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# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Monday, July 26, 2004**
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

## MAJOR RELEASES



## OTHER RELEASES



## NEW PRODUCTS



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Canada

# MAJOR RELEASES

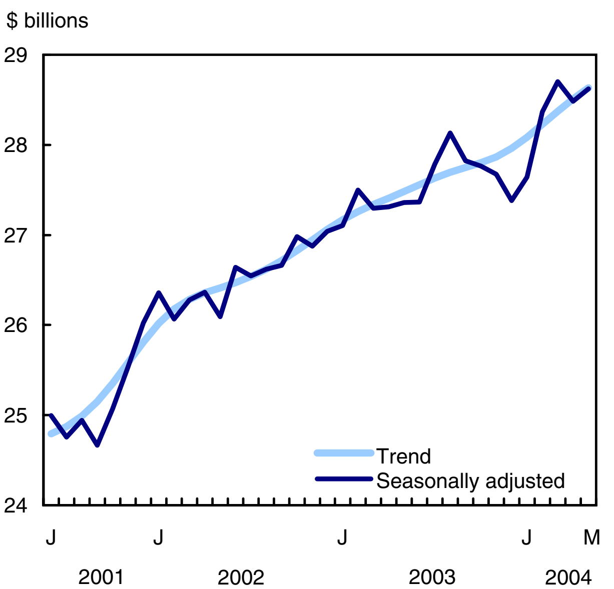
## Retail Trade
May 2004

Retailers sold $28.6 billion worth of goods and services in May, an increase of 0.5% from April, when sales fell 0.8%. May's gain marked the fourth increase in five months. Previously, retailers had suffered four consecutive monthly sales declines at the end of 2003, after experiencing a period of general increases that began in the fall of 2001.

Once prices are taken into account, retail sales in constant dollars fell 0.2% in May. The most significant price increases were noted in gasoline stations, where the average price at the pump jumped 13.6%, the largest monthly gain in 21 years. Higher prices were also observed in supermarkets, but to a much lesser extent.

Excluding sales by dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, retail sales grew at a much faster pace in May (+1.4%). In constant dollars, this gain translates to an increase of 0.5%.

**Retail sales rebound**




Sales increases were noted in five of the eight retail sectors in May. Food and beverage stores enjoyed by far the largest sales gain (+2.2%), followed by furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores (+1.0%). More moderate increases were posted by building and outdoor home supplies stores (+0.6%), stores in the automotive sector (+0.4%) and pharmacies and personal care stores (+0.3%). The automotive sector gain was entirely driven by a sizable price-induced increase at gasoline stations, while sales at auto dealers fell in May.

Retailers classified in the miscellaneous sector, such as sporting goods, office supplies, hobby, music and book stores suffered the most significant sales decline in May (-2.7%), along with general merchandise stores (-1.1%). Clothing and accessories stores (-0.2%) also posted lower sales in May.

### Strong month at food and beverage stores

In May, sales rebounded in beer, wine and liquor stores (+5.4%). Sales have been quite volatile in the last three months. In March, sales jumped significantly (+5.3%) as a result of promotions and subsequently retreated in April (-5.3%). Previously, sales by these retailers had generally been increasing since early 2003.

Supermarkets posted a sizable sales gain in May (+1.8%). About a third of this increase came from higher prices at these stores. Purchases by consumers in supermarkets have picked up since the beginning of the year, after a period of little change that began in the spring of 2003.

Computer and software stores (+3.4%) and home electronics and appliance stores (+1.9%) benefited from higher consumer spending in May. This was the first monthly sales gain in computer and software stores in five months. Sales by computer and software stores, which are cyclical, have generally been falling since the summer of 2003. Despite May's increase, sales in home electronics and appliance stores have remained essentially flat since the summer of last year.

Home centres and hardware stores are still surfing the housing wave. Sales by these retailers advanced 1.0% in May, and jumped 16.4% compared to the same month a year earlier.

### Gasoline sales up, car sales down

A substantial jump in gasoline prices at the pump led to a 7.4% sales increase by gasoline stations in May. Sales returned to record levels, slightly surpassing the previous price-induced peak in February 2003.

