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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, January 22, 2008
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Releases

Canadian Social Trends: New series on life in metropolitan areas

Canadian Social Trends today launches a new series of articles that explore a wide range of issues related to life in metropolitan areas.

The series, which will be published over the next 12 to 18 months, aims to compare large census metropolitan areas, but also to compare urban and suburban neighbourhoods within metropolitan areas.

The series kicks off today with two articles. The first, titled "The city/suburb contrast: How can we measure it" examines the advantages and disadvantages of several approaches that can be used to define the city, the suburb and the urban area as a whole.

The first approach distinguishes between central and suburban municipalities, the second looks at definitions based on distance from the city centre, and the third according to the housing density of neighbourhoods.

The second article, titled "Dependence on cars in urban neighbourhoods," focuses on the relationship between the types of neighbourhoods in which people live and the use of cars for daily travel.

Both articles are now available in the January 2008 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 85 (11-008-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; *sasd-dssea@statcan.ca*), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division.

Releases

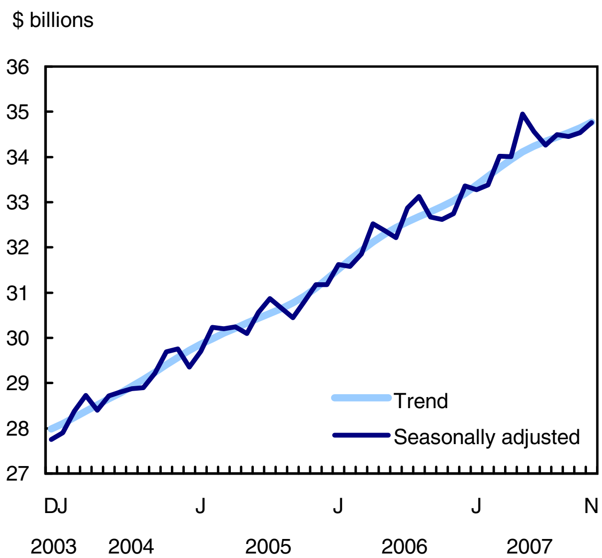
Retail trade

November 2007

Strong gasoline station sales and a recovery in general merchandise store sales helped push up retail sales by 0.7% in November to an estimated $34.8 billion. This marked the third increase in retail sales in four months. After showing signs of moderating in mid-2007, retail sales returned to the rapid growth rate that started in 2004.

When price changes are taken into account, retail sales in constant dollars rose 0.2% in November, indicating that there was a price effect, primarily reflecting a 4.0% hike in gasoline prices at the pump, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Retail sales increase in November mainly because of higher gasoline prices



Sales rose in five of the eight retail trade industry sectors in November. Strong gains were recorded in sectors traditionally associated with Christmas shopping, such as general merchandise stores (+2.3%), furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores (+1.4%), clothing and accessories stores (+1.2%) and food and beverage stores (+0.9%).

Sales in the automotive sector rose 0.6% in November, as a result of a 7.7% increase in gasoline station sales. Higher gasoline prices boosted the sales value reported by gasoline stations in November. The sharp jump in gasoline station sales represents almost two-thirds of the 1.7% increase in retail sales, excluding sales by new car dealers and used and recreational motor vehicles and parts dealers.

Building and outdoor home supplies stores posted a significant 2.4% drop in November. Among other sectors, sales at pharmacies and personal care store sales edged down 0.2%, while sales by miscellaneous retailers remained stable.

Gasoline prices drove growth in the automotive sector

November saw the largest jump in gasoline station sales (+7.7%) since May 2004 (+10.4%). Gasoline station sales have generally been on the rise since the decline observed in September 2006. Higher gasoline prices and the corresponding climb in the price of a barrel of crude oil (traded in US dollars) coincided with the halt in the appreciation of the Canadian dollar.

November's decline in sales by new car dealers (-3.5%) was primarily attributable to truck sales (-4.0%), according to the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey. (Trucks include mini-vans, sport utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses.) This was the fourth decline in sales by new car dealers in six months, reducing sales to February 2007 levels.

Used and recreational vehicles and parts dealers posted a sixth straight decline in sales with the 0.4% drop in November. These declines follow a period of strong growth that began in early 2006.

Excluding the automotive sector, sales strengthened again in November, thanks to general merchandise stores

Apart from gasoline stations, the biggest increase in sales was observed in general merchandise stores (+2.3%), which showed renewed vigour after poor results in October (-1.6%). In November, general merchandise stores experienced their second strongest monthly sales gain since the beginning of 2007.

This recovery in general merchandise store sales coincided with the recovery of sales by clothing and accessories stores (+1.2%) in November. The 1.1% decline in the price of clothing (according to the CPI) seems to have boosted November's retail sales. Sales of clothing and accessories represent over 15% of sales in general merchandise stores, according to the

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey. The sales increase by clothing and accessories stores in November followed a two-month decline.

