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Releases

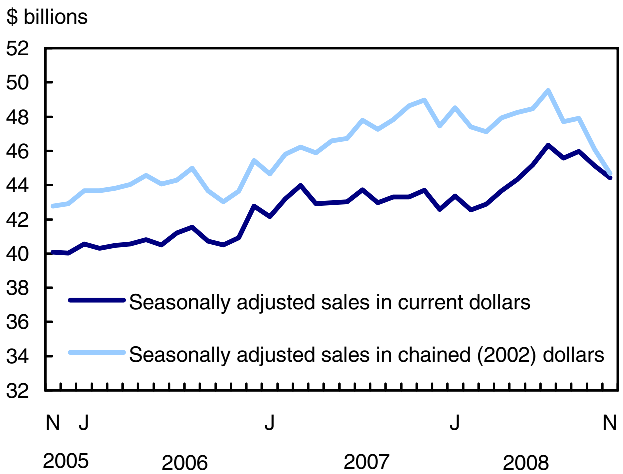
Releases

Wholesale trade

November 2008

Wholesale sales fell 1.6% from October to $44.4 billion in current dollars in November, as decreases in four out of seven sectors contributed to the third decline in four months. In terms of the volume of sales, wholesale sales were down 3.0%.

Wholesale sales fall for third time in four months



Canadian wholesalers sell to both the domestic and international markets, and are active importers and exporters. The decline in sales reflected both lower export demand for Canadian goods, a significant part of which flows through wholesale markets, and weaker sales in Canada.

At current prices, the machinery and electronic equipment sector declined 1.6% in November, reflecting a 1.9% sales drop in the machinery and equipment trade group, which accounts for half the sector.

Sales in the automotive products sector declined 2.2% in November, its second consecutive monthly decrease. Sales of motor vehicles fell 2.3% from October to $5.1 billion, and have fallen by just over one billion dollars since July 2008. Motor vehicle sales in November were at their lowest level since August 2003.

The largest decline (-6.0%) came in the "other products" sector, which fell to its lowest level since March 2008. A significant decrease in both agricultural chemical and other farm supplies, as well as lower demand and prices for recyclable metals, were the main contributors to the decline in this sector.

Sales in the building materials sector decreased 1.3%, as a result of declines in the metal products (-4.3%) and lumber and millwork (-3.5%) trade groups. This was the third time since January 2008 that this sector posted lower sales.

The farm products sector advanced 3.5% while sales rose 0.2% in both the food, beverages and tobacco sector and the personal and household goods sector.

Note to readers

Wholesale sales in volume terms are calculated by deflating current dollar values using import and industry product price indexes. Since 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.

Definition

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, log and wood chip wholesalers, mineral, ore and precious metal wholesalers, second-hand goods wholesalers (except machinery and automotive), and all other wholesalers.

Sales down in nine provinces

Overall, sales were down in nine provinces in November.

Wholesalers reported lower sales in both Ontario (-1.2%) and Quebec (-2.3%) during the month. Lower sales in the "other products" and the automotive sectors were the major contributors to the decreases in Ontario in November. In Quebec, the decline reflected weakness in a number of sectors including the "other products" sector and the building materials sector.

All of the western provinces reported lower sales in November, ranging from a 1.3% decline in British Columbia to a 2.1% drop in Saskatchewan (the third consecutive monthly decrease in this province).

Among the Atlantic provinces, only Prince Edward Island (+5.1%) posted higher sales in November.

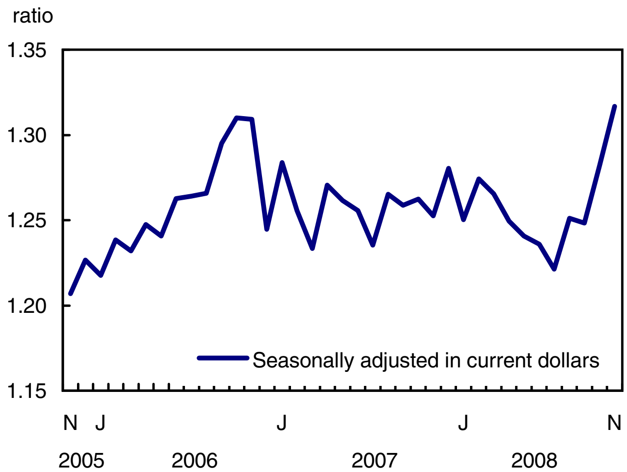
Inventories continue to climb

Wholesale inventories rose for a ninth consecutive month, increasing 1.0% in November.