In May, sales were down in new car dealers (-2.1%) and used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers (-2.8%). Sales at new car dealers remained at about 3.8% below the average level seen from

January 2002 to July 2003. New car dealers had been experiencing record sales during that period, before sales began to fall in the second half of 2003.

Sales in other general merchandise stores fell 2.4% in May, while department stores posted a marginal 0.2% gain. On a year-over-year basis, sales advanced by 5.2% in both type of stores in May. The opening of a number of stores in November 2003 for other general merchandise stores and in January 2004 for department stores helped stimulate sales in recent months.

### Sales increase in four provinces only

Retailers in Newfoundland and Labrador (+2.2%), Nova Scotia (+1.7%), Quebec (+1.1%) and Ontario (+0.9%) enjoyed the only sales increases in May, after posting declines of at least 1.0% in April.

Despite May's gain in Newfoundland and Labrador, retail sales in that province have been slowly falling since the summer of 2003, after increasing in the previous twelve months. Retailers in Nova Scotia experienced strong sales in March, April and May, after a period of essentially flat sales that began in the summer of 2002.

Since the start of the year, retail sales in Quebec and Ontario recovered all of the ground lost in the last four months of 2003. Previously, retailers in these two provinces had generally been experiencing increasing sales since the fall of 2001.

### Related indicators for June

Total employment continued to increase in June (+0.2%), bringing the number of jobs created in the second quarter of 2004 to 130,400. Previously, employment growth had paused in the first quarter of the year. Housing starts were still exceptionally high in June, despite remaining unchanged at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 239,300. Gasoline prices at the pump fell for the first time in six months in June (-3.3%), after advancing 29.4% over the previous five months. It is estimated that the number of new motor vehicles sold in June fell by about 2.0% from May, according to preliminary estimates obtained from the automotive industry.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017 and 076-0005.**

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

The May 2004 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, $18/$166) will be available soon.

Data on retail trade for June 2004 will be released on August 23.

