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• Retail Trade, September 1991

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Strong sales gains by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers (+5.5%) led to a 0.8% rise in September retail sales, seasonally adjusted.

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The Canadian Economic Observer

November 1991

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

The November issue contains a monthly summary of the economy, major economic events in October, and a technical note on the recent trend of consumer and industry prices. 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, please call Francine Roy (613-951-3627), Current Analysis Section.



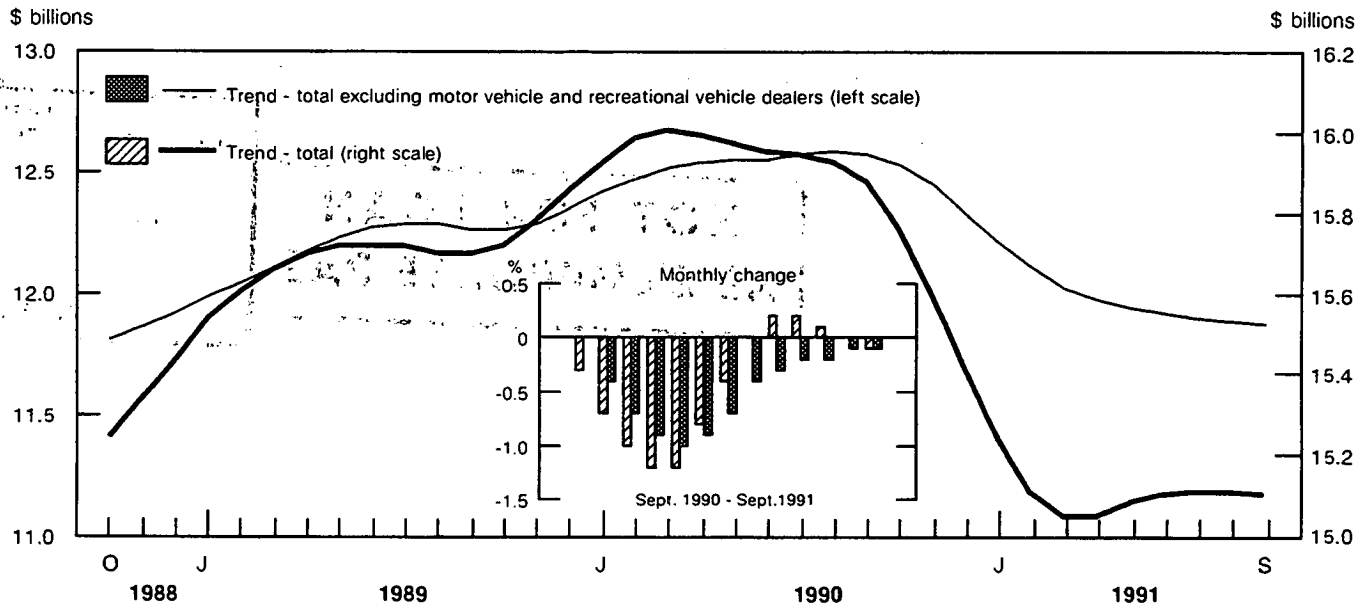
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Retail Sales - Canada Trends¹



¹ Trends represent weighted averages of data.

Retail Trade

September 1991

Highlights

Seasonally Adjusted Sales in Current Dollars

- Preliminary estimates indicate that retail sales rebounded 0.8% to \$15.0 billion in September, following a sizeable decline in August (-1.5%). This is the largest increase since May 1991.
- However, excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales registered a decline of 0.4% in September that offset the 0.4% gain in August.
- Total retail sales fell 0.6% in the third quarter of 1991 due to the weak August sales. This compares to an increase of 1.9% in the second quarter and a decrease of 2.1% in the first quarter of 1991 (after removing federal sales tax from the 1990 data).

Note to Users

Retail sales estimates exclude the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Prior to January 1991, sales data included the Federal Sales Tax (FST). Due to this change in indirect taxes, data for 1991 are not strictly comparable with those of previous years. For users interested in deriving comparable data, an estimate of the amount of FST included in retail sales for 1990 is available for Canada. The reliability of this estimate does not permit adjustments at the provincial or trade group level.

