Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, October 19, 2005
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Releases

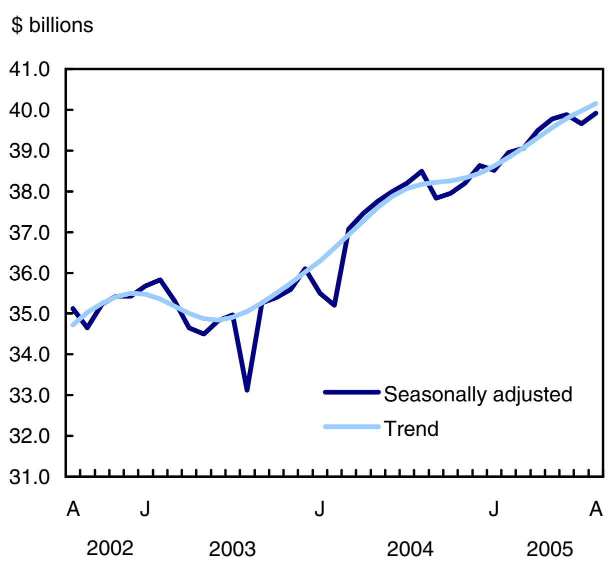
Wholesale trade

August 2005

Wholesale sales rose 0.7% in August, spurred by strong demand from motor vehicle dealers keen to rebuild depleted inventories in the wake of this summer's successful employee-pricing promotions. Excluding the automotive sector, sales declined 0.6%.

The increase in wholesale sales in August was the sixth in seven months. Since September 2003, total wholesale sales have generally been rising.

A surge in automotive sales boosts wholesale sales



Wholesalers of automotive products (+5.9%) and farm products (+12.9%) were the only ones to post increased sales in August. Together, they account for 21% of total sales. The machinery and equipment sector and the "other products" category recorded the steepest declines in terms of value.

In constant dollars, wholesale sales increased 1.3% in August.

Sales up sharply in the automotive products sector

After two consecutive monthly declines, wholesale sales in the automotive products sector climbed 5.9% in August. Increased sales of motor vehicles (+7.5%) accounted for the entire rise. Employee-pricing incentives led to strong increases in unit sales by retailers of motor vehicles in June (+7.4%) and July (+7.3%), according to the New Motor Vehicle Survey. Although unit sales subsequently fell in August (-7.9%), the gains in the previous two months had depleted dealer's inventories significantly. Dealers keen to rebuild their inventories contributed to the strong increase in wholesale sales of motor vehicles in August.

On the other hand, wholesale sales of motor vehicle parts declined for a second consecutive month in August (-0.5%). Even so, these decreases did not offset the strong gain registered in June (+4.9%). Wholesalers in this sector, who mainly sell to retailers and dealers, have registered generally rising sales since January 2004.

Opening of the border to Canadian beef boosts the farm products sector

In August, farm product wholesalers saw their sales surge 12.9%. The increase in sales was largely attributable to livestock wholesalers. The slowdown in sales of livestock, sparked by the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), became more pronounced since March 2005, because of uncertainty as to when the United States border would be re-opened to Canadian cattle. On July 18, the United States accepted the first shipments of livestock from Canada in more than two years, leading to August's strong performance.

Machinery and electronic equipment sales post second decline

After falling 0.7% in July, sales in the machinery and electronic equipment sector contracted a further 1.7% in August. Two of the three groups included in this sector posted a decline. Nevertheless, the value of machinery and electronic equipment sales remained high ($8.4 billion).

Wholesale sales of machinery and equipment fell 1.9% in August. This group is highly dependant on sales arising from industrial production. Among wholesalers, the machinery and equipment group is the fourth largest in terms of sales and the largest in terms of inventories. Since January 2004, this group has recorded burgeoning sales, partly owing to the appreciation of the dollar, which made these largely imported products less costly for Canadian purchasers.

For their part, wholesalers of computers and electronic products sold $2.7 billion worth of goods and services in August, down 2.8% from July. This was a second consecutive decrease. Nevertheless, these declines did not wipe out the strong 11.0% gain in June. The weakness of sales in August was somewhat eased by strong sales of some products such as cell phones, which partly offset poor sales of computers.

