

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, October 22, 2009

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## Releases

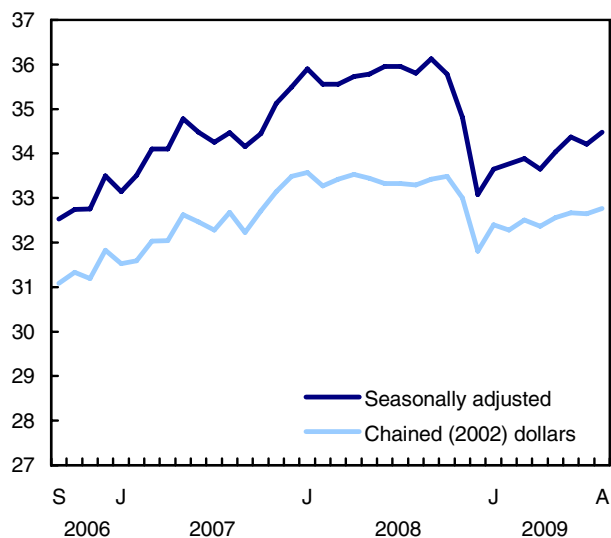
### Retail trade

August 2009

Retail sales in current dollars rose 0.8% in August to \$34.5 billion, offsetting the decline in July. The bulk of the increase came from higher sales at gasoline stations and new car dealers. Excluding these retailers, sales were flat.

#### Retail sales rise in August

\$ billions



Retail sales have generally been rising since the beginning of 2009, following a sharp decline at the end of 2008. On a year-over-year basis, sales in August were 3.7% lower than in August 2008.

In volume terms, retail sales increased 0.4% in August.

The automotive sector saw the largest gain in retail sales in August, rising 2.4%. Sales at gasoline stations increased 3.9% and were the largest contributor to the gain. Although gasoline stations comprise around 11% of retail sales, they have accounted for about 29% of the month-to-month movement in retail sales since August 2008.

#### 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.

In the rest of the automotive sector, sales at new car dealers increased 2.2% following two months of relatively flat sales. A major contributor to this increase was higher sales of trucks, as reported in the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey. Sales at used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers were flat (-0.2%) for a second consecutive month.

Sales in the building and outdoor home supplies store sector (+0.5%) increased for a second consecutive month in August. Despite following an upward trend in 2009, sales in this sector have not yet offset the substantial decrease in December 2008.

Sales declined at general merchandise stores (-0.4%) and miscellaneous retailers (-0.2%). The decline in miscellaneous retailers was due to a 0.7% decrease in sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores.

#### Sales up in eight provinces

Retail sales rose in eight provinces in August. Ontario (+1.2%) was the largest contributor to the national increase, following two months of relatively stable sales.

New Brunswick posted the largest increase with sales up 3.2%. The rise was driven mainly by higher sales in the automotive sector. Sales rebounded in Nova Scotia (+1.7%) in August, nearly offsetting the decline in July.

The two provinces where retail sales declined in August were Newfoundland and Labrador (-0.9%) and Alberta (-0.2%). Retail sales in Newfoundland and Labrador fell for a second consecutive month, after rising every month since January 2009.

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

For information on related indicators, refer to the Latest statistics page on 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 August 2009 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X, free) will be available shortly.

Data on retail trade for September will be released on November 23.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; toll-free 1-877-421-3067; [retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca)). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Switzer (613-951-7137), Distributive Trades Division.

