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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, November 14, 2005
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Releases

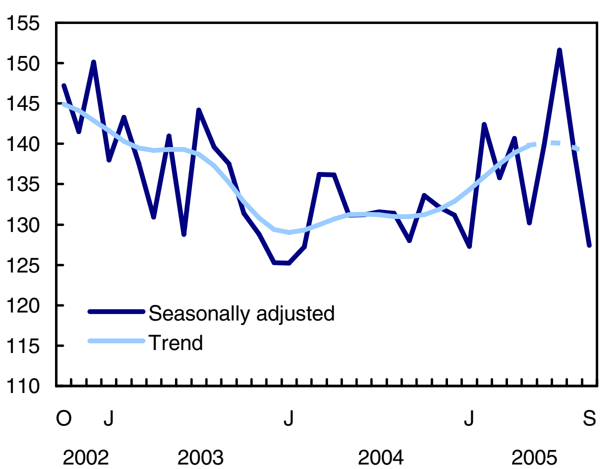
Releases

New motor vehicle sales

September 2005

The number of new motor vehicles sold fell 7.9% in September, after declining 8.7% in August. In all, 127,437 new vehicles rolled out of dealers' showrooms in September. This was the second lowest level of monthly sales in 2005 and a decrease of approximately 10,800 units compared to August.

New motor vehicle sales decline for a second consecutive month



The last few points could be subject to revisions when more data are added. This is indicated by the dashed line.

Despite the declines observed in August and September, sales of new motor vehicles advanced 1.6% in the third quarter on the basis of very strong sales in July. The latter were mainly boosted by the introduction of new incentive programs, in particular special discounts usually reserved for employees. August's decline occurred despite the availability of these programs, which seemed to have lost their effect.

For a second consecutive month, trucks were responsible for at least 80% of the national decline. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

Based on preliminary figures from the auto industry, the number of new motor vehicles sold in October rebounded by approximately 3%, with the gain mainly attributable to trucks.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted.

Passenger cars *include those used for personal and commercial purposes, such as taxis or rental cars.* ***Trucks*** *include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.*

North American-built new motor vehicles *include vehicles manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico. All other new motor vehicles are considered to have been manufactured overseas.*

For reasons of confidentiality, data for Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are included with those for British Columbia.

The New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey is compiled on the basis of figures obtained from motor vehicle manufacturers and importers. These results may vary from those obtained directly from auto dealers, due to possible differences in record keeping.

The upward movement of new motor vehicle sales since the start of 2005, while exhibiting strong monthly fluctuations, has faltered in recent months. New motor vehicle sales remained relatively stable in 2004, after a series of increases early in the year.

Erosion of truck sales continues

In September and August, sales of both passenger cars and trucks fell, following two months of consecutive increases. However, the declines were steeper for trucks than for passenger cars, with truck sales posting the largest decreases since October 2000.

The number of new trucks sold in September fell 13.5% after posting an equivalent decline a month earlier. A total of 56,998 new trucks were purchased in September, down approximately 8,870 units from August.

In September, the number of new passenger cars sold slipped 2.8% compared to August, standing at 70,439 units. Both North American-built and overseas-built cars contributed to this decline.

Quarterly sales favour cars

New motor vehicle sales in the third quarter rose 1.6% compared to the second quarter, when they advanced 1.3%. This increase is entirely attributable to passenger cars. For the same period, passenger car sales rose 3.4% whereas truck sales edged down 0.3%.

Sales of new motor vehicles advanced a hefty 6.7% in the third quarter compared to the same quarter in 2004, with both passenger car (+7.3%) sales and truck (+6.1%) sales registering sizable increases.

Figures for the second and third quarters of 2005 also show that passenger cars strengthened their market share, which reached 52.4% in the third quarter compared to 51.5% in the second.

Sales down almost everywhere in Canada

New motor vehicle sales were down in every province in September except in Newfoundland and Labrador, where sales increased by 0.8%. However, Newfoundland and Labrador had registered the largest decline one month earlier.

New motor vehicle sales fell for the second month in a row in Ontario, dropping 9.2% in September and accounting for 44% of the national decrease. In the other provinces, the decline posted in September was also the second in a row, except for the region formed by British Columbia and the territories, where sales had advanced in August.

Available on CANSIM: tables 079-0001 and 079-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

The September issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007-XIE, $14/$133) will be available soon.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for October will be released on December 13.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Clérance Kimanyi (613-951-6363), Distributive Trades Division.