Wholesale sales up in six provinces

Six provinces posted increased sales in August. The largest gains were in Prince Edward Island (+3.3%) and Nova Scotia (+3.2%). Strong wholesale sales in the machinery and electronic equipment sector were largely responsible for the sales growth in Prince Edward Island. Nova Scotia benefited from increased sales of building materials and food products.

Ontario posted a 1.0% gain, being the main province to feel the effects of the increased sales in the automotive sector. More than 75% of total motor vehicle sales are concentrated in Ontario. Furthermore, this group represents more than one-quarter of the activities of Ontario wholesalers. Since the start of the year, Ontario wholesalers have generally registered rising sales.

Saskatchewan posted the biggest contraction (-3.8%) in August as a result of weakness in the machinery and equipment group and the "other products" category (which includes chemicals and other farm supplies). These two groups account for approximately half of wholesale trade in Saskatchewan.

First drop in wholesale inventories in four months

Inventories fell 0.5% in August with 11 of the 15 trade groups posting declines. The largest declines were in inventories of household and personal products and lumber and millwork. The value of inventories in these sectors accounts for roughly 10% of total wholesale inventories. The trend in total inventories has generally been rising since November 2003, after a five-month period when wholesalers cut back their inventories.

The decrease in inventories in August, combined with an increase in sales, caused the inventory-to-sales ratio to drop to 1.19, down from 1.20 in July.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The August issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XIE, $15/$150) will be available shortly.

Wholesale trade estimates for September will be released November 18.

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; *jean.lebreux@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Wholesale merchants' sales

	August 2004	May 2005[r]	June 2005[r]	July 2005[r]	August 2005[p]	July to August 2005	August 2004 to August 2005
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	**38,487**	**39,770**	**39,882**	**39,654**	**39,921**	**0.7**	**3.7**
Farm products	**458**	**410**	**410**	**407**	**459**	**12.9**	**0.4**
Food, beverages and tobacco products	**7,216**	**7,182**	**7,277**	**7,290**	**7,247**	**-0.6**	**0.4**
Food products	6,557	6,576	6,656	6,655	6,610	-0.7	0.8
Alcohol and tobacco	659	607	621	634	637	0.4	-3.3
Personal and household goods	**5,126**	**5,564**	**5,663**	**5,617**	**5,634**	**0.3**	**9.9**
Apparel	684	841	854	797	790	-0.8	15.5
Household and personal products	2,324	2,434	2,535	2,506	2,504	-0.1	7.7
Pharmaceuticals	2,118	2,288	2,274	2,315	2,340	1.1	10.5
Automotive products	**7,721**	**7,778**	**7,687**	**7,620**	**8,067**	**5.9**	**4.5**
Motor vehicles	6,158	6,260	6,096	6,039	6,494	7.5	5.5
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,564	1,518	1,592	1,580	1,573	-0.5	0.6
Building materials	**5,291**	**5,489**	**5,523**	**5,364**	**5,392**	**0.5**	**1.9**
Building supplies	2,925	3,205	3,295	3,268	3,325	1.8	13.7
Metal products	1,218	1,123	1,100	1,082	1,084	0.2	-11.0
Lumber and millwork	1,147	1,161	1,128	1,014	984	-3.0	-14.2
Machinery and electronic equipment	**8,053**	**8,285**	**8,636**	**8,576**	**8,427**	**-1.7**	**4.6**
Machinery and equipment	3,398	3,864	3,895	3,909	3,834	-1.9	12.9
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,897	2,632	2,921	2,823	2,744	-2.8	-5.3
Office and professional equipment	1,758	1,789	1,820	1,844	1,848	0.2	5.1
Other products	**4,623**	**5,062**	**4,686**	**4,782**	**4,695**	**-1.8**	**1.6**
Total, excluding automobiles	**30,766**	**31,992**	**32,195**	**32,035**	**31,855**	**-0.6**	**3.5**
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	202	223	222	215	212	-1.5	4.9
Prince Edward Island	49	51	50	45	47	3.3	-5.5
Nova Scotia	511	514	514	523	540	3.2	5.6
New Brunswick	448	416	421	406	403	-0.7	-10.1
Quebec	7,363	7,508	7,624	7,619	7,561	-0.8	2.7
Ontario	20,083	20,221	20,382	20,173	20,384	1.0	1.5
Manitoba	985	1,071	1,070	1,047	1,057	0.9	7.2
Saskatchewan	1,021	1,173	1,085	1,117	1,075	-3.8	5.2
Alberta	3,995	4,572	4,515	4,555	4,574	0.4	14.5
British Columbia	3,804	3,992	3,969	3,923	4,040	3.0	6.2
Yukon	7	7	8	9	7	-22.3	2.9
Northwest Territories	16	21	20	19	21	11.6	31.5
Nunavut	2	2	4	2	2	-20.9	-23.1

