# The Daily

# Statistics Canada

Thursday, December 18, 2008

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

#### Releases

#### Canada's international transactions in securities, October 2008

3

Canadian investors repatriated substantial funds as they sold a record amount of foreign securities in October in the face of rapidly deteriorating global financial conditions. In contrast, foreign investors' interest in Canadian securities returned, following three consecutive months of divestment.

#### Retail trade, October 2008

6

Price reductions were a key factor in the 0.9% drop in retail sales in October. Sales declined in six of the eight sectors. If price changes are factored in, retail sales in terms of volume were up 0.1%.

(continued on page 2)

#### **Perspectives on Labour and Income**

Winter 2008 print edition

The Winter 2008 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, comprises five articles previously released online.

"Trends in employment and wages, 2002 to 2007" delves into the downward trend of manufacturing jobs and the upward trend in favour of higher-paying industries and occupations.

"Skilled trades employment" considers employment trends in selected trades over the past 20 years, along with the socioeconomic traits of the workers and the characteristics of their jobs.

"Interprovincial mobility and earnings" looks at the effects of interprovincial migration on the performance and efficiency of labour markets and the better earnings growth for migrants.

"Bridge employment" examines retirement as a process rather than a discrete event. For many workers, bridge employment appears to be a choice rather than a necessity.

"Rural commuting" explores patterns of rural commuting, which are more complex than commonly believed.

This edition also features an update on gambling, a cumulative index dating back to 1989, and highlights of recent reports and studies of interest from Statistics Canada and other organizations.

The Winter 2008 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 20, no. 4 (75-001-XPE, \$20/\$63), is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.gc.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.





## The Daily, December 18, 2008

New products	10
National Graduates Survey, 2007	9
Construction Union Wage Rate Index, November 2008	9
Large urban transit, October 2008	9
Leading indicators, November 2008	8

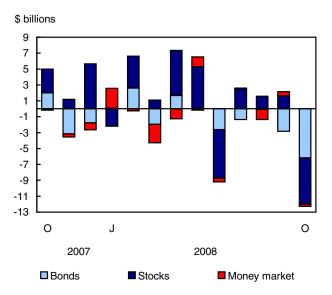
#### Releases

# Canada's international transactions in securities

October 2008

Canadian investors repatriated substantial funds from international markets, as they sold \$12.3 billion of foreign securities in October—the largest divestment on record. This activity took place against a backdrop of rapidly deteriorating global financial conditions on credit and equity markets. US equity prices fell a further 17% in October, on the heels of a 9% decline in September. In addition, domestic demand for foreign securities was likely adversely affected by the Canadian dollar posting its largest monthly depreciation against the US dollar in more than half a century.

#### Canadian portfolio investment in foreign securities<sup>1</sup>



1. Reverse of balance of payments signs.

Canadian divestment was widespread in October, covering all types of foreign portfolio instruments. Part of the proceeds were likely placed in Canadian liquid short-term instruments, with Treasury bill issues up strongly in the month.

In contrast, foreign investors' demand for Canadian securities rebounded, following three consecutive months of divestment. Foreign portfolio investment reached \$2.8 billion and was dominated by the acquisition of Government of Canada bonds on secondary markets.

#### Note to readers

All values in this release are net transactions unless otherwise stated. The data series on international security transactions cover portfolio transactions in stocks, bonds and money market instruments for both Canadian and foreign issues.

**Stocks** include common and preferred equities, as well as warrants.

**Debt securities** include bonds and money market instruments.

**Bonds** have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

**Money market instruments** have an original term to maturity of one year or less. **Government of Canada paper** includes treasury bills and US-dollar Canada bills.

#### Canadian investors dump US bonds

Canadian divestment of foreign bonds continued with the sale of \$6.2 billion in October—the largest disposal of such securities to date. This activity was focused on US government bonds for a second consecutive month and was largely accounted for by bonds with a term to maturity of 5 to 10 years.

The balance of the divestment was in non-US bonds and amounted to \$1.7 billion, mainly reflecting retirements of maple bonds. This component of the Canadian credit market has largely stagnated since the second half of 2007, after having grown rapidly in the previous 18 months.