□

New motor vehicle sales

	September 2004	August 2005p	September 2005p	September 2004 to September 2005	August to September 2005
	seasonally adjusted				
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	**128,035**	**138,325**	**127,437**	**-0.5**	**-7.9**
Passenger cars	65,909	72,457	70,439	6.9	-2.8
North American[1]	43,298	49,337	48,125	11.1	-2.5
Overseas	22,611	23,120	22,314	-1.3	-3.5
Trucks, vans and buses	62,127	65,867	56,998	-8.3	-13.5
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,948	1,759	1,773	-9.0	0.8
Prince Edward Island	404	430	322	-20.3	-25.1
Nova Scotia	3,712	4,144	3,816	2.8	-7.9
New Brunswick	2,903	2,962	2,489	-14.3	-16.0
Quebec	32,513	33,016	30,677	-5.6	-7.1
Ontario	48,094	52,138	47,327	-1.6	-9.2
Manitoba	3,721	4,075	3,586	-3.6	-12.0
Saskatchewan	3,175	3,401	3,186	0.3	-6.3
Alberta	16,336	19,620	18,602	13.9	-5.2
British Columbia[2]	15,230	16,780	15,658	2.8	-6.7

	September 2004	August 2005	September 2005p	September 2004 to September 2005
	unadjusted			
	number of vehicles			% change
New motor vehicles	**130,699**	**146,862**	**128,431**	**-1.7**
Passenger cars	66,729	79,017	70,305	5.4
North American[1]	42,539	53,168	46,500	9.3
Overseas	24,190	25,849	23,805	-1.6
Trucks, vans and buses	63,970	67,845	58,126	-9.1
New motor vehicles				
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,118	2,153	1,779	-16.0
Prince Edward Island	424	504	345	-18.6
Nova Scotia	3,393	4,345	3,377	-0.5
New Brunswick	2,884	3,242	2,487	-13.8
Quebec	33,223	36,084	30,763	-7.4
Ontario	50,266	55,081	49,502	-1.5
Manitoba	4,145	4,685	3,905	-5.8
Saskatchewan	3,252	3,873	3,249	-0.1
Alberta	16,606	19,742	18,493	11.4
British Columbia[2]	14,388	17,153	14,531	1.0

r *Revised*
p *Preliminary.*
1. *Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.*
2. *Includes Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.*

■

Business Conditions Survey: Traveller accommodation industries

Fourth quarter 2005

Labour shortage as an impediment to business was still a concern in the traveller accommodation industry. Almost one in four hoteliers continued to signal a shortage of both skilled (23%) and unskilled labour (22%) across the country. In particular, hotel managers in the West had a harder time finding people available to work. While a growing labour shortage for hoteliers is expected, indications of this existing already can be found in the October Labour Force Survey results, which recorded the lowest unemployment rate in years in Canada (6.6%). Moreover, unemployment rates in the West were among the lowest in the country, ranging from a low of 4.0% in Alberta to 5.2% in Saskatchewan.

Apart from employment, Canada's hotel operators expect a steady performance for the rest of the year, according to results from the Business Conditions Survey on the travel accommodation industry.

The survey of about 1,300 businesses, mostly hotels, was conducted in October to assess their outlook about key indicators compared to the same period last year. Some of these key indicators include, among others, bookings, occupancy rates, room rates and hours worked by employees.

Occupancy rates are expected to remain constant. Half (50%) of hoteliers believe their occupancy rates will remain the same compared with the same period last year. One in four (25%) respondents expects occupancy rates to rise while the same number expects a decrease.

Hotel operators continue to expect room rates to rise. The survey found that 35% of hoteliers expect an increase in room rates between October and December, while 19% feel they will drop.

The number of hours worked by employees is expected to decrease compared to the same period last year. More hoteliers expect a decrease (24%) in the number of hours worked than an increase (20%). In comparison, 18% of hotel managers expected a decrease in the previous quarter. Employment in the accommodation and food services industry decreased by 2.3% in October 2005 compared to October 2004, according to the most recent Labour Force Survey.

Note: The Business Conditions Survey for the traveller accommodation industries is made possible with the support of industry partners, the Canadian Tourism Commission and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism. Results are based on survey questionnaires sent to about 1,300 traveller accommodation providers and are weighted by their operating revenues. Consequently, the larger businesses have a correspondingly larger impact on the results than smaller businesses.

