continued to decline for a sixth consecutive quarter.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0001 to 376-0017 and 376-0035.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536 and 1537.

The fourth quarter 2003 issue of *Canada's Balance of International Payments* (67-001-XIB, \$32/\$100; 67-001-XPB, \$41/\$133) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

The balance of international payments data for the first quarter 2004 will be released on May 28.

For general information, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; infobalance@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Arthur Ridgeway (613-951-8907), Balance of Payments Division.

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Balance of payments, all countries

	Fourth quarter 2002	First quarter 2003	Second quarter 2003	Third quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2003	2002	2003
	not seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions						
Current account							
Receipts							
Goods and services:	119,411	118,689	114,664	112,189	112,306	472,628	457,848
Goods	105,923	105,897	100,916	95,672	99,042	414,305	401,527
Services	13,487	12,791	13,748	16,516	13,265	58,323	56,321
Investment income:	9,191	7,471	7,921	8,236	7,627	31,638	31,255
Direct investment	5,196	3,452	4,226	4,470	3,887	15,345	16,036
Portfolio investment	2,072	2,066	2,062	2,125	2,143	8,323	8,396
Other investment	1,923	1,953	1,632	1,641	1,597	7,970	6,823
Current transfers	2,026	1,916	1,493	1,493	1,613	7,002	6,516
Current account receipts	130,628	128,076	124,079	121,917	121,547	511,268	495,618
Payments							
Goods and services:	107,862	105,917	105,659	97,625	99,922	423,112	409,123
Goods	91,621	88,559	89,044	80,339	83,375	356,459	341,317
Services	16,241	17,358	16,616	17,286	16,546	66,653	67,806
Investment income:	15,970	15,530	13,741	12,883	12,589	59,149	54,743
Direct investment	5,915	5,986	5,104	4,354	4,230	20,724	19,674
Portfolio investment	7,564	7,440	7,086	7,011	6,757	29,643	28,294
Other investment	2,490	2,104	1,550	1,518	1,602	8,782	6,775
Current transfers	1,377	1,993	1,218	1,358	1,400	5,641	5,969
Current account payments	125,209	123,441	120,619	111,866	113,910	487,902	469,836
Balances							
Goods and services:	11,548	12,771	9,005	14,564	12,385	49,516	48,725
Goods	14,302	17,338	11,872	15,333	15,667	57,846	60,210
Services	-2,754	-4,566	-2,867	-770	-3,282	-8,330	-11,485
Investment income:	-6,779	-8,060	-5,820	-4,647	-4,962	-27,511	-23,488
Direct investment	-719	-2,534	-878	116	-343	-5,379	-3,639
Portfolio investment	-5,493	-5,374	-5,024	-4,886	-4,614	-21,320	-19,898
Other investments	-567	-152	82	123	-5	-811	48
Current transfers	650	-77	275	135	214	1,361	546
Current account balance	5,419	4,635	3,460	10,051	7,637	23,366	25,783
Capital and financial account^{1, 2}							
Capital account	842	984	982	1,056	894	4,816	3,916
Financial account	-9,599	1,707	-13,260	-9,127	-7,935	-17,961	-28,616
Canadian assets, net flows							
Canadian direct investment abroad	-16,205	-5,497	-3,235	-4,243	-17,060	-45,217	-30,035
Portfolio investment:	-2,928	-1,342	-3,210	-2,764	-5,204	-24,950	-12,519
Foreign bonds	-32	-3,501	-2,664	11	-2,043	-6,243	-8,196
Foreign stocks	-2,897	2,159	-546	-2,775	-3,161	-18,707	-4,323
Other investment:	-5,943	-23,682	4,629	1,305	-7,814	-10,657	-25,562
Loans	-6,136	-5,746	2,913	6,256	2,627	-7,678	6,049
Deposits	3,107	-17,295	3,678	-716	-9,293	6,411	-23,627
Official international reserves	559	2,711	229	4	1,749	298	4,693
Other assets	-3,474	-3,352	-2,191	-4,238	-2,896	-9,688	-12,677
Total Canadian assets, net flows	-25,076	-30,521	-1,816	-5,701	-30,078	-80,825	-68,116
Canadian liabilities, net flows							
Foreign direct investment in Canada	5,619	4,933	5,933	-1,279	-1,334	32,342	8,253
Portfolio investment:	9,339	8,000	8,122	-9,478	8,535	21,058	15,179
Canadian bonds	3,691	9,141	6,312	-12,536	3,746	18,712	6,663
Canadian stocks	1,724	-265	2,575	5,394	5,184	-1,436	12,888
Canadian money market	3,925	-876	-766	-2,336	-395	3,782	-4,373
Other investment:	519	19,294	-25,499	7,331	14,942	9,464	16,068
Loans	1,670	647	-3,484	-285	4,512	1,216	1,391
Deposits	-1,128	21,200	-20,592	7,525	10,127	13,559	18,261
Other liabilities	-23	-2,553	-1,423	91	302	-5,311	-3,583
Total Canadian liabilities, net flows	15,477	32,228	-11,444	-3,426	22,142	62,864	39,500
Total capital and financial account, Net flows	-8,757	2,691	-12,278	-8,071	-7,041	-13,145	-24,699
Statistical discrepancy	3,338	-7,326	8,818	-1,980	-596	-10,221	-1,083

¹ A minus sign denotes an outflow of capital resulting from an increase in claims on non-residents or from decrease in liabilities to non-residents.

² Transactions are recorded on a net basis.

