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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, January 24, 2005
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Major releases

Other releases

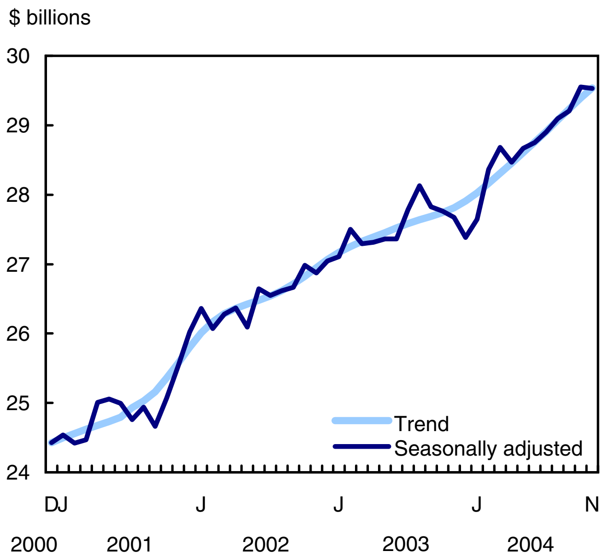
Major releases

Retail trade

November 2004

Retail sales remained essentially unchanged in November (-0.1%) at $29.5 billion, as declines in half of all retail sectors offset gains in the other half. Previously, retailers had shown a healthy 1.2% sales jump in October.

Retail sales stalled in November after six consecutive monthly increases



Retail sales have generally been increasing since the fall of 2001, except for a period of declines in the last four months of 2003.

Retailers have seen their monthly sales rise 9 times in the first 11 months of 2004, pushing cumulative sales up 4.7% compared with the same 11-month period in 2003. This growth rate outperformed the 3.8% year-to-date increase seen in the first 11 months of 2003, but was much weaker than the 6.8% gain in the same 11-month period in 2002.

In constant dollars, retail sales fell 0.4% in November, the first decline in six months. Higher prices at auto dealers and building supplies stores were dampened by lower prices in clothing and computer stores.

Just one month before Christmas, consumers significantly reduced their spending in general merchandise stores (-2.3%) and furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores (-1.9%). The declines were much smaller in stores of the automotive sector (-0.3%) and in clothing and accessories stores (-0.1%).

On the other hand, shoppers spent more in building supplies stores (+1.4%), food stores (+1.2%), pharmacies (+0.7%) and stores classified in the miscellaneous category (+0.7%). The gain in the miscellaneous category came mostly from sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores.

Poor pre-Christmas sales in general merchandise and furniture sectors

The total money spent by shoppers at general merchandise stores in November fell by 2.3%, the largest decline since December 2003. Within the sector, both department stores (-3.5%) and other general merchandise stores (-1.1%) suffered sales losses. The more pronounced sales decline posted by department stores was, in fact, their largest of any month in five years.

Despite November's setback, sales in the general merchandise sector have been quite strong since the beginning of 2004. Cumulative sales for the first 11 months of 2004 were 5.3% above those in the same period of 2003. Moreover, this growth rate was their second best in the last five years, trailing the 5.8% cumulative gain seen in the first 11 months of 2002.

Sales in furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores dropped 1.9% in November, after remaining essentially unchanged in October (+0.1%). Previously, robust consumer demand in this sector had led to sizable sales gains in September (+1.4%) and August (+1.2%), following little change in sales levels since early 2004.

A closer look at the four categories of retailers included in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics sector shows significant differences in sales trends. Since the summer of 2003, sales have skyrocketed in home furnishings stores, changed little in home electronics and appliance stores, and declined in computer and software stores. Lower prices continued to deflate sales at computer and software stores in 2004. For their part, furniture stores have been reporting sales increases since early 2003, with the exception of a temporary setback in the second quarter of 2004.

Lower sales at new car dealers (-0.6%) and gasoline stations (-0.4%) led to a 0.3% sales decline in the automotive sector in November. These declines came on the heels of strong sales increases at both new car dealers (+3.0%) and gasoline stations (+6.3%)

in October. Since the start of 2004, sales at new car dealers have gradually returned to the level seen before the losses in the second half of 2003. As for gasoline stations, higher prices at the pump have led to higher sales values since the spring of 2003, for an overall gain of about 27% over the period.

