

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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Seasonally adjusted, retail sales declined 0.2% in July following a 1.4% gain in June.
- **Sales of Natural Gas, July 1992** 5  
Sales of natural gas including direct sales in Canada during July 1992 totalled 2 802 million cubic metres, a 4.3% increase over the July 1991 level.

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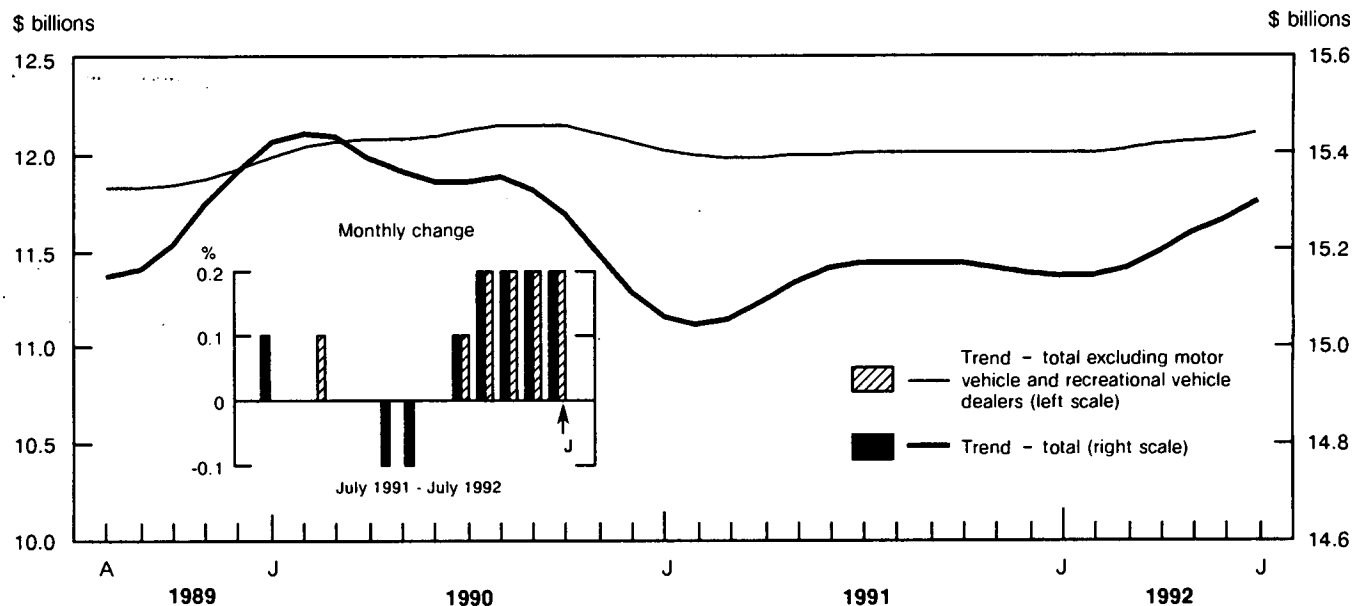
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## MAJOR RELEASES

### Retail Sales Trends<sup>1</sup> - Canada



<sup>1</sup> Trends represent smoothed seasonally adjusted data.

Data prior to 1991 have been adjusted to remove the Federal Sales Tax to be comparable to January 1991 and subsequent data.

### Retail Trade

July 1992

### Highlights

#### Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Sales in Current Dollars

- Preliminary estimates indicate that retail sales declined 0.2% in July to \$15.3 billion, following a 1.4% gain in June and a 0.7% decrease in May. Despite fluctuating month-to-month movements, total sales remained very close to 1990 levels (after removing federal sales tax from the 1990 data). Total sales in July 1992 were 0.2% above July 1991 levels but were comparable with figures for July 1990.
- Most trade groups showed little change from June. Weak sales in July were primarily attributable, in order of dollar impact, to decreases reported by supermarkets and grocery stores (-0.8%) and to the three automotive-related trade

groups: automotive parts, accessories and services (-2.5%), gasoline service stations (-1.5%) and motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers (-0.4%). Higher sales by general merchandise stores (+2.2%) partly counterbalanced these declines.

