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## System of National Economic Accounts: New module

Starting today, all of Statistics Canada's information and data on the System of National Economic Accounts are available in one convenient online location - and the data are free of charge for the first time.

The new National Economic Accounts module, accessible from the Agency's Web site home page, features an up-to-date portrait of national and provincial economies and their structure.

This includes comprehensive information and overviews of all the components of the accounts. In addition, more than 300 statistical tables are available covering topics ranging from gross domestic product, productivity and government debt to stocks of natural resources and international transactions. These tables are being offered free for the first time.

The module also offers links to recent news releases from The Daily, relevant publications and release dates, glossaries and methodology, contact information and frequently asked questions.

For more information, contact Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.ca), Communications and Library Services Division.

## Releases

## Retail trade

November 2005
Retail sales advanced at the fastest rate of growth in four months in November, and nearly double the pace of the previous month. New motor vehicle sales were again a strong contributor to these gains.

Retail sales increased $1.1 \%$ in November from the previous month to a record high $\$ 31.3$ billion.

Excluding sales by dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, retail sales edged up $0.1 \%$ from October. Lower prices for gasoline offset gains made in the automotive sector. In general, non-auto retailers saw their sales decline only twice in the first 11 months of 2005.


Besides the big 1.9\% gain made in the auto sector, three other sectors showed strong increases; building and outdoor home supplies stores ( $+2.8 \%$ ), clothing and accessories stores ( $+2.5 \%$ ), and miscellaneous retailers (+1.2\%). Pharmacies and personal care goods stores advanced $0.7 \%$ in November.

Sales in general merchandise stores, furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores, and food and beverage stores remained essentially unchanged from October.

Once prices are taken into account, constant dollar retail sales rose 1.3\% in November after increasing 1.5\% in October.

## Auto sales levels back in line

Sales at new car dealers rose $4.9 \%$ in November after a rebound in October. These two months of gains saw new car dealers recover nearly all the lost sales of August and September and brought them back in line with recent historical trends.

Lower prices for gasoline exerted downward pressure on sales from the auto sector, and resulted in a $3.2 \%$ decline in the value of sales at gas stations. Over the long run, gasoline station sales have been on the rise since April 2003. Prices have played a major role in this run-up.

In the building and outdoor home supplies sector, shoppers spent more money at both home centres and hardware stores ( $+2.3 \%$ ) and specialized building material and garden stores ( $+5.3 \%$ ). This sector as a whole is poised to have the strongest year-over-year performance of 2005. November represented a 9.9\% increase over the same month last year and this was not exceptional for this sector.

Sales at clothing store were up $2.7 \%$ in November. This continued 11 months of see-sawing between gains and losses. After a surge at the start of 2005 , sales growth in the clothing and accessories sector has either been flat or declining. Prior to this, the long-term trend showed a slow advance.

For the sector as a whole, miscellaneous retailers such as office supply, sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores increased their sales by $1.2 \%$ in November. This continued three months of uninterrupted sales growth, with only three declines since October 2004.

## Alberta, Quebec and Ontario lead the pack

Retail sales increased or remained essentially unchanged in all provinces and territories in November. Retailers in Alberta ( $+1.4 \%$ ), Quebec ( $+1.3 \%$ ) and Ontario ( $+1.1 \%$ ) were the star performers, reflecting the increase in auto sector sales, as seen at the national level.

Prince Edward Island (+2.2\%) also made a notable gain above the national pace. Higher sales in building and outdoor home supplies stores as well as food and beverage stores were largely responsible for the retail sales advances.

## Related indicators for December

Total employment was virtually unchanged in December from the previous month. In addition, the overall unemployment rate edged up to $6.5 \%$. Housing starts were up $1.2 \%$ in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 227,700 units, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Estimated from early results supplied by the auto industry, the number of new motor vehicles sold in December was little changed from November.

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

Data on retail trade for December will be released on February 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 Jane Lin (613-951-9691), Distributive Trades Division.

