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MAJOR RELEASES

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NEW PRODUCTS

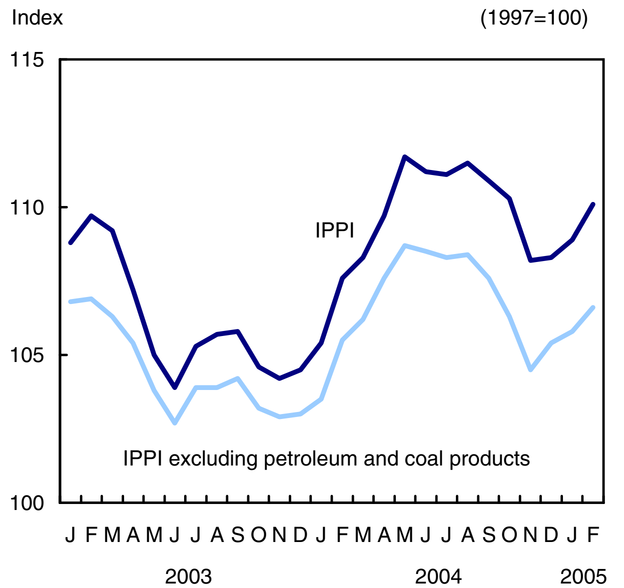
MAJOR RELEASES

Industrial product and raw materials price indexes

February 2005

Monthly prices for manufactured goods at the factory gate rose in February for a third consecutive month, posting their largest monthly increase since May 2004. Raw materials prices were up for a second month in a row as prices for crude oil continued to rise.

Prices for manufactured goods continue to increase



Prices charged by manufacturers, as measured by the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI), rose 1.1% from January to February. Higher prices for petroleum products, lumber products, motor vehicles, primary metals and pulp and paper products were the main sources of the monthly increase.

The 12-month change in the IPPI was 2.3%, down from January's increase of 3.3%.

The Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI) was up 3.1% from January to February, following a 4.3% increase registered the previous month. There were price increases in mineral fuels, non-ferrous metals, vegetable products as well as non-metallic minerals.

Note to readers

The ***Industrial Product Price Index*** *(IPPI) reflects the prices that producers in Canada receive as the goods leave the plant gate. It does not reflect what the consumer pays. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, the IPPI excludes indirect taxes and all the costs that occur between the time a good leaves the plant and the time the final user takes possession of it, including the transportation, wholesale, and retail costs.*

Canadian producers export many goods. They often quote their prices in foreign currencies, particularly for motor vehicles, pulp, paper, and wood products. Therefore, a rise or fall in the value of the Canadian dollar against its US counterpart affects the IPPI.

The ***Raw Materials Price Index*** *(RMPI) reflects the prices paid by Canadian manufacturers for key raw materials. Many of these prices are set in a world market. Unlike the IPPI, the RMPI includes goods not produced in Canada.*

Compared with February last year, raw materials cost factories 11.8% more. This was down from the 12-month rise of 12.4% experienced in January but slightly higher than the 11.2% advance observed in December.

In February, the IPPI (1997=100) stood at 110.1, up from its revised level of 108.9 in January. The RMPI (1997=100) reached 135.4, up from a revised level of 131.3 in January.

IPPI: Monthly increase mostly due to petroleum products, lumber products and motor vehicles

On a month-over-month basis, manufacturers' prices rose 1.1% following an increase of 0.6% in January.

Petroleum and coal products prices increased 4.0% compared to January as gasoline and fuel oil prices rose. Lumber and other wood products were up 2.7% due to strong demand and supply concerns as strike activity continued in British Columbia. Prices for motor vehicles and other transport equipment increased 0.7%, mainly because of a weaker Canadian dollar. Primary metals increased 1.7% as higher prices were observed for nickel, copper, aluminum and zinc products. Prices for pulp and paper products rose 1.5% in response to increased demand and tight supplies.

Chemical products, meat, fish and dairy products, electrical and communication products, as well as fruit, vegetable and feed products also contributed to the increase in February.