- Sales by supermarkets and grocery stores have shown a pattern of alternating gains and losses around a relatively stable trend since November 1991. The three automotive trade groups have shown a similar pattern over the last three months: lower sales in July preceded by higher sales in June and weak sales in May. General merchandise stores registered higher sales in July after two monthly declines.
- The July decrease in retail sales was concentrated in two provinces: Nova Scotia (-3.5%) and Quebec (-0.9%). Notable increases were reported for Manitoba (+1.6%), Saskatchewan (+1.2%), Ontario (+1.1%) and Prince Edward Island (+1.1%).

## Trends

- Excluding variations caused by fluctuating sales by motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers, the trend for retail sales was relatively stable from January 1991 to February 1992 and has been rising slightly since March 1992.

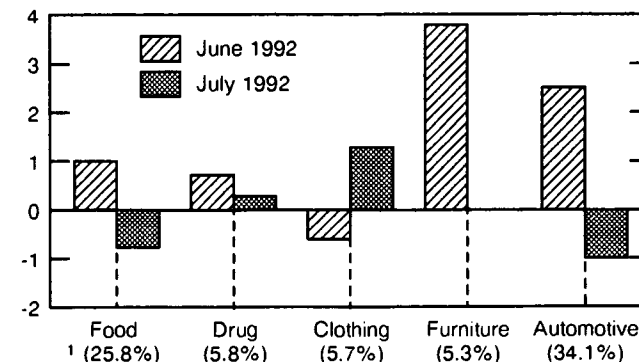
## Year-to-date Sales in Current Dollars

- Cumulative retail sales in current dollars for the first seven months of 1992 amounted to \$103.1 billion, up 1.4% from the corresponding period in 1991. In June, cumulative sales were 1.0% higher than in the same period of the previous year.

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

## Retail Sales, by Major Group Seasonally Adjusted

% monthly change



<sup>1</sup> Percentage of total sales.

