Tuesday, April 27, 2004
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

## MAJOR RELEASES

- Retail Trade, February 2004

Retail sales advanced at their fastest monthly rate in more than six years in February. Surging auto sales, combined with strong gains in the clothing, furniture, general merchandise and food sectors led total retail sales to new heights. Retailers sold $\$ 27.0$ billion worth of goods and services in February, up 2.3\% from January.

- Wholesale Trade, February 2004

In February, wholesale sales edged down slightly $0.3 \%$ to $\$ 35.7$ billion in goods and services. This is the third decrease for wholesalers in the past four months.

## OTHER RELEASES

Employment insurance, February 2004
9
Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults, March 200410
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products, November 2003 ..... 10NEW PRODUCTS11

## MAJOR RELEASES

## Retail Trade

February 2004
Retail sales advanced at their fastest monthly rate in more than six years in February. Surging auto sales, combined with strong gains in the clothing, furniture, general merchandise and food sectors led total retail sales to new heights. Consumer spending in retail stores advanced $2.3 \%$ in February to $\$ 27.0$ billion, after increasing $1.7 \%$ in January. February's gain was the strongest monthly increase since December 1997, when retail sales rose $3.6 \%$.


Retailers enjoyed a resurgence in growth in the first two months of 2004, after experiencing poor sales in the second half of 2003. Previously, retail sales had generally been increasing since the fall of 2001.

Excluding sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales advanced $0.5 \%$ in February, after jumping 2.3\% in January.

Prices had little effect on February's results, as retail sales increased $2.4 \%$ in constant dollars, after rising $1.3 \%$ in January.

## Note to readers

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

Statistics Canada released February 2004 results from the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers on April 23, 2004. This survey produces retail sales estimates based on a group of about 80 large retailers that represents approximately $28 \%$ of overall sales from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Consequently, seasonally adjusted monthly movements may differ between both surveys as a result of differences in coverage.

## Sales up in five of the seven retail sectors

Surging sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers in February ( $+8.3 \%$ ) led to a $5.2 \%$ sales increase for the overall automotive sector. February's huge gain was welcome news for motor and recreational vehicle dealers, after seeing their sales fall in each of the previous six months. Sales by these retailers in February stood at about the level of last September. Motor and recreational vehicle dealers experienced record sales levels in 2002 and in the first half of 2003.

Consumer spending in the clothing sector remained strong in February ( $+2.4 \%$ ), after increasing $1.5 \%$ in January. Shoe stores ( $+8.8 \%$ ) and men's clothing stores $(+6.4 \%)$ led sales increases in the clothing sector in February. Previously, sales in shoe stores had generally been declining since early 2002, while sales in men's clothing stores had been falling over the course of the last three years. Sales in the overall clothing sector accelerated in the first two months of 2004, after rising slowly in the last two years.

Furniture stores enjoyed a $1.6 \%$ sales gain in February, following a temporary setback in January $(-1.4 \%)$. Retailers in the furniture sector continued to lead all other retailers in terms of growth in February, with sales up $9.9 \%$ compared with the same month in 2003.

In February, sales gains posted by department stores $(+2.8 \%)$ led to a $1.0 \%$ increase for the general merchandise sector. New stores that opened in late January were partly behind the sales growth seen in department stores in February. These store openings also contributed to the $5.6 \%$ sales gain posted by department stores in January. Department store sales for the first two months of the year stood at $7.4 \%$ above the level observed in the same period of 2003. On the other hand, sales by "other general merchandise
stores" fell $1.7 \%$ in February, continuing the seesawing sales posted by these retailers since last November.

Sales in food stores advanced for a second consecutive month in February ( $+0.5 \%$ ), after increasing $1.2 \%$ in January. Food retailers gained momentum in the first two months of 2004 after experiencing essentially flat sales since April 2003.

## Retail sales growth strongest in Prairie provinces

Retail sales advanced rapidly in all provinces in February, with the exception of Nova Scotia ( $-0.3 \%$ ) and New Brunswick (+0.1\%).

Sales growth was strongest in the Prairie provinces $(+5.6 \%)$, largely attributable to the strength of new motor vehicle sales ( $+12.8 \%$ ). February's strong sales posted by retailers in Saskatchewan ( $+7.1 \%$ ) cancelled out declines seen in the previous five months. In Alberta ( $+5.7 \%$ ) and Manitoba ( $+4.2 \%$ ), retailers posted record sales in February, after experiencing a period of essentially flat sales since the spring of 2003.

