

# The Daily

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## Statistics Canada

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010**

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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## Releases

### Wholesale trade

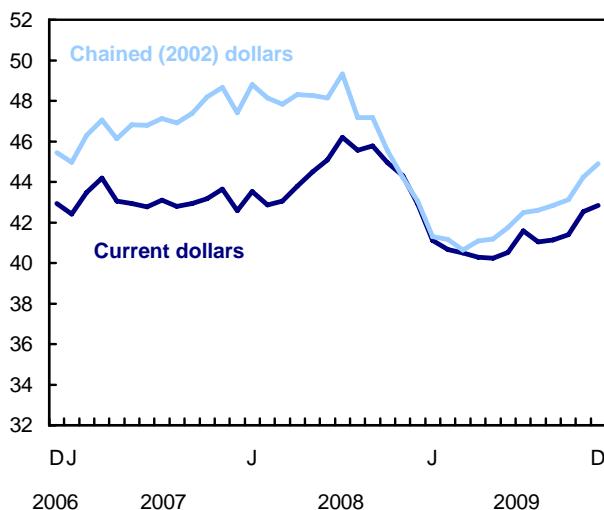
December 2009

In December, wholesale sales in current dollars increased by 0.7% to \$42.8 billion, the sixth increase in seven months.

In volume terms, wholesale sales grew by 1.5%. The difference between the growth rate expressed in current and constant dollars is due to lower prices observed mainly in the automotive products and the machinery and electronic equipment sectors.

#### Wholesale sales rise for the sixth time in seven months

\$ billions



#### Widespread sales increases

December's higher sales coincide with increases in six of the seven sectors. The only decrease was reported by wholesalers of personal and household goods, due to the decline in sales of pharmaceuticals.

The machinery and electronic equipment sector contributed the most to the growth in December. Sales in this sector climbed to \$8.8 billion, up 1.2% from November. The increase can be explained by higher sales for all trade groups within this sector, that is, machinery and equipment (+1.3%), computer and other electronic equipment (+1.0%) and office and professional equipment (+1.2%).

#### Note to readers

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

Wholesale trade sales expressed in volume 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 the 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.

At the end of each calendar year, seasonally adjusted monthly figures are revised to equal the sum of the unadjusted data. Revised seasonally adjusted figures are presented this month for September to November 2009. The complete revision of seasonally adjusted data for the 2009 calendar year will be released in April 2010.

The machinery and equipment group, whose sales depend largely on business investment, recorded three monthly increases in 2009. As a result, the sales reported in December were 18.8% lower than those in December 2008.

The second highest increase in December took place in the "other products" (+1.4%) sector, where sales rose for the fourth consecutive month. Despite positive performance in recent months, this sector's sales are substantially below mid-2008 levels.

The "other products" sector mainly includes wholesalers of fertilizer and agricultural supplies, chemicals, recycled materials and paper products.

The building materials and automotive products sectors also made significant contributions to the growth seen in December, with increases of 1.3% and 0.9%, respectively.

#### Higher sales in six provinces

Wholesale sales rose in six provinces in December, with Alberta making the largest contribution to the national increase.

The growth in the machinery and electronic equipment sector boosted sales in Alberta. Sales for Alberta wholesalers rose by 3.9% to \$4.9 billion. This was the third increase in sales in that province for 2009.

In British Columbia, wholesale sales grew by 1.9% in December, due in large part to the building materials and "other products" sectors.

In Quebec, sales edged up 0.5% after an increase of 1.6% in November. The December advance was mainly attributable to higher sales in the food, beverages and tobacco products and "other products" sectors.

Sales in Ontario (-0.2%) decreased slightly after posting consecutive increases in the previous three months.

### Tenth straight decline in inventories

Wholesale inventories decreased for the tenth month in a row, declining 0.5% in December. Inventories, evaluated at \$53.5 billion, were at their lowest level since December 2006.

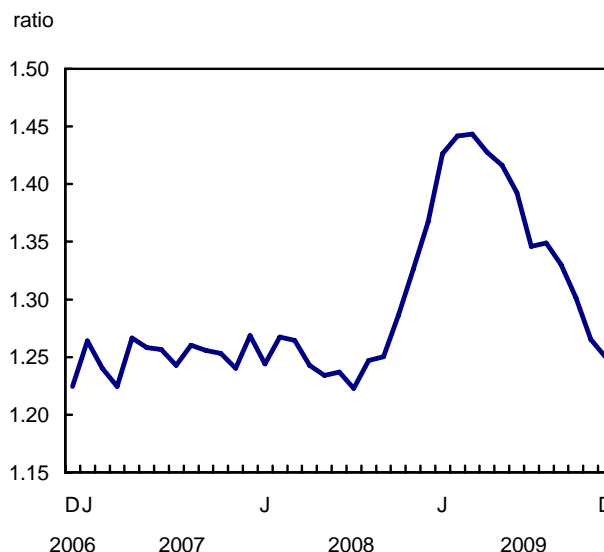
Overall, 10 of the 15 wholesale trade groups reported reduced inventories in December.

