Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, November 21, 2006
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Releases

Retail trade

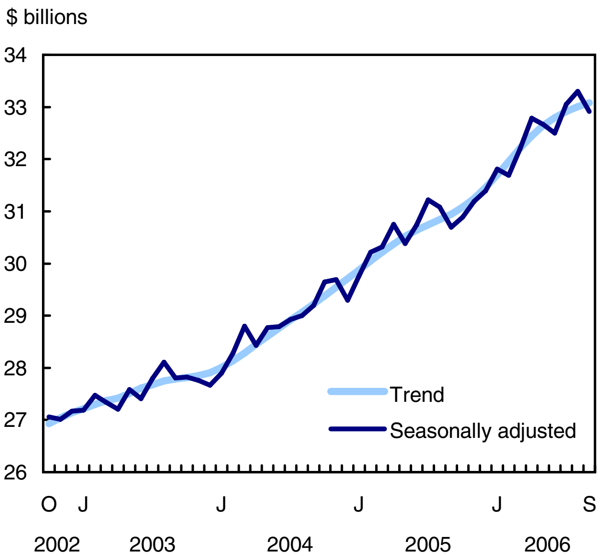
September 2006

Plummeting gas prices and slumping auto sales drove total retail sales down 1.2% in September. This decline limited retail sales for the third quarter to about half the rate of the previous two quarters. Sales were up 1.3% in the third quarter following back-to-back quarterly increases of 2.4%.

Retail sales fell from $33.3 billion to an estimated $32.9 billion in September, the largest monthly decline thus far in 2006. Most of the decline in September was due to lower sales at gasoline stations and new car dealers. Excluding the automotive sector, retail sales actually increased by 1.0%.

Sales in the automotive sector fell by 5.2% in September. This fall was partially offset by considerable gains in the clothing and accessories stores sector (+6.3%), as well as strong yet smaller gains in the miscellaneous retailers (+2.2%), general merchandise stores (+1.2%), pharmacies and personal care stores (+0.7%) and food and beverage stores (+0.2%) sectors.

Retail sales fall as both gasoline prices and auto sales drop



After four months of advances, sales in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores sector were flat in September, while sales fell for the first time in five months in the building and outdoor home supplies stores sector (-0.7%).

Once price changes were taken into account, total retail sales actually grew by 0.2% in September and third quarter growth was 0.9%.

Gasoline prices and auto sales plunge

In September, gasoline prices plummeted by 17.4% causing a record monthly decline of 12.5% in gasoline station sales. In the third quarter, sales at gasoline stations fell by 4.1% after soaring prices caused a record growth of 10.2% in the second quarter.

Sales at new car dealers were also down in September, falling 2.4% after strong gains in July and August. According to the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey, the number of new vehicles sold was down by 4.2%, mainly due to a 9.0% decline in truck sales. Despite September's decline, new car dealers' sales were up 5.1% in the third quarter. This was the strongest quarterly increase in over four years.

Clothing stores prosper from back-to-school shopping and new fall lines

Clothing retailers reached a near-record sales gain in September as sales advanced by 6.9%. Sales were also strong among shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores (+4.7%). Prior to September 2006, sales in both types of stores had leveled off in recent months after a period of strong gains.

The Monthly Survey of Large Retailers indicated that sales of clothing, footwear and accessories grew by 12.7% year-over-year, the largest September increase for this category since 1999. Clothing, footwear and accessories sales among large retailers account for over 50% of total retail sales of that commodity grouping.

General merchandise stores also saw a healthy but smaller sales increase of 1.2% in September. Clothing may have played a part in the gain in this sector, which includes department stores. According to the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, about one-quarter of clothing, footwear and accessories sales are from general merchandise stores.

Sales in sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores also saw a spike in sales in September (+4.3%). Almost half the sales in this group came from sporting goods stores, which have a large stake in clothing. Sales were up 2.9% in the third quarter following a relatively weak second quarter (+0.4%). These types of stores have enjoyed consistent growth since mid-2004 and have only experienced two monthly sales declines since January 2006.