Overall, 10 of the 15 wholesale trade groups reported higher inventory levels, including the pharmaceuticals (+4.2%), motor vehicle parts and accessories (+2.4%) and building supplies (+1.6%) trade groups.

The slowdown in sales and rise in inventories led to an increase in the inventory-to-sales ratio from 1.28 in October to 1.32 in November. This was the highest level since February 2001. 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.

Inventory-to-sales ratio up to highest level since February 2001



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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

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

Wholesale trade estimates for December will be released on February 19.

To obtain data or for general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *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*), Distributive Trades Division

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Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	November 2007	August 2008[r]	September 2008[r]	October 2008[r]	November 2008[p]	October to November 2008	November 2007 to November 2008	October 2008[r]	November 2008[p]
	Wholesale inventories							Inventory-to-sales ratio	
	Seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions					% change			
Inventories	**54,718**	**57,036**	**57,380**	**57,890**	**58,481**	**1.0**	**6.9**	**1.28**	**1.32**
Farm products	172	191	182	182	178	-2.2	3.8	0.39	0.37
Food products	4,196	4,510	4,542	4,604	4,670	1.4	11.3	0.63	0.64
Alcohol and tobacco	323	371	367	377	388	2.9	20.0	0.55	0.60
Apparel	1,814	1,897	1,910	1,934	1,935	0.1	6.7	2.31	2.26
Household and personal products	4,178	4,138	4,036	4,213	4,260	1.1	2.0	1.57	1.61
Pharmaceuticals	3,537	3,887	3,900	3,845	4,006	4.2	13.3	1.20	1.24
Motor vehicles	4,633	4,536	4,552	4,557	4,456	-2.2	-3.8	0.87	0.87
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,251	3,276	3,293	3,288	3,367	2.4	3.6	1.98	2.07
Building supplies	5,982	6,028	6,112	6,126	6,222	1.6	4.0	1.54	1.56
Metal products	2,771	3,074	3,136	3,197	3,192	-0.2	15.2	1.86	1.94
Lumber and millwork	1,164	1,214	1,219	1,207	1,194	-1.1	2.5	1.26	1.29
Machinery and equipment	11,739	11,699	11,890	11,955	12,085	1.1	2.9	2.25	2.32
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,725	1,904	1,823	1,854	1,882	1.5	9.1	0.65	0.67
Office and professional equipment	2,663	2,819	2,839	2,867	2,862	-0.2	7.5	1.35	1.37
Other products	6,571	7,492	7,578	7,682	7,782	1.3	18.4	1.26	1.35

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

Wholesale merchants' sales

	November 2007	August 2008[r]	September 2008[r]	October 2008[r]	November 2008[p]	October to November 2008	November 2007 to November 2008
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	**43,687**	**45,584**	**45,964**	**45,138**	**44,416**	**-1.6**	**1.7**
Farm products	**443**	**477**	**475**	**465**	**482**	**3.5**	**8.7**
Food, beverages and tobacco products	**7,525**	**7,779**	**7,865**	**7,976**	**7,992**	**0.2**	**6.2**
Food products	6,873	7,093	7,167	7,286	7,342	0.8	6.8
Alcohol and tobacco	653	686	699	690	650	-5.8	-0.4
Personal and household goods	**6,591**	**6,819**	**6,826**	**6,726**	**6,739**	**0.2**	**2.2**
Apparel	798	825	828	838	857	2.3	7.5
Household and personal products	2,795	2,735	2,751	2,678	2,647	-1.2	-5.3
Pharmaceuticals	2,999	3,259	3,248	3,210	3,235	0.8	7.9
Automotive products	**8,044**	**6,957**	**7,305**	**6,896**	**6,745**	**-2.2**	**-16.2**
Motor vehicles	6,501	5,412	5,614	5,235	5,115	-2.3	-21.3
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,543	1,546	1,691	1,662	1,629	-2.0	5.6
Building materials	**6,229**	**6,614**	**6,635**	**6,657**	**6,570**	**-1.3**	**5.5**
Building supplies	3,772	3,890	3,966	3,977	3,998	0.5	6.0
Metal products	1,408	1,749	1,713	1,719	1,645	-4.3	16.8
Lumber and millwork	1,050	976	956	961	927	-3.5	-11.7
Machinery and electronic equipment	**9,405**	**10,211**	**10,338**	**10,301**	**10,141**	**-1.6**	**7.8**
Machinery and equipment	4,593	5,271	5,329	5,322	5,218	-1.9	13.6
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,745	2,846	2,890	2,855	2,826	-1.0	3.0
Office and professional equipment	2,067	2,094	2,119	2,125	2,096	-1.3	1.4
Other products	**5,449**	**6,726**	**6,519**	**6,116**	**5,747**	**-6.0**	**5.5**
Total, excluding automobiles	**35,643**	**38,627**	**38,659**	**38,242**	**37,671**	**-1.5**	**5.7**
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	247	282	283	294	289	-1.5	16.9
Prince Edward Island	40	40	42	43	46	5.1	14.3
Nova Scotia	580	605	619	616	607	-1.4	4.6
New Brunswick	429	463	485	459	446	-2.8	3.9
Quebec	8,012	8,671	8,770	8,617	8,416	-2.3	5.0
Ontario	22,085	21,656	22,229	21,638	21,374	-1.2	-3.2
Manitoba	1,082	1,104	1,097	1,047	1,029	-1.6	-4.9
Saskatchewan	1,305	2,026	1,844	1,800	1,763	-2.1	35.1
Alberta	5,288	6,072	5,974	6,087	5,972	-1.9	12.9
British Columbia	4,538	4,592	4,544	4,472	4,413	-1.3	-2.7
Yukon	17	12	13	12	11	-9.9	-35.8
Northwest Territories	59	56	58	49	47	-4.2	-19.5
Nunavut	3	6	6	4	2	-42.4	-28.0

