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## Releases

Retail trade, September 2005
Lower demand for motor vehicles drove down total retail sales by 0.9\% in September to $\$ 30.9$ billion.

Study: Referrals and convictions in youth and criminal courts, 2003
The majority of young people who have contact with Canada's youth courts and adult criminal courts are one-time offenders, according to a new study that traced the criminal "careers" of 59,000 young people.
Study: Zero tillage on Canadian farms, 1996 to 2003 8

Natural gas sales, September 20058
Construction Union Wage Rate Index, October 2005 ..... 9
Steel primary forms, weekly data, week ending November 12, 2005 ..... 9
Large urban transit, September 2005 ..... 9
New products ..... 10

## Releases

## Retail trade

September 2005

Lower demand for motor vehicles drove down total retail sales by $0.9 \%$ in September to $\$ 30.9$ billion. On the other hand, excluding sales by dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, retail sales soared $1.7 \%$ in September. This was the largest monthly sales gain for non-auto retailers in eight months.

Consumers increased their spending in all retail sectors in September, with the exception of the automotive sector. Sales increases ranged from $0.6 \%$ in the furniture and electronics sector to $2.6 \%$ in the clothing sector. Most retail sectors that posted sales increases in September had seen their sales either fall or remain flat in recent months.


Adjusted for price changes, constant dollar retail sales fell $1.5 \%$ in September. Higher gasoline prices at the pump continued to inflate the value of sales at gasoline stations in September. The only other significant price movement observed in retail trade occurred in clothing stores, where prices for women's clothing rose by more than they usually do in September.

Total spending in retail stores advanced $1.3 \%$ in the third quarter of 2005 compared with the second. This represented the seventh consecutive quarterly
sales gain in overall retail trade, after the $0.7 \%$ decline observed in the last quarter of 2003. However, in constant dollars, sales growth almost completely vanished in the third quarter of $2005(+0.1 \%)$.

## Auto sales plunge despite incentives

Sales at new car dealers plunged $10.8 \%$ in September, despite the continuation of employee pricing programs offered by some auto manufacturers to the general public. This was the steepest monthly sales decline at new car dealers since January 1998, when an ice storm slowed auto sales in Central and Eastern Canada. September represented the second consecutive month where consumers scaled back their purchases of motor vehicles, after having responding positively to the introduction of the employee pricing programs in July.

Sales at new car dealers advanced marginally in the third quarter of $2005(+0.4 \%)$ compared with the second, after rising rapidly in the previous two quarters. Sales jumped $2.3 \%$ in the first quarter of 2005 and $2.2 \%$ in the second quarter.

Consumers continued to face higher gasoline prices at the pump in September, resulting in a $4.4 \%$ increase in the value of sales at gasoline stations. Recent price increases pushed sales up $8.4 \%$ at gasoline stations in the third quarter of 2005 compared with the second.

## Sales up in all non-auto retail sectors

Clothing and accessories stores (+2.6\%) enjoyed the largest sales increase of all retail sectors in September. Although this gain completely offset the $1.9 \%$ decline in August, it only brought sales up to a level $0.7 \%$ below the last high reached in April 2005. Some of August's normal back-to-school sales may have been moved into September. Sales in clothing and accessories stores have generally been falling since last spring, after posting strong gains in the first four months of 2005. Previously, sales in these stores had remained essentially flat throughout 2004.

Pharmacies and personal care stores experienced a sizable $2.4 \%$ sales gain in September, pushing sales up $2.5 \%$ in the third quarter of 2005 compared with the second. These retailers have enjoyed generally rising sales since the fall of 2002.

Consumers returned to general merchandise stores in September, after five months of essentially no sales growth. Retailers in this sector racked up sales in September ( $+1.6 \%$ ), which helped bring sales in the
third quarter of 2005 to a level $0.5 \%$ above the second quarter, when sales fell $0.2 \%$.

Retailers in building and outdoor home supplies stores posted their second consecutive monthly sales gain in September ( $+0.7 \%$ ), after experiencing stagnant sales between April and July 2005. Despite the slowdown in recent months, sales in building and outdoor home supplies stores in the third quarter of 2005 were $7.3 \%$ above those in the same quarter of 2004. However, this was weaker than the $10 \%$ year-over-year growth rates seen in the first two quarters of 2005.