Pharmacies and personal care stores enjoyed their 11th consecutive monthly sales increase (+0.7%) in September. Sales in these types of stores have been fairly strong since the start of 2006. After a near-record quarterly growth of 4.7% ending June, sales gains slowed in the third quarter but were still strong at 2.7%.

Within the building and outdoor home supplies stores sector, sales at home centres and hardware stores edged down by 0.2%, only the second monthly sales decline this year. Specialized building material and garden stores, a smaller component of this sector, saw their sales fall by 3.1%.

Most provinces down due to widespread auto decline

Sales declined in 9 of the 13 provinces and territories in September, due to the widespread effect of the decline in the automotive sector. After 11 consecutive monthly sales gains, Alberta retailers experienced a setback as sales fell by 1.1% in September. Alberta sales grew by 2.7% in the third quarter, almost half the rate of the first (+6.0%) and second (+5.4%) quarters earlier this year.

The September sales declines in Ontario (-1.9%) and Quebec (-1.0%) follow a general levelling off in recent months, while the sales decline in British Columbia (-0.9%) marked only the second decline since January 2006.

Saskatchewan saw sales increase by 1.4%, led by the strength of sales by general merchandise stores. Retail sales have been generally increasing in Saskatchewan after a slowdown in the latter half of 2005. Sales also increased in Manitoba (+0.6%). Manitoba retailers have been enjoying healthy growth since 2003 and only experienced one month of sales decline this year.

Related indicators for October

Employment increased by an estimated 51,000 in October following four months of little change. The unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage points to 6.2%.

Housing starts were up by 6.8% in October to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 223,200 units, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This increase reflects a rebound in the multiple starts segment, which fell to a two-year low in September. Single starts fell to their second lowest level of the year.

Preliminary sales data from the auto industry indicate that October sales are expected to drop a further 2%, due entirely to declines in passenger car sales. This decrease, combined with the decline in September, more than offsets the gains made in July and August.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The September 2006 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XIE, free) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for October will be released on December 21.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lucy Chung (613-951-1903), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Retail sales

	September 2005	June 2006[r]	July 2006[r]	August 2006[r]	September 2006[p]	August to September 2006	September 2005 to September 2006
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Automotive	**10,286**	**11,110**	**11,624**	**11,679**	**11,074**	**-5.2**	**7.7**
New car dealers	5,522	5,933	6,292	6,485	6,331	-2.4	14.7
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,269	1,507	1,541	1,523	1,529	0.4	20.5
Gasoline stations	3,495	3,670	3,791	3,671	3,214	-12.5	-8.1
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**2,157**	**2,312**	**2,320**	**2,349**	**2,349**	**0.0**	**8.9**
Furniture stores	760	789	790	807	798	-1.2	4.9
Home furnishings stores	401	450	445	450	454	1.0	13.2
Computer and software stores	132	135	136	137	130	-5.5	-1.2
Home electronics and appliance stores	864	939	949	954	967	1.4	11.9
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**1,930**	**2,089**	**2,101**	**2,142**	**2,127**	**-0.7**	**10.2**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,553	1,713	1,716	1,750	1,747	-0.2	12.5
Specialized building materials and garden stores	377	376	385	392	380	-3.1	0.7
Food and beverage stores	**7,254**	**7,324**	**7,345**	**7,388**	**7,402**	**0.2**	**2.0**
Supermarkets	5,287	5,242	5,281	5,303	5,281	-0.4	-0.1
Convenience and specialty food stores	755	799	800	806	821	1.9	8.8
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,211	1,283	1,265	1,279	1,299	1.6	7.3
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**2,055**	**2,238**	**2,251**	**2,265**	**2,282**	**0.7**	**11.1**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,766**	**1,876**	**1,848**	**1,876**	**1,995**	**6.3**	**12.9**
Clothing stores	1,344	1,431	1,411	1,427	1,525	6.9	13.4
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	422	445	437	449	470	4.7	11.4
General merchandise stores	**3,671**	**3,865**	**3,886**	**3,934**	**3,981**	**1.2**	**8.4**
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,576**	**1,683**	**1,677**	**1,670**	**1,707**	**2.2**	**8.3**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	808	839	845	853	890	4.3	10.1
Miscellaneous store retailers	768	844	832	818	817	-0.1	6.4
Total retail sales	**30,695**	**32,497**	**33,052**	**33,303**	**32,916**	**-1.2**	**7.2**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**23,904**	**25,057**	**25,219**	**25,295**	**25,055**	**-0.9**	**4.8**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	474	496	503	504	500	-0.7	5.7
Prince Edward Island	116	120	122	123	122	-1.0	5.5
Nova Scotia	884	912	950	958	953	-0.5	7.8
New Brunswick	701	727	750	747	747	0.0	6.5
Quebec	6,895	7,252	7,373	7,399	7,324	-1.0	6.2
Ontario	11,196	11,647	11,824	11,936	11,711	-1.9	4.6
Manitoba	1,037	1,093	1,114	1,118	1,124	0.6	8.5
Saskatchewan	923	976	994	990	1,004	1.4	8.8
Alberta	4,122	4,740	4,820	4,893	4,838	-1.1	17.4
British Columbia	4,243	4,423	4,493	4,523	4,482	-0.9	5.6
Yukon	37	38	38	39	39	0.8	6.2
Northwest Territories	48	50	50	51	50	-2.3	5.8
Nunavut	21	21	22	22	22	0.7	5.9

