



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## MAJOR RELEASES

- **Retail Trade, November 1990** 2  
Seasonally adjusted, retail sales decreased by 0.3% in November, the fourth consecutive monthly decline.
- **Wholesale Trade, November 1990** 4  
Wholesale merchants' sales totalled \$15.0 billion in November 1990, a decrease of 6.7% from a year earlier.

## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, December 1990 6
- Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based), November 1990 6

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### Canadian Economic Observer

January 1991

The January issue of the *Canadian Economic Observer*, Statistics Canada's flagship publication for economic statistics, is now available.

The January issue contains a monthly summary of the economy, major economic events in December, a technical note on a diffusion index for GDP, and a feature article on recent trends in the auto industry. A statistical summary contains a wide range of tables and graphs on the principal economic indicators for Canada, the provinces and major industrial nations.

The *Canadian Economic Observer* (11-010, \$22/\$220) can now be ordered from Publication Sales (613-951-7277).

For more information, call Philip Cross (613-951-9162), Current Analysis Section.



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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Retail Trade

November 1990

#### Highlights

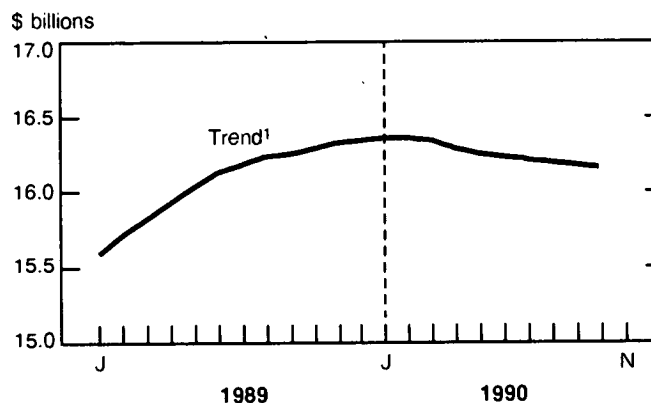
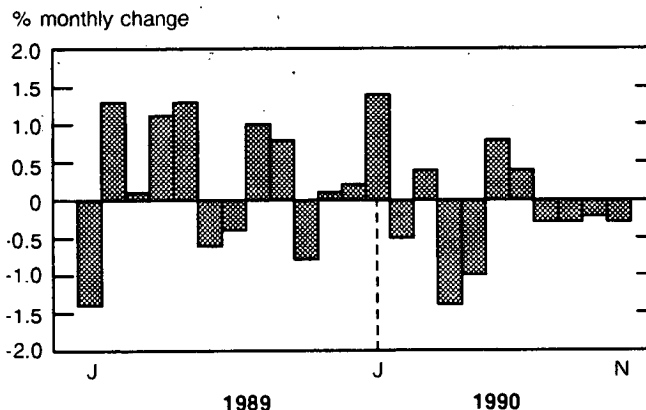
##### Seasonally Adjusted Sales

- Preliminary estimates indicate that retail sales decreased 0.3% in November to \$16.1 billion. Excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales declined 0.1%. Retail sales declined in seven of the last 11 months.
- The November decrease extended the trend of gradually and steadily declining sales observed since July 1990.
- The overall decline in November was broadly based. In order of dollar impact, the largest decreases were reported by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers (-0.8%) and supermarket and grocery stores (-0.3%). The only gains offsetting these decreases were increases by automotive parts, accessories and services (2.2%), women's clothing stores (0.4%) and household furnishing stores (0.4%).
- Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers sales fell for the fifth consecutive month in November. The 0.3% decrease in supermarket and grocery stores is the second consecutive monthly decline following fluctuating but generally increasing sales since the beginning of the year.
- Provincial growth rates varied considerably in November with declines recorded in British Columbia (-2.4%), Alberta (-0.7%) and Ontario (-0.2%). Together, the Yukon and Northwest Territories recorded an increase of 0.2%.

##### Year-to-date

- Cumulative retail sales for the first 11 months of 1990 amounted to \$175.2 billion, up 1.3% over the corresponding period in 1989.

#### Retail Sales, Canada, Seasonally Adjusted



<sup>1</sup> The short-term trend represents a weighted average of the data.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2399 (seasonally adjusted), 2400 (unadjusted) and 2398 (Department Store Type Merchandise Totals for the provinces and territories).

