



The Daily

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Releases

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

Annual 2007 and fourth quarter 2007

Retailers had a strong 2007 with sales increases in all major commodity groupings.

Canadians spent \$413.4 billion on goods and services in retail stores last year, up 5.8% from 2006. The year-over-year sales increase in the third quarter was the weakest of the year at 4.0% while the 7.2% rise in the second quarter was the strongest.

More than half of spending in retail stores focused on transportation, food and beverages. Proportionately, of every \$100 spent in retail stores in 2007, consumers spent about \$21 on food and beverages, \$21 on motor vehicles, parts and services, \$10 on automotive fuels, oils and additives, \$9 on furniture, home furnishings and electronics, \$9 on health and personal care, \$8 on clothing, footwear and accessories, \$7 on hardware, lawn and garden products, \$3 on sporting and leisure goods and \$2 on non-electric housewares. The remainder, about \$9 was spent on all other goods and services such as tobacco and pet food.

Strongest growth in automotive fuels but weak sales for motor vehicles

Of all the commodity groups, sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives had the strongest growth in 2007, up 11.3% over 2006 to \$41.5 billion. According to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), gasoline prices rose 4.5% over 2006. This was the third time in the last four years that automotive fuels, oils and additives led sales increases among retail commodity groupings.

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services rose a modest 3.6% in 2007 to \$87.4 billion, on the strength of sales of used automotive vehicles (+7.4%). This was the largest annual increase in sales of used automotive vehicles since 2001. According to the used car industry, the rise in sales of used automotive vehicles may have been influenced by a surge of imports of second-hand vehicles from the United States, pushing down prices.

New vehicle sales were the weakest in three years (+1.6%) due to a decline in the value of new passenger car sales.

A more detailed analysis of new motor vehicle sales in 2007 will be published later this April.

Sales growth for many commodities achieved historical highs in 2007

Many other commodity groupings had their strongest growth in recent years in 2007. Health and personal care products registered the second highest annual percentage increase (+8.5%) of all commodity groupings in 2007. Sales of prescription drugs, which represented over one-half of the sales in this category, rose 10.7%. Over-the-counter drugs were up 7.5%, the largest increase in five years.

Sales of furniture, home furnishings and electronics continued to be strong, rising 7.3% in 2007 to \$38.6 billion. Within this category, sales of home furnishings jumped 11.5%, the strongest increase since the start of the survey in 1998. Sales of home electronics such as televisions, cameras, telephones, computer hardware and software rose a more modest 6.2%.

Sales of sporting and leisure goods rose by 6.1%, a record since the series began. This was powered mainly by a 21.6% increase in sales of toys, games and hobby supplies (which include electronic games and game systems). In contrast, sales of pre-recorded CDs, DVDs, video and audio tapes declined by 1.8%, the weakest performance since the beginning of the series.

Retailers sold \$28.8 billion of hardware, lawn and garden products in 2007 for a 5.7% increase, the lowest annual growth since 2000. Sales of lumber and other building products were up 8.4%, the lowest annual increase since 2001.

In 2007, sales of food and beverages amounted to \$88.6 billion, up 5.1% over 2006. Food sales (the majority of sales within this grouping) advanced 4.7%. The CPI for food purchased from stores showed a 2.7% increase during the same period.

Clothing, footwear and accessories registered sales of \$33.8 billion, up 4.0% over 2006. Sales for women's and children's clothing rose around 4.0% while sales of men's clothing advanced 3.4%. Prices were down for all clothing categories in 2007 according to the CPI. Footwear sales, meanwhile, were up 4.6%.

Fourth quarter of 2007: Automotive fuels, oils and additives post largest gain

Retail sales in the fourth quarter of 2007 amounted to \$109.4 billion, up 5.8% over the fourth quarter of 2006. One-third of the overall increase was due to the sales growth in automotive fuels, oils and additives.

Sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives surged 23.1% compared with the fourth quarter of 2006, the highest year-over-year increase since the third quarter of 2005. According to the CPI, gasoline prices rose 15.3% over the fourth quarter of 2006.

Influenced by the continuing strength in the housing market, sales of furniture, home furnishings and electronics rose 6.5% over the fourth quarter of 2006 to \$11.9 billion. This was largely the result of a 9.4% rise in sales of home furnishings and a 7.9% advance in sales of home electronics.

Sales of hardware, lawn and garden products advanced 4.4% over the same quarter in 2006 to \$6.6 billion. Within this category, sales of outdoor power equipment surged ahead by 23.2%. This was influenced by purchases of snow blowers caused by near-record snowfalls.

The commodity grouping with the weakest growth (+0.3%) in the fourth quarter was motor vehicles, parts

and services. This was the lowest growth since the third quarter of 2004. Sales of used automotive vehicles dropped 2.1% in the fourth quarter, while the value of new vehicle sales was down 0.4%. The only component that rose was automotive parts and accessories, with a 4.7% increase.