IPPI: Petroleum and primary metals continue to be the major factors in the 12-month change

On a 12-month basis, the IPPI was up 2.3% in February. Prices for petroleum and coal products continued to have a major influence on the 12-month change, rising 18.1% from February 2004. If petroleum and coal product prices had been excluded, the IPPI would have increased only 1.0% rather than 2.3%.

Prices for primary metal products also had a big impact on the increase, rising 9.9% from a year ago. Primary steel, copper and aluminum products were the major contributors.

Metal fabricated products increased 9.6%, mainly the result of higher prices for steel. Chemical products, pulp and paper products, rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products, as well as furniture and fixtures also contributed to the 12-month increase in the IPPI.

These increases were partly offset by lower prices for motor vehicles and other transport equipment, which were down 4.4% from a year ago. Prices were also down compared with 12 months ago for lumber products, fruit, vegetable and feed products, meat, fish and dairy products and electrical and communication products.

RMPI: Crude oil prices push up the cost of raw materials

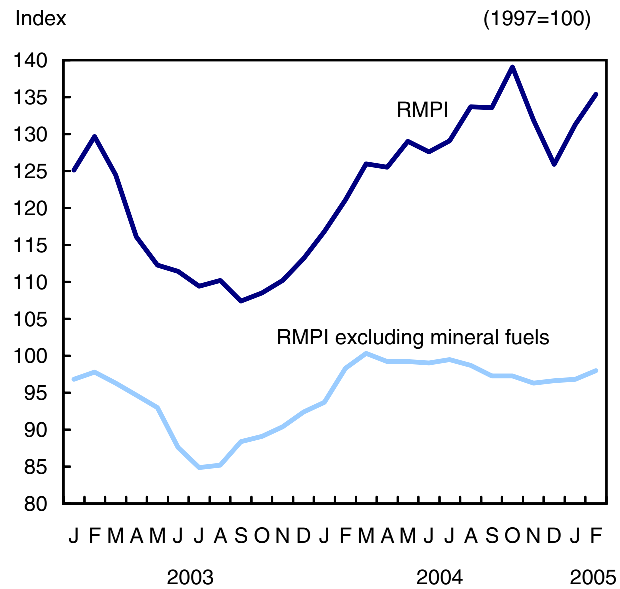
On a monthly basis, raw materials prices rose 3.1% in February. Mineral fuels were up compared to January, as crude oil prices increased 6.3% due to continuing strong demand and colder temperatures.

Prices for non-ferrous metals were up 4.2%, mainly due to higher prices for zinc, copper, lead, nickel and silver. Prices for vegetable products also rose 2.3% with higher prices observed for soybeans, canola, coffee and rubber.

Ferrous materials decreased 1.4% from the previous month as iron and steel scrap prices were down 2.7%. Prices for wood products decreased 0.1% due to lower prices for logs and bolts. Animals and animal products decreased 0.1% as higher prices for cattle for slaughter (+3.9%) were offset by lower prices for hogs for slaughter (-3.0%), fish (-3.8%) as well as poultry (-0.7%).

On a 12-month basis, the price of raw materials rose 11.8% in February. Mineral fuels were up 26.8% with crude oil prices rising 35.2%. If mineral fuels had been excluded, the RMPI would have decreased 0.3% instead of rising 11.8%.

Raw materials prices increase again



Prices for non-ferrous metals rose 7.5%, mainly because of higher prices for radio-active concentrates, zinc and copper. Animal and animal products prices rose 4.2% from February last year as higher prices were registered for cattle for slaughter, unprocessed whole milk, hogs for slaughter, and poultry. Higher prices were also observed for non-metallic mineral products which increased 6.6% from a year ago.

These increases were partly offset by lower prices for vegetable products, wood products as well as ferrous materials.

Impact of the exchange rate

Between January and February, the value of the Canadian dollar fell 1.2% against the US dollar. As a result, if the impact of the exchange rate had been excluded, the IPPI would have risen 0.8% compared to the actual 1.1% increase.