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

| | May 2003 | February 2004r | March 2004r | April 2004r | May 2004p | April to May 2004 | May 2003 to May 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | seasonally adjusted | | | | | | |
| | $ millions | | | | | % change | |
| **Automotive** | **9,386** | **9,573** | **9,706** | **9,496** | **9,538** | **0.4** | **1.6** |
| New car dealers | 5,867 | 5,768 | 5,875 | 5,648 | 5,531 | -2.1 | -5.7 |
| Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 1,215 | 1,205 | 1,243 | 1,238 | 1,203 | -2.8 | -0.9 |
| Gasoline stations | 2,304 | 2,599 | 2,588 | 2,610 | 2,804 | 7.4 | 21.7 |
| **Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores** | **1,894** | **1,997** | **1,980** | **1,994** | **2,015** | **1.0** | **6.4** |
| Furniture stores | 656 | 714 | 701 | 708 | 709 | 0.2 | 8.1 |
| Home furnishings stores | 325 | 360 | 357 | 366 | 365 | -0.2 | 12.2 |
| Computer and software stores | 168 | 152 | 151 | 147 | 152 | 3.4 | -9.1 |
| Home electronics and appliance stores | 745 | 770 | 770 | 774 | 788 | 1.9 | 5.8 |
| **Building and outdoor home supplies stores** | **1,531** | **1,602** | **1,701** | **1,691** | **1,702** | **0.6** | **11.2** |
| Home centres and hardware stores | 1,145 | 1,246 | 1,333 | 1,319 | 1,332 | 1.0 | 16.4 |
| Specialized building materials and garden stores | 386 | 356 | 368 | 373 | 370 | -0.7 | -4.1 |
| **Food and beverage stores** | **6,394** | **6,592** | **6,670** | **6,632** | **6,780** | **2.2** | **6.0** |
| Supermarkets | 4,665 | 4,757 | 4,758 | 4,787 | 4,872 | 1.8 | 4.4 |
| Convenience and specialty food stores | 696 | 733 | 752 | 746 | 749 | 0.4 | 7.6 |
| Beer, wine and liquor stores | 1,033 | 1,102 | 1,160 | 1,099 | 1,158 | 5.4 | 12.2 |
| **Pharmacies and personal care stores** | **1,759** | **1,860** | **1,884** | **1,869** | **1,874** | **0.3** | **6.5** |
| **Clothing and accessories stores** | **1,630** | **1,676** | **1,691** | **1,675** | **1,671** | **-0.2** | **2.6** |
| Clothing stores | 1,220 | 1,262 | 1,275 | 1,266 | 1,267 | 0.1 | 3.8 |
| Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores | 409 | 414 | 416 | 410 | 404 | -1.3 | -1.2 |
| **General merchandise stores** | **3,338** | **3,506** | **3,499** | **3,550** | **3,512** | **-1.1** | **5.2** |
| Department stores | 1,740 | 1,871 | 1,817 | 1,827 | 1,831 | 0.2 | 5.2 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 1,598 | 1,635 | 1,682 | 1,723 | 1,682 | -2.4 | 5.2 |
| **Miscellaneous retailers** | **1,430** | **1,559** | **1,572** | **1,574** | **1,532** | **-2.7** | **7.1** |
| Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores | 711 | 729 | 727 | 729 | 703 | -3.6 | -1.1 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 720 | 830 | 846 | 845 | 829 | -1.8 | 15.2 |
| **Total retail sales** | **27,362** | **28,364** | **28,703** | **28,482** | **28,625** | **0.5** | **4.6** |
| **Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers** | **20,280** | **21,391** | **21,585** | **21,596** | **21,890** | **1.4** | **7.9** |
| **Provinces and territories** | | | | | | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 469 | 487 | 471 | 462 | 472 | 2.2 | 0.5 |
| Prince Edward Island | 115 | 115 | 119 | 118 | 117 | -0.8 | 2.6 |
| Nova Scotia | 827 | 813 | 856 | 847 | 861 | 1.7 | 4.1 |
| New Brunswick | 645 | 659 | 662 | 661 | 652 | -1.5 | 1.0 |
| Quebec | 6,283 | 6,354 | 6,534 | 6,403 | 6,474 | 1.1 | 3.0 |
| Ontario | 10,379 | 10,622 | 10,668 | 10,547 | 10,646 | 0.9 | 2.6 |
| Manitoba | 904 | 961 | 984 | 978 | 962 | -1.6 | 6.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 816 | 853 | 849 | 866 | 860 | -0.7 | 5.4 |
| Alberta | 3,212 | 3,628 | 3,614 | 3,613 | 3,603 | -0.3 | 12.2 |
| British Columbia | 3,614 | 3,774 | 3,850 | 3,890 | 3,882 | -0.2 | 7.4 |
| Yukon | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | -1.3 | 0.4 |
| Northwest Territories | 44 | 42 | 43 | 43 | 42 | -1.5 | -4.8 |
| Nunavut | 19 | 20 | 20 | 19 | 19 | -1.8 | -1.1 |