## Related indicators for March

The slow growth observed in total employment since the start of the year continued in March with a $0.1 \%$
decline from February. This contrasts with the strong employment gains noted in the last four months of 2003. Propelled by a $14.2 \%$ increase in March to 247,000 units, housing starts reached their second highest level since August 1987, surpassed only by February 2003. The number of new motor vehicles sold in March is estimated to have increased by about $3 \%$ from February, 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 February 2004 issue of Retail Trade ( $63-005-\mathrm{XIB}, \$ 18 / \$ 166$ ) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for March 2004 will be released on May 25.

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.

The Daily, April 27, 2004

Retail sales

|  | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { February } \\ 2003 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { November } \\ 2003^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { December } \\ 2003^{r} \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { January } \\ 2004^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { February } \\ & 2004^{\mathrm{p}} \end{aligned}$ | January to <br> February 2004 | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { February } \\ 2003 \\ \text { to } \\ \text { February } \\ 2004 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions |  |  |  |  | \% change |  |
| Food | 5,777 | 5,914 | 5,901 | 5,974 | 6,005 | 0.5 | 3.9 |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores | 5,371 | 5,505 | 5,490 | 5,567 | 5,598 | 0.5 | 4.2 |
| All other food stores | 406 | 408 | 411 | 407 | 407 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Drug and patent medicine stores | 1,316 | 1,381 | 1,387 | 1,439 | 1,430 | -0.7 | 8.7 |
| Clothing | 1,346 | 1,393 | 1,375 | 1,396 | 1,429 | 2.4 | 6.2 |
| Shoe stores | 150 | 151 | 149 | 148 | 161 | 8.8 | 7.0 |
| Men's clothing stores | 110 | 106 | 104 | 108 | 115 | 6.4 | 4.5 |
| Women's clothing stores | 385 | 404 | 396 | 406 | 414 | 2.1 | 7.7 |
| Other clothing stores | 700 | 733 | 726 | 734 | 739 | 0.6 | 5.5 |
| Furniture | 1,545 | 1,684 | 1,695 | 1,671 | 1,698 | 1.6 | 9.9 |
| Household furniture and appliance stores | 1,227 | 1,338 | 1,349 | 1,328 | 1,354 | 2.0 | 10.4 |
| Household furnishings stores | 318 | 346 | 346 | 343 | 344 | 0.3 | 8.0 |
| Automotive | 10,910 | 10,120 | 9,858 | 9,997 | 10,518 | 5.2 | -3.6 |
| Motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 7,040 | 6,586 | 6,311 | 6,299 | 6,821 | 8.3 | -3.1 |
| Gasoline service stations | 2,342 | 1,999 | 2,012 | 2,109 | 2,115 | 0.3 | -9.7 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services | 1,528 | 1,535 | 1,534 | 1,589 | 1,582 | -0.4 | 3.5 |
| General merchandise stores | 2,886 | 2,985 | 2,897 | 3,043 | 3,072 | 1.0 | 6.5 |
| Department stores | 1,699 | 1,730 | 1,704 | 1,799 | 1,849 | 2.8 | 8.8 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 1,187 | 1,255 | 1,193 | 1,244 | 1,224 | -1.7 | 3.1 |
| Retail stores not elsewhere classified | 2,753 | 2,847 | 2,849 | 2,884 | 2,873 | -0.4 | 4.3 |
| Other semi-durable goods stores | 811 | 804 | 806 | 844 | 810 | -4.0 | -0.1 |
| Other durable goods stores | 673 | 703 | 689 | 679 | 684 | 0.8 | 1.7 |
| All other retail stores not elsewhere classified | 1,269 | 1,340 | 1,355 | 1,362 | 1,378 | 1.2 | 8.6 |
| Total, retail sales | 26,532 | 26,323 | 25,962 | 26,405 | 27,025 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 19,492 | 19,736 | 19,650 | 20,107 | 20,204 | 0.5 | 3.7 |
| Provinces and territories |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 439 | 447 | 451 | 458 | 471 | 2.9 | 7.5 |
| Prince Edward Island | 111 | 108 | 106 | 109 | 110 | 1.8 | -0.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 772 | 765 | 765 | 762 | 760 | -0.3 | -1.5 |
| New Brunswick | 611 | 597 | 592 | 604 | 605 | 0.1 | -1.1 |
| Quebec | 6,063 | 6,097 | 6,041 | 6,186 | 6,242 | 0.9 | 3.0 |
| Ontario | 10,010 | 9,838 | 9,632 | 9,816 | 10,008 | 2.0 | 0.0 |
| Manitoba | 894 | 921 | 904 | 918 | 957 | 4.2 | 7.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 782 | 762 | 758 | 744 | 797 | 7.1 | 1.9 |
| Alberta | 3,282 | 3,269 | 3,197 | 3,271 | 3,456 | 5.7 | 5.3 |
| British Columbia | 3,468 | 3,422 | 3,418 | 3,442 | 3,524 | 2.4 | 1.6 |
| Yukon | 36 | 34 | 33 | 34 | 34 | -1.5 | -6.2 |
| Northwest Territories | 45 | 44 | 46 | 42 | 42 | -0.3 | -7.1 |
| Nunavut | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 1.2 | 4.4 |