- The overall gain in September was primarily attributable, in order of dollar impact, to gains reported by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers (+5.5%), other durable goods stores (+2.9%) and all other retail stores (+1.3%). Partly offsetting these increases were decreases by general merchandise stores (-2.5%), gasoline service stations (-1.5%) and household furniture and appliance stores (-2.3%).

- The increase in sales of motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers in September followed two monthly declines. Supermarkets and grocery stores recorded marginally higher sales (+0.1%) after five consecutive monthly decreases. Sales of general merchandise stores fell after two monthly increases.
- Five provinces posted retail sales increases in September, ranging from +2.3% in British Columbia to +0.3% in Nova Scotia. The largest declines were in New Brunswick (-2.9%) and Prince Edward Island (-1.5%), and sales remained unchanged in Manitoba. Sales also fell in the Northwest Territories (-3.9%) and the Yukon (-2.6%).

Trends

- As illustrated in the accompanying chart, after declining sharply from April 1990 to March 1991 and rising slightly between April and July, the trend for total retail trade has since been relatively flat. Total retail sales excluding recreational and motor vehicle dealers continue to have a declining trend, but at a slowing rate.

Year-to-date

- Cumulative retail sales in current dollars for the first nine months of 1991 amounted to \$130.8 billion, down 2.2% from the corresponding period in 1990 (after removing federal sales tax from the 1990 data). Last month, cumulative sales were also 2.2% lower than in the same period of the previous year.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2398 (department store type merchandise totals for the provinces and territories), 2399 (seasonally adjusted), 2400 (not seasonally adjusted), and 2299, 2401-2405, 2407, 2409, 2411-2413, 2415-2417 (quarterly trade group estimates for Canada, the provinces and territories).

The September 1991 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of December. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Maurice Massaad (613-951-9682) or Sonia Demers (613-951-3551), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

Retail Sales, by Trade Group and by Region

September 1991

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted						
	Sept. 1990	Aug. 1991 ^r	Sept. 1991 ^p	Sept. 1991/ 1990 [*]	Sept. 1990	June 1991 ^r	July 1991 ^r	Aug. 1991 ^r	Sept. 1991 ^p	Sept./ Aug. 1991	Sept. 1991/ 1990 [*]
	millions of \$			%	millions of \$					%	%
Canada											
Supermarkets and grocery stores	3,593	3,866	3,399	-5.4	3,609	3,599	3,587	3,578	3,580	0.1	-0.8
All other food stores	322	317	283	-12.1	329	313	301	299	297	-0.8	-10.0
Drug and patent medicine stores	732	747	722	-1.4	763	739	736	743	748	0.6	-2.0
Shoe stores	166	136	138	-17.4	150	135	131	130	130	-0.2	-13.5
Men's clothing stores	161	129	134	-16.6	165	149	146	149	146	-1.9	-11.6
Women's clothing stores	357	301	323	-9.6	325	300	304	301	303	0.9	-6.5
Other clothing stores	349	319	315	-9.7	335	313	309	310	310	0.1	-7.3
Household furniture and appliance stores	713	666	618	-13.3	704	619	626	632	618	-2.3	-12.2
Household furnishings stores	210	189	182	-13.7	208	167	178	178	180	0.9	-13.7
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	3,032	2,987	2,982	-1.6	3,374	3,293	3,264	2,991	3,157	5.5	-6.4
Gasoline service stations	1,253	1,277	1,154	-7.9	1,257	1,150	1,184	1,179	1,162	-1.5	-7.6
Automotive parts, accessories and services	981	894	844	-13.9	1,021	876	877	877	873	-0.5	-14.5
General merchandise stores	1,740	1,749	1,646	-5.4	1,770	1,734	1,762	1,770	1,726	-2.5	-2.5
Other semi-durable goods stores	557	519	485	-12.9	572	511	501	504	503	-0.1	-12.0
Other durable goods stores	445	420	405	-9.0	464	392	402	410	422	2.9	-9.0
All other retail stores	843	974	829	-1.7	870	835	823	852	863	1.3	-0.8
Total, all stores	15,454	15,491	14,458	-6.4	15,917	15,126	15,131	14,904	15,018	0.8	-5.6
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	12,422	12,504	11,476	-7.6	12,544	11,834	11,867	11,913	11,861	-0.4	-5.4
Department store type merchandise	5,431	5,176	4,967	-8.5	5,456	5,060	5,096	5,128	5,087	-0.8	-6.8
Regions											
Newfoundland	280	308	269	-3.9	295	285	285	291	288	-1.0	-2.5
Prince Edward Island	65	69	58	-10.7	67	60	59	61	60	-1.5	-10.2
Nova Scotia	477	507	455	-4.5	496	482	480	480	482	0.3	-2.9
New Brunswick	394	410	360	-8.7	409	397	391	391	380	-2.9	-7.2
Quebec	3,899	3,861	3,548	-9.0	3,978	3,710	3,756	3,687	3,667	-0.6	-7.8
Ontario	5,716	5,586	5,311	-7.1	5,926	5,565	5,603	5,484	5,572	1.6	-6.0
Manitoba	530	522	493	-6.9	545	516	510	510	510	--	-6.3
Saskatchewan	460	453	426	-7.3	473	437	434	437	444	1.5	-6.2
Alberta	1,614	1,634	1,555	-3.6	1,665	1,596	1,592	1,583	1,609	1.6	-3.4
British Columbia	1,974	2,091	1,938	-1.8	2,044	1,973	2,015	1,981	2,027	2.3	-0.8
Yukon	16	17	15	-5.9	15	15	15	15	14	-2.6	-5.2
Northwest Territories	30	32	28	-7.1	30	30	31	30	29	-3.9	-2.4

