



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, July 23, 1993

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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MAJOR RELEASE

• Wholesale Trade, May 1993

Wholesale merchants' seasonally adjusted sales in May totalled \$16.5 billion, up 1.9% from April. This increase follows weaker sales in April (-2.7%) and a 0.3% rise in March.

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DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Local Government Long-term Debt, June 1993

Restaurants, Caterers and Taverns, May 1993

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MAJOR RELEASE

Wholesale Trade

May 1993 (Preliminary)

Wholesale merchants' seasonally adjusted sales totalled \$16.5 billion in May, up 1.9% from the previous month. This increase follows weaker sales in April (-2.7%) and a rise of 0.3% in March.

Seasonally Adjusted

The movement in recent months is due, in part, to the international transactions of commodities traditionally handled by wholesalers - transactions such as export sales made by suppliers of lumber and building materials and imports through wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies.

Growth was broadly based as sales for seven of the nine trade groups rose. The most significant increases (in dollar terms) were by suppliers of food, drug and tobacco products, up 3.5% from April after two months of lower sales. The second largest rise was by wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies, up 2.8% but still below last year's levels.

The largest monthly decline was by wholesalers of lumber and building materials, down 2.1% from

April. This was the second consecutive decrease following four months of growth.

Seven of the provinces and territories had higher sales in May. The increases ranged from +1.6% in Quebec to +4.7% in Nova Scotia.

In May, wholesale merchants' inventories totalled \$25.8 billion, down 0.6% from April. The inventories-to-sales ratio at the end of May was 1.56:1, down from 1.60:1 at the end of April.

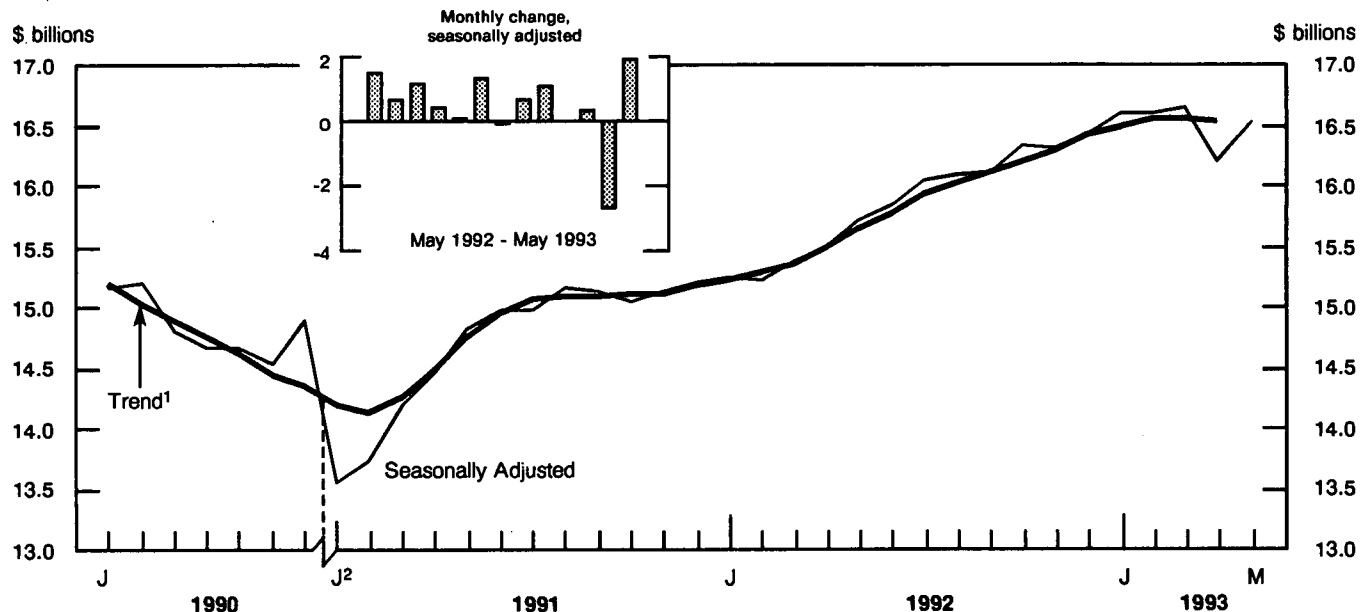
Wholesalers interact with various sectors of the economy both in buying and selling goods. More specifically, wholesalers purchase through a network of importers, manufacturers and other wholesalers. They sell to other wholesalers, retailers, household consumers, industrial and commercial users, and to foreign markets.

Available on CANSIM: matrices 59, 61, 648 and 649.