Current account, all countries

	Fourth quarter 2002	First quarter 2003	Second quarter 2003	Third quarter 2003	Fourth quarter 2003	2002	2003
	seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions						
Receipts							
Goods and services:	119,647	119,980	112,806	112,566	112,496	472,628	457,848
Goods	104,580	105,653	98,999	98,661	98,214	414,305	401,527
Services:	15,067	14,327	13,807	13,905	14,282	58,323	56,321
Travel	4,258	4,019	3,461	3,443	3,671	16,731	14,594
Transportation	2,932	2,649	2,324	2,454	2,591	10,831	10,018
Commercial services	7,520	7,289	7,652	7,659	7,663	29,312	30,264
Government services	357	370	370	349	357	1,448	1,446
Investment income:	9,111	7,503	7,902	8,257	7,593	31,638	31,255
Direct investment:	5,108	3,468	4,192	4,523	3,853	15,345	16,036
Interest	144	222	162	191	143	546	718
Profits	4,964	3,246	4,030	4,331	3,710	14,799	15,318
Portfolio investment:	2,089	2,067	2,055	2,116	2,159	8,323	8,396
Interest	426	439	432	463	480	1,775	1,814
Dividends	1,663	1,627	1,624	1,653	1,679	6,548	6,583
Other investment	1,915	1,968	1,654	1,619	1,582	7,970	6,823
Current transfers:	1,938	1,678	1,626	1,641	1,570	7,002	6,516
Private	630	688	592	654	635	2,619	2,569
Official	1,308	990	1,034	987	935	4,382	3,946
Total receipts	130,696	129,161	122,334	122,464	121,659	511,268	495,618
Payments							
Goods and services:	107,785	106,800	102,125	99,855	100,342	423,112	409,123
Goods	90,958	89,762	85,440	82,979	83,136	356,459	341,317
Services:	16,827	17,038	16,685	16,876	17,207	66,653	67,806
Travel	4,686	4,788	4,371	4,673	5,062	18,585	18,893
Transportation	3,667	3,662	3,524	3,652	3,648	14,202	14,486
Commercial services	8,258	8,369	8,572	8,329	8,274	33,005	33,544
Government services	216	218	219	222	224	861	883
Investment income:	16,546	14,730	13,577	13,266	13,170	59,149	54,743
Direct investment:	6,537	5,436	4,805	4,603	4,829	20,724	19,674
Interest	342	452	462	474	475	1,390	1,862
Profits	6,194	4,985	4,343	4,129	4,354	19,334	17,812
Portfolio investment:	7,584	7,418	7,090	7,015	6,771	29,643	28,294
Interest	7,119	6,757	6,535	6,444	6,211	27,891	25,946
Dividends	465	661	555	572	560	1,752	2,348
Other investment	2,426	1,876	1,682	1,647	1,570	8,782	6,775
Current transfers:	1,487	1,442	1,535	1,496	1,497	5,641	5,969
Private	814	745	787	797	821	3,120	3,151
Official	672	696	747	699	676	2,521	2,819
Total payments	125,818	122,972	117,238	114,617	115,009	487,902	469,836
Balances							
Goods and services:	11,862	13,180	10,681	12,710	12,154	49,516	48,725
Goods	13,622	15,891	13,559	15,681	15,078	57,846	60,210
Services:	-1,760	-2,711	-2,878	-2,971	-2,925	-8,330	-11,485
Travel	-427	-769	-909	-1,231	-1,391	-1,853	-4,300
Transportation	-736	-1,013	-1,199	-1,198	-1,057	-3,371	-4,468
Commercial services	-738	-1,080	-920	-670	-611	-3,693	-3,280
Government services	141	152	150	127	134	587	563
Investment income:	-7,435	-7,227	-5,676	-5,009	-5,577	-27,511	-23,488
Direct investment:	-1,429	-1,968	-613	-81	-977	-5,379	-3,639
Interest	-199	-229	-300	-283	-332	-844	-1,144
Profits	-1,230	-1,739	-313	202	-644	-4,535	-2,494
Portfolio investment:	-5,495	-5,351	-5,035	-4,899	-4,612	-21,320	-19,898
Interest	-6,693	-6,317	-6,103	-5,981	-5,731	-26,116	-24,132
Dividends	1,198	966	1,068	1,082	1,119	4,796	4,235
Other investment	-511	93	-28	-29	12	-811	48
Current transfers:	451	237	91	145	73	1,361	546
Private	-185	-57	-195	-143	-186	-501	-581
Official	636	294	286	288	259	1,862	1,127
Current account	4,879	6,189	5,097	7,847	6,650	23,366	25,783

Retail trade

2003 and December 2003

Lower demand for motor vehicles in December, coupled with poor sales in general merchandise and clothing stores, pulled total retail sales to their lowest level in a year. Retail sales dropped 1.2% in December to \$26.0 billion, after falling 0.2% in November. Consumer spending in retail stores fell in all provinces in December.

Declining sales by auto dealers have weakened total retail sales since last August. Previously, retail sales had generally been increasing since the fall of 2001.

Note to readers

Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification. At the end of every calendar year, seasonally adjusted monthly figures are revised to equal the sum of the unadjusted estimates. Revised seasonally adjusted figures are presented this month for September to November 2003. The complete revision of seasonally adjusted data for 2003 will be released in June. All annual comparisons in this release use the sum of unadjusted monthly estimates. As usual, the rest of the analysis is based on seasonally adjusted estimates.

Auto sales fall sharply in December

In December, motor and recreational vehicle dealers suffered their fifth consecutive monthly sales decline. Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers dropped 4.4% in December, leading to a 2.4% sales decline for the overall automotive sector. In contrast, sales advanced 1.8% in stores of automotive parts, accessories and services and increased 0.9% in gasoline service stations.

Poor December sales in general merchandise and clothing stores

December's Christmas shopping fell 2.6% in general merchandise stores, their largest monthly sales decline since September 2001. Most of this decline originated from a 4.9% sales drop by other general merchandise stores in December. Sales by other general merchandise stores had jumped 2.9% in November, partly stimulated by some high profile store openings. Consumers also reduced their spending in department stores in December (-0.9%). Sales by department stores, which represent about 60% of all sales in the general merchandise sector, have remained essentially unchanged since the spring of 2003.