Sizable price discounts for women's and men's clothing pushed down the sales values in the clothing sector (-0.1%) in November. Clothing and accessories stores have seen little change in their sales since early 2004, after experiencing a period of rapid growth that began in the spring of 2003.

Building supplies stores and food retailers regain losses

Consumers returned to shopping at building and outdoor home supplies stores in November, pushing sales up 1.4% after two months of declines. Retailers in this sector have enjoyed double digit annual sales gains in the last three years. In the first 11 months of 2004, sales at building and outdoor home supplies stores rose 10.4% above those in the same period of 2003. This was by far the most important growth rate of any retail sector in 2004.

Food and beverage stores posted the second largest sales gain of any sector in November (+1.2%), thanks mostly to strong sales at supermarkets (+2.3%). Supermarkets have experienced strong sales growth since the spring of 2004, leading to a cumulative sales gain of 3.7% in the first 11 months of 2004 compared with the same period of 2003. This increase was just below the 4.2% year-to-date growth rate observed in the same 11-month period in 2003.

Beer, wine and liquor stores suffered their second straight monthly sales decline in November (-2.8%). November's decline was, in part, attributable to a strike at the Société des alcools du Québec that began in the middle of the month. Despite the setbacks of the last two months, overall sales at beer, wine and liquor stores across the country have generally been advancing since the spring of 2003.

Pharmacies and personal care stores also enjoyed higher sales in November (+0.7%), their fourth consecutive monthly gain. Robust consumer spending in these stores has led to a 7.8% increase in cumulative sales for the first 11 months of 2004 compared with the same period of 2003.

British Columbia retailers suffer the largest decline in 14 months

Retail sales declined in six provinces in November led by British Columbia (-1.2%). Ontario posted the smallest decrease (-0.1%). Sales gains were posted by retailers in New Brunswick (+2.5%), Saskatchewan (+1.3%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.1%) and Quebec (+0.5%).

British Columbia's lower retail sales came from weaker spending at new car dealers, used and recreational vehicles and parts dealers, department stores and other general merchandise stores. Despite these setbacks, retailers in British Columbia experienced the third strongest cumulative sales increase (+6.8%) in the first 11 months of 2004, outperformed only by their counterparts in Alberta (+11.2%) and Manitoba (+7.6%). Retailers in these three provinces have enjoyed exceptional sales growth since early 2004, after a slowdown in the second half of 2003.

Related indicators for December

Total employment advanced 0.2% in December and finished the year with an overall growth rate of 1.4%. This compares with a net gain of 1.8% in employment throughout 2003. Despite a 3.4% drop in December, housing starts rose 6.7% in 2004 to reach their highest level in 17 years. Early results from the automotive industry show a decline of about 2% in the number of new motor vehicles sold in December compared with November.

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 November 2004 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XIE, $18/$166) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for December 2004 will be released on February 21.

