

# The Daily

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## Statistics Canada

**Wednesday, December 17, 2008**  
 Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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### Releases

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<b>Wholesale trade, October 2008</b>	2
Wholesale sales fell 1.8% to \$45.3 billion in current dollars in October, following a 1.1% increase in September. Declines in the recycled metals industry and the automotive sector were the main contributors.	
<b>Study: Overweight among men and household income, 2004</b>	6
The higher their income, the more likely Canadian men are to be overweight. To some extent, the higher prevalence of overweight among more affluent men is related to their greater likelihood of having meals away from home.	
Travel between Canada and other countries, October 2008	7
Stocks of frozen poultry meat, December 1, 2008	9
Primary iron and steel, October 2008	9
Steel pipe and tubing, October 2008	9

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### New products

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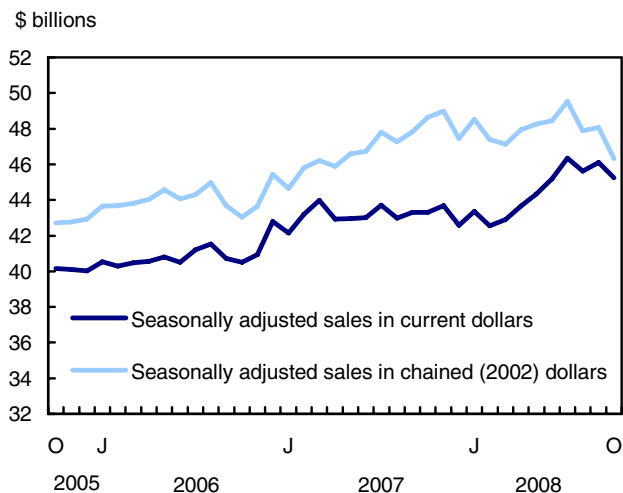
## Releases

### Wholesale trade

October 2008

Wholesale sales fell 1.8% to \$45.3 billion in current dollars in October, following a 1.1% increase in September. Declines in the recycled metals industry and the automotive sector were the main contributors.

#### Wholesale sales fall for second time in three months



In terms of the volume of sales, which take price fluctuations into account, wholesale sales were down 3.6%.

This was due in part to the impact of the depreciation of the Canadian dollar on import prices. In addition, export demand for Canadian goods, a significant part of which flows through wholesale markets, was down. Canadian wholesalers sell to both the domestic and international markets, and are active importers and exporters.

In October, four out of seven sectors reported lower sales. The largest decline (-8.0%) occurred in the "other products" sector, which registered its biggest monthly drop since March 2001. A significant fall in both demand and prices for recyclable metals was the main contributor to the decline in this sector.

After a partial recovery in September, sales of automotive products fell 5.4% in October to \$6.9 billion. Almost all of the decrease was the result of a decline in the sales of motor vehicles, which fell 6.9%, erasing all of the gains made in September. Sales of motor vehicle

#### Note to readers

Wholesale sales in real terms are calculated by deflating current dollar values using import and industry product price indexes. As many of the goods sold by wholesalers are imported, fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar can have an important influence on the prices of goods bought and sold by wholesalers. The wholesale sales series in chained (2002) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index with 2002 as the reference year.

#### Definitions

The "other products" sector is comprised of recycled metal, recycled paper and paperboard, stationery and office supplies, other paper and disposable plastic products wholesalers, agricultural feed and seed wholesalers, agricultural chemical and other farm suppliers, chemical (except agricultural) and allied products, log and wood chip wholesalers, mineral, ore and precious metal wholesalers, second-hand goods wholesalers (except machinery and automotive), and all other wholesalers.

parts and accessories were down 0.5%, after registering a large increase in September. The automotive sector continued to be the only sector with lower sales on a year-over-year basis.

Among all sectors, the food, beverages and tobacco sector showed the largest monthly increase, advancing 1.8%. Sales in the machinery and electronic equipment sector rose 0.4% in October, its eighth consecutive monthly increase.

#### Most provinces show a decline

Overall, seven provinces registered lower sales in October.

After posting increases in September, wholesalers in Ontario and Quebec reported lower sales in October. Sales were down 2.6% in Ontario and 1.7% in Quebec. Lower sales in the "other products" and automotive sectors were the major factors behind the decreases in both provinces in October.

Of the four western provinces, three reported lower sales in October. Manitoba recorded the biggest drop (-4.1%), its third decline in as many months, while sales in British Columbia were down 1.9%. Declines in both provinces were mainly due to the "other products" sector. The only increase occurred in Alberta, where sales rose 1.5% on the strength of the building materials and machinery and electronic equipment sectors.

Within the Atlantic provinces, New Brunswick posted its first decline (-4.5%) in October after six consecutive months of growth.

