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Public Use Microdata File: Families File — Flat File (ASCII)

2001 Census

Public Use Microdata Files (PUMFs) are based on a 2.7% sample of unaggregated, anonymous records from the 2001 Census database. Available on CD-ROM, this unique series of files allows the user to combine variables and generate tables not included in any other census products. Three PUMFs will be available: the Individuals File, the Families File, and the Households and Housing File. The price for the first file purchased is \$1,000, with second and third files priced at \$300 and \$200 respectively.

Released today is the Families File — Flat File (ASCII) on CD-ROM (95M0018XCB, \$1,000). Comprising 162 variables, the file provides microdata on family composition and structure. Demographic, social, cultural and economic information are given for families and their members, and for non-census family persons. Data are provided for Canada, the provinces and territories (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut combined), and 19 selected census metropolitan areas.

The CD-ROM contains the microdata file only in flat ASCII format and includes input record descriptions in both SAS and SPSS syntaxes.

For more information or to purchase the PUMF: Families File, contact the National Contact Centre (1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.ca), Advisory Services Division.

Releases

Retail trade

December 2005

Consumer spending in retail stores advanced for a third consecutive month in December, although at a considerably slower pace than November. For the year as a whole, automotive sector sales have pushed annual retail sales growth to its highest rate since 2002.

Retail trade grew 0.3% in December from the previous month to a record \$31.2 billion. This followed increases of 1.0% in November and 0.5% in October.

Excluding sales by dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, retail sales rose 0.4% from November. December was the only month in 2005 where sales from new car dealers were not the principal driver or drag on overall retail sales.

Higher sales were reported in five out of the eight retail sectors in December. Shoppers increased their spending by 1.0% in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores sector, 0.6% in the food and beverage stores sector and 0.5% at miscellaneous retailers. Sales were also edged up 0.1% in both the automotive and general merchandise store sectors.

and pharmacies and personal care stores fell a marginal 0.1% in December. This contrasts with their average growth rate of 0.8% and 0.7% respectively for the first 11 months of 2005.

Once prices are taken into account, constant dollar retail sales were virtually unchanged in December after increasing 1.3% in November.

Retailers posted their third best annual sales gain of the last 10 years in 2005. Retail sales advanced 6.3% in 2005 compared with 2004, when sales rose 4.7%. The effects of inflation on retail sales have been moderate in the last two years, with annual sales growth, in constant dollars, reaching 4.5% in 2005 and 3.9% in 2004.

Notably, automotive sector sales for the year as a whole increased 8.5% over 2004. New car dealers saw a yearly sales gain for the first time since 2002, while rising prices at the pump fuelled double digit growth in sales by gasoline stations over the previous year.

Auto sales pause in December

Within the automotive sector, new car dealers' sales declined by 1.0% in December after two months of intense sales recovery, following a double digit drop in September.

Higher sales at gasoline stations (+0.8%) and used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers (+3.3%) offset the losses at new car dealers in December. Over the long run, gasoline station sales have been on the rise since April 2003.

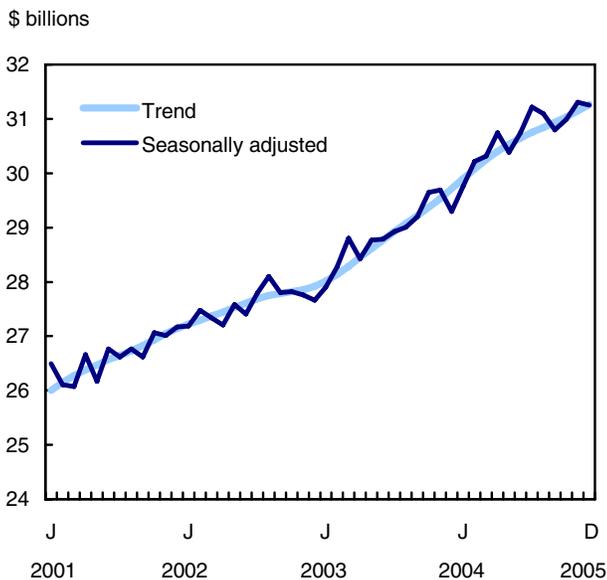
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers have not seen a higher December over November gain since 2000 when sales jumped 5.6%. An earlier than usual snowfall in December 2005 may have spurred snowmobile sales, many of which are sold in these types of stores.