On a 12-month basis, the value of the Canadian dollar rose 7.2% against the US dollar. If the impact of the exchange rate had been excluded, producer prices would have risen 4.2% between February 2004 and February 2005, rather than their actual 2.3% increase.

Prices for intermediate goods continue to increase

Prices for intermediate goods increased 1.2% from January. Higher prices for petroleum products; lumber products; primary metals; pulp and paper products; chemical products; motor vehicles; and meat, fish and dairy products were the major contributors to the increase.

Producers of intermediate goods received 4.4% more for their goods in February 2005 than in February 2004, down from the 5.9% increase registered in January. Higher prices for petroleum products; primary metal products; chemical products; metal fabricated products; pulp and paper products; and rubber, leather and plastic products were mainly responsible for the annual increase.

These increases were partly offset by declining prices for fruit, vegetable and feed products; lumber products; motor vehicles; meat, fish and dairy products; and tobacco products.

Finished goods prices increase again

On a monthly basis, prices for finished goods were up 0.7% from January. Higher prices for motor vehicles; petroleum products; meat, fish and dairy products; electrical and communication products; fruit, vegetable and feed products; and machinery and equipment were responsible for this monthly rise.

Compared with February 2004, prices for finished goods were down by 0.8%. Lower prices for motor vehicles, electrical and communication products and lumber products were the major contributors to the annual decline.

Higher prices for petroleum products; furniture and fixtures; fruit, vegetable and feed products; chemical products; rubber, leather and plastic products; machinery and equipment; and tobacco products partly offset the annual decrease.

Available on CANSIM: tables 329-0038 to 329-0049 and 330-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2306 and 2318.

The February 2005 issue of *Industry Price Indexes* (62-011-XIE, $19/$175, 62-011-XPE, $24/$233) will be available soon.

The Industrial product and raw material price indexes for March 2005 will be released on April 28.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services Unit (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539, *infounit@statcan.ca*) or Danielle Gouin (613-951-3375; *danielle.gouin@statcan.ca*), Prices Division.

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Industrial product price indexes

(1997=100)

	Relative importance	February 2004	January 2005[r]	February 2005[p]	February 2004 to February 2005	January to February 2005
					% change	
Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI)	**100.00**	**107.6**	**108.9**	**110.1**	**2.3**	**1.1**
IPPI excluding petroleum and coal products	**94.32**	**105.5**	**105.8**	**106.6**	**1.0**	**0.8**
Aggregation by commodities						
Meat, fish and dairy products	5.78	109.1	107.1	108.1	-0.9	0.9
Fruit, vegetables, feeds and other food products	5.99	105.4	101.5	101.8	-3.4	0.3
Beverages	1.57	119.9	120.3	120.3	0.3	0.0
Tobacco and tobacco products	0.63	167.0	170.1	170.1	1.9	0.0
Rubber, leather and plastic fabricated products	3.30	105.6	111.4	111.6	5.7	0.2
Textile products	1.58	98.7	98.9	99.1	0.4	0.2
Knitted products and clothing	1.51	104.3	104.2	104.2	-0.1	0.0
Lumber and other wood products	6.30	101.6	95.0	97.6	-3.9	2.7
Furniture and fixtures	1.59	110.4	114.1	114.1	3.4	0.0
Pulp and paper products	7.23	100.9	103.3	104.8	3.9	1.5
Printing and publishing	1.70	112.9	114.9	115.1	1.9	0.2
Primary metal products	7.80	108.6	117.4	119.4	9.9	1.7
Metal fabricated products	4.11	110.2	120.8	120.8	9.6	0.0
Machinery and equipment	5.48	105.4	106.2	106.4	0.9	0.2
Motor vehicles and other transport equipment	22.16	102.4	97.2	97.9	-4.4	0.7
Electrical and communications products	5.77	94.8	93.4	94.0	-0.8	0.6
Non-metallic mineral products	1.98	110.6	113.5	113.5	2.6	0.0
Petroleum and coal products[1]	5.68	146.7	166.6	173.3	18.1	4.0
Chemicals and chemical products	7.07	110.3	116.5	117.4	6.4	0.8
Miscellaneous manufactured products	2.40	108.3	109.6	110.3	1.8	0.6
Miscellaneous non-manufactured products	0.38	114.6	134.5	135.2	18.0	0.5
Intermediate goods[2]	**60.14**	**106.9**	**110.3**	**111.6**	**4.4**	**1.2**
First-stage intermediate goods[3]	7.71	114.3	119.2	122.6	7.3	2.9
Second-stage intermediate goods[4]	52.43	105.8	108.9	110.0	4.0	1.0
Finished goods[5]	**39.86**	**108.6**	**107.0**	**107.7**	**-0.8**	**0.7**
Finished foods and feeds	8.50	111.3	111.3	111.8	0.4	0.4
Capital equipment	11.73	104.9	102.1	102.7	-2.1	0.6
All other finished goods	19.63	109.7	108.0	109.0	-0.6	0.9

