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Releases

Releases

> ***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.*

Wholesale trade

June 2009

Wholesale sales rose for the first time in nine months in June, mainly due to increases in the automotive products and food, beverages and tobacco products sectors. Sales in current dollars rose 0.6% to $40.4 billion.

In volume terms, wholesale sales increased 1.0% in June; this was the third consecutive monthly increase.

In current dollars, three of the seven sectors, accounting for just over half of total wholesale sales, advanced.

Sales in the automotive products sector increased 3.3% to $5.8 billion in June. This was the fifth straight increase since the sharp drop in January. Despite this improvement, sales in the sector remained well below the peak in July 2008.

The food, beverages and tobacco products sector rose 1.8% in June. This was due mainly to higher sales in the food products trade group (+1.5%), which account for about 90% of sales in the sector.

In contrast, the "other products" sector, consisting primarily of agricultural fertilizers and supplies, chemicals, recycled materials and paper products, posted its fifth straight decline, which partially offset the increases in the automotive products and food, beverages and tobacco products sectors.

Sales of the "other products" sector fell 2.2% to $4.8 billion in June, mainly due to lower sales by agricultural chemical and other farm supplies wholesalers.

Ontario benefits from higher sales in the automotive products sector

Growth in the automotive products sector boosted Ontario, with sales rising 1.7% to $19.9 billion in June. This was the fourth monthly increase in sales in five months for the province, which accounts for about three-quarters of all sales in the automotive products sector.

In British Columbia, sales improved for the third month in a row (+2.9%), due mainly to strong sales in the automotive products and personal and household goods sectors.

Wholesale sales shrank in Quebec (-2.1%) for the 10th straight month. The decline in June reflected a slowdown in certain sectors, notably "other products" and machinery and electronic equipment.

Fourth straight decline in inventories

Wholesale inventories fell (-1.1%) for the fourth month in a row to $56.5 billion in June.

Overall, 8 of the 15 wholesale trade groups reported lower inventory levels. The largest declines in dollar terms were in the motor vehicles (-5.7%), metal products (-5.0%), and "other products" (-1.5%) groups. These decreases were partly offset by a slight increase in inventories of building supplies (+1.5%) and motor vehicle parts and accessories (+0.7%).

The decline in inventories, combined with the increase in sales, translated into a decrease in the inventory-to-sales ratio from 1.42 in May to 1.40 in June.

The inventory-to-sales ratio is a measure of the time in months required to exhaust inventories if sales were to remain at their current level.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The June 2009 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-X, free) will be available soon.

Wholesale trade data for July will be released on September 18.

To obtain data or more information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; toll-free 1-877-421-3067; *grossisteinfo@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Karim El hassani (613-951-0608 *karim.elhassani@statcan.gc.ca*), Distributive Trades Division.

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	June 2008	March 2009[r]	April 2009[r]	May 2009[r]	June 2009[p]	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009	May 2009[r]	June 2009[p]
	Wholesale inventories							Inventory-to-sales ratio	
	Seasonally adjusted								
	$ millions					% change			
Inventories	**55,754**	**58,444**	**57,559**	**57,123**	**56,510**	**-1.1**	**1.4**	**1.42**	**1.40**
Farm products	183	185	173	166	145	-12.9	-20.8	0.36	0.33
Food products	4,429	4,738	4,631	4,654	4,593	-1.3	3.7	0.64	0.62
Alcohol and tobacco	397	439	418	422	428	1.5	7.9	0.51	0.50
Apparel	1,828	2,048	2,032	2,017	1,958	-2.9	7.1	2.52	2.40
Household and personal products	4,169	3,995	3,895	3,870	3,767	-2.6	-9.6	1.49	1.43
Pharmaceuticals	3,897	4,087	4,126	4,079	4,101	0.6	5.2	1.19	1.20
Motor vehicles	4,328	4,155	3,966	3,972	3,747	-5.7	-13.4	0.97	0.88
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,327	3,332	3,404	3,439	3,462	0.7	4.0	2.30	2.25
Building supplies	5,975	6,337	6,250	6,191	6,282	1.5	5.1	1.75	1.78
Metal products	2,927	3,152	3,060	2,967	2,820	-5.0	-3.7	2.77	2.74
Lumber and millwork	1,094	969	961	949	958	1.0	-12.4	1.35	1.32
Machinery and equipment	11,539	12,700	12,540	12,497	12,507	0.1	8.4	2.90	2.95
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,751	1,693	1,597	1,568	1,586	1.2	-9.4	0.62	0.61
Office and professional equipment	2,792	2,897	2,913	2,896	2,825	-2.4	1.2	1.39	1.34
Other products	7,119	7,719	7,595	7,437	7,328	-1.5	2.9	1.51	1.52