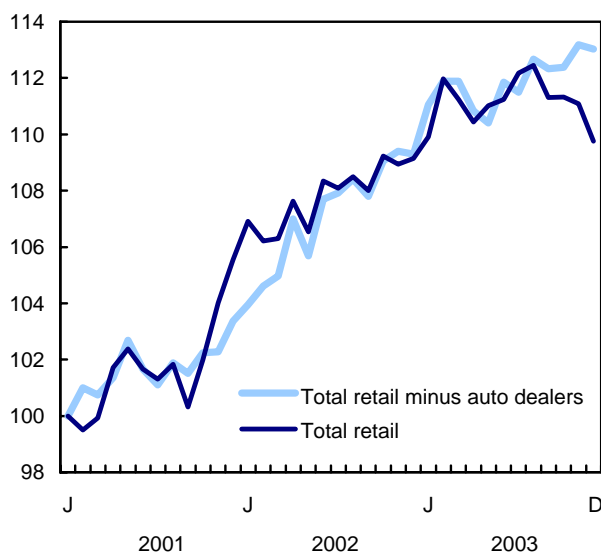
Shoppers spent 1.6% less in clothing stores in December, after increasing their purchases 1.1% in November. All types of clothing stores posted sales declines in December. After a two-year period of seesawing results, clothing store sales in December stood 0.7% below the December 2001 level.

Strong year-end for furniture stores

Sales were particularly good in the last two months of 2003 for retailers in the furniture sector. Consumer spending in these stores increased 1.0% in December and 2.1% in November. In the last three months of the year, retailers in the furniture sector usually generate approximately 35% of their total sales

Autos pull total retail sales down at year-end

Index (January 2001=100)



Retailers sold a total of \$316 billion worth of goods and services in 2003, up 3.1% from 2002. This increase represented about half the 6.0% growth rate observed in 2002 and was the weakest annual gain since 1995.

Excluding sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales remained essentially flat in December (-0.1%), after rising 0.7% in November. Total retail sales, minus sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, advanced 4.4% in 2003, compared with a 5.4% gain in 2002.

Prices had little effect on December's results, as retail sales fell 1.1% in constant dollars, following a decline of 0.4% in November. In 2003, constant dollar retail sales advanced 2.1%, compared with an annual gain of 4.8% in 2002.

from household appliances and furniture, and about the same proportion from sales of home electronics and computers. The remaining sales are distributed among home furnishings, housewares, pre-recorded CD's, DVD's and videos, electronic games and repair services. Sales in the furniture sector have generally been increasing since the fall of 1996.

Drugstores also benefited from increased demand in December. However, the 0.7% sales gain reported by drugstores in December merely cancelled out the 0.6% November decline. Nevertheless, drugstores have experienced rising sales since the spring of 2000.

Furniture stores still on solid growth path in 2003

In 2003, consumer spending in furniture stores continued to advance at a faster pace than in any other retail sector. Sales in furniture stores advanced 6.5% in 2003, after jumping 11.6% in 2002. Furniture stores have led other retailers in terms of annual sales growth since 1998. Housing starts in 2003, which reached their highest level of the last 15 years, continued to stimulate demand at furniture stores.

Food stores faced several challenges in 2003, such as the August electrical blackout in Ontario, the mad cow scare and the SARS outbreak. Despite these challenges, food stores posted the second largest sales gain (+5.0%) amongst retail sectors in 2003. This increase, which is identical to the 2002 sales gain, represented more than twice the 1999 growth in food stores sales. Growth in consumer purchases in food stores have been accelerating since 1999, partly the result of the growing share of non-food items found on the shelves.

Drugstores experienced a 4.7% sales increase in 2003, their weakest annual gain in three years. Drugstores lost market share of their main product lines, such as pharmaceutical and personal care products, to food stores and general merchandise stores in 2003.

Retail sales by sector

	2002	2003	2002 to 2003 % change
	\$ millions		
Furniture	18,268	19,462	6.5
Food	66,828	70,196	5.0
Drug	15,535	16,270	4.7
General merchandise	33,834	34,983	3.4
Total, all stores	306,578	316,036	3.1
Other	32,602	33,515	2.8
Clothing	16,154	16,450	1.8
Automotive	123,357	125,160	1.5

Retailers in the general merchandise sector posted a 3.4% sales increase in 2003, after reporting a 4.8% gain in 2002. Sales by general merchandisers generally increased in 2003, after remaining essentially unchanged in the second half of 2002.

Weak annual gains for auto dealers and clothing stores

In 2003, sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, the largest component of the automotive sector, fell for the first time since 1991. Motor and recreational vehicle dealers suffered a 0.6% sales decline in 2003, after experiencing a sizable 7.8% sales gain in 2002. Aggressive incentive programs, introduced in the fall of 2001, and still available to shoppers for purchasing or leasing new vehicles, failed to create additional sales growth for auto dealers in 2003. Consequently, sales in the automotive sector advanced only 1.5% in 2003, even with sizable sales gains posted by gasoline service stations (+5.7%) and automotive parts, accessories and services stores (+5.6%).

Consumers increased their spending in the clothing sector by 1.8% in 2003, the same increase as in 2002. Lower prices have continued to deflate sales in clothing stores, resulting in the weakest annual sales gains since 1996. Attracting slightly more than one-half of every dollar spent in the clothing sector, unisex clothing stores, classified as other clothing stores, have experienced the only sizable sales increase in 2003 (+4.6%). Sales edged up 0.2% in women's clothing stores, but declined in both men's clothing stores (-6.1%) and shoe stores (-0.4%).

Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and Newfoundland and Labrador share top place in 2003

Retailers in Nunavut (+5.2%), the Northwest Territories (+5.1%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (+5.1%) shared the top place in retail sales growth in 2003.

Retail sales increases above the national average were also registered in Quebec (+4.4%), Alberta (+4.1%) and Saskatchewan (+3.6%). In Quebec, the largest annual sales increase occurred in furniture stores (+6.0%), while drugstores led sales growth in Alberta and Saskatchewan, with increases of 8.1% and 11.0% respectively.

Consumers in Ontario increased spending in stores (+2.8%) at a rate slightly below the national average in 2003. While sales rose rapidly in the furniture (+9.0%) and food (+6.9%) sectors, they remained essentially unchanged in the automotive sector (-0.1%). Retail sales in Ontario declined in the last five months of 2003, after a period of general increases that began in the fall of 2001.

