

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, February 15, 2010

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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Non-residential Building Construction Price Index

Fourth quarter 2009

The composite price index for non-residential building construction decreased 0.4% in the fourth quarter compared with the previous quarter. The quarterly drop in the price index was mainly due to a slight decline in the price of construction materials.

Among the seven census metropolitan areas (CMAs) surveyed, Edmonton (-1.6%) posted the largest quarterly decrease, while only Montréal (+0.2%) and Halifax (+0.1%) registered increases.

Year over year, the composite price index for non-residential building construction was down 7.7%. Of the CMAs surveyed, Vancouver (-15.9%) recorded the largest decline, while Montréal (+1.2%) was the only CMA to post an increase.

Note: In the fourth quarter of 2008, the five building models used in the calculation of non-residential building construction price indexes were replaced with updated models. Also, the base year was changed to 2002=100.

The Non-residential Building Construction Price Index provides an indication of the changes in new construction costs in six census metropolitan areas or CMAs (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ottawa part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Three construction categories (industrial, commercial and institutional buildings) are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school). Besides the CMA and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the changes in costs is available by trade group (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical) within the building types.

These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0043 and 327-0044.

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

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-951-4550; 613-951-4550; fax: 613-951-3117; ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division.

Non-residential building construction price indexes¹

	2009	Fourth quarter 2008	Third quarter 2009	Fourth quarter 2009	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2009	Fourth quarter 2008 to fourth quarter 2009
	relative importance ²	(2002=100)			% change	
Composite	100.0	151.5	140.3	139.8	-0.4	-7.7
Halifax	2.2	136.3	135.6	135.7	0.1	-0.4
Montréal	10.6	133.6	134.9	135.2	0.2	1.2
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ottawa part	4.3	141.8	139.6	139.6	0.0	-1.6
Toronto	32.5	147.0	141.6	140.9	-0.5	-4.1
Calgary	22.9	178.1	161.2	160.9	-0.2	-9.7
Edmonton	10.4	170.2	150.8	148.4	-1.6	-12.8
Vancouver	17.1	157.3	132.6	132.3	-0.2	-15.9

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas (CMA).

2. The relative importance is calculated using a price adjusted three-year average of the value of building permits for each CMA.

For-hire motor carriers of freight, annual supplement: Financial statistics 2008

The 3,600 for-hire motor carriers of freight in Canada with annual earnings of at least \$1 million had operating revenue totalling \$29.8 billion and operating expenses totalling \$28.4 billion in 2008. The net profit of these trucking companies was down 3.6% in 2008. Total assets reached \$15.5 billion.

In 2008, the return on equity (14.5%) indicated a positive financial leverage, as it was greater than the return on capital employed (12.8%).

In addition, both short- and long-term liquidity improved. The working capital ratio (a measure of short-term liquidity) rose from 1.20 in 2007 to 1.22 in 2008, while the long-term-debt-to-equity ratio (a measure of long-term liquidity) improved from 0.47 to 0.42.

Note: The Annual Motor Carriers of Freight Survey provides supplementary financial information to the Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight Survey. The annual survey collects data on the main elements of for-hire trucking companies' balance sheets, broken down by region of domicile, type of service and size of company.

This will be the final release of data from the Annual Motor Carriers of Freight Survey, as the survey has been discontinued. Beginning with the reference year 2009, this survey will be replaced by the Annual Trucking Survey. Data from this new survey will first be released in spring 2011.

Available on CANSIM: table 403-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2742.

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. ■

Dairy statistics

December 2009 (preliminary)

Monthly dairy statistics for Canada and the provinces are now available for December.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0007 to 003-0012, 003-0029, 003-0033 and 003-0034.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The fourth quarter 2009 issue of *Dairy Statistics*, Vol. 4, no. 4 (23-014-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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 Sandra Venturino (613-951-9278; sandra.venturino@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Small area data on crops

2009

Small area data on crops are now available for 2009.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Dave Burroughs (613-951-5138; dave.burroughs@statcan.gc.ca) or Dave Roeske (613-951-0572; dave.roeske@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises

2008

The financial and taxation statistics for Canadian enterprises are now available for 2008.

These financial and taxation statistics cover all incorporated businesses within the domestic economy, including government business enterprises, but exclude enterprises classified as management of companies and enterprises, funds and other financial vehicles, and public administration.

Available on CANSIM: table 180-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2510.

The publication of *Financial and Taxation Statistics for Enterprises*, 2008 (61-219-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-811-6235; 613-951-2604; iofd-clientservicesunit@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Edward Holmes (613-951-0584; edward.holmes@statcan.gc.ca) or Joycelyn Francisco (613-951-0583; joycelyn.francisco@statcan.gc.ca), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

Advertising and related services

2008

Data on the advertising and related services industry are now available for 2008.

Available on CANSIM: table 360-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2437.

The publication *Service Bulletin: Advertising and Related Services*, 2008 (63-257-X, free), will be available in May.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-801-3282; 613-951-4612; servicesind@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Megan Brown (613-951-1244; megan.brown@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

New products and studies

Dairy Statistics, fourth quarter 2009, Vol. 4, no. 4
Catalogue number **23-014-X** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Financial and Taxation Statistics for Enterprises, 2008
Catalogue number **61-219-X** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

New Motor Vehicle Sales, December 2009, Vol. 81, no. 12
Catalogue number **63-007-X** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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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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.

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