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

^p Preliminary.

^r Revised.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers

October 1991

Canadian domestic shipments of corrugated boxes and wrappers totalled 170 870 thousand square metres in October 1991, a decrease of 1.6% from the 173 715 thousand square metres shipped a year earlier.

January to October 1991 domestic shipments totalled 1 688 835 thousand square metres, down 3.7% from 1 754 330 thousand square metres for the same period in 1990.

The October 1991 issue of *Corrugated Boxes and Wrappers* (36-004, \$5/\$50) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Sandra Bohatyretz (613-951-3531), Industry Division. ■

Production, Shipments and Stocks of Sawmills East of the Rockies

September 1991

Production of lumber in sawmills east of the Rockies decreased 0.6% to 1 723 349 cubic metres in September 1991 from 1 734 192 cubic metres after revisions in September 1990.

Stocks on hand at the end of September 1991 totalled 2 903 241 cubic metres, an increase of 25.4% compared to 2 315 376 cubic metres in September 1990.

Year-to-date production in 1991 amounted to 15 263 114 cubic metres, a decrease of 7.9% compared to 16 565 988 cubic metres after revisions for the same period in 1990.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 53 (except series 1.2, 2.2 and 3.2) and 122 (series 2).

The September 1991 issue of *Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies* (35-002, \$10/\$100) will be available at a later date. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Jacques Lepage (613-951-3516), Industry Division. ■

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

September 1991

Sawmills in British Columbia produced 2 602 600 cubic metres of lumber and ties in September 1991, a decrease of 1.2% from the 2 634 900 cubic metres produced in September 1990.

January to September 1991 production was 23 776 600 cubic metres, a decrease of 7.5% from the 25 702 800 cubic metres produced over the same period in 1990.

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

The September 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. ■

Shipments of Household Furniture Products

Third Quarter 1991

For the quarter ending September 1991, shipments of household furniture products totalled \$227.5 million, a decrease of 4.4% compared to \$238.0 million (revised) for the previous quarter.

Manufacturers' shipments of selected household furniture products for the third quarter of 1991 are now available. Data for the province of origin as well as exports are also available.