Lower sales in the automotive, furniture and clothing sectors pulled down total retail sales in Prince Edward Island (-0.4%) and New Brunswick (-0.3%) in 2003. Retailers in these provinces have generally suffered sales declines in the second half of 2003, after reporting essentially flat sales since early 2002.

Retail sales by province and territory

	2002	2003	2002 to 2003
	\$ millions		% change
Nunavut	208	219	5.2
Northwest Territories	508	534	5.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	5,088	5,347	5.1
Quebec	69,910	72,971	4.4
Alberta	37,457	39,000	4.1
Saskatchewan	9,013	9,333	3.6
Canada	306,578	316,036	3.1
Ontario	115,262	118,472	2.8
Manitoba	10,649	10,900	2.4
British Columbia	40,273	40,998	1.8
Yukon	398	405	1.7
Nova Scotia	9,172	9,242	0.8
New Brunswick	7,317	7,296	-0.3
Prince Edward Island	1,324	1,319	-0.4

Related indicators for January

Total employment edged up 15,000 in January (+0.1%), after rising rapidly in the last four months of 2003 for an overall gain of 219,000. Housing starts remained at record levels in January, despite a sizable 10.9% decline from December. Following

five consecutive monthly declines, the number of new motor vehicles sold in January is estimated to have increased approximately 1.5% from December, based on preliminary figures 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 December 2003 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XIB, \$18/\$166) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

Data on retail trade for January 2004 will be released on March 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

	December 2002	September 2003 ^r	October 2003 ^r	November 2003 ^r	December 2003 ^p	November to December 2003	December 2002 to December 2003
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Food	5,708	5,809	5,890	5,911	5,901	-0.2	3.4
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,308	5,399	5,482	5,500	5,486	-0.3	3.4
All other food stores	400	409	407	411	415	0.9	3.8
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,309	1,386	1,390	1,382	1,391	0.7	6.3
Clothing	1,329	1,378	1,376	1,390	1,367	-1.6	2.9
Shoe stores	145	152	148	152	150	-0.7	3.4
Men's clothing stores	105	106	105	104	102	-2.4	-3.2
Women's clothing stores	384	405	395	402	391	-2.9	1.7
Other clothing stores	694	715	727	732	724	-1.1	4.3
Furniture	1,567	1,649	1,654	1,688	1,705	1.0	8.8
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,245	1,319	1,316	1,342	1,358	1.2	9.1
Household furnishings stores	323	330	338	346	346	0.0	7.3
Automotive	10,390	10,393	10,294	10,130	9,886	-2.4	-4.8
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,825	6,809	6,803	6,605	6,317	-4.4	-7.4
Gasoline service stations	2,116	2,040	1,952	1,988	2,006	0.9	-5.2
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,449	1,544	1,539	1,537	1,564	1.8	7.9
General merchandise stores	2,828	2,936	2,937	2,976	2,898	-2.6	2.5
Department stores	1,660	1,715	1,716	1,720	1,704	-0.9	2.7
Other general merchandise stores	1,169	1,220	1,221	1,256	1,195	-4.9	2.2
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	2,732	2,827	2,841	2,844	2,858	0.5	4.6
Other semi-durable goods stores	800	827	818	805	809	0.5	1.2
Other durable goods stores	672	686	697	704	701	-0.4	4.4
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,260	1,314	1,326	1,335	1,348	0.9	7.0
Total, retail sales	25,864	26,377	26,380	26,322	26,007	-1.2	0.6
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	19,039	19,568	19,578	19,717	19,690	-0.1	3.4
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	437	447	444	446	443	-0.6	1.5
Prince Edward Island	111	110	110	108	105	-2.6	-5.0
Nova Scotia	773	752	771	767	765	-0.2	-1.0
New Brunswick	611	599	600	596	591	-0.9	-3.3
Quebec	5,894	6,102	6,143	6,096	6,041	-0.9	2.5
Ontario	9,779	9,947	9,888	9,833	9,639	-2.0	-1.4
Manitoba	891	920	906	921	910	-1.2	2.1
Saskatchewan	771	788	768	763	758	-0.6	-1.6
Alberta	3,120	3,215	3,247	3,270	3,248	-0.7	4.1
British Columbia	3,382	3,399	3,409	3,426	3,409	-0.5	0.8
Yukon	33	34	33	34	33	-2.6	0.4
Northwest Territories	44	45	44	44	46	3.8	3.3
Nunavut	19	20	18	18	18	1.9	-2.7

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Retail sales

	December 2002	November 2003 ^r	December 2003 ^p	December 2002 to December 2003
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Food	6,009	5,727	6,279	4.5
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,516	5,330	5,765	4.5
All other food stores	493	397	514	4.3
Drug and patent medicine stores	1,599	1,353	1,717	7.4
Clothing	2,123	1,585	2,185	2.9
Shoe stores	182	171	194	6.6
Men's clothing stores	201	126	192	-4.7
Women's clothing stores	596	435	601	0.9
Other clothing stores	1,144	853	1,198	4.7
Furniture	2,303	1,840	2,538	10.2
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,902	1,445	2,094	10.1
Household furnishings stores	401	396	444	10.7
Automotive	9,465	9,203	9,240	-2.4
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	5,917	5,694	5,574	-5.8
Gasoline service stations	1,992	1,871	1,932	-3.0
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,556	1,638	1,734	11.5
General merchandise stores	4,585	3,551	4,712	2.8
Department stores	2,963	2,139	3,062	3.4
Other general merchandise stores	1,623	1,412	1,650	1.6
Retail stores not elsewhere classified	4,105	2,852	4,330	5.5
Other semi-durable goods stores	1,203	856	1,243	3.3
Other durable goods stores	1,209	686	1,274	5.4
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,693	1,310	1,813	7.1
Total, retail sales	30,188	26,112	31,000	2.7
Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers	24,271	20,418	25,426	4.8
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	502	458	518	3.2
Prince Edward Island	130	104	125	-3.4
Nova Scotia	923	777	931	0.9
New Brunswick	712	595	701	-1.5
Quebec	6,403	5,873	6,646	3.8
Ontario	11,710	9,933	11,850	1.2
Manitoba	1,053	916	1,094	3.9
Saskatchewan	908	752	914	0.7
Alberta	3,721	3,273	3,961	6.5
British Columbia	4,018	3,342	4,145	3.2
Yukon	36	30	38	4.2
Northwest Territories	50	40	53	7.0
Nunavut	22	17	22	-1.8