Furniture sector posts largest gains

In the furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores sectors, shoppers spent 0.6% more at furniture stores and 1.2% more at home electronics and appliance stores, making up for sales declines in November. Home furnishings stores (+1.9%) continued three months of uninterrupted growth, while computer and software store sales fell 0.8% in December.

Food and beverage store sales advanced in December, after little change in November and a drop in October. Supermarkets posted an increase of 1.2%, followed by convenience and speciality food stores

Retail sales increase for the third consecutive month



On the flip side, sales of the clothing and accessories stores sector edged down 0.2%. Sales at both building and outdoor home supplies stores

which gained 0.4%. The drag on sector level sales came from the 1.9% drop in sales at beer, wine and liquor stores, which fell for a second consecutive month.

Retailers selling popular holiday items, such as toy, sporting goods, music, book and hobby shops, posted 0.4% higher sales in December. Other miscellaneous retailers including gift, novelty and souvenir stores also advanced 0.7% from the previous month. This continued four months of uninterrupted sales growth, with only three declines since October 2004.

For clothing stores, another holiday favourite, sales fell 0.5% in December after a big increase in November. Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores ended the second half of the year on a high note with six months of continuous gains, rising 0.7% in December.

The declining sales in the building and outdoor home supplies sector came from a 1.2% decrease in specialized building materials and garden stores. Meanwhile, home centres and hardware stores continued five months of non-stop growth, rising 0.1% in December. Although this retail sector posted a significant year-over-year sales increase of 8.5% in 2005, its pace has slowed considerably each year since 2002, when it peaked at a 15.5% increase over 2001.

Alberta pulls away from the pack

Ontario (+1.1%) and Alberta (+0.9%) accounted for most of the sales increase at the national level in December, while Nova Scotia (+1.8%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (+0.5%) were also ahead of the national pace. All four provinces have posted gains for three consecutive months.

Alberta's retailers ended 2005 with a big 12.2% annual sales increase over the previous year, besting its 2004 performance of 10.3% annual growth. It was the highest annual retail sales growth in the country for 2005.

The gap in annual sales growth between Alberta and the rest of the country has widened over the last couple of years.

Related indicators for January

Total employment grew by 0.2% in January after virtually no change in December. The overall unemployment rate edged up to 6.6%. Housing starts were up 8.9% in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 247,900 units, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Based on early results supplied by the auto industry, the number of new motor vehicles sold increased by about 1% in January, with both new passenger car and truck sales increasing during the month.

Note: Statistics Canada will no longer publishing separate figures for department stores and other general merchandise stores due to confidentiality constraints. Instead, department store sales will be combined with other general merchandise stores sales under the grouping general merchandise stores.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017 and 076-0005.

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

The December issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XIE, \$18/\$166) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for January will be released on March 21.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (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 Jane Lin (613-951-9691), Distributive Trades Division.