For more 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

	November 2003	August 2004[r]	September 2004[r]	October 2004[r]	November 2004[p]	October to November 2004	November 2003 to November 2004
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Automotive	**9,138**	**9,771**	**9,696**	**10,090**	**10,062**	**-0.3**	**10.1**
New car dealers	5,478	5,784	5,730	5,900	5,865	-0.6	7.1
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,228	1,212	1,209	1,258	1,277	1.5	4.0
Gasoline stations	2,432	2,774	2,757	2,932	2,920	-0.4	20.1
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**1,983**	**2,029**	**2,056**	**2,058**	**2,018**	**-1.9**	**1.8**
Furniture stores	689	709	731	744	716	-3.8	3.9
Home furnishings stores	352	378	382	388	383	-1.2	8.9
Computer and software stores	162	158	145	145	146	0.6	-10.3
Home electronics and appliance stores	780	784	799	781	773	-1.0	-0.8
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**1,586**	**1,820**	**1,813**	**1,797**	**1,821**	**1.4**	**14.8**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,231	1,424	1,426	1,400	1,424	1.8	15.7
Specialized building materials and garden stores	355	396	387	397	397	0.0	11.7
Food and beverage stores	**6,548**	**6,848**	**6,947**	**6,913**	**6,998**	**1.2**	**6.9**
Supermarkets	4,742	4,906	4,988	4,975	5,088	2.3	7.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	718	767	740	736	742	0.8	3.3
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,088	1,176	1,219	1,202	1,168	-2.8	7.4
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**1,810**	**1,921**	**1,930**	**1,948**	**1,961**	**0.7**	**8.4**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,647**	**1,667**	**1,688**	**1,666**	**1,665**	**-0.1**	**1.1**
Clothing stores	1,237	1,272	1,290	1,271	1,271	0.0	2.8
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	410	396	398	395	394	-0.3	-4.0
General merchandise stores	**3,417**	**3,528**	**3,541**	**3,587**	**3,503**	**-2.3**	**2.5**
Department stores	1,766	1,841	1,846	1,862	1,797	-3.5	1.8
Other general merchandise stores	1,651	1,686	1,695	1,726	1,707	-1.1	3.4
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,545**	**1,513**	**1,535**	**1,492**	**1,502**	**0.7**	**-2.8**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	740	741	753	720	729	1.3	-1.5
Miscellaneous store retailers	805	772	782	772	773	0.1	-4.0
Total retail sales	**27,675**	**29,098**	**29,207**	**29,550**	**29,530**	**-0.1**	**6.7**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**20,969**	**22,101**	**22,268**	**22,393**	**22,389**	**0.0**	**6.8**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	476	468	477	485	490	1.1	2.9
Prince Edward Island	114	112	115	117	116	-0.7	1.8
Nova Scotia	833	852	860	864	856	-0.9	2.8
New Brunswick	645	662	673	668	685	2.5	6.2
Quebec	6,305	6,619	6,631	6,717	6,749	0.5	7.1
Ontario	10,422	10,852	10,812	10,948	10,937	-0.1	4.9
Manitoba	929	980	985	1,007	997	-1.0	7.3
Saskatchewan	812	856	845	863	874	1.3	7.6
Alberta	3,334	3,657	3,716	3,771	3,762	-0.2	12.9
British Columbia	3,708	3,942	3,994	4,012	3,964	-1.2	6.9
Yukon	35	36	35	37	36	-1.2	3.6
Northwest Territories	43	44	43	44	45	2.4	4.5
Nunavut	19	18	19	19	19	0.2	-1.1

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

Retail sales

	November 2003	October 2004[r]	November 2004[p]	November 2003 to November 2004
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Automotive	**8,156**	**9,651**	**9,400**	**15.2**
New car dealers	4,814	5,425	5,433	12.9
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,077	1,204	1,189	10.4
Gasoline stations	2,265	3,023	2,778	22.6
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**2,142**	**2,067**	**2,201**	**2.8**
Furniture stores	728	772	756	3.8
Home furnishings stores	402	405	449	11.7
Computer and software stores	158	140	148	-6.2
Home electronics and appliance stores	853	749	848	-0.7
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**1,532**	**1,935**	**1,811**	**18.2**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,206	1,530	1,437	19.2
Specialized building materials and garden stores	326	406	374	14.6
Food and beverage stores	**6,365**	**7,018**	**6,564**	**3.1**
Supermarkets	4,626	5,091	4,804	3.9
Convenience and specialty food stores	676	745	679	0.4
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,063	1,182	1,081	1.7
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**1,770**	**1,936**	**1,956**	**10.5**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,832**	**1,759**	**1,823**	**-0.5**
Clothing stores	1,401	1,376	1,419	1.3
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	431	383	404	-6.3
General merchandise stores	**3,935**	**3,645**	**3,967**	**0.8**
Department stores	2,167	1,959	2,137	-1.4
Other general merchandise stores	1,768	1,686	1,829	3.5
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,597**	**1,460**	**1,546**	**-3.2**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	791	675	772	-2.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	806	785	773	-4.1
Total retail sales	**27,329**	**29,471**	**29,267**	**7.1**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**21,438**	**22,843**	**22,645**	**5.6**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	482	480	504	4.5
Prince Edward Island	110	116	113	2.6
Nova Scotia	837	859	859	2.6
New Brunswick	636	664	685	7.8
Quebec	6,073	6,737	6,511	7.2
Ontario	10,468	10,902	11,031	5.4
Manitoba	917	1,010	987	7.7
Saskatchewan	799	880	865	8.2
Alberta	3,310	3,767	3,764	13.7
British Columbia	3,607	3,959	3,856	6.9
Yukon	32	35	34	5.8
Northwest Territories	39	42	41	3.7
Nunavut	18	19	18	-1.1