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

## Retail sales

| | May 2003 | April 2004[r] | May 2004[p] | May 2003 to May 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | unadjusted | | | |
| | $ millions | | | % change |
| **Automotive** | **11,186** | **10,391** | **10,893** | **-2.6** |
| New car dealers | 7,171 | 6,374 | 6,434 | -10.3 |
| Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 1,599 | 1,482 | 1,514 | -5.3 |
| Gasoline stations | 2,416 | 2,535 | 2,945 | 21.9 |
| **Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores** | **1,808** | **1,784** | **1,881** | **4.0** |
| Furniture stores | 675 | 664 | 709 | 5.1 |
| Home furnishings stores | 325 | 342 | 356 | 9.3 |
| Computer and software stores | 158 | 141 | 141 | -10.4 |
| Home electronics and appliance stores | 650 | 637 | 676 | 3.9 |
| **Building and outdoor home supplies stores** | **2,028** | **1,711** | **2,167** | **6.9** |
| Home centres and hardware stores | 1,462 | 1,327 | 1,647 | 12.6 |
| Specialized building materials and garden stores | 565 | 385 | 520 | -8.1 |
| **Food and beverage stores** | **6,897** | **6,563** | **6,919** | **0.3** |
| Supermarkets | 5,078 | 4,814 | 5,010 | -1.3 |
| Convenience and specialty food stores | 747 | 748 | 772 | 3.3 |
| Beer, wine and liquor stores | 1,072 | 1,000 | 1,137 | 6.1 |
| **Pharmacies and personal care stores** | **1,793** | **1,852** | **1,868** | **4.1** |
| **Clothing and accessories stores** | **1,700** | **1,564** | **1,694** | **-0.4** |
| Clothing stores | 1,262 | 1,197 | 1,278 | 1.3 |
| Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores | 438 | 367 | 416 | -5.1 |
| **General merchandise stores** | **3,533** | **3,329** | **3,608** | **2.1** |
| Department stores | 1,737 | 1,688 | 1,785 | 2.8 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 1,796 | 1,641 | 1,824 | 1.5 |
| **Miscellaneous retailers** | **1,425** | **1,421** | **1,474** | **3.5** |
| Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores | 679 | 663 | 652 | -4.1 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 746 | 758 | 823 | 10.3 |
| **Total retail sales** | **30,370** | **28,613** | **30,504** | **0.4** |
| **Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers** | **21,600** | **20,757** | **22,556** | **4.4** |
| **Provinces and territories** | | | | |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 525 | 452 | 501 | -4.7 |
| Prince Edward Island | 126 | 111 | 123 | -2.0 |
| Nova Scotia | 901 | 835 | 901 | 0.0 |
| New Brunswick | 720 | 666 | 693 | -3.8 |
| Quebec | 7,282 | 6,722 | 7,191 | -1.3 |
| Ontario | 11,483 | 10,391 | 11,321 | -1.4 |
| Manitoba | 1,006 | 986 | 1,015 | 0.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 883 | 866 | 895 | 1.4 |
| Alberta | 3,480 | 3,617 | 3,760 | 8.1 |
| British Columbia | 3,860 | 3,872 | 4,007 | 3.8 |
| Yukon | 38 | 33 | 36 | -4.3 |
| Northwest Territories | 45 | 42 | 41 | -8.0 |
| Nunavut | 20 | 19 | 19 | -4.8 |

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

■

# OTHER RELEASES

## Farm Product Price Index

May 2004

Prices received by farmers for their agricultural commodities decreased 6.2% in May compared with May 2003, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI).

The crop index was down 7.4% from its May 2003 level of 107.3, continuing the monthly year-over-year decreases that began last July. The livestock and animal products index was 4.9% below last year's levels, marking the 12th consecutive year-over-year decrease. The only crop index that recorded an increase compared with May 2003 was oilseeds. For the livestock and animal products index, the only two indexes that recorded decreases were the cattle and calves index (-19.9%) and the dairy index (-2.3%).

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 101.8 in May, up 2.4% from the revised April index. The total index had peaked in February 2003 at 111.3, and then slid to the recent low of 93.8 in September.

### Farm Product Price Index

(1997=100)

| | May 2003[r] | April 2004[r] | May 2004[p] | May 2003 to May 2004 | April to May 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | % change | |
| **Farm Product Price Index** | **108.5** | **99.4** | **101.8** | **-6.2** | **2.4** |
| **Crops** | **107.3** | **97.0** | **99.4** | **-7.4** | **2.5** |
| Grains | 111.6 | 90.4 | 91.7 | -17.8 | 1.4 |
| Oilseeds | 94.3 | 102.2 | 103.6 | 9.9 | 1.4 |
| Specialty crops | 121.8 | 112.9 | 119.2 | -2.1 | 5.6 |
| Fruit | 115.2 | 104.2 | 107.6 | -6.6 | 3.3 |
| Vegetables | 112.3 | 109.5 | 109.5 | -2.5 | 0.0 |
| Potatoes | 130.7 | 101.4 | 110.0 | -15.8 | 8.5 |
| **Livestock and animal products** | **108.9** | **101.4** | **103.6** | **-4.9** | **2.2** |
| Cattle and calves | 121.9 | 100.7 | 97.6 | -19.9 | -3.1 |
| Hogs | 82.1 | 86.9 | 101.1 | 23.1 | 16.3 |
| Poultry | 96.7 | 97.3 | 99.1 | 2.5 | 1.8 |
| Eggs | 101.5 | 104.4 | 104.4 | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| Dairy | 119.3 | 116.5 | 116.5 | -2.3 | 0.0 |

