



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, August 20, 2004

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Wholesale trade, June 2004 and second quarter 2004** 2
Wholesale sales advanced for the fourth consecutive month in June. The 0.6% rise was largely attributable to the automotive sector.
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MAJOR RELEASES

Wholesale trade

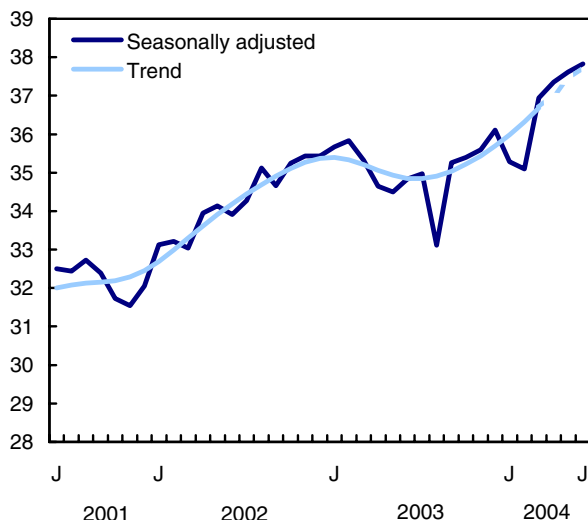
June 2004 and second quarter 2004

Wholesale sales advanced for the fourth consecutive month in June. Wholesale sales rose 0.6% to \$37.8 billion. This increase was largely attributable to the automotive sector. Excluding this sector, sales declined 0.4%.

Total wholesale sales have been generally climbing since September 2003. Prior to this, wholesale sales went through a slump, which began in March 2003.

Wholesale sales register a fourth consecutive increase

\$ billions



Advances were recorded in 7 of the 15 wholesale trade groups in June, accounting for 55% of total sales. The automotive sector (+4.2%) and building materials sector (+1.3%) led the way.

Note to readers

The Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey publishes its estimates based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002).

All non-durable type goods sectors saw their sales fall in June with wholesalers of farm products (-3.1%), personal and household goods (-1.3%) and food, beverages and tobacco products (-0.9%) posting the largest declines.

In constant prices, wholesale sales rose 0.8% in June and 2.7% for the second quarter of 2004.

A strong quarter for wholesalers

After a fairly lacklustre start to the year, wholesale sales surged in the second quarter, posting their best gains in the past 10 years (+5.1%). Not since the third quarter of 1993 has there been a better showing (+6.3%). More than a third of the second quarter growth was attributable to motor vehicle sales.

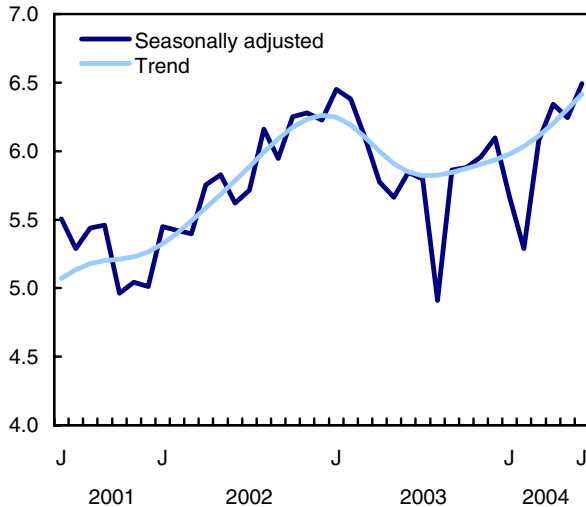
The automotive sector drives sales in June

Motor vehicle sales jumped 4.0% to \$6.5 billion in June, which more than offset a 1.6% decline in May. This increase, the third in the past four months, pushed sales to a level slightly surpassing the previous record set in January 2003. The growth of the last few months was attributable in part to strong exports for particular car models.

Sales in this trade group have generally increased since September last year, following a downward swing that began in February 2003. The motor vehicle parts and accessories group also posted gains in June (+4.9%).

Motor vehicle wholesale sales up for the third time in four months

\$ billions



The sales of the building materials sector rose 1.3%. All trade groups in this sector posted gains in June, led by metal products (+2.2%), lumber (+3.5%) and building materials (+0.2%). A robust housing market, steep price increases for some materials and a booming home renovation market have strongly contributed to steady sales advances since August 2003.

Sales up in most provinces

Manitoba and Saskatchewan were the leaders among the seven provinces to post gains in June. Manitoba wholesalers led the way with a fifth consecutive increase in sales (+5.1%). This gain was mainly attributable to motor vehicle sales as well as sales in the "other products" category (chemicals and similar supplies). Wholesale sales were relatively stable from September 2003 to January 2004 after falling sharply in the previous three months. Meanwhile, wholesale sales rose 4.0% in Saskatchewan, boosted by strong demand for goods in the "other products" and machinery and equipment categories.