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*
1. *This index is estimated for the current month.*
2. *Intermediate goods are goods used principally to produce other goods.*
3. *First-stage intermediate goods are items used most frequently to produce other intermediate goods.*
4. *Second-stage intermediate goods are items most commonly used to produce final goods.*
5. *Finished goods are goods most commonly used for immediate consumption or for capital investment.*

Raw materials price indexes

(1997=100)

	Relative importance	February 2004	January 2005[r]	February 2005[p]	February 2004 to February 2005	January to February 2005
					% change	
Raw Materials Price Index (RMPI)	**100.00**	**121.1**	**131.3**	**135.4**	**11.8**	**3.1**
Mineral fuels	35.16	170.6	205.8	216.3	26.8	5.1
Vegetable products	10.28	93.3	78.8	80.6	-13.6	2.3
Animals and animal products	20.30	100.3	104.6	104.5	4.2	-0.1
Wood	15.60	81.9	78.1	78.0	-4.8	-0.1
Ferrous materials	3.36	128.7	119.0	117.3	-8.9	-1.4
Non-ferrous metals	12.93	105.4	108.7	113.3	7.5	4.2
Non-metallic minerals	2.38	119.0	126.7	126.8	6.6	0.1
RMPI excluding mineral fuels	**64.84**	**98.3**	**96.8**	**98.0**	**-0.3**	**1.2**

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

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Annual retail trade

2003

Operating revenues of store retailers rose at their slowest pace in seven years in 2003 following a series of negative shocks to the economy.

A slowdown in personal disposable income growth and events such as the SARS outbreak and the power outage in Ontario restrained revenues, margins and operating profits.

Store retailers reported operating revenues of $356.3 billion in 2003, up only 3.7% from the previous year. It was the slowest annual rate of growth since 1996 when retail sales grew just 3.3%. Personal disposable income advanced at a similar pace, with an increase of 3.0% in 2003.

At the same time, gross margins as a percentage of total operating revenue held steady at 26%, while operating profits fell 4.0%.

Retail stores can be categorized into two broad groups: chains (including department stores) and independents. A retail chain is an organization operating four or more retail outlets in the same industry class under the same legal ownership, at any time during the survey year.

Retail chain stores accounted for 42%, or $150.1 billion, of total retail operating revenues in 2003. Slightly over two-thirds (67.6%) of the stores operated by retail chains were located in large metropolitan centres. These stores accounted for 73.3% of total operating revenues for chain stores.

Among the 27 census metropolitan areas, retail chain stores in 22 recorded gains in operating revenues in 2003. Chains in Oshawa led the way with a 9.5% increase in operating revenues, followed by Toronto and Sherbrooke, each with 8.6% growth.

Chain stores in Toronto accounted for 22% of operating revenues, the largest share, followed by Montréal at nearly 13% and Vancouver at 12%.

Revenues rise at slower pace for most trade groups

Although most retail trade groups registered increases in operating revenue in 2003, the gains were down from the advances recorded in 2002.

