

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Study: The changing cyclical behaviour of labour productivity	2
Steel wire and specified wire products, November 2009	3
Electric power generating stations, 2008	3
Steel pipe and tubing, November 2009	3
Air fare, third quarter 2008	3
Supply and disposition of refined petroleum products, September 2009	4

New products and studies	5
---------------------------------	----------



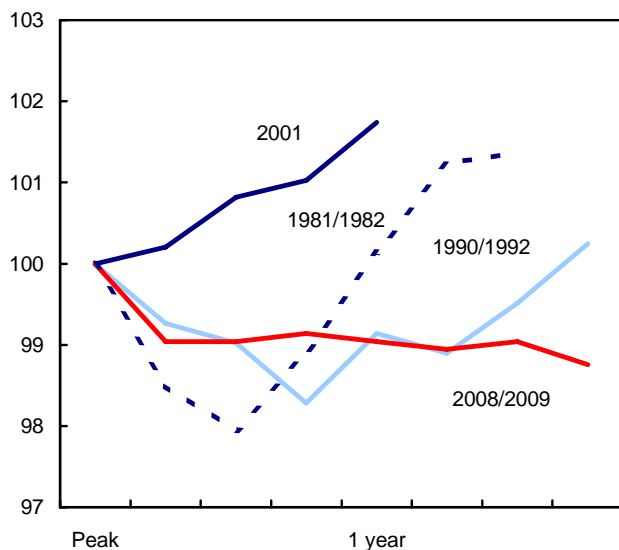
Study: The changing cyclical behaviour of labour productivity

As the economy slumped in 2008 and 2009, labour productivity in Canada fell slightly as the combined reductions in employment and the average workweek did not match the drop in output. This marks a departure from recent recessions in Canada and the United States, when labour productivity increased during recessions.

This release compares the behaviour of labour productivity during the recent downturn to the previous three cycles in Canada and to the United States. It finds that since 1981, labour inputs had fallen by as much or more than output during recessions in both Canada and the United States. Employers initially reacted to a downturn by shortening the workweek, but then resorted to job cuts if the recession was prolonged.

Labour productivity in Canada

index peak=100



The time between the onset of lower output and job losses has shortened over time, to the point that early in 2008 employment fell before output receded in the United States. In Canada, employers did not reduce labour inputs as fast as output in 2008/2009. As a result, labour productivity in Canada declined for over a year during a recession for the first time in over three decades.

The relationship between output and employment during cyclical downturns has changed over the

decades (output and employment are used as a proxy of labour productivity before 1981, when quarterly productivity data begin). From the 1950s through to 1980, employment in Canada did not decline as fast as output, if it fell at all.

Since the fourth quarter of 2007, labour productivity in Canada fell 1.2% through the third quarter of 2009, despite firms having almost two years to adjust to lower demand. Over the same period, labour productivity rose 4.9% in the United States. This gap represents the extension of a trend that has persisted since the 2001 recession ended. Higher productivity growth in the United States first materialized in the 2001 recession. This gap continued at 2% during the recovery in 2002, and has persisted at about 2% a year since.

In the United States, there is a clear trend towards productivity rising during recessions, with not even a momentary decline in the last downturn. In Canada, productivity by the end of most recessions was higher than at the beginning, with the exception of the 2008/2009 downturn (which may not be over on either side of the border, despite the recent gains in output and employment).

Severe recessions provoked a range of responses in business sector productivity. In some instances, like Canada in 1981/1982 and the United States in 2008/2009, firms cut jobs rapidly and raised productivity. In others, such as the United States in 1981/1982 and Canada in 2008/2009, the loss of jobs was more muted and productivity declined.

Available on CANSIM: tables 380-0037, 380-0057 and 380-0058.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 1301, 3701 and 5042.

The study, "The changing cyclical behaviour of labour productivity," is included in the January 2010 Internet edition of the *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 23, no. 1 (11-010-X, free), available from the *Key resource* module of our website, under *Publications*.

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), Chief Economic Analyst. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

November 2009

Data on steel wire and specified wire products production are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0047.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2106.

The November 2009 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-X, free) will soon be available.

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

Electric power generating stations

2008

Data on electric power generating stations are now available for 2008 including revised data for 2007. The survey provides a list of generating stations in Canada and includes the name, ownership, year of installation, capacity (in kilowatts), type of fuel or water supply, and source (hydro, steam, internal combustion, combustion turbine, nuclear, wind and tidal).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2193.

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

Steel pipe and tubing

November 2009

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

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The November 2009 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-X, free) will soon be available.

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

Air fare

Third quarter 2008

Fare Basis Survey data are now available for the third quarter of 2008. The survey covers Air Canada, Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners, Air Transat and WestJet.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2708.

Data tables are available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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. ■

Supply and disposition of refined petroleum products

September 2009

Data on the supply and disposition of refined petroleum products are now available for September.

Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

The September 2009 issue of *The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products* in Canada, Vol. 64, no. 9 (45-004-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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

New products and studies

Canadian Economic Observer, January 2010, Vol. 23, no. 1
Catalogue number 11-010-X (HTML, free)

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

The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada, September 2009, Vol. 64, no. 9
Catalogue number 45-004-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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: **1-800-267-6677**
From other countries, call: **1-613-951-2800**
To fax your order, call: **1-877-287-4369**
For address changes or account inquiries, call: **1-877-591-6963**

To order by mail, write to: Statistics Canada, Finance, 6th 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.



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 <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to lstproc@statcan.gc.ca. 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, 2010. 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.