#### Holdings of foreign paper reduced

Canadians reduced their holdings of foreign money market instruments by a modest \$299 million in October. This included a sizeable reduction in foreign non-financial corporations' paper, as divestment shifted from financial to non-financial corporate paper in October. In addition, Canadian investment in US government Treasury bills slowed to \$501 million.

Two factors likely dampened Canadian investors' interest in foreign short-term paper. By month end, Canadian short-term interest rates exceeded those in the United States by 1.3%, the largest gap since January 2004. At the same time, the Canadian dollar lost nearly 11 cents against the US dollar over the month.

## Canadian sales of foreign equities in line with falling global stock markets

Canadians investors sold \$5.8 billion of foreign stocks in October. These sales completely offset the

amounts acquired over the previous quarter. Over 60% of this activity involved investments in American corporations, which made this the largest sale of US shares by Canadian investors recorded on a monthly basis.

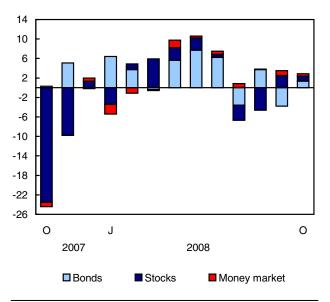
Selling touched nearly all sectors of the US economy, as stock prices fell nearly 17% in the US—the largest monthly decline since October 1987. As a result, Canadian holdings of foreign equities were further reduced by significant unrealized capital losses in the month.

# Foreign investment resumes for Canadian bonds and slows for paper and equities

Non-residents added \$1.3 billion of Canadian bonds to their holdings in October, almost all Canadian dollar-denominated bonds. This activity reflected a \$2.9 billion acquisition of federal government bonds on secondary markets, mainly bonds with a term to maturity of 5 to 10 years. This was partly offset by retirements of bonds issued by provincial governments and private corporations. Overall, on domestic and international markets, retirements of Canadian corporate bonds (excluding the securitization sector) exceeded new issues in October, contrasting with the previous nine months of robust borrowing activity.

#### Foreign portfolio investment in Canadian securities

\$ billions



Foreign acquisitions in Canadian money market instruments amounted to \$513 million in October, half the inflows recorded for September. A sizeable amount of the month's investment was in paper issued by provincial governments, and, in contrast to bonds, comprised only instruments denominated in foreign currencies, mainly US dollars.

Foreign investment of \$988 million in Canadian equities largely reflected a transfer of assets from direct to portfolio investors. Secondary market transactions amounted to a modest \$131 million foreign divestment in Canadian shares, as Canadian stock prices fell 17% in October and net new issues dried up.

Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0018 to 376-0029, 376-0042, 376-0058 and 376-0063.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1535.

The October 2008 issue of *Canada's International Transactions in Securities* (67-002-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Data on Canada's international transactions in securities for November will be released on January 19, 2009.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; *infobalance@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yiling Zhang (613-951-2057), Balance of Payments Division.

#### Canada's international transactions in securities

	July	August	September	October	January	January
	2008	2008	2008	2008	to	to
					October	October
					2007	2008
		Cumulative trans	Cumulative transactions			
			\$ millions			
Foreign investment in Canadian securities	-5,890	-830	-268	2,847	-28,666	33,668
Bonds (net)	-3,574	3,711	-3,787	1,346	6,639	26,956
Outstanding	822	5	-2,452	3,314	6,072	23,025
New issues	1,028	3,688	4,420	2,311	38,800	44,007
Retirements	-5,813	-949	-5,537	-4,748	-39,268	-41,616
Change in interest payable <sup>1</sup>	390	966	-218	468	1,035	1,541
Money market paper (net)	845	111	1,028	513	-1,825	1,732
Government of Canada	1,667	349	702	-458	-2,672	1,313
Other	-823	-238	326	971	847	419
Stocks (net)	-3,161	-4,652	2,490	988	-33,480	4,980
Outstanding	-2,903	-4,708	2,484	-131	4,595	86
Other transactions	-258	56	6	1,119	-38,075	4,894
Canadian investment in foreign securities	-1,244	-217	682	12,306	-47,833	4,926
Bonds (net)	1,349	80	2,832	6,171	-33,833	10,889
Stocks (net)	-2,491	-1,588	-1,599	5,836	-24,100	-7,548
Money market paper (net)	-102	1,291	-552	299	10,100	1,584

Interest accrued less interest paid.