Retail groups connected to new housing and home renovation recorded healthy advances. Operating revenue rose 14.3% in home centres and hardware stores, and 8.5% in home furnishing stores. Gains were slightly smaller in specialized building materials and garden stores, and furniture stores.

Note to readers

This release combines data from two surveys: the annual Retail Store Survey, covering independent retail outlets, and the annual Retail Chain Survey, covering chain retailers.

*Retail stores can be categorized into two broad groups: chains (including department stores) and independents. A **retail chain** is an organization operating four or more retail outlets in the same industry class under the same legal ownership, at any time during the survey year. An **independent retailer** operates fewer than four locations. This categorization is different from the concept of a franchised or branded operation, where the business (occasionally a chain, but more often an independent retailer) is licensed to sell a particular product or service under an advertised trade name.*

The information in this report is based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

***Gross margin** is obtained by subtracting the cost of goods sold from the total operating revenues. The ratio is expressed as a percentage of the total operating revenues. This measure is also known as the return on sales.*

***Operating profit** is obtained by subtracting the total operating expenses plus the cost of goods sold (opening inventory plus purchases and direct costs minus closing inventory) from the total operating revenues.*

***Operating expenses-to-operating revenue ratio** is obtained by dividing the total operating expenses by the total operating revenues. The ratio is expressed as a percentage.*

*The **ratio of inventory to operating revenue** is obtained by dividing the closing inventory by the average monthly total operating revenue. The average monthly revenue is obtained by dividing annual revenue by 12.*

The only retail groups to register declines in operating revenue were new car dealers (-2.1%) and shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores (-1.9%).

Provincially, growth rates for revenue were well above the national average in the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Revenues in retail stores in Ontario, which was hit by SARS and a major power outage, increased 3.6%.

Gross margins rate remained virtually unchanged for the third year straight

Gross margins of store retailers were 26.1% of total operating revenue in 2003, down marginally from 26.2% in 2002. It was the third year in a row that gross margins have held steady.

Retail margins vary considerably by trade group. In 2003, they ranged from a high of 46.6% for beer, wine and liquor stores to a low of 12.3% for new car dealers.

The biggest gain in retail gross margins came in the home furnishings stores sector, where margins increased to 39.7% in 2003 from 38.3% in 2002.

Other sectors with small gains were home centres and hardware stores, and supermarkets. Sectors with appreciable drops included convenience and specialty food stores; beer, wine and liquor stores; and miscellaneous store retailers. For beer, wine and liquor stores, gross margin had declined due to a shift in consumer tastes away from higher-margin products such as spirits toward lower-margin beers, coolers and wines.

Operating profits: New car dealers hardest hit

Operating profits across all major retail groups fell from $21.1 billion in 2002 to $20.2 billion in 2003, a 4.0% decline.

New car dealers were hardest hit, as operating profits tumbled 43.2% to $1.1 billion, reversing gains made in 2002. Total operating revenues for new car dealers fell to $75.6 billion in 2003 from $77.2 billion in 2002.

Other sectors recording major declines in operating profits were convenience and specialty food stores, where operating profits plunged 31.5%. Profits fell 20.1% for shoes, clothing accessories and jewellery stores and by 19.6% for computer and software stores.

On the positive side, 6 of the 18 major retail groups recorded gains in operating profits. Miscellaneous store retailers showed the largest gain in operating profits (+42.4%).

They were followed by retail groups linked to the housing sector such as specialized building materials and garden stores (+42.0%), home furnishing stores (+30.3%), and home centres and hardware stores (+16.8%).

Other sectors that also advanced their operating profits were gasoline service stations (+16.7%) and sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores (+8.2%).

Inventories held in check

Store retailers generally held inventories in check in 2003, with inventories increasing at a slightly higher rate (+5.3%) than operating revenues (+3.7%).

Overall, the yearly average ratio of inventories to operating revenues remained virtually unchanged at 1.69 in 2003, from 1.67 in 2002. The ratio ranged from a high of 3.90 for shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores to a low of 0.31 for gasoline stations in 2003.

Operating expenses edge up

Overall, operating expenses of retailers were up 5.2%, from $69.1 billion in 2002 to $72.7 billion in 2003.