Note: The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0018 and 080-0019.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

Commodity	2005	2006	2007	2005 to 2006	2006 to 2007
	\$ millions			% change	
Food and beverages	80,450	84,337	88,597	4.8	5.1
Health and personal care products	30,541	33,023	35,837	8.1	8.5
Clothing, footwear and accessories	30,415	32,529	33,831	7.0	4.0
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	33,202	35,970	38,609	8.3	7.3
Motor vehicles, parts and services	80,119	84,331	87,357	5.3	3.6
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	34,285	37,319	41,549	8.8	11.3
Housewares	7,480	7,865	8,047	5.1	2.3
Hardware, lawn and garden products	24,806	27,267	28,817	9.9	5.7
Sporting and leisure goods	12,748	13,318	14,136	4.5	6.1
All other goods and services	33,138	34,676	36,604	4.6	5.6
Total	367,183	390,636	413,384	6.4	5.8

Sales by commodity, all retail stores

Commodity	Fourth quarter 2006 ^r	Third quarter 2007 ^r	Fourth quarter 2007 ^p	Fourth quarter 2006 to fourth quarter 2007
	Unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
Food and beverages	22,365	22,761	23,488	5.0
Health and personal care products	9,002	8,923	9,620	6.9
Clothing, footwear and accessories	10,513	8,369	10,790	2.6
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	11,168	9,685	11,893	6.5
Motor vehicles, parts and services	20,022	22,857	20,074	0.3
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	8,746	10,986	10,766	23.1
Housewares	2,247	2,071	2,284	1.7
Hardware, lawn and garden products	6,346	8,011	6,628	4.4
Sporting and leisure goods	4,495	3,369	4,751	5.7
All other goods and services	8,461	9,704	9,106	7.6
Total	103,363	106,736	109,400	5.8

^r revised

^p preliminary



Study: Earnings inequality and earnings instability of immigrants in Canada

The study, "Earnings inequality and earnings instability of immigrants in Canada," published in Statistics Canada's *Analytical Studies Research Paper Series*, provides further insights into the changing fortunes of immigrants in Canada by focusing on the volatility of their earnings.

Earnings volatility, or earnings instability, refers to year-to-year deviations of individual annual earnings from the average earnings of this individual in a given time period.

The study found that instability in earnings for immigrants usually declines substantially after they have spent several years in Canada.

This is consistent with the view that during the first several years in Canada, immigrants move more frequently from one job to another, or have part-time or temporary jobs. As they gain experience in Canada, immigrants are likely to find more stable employment.

The study is also the first to compare the earnings instability of immigrants who arrived in Canada in the 1980s with that of immigrants who arrived in Canada in 1990s. For example, based on the earnings in the four years after landing, the earnings instability of immigrants who came to Canada between 1998 and 2000 was substantially higher than the earnings instability of those who came to Canada between 1980 and 1982.

It was also higher than the earnings instability of those who came to Canada between 1983 and 1985.

Another finding concerns the impact of business cycles on earnings instability for immigrants. While instability generally decreased during the first several years in Canada, it rose rapidly during the recession years in the early 1990s and fell in subsequent years.

Although almost all cohorts in the sample were affected by the recession in the early 1990s, the timing of its impact relative to the entry varied from one cohort to another. This made the comparison of the earnings instability of immigrants who arrived in Canada before and after the recession more difficult.

In the past, immigrants who came to Canada in their 40s had higher earnings instability than young immigrants. However, the earnings instability of young immigrants who came to Canada in the late 1990s was almost as high as the earnings instability of immigrants in their 30s and 40s who came to Canada during the same period.

The study found that earnings inequality rose among recent immigrants over the last two decades, consistent with previous studies that documented the evolution of earnings inequality for all Canadian workers.

Although foreign education, the ability to speak one of the official languages and birthplace accounts for a large part of immigrants' earnings inequality (up

to 44% depending on the cohorts considered), much of it remains unexplained by these factors.

The birthplace of immigrants seems to have had a stronger impact on earnings inequality than other factors considered in the study, such as foreign education and ability to speak English or French.

The study "Earnings inequality and earnings instability of immigrants in Canada" is now available as part of the *Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series* (11F0019MIE2008309, free) from the *Analytical Studies* module of our website.

Related studies from the Business and Labour Market Analysis Division can be found at *Update on Analytical Studies Research* (11-015-XIE, free), which is also available on our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this article, contact Yuri Ostrovsky (613-951-4299, yuri.ostrovsky@statcan.ca), Business and Labour Market Analysis Division. ■

Study: High school dropouts returning to school

1990/1991 to 2004/2005

Fewer young women than men quit school without their high school diploma. And female dropouts are also more likely than men to return to class to finish their high school education, according to a new study.

The study, "High school dropouts returning to school," based on data from the Labour Force Survey and the Youth in Transition Survey, found that a significant number of high school dropouts take advantage of the "second chance" system that offers them another opportunity to get their diploma.

