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MAJOR RELEASES

- **New motor vehicle sales,** January 2005 — 2
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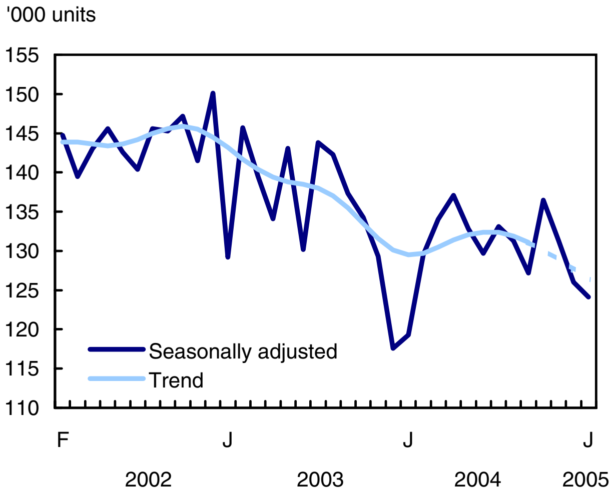
MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

January 2005

The number of new motor vehicles sold in January fell 1.5%, a third consecutive decline. However, this series of declines will be offset by a strong gain of approximately 10% in February, according to preliminary data from the industry. February's gain is attributable to both passenger cars and trucks. Trucks include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.

New motor vehicles sales declined in January for a third month in a row



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

In January, 124,065 new motor vehicles were sold, down approximately 1,900 units from December. After starting the year 2004 with a series of increases that peaked in April, new motor vehicle sales declined in six of the last eight months of the year. Previously, sales went through a period of steep declines that prevailed throughout the second half of 2003. In the first half of 2003, sales showed sizable fluctuations while at the same time trending downward.

The decline in sales affected both passenger cars and trucks

Sales of both passenger cars and trucks declined for a third straight month.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise indicated. Seasonally adjusted provincial data back to January 1991 are available on CANSIM.

***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.

Dealers sold 64,886 new passenger cars in January, down 1.6% compared with December 2004. This was the lowest level since January 2004, except for September of that year when almost the same level was observed.

The number of new trucks sold in January declined 1.4% to 59,179 units, the lowest level since January 2004.

Both passenger car and truck sales rose in the first four months of 2004, then posted declines in six of the last eight months of the year. Previously, both car and truck sales went through a period of steep declines that became more pronounced in the second half of 2003. This downward movement first appeared in sales of passenger cars, which began to decline in the fall of 2002. For truck sales, the weakness began to appear in mid-2003.

Four provinces stand out

In January, sales advanced in Quebec (+3.8%), Nova Scotia (+1.7%), Newfoundland and Labrador (+1.5%) and Alberta (+0.6%). In the other provinces, sales fell more than at the national level.

In Quebec, which accounted for more than a quarter of national sales in January, sales have fluctuated since the spring of 2004 while maintaining a relatively stable trend. Previously, sales went through a series of increases that began at the start of that year and peaked in April, following a period of major declines in the second half of 2003.

In Ontario (-2.3%), sales fell for a third month in a row, reaching their lowest level since January 2004. Ontario accounted for more than one-third of national sales with 46,507 vehicles sold.

The largest declines, measuring at least 10.0%, were registered in the West, namely in Saskatchewan (-13.4%) and the region formed by British Columbia and the territories (-10.2%). Both regions posted three consecutive monthly declines.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

The January 2005 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007-XIE, $14/$133) will be available soon.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for February 2005 will be released on April 18.