Available on CANSIM: tables 351-0004 and 351-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5050.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to obtain the survey background paper, contact Veronica Utovac (613-951-0813; fax: 613-951-6696; *veronica.utovac@statcan.ca*) or Janine Stafford (613-951-3288; fax: 613-951-6696; *janine.stafford@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. □

Traveller accommodation industries

	Second quarter 2005	Third quarter 2005	Fourth quarter 2005
Anticipated number of room nights booked will be:			
About the same (%)	49	47	48
Higher (%)	31	31	27
Lower (%)	20	23	25
Balance of opinion	10	8	3
Occupancy rate will be:			
About the same (%)	51	46	50
Higher (%)	30	32	25
Lower (%)	20	23	25
Balance of opinion	10	9	0
Number of corporate/commerical travellers will be:			
About the same (%)	59	57	57
Higher (%)	23	22	22
Lower (%)	18	21	21
Balance of opinion	4	2	1
Average daily room rate will be:			
About the same (%)	46	44	46
Higher (%)	39	39	35
Lower (%)	15	18	19
Balance of opinion	24	21	16
Total number of hours worked by employees:			
About the same (%)	63	62	56
Higher (%)	19	20	20
Lower (%)	17	18	24
Balance of opinion	2	2	-4

	First quarter 2005	Second quarter 2005	Third quarter 2005
		%	
Business impediments			
Shortage of skilled labour	21	23	23
Shortage of unskilled labour	15	21	22
Excess room supply	25	26	21
General economic conditions	32	19	21
Lack of attractions or complementary facilities in the vicinity	19	16	13
Abnormal weather and/or natural disasters	12	11	4
Canada's reputation as a desired tourist destination	9	11	8
Access to financing	8	8	7
Public health and safety concerns	3	2	2
Third-party distribution channels (global distribution systems)	1	2	1
No difficulties at this time	30	32	38

Note: *Due to rounding, components may not add to total.*

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Non-residential Building Construction Price Index

Third quarter 2005

The composite price index (1997=100) for non-residential building construction reached 134.9 in the third quarter, up 1.7% from previous quarter and 5.1% higher compared with the third quarter of 2004. The quarterly increase is mostly the result of fuel cost increases and a strong market for non-residential building construction.

Indexes for Toronto and Calgary both rose 1.9% from the second quarter, followed by Halifax and Edmonton (+1.8% each), Vancouver (+1.7%) and Montréal and Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part (+1.4% each).

Edmonton and Vancouver both had the highest change (+6.4%) from the third quarter of 2004, followed by Calgary (+6.3%), Toronto (+4.8%), Montréal (+4.1%), Halifax (+3.8%) and Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part (+3.7%).

Note: Non-residential building construction price indexes provide an indication of changes in construction costs in six census metropolitan areas or CMAs (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA. Three construction categories (industrial, commercial and institutional buildings) are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school). Besides the census metropolitan areas and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the changes in costs is available by trade group (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical) within the building types. These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Non-residential building construction price indexes[1]
(1997=100)

	Third quarter 2005	Third quarter 2004 to third quarter 2005	Second to third quarter 2005
		% change	
Composite index	**134.9**	**5.1**	**1.7**
Halifax	122.1	3.8	1.8
Montréal	129.8	4.1	1.4
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part	133.8	3.7	1.4
Toronto	140.3	4.8	1.9
Calgary	137.6	6.3	1.9
Edmonton	135.4	6.4	1.8
Vancouver	127.9	6.4	1.7

1. *Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.*

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0039 and 327-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

The third quarter issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XIE, $20/$59) will be available in January.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Martin (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending November 5, 2005 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending November 5 totalled 263 633 metric tonnes, down 16.1% from 314 382 tonnes a week earlier and down 5.2% from 278 055 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of November 5 was 12 999 580 tonnes, down 5.3% from 13 722 315 tonnes in the same period of 2004.

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. ■

Primary iron and steel

September 2005

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

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

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

The September 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. ■

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

September 2005

Data on industrial chemicals and synthetic resins are now available for September including revisions for July and August 2005.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2183.

The September issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins*, Vol. 48, no. 9 (46-002-XIE, $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. ■

New products

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins, September 2005, Vol. 48, no. 9
Catalogue number 46-002-XIE ($6/$51).

Quarterly Telecommunications Statistics, Second quarter 2005, Vol. 29, no. 2
Catalogue number 56-002-XIE ($23/$43).

Imports by Commodity, September 2005, Vol. 62, no. 9
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB ($40/$387).

Imports by Commodity, September 2005, Vol. 62, no. 9
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB ($84/$828).

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

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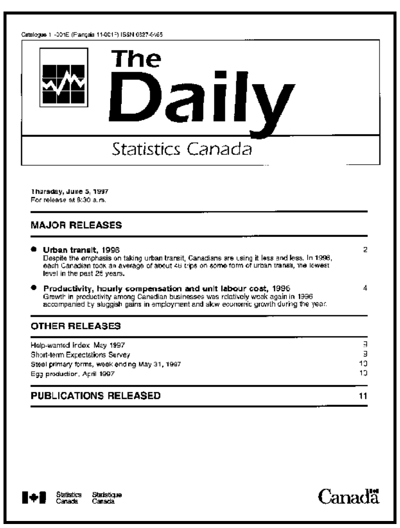
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The Daily

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 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

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