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### Inventories continue to climb

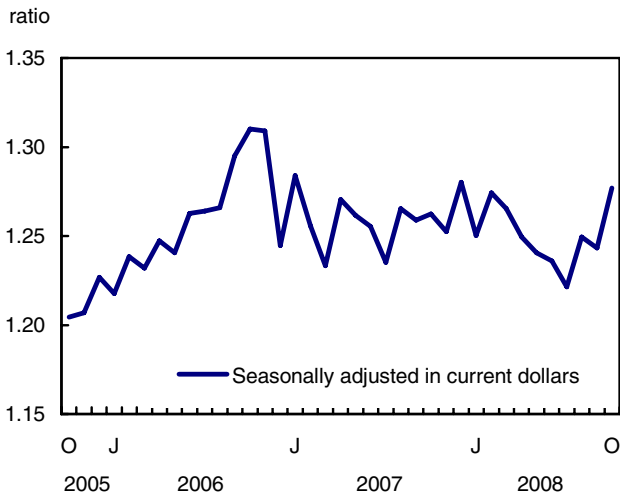
In October, wholesale inventories rose for an eighth consecutive month, up 0.8%.

Overall, 11 of the 15 wholesale trade groups reported higher inventory levels. Some of the more notable changes occurred in the household and personal products (+4.5%), computer and other electronic equipment (+2.8%) and metal products (+2.4%) trade groups.

The slowdown in sales led to an increase in the inventory-to-sales ratio from 1.24 in September to 1.28 in October. This was the highest level since December 2007. The inventory-to-sales ratio is a measure of the time, in months, that would be required to exhaust inventories if sales were to remain at their current level.

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### Inventory-to-sales ratio up to highest level since December 2007



Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 to 081-0010.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.**

The October 2008 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade estimates for November will be released on January 21, 2009.

To obtain data, or more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [wholesaleinfo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:wholesaleinfo@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Steve Chadder (613-951-0303; [steve.chadder@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:steve.chadder@statcan.gc.ca)), Distributive Trades Division.

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**Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio**

	October 2007	July 2008 <sup>r</sup>	August 2008 <sup>r</sup>	September 2008 <sup>r</sup>	October 2008 <sup>p</sup>	Septem- ber to October 2008	October 2007 to October 2008	September 2008 <sup>r</sup>	October 2008 <sup>p</sup>
	Wholesale inventories					Inventory-to-sales ratio			
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
<b>Inventories</b>	<b>54,652</b>	<b>56,601</b>	<b>56,985</b>	<b>57,312</b>	<b>57,789</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>1.28</b>
Farm products	199	182	191	184	192	4.1	-3.6	0.39	0.42
Food products	4,260	4,492	4,508	4,537	4,592	1.2	7.8	0.63	0.63
Alcohol and tobacco	317	359	370	366	374	2.3	18.2	0.52	0.54
Apparel	1,806	1,840	1,896	1,908	1,923	0.8	6.5	2.31	2.30
Household and personal products	4,009	4,256	4,138	4,031	4,213	4.5	5.1	1.46	1.58
Pharmaceuticals	3,561	3,895	3,873	3,882	3,818	-1.6	7.2	1.19	1.18
Motor vehicles	4,534	4,560	4,539	4,559	4,568	0.2	0.7	0.81	0.87
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,323	3,307	3,271	3,285	3,281	-0.1	-1.3	1.95	1.96
Building supplies	5,990	6,047	6,022	6,100	6,118	0.3	2.1	1.54	1.55
Metal products	2,795	3,010	3,079	3,144	3,221	2.4	15.2	1.81	1.84
Lumber and millwork	1,154	1,185	1,215	1,222	1,211	-0.8	5.0	1.27	1.25
Machinery and equipment	11,744	11,633	11,691	11,880	11,970	0.8	1.9	2.22	2.23
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,690	1,780	1,902	1,831	1,882	2.8	11.4	0.63	0.65
Office and professional equipment	2,682	2,806	2,815	2,833	2,824	-0.3	5.3	1.33	1.33
Other products	6,588	7,248	7,475	7,549	7,603	0.7	15.4	1.15	1.26

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Note:** Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