Sales in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores sector (+1.4%) gained momentum in November after a lull in October, posting its second largest sales increase since the beginning of 2007. The main factors responsible for this growth were home electronics and appliance stores (+3.4%) and furniture stores (+2.1%).

The food and beverage store sector saw all trade groups register higher sales in November, with the biggest contribution coming from beer, wine and liquor stores (+2.4%) sales, which posted their second largest sales increase since the beginning of 2007. Supermarkets (+0.4%) saw their sales continue to progress slowly for a fourth consecutive month, while convenience and specialty food stores (+1.5%) saw their sales increase for the fourth time in five months.

The main sector offsetting total retail sales in November was the building and outdoor home supplies stores sector (-2.4%). This was the second largest decrease in this sector since the beginning of 2007 and was mainly attributable to the third consecutive decline (-2.6%) in sales at home centres and hardware stores. After experiencing almost uninterrupted growth for a few years, sales by home centres and hardware stores have been on a downward trend since mid-2007. As for specialized building materials and garden stores, they have seen their sales slip 1.6%, after two months of strong gains. November's sales in this sector generally represent a smaller portion of annual sales than in most retail trade sectors.

Rise in retail sales limited to Central and Western Canada

Retail sales increased in six provinces in November. The largest increase in terms of dollars was recorded in Ontario (+1.0%) and Quebec (+0.6%). In Ontario, this recovery in sales entirely offsets weak October sales (-0.3%), while for Quebec, it was the second consecutive monthly increase. The main factor contributing to the growth observed in these two provinces was the rise in gasoline station sales.

Retail sales increased for the seventh time in eight months in Saskatchewan, climbing 1.9% in November. In Alberta, November's sales increase (+0.8%) continued the rebound of October after falling for three consecutive months. In British Columbia, retail sales continued to be relatively flat in November (+0.2%).

In the Atlantic provinces, Newfoundland and Labrador (-1.0%), Prince Edward Island (-1.5%) and Nova Scotia (-0.9%) posted lower retail sales in November after an excellent month in October. The downturn in sales by new car dealers in these provinces was a major factor in these declines.

Related indicators for December

After expanding for seven consecutive months, employment edged down in December (-19,000). Over 2007, however, employment was up an estimated 2.2% (+370,000), similar to the growth rate of 2006 (+2.1%) and the 15th consecutive year of employment growth. The unemployment rate held steady at 5.9% in December.

Preliminary data on automotive industry sales indicate that the number of new cars sold in December increased by 3.0% as a result of truck sales.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts in Canada decreased 19.6% from 233,300 in November to 187,500 in December.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The November 2007 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for December will be released on February 22.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 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 Claude Bilodeau (613-951-1816), Distributive Trades Division.

❑

Retail sales

	November 2006	August 2007r	September 2007r	October 2007r	November 2007p	October to November 2007	November 2006 to November 2007
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Automotive	**11,220**	**11,775**	**11,696**	**11,858**	**11,924**	**0.6**	**6.3**
New car dealers	6,344	6,467	6,370	6,424	6,197	-3.5	-2.3
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,458	1,573	1,554	1,549	1,543	-0.4	5.9
Gasoline stations	3,419	3,736	3,772	3,885	4,184	7.7	22.4
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**2,342**	**2,555**	**2,502**	**2,504**	**2,539**	**1.4**	**8.4**
Furniture stores	811	853	847	844	861	2.1	6.2
Home furnishings stores	458	511	511	507	489	-3.4	6.9
Computer and software stores	122	115	112	116	116	0.4	-4.9
Home electronics and appliance stores	951	1,077	1,032	1,037	1,072	3.4	12.7
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**2,088**	**2,234**	**2,235**	**2,226**	**2,172**	**-2.4**	**4.0**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,707	1,809	1,804	1,786	1,739	-2.6	1.9
Specialized building materials and garden stores	381	425	431	440	433	-1.6	13.5
Food and beverage stores	**7,419**	**7,637**	**7,693**	**7,688**	**7,756**	**0.9**	**4.5**
Supermarkets	5,333	5,452	5,477	5,487	5,511	0.4	3.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	799	849	857	852	864	1.5	8.1
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,287	1,336	1,359	1,350	1,381	2.4	7.3
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**2,257**	**2,392**	**2,404**	**2,402**	**2,396**	**-0.2**	**6.2**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,886**	**2,034**	**2,017**	**2,003**	**2,027**	**1.2**	**7.5**
Clothing stores	1,429	1,557	1,543	1,531	1,549	1.2	8.4
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	457	477	473	472	477	1.2	4.4
General merchandise stores	**3,852**	**4,069**	**4,093**	**4,027**	**4,118**	**2.3**	**6.9**
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,685**	**1,798**	**1,808**	**1,830**	**1,831**	**0.0**	**8.7**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	824	888	903	899	896	-0.3	8.8
Miscellaneous store retailers	861	910	906	931	934	0.3	8.5
Total retail sales	**32,749**	**34,493**	**34,448**	**34,536**	**34,762**	**0.7**	**6.1**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**24,947**	**26,454**	**26,524**	**26,563**	**27,023**	**1.7**	**8.3**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	523	553	552	561	555	-1.0	6.1
Prince Edward Island	126	137	135	136	134	-1.5	6.9
Nova Scotia	940	971	981	994	985	-0.9	4.8
New Brunswick	748	795	789	802	804	0.2	7.5
Quebec	7,280	7,543	7,494	7,549	7,595	0.6	4.3
Ontario	11,773	12,247	12,245	12,203	12,330	1.0	4.7
Manitoba	1,108	1,181	1,196	1,201	1,195	-0.5	7.8
Saskatchewan	979	1,087	1,110	1,108	1,130	1.9	15.4
Alberta	4,780	5,132	5,083	5,103	5,145	0.8	7.6
British Columbia	4,381	4,725	4,739	4,755	4,762	0.2	8.7
Yukon	36	42	43	43	43	-0.5	18.0
Northwest Territories	51	57	57	58	61	5.1	18.5
Nunavut	23	24	24	23	24	1.8	4.4