A minus sign indicates an outflow of money from Canada, that is, a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada or an increase in Canadian investment abroad. 1. Int Note:

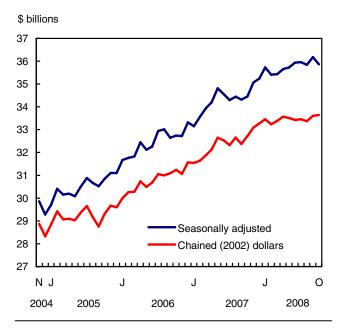
#### Retail trade

October 2008

Retail sales totalled \$35.9 billion in October. Price reductions were a key factor in the 0.9% drop from September. Overall, six of the eight retail sales sectors posted declines.

If price changes are factored in, retail sales in terms of volume were up 0.1%. The difference between the value and volume of sales was attributable to prices decreases for gas, passenger vehicles, women's clothing and furniture, based on the Consumer Price Index.

#### Retail sales decrease in October



The sharpest decline in October was a 2.1% drop in sales by furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores, which posted its third decline in a row. The key contributor was furniture stores, whose 4.5% drop in sales was mainly influenced by a decrease in the price of furniture.

Sales in the automotive sector recorded a 1.5% decline in October, mainly attributable to a 4.0% drop in sales by gasoline stations, their strongest decline since August 2007. The decrease in sales by new car dealers only partly offset the sales gains posted in September. Sales increased for a third consecutive month for used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers (including tire dealers).

#### Note to readers

Total retail sales by volume are measured by deflating values in current dollars of the various trade groups using consumer price indexes. This retail sales in chained dollars series (2002) is a chain Fisher volume index with 2002 as the reference year.

Sales by clothing and accessories, and general merchandise stores also fell by at least 1.0% in October. Despite these declines, sales in the general merchandise stores sector continued to follow an upward trend, while sales in clothing and accessories stores have remained relatively stable throughout 2008.

Sales rose 0.6% in the pharmacies and personal care stores sector in October, while they remained essentially unchanged in the food and beverage stores sector (+0.1%).

#### The Prairie provinces buck the trend

Retail sales fell in six provinces in October. The sharpest decline was in Nova Scotia (-2.9%), offsetting the rise posted in September.

Sales decreased by 2.0% in Quebec and British Columbia. The decline in Quebec offset most of the rise posted in September. In British Columbia, sales reached their lowest level since April 2007, after increasing in September.

Ontario retailers posted their sharpest drop in sales since February 2008, with a decline of 0.5% in October. Sales in Ontario had remained relatively stable since the spring of 2008.

Sales in the three Prairie provinces rose in October. Sales advanced 1.5% in Saskatchewan, heavily influenced by a rise in new motor vehicle sales. Sales in Alberta increased for a third consecutive month, after being relatively stable since the second half of 2007.

It is now possible to consult the tables of unadjusted data by industry and by province and territory from the *By subject* module of our website.

For information on related indicators, consult the *Latest statistics* page of our website.

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

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

The October 2008 issue of the publication *Retail Trade* (63-005-XWE, free) will be available shortly.

Data on retail trade for November will be released on January 22, 2009.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claude Bilodeau (613-951-1816), Distributive Trades Division.