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary.*

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	August 2004	May 2005[r]	June 2005[r]	July 2005[r]	August 2005[p]	July to August 2005	August 2004 to August 2005	July 2005[r]	August 2005[p]
	Wholesale inventories							Inventory-to-sales ratio	
	seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions					% change			
Inventories	**43,380**	**47,437**	**47,498**	**47,634**	**47,397**	**-0.5**	**9.3**	**1.20**	**1.19**
Farm products	152	173	180	183	176	-3.4	16.1	0.45	0.38
Food products	4,380	4,491	4,492	4,506	4,417	-2.0	0.9	0.68	0.67
Alcohol and tobacco	287	279	269	264	257	-2.9	-10.5	0.42	0.40
Apparel	1,429	1,618	1,609	1,535	1,585	3.2	10.9	1.93	2.01
Household and personal products	3,330	3,688	3,779	3,730	3,585	-3.9	7.7	1.49	1.43
Pharmaceuticals	2,631	2,831	2,806	2,895	2,856	-1.4	8.5	1.25	1.22
Motor vehicles	3,809	4,063	4,177	4,121	4,171	1.2	9.5	0.68	0.64
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,186	3,147	3,107	3,319	3,290	-0.9	3.2	2.10	2.09
Building supplies	4,298	4,832	4,891	4,954	4,943	-0.2	15.0	1.52	1.49
Metal products	2,099	2,427	2,399	2,354	2,339	-0.6	11.5	2.18	2.16
Lumber and millwork	1,104	1,187	1,203	1,176	1,069	-9.1	-3.1	1.16	1.09
Machinery and equipment	8,383	8,916	8,871	8,802	8,796	-0.1	4.9	2.25	2.29
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,368	1,376	1,456	1,540	1,596	3.7	16.7	0.55	0.58
Office and professional equipment	2,507	2,535	2,431	2,483	2,458	-1.0	-2.0	1.35	1.33
Other products	5,522	5,873	5,828	5,772	5,858	1.5	6.1	1.21	1.25

r *Revised.*
p *Preliminary.*

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Travel between Canada and other countries
August 2005

Travel by Americans to Canada fell to its lowest monthly level in over 25 years in August, possibly due to the rising value of the loonie as well as higher gas prices.

Only 2.4 million Americans travelled to Canada in August, down 5.9% from July. It was the lowest level since the late 1970s. (Unless otherwise specified, data are seasonally adjusted.)

Travel from south of the border declined in all major categories, including trips by car (both same-day and overnight) as well as overnight travel by air.

The number of trips by car from the United States fell to only 1.8 million in August, the lowest monthly level on record. That was a 7.0% decline from July and a 19.7% plunge since the beginning of the year.

The number of overnight car trips fell 9.4% to 664,000, its lowest level since July 2003 when the SARS crisis crippled travel to Canada. Same-day car travel dropped to 1.1 million trips, down 5.5%.

At the same time, travel to Canada from overseas countries fell 2.0% to its lowest level since March. An estimated 382,000 overseas residents visited Canada in August.

Declines were recorded in 7 of the top 12 most important overseas markets for Canada, led by fewer trips from Hong Kong (-15.7%) and from China (-8.7%). The United Kingdom remained the most popular overseas market for Canada.

While the strong Canadian dollar appeared to discourage travel to Canada, it may have acted as an added incentive for Canadian residents travelling abroad.

