

# Newsletter for Small and Medium-sized Businesses

December 2012



## ***In the news***

### **Christmas... by the numbers**

The 2012 version of "Christmas... by the numbers" is available in Statistics Canada's *Media Room* module at [www.statcan.gc.ca/mediaroom](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/mediaroom).

### **How thick is the border?**

This article in the *Economic Insights* series examines how much crossing the border adds to the cost of moving goods by truck. It quantifies the cost of border delays, border-related compliance costs, and other costs associated with moving goods to and from Canada's main trading partner.

### **Retail trade—September 2012**

Retail sales in Canada edged up 0.1% to \$39.1 billion in September, following increases in the previous two months. Retail sales in volume terms were flat.

In current dollars, gains were reported in 7 of 11 subsectors, representing almost 70% of total retail trade.

Retail sales rose in five provinces in September. Alberta (+1.7%) reported the largest gain in dollar terms, in part a result of higher sales at new car dealers. Sales advanced in this province for three consecutive months.

## ***About the Newsletter for Small and Medium-sized Businesses***

Statistics Canada recognizes that small and medium business entrepreneurs have specific information needs. Its Business Outreach Program is dedicated to serving you through this free, monthly newsletter.

### **Benefits of subscribing**

- Stay informed about the latest Statistics Canada releases important to municipalities and community organizations. The releases explain how to access related information.
- Learn about upcoming events and activities that will help you get the most from Statistics Canada data.

### **Subscribing is easy and free**

1. Go to [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca).
2. Click [My account](#)
3. In [Manage my notifications](#), go to [Choose your publications](#).
4. Click [Reference](#), then select [Newsletter for Communities](#)

You've subscribed! An automatic alert will be emailed to you when new issues of the newsletter are available.

### **Help us spread the word**

If you know an organization that may benefit from what this newsletter has to offer, please pass it on or put them in contact with us.



## [Quarterly Financial Statistics for Enterprises—Second quarter 2012](#)

Canadian corporations earned \$71.9 billion in operating profits in the second quarter, down 4.9% from the previous quarter. This decrease follows two consecutive quarterly increases.

Operating profits decreased in 15 of 22 industries. The manufacturing and oil and gas industries led the decline, followed by the insurance industry.

On a year-over-year basis, operating profits for Canadian corporations were 1.6% higher in the second quarter than in the second quarter of 2011. Profits declined 0.8% in the non-financial sector, while they rose 8.6% in the financial sector.

## [Payroll employment, earnings and hours—September 2012](#)

In September, average weekly earnings of non-farm payroll employees in Canada were \$902.29, down 0.5% from the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, earnings increased 3.4%.

The 3.4% increase in earnings during the 12 months to September reflects a number of factors, including wage growth, changes in the composition of employment by industry, occupation and level of job experience, as well as average hours worked per week. In September, however, the average hours worked per week was 33.0, unchanged from 12 months earlier, and down from 33.1 in August.

## [Recent releases from \*The Daily\*](#)

*The Daily* is Statistics Canada's official release bulletin. Recent releases include the following:

- Consumer Price Index
- Investment in non-residential building construction
- Monthly Survey of Manufacturing
- Wholesale trade

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## ***Statistics Canada launches a new publication***



Statistics Canada is pleased to announce the launch of [Insights on Canadian Society](#), a new Statistics Canada publication featuring brief and informative articles.

As its name suggests, the publication will offer insights on various issues that affect the lives of Canadians, for example, work, family, time use, education and financial security.

You may be interested in receiving email notifications of all the articles that will be released in *Insights on Canadian Society*. This can be done by accessing [My account](#), our free subscription system of email alerts. To do so:

1. Go to [My account](#)
2. Log in or [create an account](#)
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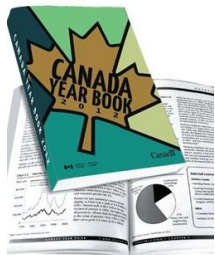
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4. Locate *Insights on Canadian Society* under any relevant subject-matter (for example, "Seniors")
5. Click on the small box on the left
6. Scroll down and click on the **Save** button

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading *Insights on Canadian Society*.

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## **Canada Year Book 2012 now available**

*Canada Year Book* is Statistics Canada's most popular publication. For over 140 years, it's been the ultimate source for the newest facts and analyses related to current events, important issues, and trends in Canada. And, the tradition continues with [Canada Year Book 2012](#).

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## **More ways to stay connected**



## **Questions or comments?**

Please contact our communications staff in your region:

- Atlantic provinces: Sarah Cassidy, [sarah.cassidy@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:sarah.cassidy@statcan.gc.ca)
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## **Have you been contacted to participate in a Statistics Canada survey?**

Statistics Canada is able to provide accurate and timely statistical information thanks to the ongoing co-operation of the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and institutions. If your business has been asked to participate in a Statistics Canada survey, please see our website for more information [on business surveys](#) or [for survey participants](#). We hope this information will help and that we can count on your support.

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**Ce bulletin est aussi disponible en français.**



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