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*

Retail sales

	September 2005	August 2006[r]	September 2006[p]	September 2005 to September 2006
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Automotive	**10,612**	**13,047**	**11,056**	**4.2**
New car dealers	5,666	7,204	6,264	10.6
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,257	1,671	1,469	16.9
Gasoline stations	3,690	4,172	3,322	-10.0
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**2,203**	**2,381**	**2,410**	**9.4**
Furniture stores	799	856	843	5.5
Home furnishings stores	399	455	447	12.0
Computer and software stores	138	135	133	-3.8
Home electronics and appliance stores	867	935	987	14.0
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**2,134**	**2,415**	**2,294**	**7.5**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,720	1,954	1,888	9.8
Specialized building materials and garden stores	415	462	406	-2.2
Food and beverage stores	**7,277**	**7,634**	**7,579**	**4.1**
Supermarkets	5,315	5,380	5,396	1.5
Convenience and specialty food stores	763	868	842	10.3
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,199	1,387	1,341	11.8
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**2,028**	**2,252**	**2,238**	**10.3**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,789**	**1,856**	**2,036**	**13.8**
Clothing stores	1,386	1,401	1,582	14.1
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	402	455	454	12.8
General merchandise stores	**3,403**	**3,861**	**3,742**	**9.9**
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,625**	**1,727**	**1,754**	**8.0**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	809	867	892	10.2
Miscellaneous store retailers	815	859	863	5.8
Total retail sales	**31,072**	**35,173**	**33,110**	**6.6**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**24,149**	**26,298**	**25,376**	**5.1**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	485	560	506	4.3
Prince Edward Island	120	144	126	4.6
Nova Scotia	891	1,016	952	6.8
New Brunswick	713	806	749	5.0
Quebec	6,949	7,845	7,338	5.6
Ontario	11,375	12,453	11,815	3.9
Manitoba	1,047	1,186	1,132	8.1
Saskatchewan	922	1,061	1,002	8.7
Alberta	4,168	5,196	4,867	16.7
British Columbia	4,295	4,782	4,510	5.0
Yukon	38	45	40	5.9
Northwest Territories	47	54	50	6.4
Nunavut	22	24	23	7.0