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

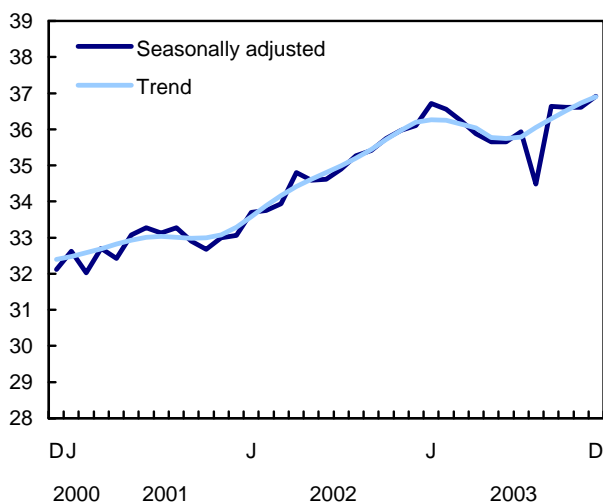
Wholesale trade

2003 and December 2003

The automotive sector boosted wholesale sales (+0.8%) to \$36.9 billion in December. Excluding the motor vehicles, parts and accessories sector, sales advanced only 0.2%.

Automotive sector responsible for the overall increase in wholesale sales in December

\$ billions



Total sales in December reached their highest level ever, slightly exceeding the last peak reached in January 2003. Since February, wholesale sales have registered nearly zero monthly growth, in sharp contrast with the average monthly growth of 0.7% recorded from October 2001 to January 2003.

Six of the 11 sectors experienced an increase in December. The automotive sector registered the largest advance, with sales rising 3.7%. From February to August, this trade group experienced seven consecutive declines, which largely wiped out its growth for the year. However, the sector has shown some growth in recent months. Dealers increased their inventories at year-end and reported an increase in unit sales in January, the first in six months.

Other sectors such as beverage, drug and tobacco products (+2.3%) and lumber and building materials (+2.3%) also reported strong gains in December. The increased sales in these sectors were partly offset by sharp decreases in food products (-2.1%) and computers and software (-1.5%).

In constant prices, sales grew 0.9% in December.

Note to readers

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

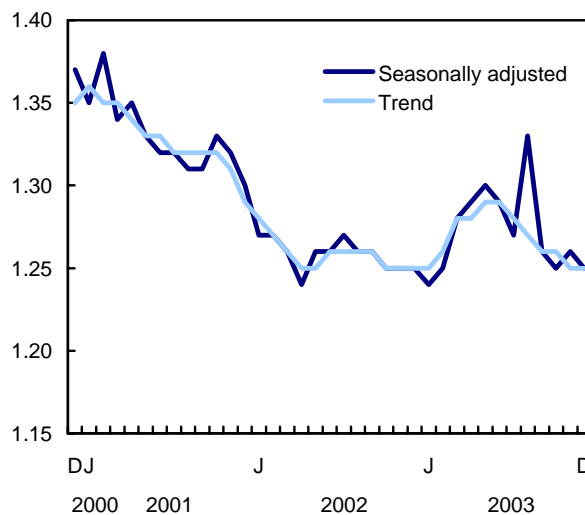
At the end of each calendar year, seasonally adjusted figures are revised to equal the sum of the unadjusted estimates. Revisions for 2003 will be released in March. In order to present sectoral and provincial analyses, all annual comparisons in this release use the sum of unadjusted estimates. As usual, the rest of the analysis is based on seasonally adjusted estimates.

In the past four months, the inventory-to-sales ratio has remained at historic lows

In December, the inventory-to-sales ratio was 1.25. Since last September, this ratio has fluctuated between 1.25 and 1.26, comparable to the record lows registered in 2002. But unlike 2002, the decline in the ratio since September was due to tighter control of inventories; in 2002 the decrease was mainly attributable to a steady increase in sales. In December, inventories rose 0.2%.

Inventory-to-sales ratio remains relatively stable in December

Ratio



Growth slowed in 2003

In 2003, the Canadian economy underwent a number of shocks, including the appreciation of the dollar, the power blackout in Ontario, the SARS outbreak, the one case of mad cow disease (BSE) in Alberta, forest fires in British Columbia and a drop in the demand for automobiles.

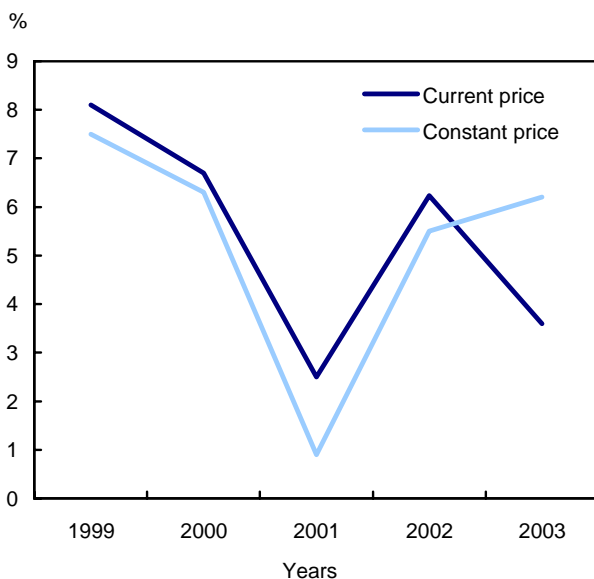
As a result, total wholesale sales rose only 3.6% in 2003, a little more than half the 6.2% growth rate registered in 2002.