## Retail sales

|   | August<br>2008 | May<br>2009 <sup>r</sup> | June<br>2009 <sup>r</sup> | July<br>2009 <sup>r</sup> | August<br>2009 <sup>p</sup> | July<br>to<br>August<br>2009 | August<br>2008<br>to<br>August<br>2009 |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Seasonally adjusted   |                |                          |                           |                           |                             |                              |  |
|   | \$ millions    |                          |                           |                           |                             | % change                     |  |
| <b>Automotive</b>   | <b>12,244</b>  | <b>10,544</b>            | <b>10,779</b>             | <b>10,697</b>             | <b>10,957</b>               | <b>2.4</b>                   | <b>-10.5</b>                           |
| New car dealers   | 5,974          | 5,623                    | 5,648                     | 5,665                     | 5,792                       | 2.2                          | -3.1                                   |
| Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts<br>dealers  | 1,608          | 1,498                    | 1,532                     | 1,531                     | 1,527                       | -0.2                         | -5.0                                   |
| Gasoline stations   | 4,661          | 3,423                    | 3,599                     | 3,501                     | 3,638                       | 3.9                          | -22.0                                  |
| <b>Furniture, home furnishings and electronics<br/>stores</b>   | <b>2,637</b>   | <b>2,378</b>             | <b>2,396</b>              | <b>2,385</b>              | <b>2,386</b>                | <b>0.0</b>                   | <b>-9.5</b>                            |
| Furniture stores  | 864            | 766                      | 773                       | 779                       | 785                         | 0.8                          | -9.1                                   |
| Home furnishings stores   | 514            | 472                      | 467                       | 472                       | 473                         | 0.3                          | -8.0                                   |
| Computer and software stores  | 119            | 104                      | 98                        | 101                       | 97                          | -4.3                         | -18.4                                  |
| Home electronics and appliance stores   | 1,141          | 1,035                    | 1,058                     | 1,034                     | 1,032                       | -0.2                         | -9.6                                   |
| <b>Building and outdoor home supplies stores</b>  | <b>2,300</b>   | <b>2,226</b>             | <b>2,209</b>              | <b>2,229</b>              | <b>2,241</b>                | <b>0.5</b>                   | <b>-2.6</b>                            |
| Home centres and hardware stores  | 1,878          | 1,816                    | 1,806                     | 1,828                     | 1,837                       | 0.5                          | -2.2                                   |
| Specialized building materials and garden stores  | 422            | 410                      | 402                       | 400                       | 404                         | 0.9                          | -4.4                                   |
| <b>Food and beverage stores</b>   | <b>8,006</b>   | <b>8,249</b>             | <b>8,327</b>              | <b>8,211</b>              | <b>8,221</b>                | <b>0.1</b>                   | <b>2.7</b>                             |
| Supermarkets  | 5,746          | 5,960                    | 6,009                     | 5,916                     | 5,901                       | -0.3                         | 2.7                                    |
| Convenience and specialty food stores   | 846            | 844                      | 849                       | 844                       | 858                         | 1.6                          | 1.4                                    |
| Beer, wine and liquor stores  | 1,415          | 1,446                    | 1,470                     | 1,450                     | 1,462                       | 0.8                          | 3.3                                    |
| <b>Pharmacies and personal care stores</b>  | <b>2,453</b>   | <b>2,528</b>             | <b>2,559</b>              | <b>2,581</b>              | <b>2,582</b>                | <b>0.0</b>                   | <b>5.2</b>                             |
| <b>Clothing and accessories stores</b>  | <b>1,994</b>   | <b>1,928</b>             | <b>1,937</b>              | <b>1,925</b>              | <b>1,929</b>                | <b>0.2</b>                   | <b>-3.2</b>                            |
| Clothing stores   | 1,525          | 1,480                    | 1,488                     | 1,484                     | 1,487                       | 0.2                          | -2.5                                   |
| Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores   | 469            | 447                      | 449                       | 441                       | 442                         | 0.2                          | -5.7                                   |
| <b>General merchandise stores</b>   | <b>4,333</b>   | <b>4,357</b>             | <b>4,335</b>              | <b>4,356</b>              | <b>4,339</b>                | <b>-0.4</b>                  | <b>0.1</b>                             |
| <b>Miscellaneous retailers</b>  | <b>1,835</b>   | <b>1,827</b>             | <b>1,828</b>              | <b>1,824</b>              | <b>1,821</b>                | <b>-0.2</b>                  | <b>-0.8</b>                            |
| Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores  | 906            | 927                      | 938                       | 936                       | 930                         | -0.7                         | 2.7                                    |
| Miscellaneous store retailers   | 929            | 899                      | 890                       | 888                       | 891                         | 0.3                          | -4.1                                   |
| <b>Total retail sales</b>   | <b>35,802</b>  | <b>34,036</b>            | <b>34,369</b>             | <b>34,209</b>             | <b>34,475</b>               | <b>0.8</b>                   | <b>-3.7</b>                            |
| <b>Total excluding new car dealers, used and<br/>recreational motor vehicle and parts<br/>dealers</b> | <b>28,219</b>  | <b>26,916</b>            | <b>27,190</b>             | <b>27,013</b>             | <b>27,156</b>               | <b>0.5</b>                   | <b>-3.8</b>                            |
| <b>Provinces and territories</b>  |                |                          |                           |                           |                             |                              |  |
| Newfoundland and Labrador   | 599            | 601                      | 610                       | 608                       | 603                         | -0.9                         | 0.7                                    |
| Prince Edward Island  | 145            | 141                      | 141                       | 140                       | 141                         | 0.6                          | -2.3                                   |
| Nova Scotia   | 1,022          | 1,002                    | 1,023                     | 1,003                     | 1,021                       | 1.7                          | -0.1                                   |
| New Brunswick   | 846            | 811                      | 810                       | 812                       | 839                         | 3.2                          | -0.9                                   |
| Quebec  | 7,971          | 7,730                    | 7,885                     | 7,859                     | 7,893                       | 0.4                          | -1.0                                   |
| Ontario   | 12,805         | 12,234                   | 12,218                    | 12,229                    | 12,375                      | 1.2                          | -3.4                                   |
| Manitoba  | 1,252          | 1,212                    | 1,250                     | 1,243                     | 1,249                       | 0.5                          | -0.2                                   |
| Saskatchewan  | 1,208          | 1,158                    | 1,187                     | 1,163                     | 1,178                       | 1.2                          | -2.5                                   |
| Alberta   | 5,086          | 4,628                    | 4,669                     | 4,618                     | 4,608                       | -0.2                         | -9.4                                   |
| British Columbia  | 4,741          | 4,392                    | 4,444                     | 4,404                     | 4,437                       | 0.8                          | -6.4                                   |
| Yukon   | 44             | 42                       | 43                        | 43                        | 45                          | 4.8                          | 0.7                                    |
| Northwest Territories   | 58             | 57                       | 60                        | 59                        | 59                          | 0.6                          | 1.4                                    |
| Nunavut   | 25             | 27                       | 27                        | 27                        | 26                          | -2.9                         | 6.3                                    |