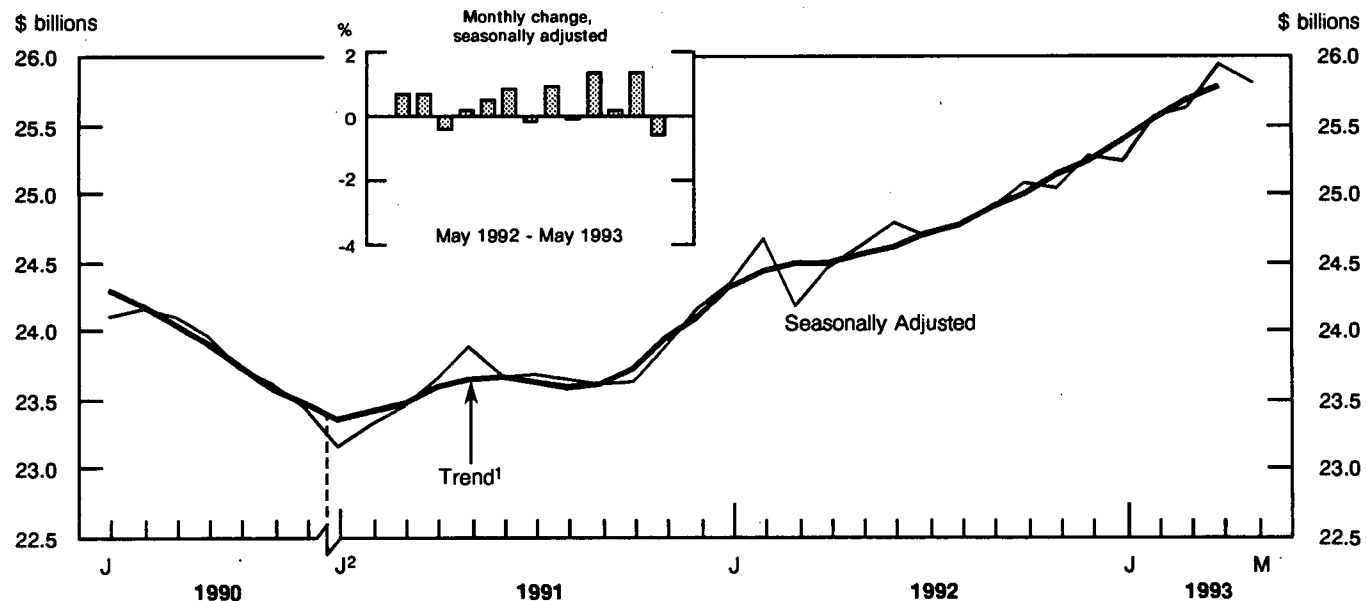
The May issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$14.40/\$144) will be available the second week of August. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release, contact Larry Murphy (613-951-3542) or Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540), Industry Division. □

Wholesale Merchants' Sales



Wholesale Merchants' Inventories



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

² Prior to 1991, data includes Federal Sales Tax. Its successor, the Goods and Services Tax, is not included in the 1991 and later data.

Wholesale Merchants' Sales

	May 1992	April 1993 ^r	May 1993 ^p	May 1992 to May 1993	May 1992	Feb. 1993 ^r	March 1993 ^r	April 1993 ^r	May 1993 ^p	April to May 1993	May to May 1993
	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted						
Canada	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change				
Trade group											
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	4,146	4,302	4,500	8.5	4,109	4,424	4,418	4,308	4,458	3.5	8.5
Apparel and dry goods	291	408	344	18.4	372	439	436	429	444	3.3	19.2
Household goods	491	551	513	4.4	540	596	594	576	576	--	6.8
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,860	1,904	1,949	4.8	1,732	1,779	1,808	1,772	1,810	2.2	4.5
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,125	1,147	1,177	4.6	1,068	1,151	1,145	1,136	1,138	0.2	6.6
Lumber and building materials	1,723	1,638	1,832	6.3	1,480	1,626	1,674	1,603	1,569	-2.1	6.0
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	418	429	446	6.8	346	362	348	353	357	1.2	3.3
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,556	3,397	3,373	-5.2	3,603	3,632	3,649	3,409	3,505	2.8	-2.7
Other products	2,815	2,711	3,046	8.2	2,467	2,587	2,580	2,623	2,664	1.6	8.0
Total, all trades	16,426	16,487	17,181	4.6	15,717	16,597	16,652	16,208	16,521	1.9	5.1
Regions											
Newfoundland	159	156	168	5.1	165	171	172	176	175	-0.7	6.4
Prince Edward Island	46	36	44	-5.1	45	42	41	40	41	3.2	-8.8
Nova Scotia	394	345	396	0.6	359	376	360	344	360	4.7	0.2
New Brunswick	249	223	244	-2.1	248	247	240	231	240	3.6	-3.2
Quebec	4,103	3,911	4,124	0.5	3,933	3,949	4,029	3,936	4,000	1.6	1.7
Ontario	6,674	6,843	6,987	4.7	6,461	6,924	6,927	6,621	6,822	3.0	5.6
Manitoba	639	583	686	7.5	549	576	588	584	583	-0.1	6.2
Saskatchewan	535	495	599	11.9	477	503	512	517	511	-1.2	7.2
Alberta	1,528	1,515	1,616	5.8	1,420	1,523	1,501	1,482	1,511	2.0	6.4
British Columbia	2,080	2,360	2,297	10.4	2,041	2,265	2,264	2,256	2,257	--	10.6
Yukon and Northwest Territories	19	20	21	10.7	19	21	20	22	22	-0.3	12.6