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

■

Other releases

Canadian Community Health Survey: Public Use Microdata File
2003

The Public Use Microdata File from the 2003 Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) is now available. Data were collected from over 130,000 respondents aged 12 or older residing in households across all provinces and territories.

The Public Use Microdata File from the 2003 CCHS provides data for 103 health regions or combined health regions across Canada. It comes on CD-ROM with a built-in "Beyond 20/20" application, and includes information on a wide range of topics, including alcohol consumption, chronic health conditions, exposure to second hand smoke, fruit and vegetable consumption, general health, home care, use of health services, height and weight, injuries, physical activity, restriction of activities and smoking. It also provides information on the socio-demographic characteristics, the income and the labour force characteristics of the population.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3226.

To order a copy of the Public Use Microdata File or custom tabulations from the 2003 CCHS, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; fax: 613-951-0792; *hd-ds@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division. This product is available free of charge to non-profit organizations in the health sector for research and non-commercial purposes.

The initial results from the 2003 CCHS were released in *The Daily* on June 15, 2004. Several articles based on these data and containing detailed analysis have also been published in *Health Reports* (82-003-XIE, $17/$48; 82-003-XPE, $22/$63). Many indicators are also available in *Health Indicators* (82-221-XIE, free).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mario Bédard (613-951-8933; fax: 613-613-4198; *mario.bedard@statcan.ca*), Health Statistics Division. ■

Farm Product Price Index
November 2004

Prices received by farmers for their agricultural commodities decreased 7.6% in November compared with November 2003, according to data from the Farm Product Price Index (FPPI).

The crops index was 17.5% below its November 2003 level, continuing the monthly year-over-year downward trend which began in July 2003. The potato index was the only index on the crops side to increase. Meanwhile, the livestock and animal products index was 2.6% above year-earlier levels, marking the sixth consecutive year-over-year increase. Prior to that, however, the total livestock and animal products index had decreased on a year-over-year basis for 12 consecutive months. For the livestock and animal product index, all but the cattle and calves index advanced over November 2003 — similar to the previous two months.

The FPPI (1997=100) stood at 91.0 in November, down from the revised October index of 93.0. The total index had peaked at 111.4 in February 2003, but stood at its lowest level since November 1999.

On a month-to-month basis, the crops index dropped 5.6% in November as all crops indexes except vegetables (+0.4%) recorded declines ranging from 0.5% for grains to 13.3% for special crops.

The oilseeds index dropped 5.6% in November to 84.0, marking the sixth consecutive monthly decrease. Prior to its slide, this index had climbed steadily from 93.8 in November 2003 and peaked at 111.3 in May 2004, as oilseed prices gained support from increased world oilseed consumption, tight United States soybean supplies and very strong soybean prices. However, a record US soybean crop, expectations of a bumper South American soybean crop and a rising Canadian dollar has prompted a price slide that started last June.

The grains index dropped 0.5% to 65.0 in November from October. On a year-over-year basis, this index has been on a slide since July 2003. Last fall's poor quality harvest, a record US corn crop and a rising Canadian dollar has pressured grain prices.

The potato index was down 8.5% in November, marking the third consecutive monthly decline. However, the index remains 5.9% above its November 2003 level marking the fifth consecutive year-over-year increase. Large potato crops in the summer of 2002 and 2003 had pressured prices.

The livestock and animal products index was virtually unchanged at 98.9, up 0.1% in November from the revised October index. On a month-to-month basis, only the hog and the dairy index decreased. The increases ranged from 0.1% for eggs to 1.0% for poultry.