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.*

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Study: Income and psychological distress

1994/1995 to 2006/2007

Over the 12-year period from 1994/1995 to 2006/2007, relatively more people in lower-income households experienced episodes of high psychological distress than those in higher-income households.

This difference was partly related to the greater prevalence of stressors in the lives of lower-income individuals, such as job strain, financial problems, personal stress, and problems with relationships, neighbourhoods or children. Low-household income is a marker for difficult material and psychosocial life situations.

Distress is a psychological state characterized by anxiety or a depressed mood, and may indicate more serious disorders such as clinical depression.

Among a representative sample of people aged 18 to 75 who had low psychological distress in 1994/1995, overall, 11% experienced an episode of high distress in the ensuing 12 years. However, the proportion of lower-income men and women experiencing episodes of high distress was greater than their more affluent counterparts.

Earlier research has suggested that the poorer mental health of lower-income individuals may be related to the higher prevalence of stressors to which they are exposed, and their lack of coping support.

The new findings showed that stressors play an important role in the relationship between household income and psychological distress. When the impact of stressors was taken into account, the direct association between income and the subsequent risk of experiencing an episode of distress was reduced, since lower income is itself associated with more stressors. Statistically, after taking explicit account of stressors, the direct association between income and subsequent episodes of distress remained significant for lower-income men, but not for lower-income women.

For both sexes, the stressors associated with experiencing an episode of psychological distress were job strain, financial problems, personal stress and relationship problems. For men, neighbourhood problems were also a factor. For women, problems with children and recent negative life events, such as someone in the family being demoted at work or failing an education program, were important.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3225.

The article, "Income and psychological distress: The role of the social environment," which is part of today's *Health Reports*, Vol. 20, no. 1 (82-003-XWE, free) online release, is now available.

For more information about this article, contact Heather M. Orpana (613-951-1650; *heather.orpana@statcan.gc.ca*), Health Information and Research Division.

Today's online release of *Health Reports* also includes the article "Evaluation of the coverage of linked Canadian Community Health Survey and hospital inpatient records." This article calculates coverage rates for linked Canadian Community Health Survey and Health Person-oriented Information records, and identifies characteristics of survey respondents who were less likely to be in the linked file. For more information, contact Michelle Rotermann (613-951-3166; *michelle.rotermann@statcan.gc.ca*), Health Information and Research Division.

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

Farm Product Price Index

November 2008

Prices farmers received for their commodities in November were down 3.8% from October 2008, as declines were recorded in both the overall crop index and the livestock and the animal products index.

The largest month-to-month price decrease was for hogs, down 15.8% from October 2008. Both hogs and cattle and calf prices have recorded three consecutive monthly declines. Exports of both hogs and cattle into the United States for November 2008 were down a third from November 2007 levels, as the United States began implementation of its Country of Origin Labelling program at the end of September.

Despite the monthly decreases, all of the livestock components remained above their November 2007 levels, when the livestock and animal products index was at its lowest level since August 2003. Livestock producers have faced rising feed grain costs and a higher Canadian dollar in 2008.