Wholesale Merchants' Inventories

	May 1992	April 1993 ^r	May 1993 ^p	May 1992 to May 1993	May 1992	Feb. 1993 ^r	March 1993 ^r	April 1993 ^r	May 1993 ^p	April to May 1993	May to May 1993
	unadjusted				seasonally adjusted						
Canada	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change				
Trade group											
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,002	3,276	3,389	12.9	2,965	3,274	3,200	3,306	3,334	0.8	12.5
Apparel and dry goods	871	936	977	12.1	836	949	935	923	942	2.0	12.7
Household goods	1,189	1,260	1,290	8.4	1,189	1,143	1,188	1,260	1,290	2.4	8.4
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	3,708	4,178	4,016	8.3	3,655	3,786	3,809	4,055	3,941	-2.8	7.8
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	2,199	2,231	2,250	2.3	2,063	2,154	2,156	2,154	2,126	-1.3	3.0
Lumber and building materials	2,592	2,897	2,817	8.7	2,446	2,543	2,639	2,686	2,637	-1.8	7.8
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	1,504	1,266	1,283	-14.7	1,445	1,295	1,239	1,195	1,214	1.6	-16.0
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,201	7,193	7,123	-1.1	7,024	7,108	7,091	6,997	6,975	-0.3	-0.7
Other products	3,039	3,479	3,383	11.3	2,982	3,321	3,366	3,375	3,350	-0.7	12.3
Total, all trades	25,306	26,718	26,526	4.8	24,605	25,573	25,623	25,953	25,810	-0.6	4.9

^r Revised figure.^p Preliminary figure.

-- Amount too small to be expressed.

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Electric Lamps, June 1993.

Catalogue number 43-009

(Canada: \$5/\$50; United States: US\$6/US\$60; Other Countries: US\$7/US\$70).

Farm Product Price Index, May 1993.

Catalogue number 62-003

(Canada: \$7.10/\$71; United States: US\$8.50/US\$85; Other Countries: US\$9.90/US\$99).

Hospital Morbidity, 1990-91.

Catalogue number 82-216

(Canada: \$20; United States: US\$24; Other Countries: US\$28).

List of Canadian Hospitals, 1992.

Catalogue number 83-239

(Canada: \$20; United States: US\$24; Other Countries: US\$28).

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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MAJOR RELEASE DATES

Week of July 26-30

(Release dates are subject to change)

Anticipated date(s) of release	Title	Reference period
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July		
27	Health and Activities Limitation Survey - Education and Employment	1991
28	Unemployment Insurance Statistics	May 1993
28	Industrial Product Price Index	June 1993
28	Raw Materials Price Index	June 1993
29	Employment, Earnings and Hours	May 1993
29	Sales of Refined Petroleum Products	June 1993
29	Crude Oil and Natural gas	May 1993
30	Real Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost by Industry	May 1993



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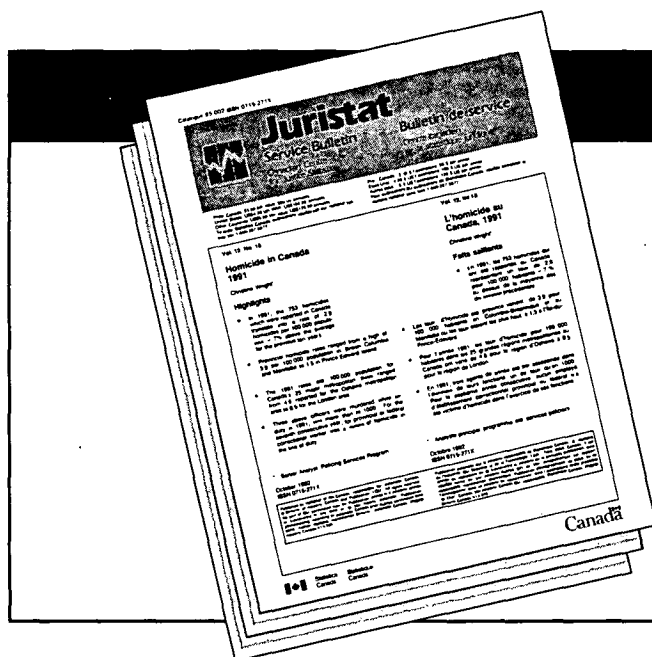
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