Sales in the food and beverage sector rose $0.7 \%$ in September, thanks to a $0.9 \%$ increase at supermarkets. Despite September's gain, which followed a decline of the same magnitude in August, sales in the food and beverage sector have changed little since May. In fact, these retailers showed their smallest quarterly sales increase of the last two years in the third quarter of 2005 , with sales up by only $0.5 \%$ compared with the second quarter of 2005.

In September, shoppers spent $0.6 \%$ more in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics sector than they did in August. This contributed to an increase of sales in the third quarter of 2005 of $1.2 \%$ compared with the second, when sales rose by only $0.6 \%$. Retailers in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics sector have generally seen their sales rise since the summer of 2004, despite little progress in the first half of 2005.

## Weak auto sales pull down retail activity across Canada

With the exception of a small gain in New Brunswick ( $+0.3 \%$ ), all provinces posted lower retail sales in September. Reduced purchases at new car dealers were mostly behind the tumbling results in retail trade across Canada.

In September, seven provinces suffered pronounced declines in retail sales, led by a $2.5 \%$ fall in

Newfoundland and Labrador, followed by Prince Edward Island (-2.4\%), Manitoba (-2.1\%), Saskatchewan (-1.9\%), Ontario (-1.2\%), Nova Scotia (-1.2\%) and Alberta ( $-0.8 \%$ ).

## Related indicators for October

Total employment soared $0.4 \%$ in October $(+69,000)$, on the strength of gains in part-time jobs attributable, in large part, to increased hiring by retailers. In addition, the overall unemployment rate (6.6\%) stood at its lowest level in three decades. Housing starts dropped $10.0 \%$ in October to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 206,700 units, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Despite falling to the third lowest level in almost two years, October's activity on the new housing market represented the 29th consecutive month above the psychological high level of 200,000 units. Estimated from early results supplied by the auto industry, the number of new motor vehicles sold in October rose by about 3\% from September.

## 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 September issue of Retail Trade (63-005-XIE, $\$ 18 / \$ 166$ ) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for October will be released on December 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.

