



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, July 21, 1992

For release at 8:30 a.m.

NOT FOR LOAN

NE S'EMPRUNTE PAS

STATISTICS CANADA	STATISTIQUE CANADA
JUL 21 1992	
LIBRARY BIBLIOTHÈQUE	

MAJOR RELEASE

● **Retail Trade, May 1992**

Seasonally adjusted retail sales fell 0.7% in May, offsetting most of the 1.0% increase seen in April. At \$15.1 billion, sales returned to the level recorded in each of the first three months of 1992.

2

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Telephone Statistics, May 1992

5

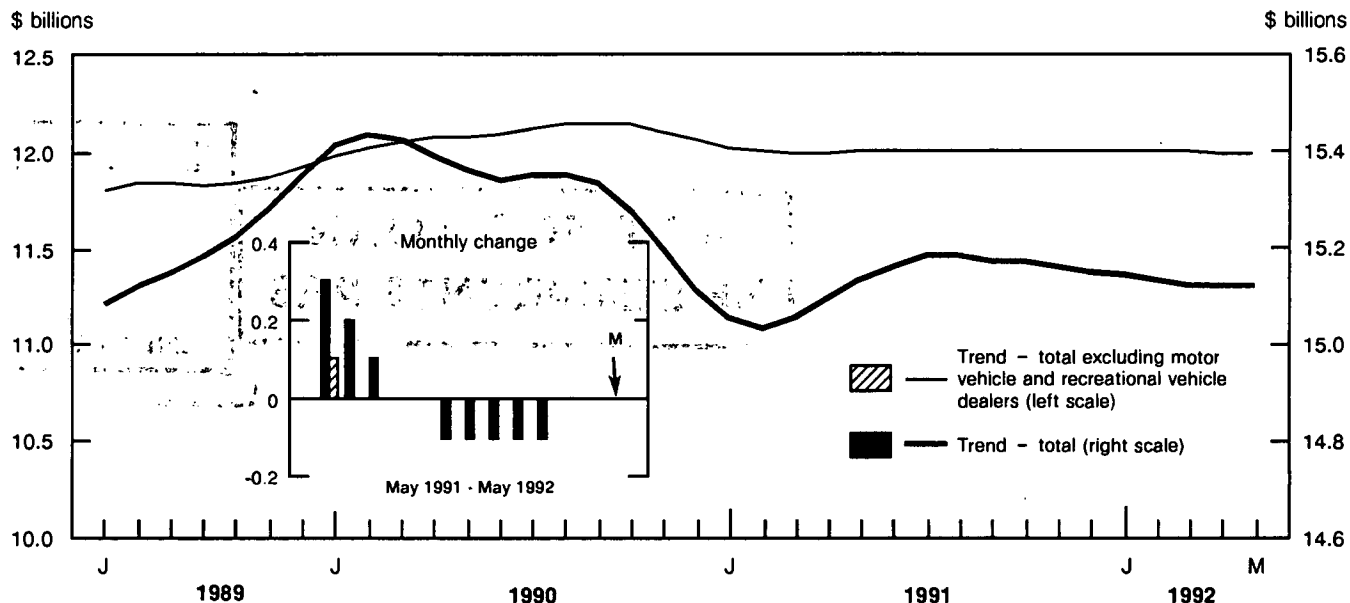
PUBLICATION RELEASED

6



MAJOR RELEASE

Retail Sales Trends¹ - Canada



¹ Trends represent smoothed seasonally adjusted data. Data prior to 1991 have been adjusted to remove federal sales tax so as to be comparable to January 1991 and subsequent data.

Retail Trade

May 1992

Highlights

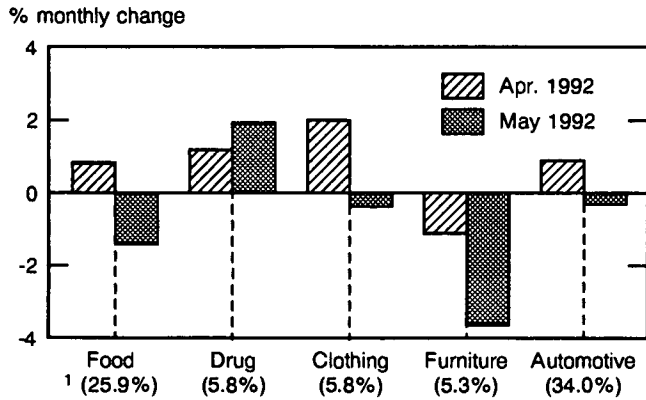
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Sales in Current Dollars