The hog index fell in November for the fifth consecutive month, dropping to 83.9 from the revised October index of 88.2. However, the hog index still remained above year-earlier levels of 64.6 in November 2003. The index had slid to end 2003 at 64.2, but then hog prices found support from robust exports and strong consumer demand, pushing the index to 103.6 in May and June 2004. However, large North American supplies and a stronger Canadian dollar have put recent downward pressure on hog prices. Also the United States Department of Commerce issued a temporary duty on imports of live Canadian hogs in October.

The cattle and calves index rose slightly (+0.9%) to 91.9 in November. The cattle and calves index started 2003 at a recent high of 127.8. After the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) incident in May 2003, the index plummeted to 63.0 in July 2003, and then rebounded to 93.9 in September 2003 when the border re-opened to exports of select cuts of beef. Prolonged closure to live cattle exports, a record number of cattle on Canadian farms and a backlog of slaughter animals continue to plague cattle prices.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The November 2004 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 4, no. 11 (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, call (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.breeese@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index
(1997=100)

	November 2003[r]	October 2004[r]	November 2004[p]	November 2003 to November 2004	October 2004 to November 2004
				% change	
Farm Product Price Index	**98.5**	**93.0**	**91.0**	**-7.6**	**-2.2**
Crops	**101.0**	**88.2**	**83.3**	**-17.5**	**-5.6**
Grains	95.4	65.3	65.0	-31.9	-0.5
Oilseeds	93.8	89.0	84.0	-10.4	-5.6
Specialty crops	107.6	107.9	93.6	-13.0	-13.3
Fruit	121.1	107.2	99.3	-18.0	-7.4
Vegetables	111.7	106.6	107.0	-4.2	0.4
Potatoes	118.0	136.6	125.0	5.9	-8.5
Livestock and animal products	**96.4**	**98.8**	**98.9**	**2.6**	**0.1**
Cattle and calves	100.3	91.1	91.9	-8.4	0.9
Hogs	64.6	88.2	83.9	29.9	-4.9
Poultry	97.3	97.5	98.5	1.2	1.0
Eggs	102.0	109.0	109.1	7.0	0.1
Dairy	121.0	124.8	124.5	2.9	-0.2

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

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Economic contribution of culture in Canada
2002

Data on the economic contribution of culture in Canada are now available for 2002.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; *cult.tourstats@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vik Singh (613-951-5666, fax: 613-951-1333; *vik.singh@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

January 1, 2005 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on January 1 totalled 49,404 metric tonnes, up 12.6% from a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

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

Crude oil and natural gas production

November 2004 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for November 2004.

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. ■

New products

Farm Product Price Index, November 2004, Vol. 4, no. 11
Catalogue number 21-007-XIB
(free).

Wholesale Trade, November 2004, Vol. 67, no. 11
Catalogue number 63-008-XIE ($15/$150).

Canada's International Transactions in Securities, November 2004, Vol. 70, no. 11
Catalogue number 67-002-XIE ($15/$142).

Canadian Community Health Survey: Public Use Microdata File, 2003 (cycle 2.1)
Catalogue number 82M0013XCB ($2,140).

Canadian Community Health Survey: Guide, 2003 (cycle 2.1)
Catalogue number 82M0013GPE ($50).

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

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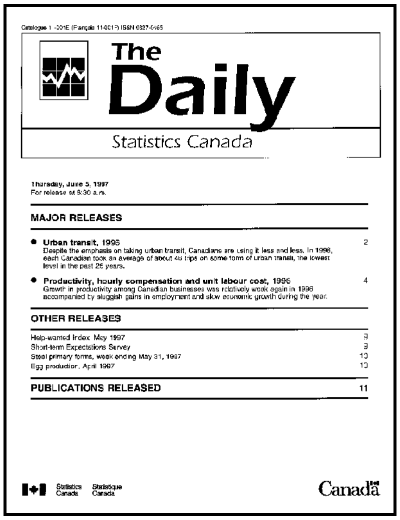

Catalogue 1 -001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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 48 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.

OTHER RELEASES

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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