**Wholesale merchants' sales**

	October 2007	July 2008 <sup>r</sup>	August 2008 <sup>r</sup>	September 2008 <sup>r</sup>	October 2008 <sup>p</sup>	September to October 2008	October 2007 to October 2008
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Total, wholesale sales</b>	<b>43,295</b>	<b>46,342</b>	<b>45,612</b>	<b>46,100</b>	<b>45,255</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>Farm products</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Food, beverages and tobacco products</b>	<b>7,594</b>	<b>7,558</b>	<b>7,781</b>	<b>7,865</b>	<b>8,010</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Food products	6,924	6,867	7,091	7,162	7,313	2.1	5.6
Alcohol and tobacco	670	691	689	704	697	-1.0	4.0
<b>Personal and household goods</b>	<b>6,518</b>	<b>6,864</b>	<b>6,826</b>	<b>6,836</b>	<b>6,720</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Apparel	772	812	824	826	834	1.0	8.1
Household and personal products	2,756	2,824	2,738	2,756	2,661	-3.5	-3.4
Pharmaceuticals	2,990	3,229	3,263	3,253	3,224	-0.9	7.8
<b>Automotive products</b>	<b>7,633</b>	<b>7,925</b>	<b>6,965</b>	<b>7,321</b>	<b>6,923</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>-9.3</b>
Motor vehicles	6,089	6,286	5,418	5,635	5,247	-6.9	-13.8
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,544	1,639	1,547	1,686	1,677	-0.5	8.6
<b>Building materials</b>	<b>6,340</b>	<b>6,777</b>	<b>6,617</b>	<b>6,656</b>	<b>6,680</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Building supplies	3,801	3,952	3,886	3,962	3,957	-0.1	4.1
Metal products	1,431	1,842	1,755	1,734	1,753	1.1	22.5
Lumber and millwork	1,108	982	976	960	970	1.1	-12.4
<b>Machinery and electronic equipment</b>	<b>9,342</b>	<b>10,158</b>	<b>10,233</b>	<b>10,380</b>	<b>10,421</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>11.6</b>
Machinery and equipment	4,668	5,256	5,280	5,349	5,375	0.5	15.1
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,634	2,823	2,856	2,906	2,917	0.3	10.7
Office and professional equipment	2,039	2,079	2,097	2,124	2,130	0.3	4.5
<b>Other products</b>	<b>5,426</b>	<b>6,592</b>	<b>6,715</b>	<b>6,572</b>	<b>6,047</b>	<b>-8.0</b>	<b>11.4</b>
<b>Total, excluding automobiles</b>	<b>35,661</b>	<b>38,417</b>	<b>38,647</b>	<b>38,780</b>	<b>38,331</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Sales, province and territory</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	237	265	282	282	284	0.6	19.5
Prince Edward Island	39	39	40	41	44	6.2	12.1
Nova Scotia	573	584	605	618	609	-1.5	6.2
New Brunswick	427	450	465	486	464	-4.5	8.7
Quebec	7,992	8,373	8,692	8,786	8,636	-1.7	8.1
Ontario	21,835	23,471	21,703	22,299	21,718	-2.6	-0.5
Manitoba	1,116	1,129	1,108	1,106	1,060	-4.1	-5.0
Saskatchewan	1,273	1,893	1,954	1,860	1,823	-2.0	43.2
Alberta	5,252	5,703	6,085	5,987	6,077	1.5	15.7
British Columbia	4,467	4,348	4,605	4,556	4,469	-1.9	0.1
Yukon	13	12	12	13	12	-7.1	-2.6
Northwest Territories	58	61	56	59	54	-8.7	-7.1
Nunavut	12	13	6	6	4	-32.4	-64.0

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Note:** Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.



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## Study: Overweight among men and household income

2004

The higher their income, the more likely Canadian men are to be overweight. To some extent, the higher prevalence of overweight among more affluent men is related to their greater likelihood of having meals away from home.

While research has shown that people in higher income groups generally have better health than those in lower income groups, this is less the case when it comes to overweight among men.

New findings suggest that differences in food consumption patterns may be associated with overweight among more affluent men.

Since the early 1980s, the largest increase in the prevalence of obesity has been among men in higher income groups. In 2004, the odds of affluent men being overweight were about twice the odds of men in the lowest income group.

Men in higher household income groups were significantly more likely than those in lower income groups to report eating meals away from home.

Eating out has gained attention as a potential contributor to the rising prevalence of obesity. Research has shown that people who often eat out tend to consume more calories than do those who usually eat meals prepared at home. The greater frequency of eating out among men with a higher income may be associated with their relatively high odds of being overweight.

These patterns did not hold for women. Although women from higher income households were more likely than those from lower income households to eat out, they were no more or less likely to be overweight.

### Note to readers

Data for this study came from adult respondents to the 2004 Canadian Community Health Survey.

### Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5049.

The article "Why does the social gradient in health not apply to overweight?," which is part of today's online release of *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 4 (82-003-XWE, free), is now available. For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jillian Oderkirk (613-951-6591; [jillian.oderkirk@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:jillian.oderkirk@statcan.gc.ca)), Health Information and Research Division.

This online issue of *Health Reports* also includes the article "The concentration-coverage curve: A tool for ecological studies." This article presents a graphical tool that can be used in ecological studies to help determine if a population of interest is concentrated in a subset of units of analysis. For more information on this article, contact Philippe Finès (613-951-3896; [philippe.fines@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:philippe.fines@statcan.gc.ca)), Health Information and Research Division.