The September 1991 issue of *Shipments of Household Furniture Products* (35-007, \$6.75/\$27) will be available shortly.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Keith Martin (613-951-3518), Industry Division. ■

Short-term Debt of Local Governments

September 1991

At September 30, 1991, the estimates on the short-term debt (treasury bills and other short-term paper) of local governments totalled \$293 million, down \$229 million from June 1991 and down \$52 million from September 30, 1990. Revised estimates for previous quarters are also available.

For further information on these data, contact Marlene Vollmer (613-951-1830), Public Institutions Division.

For more information, or general inquiries on Public Institutions Division's products or services, contact Jim Dore (613-951-0767). ■

Grain Marketing Situation Report

October 1991

The situation report for October 1991 is now available. This report presents up-to-date information on the Canadian and world grain supply and market situation.

For further detailed information on this release, contact Karen Gray (204-983-2856), Agriculture Division. ■

Preliminary Marine Transport Statistics for Canadian Ports: Domestic and International Shipping

Annual 1990

Preliminary statistics for 1990 indicate that some 350 million tonnes were handled at Canadian ports in 1990, down 3.7% from 1989. A sharp increase in the tonnage of wheat handled domestically and internationally moderated an otherwise depressed year in the shipping industry.

International tonnage, which accounted for approximately two-thirds of all shipping activity in Canada, dropped 4.2% to 229 million tonnes. The tonnage of coal, the number one commodity shipped internationally, dropped 6.7% to 44 million tonnes. Iron ore, the second largest commodity, posted 33 million tonnes in 1990, down 10% from 1989. On the other hand, the tonnage of wheat handled increased from 13 million tonnes in 1989 to 19 million tonnes in 1990.

Domestic tonnage also decreased in 1990, from 124 million tonnes in 1989 to 121 million tonnes. The tonnage of logs, bolts and pulpwood chips dropped 20.8% to 25 million tonnes in 1990. Other significant declines were noted for limestone (-36.6% to 6 million tonnes), coal (-20.1% to 5 million tonnes), and iron ore (14.4% to 13 million tonnes). Finally, 16 million tonnes of wheat were loaded and unloaded domestically at Canadian ports compared with 12 million tonnes in 1989.

Preliminary statistics for 1990 will be published the *Surface and Marine Transport Service Bulletin* (50-002, Vol.7, No. 7, \$9.40 /\$75), available in mid-December. Final data will be published in the 1990 edition of *Shipping in Canada* which will be released at the end of February 1992. See "How to Order Publications".

For further information on this release, contact Anna MacDonald (613 951-0291), Marine Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian Economic Observer, November 1991.
Catalogue number 11-010
(Canada: \$22/\$220; United States: US\$26/US\$260;
Other Countries: US\$31/US\$310).

Report on Fur Farms, 1990.
Catalogue number 23-208
(Canada: \$34; United States: US\$41;
Other Countries: US\$48).

Oil Pipe Line Transport, August 1991.
Catalogue number 55-001
(Canada: \$10/\$100; United States: US\$12/US\$120;
Other Countries: US\$14/US\$140).

**Postcensal Annual Estimates of Population by
Marital Status, Age, Sex and Components of
Growth for Canada, Provinces and Territories**,
June 1, 1991.

Catalogue number 91-210
(Canada: \$29; United States: US\$35;
Other Countries: US\$41).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum
requirements of American National Standard for
Information Sciences – Permanence of Paper for Printed
Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 – 1984.



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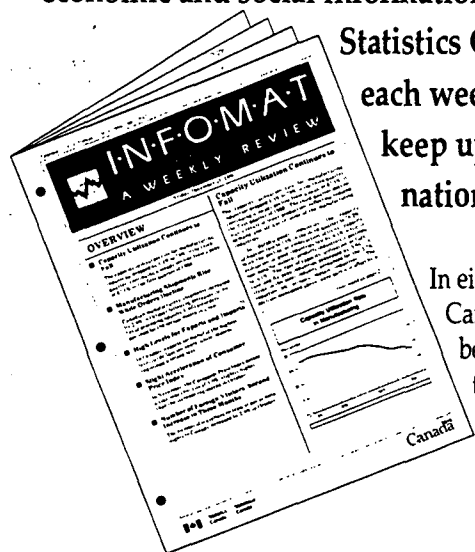


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