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

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



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## Farm Product Price Index

August 2009

Prices farmers received for their commodities fell 10.9% in August from the same month a year earlier, as both the crops index and the livestock and animal products index fell.

The prices producers received for crops in August were 10.2% lower compared with August 2008. The decline in the crops index was due to decreases recorded by all commodities except potatoes and fruit. Despite the decline, the crops index (124.1) remained well above the 115.1 from two years ago, when crop prices started their ascent to reach a peak in June 2008. Potato prices in August were 16.0% above those of August 2008, as North American production was down last fall.

The prices producers received for livestock and animal products in August fell 11.5% compared with August 2008. Decreases were recorded for all commodities except poultry.

On a month-to-month basis, the total index (1997=100) decreased from 112.6 in July to 110.7 in August.

The overall livestock and animal products index stood at 100.1 in August, down from the July level of 103.8. Decreases were recorded for hog and cattle prices, which more than offset the slight increases in the supply-managed commodities of poultry, eggs, and dairy.

The hogs index fell 16.3% in August, the fifth consecutive month-to-month decrease this year. Hog producers continue to be faced with the US Country of Origin Labeling legislation, concerns about the H1N1 flu virus and lower demand driven by the economic situation. By the end of August, exports to the United States were down by one-third compared with the same time last year.

The total crops index edged down in August compared with the July index, as lower prices for

grains, specialty crops and vegetables more than offset higher potato, fruit and oilseed prices. Potato prices are generally higher in August, as the new crop table potatoes reach the market.

The grains index (-22.5%) recorded the largest drop. This was a challenging growing season in Canada, marred with drought-like conditions in some areas and cool, wet weather in others. Despite reports of a drop in world wheat production, the world production is forecast to remain at its second highest level. This, coupled with larger carry-in stocks, is supporting expectations of ample supplies for this new crop year.

**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 August 2009 issue of *Farm Product Price Index*, Vol. 9, no. 8 (21-007-X, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects* choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, or to order data, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nickeisha Patterson (613-951-3249; fax: 613-951-3868; [nickeisha.patterson@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:nickeisha.patterson@statcan.gc.ca)), Agriculture Division.

□

## Farm Product Price Index

|                                      | August<br>2008 <sup>r</sup> | July<br>2009 <sup>r</sup> | August<br>2009 <sup>p</sup> | August<br>2008<br>to<br>August<br>2009 | July<br>to<br>August<br>2009 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
|                                      | (1997=100)                  |                           |                             | % change                               |                              |
| <b>Farm Product Price Index</b>      | <b>124.3</b>                | <b>112.6</b>              | <b>110.7</b>                | <b>-10.9</b>                           | <b>-1.7</b>                  |
| <b>Crops</b>                         | <b>138.2</b>                | <b>124.3</b>              | <b>124.1</b>                | <b>-10.2</b>                           | <b>-0.2</b>                  |
| Grains                               | 158.7                       | 126.6                     | 98.1                        | -38.2                                  | -22.5                        |
| Oilseeds                             | 142.1                       | 121.9                     | 123.9                       | -12.8                                  | 1.6                          |
| Specialty crops                      | 201.5                       | 175.4                     | 156.2                       | -22.5                                  | -10.9                        |
| Fruit                                | 114.4                       | 121.2                     | 140.3                       | 22.6                                   | 15.8                         |
| Vegetables                           | 123.5                       | 115.7                     | 114.7                       | -7.1                                   | -0.9                         |
| Potatoes                             | 199.1                       | 195.8                     | 231.0                       | 16.0                                   | 18.0                         |
| <b>Livestock and animal products</b> | <b>113.1</b>                | <b>103.8</b>              | <b>100.1</b>                | <b>-11.5</b>                           | <b>-3.6</b>                  |
| Cattle and calves                    | 109.4                       | 99.9                      | 96.6                        | -11.7                                  | -3.3                         |
| Hogs                                 | 86.4                        | 67.0                      | 56.1                        | -35.1                                  | -16.3                        |
| Poultry                              | 118.2                       | 117.4                     | 118.9                       | 0.6                                    | 1.3                          |
| Eggs                                 | 111.5                       | 102.5                     | 103.4                       | -7.3                                   | 0.9                          |
| Dairy                                | 141.3                       | 139.4                     | 140.1                       | -0.8                                   | 0.5                          |