- Preliminary estimates indicate that retail sales fell 0.7% in May, offsetting most of the 1.0% gain seen in April. At \$15.1 billion, sales returned to the level recorded in the first three months of the year. Excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers, retail sales decreased 0.9% in May, in contrast to the 0.9% gain in April.
- The overall decline in May was broadly based with 13 of 16 trade groups recording lower sales. The most significant decreases, in order of dollar

impact, were registered by supermarkets and grocery stores (-1.3%) and household furniture and appliance stores (-3.6%). Partly counterbalancing these losses was a gain reported by drug and patent medicine stores (+1.9%).

- Lower sales in May recorded by supermarkets and grocery stores followed three monthly gains. Sales of household furniture and appliance stores showed a fluctuating pattern over the last year but the May 1992 level was comparable with that of May 1991.
- Half of the provinces posted sales decreases in May, ranging from -3.0% in Newfoundland to -0.3% in British Columbia. Notable increases were recorded in Manitoba (+4.0%) and Prince Edward Island (+2.3%).

**Retail Sales, by Major Group
Seasonally Adjusted**



Trends

- As illustrated in the larger chart, after declining sharply from August 1990 to February 1991 and then rising moderately, the trend for total retail trade has been decreasing slightly since August 1991. The recent downward trend is due mainly to declining sales of recreational and motor vehicle dealers. Retail sales excluding

recreational and motor vehicle dealers remain almost unchanged since May 1991.

Year-to-date In Current Dollars

- Cumulative retail sales in current dollars for the first five months of 1992 amounted to \$70.8 billion, up 0.8% from the corresponding period in 1991. In April, cumulative sales were 2.2% higher than in the same period of the previous year. However, users are reminded that the estimates for early 1991 were unusually low following the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 2399 (seasonally adjusted), 2400 (not seasonally adjusted), 2398 (department store type merchandise totals for the provinces and territories), and 2299, 2401-2417 (quarterly trade group estimates for Canada, the provinces, territories and totals for the four census metropolitan areas).

The May 1992 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005, \$18.20/\$182) will be available the first week of August. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact John Svab (613-951-3549) or Maurice Massaad (613-951-9682), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division. □