The Daily, January 23, 2006

## Retail sales

|  | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { November } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { August } \\ 2005^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { September } \\ 2005^{r} \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { October } \\ 2005{ }^{\text {r }} \end{gathered}$ | November $2005^{\text {p }}$ | October to November 2005 | November <br> 2004 <br> to <br> November <br> 2005 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions |  |  |  |  | \% change |  |
| Automotive | 10,058 | 10,887 | 10,328 | 10,564 | 10,769 | 1.9 | 7.1 |
| New car dealers | 5,854 | 6,245 | 5,558 | 5,876 | 6,165 | 4.9 | 5.3 |
| Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 1,254 | 1,281 | 1,267 | 1,248 | 1,274 | 2.0 | 1.5 |
| Gasoline stations | 2,950 | 3,361 | 3,503 | 3,439 | 3,330 | -3.2 | 12.9 |
| Furniture, home furnishings and electronics |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| stores | 2,034 | 2,152 | 2,163 | 2,170 | 2,163 | -0.3 | 6.3 |
| Furniture stores | 727 | 748 | 762 | 769 | 765 | -0.5 | 5.2 |
| Home furnishings stores | 377 | 408 | 402 | 408 | 414 | 1.6 | 9.9 |
| Computer and software stores | 133 | 133 | 132 | 138 | 138 | 0.5 | 4.0 |
| Home electronics and appliance stores | 797 | 863 | 866 | 856 | 845 | -1.2 | 6.0 |
| Building and outdoor home supplies stores | 1,794 | 1,927 | 1,943 | 1,917 | 1,972 | 2.8 | 9.9 |
| Home centres and hardware stores | 1,425 | 1,539 | 1,565 | 1,566 | 1,602 | 2.3 | 12.4 |
| Specialized building materials and garden |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Food and beverage stores | 7,120 | 7,211 | 7,272 | 7,256 | 7,244 | -0.2 | 1.7 |
| Supermarkets | 5,219 | 5,254 | 5,302 | 5,254 | 5,284 | 0.6 | 1.3 |
| Convenience and specialty food stores | 740 | 757 | 758 | 757 | 738 | -2.5 | -0.3 |
| Beer, wine and liquor stores | 1,161 | 1,200 | 1,211 | 1,244 | 1,222 | -1.8 | 5.3 |
| Pharmacies and personal care stores | 1,954 | 2,012 | 2,065 | 2,057 | 2,072 | 0.7 | 6.0 |
| Clothing and accessories stores | 1,686 | 1,734 | 1,769 | 1,748 | 1,791 | 2.5 | 6.2 |
| Clothing stores | 1,287 | 1,325 | 1,350 | 1,329 | 1,365 | 2.7 | 6.0 |
| Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| General merchandise stores | 3,531 | 3,618 | 3,676 | 3,679 | 3,690 | 0.3 | 4.5 |
| Department stores | 1,812 | 1,856 | 1,873 | 1,866 | 1,852 | -0.8 | 2.2 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 1,719 | 1,762 | 1,803 | 1,813 | 1,838 | 1.4 | 6.9 |
| Miscellaneous retailers | 1,509 | 1,539 | 1,579 | 1,588 | 1,607 | 1.2 | 6.5 |
| Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores | 741 | 788 | 810 | 803 | 809 | 0.8 | 9.3 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 769 | 750 | 769 | 785 | 798 | 1.7 | 3.8 |
| Total retail sales | 29,687 | 31,080 | 30,794 | 30,978 | 31,308 | 1.1 | 5.5 |
| Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 22,579 | 23,553 | 23,969 | 23,854 | 23,869 | 0.1 | 5.7 |
| Provinces and territories |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 492 | 488 | 476 | 495 | 497 | 0.3 | 1.0 |
| Prince Edward Island | 117 | 119 | 116 | 117 | 119 | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Nova Scotia | 871 | 897 | 886 | 887 | 892 | 0.5 | 2.4 |
| New Brunswick | 699 | 703 | 704 | 705 | 711 | 0.9 | 1.7 |
| Quebec | 6,789 | 6,950 | 6,921 | 6,940 | 7,030 | 1.3 | 3.6 |
| Ontario | 10,987 | 11,365 | 11,233 | 11,347 | 11,468 | 1.1 | 4.4 |
| Manitoba | 995 | 1,064 | 1,041 | 1,060 | 1,060 | 0.0 | 6.5 |
| Saskatchewan | 875 | 942 | 926 | 920 | 930 | 1.1 | 6.4 |
| Alberta | 3,752 | 4,159 | 4,122 | 4,143 | 4,203 | 1.4 | 12.0 |
| British Columbia | 4,009 | 4,286 | 4,263 | 4,257 | 4,288 | 0.7 | 6.9 |
| Yukon | 35 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 38 | 3.9 | 8.1 |
| Northwest Territories | 46 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 49 | 1.6 | 7.0 |
| Nunavut | 20 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 0.3 | 7.4 |