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

■

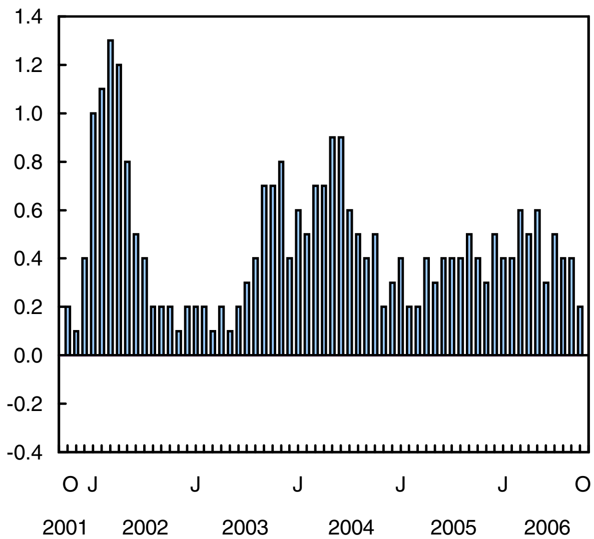
Leading indicators

October 2006

The composite leading index rose by 0.2% in October, continuing its string of moderate growth over the last five months. Household demand remained the driving force of growth, while weak export demand continued to crimp the manufacturing sector.

Composite leading indicator

Smoothed percentage change



Fuelled by an upturn in job growth, consumer spending continued to expand at a rapid clip for both furniture and appliances and other durable goods. Strong demand for electronic goods offset a slowdown in auto sales.

Nowhere was the strength in consumer demand more evident than in services employment. Growth in this sector was sustained for a 19th straight month, but the sources of growth have completely reversed since the start of the year. At that time, rapid gains in business services offset losses in personal services. By October, business services fell for the first time in almost two years. Instead, personal services buttressed jobs, growing 0.7%.

Manufacturing demand continued to soften. New orders shrank for the fifth month in a row. Much of this weakness originated in lower export demand from the United States. The outlook for exports remains poor, as the US leading indicator declined for a fifth straight month.

One bright spot for manufacturers was that they continued to keep inventories under strict control, leading to a slight gain in the ratio of shipments to inventories. The average workweek was unchanged.

Financial market conditions continued to improve. The stock market ended October close to its record highs set in the spring.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

A more detailed analysis of the components is available online. For more information on the economy, consult the November 2006 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 19, no. 11 (11-010-XIB, free) from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version is also available (11-010-XPB, $25/$243). See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; *ceo@statcan.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Leading indicators

	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006	August 2006	September 2006	October 2006	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**215.4**	**216.1**	**217.1**	**217.9**	**218.8**	**219.3**	**0.2**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	149.0	147.2	145.9	142.3	141.1	140.5	-0.4
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,703	2,707	2,719	2,732	2,746	2,754	0.3
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	11,939	11,872	11,901	11,893	11,810	11,930	1.0
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	147,382	149,097	150,303	150,907	151,628	152,108	0.3
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	127.5	127.4	127.2	127.1	126.9	126.7	-0.2
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	38.0	38.0	38.1	38.3	38.4	38.4	0.0
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	26,946	26,617	26,307	26,164	26,060	25,773	-1.1
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.87	1.87	1.86	1.87	1.87	1.88	0.01[5]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	2,460	2,495	2,522	2,535	2,551	2,570	0.7
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	8,280	8,361	8,447	8,477	8,589	8,686	1.1
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	**218.0**	**217.0**	**219.6**	**219.7**	**219.4**	**220.7**	**0.6**

1. *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2. *Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.*
3. *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4. *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.*
5. *Difference from previous month.*

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Railway carloadings

September 2006 and third quarter 2006

Canadian railways carried less tonnage in September than they did in August as loadings of several commodities declined. Railways loaded a total of 24.0 million metric tonnes of freight, down 4.4% from August.