Retail Sales, by Trade Group and by Region
May, 1992

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted						
	May 1991 ^r	Apr. 1992 ^r	May 1992 ^p	May 1992/1991 ^r	May 1991 ^r	Feb. 1992 ^r	Mar. 1992 ^r	Apr. 1992 ^r	May 1992 ^p	May/Apr. 1992 ^r	May 1992/1991 ^r
	millions of \$		%		millions of \$				%		%
Canada											
Supermarkets and grocery stores	3,915	3,615	3,867	-1.2	3,635	3,627	3,644	3,666	3,616	-1.3	-0.5
All other food stores	331	302	318	-3.8	304	294	292	300	296	-1.6	-2.8
Drug and patent medicine stores	833	837	872	4.7	822	852	851	861	877	1.9	6.7
Shoe stores	153	129	138	-10.0	139	130	129	131	127	-3.3	-8.4
Men's clothing stores	155	119	137	-11.7	149	136	130	132	131	-0.8	-12.3
Women's clothing stores	327	287	319	-2.6	312	299	293	295	301	2.1	-3.4
Other clothing stores	308	291	303	-1.8	321	309	305	316	312	-1.3	-2.9
Household furniture and appliance stores	588	586	570	-3.0	620	642	648	641	618	-3.6	-0.3
Household furnishings stores	175	171	176	0.3	172	186	185	182	175	-3.7	2.0
Motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	4,085	3,680	3,770	-7.7	3,222	3,136	3,122	3,167	3,158	-0.3	-2.0
Gasoline service stations	1,247	1,067	1,164	-6.7	1,190	1,146	1,127	1,128	1,123	-0.4	-5.6
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,031	868	948	-8.0	899	862	862	859	857	-0.3	-4.7
General merchandise stores	1,745	1,640	1,692	-3.0	1,748	1,743	1,712	1,748	1,738	-0.6	-0.5
Other semi-durable goods stores	597	473	588	-1.5	516	508	508	510	514	0.9	-0.3
Other durable goods stores	412	357	396	-3.9	410	413	411	416	403	-3.0	-1.5
All other retail stores	878	774	897	2.2	815	858	846	860	852	-0.9	4.5
Total, all stores	16,780	15,197	16,155	-3.7	15,272	15,141	15,062	15,212	15,100	-0.7	-1.1
Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers	12,695	11,517	12,385	-2.4	12,050	12,005	11,941	12,045	11,942	-0.9	-0.9
Department store type merchandise	5,293	4,891	5,190	-1.9	5,208	5,218	5,171	5,232	5,198	-0.7	-0.2
Regions											
Newfoundland	313	270	286	-8.6	280	284	276	272	264	-3.0	-5.8
Prince Edward Island	69	63	70	1.5	63	64	65	64	66	2.3	4.9
Nova Scotia	541	511	535	-1.0	497	480	503	505	503	-0.5	1.1
New Brunswick	427	384	414	-3.1	389	384	385	385	387	0.7	-0.4
Quebec	4,381	3,923	4,167	-4.9	3,802	3,693	3,695	3,760	3,718	-1.1	-2.2
Ontario	6,158	5,557	5,912	-4.0	5,656	5,643	5,557	5,618	5,553	-1.2	-1.8
Manitoba	575	511	560	-2.5	524	536	530	506	526	4.0	0.4
Saskatchewan	474	445	469	-1.0	443	446	457	448	448	0.1	1.2
Alberta	1,692	1,575	1,672	-1.2	1,585	1,584	1,609	1,583	1,603	1.2	1.1
British Columbia	2,103	1,914	2,024	-3.8	1,979	1,951	1,970	1,948	1,942	-0.3	-1.9
Yukon	16	13	14	-12.7	15	14	15	14	13	-5.7	-8.7
Northwest Territories	31	31	32	2.9	30	30	31	32	31	-3.6	2.4

^p Preliminary figure.

^r Revised figure.

DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Telephone Statistics

May 1992

Canada's 13 major telephone systems reported monthly revenues of \$1,209.9 million in May 1992, up 7.5% from May 1991.

Operating expenses were \$893.2 million, an increase of 7.0% from May 1991. Net operating revenue was \$316.6 million, an increase of 8.9% from May 1991.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 355.

The May 1992 issue of *Telephone Statistics* (56-002, \$8.30/\$83) is scheduled for release the week of July 27. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact J.R. Slattery (613-951-2205), Services, Science and Technology Division. ■



PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Canadian Economic Observer – Historical and Statistical Supplement, 1991-92

Catalogue number 11-210

(Canada: \$27; United States: US\$32;
Other Countries: US\$38)

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.



How to Order Publications

Simplify your search for data with the Statistics Canada Catalogue 1992. It includes sources for key statistics on all areas of Canadian, social and economic activity. Using the keyword index, you'll find what you need in seconds. For easy access to over 800 Statistics Canada products and services, order the Statistics Canada Catalogue 1992 (11-204E, \$13.95; United States: US\$17; Other Countries: US\$20).

You may purchase Statistics Canada publications by writing to Publication Sales, Room 1710, Main Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa K1A 0T6 or by calling 613-951-7277.

Please enclose a cheque or money order payable to the Receiver General for Canada/Publications. Provide full information on each publication order (catalogue number, title, issue). Canadian customers, please add 7% GST to your order.

To order Statistics Canada products and services toll-free, dial 1-800-267-6677 from within Canada. For orders from outside Canada, dial 613-951-7277.

Publications may also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, or from authorized bookstore agents or other booksellers.

**The
Daily**

Statistics Canada's Official Release Bulletin for Statistical Information

Catalogue 11-001E. Price: Canada: \$120.00 annually; United States: US\$144.00 annually; Other Countries: US\$168.00 annually

Published by the Communications Division
Statistics Canada, 10-L, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa K1A 0T6.

Senior Editor: Greg Thomson (613-951-1116)
Editor: Tim Prichard (613-951-1103)

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, 1992. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from Chief, Author Services, Publications Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.