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Retail sales

	December 2004	September 2005 ^r	October 2005 ^r	November 2005 ^r	December 2005 ^p	November to December 2005	December 2004 to December 2005
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Automotive	9,877	10,286	10,516	10,718	10,728	0.1	8.6
New car dealers	5,662	5,522	5,839	6,137	6,077	-1.0	7.3
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,282	1,269	1,252	1,278	1,320	3.3	3.0
Gasoline stations	2,933	3,495	3,425	3,304	3,331	0.8	13.6
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,049	2,157	2,164	2,156	2,177	1.0	6.3
Furniture stores	710	760	766	758	763	0.6	7.5
Home furnishings stores	394	401	407	414	422	1.9	7.0
Computer and software stores	139	132	137	139	138	-0.8	-0.9
Home electronics and appliance stores	806	864	853	844	854	1.2	6.0
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	1,787	1,930	1,904	1,957	1,955	-0.1	9.4
Home centres and hardware stores	1,436	1,553	1,555	1,586	1,588	0.1	10.6
Specialized building materials and garden stores	351	377	349	371	367	-1.2	4.6
Food and beverage stores	6,910	7,254	7,225	7,222	7,268	0.6	5.2
Supermarkets	5,140	5,287	5,236	5,268	5,334	1.2	3.8
Convenience and specialty food stores	760	755	755	745	748	0.4	-1.5
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,010	1,211	1,234	1,209	1,186	-1.9	17.3
Pharmacies and personal care stores	1,911	2,055	2,046	2,057	2,054	-0.1	7.5
Clothing and accessories stores	1,695	1,766	1,746	1,788	1,784	-0.2	5.3
Clothing stores	1,288	1,344	1,323	1,357	1,350	-0.5	4.9
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	407	422	422	431	434	0.7	6.5
General merchandise stores	3,534	3,671	3,674	3,683	3,686	0.1	4.3
Miscellaneous retailers	1,532	1,576	1,581	1,590	1,598	0.5	4.3
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	761	808	797	802	805	0.4	5.8
Miscellaneous store retailers	771	768	784	788	793	0.7	2.8
Total retail sales	29,295	30,695	30,855	31,171	31,251	0.3	6.7
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	22,352	23,904	23,764	23,756	23,854	0.4	6.7
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	492	474	494	498	500	0.5	1.6
Prince Edward Island	114	116	116	119	119	-0.5	4.5
Nova Scotia	843	884	885	890	906	1.8	7.5
New Brunswick	669	701	702	709	707	-0.2	5.7
Quebec	6,573	6,895	6,909	7,002	6,954	-0.7	5.8
Ontario	10,952	11,196	11,304	11,408	11,530	1.1	5.3
Manitoba	976	1,037	1,052	1,052	1,039	-1.2	6.5
Saskatchewan	871	923	915	926	921	-0.6	5.8
Alberta	3,714	4,122	4,141	4,204	4,240	0.9	14.2
British Columbia	3,991	4,243	4,230	4,256	4,229	-0.6	6.0
Yukon	36	37	37	38	37	-1.0	4.7
Northwest Territories	46	48	48	49	48	-1.9	4.1
Nunavut	20	21	21	21	21	-0.3	2.1

^r Revised.

^p Preliminary.

Retail sales

	December 2004	November 2005 ^r	December 2005 ^p	December 2004 to December 2005
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Automotive	8,750	10,048	9,359	7.0
New car dealers	4,938	5,719	5,177	4.8
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,000	1,179	1,017	1.8
Gasoline stations	2,812	3,150	3,164	12.5
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	3,099	2,334	3,338	7.7
Furniture stores	833	791	906	8.8
Home furnishings stores	516	487	570	10.6
Computer and software stores	165	138	172	4.5
Home electronics and appliance stores	1,586	918	1,689	6.5
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	1,505	1,961	1,612	7.1
Home centres and hardware stores	1,223	1,606	1,318	7.8
Specialized building materials and garden stores	282	355	294	4.3
Food and beverage stores	8,128	6,870	8,766	7.8
Supermarkets	5,675	5,032	6,082	7.2
Convenience and specialty food stores	836	694	830	-0.7
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,618	1,143	1,853	14.6
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,304	2,073	2,457	6.6
Clothing and accessories stores	2,921	1,948	3,083	5.6
Clothing stores	2,137	1,503	2,257	5.6
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	784	446	826	5.4
General merchandise stores	5,498	4,157	5,723	4.1
Miscellaneous retailers	2,343	1,636	2,448	4.5
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	1,364	849	1,446	6.0
Miscellaneous store retailers	979	787	1,002	2.3
Total retail sales	34,549	31,028	36,785	6.5
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	28,611	24,130	30,591	6.9
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	583	517	598	2.6
Prince Edward Island	132	117	139	4.7
Nova Scotia	1,019	894	1,099	7.9
New Brunswick	789	711	824	4.5
Quebec	7,308	6,843	7,689	5.2
Ontario	13,219	11,559	13,913	5.2
Manitoba	1,156	1,041	1,229	6.3
Saskatchewan	1,024	916	1,078	5.3
Alberta	4,395	4,194	5,006	13.9
British Columbia	4,808	4,138	5,089	5.9
Yukon	40	35	42	5.8
Northwest Territories	53	44	54	2.8
Nunavut	24	20	24	2.4

r. Revised.

p. Preliminary.

Survey on Financing of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises

2004

Debt financing requests have declined since the turn of the millennium, but medium-sized enterprises are still more likely to request financing than their smaller counterparts.