The Daily, November 21, 2005

Retail sales

|  | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { September } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { June } \\ & 2005^{r} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { July } \\ 2005^{r} \end{gathered}$ | August $2005^{\text {r }}$ | September $2005^{\text {p }}$ | August to September 2005 | September <br> 2004 <br> to <br> September <br> 2005 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions |  |  |  |  | \% change |  |
| Automotive | 9,702 | 10,591 | 11,003 | 10,911 | 10,368 | -5.0 | 6.9 |
| New car dealers | 5,703 | 6,115 | 6,421 | 6,209 | 5,541 | -10.8 | -2.8 |
| Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 1,204 | 1,317 | 1,327 | 1,315 | 1,290 | -1.9 | 7.2 |
| Gasoline stations | 2,795 | 3,159 | 3,255 | 3,387 | 3,537 | 4.4 | 26.5 |
| Furniture, home furnishings and electronics 20.074 2,129 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| stores | 2,074 | 2,129 | 2,136 | 2,161 | 2,173 | 0.6 | 4.8 |
| Furniture stores | 736 | 723 | 731 | 747 | 762 | 2.0 | 3.6 |
| Home furnishings stores | 379 | 392 | 395 | 406 | 397 | -2.2 | 4.6 |
| Computer and software stores | 136 | 135 | 133 | 138 | 137 | -0.6 | 0.8 |
| Home electronics and appliance stores | 822 | 879 | 876 | 870 | 877 | 0.8 | 6.7 |
| Building and outdoor home supplies stores | 1,814 | 1,904 | 1,905 | 1,929 | 1,944 | 0.7 | 7.1 |
|  | 1,445 | 1,517 | 1,515 | 1,534 | 1,556 | 1.4 | 7.7 |
| Specialized building materials and garden stores | 369 | 386 | 390 | 395 | 388 | -1.8 | 5.1 |
| Food and beverage stores | 6,998 | 7,222 | 7,271 | 7,222 | 7,270 | 0.7 | 3.9 |
| Supermarkets | 5,073 | 5,244 | 5,287 | 5,266 | 5,312 | 0.9 | 4.7 |
| Convenience and specialty food stores | 740 | 770 | 772 | 757 | 757 | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| Beer, wine and liquor stores | 1,185 | 1,208 | 1,212 | 1,198 | 1,202 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| Pharmacies and personal care stores | 1,929 | 1,990 | 2,004 | 2,029 | 2,078 | 2.4 | 7.8 |
| Clothing and accessories stores | 1,691 | 1,762 | 1,767 | 1,733 | 1,778 | 2.6 | 5.1 |
| Clothing stores | 1,293 | 1,358 | 1,360 | 1,325 | 1,361 | 2.7 | 5.3 |
| Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores | 398 | 403 | 407 | 408 | 417 | 2.2 | 4.7 |
| General merchandise stores | 3,524 | 3,632 | 3,634 | 3,618 | 3,675 | 1.6 | 4.3 |
| Department stores | 1,834 | 1,866 | 1,864 | 1,862 | 1,882 | 1.0 | 2.6 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 1,690 | 1,766 | 1,770 | 1,756 | 1,793 | 2.1 | 6.1 |
| Miscellaneous retailers | 1,520 | 1,574 | 1,577 | 1,537 | 1,573 | 2.4 | 3.5 |
| Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores | 749 | 773 | 800 | 787 | 805 | 2.4 | 7.5 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 771 | 801 | 777 | 750 | 768 | 2.3 | -0.4 |
| Total retail sales | 29,251 | 30,804 | 31,296 | 31,140 | 30,859 | -0.9 | 5.5 |
| Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 22,345 | 23,372 | 23,548 | 23,615 | 24,028 | 1.7 | 7.5 |
| Provinces and territories |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 481 | 488 | 491 | 486 | 474 | -2.5 | -1.4 |
| Prince Edward Island | 116 | 120 | 118 | 119 | 116 | -2.4 | 0.4 |
| Nova Scotia | 868 | 895 | 892 | 898 | 887 | -1.2 | 2.2 |
| New Brunswick | 673 | 699 | 715 | 699 | 701 | 0.3 | 4.2 |
| Quebec | 6,642 | 7,048 | 7,065 | 6,977 | 6,953 | -0.3 | 4.7 |
| Ontario | 10,862 | 11,285 | 11,484 | 11,358 | 11,216 | -1.2 | 3.3 |
| Manitoba | 987 | 1,038 | 1,075 | 1,067 | 1,044 | -2.1 | 5.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 850 | 939 | 953 | 946 | 928 | -1.9 | 9.3 |
| Alberta | 3,678 | 4,050 | 4,181 | 4,187 | 4,152 | -0.8 | 12.9 |
| British Columbia | 3,998 | 4,136 | 4,214 | 4,295 | 4,281 | -0.3 | 7.1 |
| Yukon | 35 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 0.2 | 4.8 |
| Northwest Territories | 43 | 48 | 50 | 49 | 48 | -1.2 | 10.7 |
| Nunavut | 19 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 0.3 | 8.1 |