Operating expenses of all major retail groups edged up. The only exceptions were miscellaneous store retailers, where expenses fell 4.0%, and sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores, where they remained flat.

The ratio of operating expenses to operating revenue moved up slightly in 2003, from 20.1% in 2002 to 20.4%. Of the 18 major retail groups, 12 recorded values above the national ratio, led by shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores (39.9%) and clothing stores (39.8%).

Among retailers, new car dealers and gasoline stations recorded the lowest ratio of expenses to operating revenue of 10.7% and 12.2%, respectively.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2446 and 2447.

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 Augustine Akuoko-Asibey (613-951-7330; *augustine.akuoko-asibey@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division.

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Retail trade by province and territory
2003

	Number of stores	Operating revenues	Gross margin	Operating revenues 2002 to 2003	Operating revenues
		$ million		% change	% share
Canada	**199,952**	**356,256**	**92,865**	**3.7**	**100.0**
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,761	5,622	1,345	4.3	1.6
Prince Edward Island	1,020	1,408	360	0.5	0.4
Nova Scotia	5,993	10,311	2,697	2.9	2.9
New Brunswick	4,945	8,120	1,940	0.6	2.3
Quebec	48,955	80,364	19,939	4.2	22.6
Ontario	74,706	135,118	36,997	3.6	37.9
Manitoba	6,352	12,397	3,045	3.8	3.5
Saskatchewan	6,351	10,708	2,669	4.6	3.0
Alberta	20,311	44,007	10,761	4.4	12.4
British columbia	27,020	46,967	12,748	2.7	13.2
Yukon	221	427	125	2.8	0.1
Northwest Territories	240	566	150	5.8	0.2
Nunavut	77	242	88	4.3	0.1

Retail trade by trade group
2003

	Operating revenues	Operating expenses	Gross margin	Operating profit	Operating revenues 2002 to 2003
		$ million			% change
Total	**356,256**	**72,654**	**92,865**	**20,210**	**3.7**
New car dealers	75,610	8,117	9,266	1,149	-2.1
Used and recreational motor vehicles and parts dealers	15,698	2,962	3,457	495	0.9
Gasoline stations	31,969	3,913	7,616	3,703	8.8
Furniture stores	8,373	2,776	3,243	467	6.0
Home furnishings stores	4,740	1,599	1,883	284	8.5
Computer and software stores	2,439	564	602	37	0.1
Home electronics and appliance stores	9,080	2,501	2,786	285	11.3
Home centres and hardware stores	15,571	2,890	4,435	1,545	14.3
Specialized building materials and garden stores	5,124	1,311	1,514	203	6.7
Supermarkets	56,776	11,518	13,911	2,393	4.4
Convenience and specialty food stores	12,818	2,812	3,201	389	5.4
Beer, wine and liquor stores	13,106	1,931	6,108	4,177	6.0
Pharmacies and personal care stores	23,128	6,071	7,065	994	5.3
Clothing stores	15,528	6,176	6,922	746	3.4
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	5,030	2,007	2,329	322	-1.9
General merchandise stores	40,688	8,533	10,443	1,910	4.0
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	9,401	3,053	3,475	422	1.0
Miscellaneous store retailers	11,176	3,920	4,609	689	3.8

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OTHER RELEASES

Non-store retailers
2003

Overall non-store retailers posted a robust increase in revenues in 2003, but their share of the Canadian retailing market remained virtually unchanged.

Non-store retailers are those retailers who sell their products and services by means other than fixed point-of-sale locations. Instead, they reach consumers through a variety of means, including broadcasting of infomercials, direct-response advertising, traditional and electronic catalogues, door-to-door sales, in-house demonstrations, temporary display of merchandising (using stalls) and distribution by vending machines. Also included are establishments delivering products such as heating oil and newspapers to homes.

In 2003, non-store retailers provided $12.1 billion in goods and services, a robust 7.8% increase over 2002. In spite of the advance, this retail format has made only modest inroads into the Canadian retailing market, accounting for a mere 3.3% share in 2003.