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.*

Retail sales

	November 2006	October 2007r	November 2007p	November 2006 to November 2007
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Automotive	**10,455**	**11,443**	**11,205**	**7.2**
New car dealers	5,953	6,097	5,798	-2.6
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,323	1,478	1,383	4.6
Gasoline stations	3,180	3,868	4,024	26.5
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**2,506**	**2,508**	**2,732**	**9.0**
Furniture stores	846	887	895	5.8
Home furnishings stores	535	533	575	7.4
Computer and software stores	124	115	123	-1.3
Home electronics and appliance stores	1,000	972	1,140	13.9
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**2,084**	**2,447**	**2,117**	**1.6**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,714	1,986	1,705	-0.5
Specialized building materials and garden stores	370	461	412	11.4
Food and beverage stores	**7,191**	**7,378**	**7,653**	**6.4**
Supermarkets	5,202	5,286	5,470	5.1
Convenience and specialty food stores	746	842	810	8.6
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,242	1,251	1,373	10.5
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**2,275**	**2,428**	**2,431**	**6.9**
Clothing and accessories stores	**2,077**	**2,009**	**2,254**	**8.6**
Clothing stores	1,598	1,571	1,749	9.4
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	478	438	506	5.7
General merchandise stores	**4,340**	**4,012**	**4,605**	**6.1**
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,738**	**1,802**	**1,870**	**7.5**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	889	826	951	7.0
Miscellaneous store retailers	849	976	919	8.1
Total retail sales	**32,665**	**34,028**	**34,867**	**6.7**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**25,389**	**26,453**	**27,686**	**9.0**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	549	551	593	8.0
Prince Edward Island	121	132	132	8.7
Nova Scotia	952	972	1,001	5.2
New Brunswick	757	789	819	8.2
Quebec	7,164	7,502	7,525	5.0
Ontario	11,961	12,070	12,618	5.5
Manitoba	1,101	1,202	1,198	8.8
Saskatchewan	959	1,102	1,123	17.1
Alberta	4,745	4,973	5,091	7.3
British Columbia	4,252	4,617	4,648	9.3
Yukon	34	42	40	19.6
Northwest Territories	48	54	56	17.8
Nunavut	21	23	23	7.2

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.*

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Employment Insurance

November 2007 (preliminary)

An estimated 446,030 Canadians (seasonally adjusted) received regular Employment Insurance benefits in November, down 5,790 people from October and the fourth consecutive monthly decline. The decline has been widespread over this period, affecting eight provinces.

Compared with November 2006, the number of Canadians receiving regular benefits has declined 8.4%. Provincially, the largest year-over-year declines were in Saskatchewan (-16.7%), Alberta (-14.2%) and Manitoba (-13.5%).

Regular benefit payments in October totalled $695.5 million, while 207,400 people made initial and renewal claims.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 4th to the 10th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals from the 1st to the end of the month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for December will be released on February 24.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-4090; toll-free 1-866-873-8788; *labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. ❑

Employment Insurance statistics

	November 2007	October 2007	November 2006	October to November 2007	November 2006 to November 2007
	Seasonally adjusted				
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	446,030p	451,820r	487,160	-1.3	-8.4
Regular benefits paid ($ millions)	695.5p	606.5r	714.5	14.7	-2.6
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	207.4p	209.9r	223.9	-1.2	-7.4
	Unadjusted				
All beneficiaries (thousands)[1]	649.3p	595.8p	694.5		
Regular beneficiaries (thousands)	391.1p	347.7p	434.1		
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	247.5	233,0	280.5		
Payments ($ millions)	1,054.2	965.3	1,044.9		
	Year-to-date (January to November)				
			2007	2006	2006 to 2007
					% change
Claims received (thousands)			2,332	2,414.5	-3.4
Payments ($ millions)			13,200.7	13,372.5	-1.3