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## Retail sales

|  | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { September } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { August } \\ 2005^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { September } \\ 2005^{\text {p }} \end{array}$ | September <br> 2004 <br> to <br> September <br> 2005 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | unadjusted |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions |  |  | \% change |
| Automotive | 9,906 | 11,774 | 10,636 | 7.4 |
| New car dealers | 5,838 | 6,628 | 5,664 | -3.0 |
| Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 1,204 | 1,434 | 1,274 | 5.8 |
| Gasoline stations | 2,864 | 3,713 | 3,697 | 29.1 |
| Furniture, home furnishings and electronics |  |  |  |  |
| Furniture stores | 751 | 785 | 801 | 6.6 |
| Home furnishings stores | 376 | 410 | 394 | 4.7 |
| Computer and software stores | 138 | 134 | 144 | 4.7 |
| Home electronics and appliance stores | 803 | 851 | 860 | 7.2 |
| Building and outdoor home supplies stores | 1,956 | 2,151 | 2,135 | 9.1 |
| Home centres and hardware stores | 1,553 | 1,706 | 1,712 | 10.3 |
| Specialized building materials and garden stores | 404 | 446 | 423 | 4.7 |
| Food and beverage stores | 6,867 | 7,248 | 7,245 | 5.5 |
| Supermarkets | 4,971 | 5,142 | 5,298 | 6.6 |
| Convenience and specialty food stores | 742 | 808 | 759 | 2.3 |
| Beer, wine and liquor stores | 1,154 | 1,299 | 1,188 | 3.0 |
| Pharmacies and personal care stores | 1,873 | 1,998 | 2,040 | 9.0 |
| Clothing and accessories stores | 1,708 | 1,728 | 1,801 | 5.5 |
| Clothing stores | 1,324 | 1,309 | 1,398 | 5.5 |
| Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores | 383 | 419 | 403 | 5.2 |
| General merchandise stores | 3,261 | 3,542 | 3,400 | 4.3 |
| Department stores | 1,686 | 1,780 | 1,730 | 2.6 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 1,575 | 1,762 | 1,670 | 6.0 |
| Miscellaneous retailers | 1,585 | 1,608 | 1,626 | 2.6 |
| Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores | 749 | 796 | 804 | 7.4 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 837 | 812 | 822 | -1.8 |
| Total retail sales | 29,224 | 32,229 | 31,082 | 6.4 |
| Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 22,182 | 24,167 | 24,144 | 8.8 |
| Provinces and territories |  |  |  |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 485 | 533 | 484 | -0.2 |
| Prince Edward Island | 118 | 139 | 121 | 2.1 |
| Nova Scotia | 862 | 936 | 890 | 3.2 |
| New Brunswick | 674 | 746 | 709 | 5.3 |
| Quebec | 6,617 | 7,225 | 6,966 | 5.3 |
| Ontario | 10,908 | 11,691 | 11,350 | 4.1 |
| Manitoba | 980 | 1,100 | 1,048 | 6.9 |
| Saskatchewan | 834 | 998 | 919 | 10.2 |
| Alberta | 3,697 | 4,331 | 4,186 | 13.2 |
| British Columbia | 3,951 | 4,414 | 4,303 | 8.9 |
| Yukon | 36 | 42 | 38 | 6.6 |
| Northwest Territories | 43 | 50 | 47 | 7.9 |
| Nunavut | 20 | 22 | 22 | 12.0 |

[^1]
## Study: Referrals and convictions in youth and criminal courts 2003

The majority of young people who have contact with Canada's youth courts and adult criminal courts are one-time offenders, according to a new study that traced the criminal "careers" of 59,000 young people.

The study found that the majority of these young people were referred to court on only one occasion, dispelling the image that most youth who come into contact with courts become chronic offenders.

In fact, only a small percentage of repeat offenders were responsible for the majority of court-related activity.

The study followed the criminal history of these young people over a 10-year period from the ages of 12 to 21, inclusive. It profiles one-time and repeat offenders, as well as analyzes factors such as the frequency of their offences, and the onset and termination of their court appearances.

The findings provide a more complete picture of the history of these young offenders than one-time snapshots from individual surveys would allow.

For example, chronic offenders, or those with five or more incidents, accounted for only $16 \%$ of all offenders. But they were responsible for nearly $60 \%$ of all court referrals involving this specific group.

The study found that the younger an individual is at the time of first offence, the higher the propensity to re-offend. Offenders who began their court "career" with an incident that occurred when they were 12 had an average of 7.9 court referrals. Those who were 21 at the time of their first offence had an average of only 1.2 referrals. This holds true after taking into account the shorter period of time available for re-offending for those who committed a first offence at older ages.

This study used linked court data files to profile the path through courts of all individuals born during the year between April 1, 1979 and March 31, 1980 in six provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Collectively, these provinces account for 78\% of Canada's population.

In total, some 323,300 people were born in 1979/80. Of this total, about 59,000 were referred to youth court or adult criminal court in relation to offences committed from the time they turned 12 in 1991/92, to the time they were still 21 in 2001/02.

This was the equivalent of about 18 individuals for every 100 born during 1979/80.

## Note to readers

This release is based on the first multi-jurisdictional study of the criminal "careers" of a specific cohort, or group, of one-time and repeat offenders. It was a joint project of the University of Waterloo and the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics at Statistics Canada.

The study traced the path through the court system of all people born between April 1, 1979 and March 31, 1980, who had at least one charge related to a federal statute offence which was referred to youth court or adult (criminal court) between April 1, 1991 and March 31, 2003. This period, between the ages of 12 and 21 inclusive, spans the time the cohort passed from youth to young adulthood.