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

Wholesale merchants' sales

	June 2008	March 2009[r]	April 2009[r]	May 2009[r]	June 2009[p]	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	**45,079**	**40,494**	**40,226**	**40,148**	**40,375**	**0.6**	**-10.4**
Farm products	**473**	**473**	**477**	**461**	**445**	**-3.6**	**-6.0**
Food, beverages and tobacco products	**7,905**	**8,208**	**8,222**	**8,076**	**8,220**	**1.8**	**4.0**
Food products	7,026	7,438	7,405	7,255	7,366	1.5	4.8
Alcohol and tobacco	880	770	817	821	853	3.9	-3.0
Personal and household goods	**6,825**	**6,717**	**6,735**	**6,817**	**6,870**	**0.8**	**0.7**
Apparel	805	796	783	800	817	2.1	1.5
Household and personal products	2,798	2,571	2,599	2,600	2,626	1.0	-6.1
Pharmaceuticals	3,222	3,351	3,353	3,417	3,427	0.3	6.4
Automotive products	**7,670**	**5,461**	**5,568**	**5,603**	**5,786**	**3.3**	**-24.6**
Motor vehicles	6,024	3,958	4,078	4,110	4,246	3.3	-29.5
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,646	1,503	1,490	1,493	1,540	3.2	-6.4
Building materials	**6,427**	**5,507**	**5,297**	**5,321**	**5,291**	**-0.6**	**-17.7**
Building supplies	3,886	3,568	3,445	3,546	3,535	-0.3	-9.0
Metal products	1,639	1,208	1,145	1,070	1,030	-3.8	-37.2
Lumber and millwork	901	731	708	705	726	3.0	-19.5
Machinery and electronic equipment	**9,608**	**9,025**	**8,908**	**8,946**	**8,946**	**0.0**	**-6.9**
Machinery and equipment	4,868	4,396	4,366	4,315	4,236	-1.8	-13.0
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,727	2,589	2,496	2,542	2,603	2.4	-4.6
Office and professional equipment	2,013	2,040	2,046	2,089	2,107	0.9	4.7
Other products	**6,171**	**5,102**	**5,019**	**4,925**	**4,817**	**-2.2**	**-21.9**
Total, excluding automobiles	**37,409**	**35,033**	**34,658**	**34,546**	**34,589**	**0.1**	**-7.5**
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	266	281	287	289	276	-4.4	4.0
Prince Edward Island	38	40	37	36	34	-5.3	-10.8
Nova Scotia	592	579	566	560	578	3.2	-2.4
New Brunswick	444	456	447	432	447	3.5	0.6
Quebec	8,383	7,971	7,928	7,913	7,748	-2.1	-7.6
Ontario	22,337	19,583	19,524	19,582	19,919	1.7	-10.8
Manitoba	1,135	1,166	1,078	1,058	1,058	0.0	-6.8
Saskatchewan	1,745	1,389	1,334	1,320	1,301	-1.5	-25.4
Alberta	5,659	5,070	4,986	4,888	4,825	-1.3	-14.7
British Columbia	4,406	3,902	3,976	4,010	4,125	2.9	-6.4
Yukon	13	11	12	11	12	7.9	-8.7
Northwest Territories	53	44	47	44	47	6.6	-10.6
Nunavut	9	3	4	7	4	-45.3	-59.1

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

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Livestock estimates

July 1, 2009

As of July 1, 2009, the number of hogs and cattle on Canadian farms was down from the same date a year earlier, while the number of sheep remained virtually unchanged.

Livestock inventories at July 1

	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	Cattle		Hogs		Sheep	
	thousands of head					
Canada	**15,195**	**14,840**	**12,980**	**12,105**	**1,062**	**1,062**
Atlantic	279	251	187	148	41	42
Quebec	1,375	1,385	4,075	3,870	290	285
Ontario	1,881	1,829	3,237	3,101	295	315
Manitoba	1,515	1,430	2,720	2,530	66	71
Saskatchewan	3,385	3,370	971	810	125	114
Alberta	6,010	5,870	1,670	1,530	185	177
British Columbia	750	705	120	116	60	58

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

Canadian hog producers had an estimated 12.1 million hogs on their farms, down 6.7% from July 1, 2008.

Hog inventories have been decreasing since 2006, reflecting a number of factors. These include high feed costs, low commodity prices, a strong Canadian dollar and the economic downturn. The downturn has reduced access to credit for producers and decreased meat demand by consumers.

Recently, new Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) regulations in the United States have constrained market access. The perception of the H1N1 virus has also had a negative impact on markets.