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

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

**Retail Sales, by Trade Group and by Region**

July 1992

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally Adjusted						
	July 1991	June 1992 <sup>r</sup>	July 1992 <sup>p</sup>	July 1992/ 1991	July 1991	April 1992 <sup>r</sup>	May 1992 <sup>r</sup>	June 1992 <sup>r</sup>	July 1992 <sup>p</sup>	July/ June 1992 <sup>r</sup>	July 1992/ 1991
	millions of \$			%	millions of \$					%	%
<b>Canada</b>											
Supermarkets and grocery stores	3,651	3,717	3,930	7.6	3,624	3,673	3,648	3,692	3,662	-0.8	1.0
All other food stores	311	301	308	-0.8	297	301	290	285	284	-0.2	-4.3
Drug and patent medicine stores	784	882	894	14.1	805	863	887	893	896	0.3	11.2
Shoe stores	117	135	109	-6.5	134	131	126	126	123	-2.2	-8.1
Men's clothing stores	116	134	111	-4.6	145	132	131	132	132	0.7	-8.7
Women's clothing stores	282	300	284	0.5	311	296	303	302	304	0.9	-2.1
Other clothing stores	259	292	275	6.0	310	316	313	308	319	3.5	2.8
Household furniture and appliance stores	635	617	635	-	636	641	606	628	628	-	-1.2
Household furnishings stores	188	198	194	3.2	184	183	178	186	186	0.2	1.6
Motor vehicle and recre- ational vehicle dealers	3,669	3,877	3,626	-1.2	3,309	3,180	3,169	3,234	3,220	-0.4	-2.7
Gasoline service stations	1,300	1,229	1,278	-1.8	1,208	1,133	1,119	1,180	1,162	-1.5	-3.8
Automotive parts, accessories and services	938	963	894	-4.7	875	857	854	858	836	-2.5	-4.5
General merchandise stores	1,577	1,645	1,642	4.1	1,743	1,748	1,741	1,734	1,771	2.2	1.6
Other semi-durable goods stores	484	567	545	12.8	483	513	519	526	531	0.9	9.8
Other durable goods stores	383	408	408	6.6	405	418	402	415	418	0.8	3.4
All other retail stores	889	887	948	6.6	819	857	850	848	842	-0.7	2.8
<b>Total, all stores</b>	<b>15,584</b>	<b>16,154</b>	<b>16,082</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>15,287</b>	<b>15,242</b>	<b>15,136</b>	<b>15,345</b>	<b>15,314</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Total excluding motor vehicle and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>11,915</b>	<b>12,277</b>	<b>12,456</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>11,978</b>	<b>12,062</b>	<b>11,967</b>	<b>12,111</b>	<b>12,094</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Department store type merchandise	4,825	5,179	5,098	5.6	5,156	5,241	5,205	5,249	5,308	1.1	3.0
<b>Regions</b>											
Newfoundland	291	286	294	1.0	281	273	265	275	278	0.9	-1.2
Prince Edward Island	72	73	79	9.5	63	64	66	66	67	1.1	6.5
Nova Scotia	504	545	539	7.1	489	506	505	526	507	-3.5	3.7
New Brunswick	402	418	421	4.7	386	385	386	390	391	0.3	1.2
Quebec	3,914	4,058	3,966	1.3	3,827	3,767	3,741	3,797	3,763	-0.9	-1.7
Ontario	5,723	5,954	5,914	3.3	5,691	5,637	5,596	5,647	5,706	1.1	0.3
Manitoba	521	542	543	4.3	523	506	525	518	526	1.6	0.6
Saskatchewan	443	461	459	3.5	436	446	447	439	444	1.2	1.8
Alberta	1,606	1,710	1,682	4.7	1,590	1,586	1,608	1,621	1,627	0.4	2.3
British Columbia	2,058	2,056	2,131	3.5	1,991	1,955	1,953	2,002	2,005	0.2	0.7
Yukon	17	17	18	6.4	15	14	14	15	15	0.1	2.2
Northwest Territories	32	34	36	10.9	31	32	31	32	33	1.7	6.5

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figure.<sup>r</sup> Revised figure.

## Sales of Natural Gas

July 1992 (Preliminary Data)

### Highlights

- Sales of natural gas including direct sales in Canada during July 1992 totalled 2 802 million cubic metres, a 4.3% increase over the July 1991 level.
- On the basis of rate structure information, sales in July 1992 were as follows (the percentage changes from July 1991 are in brackets): residential sales, 382 million cubic metres (+12.9%); commercial sales, 297 million cubic metres (-2.2%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 2 123 million cubic metres (+3.8%).
- Weather has a significant impact on residential sales of natural gas. The increase in residential sales in July 1992 was primarily due to colder

than normal weather conditions throughout most of Canada. Stronger industrial demand also contributed to the overall increase.

- From January to July 1992, sales of natural gas amounted to 33 548 million cubic metres, a 2.2% increase over the same period in 1991.
- On the basis of rate structure information, year-to-date sales were as follows (the percentage changes from 1991 are in brackets): residential sales, 8 723 million cubic metres (+1.5%); commercial sales, 7 019 million cubic metres (-0.8%) and industrial sales including direct sales, 17 806 million cubic metres (+3.8%).

The July 1992 issue of *Gas Utilities* (55-002, \$12.70/\$127) will be available the third week of October. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gary Smalldridge (613-951-3567), Energy Section, Industry Division.