The largest inventory declines in dollar terms were reported in the pharmaceuticals (-3.8%), building supplies (-1.6%) and computer and other electronic equipment (-5.5%) trade groups. These decreases were partially offset by an increase in inventories of "other products" (+3.5%).

Increased sales for wholesalers, combined with decreased inventories, led to a decline in the inventory-to-sales ratio, which fell from 1.27 in November to 1.25 in December. This compares with an inventory-to-sales ratio of 1.37 in December 2008.

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 continues downward trend



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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

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

Wholesale trade data for January will be released on March 17.

To obtain data, or general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; toll-free 1-877-421-3067; [wholesaleinfo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto: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](mailto:karim.elhassani@statcan.gc.ca)), Distributive Trade Division.

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## Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	December 2008	September 2009 <sup>r</sup>	October 2009 <sup>r</sup>	November 2009 <sup>r</sup>	December 2009 <sup>p</sup>	November to December 2009	December 2008 to December 2009	November 2009 <sup>r</sup>	December 2009 <sup>p</sup>
	Wholesale inventories						Inventory-to-sales ratio		
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
<b>Inventories</b>	<b>58,667</b>	<b>54,722</b>	<b>53,870</b>	<b>53,804</b>	<b>53,535</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-8.7</b>	<b>1.27</b>	<b>1.25</b>
Farm products	179	169	165	154	150	-2.6	-16.3	0.33	0.31
Food products	4,623	4,552	4,464	4,510	4,504	-0.1	-2.6	0.61	0.61
Alcohol and tobacco	400	409	389	396	400	1.0	-0.1	0.50	0.48
Apparel	2,057	1,844	1,857	1,807	1,812	0.2	-11.9	2.16	2.00
Household and personal products	4,071	3,716	3,653	3,591	3,528	-1.7	-13.3	1.33	1.27
Pharmaceuticals	4,112	4,185	4,169	4,420	4,250	-3.8	3.4	1.23	1.27
Motor vehicles	4,268	3,689	3,672	3,760	3,796	1.0	-11.1	0.65	0.65
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,382	3,395	3,397	3,347	3,324	-0.7	-1.7	2.19	2.27
Building supplies	6,362	6,030	5,989	5,952	5,857	-1.6	-7.9	1.58	1.55
Metal products	3,251	2,612	2,582	2,571	2,517	-2.1	-22.6	2.33	2.25
Lumber and millwork	1,054	897	867	829	847	2.1	-19.7	1.12	1.09
Machinery and equipment	12,388	11,908	11,474	11,439	11,408	-0.3	-7.9	2.91	2.86
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,773	1,591	1,647	1,709	1,615	-5.5	-8.9	0.63	0.59
Office and professional equipment	2,912	2,680	2,639	2,602	2,577	-0.9	-11.5	1.25	1.23
Other products	7,837	7,044	6,906	6,717	6,949	3.5	-11.3	1.30	1.33

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

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

## Wholesale merchants' sales

	December 2008	September 2009 <sup>r</sup>	October 2009 <sup>r</sup>	November 2009 <sup>r</sup>	December 2009 <sup>p</sup>	November to December 2009	December 2008 to December 2009
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions				% change		
<b>Total, wholesale sales</b>	<b>42,912</b>	<b>41,144</b>	<b>41,397</b>	<b>42,526</b>	<b>42,830</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Farm products</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>9.1</b>
<b>Food, beverages and tobacco products</b>	<b>8,157</b>	<b>8,157</b>	<b>8,022</b>	<b>8,208</b>	<b>8,259</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Food products	7,369	7,340	7,236	7,412	7,434	0.3	0.9
Alcohol and tobacco	789	817	786	796	825	3.6	4.6
<b>Personal and household goods</b>	<b>6,753</b>	<b>6,893</b>	<b>6,934</b>	<b>7,122</b>	<b>7,050</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Apparel	822	738	805	837	904	8.0	9.9
Household and personal products	2,666	2,658	2,661	2,700	2,789	3.3	4.6
Pharmaceuticals	3,264	3,497	3,468	3,584	3,356	-6.4	2.8
<b>Automotive products</b>	<b>6,457</b>	<b>6,577</b>	<b>6,759</b>	<b>7,272</b>	<b>7,341</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>
Motor vehicles	4,806	5,011	5,228	5,741	5,876	2.3	22.2
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,651	1,566	1,531	1,531	1,465	-4.3	-11.2
<b>Building materials</b>	<b>6,147</b>	<b>5,438</b>	<b>5,514</b>	<b>5,599</b>	<b>5,671</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>-7.7</b>
Building supplies	3,795	3,623	3,666	3,759	3,771	0.3	-0.6
Metal products	1,573	1,079	1,127	1,102	1,121	1.7	-28.8
Lumber and millwork	778	736	721	738	779	5.5	0.1
<b>Machinery and electronic equipment</b>	<b>9,658</b>	<b>8,610</b>	<b>8,688</b>	<b>8,699</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-8.9</b>
Machinery and equipment	4,907	4,074	4,021	3,935	3,985	1.3	-18.8
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,657	2,513	2,607	2,691	2,718	1.0	2.3
Office and professional equipment	2,094	2,024	2,060	2,073	2,098	1.2	0.2
<b>Other products</b>	<b>5,302</b>	<b>5,025</b>	<b>5,031</b>	<b>5,158</b>	<b>5,232</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
<b>Total, excluding automobiles</b>	<b>36,455</b>	<b>34,567</b>	<b>34,638</b>	<b>35,254</b>	<b>35,489</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
<b>Sales, province and territory</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	279	282	294	309	310	0.2	10.9
Prince Edward Island	40	37	38	37	36	-2.7	-7.7
Nova Scotia	591	615	596	592	622	5.0	5.2
New Brunswick	441	462	466	462	459	-0.6	4.1
Quebec	8,207	7,883	7,935	8,058	8,095	0.5	-1.4
Ontario	20,862	20,729	21,023	21,776	21,738	-0.2	4.2
Manitoba	1,074	1,093	1,052	1,128	1,119	-0.8	4.2
Saskatchewan	1,507	1,269	1,200	1,275	1,289	1.1	-14.5
Alberta	5,638	4,719	4,689	4,732	4,918	3.9	-12.8
British Columbia	4,194	4,000	4,047	4,094	4,171	1.9	-0.6
Yukon	11	11	11	11	10	-5.6	-4.8
Northwest Territories	53	43	42	49	58	19.6	10.4
Nunavut	16	3	4	4	4	6.5	-75.2