Fuel dealers, which accounted for 43.5% of total non-store retailers operating revenues in 2003, registered a 12.4% increase. The gain reflected much higher fuel oil prices in 2003, compared with 2002 when prices declined. Electronic shopping and mail-order houses, the second-largest group at 36.3%, saw operating revenues increase by 7.0% in 2003. For the second consecutive year, sales by Canadian Internet pharmacies to United States customers are largely responsible for the gain. Direct sellers, the third largest industry group at 14.3%, recorded a 0.4% decline in revenue, while vending machine operators, the smallest industry group at 6.0%, recorded a modest increase of 1.3%.

Combined, gross margins for non-store retailers fell to 35.0% in 2003 from 38.3% in 2002, reflecting increased competition and the inability to fully pass on to customers the higher cost of purchased merchandise. This was particularly the case for fuel dealers and electronic shopping and mail-order houses. Vending machine and coffee service operators had the highest gross margin at 51.3% in 2003, followed by direct sellers at 49.7% and electronic shopping and mail-order houses at 38.1%. Fuel dealers recorded the lowest gross margin at 25.3%, down from 28.1% in 2002.

Overall, operating profits for non-store retailers also decreased, to 7.0% in 2003 from 8.3% in 2002. In spite of the high gross margin, vending machine and coffee service operators had the lowest rate of return with operating profits accounting for a mere 1.4% of operating revenues in 2003. The highest operating profit was reported by fuel dealers, at 9.7%, and direct sellers, at 6.4%. Electronic shopping and mail-order houses recorded an operating profit of 4.9%.

Of the 10 non-store retail major commodity groups, 5 posted higher sales. The most notable increase was recorded in health and personal care products (+33.2%), largely as a result of noticeably higher sales of prescription drugs by Canadian Internet pharmacies. Household and automotive fuels, oils and additives also registered a strong increase (+14.3%), reflecting much higher fuel oil prices in 2003. The most noteworthy decline was recorded in clothing, footwear and accessories (-13.0%).

Note: The information in this report is based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The report covers establishments primarily engaged in retailing merchandise by non-store methods, and includes all sales and other operating revenues of these establishments.

Gross margin is measured by subtracting cost of goods sold (opening inventory plus purchases and direct costs minus closing inventory) from total operating revenues. The ratio is expressed as a percentage of total operating revenues. This measure is also known as return on sales.

Operating profit is obtained by subtracting total operating expenses plus cost of goods sold from total operating revenues. The ratio is expressed as a percentage of total operating revenues.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2448.

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 Serge Gervais (613-951-9218; *serge.gervais@statcan.ca*), Distributive Trades Division. □

Non-store retail sales by major commodity group
2003

Commodities	Sales of goods and services	Sales of goods and services 2002 to 2003	Sales of goods and services
	$ thousands	% change	% share
Total	**11,979,320**	**7.8**	**100.0**
Food and beverages (excl. meals and lunches)	1,009,939	-0.5	8.4
Health and personal care	1,425,532	33.2	11.9
Clothing, footwear and accessories	683,273	-13.0	5.7
Housewares (non-electric) and household supplies	247,462	8.0	2.1
Home furnishings and electronics	1,342,581	2.2	11.2
Hardware, home renovation and lawn and garden products	345,611	-8.0	2.9
Sporting and leisure goods	1,061,850	-2.2	8.9
Household and automotive fuels, oils and additives	4,928,861	14.3	41.1
Services (incl. meals and lunches, repairs, rental and leasing)	315,949	9.5	2.6
Other goods	618,263	-2.5	5.2

Non-store retail by industry
2003

	Operating revenues	Gross margin	Operating profit	Operating revenues 2002 to 2003	Operating revenues
	$ thousands			% change	% share
Total	**12,087,666**	**4,227,208**	**847,506**	**7.8**	**100.0**
Electronic shopping and mail-order houses	4,382,214	1,668,328	216,304	7.0	36.3
Vending machine and coffee service operators	721,029	369,879	10,115	1.3	6.0
Fuel dealers	5,261,341	1,333,038	511,746	12.4	43.5
Direct selling businesses	1,723,082	855,963	109,341	-0.4	14.3

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Restaurants, caterers and taverns
January 2005 (preliminary)

Total sales of the restaurants, caterers and taverns industry reached almost $2.7 billion in January, a 3.6% increase over January 2005 on a year-over-year basis. (Data are neither seasonally adjusted, nor adjusted for inflation.)

