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MAJOR RELEASE

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- **Wholesale Trade, August 1991** 2
Seasonally adjusted, wholesale merchants' sales rose for the seventh consecutive month, up 1.0% in August.

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MAJOR RELEASE

Wholesale Trade

August 1991

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Sales

- Preliminary estimates indicate that wholesale merchants' sales were \$15.2 billion in August, up 1.0% from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, sales levels were up 2.5%.
- The 1.0% gain in wholesale merchants' sales in August was led by the motor vehicles, parts and accessories industry.
- Seven of the nine trade groups registered higher sales in August. In terms of dollar impact, the most notable sales increases were reported by wholesalers of motor vehicles, parts and accessories (+2.8%), other machinery, equipment and supplies (+1.4%) and food, beverage, drug and tobacco products (+1.1%).
- Regionally, higher sales were recorded in eight provinces and territories, gains ranging from 2.6% in the Yukon and Northwest Territories to 0.2% in Nova Scotia.

Note to Users

Data collected and published for 1991 exclude provincial sales taxes and the Goods and Services Tax. Prior to January 1991, data included the Federal Sales Tax except for wholesalers which were licensed. Due to this change in indirect taxes, data for 1991 are not comparable with those of previous years.

Seasonally Adjusted Inventories

- In August, wholesale merchants' inventories were \$23.6 billion, down 0.3% from the previous month.
- The ratio of inventories-to-sales at the end of August was down slightly to 1.56:1, compared to 1.58:1 the month before.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 649 (sales, seasonally adjusted), 648 (sales, not seasonally adjusted), 61 (inventories, seasonally adjusted) and 59 (inventories, not seasonally adjusted).

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

For more information on this release contact Larry Murphy (613-951-9683) or Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540), Industry Division. □

Chart 1

Wholesale Merchants' Sales

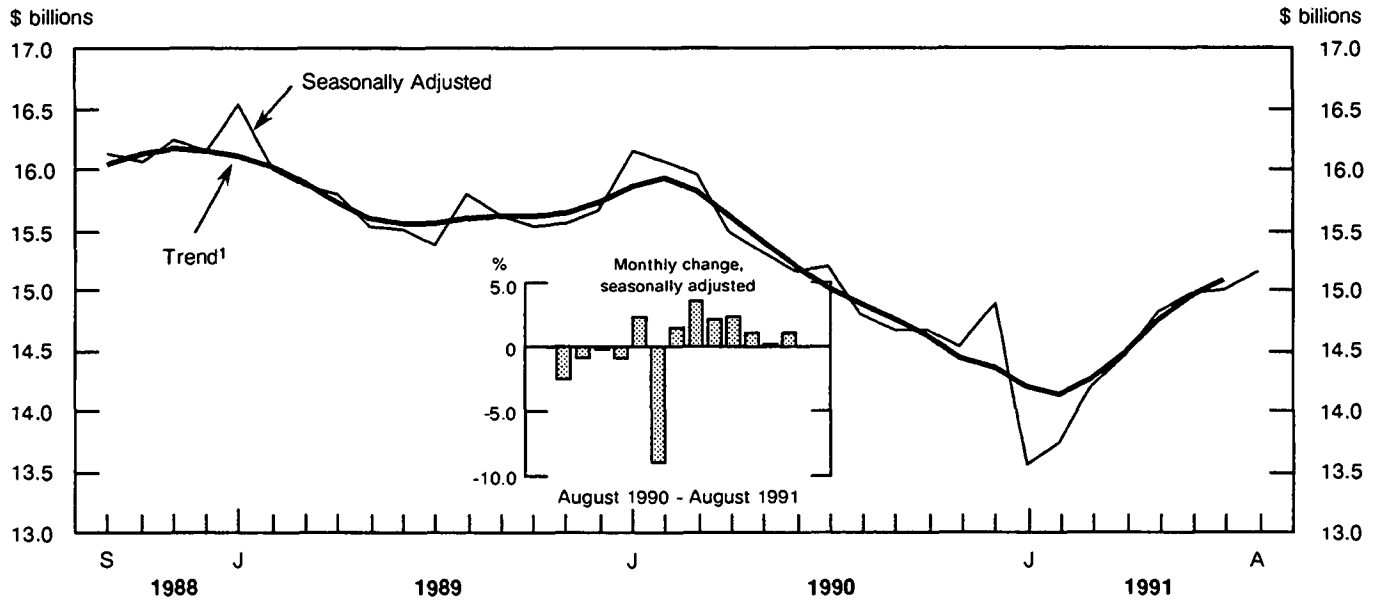
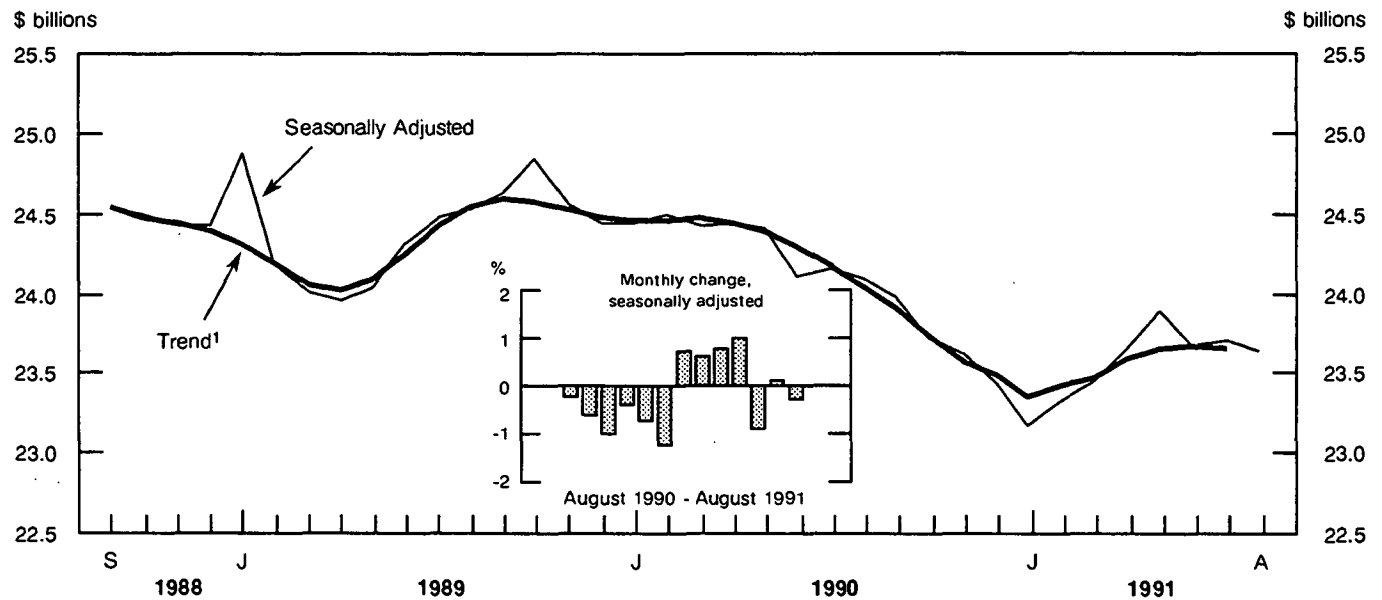