The Canadian breeding herd, mainly sows and gilts, declined 4.6% to just under 1.4 million head during the last year.

During the first two quarters of 2009, hog producers nationally exported an estimated 3.3 million hogs, down 34.6% from the same period last year.

Canadian cattle producers estimated their herd at 14.8 million head as of July 1, the fourth consecutive yearly decline. The Canadian dairy herd remained slightly below 2.0 million head, while the national beef herd fell 2.4%.

Total cattle exports between January and June 2009 declined 31.7% from the same period a year earlier.

As cattle inventory has been declining for the last four years, domestic slaughter of cattle and calves fell 6.8% in the first half of the year compared with the same period in 2008.

The sheep industry has not experienced any growth during the past two years. As of July 1, the total sheep inventory amounted to 1.1 million, virtually unchanged compared with July 2008.

In 2003, the export market for sheep collapsed, and has remained virtually non-existent since then. The production of mutton and lamb in Canada partially meets local and regional demand; the rest is supplied by rising imports.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0004, 003-0026, 003-0028, 003-0030 to 003-0032 and 003-0083 to 003-0098.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3460.

The reports *Cattle Statistics*, Vol. 8, no. 2 (23-012-X, free), *Hog Statistics*, Vol. 8, no. 3 (23-010-X, free), and *Sheep Statistics*, Vol. 8, no. 2 (23-011-X, free), are now available online. From the *Publications* module of our website under *By subject* choose *Agriculture*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Robert Plourde (613-951-8716; *robert.plourde@statcan.gc.ca*), Agriculture Division. ■

Apartment Building Construction Price Index

Second quarter 2009

The composite price index for apartment building construction decreased 1.1% in the second quarter to 136.7 (2002=100) compared with the previous quarter. As was the case in the previous quarter, the quarterly decrease was mostly the result of declines in construction material prices and competitive conditions due to a weaker building construction market, most notably in Western Canada.

Among the seven census metropolitan areas (CMAs) surveyed, Edmonton (-2.8%) recorded the largest quarterly decrease while only Halifax (+0.5%) showed an increase.

Year over year, the composite price index for apartment building construction was down 6.9%. Of the CMAs surveyed, Vancouver (-15.0%) recorded the largest decrease while only Montréal (+2.3%) and Halifax (+1.5%) had increases.

Note: In the fourth quarter of 2008, the building model used to calculate the Apartment Building Construction Price Index was replaced with an updated model. Also, the base year was changed to 2002=100.

The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in six CMAs (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ottawa part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Besides each of the CMA indexes and the composite index, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical). These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade-group contractors who report on the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0044.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

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

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*), Producer Prices Division.

Apartment Building Construction Price Index[1]

	Second quarter 2009	Second quarter 2008 to second quarter 2009	First quarter to second quarter 2009
	(2002=100)	% change	
Composite index	**136.7**	**-6.9**	**-1.1**
Halifax	130.7	1.5	0.5
Montréal	131.6	2.3	-0.2
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ottawa part	135.7	-0.8	-0.4
Toronto	137.2	-2.6	-1.1
Calgary	161.3	-8.9	-2.7
Edmonton	148.2	-13.8	-2.8
Vancouver	138.5	-15.0	-0.6

1. *Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.*

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Construction Union Wage Rate Index

July 2009

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in July compared with the June level of 107.1 (2007=100). The composite index increased 2.4% compared with July 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 be available in October.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-2848; *prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca*) or Louise Chaîné (613-951-3393), Producer Prices Division. ■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

August 1, 2009 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on August 1 totalled 82 008 metric tonnes, up 1.1% from the same date 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*), or call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991), Agriculture Division. ■

Large urban transit

June 2009 (preliminary)

Combined ridership and revenue levels for 10 of Canada's largest urban transit properties were up in June compared with the same month last year.

These 10 companies represent about 80% of total urban transit across the country.

Ridership levels rose to 123.5 million passenger trips in June, a 0.5% increase from the same month a year earlier.

The rise in ridership pushed revenue (excluding subsidies) up 1.0% from June 2008 to $216.1 million.

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 the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

New products

Canadian Economic Observer, August 2009, Vol. 22, no. 8
Catalogue number 11-010-X (Print, $25/$243)

Canadian Economic Observer: Historical Statistical Supplement, 2008/2009
Catalogue number 11-210-X (Print, $28)

Hog Statistics, second quarter 2009, Vol. 8, no. 3
Catalogue number 23-010-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Sheep Statistics, 2009, Vol. 8, no. 2
Catalogue number 23-011-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Cattle Statistics, 2009, Vol. 8, no. 2
Catalogue number 23-012-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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