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
1. *"All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th.of the month.*

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	November 2007p	October to November 2007	November 2006 to November 2007
	Seasonally adjusted		
		% change	
Canada	**446,030**	**-1.3**	**-8.4**
Newfoundland and Labrador	35,880	0.4	-2.3
Prince Edward Island	7,870	0.9	-0.1
Nova Scotia	27,040	-0.2	-4.8
New Brunswick	28,810	-0.9	-10.5
Quebec	156,290	-0.9	-10.8
Ontario	120,100	-3.1	-7.7
Manitoba	9,230	-2.9	-13.5
Saskatchewan	8,160	-5.4	-16.7
Alberta	15,080	-2.2	-14.2
British Columbia	35,940	-0.2	-7.3
Yukon	750	-2.6	2.7
Northwest Territories	600	-1.6	-10.4
Nunavut	330	0	-13.2

p *preliminary*
Note: *The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.*

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Study: Dependence on cars in urban neighbourhoods

2005 (correction)

Residents of Calgary and Edmonton are more dependent on their cars than those living in other large census metropolitan areas, according to a new study published today in *Canadian Social Trends*.

The study, in a series on life in metropolitan areas, examines the use of motor vehicles for everyday trips, such as commuting and running errands, by people aged 18 and over in census metropolitan areas (CMAs).

Results showed that 75% of Calgary residents and 77% of Edmonton residents relied on their cars to make all their trips on the survey reference day **(correction)**. In contrast, the residents least likely to have done so were those in Montréal (65%) and Toronto (66%).

The differences between people who lived in central neighbourhoods in Montréal and those living in central neighbourhoods elsewhere were striking.

Only 29% of Montrealers living within five kilometres of the city centre went everywhere by car, compared with 43% in Toronto, 56% in Vancouver and 66% in Calgary. In smaller CMAs, 75% of the residents of central neighbourhoods travelled exclusively by car.

Many characteristics, apart from CMA of residence and distance from city centre, were associated with lesser or greater automobile use. The article revealed a clear relationship between dependence on cars and the housing density of neighbourhoods.

Over 80% of residents of very low-density neighbourhoods made at least one trip by car as the driver during the day. In contrast, less than half of people living in very high-density neighbourhoods did so.

(In low-density neighbourhoods, at least two-thirds of the dwellings are single, semi-detached and mobile homes and dwellings, or "traditional suburban dwellings." In high-density neighbourhoods, less than one-third of the dwellings are traditional suburban dwellings.)

The association between density and the use of cars varied depending on the distance from the city centre. Residents living less than 10 kilometres from the city centre were more likely to use their car for all trips if they lived in a lower-density "suburban-type" neighbourhood than a high-density neighbourhood.

More than 10 kilometres from the city centre, however, the impact of neighbourhood density on automobile use dwindled until it almost vanished, when the effects of other factors were controlled for.

This finding reflects the complex interaction between housing density and distance from the city centre. Usually, many locations in suburban neighbourhoods are zoned only for residential construction. As a result, places such as shopping centres, recreation centres, office buildings and other places of work become difficult to reach on foot or by public transit.

In contrast, the central neighbourhoods of large cities are generally characterized by a greater mix of uses and by greater density, two conditions that favour adequate public transportation and travel on foot.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4503.

The study "Dependence on cars in urban neighbourhoods" is now available in the January 2008 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 85 (11-008-XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; *sasd-dssea@statcan.ca*), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

January 1, 2008 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on January 1 totalled 57 975 metric tonnes, up 25.4% from a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

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. ■

New products

Canadian Social Trends, no. 85
Catalogue number 11-008-XWE
(free).

Wholesale Trade, November 2007, Vol. 70, no. 11
Catalogue number 63-008-XWE
(free).

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

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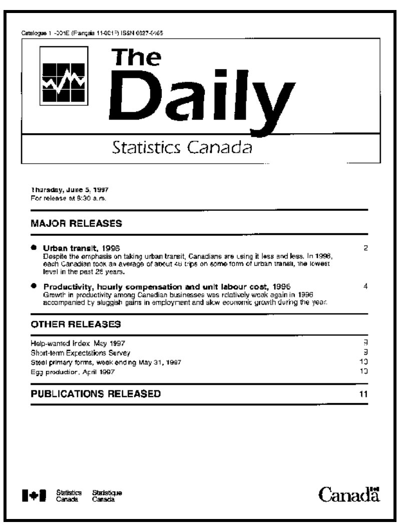
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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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