Real growth of wholesale sales was stronger in 2003

The appreciation of the dollar was a factor that probably had the most impact on wholesalers. Because of their close ties to international markets, wholesalers feel the effects of sudden changes in the value of the Canadian currency. From December 2002 to December 2003, the Canadian dollar appreciated about 19% against the US dollar.

Commodity prices fell strongly in 2003 for wholesalers importing from the United States and Asian countries where the currency is heavily tied to the American dollar. This fall in prices allowed wholesalers to purchase more products, which translated into a rise in the volume of sales. This largely explains the stronger growth of activity in constant prices reported by some wholesalers. For 2003 as a whole, the growth in constant prices was 6.2%, a higher rate than in 2002 (+5.5%).

Annual growth rate



Sectors such as apparel and dry goods and household goods posted robust increases in constant prices, with rates twice as high as those expressed in current dollars.

The automotive sector was the main cause of the slowdown in 2003

The automotive sector performed poorly in 2003, posting a decrease of 3.0% compared with a 15.1% gain in 2002. The effect of this decline on total wholesale sales was substantial: excluding sales in the automotive sector, total sales grew 5.2% in 2003, exceeding the rate for 2002 (+4.2%).

The automotive sector was the only trade group to see its sales decline in 2003. The drop in 2003 is largely attributable to a decrease in the number of new motor vehicles sold in Canada (-6.2%).

Sales, all trade groups

	2002	2003	2002 to 2003
	\$ millions		% change
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	35,527	39,725	11.8
Other Products	56,579	61,492	8.7
Lumber and building materials	33,065	35,735	8.1
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	8,259	8,743	5.9
Apparel and dry goods	7,542	7,865	4.3
Household goods	11,996	12,453	3.8
Total all trade groups	418,797	433,801	3.6
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	32,249	33,359	3.4
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	58,437	59,990	2.7
Food products	67,111	68,705	2.4
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	25,052	25,270	0.9
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	82,980	80,463	-3.0

Wholesalers of beverage, drug and tobacco products posted the best performance in 2003

Beverage, drug and tobacco sales grew by 11.8% in 2003. This sector led all trade groups in growth for the third time in four years. As in previous years, much of the growth was attributable to drug wholesalers.

Higher prices for some drugs, the growth of domestic demand and increased drug exports all contributed to the rise reported in 2003.

Computer and software wholesalers registered their first gain in four years

For wholesalers of computers and electronic equipment, 2003 was a good year, with sales up 3.4% from 2002. This was the first annual increase in four years. Factors contributing to the growth of sales in 2003 were the launching of new products, price decreases that made product purchases more attractive, and some recovery in the demand for computers.

This sector had peaked in mid-1999 when anticipation of the Y2K bug caused businesses to boost investment. These large commitments cut off growth in subsequent years.

Prince Edward Island and Alberta reported strong gains

Robust sales in 2003 were reported by wholesalers in two provinces: Prince Edward Island (+10.9%) and Alberta (+7.8%). The increase in Prince Edward Island was largely attributable to food products and farm machinery. Alberta experienced sizable sales gains in beverage, drug and tobacco products and lumber and building materials.

Ontario wholesalers saw their sales grow 2.8% in 2003, a rate slightly below the national average. The strong concentration of the automotive sector in that province had a major impact on growth. More than 75% of the motor vehicles, parts and accessories wholesale sector is concentrated in Ontario.

Sales in Quebec rose 3.9%. The strong representation of beverage, drug and tobacco products in the province, a sector which posted a sharp increase in sales, had an effect on total sales. Generally, wholesale sales in Quebec have been growing steadily since mid-2001.

Sales by province and territory

	2002	2003	2002 to 2003
	\$ millions		% change
Prince Edward Island	654	725	10.9
Alberta	42,371	45,658	7.8
Yukon	117	123	4.8
British Columbia	39,936	41,684	4.4
Quebec	84,916	88,254	3.9
Canada	418,797	433,801	3.6
Nova Scotia	7,298	7,539	3.3
Ontario	210,726	216,715	2.8
New Brunswick	5,248	5,368	2.3
Manitoba	2,651	2,681	1.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	12,316	12,442	1.0
Saskatchewan	12,270	12,388	1.0
Northwest Territories	268	205	-23.4
Nunavut	25	16	-36.8

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

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

Wholesale sales estimates for January 2004 will be issued on March 26.

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), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Wholesale merchants' sales and inventories

	December 2002	September 2003 ^r	October 2003 ^r	November 2003 ^r	December 2003 ^p	November to December 2003	December 2002 to December 2003
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Sales, all trade groups	36,103	36,632	36,607	36,608	36,911	0.8	2.2
Food products	5,809	5,705	5,695	5,717	5,598	-2.1	-3.6
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,981	3,459	3,496	3,463	3,543	2.3	18.9
Apparel and dry goods	657	672	659	642	650	1.3	-1.1
Household goods	1,065	1,042	1,046	1,047	1,036	-1.0	-2.7
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	7,206	6,712	6,658	6,688	6,935	3.7	-3.8
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,145	2,103	2,075	2,097	2,155	2.8	0.4
Lumber and building materials	2,894	3,218	3,095	3,079	3,152	2.3	8.9
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	722	680	658	679	677	-0.3	-6.2
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,882	5,129	5,098	5,119	5,089	-0.6	4.2
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,658	2,727	2,811	2,834	2,792	-1.5	5.0
Other products	5,083	5,185	5,315	5,244	5,283	0.8	3.9
Sales by province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	215	231	230	234	235	0.5	9.2
Prince Edward Island	56	63	63	58	56	-3.5	0.8
Nova Scotia	625	634	641	627	593	-5.5	-5.2
New Brunswick	444	441	454	453	442	-2.6	-0.5
Quebec	7,184	7,580	7,484	7,453	7,502	0.7	4.4
Ontario	18,182	18,286	18,220	18,233	18,538	1.7	2.0
Manitoba	1,038	1,013	1,007	1,037	1,012	-2.5	-2.6
Saskatchewan	1,084	1,016	1,028	1,080	998	-7.6	-7.9
Alberta	3,764	3,838	3,935	3,906	3,938	0.8	4.6
British Columbia	3,483	3,500	3,516	3,499	3,568	2.0	2.4
Yukon	9	10	10	9	10	4.1	1.8
Northwest Territories	18	17	18	17	19	15.4	7.9
Nunavut	2	1	1	1	1	-18.1	-49.2
Inventories, all trade groups	45,048	46,297	45,738	45,949	46,058	0.2	2.2
Food products	3,410	3,706	3,678	3,709	3,700	-0.2	8.5
Beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,416	3,755	3,662	3,638	3,810	4.7	11.5
Apparel and dry goods	1,330	1,349	1,353	1,329	1,305	-1.8	-1.9
Household goods	1,741	1,697	1,723	1,753	1,753	0.0	0.7
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	6,660	7,182	7,057	7,095	6,908	-2.6	3.7
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	3,775	3,602	3,552	3,588	3,664	2.1	-2.9
Lumber and building materials	4,457	4,710	4,538	4,630	4,700	1.5	5.5
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,865	2,012	2,028	2,068	2,060	-0.4	10.5
Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies	10,186	10,250	10,065	9,973	9,904	-0.7	-2.8
Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery	2,089	1,898	1,887	1,940	1,952	0.6	-6.5
Other products	6,119	6,136	6,196	6,226	6,302	1.2	3.0