The November 1990 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$14.40/\$144) will be available the first week of February. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Maurice Massaad (613-951-9682) or Dave Roeske (613-951-9236), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

# Retail Sales, by Trade Group and by Region

November 1990

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted						
	Nov. 1989	Oct. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1990 <sup>P</sup>	Nov. 1990/ 1989	Nov. 1989	Aug. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Sept. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Oct. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1990 <sup>P</sup>	Nov./ Oct. 1990	Nov. 1990/ 1989
	millions of \$		%		millions of \$		%		%		
<b>Canada</b>											
Supermarkets and grocery stores	3,411	3,437	3,554	4.2	3,458	3,536	3,560	3,523	3,512	-0.3	1.5
All other food stores	275	281	286	4.0	283	301	295	295	294	-0.1	4.1
Drug and patent medicine stores	758	848	848	11.9	747	818	830	838	834	-0.5	11.6
Shoe stores	195	178	194	-0.8	163	168	166	163	163	-0.3	-0.3
Men's clothing stores	239	188	235	-1.9	184	192	174	182	181	-0.5	-1.2
Women's clothing stores	364	339	367	1.0	337	342	343	336	337	0.4	0.1
Other clothing stores	456	387	438	-4.0	386	370	371	364	364	-0.1	-5.8
Household furniture and appliance stores	886	772	823	-7.1	794	727	742	731	730	-0.2	-8.0
Household furnishings stores	235	211	227	-3.3	209	205	200	200	201	0.4	-3.8
Motor vehicle and rec-reational vehicle dealers	3,435	3,438	3,067	-10.7	3,631	3,468	3,406	3,299	3,272	-0.8	-9.9
Gasoline service stations	1,169	1,307	1,292	10.5	1,187	1,197	1,171	1,296	1,292	-0.3	8.8
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,068	1,041	1,125	5.4	982	1,010	1,002	1,004	1,025	2.2	4.4
General merchandise stores	2,207	1,823	2,235	1.3	1,718	1,735	1,734	1,749	1,741	-0.5	1.3
Other semi-durable goods stores	685	588	648	-5.5	634	643	634	619	611	-1.3	-3.7
Other durable goods stores	511	420	491	-4.0	500	476	477	475	473	-0.4	-5.3
All other retail stores	1,005	959	1,051	4.6	998	999	1,028	1,020	1,019	-	2.1
<b>Total, all stores</b>	<b>16,899</b>	<b>16,219</b>	<b>16,879</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>16,212</b>	<b>16,188</b>	<b>16,133</b>	<b>16,095</b>	<b>16,050</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>13,465</b>	<b>12,781</b>	<b>13,813</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>12,581</b>	<b>12,719</b>	<b>12,726</b>	<b>12,796</b>	<b>12,778</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Department store type merchandise	6,536	5,755	6,505	-0.5	5,672	5,677	5,670	5,659	5,635	-0.4	-0.7
<b>Regions</b>											
Newfoundland	313	295	326	4.0	297	307	301	300	305	1.6	2.7
Prince Edward Island	67	64	70	3.7	66	64	66	65	67	3.5	2.0
Nova Scotia	558	529	573	2.6	527	534	525	532	538	1.0	1.9
New Brunswick	433	408	448	3.5	406	408	409	398	416	4.5	2.6
Quebec	4,086	3,936	4,006	-2.0	4,021	3,953	3,923	3,891	3,913	0.6	-2.7
Ontario	6,439	6,082	6,397	-0.6	6,056	6,070	6,042	6,015	6,004	-0.2	-0.9
Manitoba	617	583	624	1.1	579	580	578	570	580	1.7	0.2
Saskatchewan	545	550	572	5.0	512	537	529	530	537	1.3	4.7
Alberta	1,688	1,659	1,698	0.6	1,616	1,640	1,650	1,639	1,628	-0.7	0.7
British Columbia	2,107	2,068	2,120	0.6	2,051	2,077	2,083	2,086	2,035	-2.4	-0.8
Yukon and Northwest Territories	47	45	46	-1.6	46	44	43	45	45	0.2	-2.3
Yukon	20	20	20	-3.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Northwest Territories	26	25	26	-0.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

P Preliminary.

<sup>r</sup> Revised.