More than 3.7 million Canadians travelled abroad in August, up 2.8% and the highest level in four years.

Car travel to the United States rose despite higher gasoline prices. Same-day car travel reached a four-year high of 1.9 million trips, while overnight car travel climbed to 729,000 trips, its highest level since December 1997.

Canadians took more than 450,000 overnight plane trips south of the border in August, the highest level since the record high set in November 2000.

Overall, 3.2 million Canadians travelled to the United States in August, up 2.4% from the previous month.

More than 527,000 Canadians travelled to overseas countries in August, up 5.4% from the previous month and the third highest level ever recorded.

Between July and August, the Canadian dollar gained 1.6% in value against the US dollar and edged up against the Japanese yen. However, it lost ground against the euro and British pound sterling.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The August 2005 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 21, no. 8 (66-001-PIE, $7/$59) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; *cult.tourstats@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; *eric.desjardins@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. □

Travel between Canada and other countries

	July 2005[r]	August 2005[p]	July to August 2005	August 2005	August 2004 to August 2005
	seasonally adjusted			unadjusted	
	'000		% change	'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad[1]	**3,625**	**3,726**	**2.8**	**4,739**	**9.1**
to the United States	3,125	3,199	2.4	4,167	8.7
to Other Countries	500	527	5.4	572	12.8
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,823	1,888	3.6	2,269	9.2
Total trips, one or more nights	1,757	1,799	2.4	2,431	9.5
United States[2]	1,257	1,272	1.2	1,859	8.6
Car	725	729	0.5	1,322	5.4
Plane	437	450	3.0	379	27.6
Other modes of transportation	95	93	-1.6	158	-1.8
Other countries[3]	500	527	5.4	572	12.8
Travel to Canada[1]	**2,967**	**2,807**	**-5.4**	**4,724**	**-9.0**
from the United States	2,577	2,426	-5.9	4,120	-10.6
from Other Countries	389	382	-2.0	604	3.7
Same-day car trips from the United States	1,183	1,119	-5.5	1,729	-13.3
Total trips, one or more nights	1,572	1,438	-8.5	2,761	-6.3
United States[2]	1,196	1,073	-10.3	2,178	-8.7
Car	733	664	-9.4	1,379	-7.8
Plane	314	272	-13.2	457	-14.4
Other modes of transportation	149	137	-8.2	342	-3.7
Other countries[3]	376	365	-2.8	583	3.6
Most important overseas markets[4]					
United Kingdom	85	84	-1.7	123	13.8
Japan	39	39	1.7	53	3.8
France	31	31	-1.2	56	-3.3
Germany	29	30	3.8	56	11.3
Australia	19	17	-7.1	23	3.3
South Korea	16	16	0.2	25	3.0
Mexico	16	15	-8.4	23	-5.9
Netherlands	10	11	1.9	19	-3.4
Italy	9	10	6.0	22	20.9
China	10	9	-8.7	14	1.4
Hong Kong	10	8	-15.7	12	-24.6
Switzerland	9	8	-5.6	14	-11.8

p *Preliminary.*
r *Revised.*
1. *Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.*
2. *Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.*
3. *Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.*
4. *Includes same-day and one or more night trips.*

■

Aquaculture
2004

Revenues generated by Canada's aquaculture industry fell for the second year in a row in 2004, in the wake of a decline in production and exports.

The industry reported operating revenues of $668.9 million in 2004, down 9.3% from 2003 and 11.3% below the $754.4 million peak in 2002.

Finfish sales, which accounted for almost 87% of total operating revenues, were down for the second consecutive year. They fell 10.4% to $580.9 million, the result of a 12.3% decrease in the value of salmon production, which dominates the industry.

The value of aquaculture exports plunged 13.4% to $424.9 million. The most significant contributor to this decline was a 28.0% drop in the value of Atlantic salmon fillets exported to the United States, Canada's most important market.

Finfish sales fell in both of the country's largest aquaculture producing provinces — New Brunswick and British Columbia. Lower prices for farmed salmon, attributable to increased international competition, along with a strengthened Canadian dollar, were the main factors in the decline.

Lower salmon production in British Columbia resulted in a 12.2% drop in finfish revenues to $283.2 million. In New Brunswick, fish farmers increased production but sales declined 8.0% to $242.0 million.