Year-over-year, prices received by producers for crops were down 3.3% from November 2007. The largest decrease was recorded by the grains index, down for the fourth consecutive month after double-digit increases between September 2006 and July 2008.

Note: The growth rate of the total Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) is not a weighted average of the growth rates of its crop and livestock components. The growth rate of the total FPPI is derived from a weighted average of the component indices using a different set of weights in consecutive months. Given this, the growth rate of the composite FPPI can lie outside the growth rate of the components.

Available on CANSIM: tables 002-0021 and 002-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

The November 2008 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 8, no. 11 (21-007-XWE, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects* choose *Agriculture*.

For general information or to order data, call (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gail-Ann Breese (204-983-3445: fax: 204-983-7543; *gail-ann.breese@statcan.gc.ca*), Agriculture Division.

Farm Product Price Index

	November 2007[r]	October 2008[r]	November 2008[p]	November 2007 to November 2008	October to November 2008
	(1997=100)			% change	
Farm Product Price Index	**110.8**	**118.7**	**114.2**	**3.1**	**-3.8**
Crops	**131.7**	**132.2**	**127.4**	**-3.3**	**-3.6**
Grains	160.5	122.3	117.4	-26.9	-4.0
Oilseeds	106.4	126.1	125.9	18.3	-0.2
Specialty crops	138.7	186.4	186.7	34.6	0.2
Fruit	154.3	112.2	120.6	-21.8	7.5
Vegetables	122.6	116.8	117.8	-3.9	0.9
Potatoes	125.0	171.7	175.7	40.6	2.3
Livestock and animal products	**91.7**	**107.1**	**103.3**	**12.6**	**-3.5**
Cattle and calves	85.8	100.8	97.5	13.6	-3.3
Hogs	47.6	74.6	62.8	31.9	-15.8
Poultry	103.5	122.0	121.5	17.4	-0.4
Eggs	103.8	111.7	109.5	5.5	-2.0
Dairy	142.2	142.4	145.2	2.1	2.0

r *revised*
p *preliminary*

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Social Policy Simulation Database and Model
2009

The *Social Policy Simulation Database and Model* (SPSD/M), Version 16.1 based on 2004 microdata, is now available. The most recent SPSD/M can be used to study the impacts of changes to federal and provincial tax and benefit programs on families and governments from 1991 through 2013.

The SPSD/M is a tool designed to analyze the financial interactions of governments and individuals/families in Canada. It allows estimation of the income redistributive effects or cost implications of changes in the personal taxation (including the Goods and Services Tax and other commodity taxes) and cash transfer systems. The SPSD/M assists analysts examining the potential impacts of changes in taxes, earnings, demographic trends, and a wide range of other factors.

The SPSD/M allows analysts to answer "what-if" types of questions. What if there were changes to the taxes Canadians paid or transfers they received, such as who would gain and who would lose? Would single parent households in a particular province be better off? By how much? How much extra money would federal or provincial governments collect or pay out?

As its name implies, the SPSD/M is comprised of both a database (SPSD) and a model (SPSM). The SPSD is a statistically-representative database of individuals in their family context with enough information on each individual to compute taxes paid to and cash transfers received from federal and provincial governments. It is created by statistically combining data from survey and administrative sources. The SPSM is a static accounting model which processes each individual and family on the SPSD, calculates transfers and taxes (including income, payroll, and commodity taxes) using legislated or proposed programs and algorithms, and reports on the results. This microsimulation model can be run using a visual interface and extensive documentation on both SPSD and SPSM is included.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3889.

The *Social Policy Simulation Database and Model*, version 16.1 (89F0002XCB, $5,000/$12,500) is now available on CD-ROM.

For more information, to order a copy, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Chantal Hicks (613-951-5311; *spsdm@statcan.gc.ca*), Socio-economic Analysis and Modeling Division. ■

New products

Farm Product Price Index, November 2008, Vol. 8, no. 11
Catalogue number 21-007-XWE
(free).

Software Development and Computer Services, 2006
Catalogue number 63-255-XWE
(free).

Health Reports, Vol. 20, no. 1
Catalogue number 82-003-XWE
(free).

Social Policy Simulation Database and Model, 1991 to 2013 (16.1, database year 2004)
Catalogue number 89F0002XCB
(various prices).

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.

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Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to $5.6 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several exported commodities combined with a lower travel deficit. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the acquisitions-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.	2
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2006 Census profiles

With the inclusion of the income and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions.

To obtain these profiles in electronic format (costs vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

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