.. Not available.

- - Too small to be expressed.

## Wholesale Trade

November 1990

### Highlights

#### Unadjusted Sales – November 1990

- In November, wholesale merchants' sales were \$15.0 billion, a drop of 6.7% from the same month a year earlier. This year-over-year decline marks the ninth drop and the third in terms of size since the beginning of the year (declines of 8.8% for September and 7.2% for August were previously posted).
- The overall decline between November 1989 and November 1990 sales was primarily attributable, in order of dollar impact, to decreases reported by wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies (-13.5%), wholesalers of lumber and building materials (-16.1%) and wholesalers of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (-15.7%). Wholesalers of food, beverage, drug and tobacco products reported the only gain, up 2.7%.
- Regionally, all provinces and territories, except Newfoundland, posted sales decreases ranging from -21.7% in Prince Edward Island to -4.1% for Ontario

#### Year-to-date

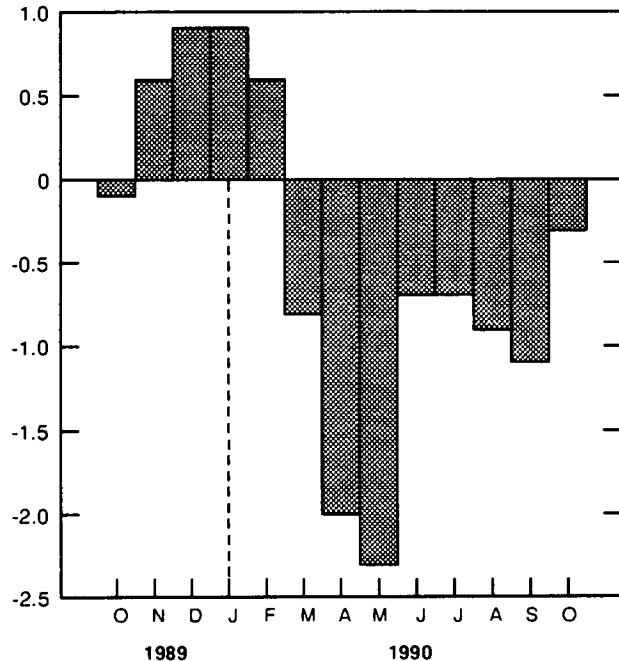
- In the first 11 months of 1990, cumulative sales were estimated at \$169.2 billion, 3.0% lower than the value for the corresponding period in 1989.

#### Seasonally Adjusted Sales – October 1990

- Wholesale merchants' sales on a seasonally adjusted basis were down 0.3% from the previous month, to \$14.7 billion in October 1990. Sales have declined for the eight consecutive month.
- Seven of the nine trade groups registered lower sales. The trade groups having the most significant dollar impact on the overall sales decreases in October 1990 were wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies, down 1.1%, and wholesalers of apparel and dry goods, falling 6.5%.

### Wholesale Merchants Sales

% monthly change, seasonally adjusted  
(three-month moving average)



- Wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies registered the eighth drop in a row for a total decline of 16.7% from February. Sales of wholesalers of lumber and building materials have been declining since November 1989, dropping 14.8%. Apparel and dry goods wholesalers increased 7.3% in the first four months of 1990, but have declined 22.4% since April.
- Regionally, seven provinces and territories registered declines ranging from -5.1% in Prince Edward Island to -0.6% for Saskatchewan. Growth was led by Ontario (+0.9%), followed by Newfoundland (+0.6%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 648 and 649.

The November 1990 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$14.40/\$144) will be available the first week of February. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540), Industry Division.