The complete version of the latest issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 19, no. 4 (82-003-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A printed version (82-003-XPE, \$24/\$68) is also available. See *How to order products*.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; [christine.wright@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:christine.wright@statcan.gc.ca)), Health Information and Research Division. ■

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## Travel between Canada and other countries October 2008

An increase in overnight travel from the United States to Canada offset a decline in overnight travel from overseas countries in October.

United States residents made 1.0 million overnight trips to Canada in October, up 0.7% from September and the highest level since May. The increase was the result of gains in overnight travel by car and plane.

However, overnight travel from overseas countries fell 2.0% from September to 376,000 trips in October, the lowest level in a year.

In October, 9 of the top 12 overseas markets posted declines in travel to Canada. Travel from the United Kingdom, Canada's most important overseas market, fell 4.1%. South Korea posted the largest decline (-10.0%) among the top 12 overseas markets.

Overnight travel to Canada as a whole remained stable at 1.4 million trips.

However, total travel from abroad rose 1.0% as same-day car travel from the United States increased 2.9% to 769,000 trips, the highest level since January.

In the other direction, overnight travel by Canadian residents abroad edged down 0.1% to 2.2 million trips, the lowest level since October 2007.

Canadians made 1.5 million overnight trips to the United States in October, down 0.8% from September.

This decrease was mostly the result of a decline in overnight car travel to the United States.

Overnight travel to overseas countries climbed 1.4% to 679,000 trips in October, the second highest level ever.

Canadians also made 1.9 million same-day car trips to the United States, down 6.7% from September and the lowest since February 2007.

Overall, Canadian trips abroad fell 3.2% in October to 4.2 million.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.**

The October 2008 issue of *International Travel: Advance Information*, Vol. 24, no. 10 (66-001-PWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; [tourism@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:tourism@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Eric Desjardins (613-951-1781; [eric.desjardins@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:eric.desjardins@statcan.gc.ca)), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

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**Travel between Canada and other countries**

	October 2007 <sup>r</sup>	April 2008 <sup>r</sup>	September 2008 <sup>r</sup>	October 2008 <sup>p</sup>	September to October 2008
Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands				% change <sup>1</sup>
<b>Canadian trips abroad<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>4,505</b>	<b>4,399</b>	<b>4,303</b>	<b>4,165</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
To the United States	3,861	3,731	3,633	3,485	-4.1
To other countries	644	668	670	679	1.4
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,227	2,082	2,027	1,892	-6.7
Total trips, one or more nights	2,220	2,260	2,225	2,222	-0.1
United States <sup>3</sup>	1,576	1,593	1,554	1,543	-0.8
Car	959	955	944	929	-1.6
Plane	502	542	508	512	0.9
Other modes of transportation	115	95	103	102	-1.0
Other countries <sup>4</sup>	644	668	670	679	1.4
<b>Travel to Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,495</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>2,251</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>1.0</b>
From the United States	2,110	1,904	1,856	1,885	1.6
From other countries	384	410	395	388	-1.9
Same-day car trips from the United States	872	751	748	769	2.9
Total trips, one or more nights	1,516	1,467	1,406	1,406	0.0
United States <sup>3</sup>	1,143	1,068	1,022	1,030	0.7
Car	686	629	605	622	2.8
Plane	315	311	281	290	3.4
Other modes of transportation	141	128	137	117	-14.0
Other countries <sup>4</sup>	374	399	384	376	-2.0
<b>Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin<sup>5</sup></b>					
United Kingdom	80	77	69	67	-4.1
France	31	36	37	36	-3.6
Germany	26	28	28	29	2.0
Japan	26	23	23	23	-2.6
Mexico	21	24	23	22	-0.2
Australia	20	21	22	22	-0.6
South Korea	17	17	16	14	-10.0
China	12	14	13	12	-5.1
Hong Kong	9	10	12	12	0.3
Netherlands	10	12	10	10	0.5
India	8	9	10	9	-8.7
Italy	8	9	9	9	-1.7

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

3. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

4. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

5. Includes same-day and overnight trips.



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## Stocks of frozen poultry meat

December 1, 2008 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on December 1 totalled 79 500 metric tonnes, up 14.3% from a year earlier.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Venturino (613-951-9278; [sandra.venturino@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:sandra.venturino@statcan.gc.ca)) or Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; [bernadette.alain@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:bernadette.alain@statcan.gc.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Primary iron and steel

October 2008

Data on primary iron and steel are now available for October.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.**

The October 2008 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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

## Steel pipe and tubing

October 2008

Data on the production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for October.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.**

The October 2008 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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

## New products

**International Travel: Advance Information,**  
October 2008, Vol. 24, no. 10  
**Catalogue number 66-001-PWE**  
(free).

**Health Reports, Vol. 19, no. 4**  
**Catalogue number 82-003-XWE**  
(free).

**Health Reports, Vol. 19, no. 4**  
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### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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