Overall, sales growth in June were partly offset by declines in New Brunswick (-2.3%) and Alberta (-1.3%), where shipments in the latter province fell for the first time in five months. In Prince Edward Island, wholesale sales fell 7.4% in June after surging in May (+16.8%).

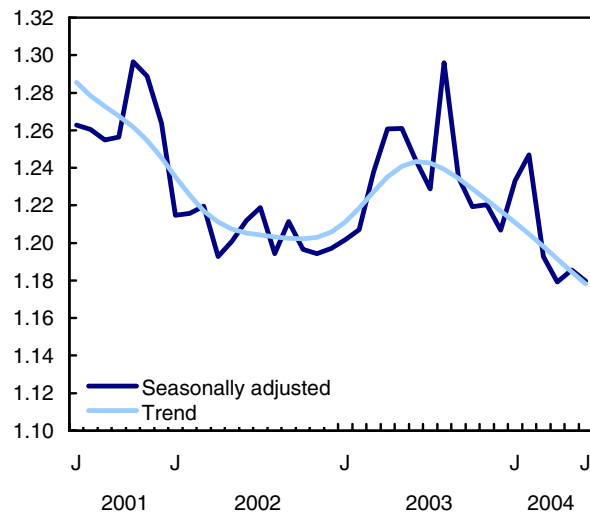
Inventory-to-sales ratio down slightly

Inventories remained relatively stable in June (+0.1%). Increases in inventories of machinery and equipment, as well as metal products, were offset by sizable decreases for motor vehicles and office and professional equipment. Since November 2003, inventories have generally increased.

The inventory-to-sales ratio edged down to 1.18 in June from its May level of 1.19. The decline in the ratio was a result of sales rising strongly while inventories increased modestly. Since September 2003, the ratio has been trending downward slightly, following an upward period that began in December 2002.

The inventory-to-sales ratio remains at historically low levels

Ratio



Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 to 081-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

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

Wholesale trade estimates for July 2004 will be released on September 20.

For data or more information, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean Lebreux (613-951-4907; jean.lebreux@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Wholesale merchants' sales

	June 2003	March 2004 ^r	April 2004 ^r	May 2004 ^r	June 2004 ^p	May to June 2004	June 2003 to June 2004
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	34,831	36,948	37,359	37,620	37,833	0.6	8.6
Farm products	400	428	447	410	397	-3.1	-0.7
Food, beverages and tobacco products	7,057	7,091	6,991	7,196	7,131	-0.9	1.0
Food products	6,442	6,465	6,328	6,494	6,472	-0.3	0.5
Alcohol and tobacco	615	626	662	701	660	-5.9	7.3
Personal and household goods	4,695	5,161	5,205	5,287	5,216	-1.3	11.1
Apparel	747	720	702	764	723	-5.3	-3.1
Household and personal products	2,038	2,237	2,290	2,323	2,320	-0.2	13.8
Pharmaceuticals	1,910	2,204	2,213	2,200	2,173	-1.2	13.8
Automotive products	7,236	7,545	7,812	7,702	8,023	4.2	10.9
Motor vehicles	5,846	6,074	6,343	6,242	6,491	4.0	11.0
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,389	1,470	1,469	1,460	1,532	4.9	10.3
Building materials	4,236	5,063	5,056	5,052	5,118	1.3	20.8
Building supplies	2,578	2,950	2,970	2,940	2,945	0.2	14.2
Metal products	775	1,051	1,015	1,038	1,061	2.2	36.9
Lumber and millwork	882	1,062	1,071	1,074	1,112	3.5	26.0
Machinery and electronic equipment	7,165	7,481	7,391	7,606	7,568	-0.5	5.6
Machinery and equipment	3,016	3,192	3,175	3,223	3,268	1.4	8.4
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,418	2,615	2,565	2,690	2,622	-2.5	8.4
Office and professional equipment	1,731	1,674	1,651	1,693	1,678	-0.9	-3.1
Other products	4,042	4,180	4,456	4,366	4,378	0.3	8.3
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	209	216	216	223	225	0.8	7.5
Prince Edward Island	49	51	50	58	54	-7.4	9.3
Nova Scotia	563	525	520	481	500	3.9	-11.2
New Brunswick	438	463	452	457	446	-2.3	1.8
Quebec	6,599	7,214	7,090	7,144	7,223	1.1	9.5
Ontario	18,413	19,309	19,673	19,806	19,853	0.2	7.8
Manitoba	912	923	951	968	1,017	5.1	11.5
Saskatchewan	999	955	964	966	1,004	4.0	0.5
Alberta	3,426	3,795	3,821	3,901	3,850	-1.3	12.4
British Columbia	3,197	3,474	3,600	3,594	3,639	1.3	13.8
Yukon	8	7	7	7	7	0.2	-15.2
Northwest Territories	15	15	13	14	12	-10.9	-18.4
Nunavut	2	1	1	1	1	71.8	-34.1