Only one-fifth (19%) of all firms in Canada sought some form of external debt financing in 2004, according to results of the Survey on Financing of Small and Medium Enterprises. This was down from 24% four years earlier.

Businesses that requested debt financing, and approval rates

	Debt financing		Approval rate	
	2000	2004	2000	2004
	%			
Canada	24	19	81	81
Employment size				
0 employees	19	15	81	81
1 to 4 employees	23	21	79	83
5 to 19 employees	33	23	85	81
20 to 99 employees	36	33	87	81
Industry				
Agriculture/primary	37	32	92	92
Manufacturing	28	21	78	64
Wholesale and retail trade	24	18	74	78
Professional services	14	10	86	77
Knowledge-based industries	17	13	72	71
Tourism	23	19	79	73
Region				
Atlantic provinces	27	20	77	82
Quebec	20	18	84	88
Ontario	21	15	81	77
Prairie provinces	28	23	85	82
British Columbia	26	20	77	82

While the incidence of requests for financing was slightly lower, the overall approval rate remained unchanged. In both 2000 and 2004, just over 80% of the firms that sought a loan were able to obtain it.

Among the smallest firms included in the survey (those run by an entrepreneur with no employees) only 15% sought debt financing in 2004, down from 19% in 2000.

In contrast, one-third (33%) of larger firms with 20 to 99 employees sought external financing, the highest proportion. This was slightly below the proportion of 36% four years earlier.

Businesses in the manufacturing sector had a noticeably lower approval rate (64%) than in 2000 (78%). It appears that credit suppliers were more cautious lending to manufacturers. This is possibly because

Note to readers

The 2004 Survey on Financing of Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) was conducted in partnership with Industry Canada and Finance Canada as part of a data collection program on small- and medium-sized businesses.

The survey is the second benchmark survey on small- and medium-sized enterprise financing. Statistics Canada has published results for the year 2000 and for a smaller sample in 2001.

Survey results present seven industry groupings, five employment sizes, six geographic regions and start-ups versus established firms.

The survey, conducted in the fall and winter of 2004, covered about 13,000 responding firms operating in 2004 with fewer than 500 employees and less than \$50 million in revenue. Questions covered such topics as requests for loans, approval of loan applications, planned use of requested amounts, and measures of firm satisfaction with their credit supplier.

Statistics Canada used administrative data sources to identify inactive businesses among SMEs that were in-sample for the survey, but could not be successfully contacted. These administrative records were not as readily available in 2000 and 2001, and as a result of this methodological change, Statistics Canada is republishing results for the 2000 survey year concurrently with this release. Republished results for the 2001 survey year will be available later.

Today, Statistics Canada is releasing data on the demand for financing of small- and medium-sized enterprises in Canada. Plans are also in place to publish an additional set of data tables that show the financing structure, as well as measures of profitability, of small- and medium-sized enterprises using balance sheet and income statement information in March or early April.

profits for small- and medium-sized enterprises in this sector fell in tandem with those of larger firms between 2000 and 2004.

If corporations in the booming energy sector were excluded, and if inflation were taken into account, profits of larger Canadian corporations rose by 8.6% during this four-year period. On the other hand, profits of manufacturers fell by 13.4%, as shown by Statistics Canada's quarterly financial statistics.

Higher incidence of financing requests for firms in capital intensive industries

The survey showed a higher incidence of financing requests for firms in the manufacturing sector compared to the all-industry average. In manufacturing, 21% of firms sought debt financing in 2004, and in the primary/agricultural sectors, nearly one-third (32%) sought financing.

These are capital-intensive industries that tend to need significant up-front cash outlays before starting production.

In contrast, financing was sought by only 10% of businesses operating in the human-capital intensive professional service industries, such as accountants, and 13% in knowledge-based industries, such as computer services companies.

Regionally, small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Prairie provinces were more likely to seek external financing. Those in the Atlantic region and British Columbia were close behind. The firms least likely to seek debt financing were in Ontario where only 15% did so in 2004, down from 21% in 2000.

Exporters, manufacturers most likely to cite financing constraints as an obstacle to business growth

Manufacturers and exporters were most likely among small- and medium-sized enterprises to report that they were unable to obtain external financing in 2004, and as a result, the growth of their business was impeded.