Chart 2

Wholesale Merchants' Inventories



¹ The short-term trend represents a weighted average of data.

Wholesale Merchants' Sales, by Trade Group and Region

August 1991

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted							
	August 1990	July 1991 ^r	Aug. 1991 ^p	Aug. 1991/ 1990 [*]	Aug. 1990	May 1991 ^r	June 1991 ^r	July 1991 ^r	Aug. 1991 ^p	Aug./ July 1991	Aug. 1991/ 1990 [*]	
	millions of \$						millions of \$					
Canada												
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,652	3,909	3,932	7.7	3,531	3,710	3,788	3,792	3,835	1.1	8.6	
Apparel and dry goods	479	411	506	5.6	348	382	360	366	360	-1.6	3.5	
Household goods	527	479	555	5.3	541	506	511	543	553	1.8	2.1	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,613	1,645	1,696	5.1	1,701	1,749	1,745	1,748	1,798	2.8	5.7	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,097	1,111	1,138	3.8	1,086	1,061	1,122	1,143	1,138	-0.5	4.7	
Lumber and building materials	1,616	1,592	1,564	-3.2	1,413	1,356	1,352	1,379	1,381	0.2	-2.3	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	395	325	356	-10.1	338	339	325	292	306	4.8	-9.3	
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,174	3,100	3,159	-0.5	3,342	3,268	3,345	3,334	3,381	1.4	1.2	
Other products	2,449	2,267	2,310	-5.7	2,483	2,431	2,412	2,401	2,402	--	-3.3	
Total, all trades	15,003	14,838	15,215	1.4	14,784	14,802	14,960	14,998	15,154	1.0	2.5	
Regions												
Newfoundland	191	178	189	-1.3	174	161	167	172	171	-0.4	-1.8	
Prince Edward Island	38	41	41	9.3	38	38	37	39	40	2.4	5.2	
Nova Scotia	397	386	381	-4.0	390	366	373	370	371	0.2	-4.8	
New Brunswick	295	268	278	-5.7	280	239	254	254	259	1.8	-7.6	
Quebec	3,948	3,584	3,941	-0.2	3,720	3,527	3,708	3,710	3,766	1.5	1.2	
Ontario	5,916	5,962	6,099	3.1	5,950	6,157	6,199	6,151	6,246	1.5	5.0	
Manitoba	509	548	532	4.5	495	502	466	513	514	0.3	3.8	
Saskatchewan	538	499	513	-4.7	512	503	492	482	479	-0.8	-6.5	
Alberta	1,317	1,424	1,377	4.5	1,339	1,412	1,390	1,400	1,415	1.0	5.7	
British Columbia	1,833	1,928	1,844	0.6	1,869	1,881	1,856	1,888	1,876	-0.7	0.4	
Yukon and Northwest Territories	20	21	20	1.4	18	18	19	18	18	2.6	3.0	