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

■

OTHER RELEASES

Payroll employment, earnings and hours

December 2003 (preliminary)

The average weekly earnings of payroll employees increased substantially in December to \$699.19 (+\$7.55).

The new level is 1.6% higher than it was 12 months before. The year-over-year growth is due largely to earnings increases in the manufacturing, retail trade, professional, scientific and technical services and public administration sectors.

The average hours for hourly-paid workers dropped in December, attributable mostly to decreased hours in goods-producing industries, especially construction and manufacturing.

The number of payroll employees rose sharply in December (+76,600 jobs), the largest increase since 2001. Gains in December were widespread across provinces, territories and industries. The health care and social assistance sector added 9,400 payroll jobs, continuing a long-established upward trend. Professional, scientific and technical services was up 8,800, rising for the fourth consecutive month. Manufacturing grew by 6,900 jobs, but has still lost 50,000 jobs since the middle of 2003. Retail trade rose for a third straight month, by 5,600 jobs in December.

Note: Some changes will be made to the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and hours (SEPH). With the release of data for the January 2004 reference month, (on March 30), current and historical estimates will be published on the basis of the 2002 version of North

American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). This change affects only estimates for industry groupings within the Construction (NAICS 23) and Information and Culture (NAICS 51) industries. In addition to the switch to NAICS 2002, there will be a slight change to the definitions for groupings "durable and non-durable goods" of manufacturing. As per the normal SEPH annual revision cycle, historical corrections to other series will also be made available with the March 30th release. At that time a concordance table between the NAICS 97 and 2002 version will be made available. To enquire about the concordance table contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Available on CANSIM: tables 281-0023 to 281-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2612.

Detailed industry data, data by size of enterprise based on employment, and other labour market indicators will be available soon in the monthly publication *Employment, Earnings and Hours* (72-002-XIB, \$26/\$257). See *How to order products*.

Data on payroll employment, earnings and hours for January 2004 will be released March 30.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; fax: 613-951-2869; labour@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. □

Average weekly earnings for all employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	December 2002	November 2003 ^r	December 2003 ^p	November to December 2003	December 2002 to December 2003
seasonally adjusted					
	\$			% change	
Industrial aggregate	687.98	691.64	699.19	1.1	1.6
Forestry, logging and support	851.12	866.99	879.91	1.5	3.4
Mining and oil and gas	1,174.35	1,197.54	1,209.07	1.0	3.0
Utilities	1,073.17	1,060.43	1,053.93	-0.6	-1.8
Construction	820.70	824.04	827.83	0.5	0.9
Manufacturing	840.25	844.86	856.96	1.4	2.0
Wholesale Trade	787.15	792.61	803.68	1.4	2.1
Retail trade	436.89	440.35	450.97	2.4	3.2
Transportation and warehousing	771.81	753.20	759.50	0.8	-1.6
Information and cultural industries	823.18	799.41	803.19	0.5	-2.4
Finance and insurance	878.12	881.42	883.82	0.3	0.6
Real estate and rental and leasing	605.34	605.39	618.91	2.2	2.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	906.61	910.70	938.96	3.1	3.6
Management of companies and enterprises	849.54	865.94	904.07	4.4	6.4
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	539.62	540.64	554.44	2.6	2.7
Educational Services	746.93	755.89	749.54	-0.8	0.3
Health care and social assistance	610.53	618.39	620.96	0.4	1.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	437.94	420.61	433.56	3.1	-1.0
Accommodation and food services	283.93	280.24	282.63	0.9	-0.5
Other services (excluding public administration)	525.99	527.83	541.51	2.6	3.0
Public administration	842.06	870.12	880.35	1.2	4.5
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	629.14	629.96	635.89	0.9	1.1
Prince Edward Island	546.54	552.74	554.39	0.3	1.4
Nova Scotia	595.17	597.00	602.95	1.0	1.3
New Brunswick	617.46	631.49	642.19	1.7	4.0
Quebec	651.99	655.98	667.57	1.8	2.4
Ontario	733.25	734.02	741.40	1.0	1.1
Manitoba	612.58	618.61	627.11	1.4	2.4
Saskatchewan	615.35	630.97	635.71	0.8	3.3
Alberta	703.56	715.55	724.94	1.3	3.0
British Columbia	683.60	684.04	684.96	0.1	0.2
Yukon	766.53	754.80	722.06	-4.3	-5.8
Northwest Territories ¹	903.19	890.51	907.02	1.9	0.4
Nunavut ¹	797.02	778.27	810.30	4.1	1.7