### Sales of Natural Gas – Preliminary Data

July 1992

	Rate structure					
	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Direct	Total	
	(thousands of cubic metres)					
Quebec	14 230	44 186	229 255	-	287 671	
Ontario	186 059	109 356	472 689	164 360	932 464	
Manitoba	17 606	16 256	24 782	635	59 279	
Saskatchewan	29 731	11 883	2 456	129 500	173 570	
Alberta	86 447	71 574	886 687	-	1 044 708	
British Columbia	47 876	44 083	104 460	107 821	304 240	
<b>July 1992 - Canada</b>	<b>381 949</b>	<b>297 338</b>	<b>1 720 329</b>	<b>402 316</b>	<b>2 801 932</b>	
July 1991 - Canada	338 221	304 026	1 708 379	336 417	2 687 043	
% change	12.9	-2.2		3.8	4.3	
<b>Year-to-date Canada 1992</b>	<b>8 723 494</b>	<b>7 018 704</b>	<b>14 435 320</b>	<b>3 370 794</b>	<b>33 548 312</b>	
Year-to-date Canada 1991	8 593 361	7 076 940	14 509 777	2 645 881	32 825 959	
% change	1.5	-0.8		3.8	2.2	
	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.

### Degree Days<sup>1</sup>

July 1992	20	12	71	60	87	15
July 1991	4	1	9	20	40	21

<sup>1</sup> A unit measuring the extent to which the outdoor mean temperature (the average of the maximum and minimum) falls below 18 degrees celsius. One degree day is counted for each degree of deficiency below 18 degrees celsius for each calendar day. A higher value indicates a colder month and a lower value a warmer month.

Note: Revised figures will be available in *Gas Utilities* (55-002) and on CANSIM.

- Nil or zero.

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### **Railway Carloadings**

Seven-day Period Ending September 7, 1992

Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the period totalled 3.8 million tonnes, a decrease of 10.6% from the same period last year.

Piggyback traffic decreased 9.8% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 8.7% during the same period.

The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date at September 7, 1992 decreased 4.0% from the previous year.

**Note:** Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic. All 1991 figures and 1992 cumulative data have been revised.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

### **Pack of Processed Asparagus 1992**

The data on the pack of processed asparagus for 1992 are now available.

*Pack of Processed Asparagus*, 1992 (32-233, \$13) will be released at a later date.

For further information, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511), Industry Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

**Oils and Fats, July 1992.**

**Catalogue number 32-006**

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60;

Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

**Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products,**  
August 1992.

**Catalogue number 32-022**

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60;

Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

**Canada's International Transactions in Securities,**  
June 1992.

**Catalogue number 67-002**

(Canada: \$15.80/\$158; United States:  
US\$19/US\$190; Other Countries: US\$22.10/US\$221).

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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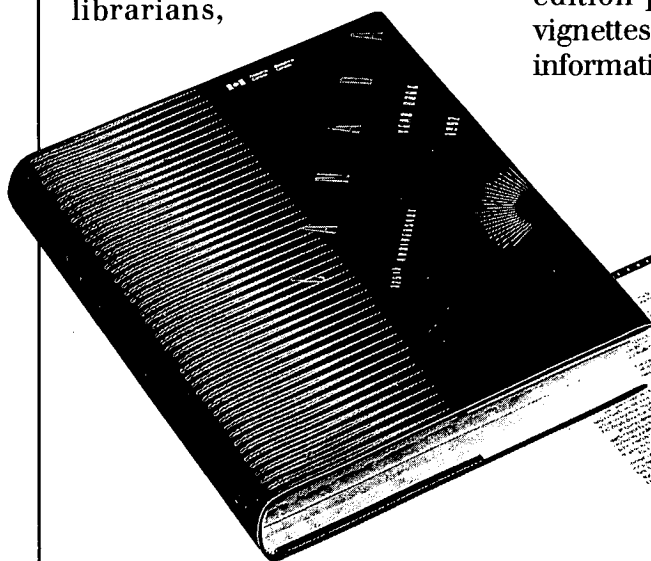
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