Wholesale Merchants' Inventories, by Trade Group

August 1991

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted							
	August 1990	July 1991 ^r	Aug. 1991 ^p	Aug. 1991/ 1990 [*]	Aug. 1990	May 1991 ^r	June 1991 ^r	July 1991 ^r	Aug. 1991 ^p	Aug./ July 1991	Aug. 1991/ 1990 [*]	
	millions of \$						millions of \$				%	%
Canada												
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	2,584	2,733	2,797	8.3	2,611	2,788	2,709	2,731	2,789	2.1	6.8	
Apparel and dry goods	825	875	836	1.3	776	802	791	787	782	-0.6	0.8	
Household goods	1,215	1,084	1,104	-9.2	1,215	1,061	1,075	1,084	1,104	1.9	-9.2	
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	3,492	3,292	3,235	-7.3	3,537	3,422	3,366	3,322	3,294	-0.9	-6.9	
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,868	2,145	2,143	14.7	1,875	2,077	2,051	2,106	2,117	0.5	12.9	
Lumber and building materials	2,475	2,200	2,218	-10.4	2,432	2,186	2,213	2,172	2,175	0.1	-10.6	
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,488	1,363	1,340	-10.0	1,506	1,386	1,356	1,350	1,355	0.4	-10.0	
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,154	7,232	7,090	-0.9	7,046	7,066	7,038	7,083	7,007	-1.1	-0.5	
Other products	3,110	3,025	3,009	-3.2	3,101	3,097	3,074	3,068	3,005	-2.0	-3.1	
Total, all trades	24,212	23,948	23,773	-1.8	24,099	23,885	23,673	23,704	23,630	-0.3	-1.9	

* Percentage changes contained in these tables are not adjusted for the change in indirect taxes. Caution should be exercised in their use.

^r Revised figure.

^p Preliminary figure.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deliveries of Major Grains

August 1991

Producer deliveries of major grains by prairie farmers showed a decrease from August 1990, except in the case of barley, flaxseed and canola where marketings increased. Deliveries for August 1990 and August 1991 were as follows (in thousand tonnes):

	1990	1991
• Wheat (excluding durum)	953.2	752.6
• Durum wheat	149.8	87.4
• Total wheat	1 103.0	840.0
• Oats	59.8	38.7
• Barley	188.9	237.2
• Rye	69.9	61.8
• Flaxseed	8.5	17.4
• Canola	118.2	206.9
• Total	1 548.3	1 402.0

Available on CANSIM: matrices 976-981.

The August 1991 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007, \$13.80/\$138) is scheduled for release in November. See "How to Order Publications".

For further detailed information on this release, contact Alain-Y. Bertrand (613-951-3859), Agriculture Division. ■

Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia

August 1991

Sawmills in British Columbia produced 2 585 500 cubic metres of lumber and ties in August 1991, a decrease of 0.2% from the 2 591 900 cubic metres produced in August 1990.

January to August 1991 production was 21 174 100 cubic metres, a decrease of 8.2% from the 23 067 900 cubic metres produced over the same period in 1990.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 53 (series 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2).

The August 1991 issue of *Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia* (35-003, \$7.10/\$71) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Jock Dobie (604-666-2671), Pacific Region, Statistics Canada, Sinclair Centre, 757 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 3C9. ■

Exports by Commodity (H.S. Based)

August 1991

Commodity-country export trade statistics based on the Harmonized System (H.S.) for August 1991 are now available on microfiche, computer printouts or magnetic tapes in advance of the monthly publication.

The August 1991 issue of *Exports by Commodity (H.S. Based)* (65-004, \$55.10/\$551) will be available the second week of November. See "How to Order Publications".

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

Agriculture Experimental Balance Sheet

An experimental balance sheet for the Canadian agriculture sector is now available.

For further information, please contact May Holmes (613-951-2442) or Mark Elward (613-951-2445), Agriculture Division. ■



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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Imports by Commodity, August 1991.

Catalogue number 65-007

(Canada: \$55.10/\$551; United States:
US\$66.10/US\$661; Other Countries:
US\$77.10/US\$771).

The Labour Force, September 1991.

Catalogue number 71-001

(Canada: \$17.90/\$179; United States:
US\$21.50/US\$215; Other Countries:
US\$25.10/US\$251).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, July 1991.

Catalogue number 72-002

(Canada: \$38.50/\$385; United States:
US\$46.20/US\$462; Other Countries:
US\$53.90/US\$539).

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