□

# Wholesale Merchants Sales, by Trade Group and Region

November 1990

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted							
	Nov. 1989	Oct. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Nov. 1990 <sup>P</sup>	Nov. 1990/ 1989	Oct. 1989	July 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Aug. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Sept. 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Oct. 1990 <sup>P</sup>	Oct./ Sept. 1990	Oct. 1990/ 1989	
	millions of \$				%		millions of \$				%	
<b>Canada</b>												
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,635	3,697	3,734	2.7	3,542	3,562	3,563	3,548	3,578	0.8	1.0	
Apparel and dry goods	323	342	259	-19.6	364	344	344	330	309	-6.5	-15.2	
Household goods	635	632	619	-2.6	539	532	533	540	539	-0.2	0.1	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,873	1,977	1,851	-1.1	1,760	1,701	1,706	1,727	1,756	1.7	-0.2	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,304	1,154	1,100	-15.7	1,308	1,110	1,083	1,077	1,070	-0.6	-18.2	
Lumber and building materials	1,631	1,522	1,368	-16.1	1,609	1,478	1,446	1,398	1,383	-1.1	-14.1	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	362	374	288	-20.6	385	359	344	330	327	-0.9	-15.0	
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,801	3,273	3,286	-13.5	3,629	3,428	3,342	3,287	3,249	-1.1	-10.5	
Other products	2,467	2,622	2,451	-0.6	2,444	2,532	2,545	2,499	2,484	-0.6	1.6	
<b>Total, all trades</b>	<b>16,031</b>	<b>15,594</b>	<b>14,957</b>	<b>-6.7</b>	<b>15,580</b>	<b>15,045</b>	<b>14,905</b>	<b>14,738</b>	<b>14,695</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-5.7</b>	
<b>Regions</b>												
Newfoundland	166	197	183	10.6	167	166	170	174	175	0.6	4.6	
Prince Edward Island	44	37	34	-21.7	41	37	38	37	35	-5.1	-14.7	
Nova Scotia	398	346	330	-17.1	400	390	391	373	356	-4.5	-10.9	
New Brunswick	292	287	266	-8.8	291	275	276	272	263	-3.4	-9.8	
Quebec	4,029	3,994	3,806	-5.5	3,891	3,733	3,720	3,716	3,720	0.1	-4.4	
Ontario	6,447	6,344	6,184	-4.1	6,314	6,063	5,990	5,955	6,005	0.9	-4.9	
Manitoba	520	511	470	-9.6	527	513	504	487	482	-0.9	-8.4	
Saskatchewan	535	510	500	-6.5	544	518	513	495	492	-0.6	-9.6	
Alberta	1,435	1,460	1,363	-5.0	1,367	1,396	1,369	1,350	1,351	0.1	-1.1	
British Columbia	2,150	1,888	1,805	-16.1	2,033	1,926	1,899	1,834	1,809	-1.4	-11.0	
Yukon and Northwest Territories	15	19	14	-5.7	19	17	17	18	17	-1.9	-8.8	

P Preliminary.

<sup>r</sup> Revised.

... Nil or zero.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation

December 1990

Manufacturers shipped 2 945 077 square metres of R12 factor (RSI 2.1) mineral wool batts in December 1990, down 11.9% from the 3 344 682 square metres shipped a year earlier and down 24.0% from the 3 872 996 square metres shipped the previous month.

Year-to-date shipments to the end of December 1990 totalled 37 259 750 square metres, a decrease of 10.7% for the same period in 1989.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 40 and 122 (series 32 and 33).**

The December issue of *Mineral Wool including Fibrous Glass Insulation* (44-004, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Roland Joubert (613-951-3527), Industry Division. ■

### Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based)

November 1990

Commodity-country import trade statistics based on the Harmonized System (H.S.) for November 1990 are now available on microfiche, computer printouts or magnetic tapes in advance of the monthly publication.

The November 1990 issue of *Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based)* (65-007, \$55.10/\$551) will be available the second week of February. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Canadian Economic Observer**, January 1991.

**Catalogue number 11-010**

(Canada: \$22.00/\$220.00; United States: US\$26.00/US\$260.00; Other Countries: US\$31.00/US\$310.00).

**Monthly Production of Soft Drinks**, December 1990.

**Catalogue number 32-001**

(Canada: \$2.70/\$27.00; United States: US\$3.20/US\$32.00; Other Countries: US\$3.80/US\$38.00).

**Primary Iron and Steel**, October 1990.

**Catalogue number 41-001**

(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

**Production and Shipments of Steel Pipe and Tubing**, November 1990.

**Catalogue number 41-011**

(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

**Exports by Commodity**, October 1990.

**Catalogue number 65-004**

(Canada: \$55.10/\$551.00; United States: US\$66.10/US\$661.00; Other Countries: US\$77.10/US\$771.00).

**Census - A Profile of The Disabled in Canada**, 1986.

**Catalogue number 98-126**

(Canada: \$10.00; Other Countries: US\$11.00).

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