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	June 2003	March 2004 ^r	April 2004 ^r	May 2004 ^r	June 2004 ^p	May to June 2004	June 2003 to June 2004	May 2004 ^r	June 2004 ^p
	Wholesale inventories						Inventory-to-sales ratio		
	seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
Inventories	43,330	44,072	44,056	44,599	44,635	0.1	3.0	1.19	1.18
Farm products	100	134	140	142	165	15.6	65.5	0.35	0.41
Food products	4,735	4,685	4,462	4,516	4,427	-2.0	-6.5	0.70	0.68
Alcohol and tobacco	299	284	296	300	291	-2.8	-2.5	0.43	0.44
Apparel	1,473	1,421	1,471	1,411	1,422	0.7	-3.5	1.85	1.97
Household and personal products	3,009	3,278	3,458	3,504	3,540	1.0	17.7	1.51	1.53
Pharmaceuticals	2,181	2,319	2,411	2,494	2,580	3.5	18.3	1.13	1.19
Motor vehicles	4,240	4,328	4,278	4,291	4,185	-2.5	-1.3	0.69	0.64
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,308	2,850	2,926	2,970	2,909	-2.0	-12.0	2.03	1.90
Building supplies	4,393	4,482	4,510	4,524	4,566	0.9	3.9	1.54	1.55
Metal products	1,465	1,722	1,783	1,905	2,006	5.3	37.0	1.84	1.89
Lumber and millwork	830	947	999	1,055	1,105	4.8	33.1	0.98	0.99
Machinery and equipment	8,154	8,564	8,261	8,336	8,459	1.5	3.7	2.59	2.59
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,557	1,620	1,527	1,496	1,486	-0.7	-4.6	0.56	0.57
Office and professional equipment	2,509	2,244	2,421	2,553	2,423	-5.1	-3.5	1.51	1.44
Other products	5,076	5,194	5,115	5,102	5,069	-0.6	-0.1	1.17	1.16

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.



OTHER RELEASES

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports May 2004

The May 2004 monthly report, Vol. 1 (TP 141, free) is available on Transport Canada's website (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

Note: The TP 141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (i.e., those with NAV CANADA air-traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (i.e., those without air-traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release on Transport Canada's website.

For more information about this website, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villenm@tc.gc.ca) or Sheila Rajani (613-993-9822; rajanis@tc.gc.ca), Transport Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; aviationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Residential Telephone Service Survey May 2004

A microdata file from the May 2004 Residential Telephone Service Survey (56M0001XCB, \$535) is now available. See *How to order products*.

Information in this file refers to telephone service penetration rates in Canada's 10 provinces.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4426.

For more information on related products and services, or to enquire about the concepts, methods

or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-461-9050; 613-951-3321; fax 613-951-4527; ssd@statcan.ca), Special Surveys Division. ■

Steel pipe and tubing June 2004

Data on production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing for June are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The June 2004 issue *Production of Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing*, Vol. 28, no. 6 (41-011-XIB, \$6/\$51) 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. ■

Crude oil and natural gas June 2004 (preliminary)

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

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending August 14, 2004 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 14 totalled 301 625 metric tonnes, down 1.9% from 307 594 tonnes a week earlier, but up 33.4% from 226 117 tonnes in the same week of 2003.

The year-to-date total as of August 14 was 10 064 983 tonnes, up 3.5% from 9 727 122 tonnes in the same period of 2003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

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

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(free).

Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing,
June 2004, Vol. 28, no. 6
Catalogue number 41-011-XIB (\$6/\$51).

Residential Telephone Service Survey, May 2004
Catalogue number 56M0001XCB (\$535).

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 3, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak despite a year accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **Household Income, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 2
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

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 Statistics Canada 

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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RELEASE DATES: AUGUST 23 TO AUGUST 27

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
23	Retail Trade	June 2004
24	Consumer Price Index	July 2004
24	Production of Principal Field Crops	As of July 31, 2004
24	Employment Insurance	June 2004
25	Leading Indicators	July 2004
26	Farm Cash Receipts	Second quarter 2004
26	Financial Statistics for Enterprises	Second quarter 2004
26	Payroll Employment, Earnings and Hours	June 2004
27	International Travel Account	Second quarter 2004
27	Characteristics of International Travellers	First quarter 2004