Revenue from molluscs dipped slightly to $67.5 million. Sales in Prince Edward Island, which accounted for 44.4% of mollusc production in Canada, dropped 3.2%.

Nationally, product expenses grew a modest 1.3% to $529.9 million last year. These consist of the cost of products and services purchased from other businesses, excluding capital and labour costs.

Purchases of fish and eggs, along with processing, transportation and storage and energy costs increased notably in 2004. However, feed costs, which account for 45.0% of all product expenses for finfish producers, remained stable at $238.3 million.

The aquaculture industry produced a gross output (including sales, subsidies and inventory change) of $726.1 million in 2004, virtually unchanged from a year ago.

The gross value added by the industry to the economy, the difference between gross output and total product expenses, reached $198.2 million, a 5.5% drop from 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0001 and 003-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2927, 3479 and 4701.

Aquaculture Statistics (23-222-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and service* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

The article "Taking stock: A profile of Canada's aquaculture industry" will appear in the October issue of the newsletter *VISTA on the Agri-food Industry and the Farm Community* (21-004-XIE, free) to be released October 25.

For general information, contact client services (1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Debbie Dupuis (613-951-2553; *debbie.dupuis@statcan.ca*) or Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; *bernadette.alain@statcan.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

September 2005 (preliminary)

The 42 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers reported 393,904 aircraft take-offs and landings in September, down 1.0% compared with September 2004 (398,083 movements). Year-over-year decreases in aircraft movements were reported by 21 of the airports in September 2005. The variations ranged from an increase of 66.5% at Winnipeg/St Andrews to a decline of 43.6% at Montréal/St-Hubert.

Itinerant movements (flights from one airport to another) increased by 1.0% (+2,877 movements) in September compared with the same month a year earlier. Local movements (flights that remain in the vicinity of the airport) decreased by 6.0% (-7,056 movements) in September compared with September 2004.

The top 10 airports in terms of volumes of itinerant movements in September showed year-over-year variations ranging from a 34.3% increase (+2,097 movements) at Boundary Bay to a decline of 16.6% (-1,492 movements) at Toronto/Buttonville Municipal. Of the top 10 airports, 7 recorded increases in itinerant movements compared with 8 airports in August 2005.

The top 10 airports in terms of local movements showed year-over-year variations ranging from a 110.7% increase (+3,054 movements) at Winnipeg/St. Andrews to a decline of 49.3% (-4,708 movements) at Montréal/St-Hubert. Of the top 10 airports, 3 recorded increases in local movements compared with 6 airports in August 2005.

The September issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics*, Vol. 4, no. 9 (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, choose *Free publications*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

Preliminary statistics for the 56 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA flight service stations are also available for September.

Available on CANSIM: table 401-0005.

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. ■

Primary iron and steel

August 2005

Data on primary iron and steel are now available for August.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The August issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XIE, $6/$51) will soon be available.

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. ■

Steel pipe and tubing

August 2005

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

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The August issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XIE, $6/$51) will soon be available.

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

Aquaculture Statistics, 2004
Catalogue number 23-222-XIE
(free).

Aircraft Movement Statistics, September 2005, Vol. 4, no. 9
Catalogue number 51F0001PIE
(free).

International Travel, Advance Information, August 2005, Vol. 21, no. 8
Catalogue number 66-001-PIE ($7/$59).

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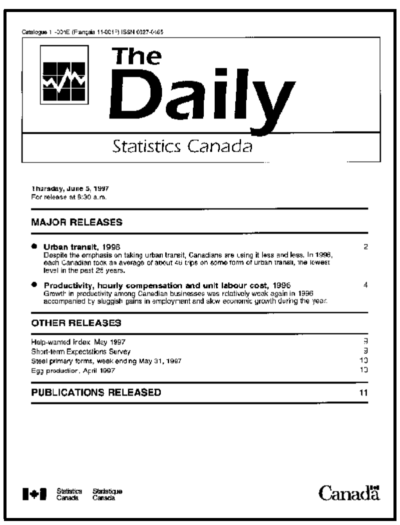
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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 46 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

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

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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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