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

	January 2004	December 2004[r]	January 2005[p]	January 2004 to January 2005	December 2004 to January 2005
	seasonally adjusted				
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	**119,262**	**125,974**	**124,065**	**4.0**	**-1.5**
Passenger cars	64,729	65,934	64,886	0.2	-1.6
North American[1]	44,124	47,218	46,021	4.3	-2.5
Overseas	20,605	18,715	18,865	-8.4	0.8
Trucks, vans and buses	54,533	60,040	59,179	8.5	-1.4
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,798	1,830	1,858	3.3	1.5
Prince Edward Island	336	400	365	8.6	-8.8
Nova Scotia	3,530	3,581	3,641	3.1	1.7
New Brunswick	2,842	2,721	2,526	-11.1	-7.2
Quebec	31,350	32,034	33,259	6.1	3.8
Ontario	45,292	47,598	46,507	2.7	-2.3
Manitoba	3,377	3,576	3,497	3.6	-2.2
Saskatchewan	2,653	2,988	2,588	-2.5	-13.4
Alberta	14,693	16,217	16,321	11.1	0.6
British Columbia[2]	13,391	15,031	13,503	0.8	-10.2

	January 2004	December 2004	January 2005p	January 2004 to January 2005
	Unadjusted			
	number of vehicles			% change
New motor vehicles	**85,238**	**117,822**	**82,043**	**-3.7**
Passenger cars	43,142	57,573	39,544	-8.3
North American[1]	30,151	42,932	28,588	-5.2
Overseas	12,991	14,641	10,956	-15.7
Trucks, vans and buses	42,096	60,249	42,499	1.0
New motor vehicles				
Newfoundland and Labrador	971	1,271	957	-1.4
Prince Edward Island	205	363	202	-1.5
Nova Scotia	2,245	3,096	2,115	-5.8
New Brunswick	1,884	2,362	1,580	-16.1
Quebec	19,906	25,474	19,603	-1.5
Ontario	33,402	46,200	31,707	-5.1
Manitoba	2,403	3,438	2,236	-6.9
Saskatchewan	2,026	3,238	1,793	-11.5
Alberta	11,302	17,005	11,651	3.1
British Columbia[2]	10,894	15,375	10,199	-6.4

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

■

OTHER RELEASES

Study: Canadian direct investment in offshore financial centers

1990 to 2003

From 1990 to 2003, Canadian enterprises invested substantial and growing amounts in countries known as "Offshore Financial Centers" (OFCs), many of them in the Caribbean.

Between 1990 and 2003, Canadian assets in OFCs increased eight-fold, from $11 billion to $88 billion. These centres include countries that are often referred to as "tax havens", as well as those with an especially important financial sector, such as Switzerland.

OFCs accounted for more than one-fifth of all Canadian direct investment abroad in 2003, double the proportion 13 years earlier.

Among them, the largest growth in Canadian direct investment during this time occurred in Barbados, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas and Ireland. By 2003, these 5 were among the 11 nations with the most Canadian assets.

Meanwhile, the share of Canadian direct investment going to the United States, Canada's main economic partner, has declined considerably. In 2000, Canadian enterprises held fewer assets in the United States than in all other countries combined.

Since 1999, the financial sector has accounted for more Canadian assets than any other sector, ahead of processing, services and manufacturing.

Direct investment mainly serves to finance the creation of new enterprises, the acquisition of existing ones and the activities of foreign affiliates.

This new report, published today in the electronic publication *Analysis in Brief*, analyses Canadian direct investment in OFCs between 1990 and 2003. It also provides an analysis of the distribution of Canadian direct investment assets in OFCs and elsewhere in the world by industry. And it measures and analyses their contribution to the growth of assets held abroad by Canadian enterprises.

The $88 billion in assets invested in OFCs were mainly concentrated in the financial sector, which alone accounted for $72 billion, including $53 billion in banking services.

In the financial sector, Canadian companies are investing far more of their assets in OFCs than they are in either the United States or elsewhere in the world.

The average annual rate of growth of Canadian direct investment was higher in these countries (+18%) than in the United States (+8%) and in other countries (+14%).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1506, 1529, 1530 and 1531.

