

The Daily

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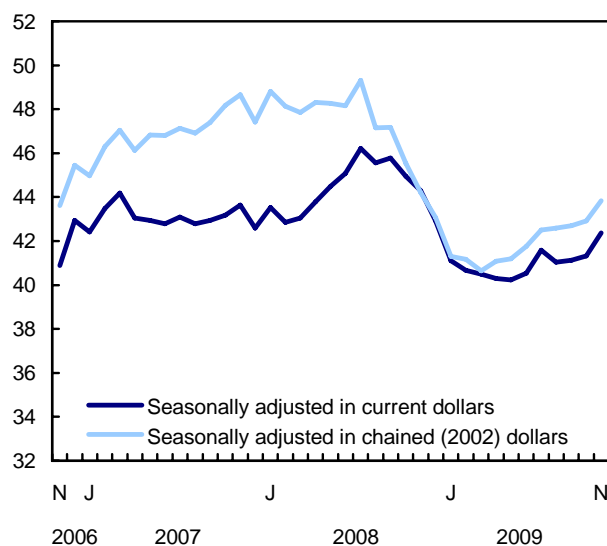
Wholesale trade

November 2009

Wholesale sales rose 2.5% to \$42.4 billion in current dollars in November, the fifth increase in six months. During that period, Canadian wholesalers regained one-third of the losses incurred since the last peak in July 2008.

Wholesale sales rise for the fifth time in six months

\$ billions



In volume terms, wholesale sales were up 2.1%.

November's solid growth was the result of widespread gains, with six of the seven sectors reporting increased sales.

The automotive products sector contributed the most to the rise in November, followed by the food, beverages and tobacco products sector. These two sectors accounted for more than two-thirds of the growth in wholesale sales.

Sales in the automotive products sector rose 7.8% in November to \$7.3 billion, the eighth increase since the beginning of 2009.

Note to readers

All the data in this release are seasonally adjusted and in current dollars unless otherwise noted.

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.

In November, the automotive products sector benefited from strong sales in the motor vehicles trade group (+9.6%), reflecting the strength of Canadian imports.

According to the latest Canadian international merchandise trade release, Canadian imports of automotive products rose 9.4% in November, mainly due to increased imports of trucks and other motor vehicles (+30.1%).

The food, beverages and tobacco products sector (+2.5%) also contributed to the growth in wholesale sales. This increase was entirely attributable to the food products trade group (+2.9%).

Sales higher in eight provinces

Except for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, all Canadian provinces posted increased wholesale sales in November. However, Ontario and Quebec were the main contributors to this growth.

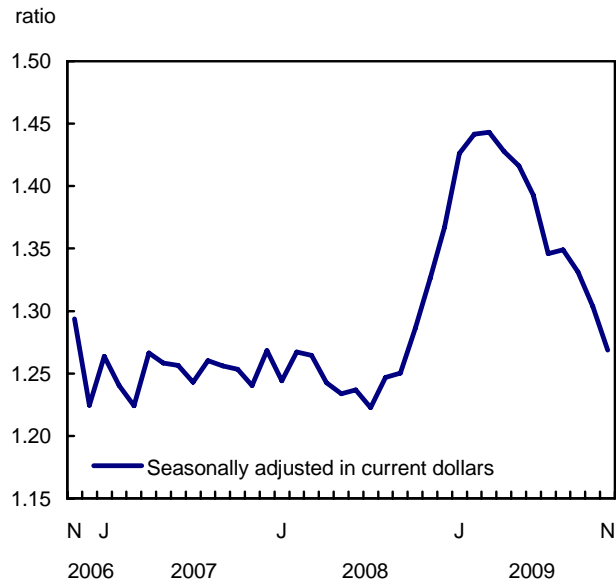
Gains in the automotive products sector boosted sales, particularly in Ontario, where more than 70% of the sector is concentrated. This sector accounts for one-quarter of the province's wholesale sales.

Ontario wholesale sales climbed 3.5% to \$21.7 billion, the highest level since September 2008.

Sales rose 1.6% in Quebec in November, after increasing 0.5% in October. The latest gain was largely attributable to higher sales in the food, beverages and tobacco products, and personal and household goods sectors.

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.

The inventory-to-sales ratio decreases in November



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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

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

Wholesale trade data for December will be released on February 17.

To obtain data or general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; toll-free at 1-877-421-3067; wholesaleinfo@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.

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Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	November 2008	August 2009 ^r	September 2009 ^r	October 2009 ^r	November 2009 ^p	October to November 2009	November 2008 to November 2009	October 2009 ^r	November 2009 ^p
	Wholesale inventories							Inventory-to-sales ratio	
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
Inventories	58,746	55,355	54,743	53,861	53,758	-0.2	-8.5	1.30	1.27
Farm products	180	173	171	169	166	-1.7	-7.7	0.38	0.36
Food products	4,682	4,689	4,555	4,460	4,522	1.4	-3.4	0.62	0.61
Alcohol and tobacco	431	417	411	390	401	3.0	-6.8	0.50	0.52
Apparel	1,975	1,912	1,845	1,854	1,806	-2.6	-8.6	2.32	2.21
Household and personal products	4,124	3,733	3,726	3,667	3,621	-1.3	-12.2	1.38	1.35
Pharmaceuticals	4,035	4,254	4,201	4,163	4,367	4.9	8.2	1.19	1.22
Motor vehicles	4,368	3,659	3,681	3,660	3,742	2.2	-14.3	0.70	0.66
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,352	3,366	3,400	3,402	3,349	-1.6	-0.1	2.21	2.14
Building supplies	6,270	6,062	6,045	6,014	6,002	-0.2	-4.3	1.64	1.60
Metal products	3,209	2,599	2,611	2,579	2,556	-0.9	-20.4	2.28	2.33
Lumber and millwork	1,118	902	895	865	839	-3.0	-25.0	1.21	1.16
Machinery and equipment	12,383	12,284	11,905	11,475	11,302	-1.5	-8.7	2.86	2.90
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,917	1,591	1,599	1,656	1,695	2.4	-11.6	0.64	0.64
Office and professional equipment	2,885	2,705	2,689	2,650	2,654	0.1	-8.0	1.29	1.28
Other products	7,818	7,009	7,009	6,856	6,736	-1.7	-13.8	1.37	1.31