[^0]
## Retail sales

|  | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { November } \\ 2004 \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { October } \\ 2005^{r} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \hline \text { November } \\ 2005^{p} \end{array}$ | November 2004 to November 2005 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | unadjusted |  |  |  |
|  | \$ millions |  |  | \% change |
| Automotive | 9,326 | 10,040 | 10,068 | 8.0 |
| New car dealers | 5,380 | 5,322 | 5,717 | 6.2 |
| Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 1,149 | 1,182 | 1,181 | 2.8 |
| Gasoline stations | 2,796 | 3,535 | 3,170 | 13.4 |
| Furniture, home furnishings and electronics |  |  |  |  |
| Furniture stores | 761 | 810 | 797 | 4.8 |
| Home furnishings stores | 443 | 423 | 491 | 10.9 |
| Computer and software stores | 137 | 136 | 136 | -0.3 |
| Home electronics and appliance stores | 871 | 814 | 915 | 5.0 |
| Building and outdoor home supplies stores | 1,791 | 2,036 | 1,964 | 9.6 |
| Home centres and hardware stores | 1,436 | 1,679 | 1,614 | 12.4 |
| Specialized building materials and garden stores | 356 | 357 | 350 | -1.7 |
| Food and beverage stores | 6,649 | 7,056 | 6,882 | 3.5 |
| Supermarkets | 4,883 | 5,123 | 5,035 | 3.1 |
| Convenience and specialty food stores | 684 | 752 | 685 | 0.1 |
| Beer, wine and liquor stores | 1,082 | 1,181 | 1,162 | 7.4 |
| Pharmacies and personal care stores | 1,947 | 2,036 | 2,071 | 6.3 |
| Clothing and accessories stores | 1,828 | 1,811 | 1,951 | 6.7 |
| Clothing stores | 1,425 | 1,415 | 1,506 | 5.7 |
| Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores | 402 | 396 | 445 | 10.5 |
| General merchandise stores | 3,973 | 3,756 | 4,160 | 4.7 |
| Department stores | 2,137 | 1,981 | 2,168 | 1.4 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 1,836 | 1,775 | 1,992 | 8.5 |
| Miscellaneous retailers | 1,537 | 1,547 | 1,655 | 7.7 |
| Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores | 775 | 739 | 851 | 9.8 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 762 | 808 | 804 | 5.5 |
| Total retail sales | 29,263 | 30,465 | 31,089 | 6.2 |
| Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers | 22,734 | 23,960 | 24,191 | 6.4 |
| Provinces and territories |  |  |  |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 507 | 481 | 516 | 1.6 |
| Prince Edward Island | 113 | 114 | 116 | 2.6 |
| Nova Scotia | 866 | 868 | 894 | 3.2 |
| New Brunswick | 693 | 689 | 711 | 2.5 |
| Quebec | 6,548 | 6,913 | 6,847 | 4.6 |
| Ontario | 11,059 | 11,169 | 11,603 | 4.9 |
| Manitoba | 981 | 1,042 | 1,044 | 6.3 |
| Saskatchewan | 858 | 912 | 915 | 6.6 |
| Alberta | 3,699 | 4,048 | 4,198 | 13.5 |
| British Columbia | 3,845 | 4,127 | 4,146 | 7.8 |
| Yukon | 33 | 35 | 35 | 7.5 |
| Northwest Territories | 41 | 46 | 45 | 9.2 |
| Nunavut | 19 | 21 | 20 | 6.6 |

Revised.
Preliminary.

## Stocks of frozen poultry meat

January 1, 2006 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on January 1 totalled 56,403 metric tonnes, up $12.9 \%$ from a year ago.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division.

## Primary iron and steel <br> November 2005

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

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The November 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.

## Production and disposition of tobacco products

December 2005
Total cigarettes sold in December by Canadian manufacturers increased $4.4 \%$ from November to 3.4 billion cigarettes. Total cigarettes sold increased $4.7 \%$ from the same period a year earlier.

Cigarette production for December decreased $15.6 \%$ from November to 2.7 billion cigarettes. Cigarette production increased 13.2\% compared with December 2004.

At 4.0 billion cigarettes, the level of closing inventories for December decreased by $22.2 \%$ from November, but was $20.7 \%$ higher compared with December 2004.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.

The December 2005 issue of Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, Vol. 34, no. 12 (32-022-XIE, \$6/\$51) is now available. See How to order products.

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

## Refined petroleum products <br> November 2005 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for November. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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

## Sawmills and planing mills <br> November 2005

Data on sawmills and planing mills are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0009.
Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2134 and 2135.

The November 2005 issue of Sawmills and Planing Mills, Vol. 59, no. 11 (35-003-XIB, \$10/\$93) 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

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products,<br>December 2005, Vol. 34, no. 12<br>Catalogue number 32-022-XIE (\$6/\$51).<br>Sawmills and Planing Mills, November 2005, Vol. 59, no. 11<br>Catalogue number 35-003-XIB (\$10/\$93).

Wholesale Trade, November 2005, Vol. 68, no. 11 Catalogue number 63-008-XIE (\$15/\$150).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc and -XBB or -XBE a database.

## How to order products

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[^0]:    Revised.
    Preliminary.