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Number of Employees

Industry group (North American Industry Classification System)	October 2003	November 2003 ^r	December 2003 ^p	October to November 2003	November to December 2003
seasonally adjusted					
	'000			% change	
Industrial aggregate	13,347.4	13,373.5	13,450.1	0.2	0.6
Forestry, logging and support	53.2	52.2	53.6	-1.9	2.7
Mining and oil and gas	153.7	154.2	156.0	0.3	1.2
Utilities	114.4	113.8	113.3	-0.5	-0.4
Construction	653.0	657.4	659.0	0.7	0.2
Manufacturing	2,023.8	2,019.9	2,026.8	-0.2	0.3
Wholesale Trade	757.0	752.4	753.4	-0.6	0.1
Retail trade	1,598.9	1,606.6	1,612.2	0.5	0.3
Transportation and warehousing	600.7	601.8	599.1	0.2	-0.4
Information and cultural industries	352.8	352.5	355.3	-0.1	0.8
Finance and insurance	572.3	574.6	576.9	0.4	0.4
Real estate and rental and leasing	231.2	232.2	233.0	0.4	0.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	656.1	659.0	667.8	0.4	1.3
Management of companies and enterprises	90.1	88.4	88.5	-1.9	0.1
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	614.9	614.1	619.3	-0.1	0.8
Educational Services	936.6	961.4	969.2	2.6	0.8
Health care and social assistance	1,372.9	1,370.5	1,379.9	-0.2	0.7
Arts, entertainment and recreation	241.1	240.0	239.3	-0.5	-0.3
Accommodation and food services	933.0	935.6	937.2	0.3	0.2
Other services (excluding public administration)	503.0	503.1	509.8	0.0	1.3
Public administration	769.7	771.5	771.7	0.2	0.0
Provinces and territories					
Newfoundland and Labrador	185.9	183.8	185.9	-1.1	1.1
Prince Edward Island	64.0	62.4	61.5	-2.5	-1.4
Nova Scotia	383.3	382.1	385.6	-0.3	0.9
New Brunswick	304.7	300.0	303.2	-1.5	1.1
Quebec	3,171.3	3,179.0	3,180.5	0.2	0.0
Ontario	5,173.5	5,209.2	5,225.1	0.7	0.3
Manitoba	525.9	521.2	523.1	-0.9	0.4
Saskatchewan	396.7	396.3	402.0	-0.1	1.4
Alberta	1,460.7	1,464.1	1,473.2	0.2	0.6
British Columbia	1,636.1	1,638.9	1,650.0	0.2	0.7
Yukon	15.7	15.3	15.3	-2.5	0.0
Northwest Territories ¹	22.4	22.1	22.4	-1.3	1.4
Nunavut ¹	11.5	11.4	11.6	-0.9	1.8

^r Revised estimates.

^p Preliminary estimates.

¹ Data not seasonally adjusted.

Legal aid in Canada: Resource and caseload statistics 2002/03

Legal aid spending and the number of applications for legal aid services both declined in 2002/03.

Total legal aid expenditures by Canada's legal aid plans fell 2% to \$582 million dollars in 2002/03, the first decline since 1999/2000. Legal aid plan spending was equivalent to \$19 per Canadian.

Legal aid plans received 814,000 applications for assistance in 2002/03, down 4% from the total for the previous year. The number of approved legal aid applications decreased for the second year in a row, falling 3% to 494,000.

The decline in both total and approved applications does not necessarily reflect a reduction in the need for

legal aid services. Factors such as a change in the types of cases covered by the legal aid plan or in the financial eligibility criteria for providing legal aid services also play a role.

Cases involving civil matters accounted for more than half, or about 55% of direct legal aid expenditures. The remaining direct expenditures went towards criminal cases.

Governments, both provincial/territorial and federal, continue to be the major source of funding for legal aid plans. They contributed \$518 million in 2002/03, or about 90% of total revenues of \$574 million. The remainder came from client contributions and cost recoveries (4%), legal profession contributions (1%), and other sources (5%).

Available on CANSIM: tables 258-0001 to 258-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3308.

The annual report, *Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics*, 2002/03 (85F0015XIE, \$31) is now available. This product provides data on revenues, expenditures, caseload and personnel involved in delivering legal aid services in Canada. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023). ■

Public sector employment

Fourth quarter 2003 (preliminary)

Estimates of public sector employment and aggregate public sector wages and salaries for the fourth quarter are now available. Data for the first three quarters have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: tables 183-0002 to 183-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1713 and 1728.

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

release, contact Daniel Salois (613-951-0379; daniel.salois@statcan.ca), Public Institutions Division. ■

Stocks of frozen and chilled meats

February 2004

Total frozen and chilled red meat in cold storage at the opening of the first business day of February amounted to 90 825 metric tonnes, up 2% from 88 964 tonnes in January and up 3% from 88 473 tonnes in February 2003. Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on February 1 totalled 45 997 metric tonnes, down 10% from a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0005 and 003-0041.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3423.

The February 2004 issue of *Stocks of Frozen and Chilled Meats* (23-009-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information, call 1-800-465-1991. To enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

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

The Dairy Review, fourth quarter 2003, Vol. 64, no. 4
Catalogue number 23-001-XIB (\$29/\$96).

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**Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload
Statistics**, 2002/03
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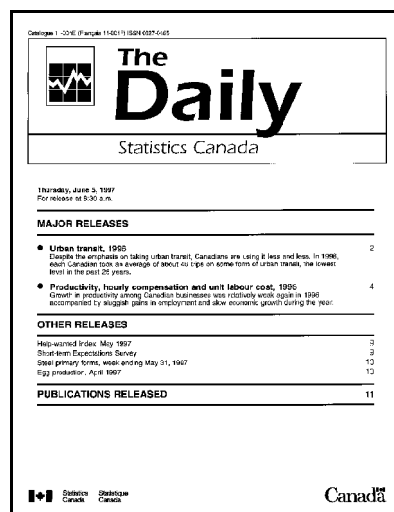
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