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Wholesale merchants' sales

	November 2008	August 2009 ^r	September 2009 ^r	October 2009 ^r	November 2009 ^p	October to November 2009	November 2008 to November 2009
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	44,303	41,032	41,119	41,318	42,366	2.5	-4.4
Farm products	480	453	443	448	467	4.2	-2.7
Food, beverages and tobacco products	8,020	8,076	8,149	8,001	8,202	2.5	2.3
Food products	7,290	7,259	7,339	7,220	7,426	2.9	1.9
Alcohol and tobacco	730	817	810	781	776	-0.7	6.4
Personal and household goods	6,744	6,933	6,899	6,934	7,066	1.9	4.8
Apparel	888	789	740	800	818	2.2	-7.9
Household and personal products	2,622	2,671	2,650	2,649	2,674	0.9	2.0
Pharmaceuticals	3,234	3,473	3,510	3,485	3,574	2.6	10.5
Automotive products	6,716	6,673	6,577	6,749	7,274	7.8	8.3
Motor vehicles	5,093	5,046	5,005	5,211	5,712	9.6	12.2
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,623	1,627	1,572	1,538	1,562	1.5	-3.8
Building materials	6,456	5,367	5,430	5,507	5,569	1.1	-13.7
Building supplies	3,974	3,632	3,622	3,661	3,745	2.3	-5.8
Metal products	1,627	1,001	1,076	1,130	1,098	-2.8	-32.5
Lumber and millwork	856	734	733	716	726	1.4	-15.2
Machinery and electronic equipment	10,126	8,521	8,597	8,659	8,643	-0.2	-14.6
Machinery and equipment	5,253	3,911	4,065	4,008	3,894	-2.8	-25.9
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,782	2,572	2,511	2,594	2,669	2.9	-4.1
Office and professional equipment	2,092	2,038	2,021	2,057	2,080	1.1	-0.6
Other products	5,760	5,009	5,023	5,019	5,144	2.5	-10.7
Total, excluding automobiles	37,587	34,359	34,542	34,569	35,092	1.5	-6.6
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	285	280	282	293	309	5.3	8.1
Prince Edward Island	44	38	37	39	39	1.2	-12.0
Nova Scotia	606	584	616	593	590	-0.5	-2.6
New Brunswick	452	457	464	467	467	0.0	3.3
Quebec	8,352	7,927	7,873	7,916	8,040	1.6	-3.7
Ontario	21,354	20,504	20,730	20,999	21,729	3.5	1.8
Manitoba	1,102	1,124	1,091	1,056	1,104	4.6	0.2
Saskatchewan	1,741	1,322	1,268	1,201	1,270	5.7	-27.1
Alberta	5,887	4,709	4,704	4,658	4,675	0.4	-20.6
British Columbia	4,414	4,032	4,000	4,039	4,080	1.0	-7.6
Yukon	11	11	10	11	11	0.0	5.4
Northwest Territories	54	41	43	42	48	14.5	-11.0
Nunavut	3	3	3	4	3	-1.5	37.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

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Construction Union Wage Rate Index

December 2009

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in December compared with the previous month. The composite index increased 2.5% compared with December 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 third 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, and data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-3902; toll-free 1-866-230-2248; fax: 613-951-3117; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division. ■

Accounting services price indexes

2007

The Accounting Services Price Index (ASPI, 2000=100), which measures the change over time in the price of services including auditing, tax preparation and bookkeeping, is now available for 2007.

The ASPI increased by 3.7% from 2006 to 2007. Prices rose in all accounting service categories, ranging from gains of 2.0% for tax preparation services for corporate clients, to 4.7% for audit, review and related services.

Prices in British Columbia (+4.4%) grew at the fastest pace, while prices in Atlantic Canada (+1.7%) increased at the slowest rate.

The ASPI series are disseminated both nationally and by region.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2334.

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; 613-951-3902; fax: 613-951-3117; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division. ■

Investment in new housing construction

November 2009

Data on the investment in new housing construction (including single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing, apartments and condominiums) are now available for November.

These series are not offered on CANSIM.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.

To order data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-0087; bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

New products and studies

Canadian Economic Observer, January 2010, Vol. 23, no. 1
Catalogue number 11-010-X (Print, \$25/\$243)

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

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire, November 2009, Vol. 5, no. 11
Catalogue number 41-019-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.

Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database, November 2009
Catalogue number 65F0013X (Database, free)

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