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

The livestock and animal products index rose to 103.6 in May 2004, up 2.2% from the revised April index. On a month-to-month basis, all of the livestock indexes rose except eggs and dairy, which remained unchanged, and the cattle and calves index, which dipped 3.1%. The increases ranged from 1.8% for poultry to 16.3% for hogs.

The May 2004 cattle and calves index dropped to 97.6, following the discovery, in May 2003, of one cow in northern Alberta that tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease. The United States and several other countries banned Canadian ruminants and all associated products at that time. Subsequently, the border has opened to exports of select cuts of beef. Continual closure to live cattle exports and speculation on when the border will open has caused strong price fluctuations. The index ranged from 125.0 to 128.4 during the first four months of 2003 and then dropped dramatically to 63.6 by July.

The hog index rose from 86.9 recorded in April to 101.1 for May. Strong domestic consumer and export demand, and tighter supplies have all contributed to the recent increases in hog prices. The hog index had dipped to 64.1 last December. The continued export ban on certain beef products, the low-carbohydrate, high-protein diet trend and the avian flu outbreak are influencing consumer demand.

On a month-to-month basis, the crop index rose 2.5% in May. All of the crop indexes recorded increases except vegetables, which remained unchanged. The increases ranged from 1.4% for both grains and oilseeds to 8.5% for potatoes. With the exception of oilseeds, all of the crop indexes remained below last year's level when prices were supported by tight supplies after two consecutive droughts in Western Canada.

The oilseed index continued its climb, reaching 103.6, the highest level since December 2002 when it had reached 104.0. The index then declined steadily to 85.1 last August when production returned to more normal levels. Canadian oilseed prices have found recent support from increased world oilseed consumption, tight US soybean supplies and very strong soybean prices. US soybean prices continued hitting high levels as concerns persisted over tight supplies and strong demand.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.**

The May 2004 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 4, no. 5 (21-007-XIB, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445; fax: 204-983-7543; *gail-ann.breese@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

## Sawmills and Planing Mills

May 2004

Data on sawmills and planing mills for May are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2134 and 2135.**

The May 2004 issue of *Sawmills and Planing Mills*, Vol. 58, no. 5 (35-003-XIB, $10/$93) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

# NEW PRODUCTS

**Farm product price index**, May 2004, Vol. 4, no. 5
**Catalogue number 21-007-XIB**
(free).

**Sawmills and planing mills**, May 2004, Vol. 58, no. 5
**Catalogue number 35-003-XIB** ($10/$93).

**Inter-corporate ownership**, Second quarter 2004
**Catalogue number 61-517-XCB** ($375/$1,065).

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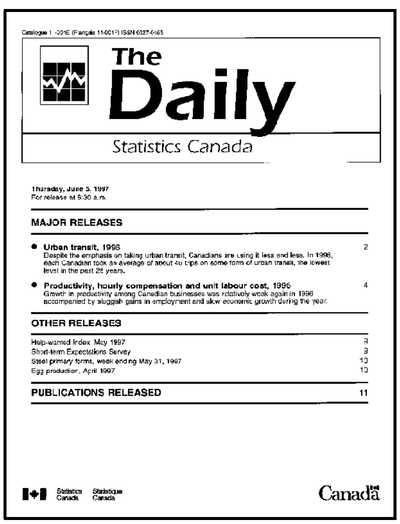

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The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- Urban transit, 1996 — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 45 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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