[^0]
## Retail sales

|  | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { February } \\ 2003 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { January } \\ 2004^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { February } \\ 2004^{\text {p }} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { February } \\ 2003 \\ \text { to } \\ \text { February } \\ 2004 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | unadjusted |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions |  |  | \% change |
| Food | 5,111 | 6,008 | 5,421 | 6.1 |
| Supermarkets and grocery stores | 4,754 | 5,646 | 5,051 | 6.2 |
| All other food stores | 357 | 362 | 370 | 3.7 |
| Drug and patent medicine stores | 1,206 | 1,418 | 1,346 | 11.7 |
| Clothing | 886 | 1,073 | 966 | 9.0 |
| Shoe stores | 91 | 118 | 100 | 9.9 |
| Men's clothing stores | 69 | 94 | 74 | 7.9 |
| Women's clothing stores | 260 | 301 | 287 | 10.4 |
| Other clothing stores | 466 | 561 | 505 | 8.2 |
| Furniture | 1,194 | 1,455 | 1,330 | 11.4 |
| Household furniture and appliance stores | 944 | 1,168 | 1,058 | 12.0 |
| Household furnishings stores | 249 | 287 | 272 | 9.2 |
| Automotive | 8,678 | 8,238 | 8,552 | -1.4 |
| Motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 5,490 | 4,891 | 5,400 | -1.6 |
| Gasoline service stations | 2,048 | 1,989 | 1,945 | -5.1 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and services | 1,140 | 1,358 | 1,207 | 5.9 |
| General merchandise stores | 2,118 | 2,354 | 2,319 | 9.4 |
| Department stores | 1,168 | 1,283 | 1,318 | 12.9 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 951 | 1,072 | 1,001 | 5.2 |
| Retail stores not elsewhere classified |  |  |  | 7.0 |
| Other semi-durable goods stores | 567 | 634 | 575 | 1.3 |
| Other durable goods stores | 505 | 554 | 525 | 4.0 |
| All other retail stores not elsewhere classified | 978 | 1,119 | 1,094 | 11.9 |
| Total, retail sales | 21,242 | 22,854 | 22,127 | 4.2 |
| Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers | 15,753 | 17,963 | 16,727 | 6.2 |
| Provinces and territories |  |  |  |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 332 | 370 | 365 | 9.6 |
| Prince Edward Island | 82 | 88 | 83 | 0.9 |
| Nova Scotia | 615 | 664 | 609 | -0.9 |
| New Brunswick | 474 | 507 | 474 | 0.0 |
| Quebec | 4,773 | 5,219 | 5,027 | 5.3 |
| Ontario | 7,963 | 8,471 | 8,149 | 2.3 |
| Manitoba | 733 | 809 | 795 | 8.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 627 | 663 | 651 | 3.8 |
| Alberta | 2,638 | 2,879 | 2,841 | 7.7 |
| British Columbia | 2,923 | 3,101 | 3,054 | 4.5 |
| Yukon | 27 | 28 | 25 | -7.0 |
| Northwest Territories | 40 | 38 | 37 | -7.0 |
| Nunavut | 15 | 16 | 16 | 8.2 |

[^1]
## Wholesale Trade

February 2004

In February, wholesale sales edged down slightly $0.3 \%$ to $\$ 35.7$ billion in goods and services. This is the third decrease for wholesalers in the past four months. As in the previous month, February's decline was largely attributable to the motor vehicles, parts and accessories sector. Excluding that sector, sales rose $0.4 \%$.