The term "criminal career" refers to the sequence of incidents in which an individual is involved, which result in charges being laid, and a referral to court, whether or not the individual is convicted of the charge(s).

The term does not imply that crime is being used as a means of earning a living. Rather it focuses specifically on the sequencing of offending over a specified period of time in an individual's life. This usage is consistent with previous research which generally relies on records of police contacts or court referrals as evidence of criminal activity.

The term "referral" signifies offences brought to court that occurred on the same date, whether or not there was a finding of guilt.

One limitation of this study is that it may under-represent, in some analyses, the full extent of re-offending by those whose first offence occurred at 20 years of age or older. Where possible, the "time at risk," or time available for re-offending for this age group, has been taken into account.

Little of this type of research has been done in Canada. However, the results tend to confirm the findings of similar studies conducted in other nations, such as Denmark, England, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United States.

## Seven in 10 referred to court found guilty of at least one offence

Males comprised the vast majority ( $80 \%$ ) of the group of 59,000 people referred to courts during the 10-year period, according to the study.

Of these individuals, $72 \%$ or around 42,200 , were found guilty of at least one offence, although the pattern varied widely between the sexes. Nearly three-quarters (74\%) of males were found guilty of at least one offence, compared with $61 \%$ of females.

The study found that the patterns of court referral for males and females were similar. However, the prevalence among females rose relatively faster at younger ages, and peaked earlier.

The largest group of females was referred to court at the age of 16 , while the peak age of referral for their male counterparts was 18.

## Majority of offenders referred to court on only one occasion

The study found that the majority of these young people were referred to court on only one occasion, dispelling the image that most youth who come into contact with the courts become chronic offenders. A small percentage of offenders were responsible for the majority of court-related activity.

Chronic offenders are responsible for over half of the incidents


Just over one-half ( $55 \%$ ) of the alleged offenders had a court career consisting of only one incident. About $63 \%$ of females were one-time offenders, compared with $53 \%$ of males.
"Repeat offenders" those referred to court in relation to two to four criminal incidents, accounted for about $28 \%$ of all alleged offenders.
"Chronic offenders," defined as persons referred to court in relation to five or more criminal incidents, made up the remaining $16 \%$. Although chronic offenders made up the smallest group, they were responsible for $58 \%$ of all court referrals involving the 59,000 young people.

Overall, offenders had an average of 3.1 referrals to court with males averaging 3.3 referrals, and females 2.4.

## Likelihood of re-offending greater for those who began at an earlier age

The likelihood that a young person would re-offend was much greater for those who began their criminal career at an earlier age, according to the study.

Offenders who began their court career with an incident occurring when they were 12 had an average of 7.9 court referrals. On the other hand, those whose first experience in court occurred at the age of 21 had an average of only 1.2 referrals.

The study found a continuing strong relationship between the age at which the first court referral took place and the overall number of referrals in the court career. This relationship held even after controlling for the amount of time available for re-offending, that is, the short time to their 22nd birthday for those who began offending at older ages.

Four out of 10 offenders began their court careers in connection with an incident that occurred after the age of 18. This may reflect a tendency on the part of police, prosecutors, and other screening agencies to deal with alleged offenders younger than 15 by means other than the court process.

Sections of the Young Offenders Act (in effect during the period covered by the study) specifically encouraged the use of alternatives to the formal court process for dealing with young people where it was appropriate and available.

As additional years of court data become available, future research will be able to follow court careers past the age of 21 into adulthood. This will result in a more complete picture of the court careers of chronic, persistent offenders. It will also allow a more thorough investigation of the court careers of adult offenders who had no contact with the court system during adolescence.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3309 and 3312.

The report Court Careers of a Canadian Birth Cohort (85-561-MIE2005006, free), which is part of the Crime and Justice Research Paper Series is now available online. From the Our products and services page, under Browse our Internet publications, choose Free, then Justice.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts or methods of this release, contact Client Services (1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023) at the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

## Study: Zero tillage on Canadian farms 1996 to 2003

Zero tillage, a relatively recent innovation on Canadian farms, is breaking new ground by breaking less ground, according to a new study.

Zero tillage or "no-tillage" is a system in which farmers avoid any mechanical tillage of the soil.

It is the farmer's least labour-intensive option for growing crops, a one-pass operation that places seed and fertilizer in a relatively undisturbed seedbed. It allows farmers to seed with fewer tractor-hours, thereby reducing operating expenses.