Three out of every 10 exporters (29%) reported that difficulties in obtaining financing acted as a brake on their growth, compared to only 19% of non-exporters.

This is consistent with the manufacturing sector, where exporters are concentrated. About 27% of manufacturers reported that financing constraints affected the growth of their businesses.

Manufacturing tends to have larger up-front capital requirements than the service sector. Therefore, financing constraints can be expected to affect business growth. In contrast, the professional services industries, which have fewer exporting opportunities, are also businesses with fewer capital requirements.

Only 13% of respondents in the professional services industries identified the lack of financing opportunities as an impediment to the growth of their businesses.

In addition, data showed that twice as many young enterprises as established firms reported that difficulties in securing financing were an obstacle to growth. (Young enterprises are those that started operation in 2002 or later, while established firms were in operation prior to 1999). One-third (34%) of young enterprises had problems securing financing, double the proportion (17%) among established businesses.

Innovative firms, or those that spend more than 20% of their investment expenditure on research and development, were particularly affected by difficulties in obtaining financing.

Four out of every 10 (40%) innovative firms cited financing as an obstacle to growth, compared to 19% of non-innovating firms.

Small- and medium-sized enterprises citing "obtaining financing" as an obstacle to business growth

	%
All small- and medium-sized enterprises	20
Industry	
Manufacturing	27
Wholesale/retail	26
Professional services	13
Knowledge-based industries	16
Tourism	25
Primary/agriculture	16
Other industries	20
Exporters	29
Non-exporters	19
Innovative businesses	40
Non-innovative businesses	19
Year business started operations	
2002 to 2004	34
1999 to 2001	24
before 1999	17

Most firms satisfied with their credit supplier

The survey asked businesses that made loan requests to identify their level of satisfaction with their credit supplier.

Some 62% of small- and medium-sized enterprises that sought a loan during 2004 were satisfied with the overall quality of service from their credit suppliers, while only 8% were dissatisfied. The remainder had a neutral or no opinion.

Satisfaction with the credit supplier

	satisfied	dissatisfied	neutral
	%		
Overall quality of service	62	8	30
Time to process application	65	7	28
Documentation required	60	8	32
Interest rates charged	45	8	47
Satisfaction with the main financial institution			
	satisfied	dissatisfied	neutral
	%		
Overall quality of service	57	5	38
Convenience and accessibility	61	5	34
Service charges	29	16	55
Understanding of business needs	49	12	39

Firms were asked about satisfaction with specific progress stages during the loan process. About 8% of businesses indicated they were dissatisfied with

the amount of documentation required, interest rates charged and the overall quality of service. About 7% said they were dissatisfied with the time it took to process their application.

The survey also asked businesses about their level of satisfaction with services offered by their main financial institution. Nearly six out of 10 (57%) said they were satisfied with the overall quality of service, while only 5% said they were dissatisfied. The remainder had a neutral or no opinion.

The lowest level of satisfaction was with the level of service charges. About 16% of small- and medium-sized enterprises said they were dissatisfied and only 29% said they were satisfied.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2941.

For more information, datasets, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Klaus Kostenbauer (613-951-2904; toll-free 1-877-679-2746), Small Business and Special Surveys Division. Consult Industry Canada's Web page for additional information on small- and medium sized enterprise related research topics and datasets. ■

Employment Insurance

December 2005 (preliminary)

In December, the estimated number of Canadians receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits fell 0.6% from November to 492,570 (seasonally adjusted), and was down 5.3% from December 2004. This was the fourth consecutive monthly decline, continuing a downward trend that began in late 2003.

Most provinces showed declines in December, with especially significant drops in New Brunswick (-3.5%), British Columbia (-2.2%) and Ontario (-1.8%).

Regular benefit payments in December totalled \$688.8 million, while the number of people making initial and renewal claims was 236,500.

Note: Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures.