Since February 2003, wholesale sales have generally been declining, with much of the decrease attributable to the automotive sector. Excluding that sector, the average growth of total sales was $0.2 \%$ for the last 12 months.

In February, 6 of the 11 trade groups, representing approximately $66 \%$ of total sales, registered a decline. In addition to the automotive sector ( $-3.6 \%$ ), sectors contributing the most to the decrease in value terms were computers, software and other electronic equipment ( $-3.1 \%$ ) and beverage, drug and tobacco products (-1.7\%).

The decreased sales of these trade groups were offset in part by increased sales of lumber and building

## Note to readers

Estimates from the monthly Wholesale Trade Survey are based on the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.
materials ( $+4.0 \%$ ), industrial machinery (+2.2\%) and metals and hardware ( $+3.8 \%$ ).

In constant dollars, wholesale sales fell $0.7 \%$ in February.

## Wholesale sales in the automotive sector post second consecutive decline

Sales in the automotive sector fell again in February $(-3.6 \%)$. This decline followed the one recorded in January ( $-12.2 \%$ ). Just as in the previous month, the high level of dealers' inventories continued to affect wholesale sales.

## Sales of computers and electronics down

Sales of computers and electronics fell $3.1 \%$ after remaining stable in January ( $+0.1 \%$ ). This was the second drop in the past three months. In fact, 2003 was a good year for wholesalers of these products-it was their first year-over-year increase in sales in four years. The growth of sales in 2003 was partly because of the launching of new products, declining prices and some recovery in the demand for computers.

## Despite February's increase in industrial machinery sales, the trend weakened

Industrial machinery wholesalers saw their sales rise $2.2 \%$. However, since November 2003, sales have begun to show signs of weakness, following a practically uninterrupted rise that began in the summer of 2002 and ended in October 2003. The second and third quarters of 2003 were especially favourable to wholesalers because companies substantially boosted their spending on industrial machinery, in part because of low interest rates. These, combined with a strong Canadian dollar, favoured investment in imported machinery.


## Wholesale sales linked to the housing market up in February

Sales of metals and hardware again rose in February ( $+3.8 \%$ ). This rise followed on the growth registered in January ( $+1.1 \%$ ). There were also increases in the lumber and building materials sector (+4.0\%).

In February, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, housing starts rose nearly 10\%. Also, the Canadian Real Estate Association announced the first increase in the home resale market since October 2003.

## Dip in wholesale sales affects half the provinces

In February, five provinces posted a decrease in wholesale sales. The largest declines were registered in Saskatchewan ( $-3.1 \%$ ), Newfoundland and Labrador ( $-2.9 \%$ ) and New Brunswick (-1.2\%). As in the previous two months, the drop in wholesale sales in Saskatchewan was largely attributable to the "other products" category that includes chemicals and other agricultural supplies.

Wholesalers in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as New Brunswick, reported declines in both the automotive sector and the beverage, drug and tobacco products sector.

The decrease in the sales by Ontario wholesalers (-1.1\%) was largely attributable to the automotive
sector. More than $75 \%$ of the motor vehicles, parts and accessories trade group is concentrated in this province.

The strong increase observed in Nova Scotia ( $+3.4 \%$ ) was partly because of increased sales of food products and computers and electronic products. This increase completely offset the $2.7 \%$ drop recorded in January. Despite the increased sales in February, wholesale sales in Nova Scotia have generally been trending downward since September 2003. Previously, sales had experienced a period of healthy growth starting in January 2002.


## Inventory-to-sales ratio up for second consecutive month

In February, the inventory-to-sales ratio edged up to 1.29 , compared with 1.28 in January. Excluding the effects of August's power blackout, which caused problems in delivery, this ratio is the highest since June 2003. The increase in the ratio over the past two months is partly attributable to the automotive sector, which has had difficulty moving its inventories through to retailers.

In February, inventories rose $0.3 \%$, primarily because of increases registered in the automotive and industrial machinery sectors. These two sectors tend to have the largest inventories in terms of value.

Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0001 and 081-0002.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

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

Wholesale trade estimates for March 2004 will be released on May 25.

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

|  | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { February } \\ 2003 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { November } \\ 2003^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { December } \\ 2003^{r} \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { January } \\ 2004^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { February } \\ 2004^{\mathrm{p}} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { January } \\ \text { to } \\ \text { February } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | February <br> 2003 <br> to <br> February <br> 2004 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions |  |  |  |  | \% change |  |
| Sales, all trade groups | 36,494 | 36,542 | 36,967 | 35,841 | 35,744 | -0.3 | -2.1 |
| Food products | 5,791 | 5,718 | 5,620 | 5,699 | 5,679 | -0.4 | -1.9 |
| Beverage, drug and tobacco products | 3,102 | 3,481 | 3,566 | 3,615 | 3,553 | -1.7 | 14.5 |
| Apparel and dry goods | 620 | 632 | 649 | 609 | 601 | -1.3 | -3.0 |
| Household goods | 1,014 | 1,043 | 1,031 | 1,022 | 1,022 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| Motor vehicles, parts and accessories | 7,184 | 6,653 | 7,008 | 6,153 | 5,928 | -3.6 | -17.5 |
| Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies | 2,170 | 2,098 | 2,158 | 2,181 | 2,264 | 3.8 | 4.3 |
| Lumber and building materials | 2,868 | 3,069 | 3,129 | 3,022 | 3,143 | 4.0 | 9.6 |
| Farm machinery, equipment and supplies | 734 | 675 | 661 | 646 | 663 | 2.6 | -9.7 |
| Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies | 4,890 | 5,103 | 5,066 | 4,909 | 5,018 | 2.2 | 2.6 |
| Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery | 2,973 | 2,840 | 2,810 | 2,812 | 2,724 | -3.1 | -8.4 |
| Other products | 5,148 | 5,231 | 5,269 | 5,174 | 5,150 | -0.5 | 0.0 |
| Sales by province and territory |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 211 | 232 | 236 | 230 | 223 | -2.9 | 5.7 |
| Prince Edward Island | 59 | 59 | 60 | 59 | 60 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 633 | 627 | 613 | 596 | 616 | 3.4 | -2.6 |
| New Brunswick | 451 | 455 | 446 | 453 | 447 | -1.2 | -0.8 |
| Quebec | 7,236 | 7,446 | 7,526 | 7,397 | 7,442 | 0.6 | 2.8 |
| Ontario | 18,431 | 18,173 | 18,450 | 17,708 | 17,518 | -1.1 | -4.9 |
| Manitoba | 1,047 | 1,041 | 1,027 | 1,034 | 1,048 | 1.3 | 0.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,072 | 1,079 | 995 | 972 | 941 | -3.1 | -12.2 |
| Alberta | 3,773 | 3,908 | 3,974 | 3,949 | 4,015 | 1.7 | 6.4 |
| British Columbia | 3,555 | 3,494 | 3,611 | 3,416 | 3,406 | -0.3 | -4.2 |
| Yukon | 10 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9.2 | 5.7 |
| Northwest Territories | 13 | 16 | 19 | 17 | 15 | -8.3 | 15.4 |
| Nunavut | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -8.9 | -33.9 |
| Inventories, all trade groups | 45,657 | 45,897 | 45,941 | 45,891 | 46,024 | 0.3 | 0.8 |
| Food products | 3,398 | 3,701 | 3,682 | 3,670 | 3,657 | -0.3 | 7.6 |
| Beverage, drug and tobacco products | 3,573 | 3,645 | 3,804 | 3,786 | 3,780 | -0.2 | 5.8 |
| Apparel and dry goods | 1,318 | 1,326 | 1,304 | 1,293 | 1,276 | -1.4 | -3.2 |
| Household goods | 1,725 | 1,755 | 1,753 | 1,744 | 1,702 | -2.4 | -1.3 |
| Motor vehicles, parts and accessories | 6,840 | 7,085 | 6,917 | 6,872 | 6,954 | 1.2 | 1.7 |
| Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies | 3,791 | 3,590 | 3,649 | 3,726 | 3,749 | 0.6 | -1.1 |
| Lumber and building materials | 4,580 | 4,620 | 4,658 | 4,712 | 4,774 | 1.3 | 4.2 |
| Farm machinery, equipment and supplies | 1,922 | 2,071 | 2,073 | 2,076 | 2,099 | 1.1 | 9.2 |
| Industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies | 10,073 | 9,967 | 9,904 | 9,919 | 10,003 | 0.8 | -0.7 |
| Computers, packaged software and other electronic machinery | 1,957 | 1,936 | 1,936 | 1,847 | 1,814 | -1.8 | -7.3 |
| Other products | 6,481 | 6,201 | 6,261 | 6,246 | 6,216 | -0.5 | -4.1 |