#### Retail sales

	October	July	August	September	October	September	October
	2007	2008 <sup>r</sup>	2008 <sup>r</sup>	2008 <sup>r</sup>	2008 <sup>p</sup>	to	2007
						October	to
						2008	October
				Pagagally, adjustes	J		2008
<u>_</u>			`	Seasonally adjusted	J		
	\$ millions				ge		
Automotive	11,770	12,420	12,231	12,436	12,247	-1.5	4.1
New car dealers	6,380	6,020	5,951	6,120	6,085	-0.6	-4.6
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts							
dealers	1,551	1,581	1,618	1,646	1,678	1.9	8.2
Gasoline stations	3,838	4,820	4,662	4,670	4,484	-4.0	16.8
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics							
stores	2,499	2,688	2,673	2,659	2,604	-2.1	4.2
Furniture stores	846	886	877	876	837	-4.5	-1.1
Home furnishings stores	509	531	525	527	506	-4.0	-0.4
Computer and software stores	117	125	120	116	120	3.6	2.5
Home electronics and appliance stores	1,028	1,146	1,151	1,140	1,141	0.1	11.0
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	2,241	2,304	2,303	2,285	2,281	-0.2	1.8
Home centres and hardware stores	1,803	1,882	1,884	1,858	1,854	-0.2	2.8
Specialized building materials and garden stores	438	422	419	426	427	0.1	-2.5
Food and beverage stores	7,718	7,905	7,979	8,062	8,070	0.1	4.6
Supermarkets	5,543	5,682	5,742	5,819	5,873	0.9	6.0
Convenience and specialty food stores	824	835	841	837	831	-0.7	0.9
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,351	1,389	1,396	1,405	1,365	-2.8	1.1
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,396	2,456	2,459	2,456	2,471	0.6	3.1
Clothing and accessories stores	1,993	2,032	2,015	2,039	2,008	-1.5	0.7
Clothing stores	1,526	1,559	1,544	1,559	1,530	-1.9	0.2
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	467	472	472	480	478	-0.3	2.3
General merchandise stores	4,012	4,317	4,349	4,416	4,370	-1.0	8.9
Miscellaneous retailers	1,826	1,836	1,840	1,825	1,817	-0.4	-0.5
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	885	907	909	900	887	-1.5	0.2
Miscellaneous store retailers	940	930	931	925	930	0.6	-1.1
Total retail sales	34,456	35,959	35,848	36,178	35,868	-0.9	4.1
Total excluding new car dealers, used and	•	•	·	•	•		
recreational motor vehicle and parts							
dealers	26,524	28,358	28,279	28,411	28,105	-1.1	6.0
Provinces and territories	•	•	·	•	•		
Newfoundland and Labrador	556	603	602	612	614	0.3	10.4
Prince Edward Island	138	143	144	146	145	-0.7	4.9
Nova Scotia	987	1,029	1,026	1,056	1,026	-2.9	3.9
New Brunswick	789	840	830	846	837	-1.1	6.0
Quebec	7,559	8,049	7,989	8,180	8,018	-2.0	6.1
Ontario	12,193	12,817	12,821	12,795	12,725	-0.5	4.4
Manitoba	1,187	1,249	1,251	1,261	1,270	0.7	7.0
Saskatchewan	1,112	1,217	1,214	1,216	1,234	1.5	10.9
Alberta	5,080	5,106	5,110	5,161	5,191	0.6	2.2
British Columbia	4,731	4,778	4,734	4,775	4,679	-2.0	-1.1
Yukon	43	45	44	45	45	-0.7	4.9
Northwest Territories	57	58	59	60	59	-1.1	3.2
Nunavut	23	26	25	25	26	4.2	12.5

revised

p preliminaryNote: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

7

#### Leading indicators

November 2008

The composite leading index fell by 0.7% in November, its third straight retreat and the largest since January 1991. The decline was dominated by a large drop in the stock market and in the housing index. The other eight components were about evenly balanced between increases and decreases.

Stock market prices continued to slump in November, the culmination of their worst three-month loss on record back to 1952. Metals suffered the largest declines as global demand tumbled.

The housing index turned down by 5.9%. This reflected both a sudden retreat in existing home sales in the autumn and a drop in housing starts in November. This was the largest decline for the housing index since a similar drop in 1995.

Consumer spending remained supportive of growth. Sales of both furniture and appliances and other durable goods continued to advance in October. However, preliminary data point to lower auto sales in November, at the same time as employment turned down.

The manufacturing indicators remained steady, despite the deepening slump in the US economy. New orders were buoyed by gains in aerospace. Firms were quick to cut production as sales slowed, preventing a

decrease in the ratio of shipments to inventories in the last two months. Firms also trimmed the workweek in factories, and laid off workers in November.

The money supply posted the largest increase of any component. This is the most obvious difference between the current slowdown and previous episodes in 2001, 1990, and 1981, when the money supply stalled or contracted. The leading indicator for the United States also showed large gains in the components related to monetary policy. This reflects the substantial stimulus coming from central banks in North America, along with most major nations around the world, in response to the squeeze in credit availability.

#### Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

## Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

This release will be reprinted in the January 2009 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 22, no. 1 (11-010-XWB, free). For more information on the economy, consult the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

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

#### Leading indicators

	June 2008	July 2008	August 2008	September 2008	October 2008	November 2008	Last month
							of data
							available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	229.1	229.5	230.0	229.4	228.3	226.8	-0.7
Housing index (1992=100) <sup>1</sup>	141.1	137.4	135.1	134.7	131.0	123.3	-5.9
Business and personal services employment							
(thousands)	2,933	2,937	2,950	2,954	2,955	2,952	-0.1
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	14,010	14,012	14,097	13,660	12,669	11,630	-8.2
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>2</sup>	172,138	172,383	172,897	174,030	176,086	178,467	1.4
US Conference Board leading indicator							
$(1992=100)^3$	124.2	124.1	123.9	123.5	123.1	122.6	-0.4
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	37.9	37.8	37.8	37.7	37.6	37.5	-0.3
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	26,718	27,668	28,476	28,032	27,624	27,825	0.7
Shipments/inventories of finished goods <sup>4</sup>	1.76	1.77	1.76	1.77	1.77	1.77	$0.00^{5}$
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	2,853	2,872	2,881	2,911	2,939	2,957	0.6
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) <sup>4</sup>	9,743	9,747	9,711	9,694	9,638	9,651	0.1
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	230.2	229.7	230.1	227.0	224.7	222.5	-1.0

<sup>1.</sup> Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).

<sup>2.</sup> Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.

<sup>3.</sup> The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.

<sup>4.</sup> The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.

<sup>5.</sup> Difference from previous month.

#### Large urban transit

October 2008 (preliminary)

Combined ridership on 10 large urban transit systems in Canada was 4.4% higher in October than it was in October 2007.

Approximately 131.1 million passenger trips were taken on these transit systems in October. These systems account for about 80% of total urban transit in Canada.

The trips generated \$210.9 million in revenue in October (excluding subsidies), up 7.7% from October 2007.

#### 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 Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca*), Transportation Division.

## **Construction Union Wage Rate Index**

November 2008

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in November compared with the October level of 144.6 (1992=100).

The composite index increased 1.4% compared with the November 2007 index (142.6).

**Note:** Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and

rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 1992=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

#### Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

## Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The fourth quarter 2008 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in April 2009.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca) or Louise Chainé (613-951-3393), Prices Division.

## **National Graduates Survey**

2007

Data from the 2007 National Graduates Survey (Class of 2005) are now available.

## Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5012.

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.gc.ca), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

### **New products**

Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series: "Long-run Inequality and Annual Instability of Men's and Women's Earnings in Canada", no. 311 Catalogue number 11F0019MIE2008311 (free).

Canadian Economic Observer, December 2008, Vol. 21, no. 12
Catalogue number 11-010-XPB (\$25/\$243).

Wholesale Trade, October 2008, Vol. 71, no. 10 Catalogue number 63-008-XWE (free).

**Perspectives on Labour and Income**, Winter 2008, Vol. 20, no. 4

Catalogue number 75-001-XPE (\$20/\$63).

Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division Working Papers: "Understanding Internet Usage Among Broadband Households: A Study of Household Internet Use Survey Data", 2001 to 2005, no. 3
Catalogue number 88F0006XWE2008003

Demographic Documents: "Projecting the Future Availability of the Informal Support Network of the Elderly Population and Assessing Its Impact on Home Care Services", no. 9
Catalogue number 91F0015MIE2008009 (free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

#### How to order products

To order by phone, please refer to:

• The title • The catalogue number • The volume number • The issue number • Your credit card number.

From Canada and the United States, call:

From other countries, call:

To fax your order, call:

For address changes or account inquiries, call:

1-800-267-6677

1-613-951-2800

1-877-287-4369

1-877-591-6963

**To order by mail, write to:** Statistics Canada, Finance, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, K1A 0T6. Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 5% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet, write to: infostats@statcan.gc.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.gc.ca). From the Our products and services page, under Browse our Internet publications, choose For sale.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

(free).



#### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE

Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <a href="http://www.statcan.gc.ca">http://www.statcan.gc.ca</a>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to <a href="https://www.statcan.gc.ca">listproc@statcan.gc.ca</a>. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2008. All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.