The analytical article *Canadian Direct Investment in "Offshore Financial Centers"* no. 21 (11-621-MIE2005021, free) is now available online in the *Analysis in Brief* series. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Trade*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact François Lavoie (613-951-5416), Balance of Payments Division. ■

Small for-hire motor carriers of freight and owner operators

2002

The average operating revenue of for-hire carriers with less than $1 million in revenue fell almost 3% to $258,000 in 2002. A sharp jump in the average expenditure on purchased transport (+31%) and a moderate rise in salaries and wages (+6%) resulted in a 1% increase in average operating expenses to $254,000.

In contrast, owner operators experienced healthy revenue growth (+9%) as average operating revenue reached $200,000. However, a 33% increase in purchased transport expenses and a 16% rise in salaries and wages drove average operating expenses up 13% to $187,000.

Small for-hire carriers earned most of their revenue from hauling general freight (32%), other specialized freight (23%) and dry bulk materials (21%). Owner operators reported a similar pattern. These three commodity groups typically account for about three-quarters of revenue for both types of carriers.

Long distance hauls provided owner operators with 54% of their revenue in 2002, a share that has slipped somewhat in recent years. In contrast, small for-hire carriers derived 45% of their revenue from long distance hauls.

In terms of origin and destination, owner operators earned 34% of their revenue from trips that involved crossing either international or inter-provincial boundaries. Only 23% of the revenue of small for-hire carriers came from these kinds of trips.

Small for-hire carriers reported an average of five employees, including owner operators. In addition, they operated one straight truck, two road tractors and three semi-trailers. The average owner operator firm had two employees, the owner operator plus one other person, and operated one road tractor and one semi-trailer.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2800.

For general information or to order data, contact Ronald Chrétien (613-951-8774; *ron.chretien@statcan.ca*). For more information about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Dubé (613-951-7031; fax: 613-951-0579; *vincent.dube@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Large urban transit

January 2005 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 1.0% lower in January 2005 than it was for the same month in 2004.

Approximately 106.9 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in January, These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated $157.7 million in revenue in January 2005 (excluding subsidies), down 1.0% compared with January 2004.

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. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

January 2005

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The January 2005 issue of *Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products*, Vol. 60, no. 1 (41-006-XIB, $6/$51) is now available. See *How to order products*.

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

Natural gas transportation and distribution

October 2004

Data on natural gas transportation and distribution for October 2004 are now available.

Users should note that a number of data series have been revised back to January 2003.

Available on CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

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. ■

Refined petroleum products

November 2004

Data on the supply and disposition and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for November 2004.

Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

The November 2004 issue of *Refined Petroleum Products*, Vol. 59, no. 11 (45-004-XIB, $18/$166) 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 toll free (1-866-873-8789 or 613-951-9497; *energ@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Analysis in Brief: Canadian Direct Investment in "Offshore Financial Centers", 1990 to 2003, no. 21
Catalogue number 11-621-MIE2005021
(free).

Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products,
January 2005, Vol. 60, no. 1
Catalogue number 41-006-XIB ($6/$51).

Refined Petroleum Products, November 2004,
Vol. 59, no. 11
Catalogue number 45-004-XIB ($18/$166).

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

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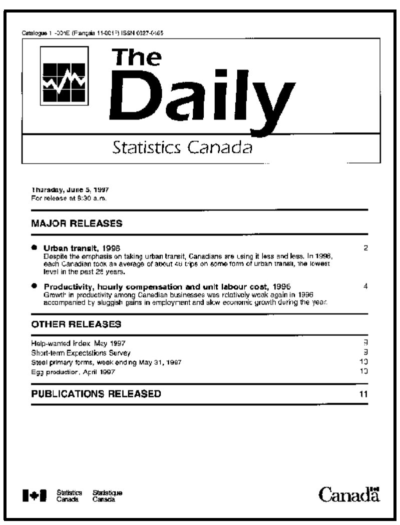
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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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 45 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.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

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