By 2001, zero tillage had become a common practice on about $30 \%$ of the cultivated farmland in Canada.

However, a study by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 2003 found that only $14 \%$ of agricultural producers with seeded cropland used the technology.

Several factors increase the likelihood that farmers will adopt zero tillage practices in crop production. The study found that young and middle-aged farmers with high farm sales were most likely to use it, as were those whose practice it was to hire a custom operator.

Farmers in the Prairie provinces and Ontario used zero till more than farmers in other provinces.

The most prominent crops grown on farms reporting zero tillage were cereals, pulses, vegetables and oilseeds. On the other hand, the presence of livestock on a farm operation, in particular, cattle and poultry, reduced the likelihood.

Canada had some 4.1 million hectares of agricultural land under zero tillage in 1996, the fourth highest land area in the world. Only the United States, Brazil and Argentina had more under zero till.

The Vista on the Agri-food Industry and the Farm Community Newsletter, November 2005, entitled Zero tillage: A Greener Way for Canadian Farms (21-004-XIE, free) is now available online. From the Our products and services page, under Browse our Internet publications, choose Free, then Agriculture.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mike Trant (613 951-2859, mike.trant@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

## Natural gas sales

September 2005 (preliminary)
Natural gas sales totalled 3707 million cubic metres in September, down 13.4\% from September 2004. Weaker sale volumes in the residential sector (-5.5\%) and commercial sector ( $-4.5 \%$ ) reflected the warmer temperatures recorded in most regions of the country. Sale volumes in the industrial sector (including direct sales) declined 16.0\%.

Year-to-date sales at the end of September were down $2.0 \%$ from the same period of 2004 . Both the residential (-1.2\%) and the commercial ( $-1.7 \%$ ) sectors posted declines. Use of natural gas by the industrial (including direct sales) sector also declined $2.4 \%$ so far this year.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

Natural gas sales

|  | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { September } \\ 2005^{\text {p }} \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { September } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | September 2004 to September 2005 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | thousands of c | c metres | \% change |
| Total: Natural gas sales <br> 37070924281872 |  |  |  |
| Residential | 532724 | 563906 | -5.5 |
| Commercial | 431669 | 452182 | -4.5 |
| Industrial | 1312561 | 1543111 | -16.0 |
| Direct | 1430138 | 1722673 |  |
|  | year-to-date |  |  |
|  | $2005{ }^{\text {p }}$ | 2004 | 2004 to 2005 |
|  | thousands of cubic metres |  | \% change |
| Total: Natural gas sales $\qquad$ |  |  |  |
| Residential | 12043173 | 12183842 | -1.2 |
| Commercial | 8892474 | 9045489 | -1.7 |
| Industrial | 13967890 | 14317163 |  |
| Direct | 16139643 | 16535762 |  |

p Preliminary.
For more information, or to order data, 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.

## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

October 2005
The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in October compared to the September level of $131.9 \quad(1992=100)$. The composite index increased $1.4 \%$ compared with the October 2004 index (130.1).

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Client Services Unit (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), or Louise Chaîné (613-951-3393), Prices Division.

## Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending November 12, 2005 (preliminary)
Steel primary forms production for the week ending November 12 totalled 295420 metric tonnes, up 12.1\% from 263633 tonnes a week earlier and up 1.2\% from 291824 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of November 12 was 13295000 tonnes, down $5.1 \%$ from 14014139 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.

## Large urban transit

September 2005 (preliminary)
Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 3.6 \% higher in September than it was for the same month in 2004.

Approximately 121.7 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in September. These systems account for about 80\% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated $\$ 190.2$ million in revenue in September (excluding subsidies), a $6.1 \%$ increase over September 2004.

## Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division.

## New products

Vista on the Agri-food Industry and the Farm
Community, November 2005
Catalogue number 21-004-XIE (free).

Wholesale Trade, September 2005, Vol. 68, no. 9 Catalogue number 63-008-XIE (\$15/\$150).

## Crime and Justice Research Paper

Series: Court Careers of a Canadian Birth
Cohort, 1991/92 to 2002/03, no. 6
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[^0]:    ${ }^{r}$ Revised.
    p Preliminary.

[^1]:    ${ }^{r}$ Revised.
    p Preliminary.