[^2]
## OTHER RELEASES

## Employment insurance <br> February 2004 (preliminary)

The estimated number of Canadians (adjusted for seasonality) receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits in February 2004 was 555,010, a number that remains virtually unchanged from January ( $+0.2 \%$ ). The February figure follows six months of consecutive declines, yet is still $3.8 \%$ higher than a year ago because of increases in the first half of the year. Since September 2003, there have been almost continual month-to-month decreases in Quebec, Ontario and the western provinces.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { February } \\ 2004^{p} \end{gathered}$ | January to <br> February 2004 | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { February } \\ 2003 \\ \text { to } \\ \text { February } \\ 2004 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | seasonally adjusted |  |  |
|  | \% change |  |  |
| Canada | 555,010 | 0.2 | 3.8 |
| Newfoundland and |  |  |  |
| Prince Edward Island | 8,110 | -1.6 | -0.7 |
| Nova Scotia | 30,490 | 0.9 | 1.8 |
| New Brunswick | 34,730 | 0.3 | 2.7 |
| Quebec | 183,990 | -0.8 | 3.4 |
| Ontario | 140,040 | 3.8 | 8.9 |
| Manitoba | 14,180 | -0.5 | 9.4 |
| Saskatchewan | 12,860 | 5.1 | 13.1 |
| Alberta | 30,630 | 1.1 | -3.4 |
| British Columbia | 62,150 | -1.4 | 2.7 |
| Yukon Territory | 970 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Northwest Territories and Nunavut | 1,220 | 3.4 | 8.9 |
|  | unadjusted |  |  |
|  | \% change |  |  |
| Northwest Territories | 890 | -5.3 | 3.5 |
| Nunavut | 390 | 2.6 | 21.9 |

$p$ Preliminary figures.
Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, which usually contains the 15th day of the month.
Also on a seasonally adjusted basis, regular benefit payments in February totalled $\$ 834.8$ million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 246,110 .

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

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits for the week containing the 15th day of the month. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

## Employment Insurance statistics


$r$ Revised figures.
$p$ Preliminary figures.

1. "All beneficiaries" include all claimants receiving regular benefits (e.g., as a result of being laid off) or special benefits (e.g., as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week, which usually contains the 15th day of the month.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for March 2004 will be released on May 26.

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

## Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

March 2004 (preliminary)
Placements of hatchery chicks onto farms were estimated at 56.8 million birds in March, up $1.3 \%$ from March 2003. Placements of turkey poults on farms decreased $12.7 \%$ to 1.6 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

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

## Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products <br> November 2003

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

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division.

## NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat: A Weekly Review, April 27, 2004
Catalogue number 11-002-XIE (\$100).
Insights on the Canadian Economy: Do Canadians Pay More Than Americans for the Same Products?, no. 6
Catalogue number 11-624-MIE2004006 (free).

## Canada's International Transactions in Securities,

 February 2004, Vol. 70, no. 2Catalogue number 67-002-XIE (\$15/\$142).

## All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.


|  | Statistics Canada's official release bulletin <br> Catalogue 11-001-XIE. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Statistics Cana |  |
| \%amam | Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6. |
| Manomicesss |  |
|  <br>  | To access The Daily on the Internet, visit our site at http://www.statcan.ca. To receive The Daily each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname" |
| Omen |  |
| 边 | Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, |
|  | the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproductio |
| Pue.camovs melease | is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, The Daily, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references. |
| $\boldsymbol{+ 1}=0$ |  |


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

[^1]:    ${ }_{p}$ Revised figures.
    p Preliminary figures.

[^2]:    ${ }^{r}$ Revised figures.
    $p$ Preliminary figures.