Employment Insurance statistics

	Dec. 2005	Nov. 2005	Dec. 2004	Nov. to Dec. 2005	Dec. to Dec. 2005
seasonally adjusted					
					% change
Regular beneficiaries	492,570 ^p	495,700 ^f	520,400		-0.6
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	688.8 ^p	685.9 ^f	712.1		0.4
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	236.5 ^p	226.3 ^f	247.1	4.5	-4.3
unadjusted					
All beneficiaries ('000) ¹	812.7 ^p	734.3 ^p	846.6		
Regular beneficiaries ('000)	513.8 ^p	440.8 ^p	548.6		
Initial and renewal claims received ('000)	307.0	278.4	327.0		
Payments (\$ millions)	1,153.6	1,050.1	1,200.9		
year-to-date (January to December)					
		2005	2004	2004 to 2005	
		%			
Claims received ('000)		2,832.4	2,849.3		-0.6
Payments (\$ millions)		14,692.5	14,970.3		-1.9

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1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits

from the 4th to the 10th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments series measures the total of all monies received by individuals for the entire month.

Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	December 2005 ^p	November to December 2005	December 2004 to December 2005
seasonally adjusted			
	%		
Canada	492,570	-0.6	-5.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	37,630	0.8	0.6
Prince Edward Island	7,610	-1.3	-4.2
Nova Scotia	28,010	-0.6	-6.5
New Brunswick	31,640	-3.5	-7.6
Quebec	173,440	0.4	-0.7
Ontario	127,710	-1.8	-2.2
Manitoba	11,370	-0.8	-6.3
Saskatchewan	9,770	2.7	-13.2
Alberta	19,310	1.0	-26.7
British Columbia	45,680	-2.2	-17.7
Yukon Territory	870	1.2	-2.2
Northwest Territories	790	0.0	8.2
Nunavut	410	2.5	2.5

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Note: The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data on Employment Insurance for January will be released on March 28.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services at 613-951-4090 or, call toll free 1-866-873-8788; (*labour@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Railway carloadings

December and annual 2005

Canadian railways carried their heaviest freight load so far this decade in 2005, thanks to the pressing demand for primary goods from China and other Asian nations.

Railways reported total loadings of more than 287.2 million metric tonnes of goods in 2005, up 3.7% or 10.4 million tonnes over 2004.

Canada's entire transportation industry has worked hard in 2005. New infrastructures, as well as collaborative agreements to optimise movements

of cargo on an already busy transportation network, appears to have been beneficial.

The results of these collective efforts became more obvious in the second part of the year, when loadings surpassed those of the first half thanks to the strongest fourth quarter since 1999.

The non-intermodal portion of loadings totalled 259.4 million tonnes, up from 250.2 million tonnes in 2004. Iron ore loadings alone increased by 4.4 million metric tonnes, while loadings of lumber were up by 2.9 million metric tonnes. Coal loading increased by 1.7 million tonnes.

Intermodal loadings, which consist of containers and trailers on flat cars, rose 4.5% to 27.8 million metric tonnes. Containerized cargo consists mostly of finished manufactured goods ready for retail purchase, most of which come from Asian countries and the United States.

Traffic received from the United States, either destined for Canada or passing through Canada back into the United States, totalled 27.3 million tonnes last year, up from 26.6 million tonnes in 2004.

On a monthly basis, total loadings in December fell 5.5% from November to 23.4 million metric tonnes.

The non-intermodal portion reached 21.2 million metric tonnes in December and required 267,000 cars. This represented a 5.1% drop from November but a 0.7% increase from December 2004.

The intermodal portion fell 9.7% to 2.2 million tonnes. Traffic received from the United States destined for Canada or passing through Canada back into the United States fell 6.7% to 2.3 million metric tonnes in December.

Note: Data on railway carloadings have undergone some revisions, as numerous carriers have provided updates and corrections. Revisions affect the entire railway carloadings CANSIM series.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The December 2005 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 82, no. 12 (52-001-XIE, \$9 / \$83) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,

contact the Dissemination Unit (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; TransportationStatistics@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

October 2005

The October 2005 monthly report, Vol. 2 (TP141, free) is available on Transport Canada's Web site (<http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/Report/tp141e/tp141.htm>).

Note: The TP 141 monthly report is issued in two volumes. Volume 1 presents statistics for the major Canadian airports (i.e., those with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers or flight service stations). Volume 2 presents statistics for the smaller airports (i.e., those without air traffic control towers). Both volumes are available free upon release at Transport Canada's website.

For more information about this Web site, contact Michel Villeneuve (613-990-3825; villennm@tc.gc.ca), Transport Canada.

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. ■

Asphalt roofing

January 2006

Data on asphalt roofing are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2123.

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

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