The industry enjoyed year-over-year sales growth in all provinces but New Brunswick (-3.1%) and Nova Scotia (-2.5%). Ontario (+4.8%) registered the largest increase in January, followed by Alberta (+3.9%) and Prince Edward Island (+3.6%).

Note: The Monthly Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns Survey have undergone several important changes. Effective starting the April 2004 reference month, the survey was restratified and a new sample was selected. Commencing with the reference month of May 2004, the survey incorporated increased use of GST data to reduce response burden and collection costs. As a result of these changes, total food services sales for Canada and the provinces/territories have been revised back to January 1998.

Detailed estimates by kind of business and number of locations will soon be released.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, or to obtain the new methodology paper about the Monthly Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns Survey contact Alain Mbassegue (613-951-2011; fax: 613-951-6696, *alain.mbassegue@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas

January 2005 (preliminary)

Crude oil production totalled 12.2 million cubic metres in January, down 3.1% from January 2004. This decrease was due to lower oils sands production in Alberta. Crude oil exports, which accounted for 63.0% of total production, fell 3.6% when compared to January 2004.

Marketable natural gas production increased by 1.2% when compared to January 2004. Exports of natural gas rose 5.4% while domestic sales declined 3.6% over the same period.

Crude oil and natural gas

	January 2004	January 2005	January 2004 to January 2005
	thousands of cubic metres		% change
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons[1]			
Production	12 615.8	12 220.2	-3.1
Exports	7 987.0	7 699.4	-3.6
Imports[2]	4 627.7	4 636.0	0.2
Refinery receipts	9 397.7	9 212.8	-2.0
	millions of cubic metres		% change
Natural gas[3]			
Marketable production	15 265.3	15 441.1	1.2
Exports	9 377.5	9 881.6	5.4
Canadian domestic sales[4]	9 802.7	9 452.6	-3.6

1. *Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, industry own-use, etc.*
2. *Crude oil received by Canadian refineries from foreign countries for processing. Data may differ from International Trade Division (ITD) estimates because of timing differences and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export in the ITD data.*
3. *Disposition may differ from production because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses, line-pack fluctuations, etc.*
4. *Includes direct sales.*

Available on CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

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. ■

Computer and peripherals price indexes

January 2005

Prices for commercial computers, as measured by the Computer and peripherals price indexes (2001=100), were down 0.7% from December. Consumer computer prices, representing computer brands and models normally purchased by consumers and small businesses, fell 2.9%.

In the case of computer peripherals, monitor prices for January declined 1.7% on a monthly basis, while printer prices were down 0.7% from December.

These indexes are available at the Canada level only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 331-0001 and 331-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5032.

For more information on these indexes, contact Client Services (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; *infounit@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Fred Barzyk (613-951-2493; *fred.barzyk@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

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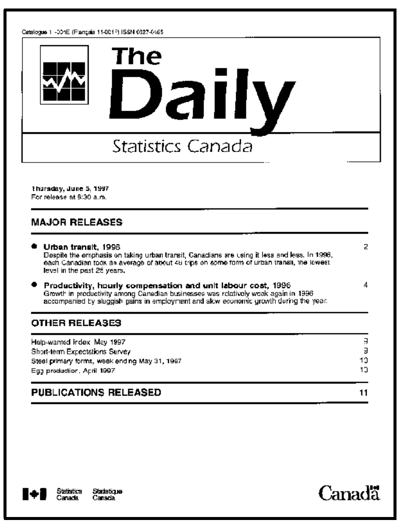
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- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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