In 2004/2005, nearly 3 in every 10 high school dropouts (29%) aged 20 to 24 had returned to school. The proportion for women was about 35%, and for their male counterparts, about 26%.

The study found that only a few factors had an impact on a young woman's decision to return. These were mostly personal, such as the circumstances under which they left school in the first place. Young women who left school because of personal reasons (often, pregnancy) were 30% more likely to return than other female dropouts.

The timing of the return also appeared to be crucial for women; the more time that elapsed since they left high school, the less likely they were to return.

On the other hand, factors for men appeared to be more substantive. Their decision depended more on their labour market experience and past academic experience and decisions.

Two of the strongest predictors for men were their parents' level of education, and whether they had

taken a mathematics course in high school designed to prepare them for postsecondary studies. These factors increased the chances of a young man's returning to school by 50%.

Young men who dropped out in their last year of high school were also more likely to return to school than their counterparts who had dropped out earlier.

A factor both sexes shared was whether they had hopes of advancing to some form of postsecondary education. This suggests that dropping out was viewed by some individuals as a temporary absence rather than permanent.

Roughly two-thirds of dropouts who returned to class chose to go back to high school. The remainder preferred to pursue a postsecondary education.

Young female dropouts were more likely to return to attend a postsecondary program than to complete their high school diploma. About 43% of women and 33% of men returned to attend a postsecondary institution.

Not all young people who returned to school were successful. Of those who returned between January 2001 and December 2002, but who were no longer attending school in December 2002, nearly 60% of men and 50% of women had left school without graduating.

The fact that high proportions of returnees fail to complete their schooling the second time around suggests that individuals face other hurdles to completing their education than just getting back to class.

The high school dropout rate has been declining over the last 15 years. The dropout rate among individuals aged 20 to 24 fell from 19% in 1990/1991 to only 11% in 2005/2006.

Since the mid-1990s, between 15% and 18% of dropouts aged 20 to 24 have returned to school every year.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3701 and 4435.

The report "High school dropouts returning to school" is now available as part of the *Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers* (81-595-MIE2008055, free) series on our website. From the *Publications* module, choose *Free Internet publications*, then *Education, training and learning* and *Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-4441;

educationstats@statcan.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics. ■

Study: A profile of clinical depression in Canada

The study, "A profile of clinical depression in Canada," is the first of a planned series of reports summarizing results of research conducted in Statistics Canada's Research Data Centres (RDC) on issues of broad social interest. This inaugural study discusses measures of prevalence, risk factors, health service use and treatment of major depression — a condition that affects 1 in 50 Canadians at any moment in time, 1 in 20 in the course of a year and 1 in 10 in their lifetime.

Designed for non-specialist readers, the study discusses findings from a range of papers published in scientific journals using Statistics Canada's National Population Health Survey and the Canadian Community Health Survey.

The study, written by Scott Patten of the University of Calgary and Heather Juby of the RDC Network, is available in English only at (www.ciqss.umontreal.ca/rdcynthesis/).

The RDC program is part of an initiative by Statistics Canada, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, The Canadian Institutes of Health Research and university consortia to help strengthen Canada's social research capacity and to support the policy research community.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3225 and 3226.

For more information about the study, contact Scott Patten (403-220-8752; patten@ucalgary.ca), University of Calgary. French media may contact Heather Juby (514-343-2090, ext. 8), Research Data Centres.

For more information about the Research Data Centres program, contact Gustave Goldmann (613-951-1472), Statistics Canada. ■

Salaries and salary scales of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities 2007/2008 (preliminary)

Information is now available on the salaries of full-time teaching staff at 50 Canadian universities, for the 2007/2008 academic year. The institutions that are included are all those that completed the survey by the middle of March 2008.

This bulletin presents information on the salaries of full-time teaching staff at 20 Canadian universities for 2007/2008. The institutions that are included are those that completed the survey by the middle of March and have more than 100 staff. In 2005/2006 (the last year for which final data on full-time teaching staff is available) these institutions accounted for 27% of the full-time teaching staff of the 116 institutions that were included in the survey.

In addition, information on the 2007/2008 salary scales for full-time university teachers is also presented in this report and includes all those institutions (regardless of size) who provided this information by the middle of March.

This information is collected annually under the "Universities and Colleges Academic Staff System."

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3101.

The report "Salaries and salary scales of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities, 2007/2008: Preliminary report" is now available as part of the *Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers* series (81-595-MIE2008062, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

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Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series: "Earnings inequality and earnings instability of immigrants in Canada", no. 309
Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2008309
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Education Indicators in Canada: Handbook for the Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program, 2007, no. 1
Catalogue number 81-582-GPE (\$25).

Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers: "High school dropouts returning to school", 2004/2005, no. 55
Catalogue number 81-595-MIE2008055
(free).

Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers: "Salaries and salary scales of full-time teaching staff at Canadian universities, 2007/2008: Preliminary report", 2007/2008, no. 62
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses and industry work force in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-based Index, May 1997 3
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- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg producer, Apr 8, 1997 12

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