Loadings of wood by-products, chemicals and chemical by-products all fell as a result of several mill closures in these two industrial sectors.

The non-intermodal portion of goods totalled 21.7 million tonnes, down 4.5% from August. Weaker loadings of iron ore were offset by strong loadings of grains as the harvest season produced a good yield.

Railways loaded 2.4 million tonnes of intermodal, or containerized, freight, down 2.5% from August.

Traffic received from the United States increased for the fourth consecutive month, setting an all-time high for September of 2.4 million tonnes.

On a year-over-year basis, non-intermodal tonnage in September was up 0.7% from the same month last year. Containerized freight in September was 0.9% higher, while traffic received from the United States jumped 14.9%.

Despite September's slowdown, loadings for the third quarter amounted to 73.0 million tonnes, the highest ever for a third quarter.

Intermodal (containerized) loadings between July and September hit nearly 7.1 million tonnes, up 2.4% from the same three months last year. Non-intermodal freight rose 1.7% to 65.9 million tonnes.

Third-quarter loadings rose 0.9% over the second quarter. Historically, loadings in the third quarter have been less than in the second quarter.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The September 2006 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 83, no. 9 (52-001-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Large urban transit

September 2006 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 1.0% higher in September than it was for the same month in 2005.

Approximately 123.4 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in September, accounting for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated $193.8 million in revenue in September (excluding subsidies), a 1.7 % increase over September 2005.

Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

October 2006

Canadian manufacturers sold 1.9 billion cigarettes in October, up 15.0% from September but down 33.4% compared with October 2005.

Cigarette production in October increased 5.4% from September to 2.0 billion cigarettes, down 42.5% from October 2005.

At 1.7 billion cigarettes, the level of closing inventories for October increased 3.9% from September, down 66.5% from October 2005.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.

The October 2006 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 35, no. 10 (32-022-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (613-951-9497;toll-free 1-866-873-8789; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics

October 2006 (preliminary)

Aircraft take-offs and landings at the 42 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers was 1.9% higher in October compared with the same month in 2005. This marks the fifth consecutive increase in year-over-year monthly comparisons.

Take-offs and landings reached 382,239 movements in October compared with 374,974 movements the same month a year earlier. Just over half of the airports reported increases in aircraft movements, the variations ranged from an increase of 35.6% for Moncton/Greater Moncton International to a 28.6% decline for Edmonton/Villeneuve.

The October 2006 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics*, Vol. 5, no. 10 (51F0001PIE, TP1496, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

Preliminary statistics for the 56 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA flight service stations are also available for October.

Available on CANSIM: table 401-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Kathie Davidson (613-951-0141; fax: 613-951-0010; *aviationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas production

September 2006 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for September.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Dissemination Section (613-951-9497 or toll-free 1-866-873-8789; *energ@statcan.ca*) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, October 2006, Vol. 35, no. 10
Catalogue number 32-022-XIE
(free).

Aircraft Movement Statistics, October 2006, Vol. 5, no. 10
Catalogue number 51F0001PIE
(free).

Monthly Railway Carloadings, September 2006, Vol. 83, no. 9
Catalogue number 52-001-XIE
(free).

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Catalogue number 63-008-XIE
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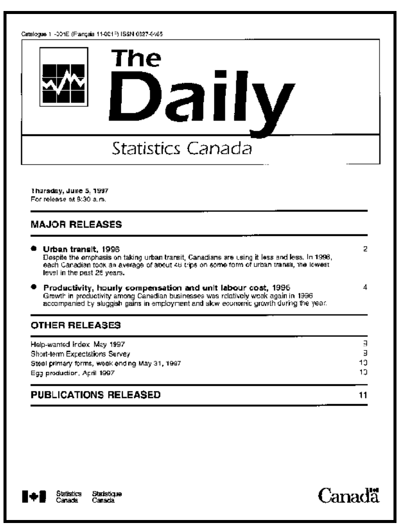
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

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 46 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 was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-G, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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