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

## Natural gas sales

August 2009 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 3 906 million cubic metres in August, up 0.4% compared with August 2008.

The volumes of sales to the commercial (-5.3%) and residential (-4.4%) sectors were down in August compared with August 2008. The volume of sales to the industrial sector including direct sales (+1.8%) was up in August compared with August 2008.

Total sales in August were 0.6% higher compared with July.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.**

For more information, to order data, 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; [energ@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.gc.ca)), Manufacturing and Energy Division.

## Natural gas sales

|   | August<br>2008            | July<br>2009     | August<br>2009 <sup>p</sup> | July<br>to<br>August<br>2009 | August<br>2008<br>to<br>August<br>2009 |
|---|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
|   | thousands of cubic metres |                  |                             | % change                     |  |
| <b>Total sales</b>                                    | <b>3 888 919</b>          | <b>3 881 344</b> | <b>3 905 556</b>            | <b>0.6</b>                   | <b>0.4</b>                             |
| Residential <sup>1</sup>                              | 442 149                   | 437 279          | 422 501                     | -3.4                         | -4.4                                   |
| Commercial <sup>2</sup>                               | 347 923                   | 331 739          | 329 444                     | -0.7                         | -5.3                                   |
| Industrial <sup>3</sup> and direct sales <sup>4</sup> | 3 098 847                 | 3 112 326        | 3 153 611                   | 1.3                          | 1.8                                    |

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Gas sold for domestic purposes, including space heating, water heating and cooking, to a residential dwelling unit.

2. Gas sold to customers engaged in wholesale or retail trade, governments, institutions, office buildings, etc.

3. Gas sold to customers engaged in a process that creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product. Includes mining and manufacturing establishments. Includes firm, interruptible and buy/sell agreements.

4. Represents direct, non-utility, sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

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## Electric utility construction price indexes

Annual 2008 (revised) and the first half of 2009 (preliminary)

Construction costs for distribution systems fell by 0.3% during the first half of 2009. The decrease in overhead conductors (-6.8%) and labour (-3.1%) for this period were the major contributors to the decline in the index. The 2008 data for distribution systems show an advance of 0.9% over 2007.

Construction costs for the transmission line system series rose 1.4% during the first half of 2009, compared with a 3.7% increase in 2008. The transmission line component declined 0.3% in the first half of 2009, following a 1.9% gain in 2008. The substation component rose by 2.4% in the first half of 2009, following a 4.9% increase in 2008, with the station equipment sub-component (+3.7%) posting the largest gain.

**Available on CANSIM: table 327-0011.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2316.**

The second quarter 2009 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-3117; [prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca)) or Adrian Fisher (613-951-9612; [adrian.fisher@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:adrian.fisher@statcan.gc.ca)), Producer Prices Division. ■

## Construction Union Wage Rate Index

September 2009

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in September compared with August. The composite index increased 2.5% compared with September 2008.

**Note:** Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 22 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 2007=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 327-0045.**

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

The second quarter 2009 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-3117; [prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca)), or Louise Chainé (613-951-3393), Producer Prices Division. ■

## Civil aviation operating statistics

August 2009

Operational data on civil aviation are now available for August.

**Available on CANSIM: table 401-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5026.**

A data table is also available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

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](mailto:transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca)), Transportation Division. ■

## New products

**Canadian Economic Observer**, October 2009, Vol. 22, no. 10  
**Catalogue number 11-010-X** (Print, \$25/\$243)

**Farm Product Price Index**, August 2009, Vol. 9, no. 8  
**Catalogue number 21-007-X** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

**Consulting Services**, 2007  
**Catalogue number 63-259-X** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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