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

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

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## Canadian Health Measures Survey: Blood pressure in adults

2007 to 2009

Data from the Canadian Health Measure Survey (CHMS) indicate that nearly one-fifth (19%) of Canadians aged 20 to 79, roughly 4.6 million people, had hypertension. Another 20% had readings in the pre-hypertension range, and 61% had normal blood pressure.

These findings are based on data from direct, automated measures of blood pressure and self-reported use of blood pressure medication in cycle 1 of the CHMS, conducted from March 2007 through February 2009.

The CHMS, carried out in partnership with Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada, is the most comprehensive survey involving direct physical measures ever carried out in Canada. The CHMS included a vast array of direct measures designed to assess fitness and activity levels, nutritional status, exposure to environmental contaminants, infectious disease status, oral health, lung capacity, heart rate, and blood pressure.

The CHMS provides data from which estimates of hypertension prevalence, awareness and control have been derived. The last such data from direct measures of blood pressure were based on surveys conducted in each province over the period 1985 to 1992.

About 80% of the 4.6 million adults with hypertension were being treated with antihypertensive drugs. In two-thirds (66%) of those with hypertension, medication was effective in controlling their blood pressure.

Among the remaining one-third (1.6 million) of adults with hypertension (who accounted for 6.6% of the adult population), the condition was uncontrolled, meaning that their blood pressure remained in the hypertensive range. Of those with uncontrolled hypertension, 4 in 10 were being treated with antihypertensive medication but their blood pressure remained elevated; 1 in 10 knew they had hypertension, but were not being treated with medication; and about half (762,000 people) were unaware of their condition.

### Prevalence nearly the same in men and women

The prevalence of hypertension was nearly the same in both sexes: 19.7% in men and 19.0% in

#### Note to readers

*This article is based on data from cycle 1 of the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS). The CHMS was conducted from March 2007 through February 2009 at 15 sites across the country. The survey used a mobile examination centre (a specially designed pair of trailers staffed by trained health professionals) to collect physical measures from a sample of about 5,600 Canadians aged 6 to 79 years.*

*In cycle 1 of the CHMS, blood pressure was directly measured for all respondents, 3,514 of whom were aged 20 to 79. The data were weighted to be representative of the 23.7 million adults in this age range.*

*Persons whose systolic blood pressure was 140 millimetres of mercury (mm Hg) or higher, or diastolic pressure was 90 mm Hg or higher, or who reported they had used medication for high blood pressure in the past month were classified as having hypertension.*

*Previous research has identified hypertension as a risk factor for cardiac, cerebrovascular and other vascular diseases. It is also a major cause of disability and death.*

*This study provides benchmark estimates of blood pressure levels in the adult population, and estimates of the prevalence of hypertension by sex and age group. Estimates of hypertension awareness, treatment and control are also reported.*

women. However, men were less likely than women to be aware of their condition.

The prevalence of high blood pressure increased sharply with age. At ages 20 to 39, about 2% of adults had hypertension. By ages 40 to 59, the percentage was 18%. And at ages 60 to 79, more than half (53%) had measured blood pressure in the hypertensive range, or were taking medication for it.

The percentages of adults with hypertension in whom the condition was controlled by medication were similar in both sexes: 67% in men and 65% in women. This was the case even though a lower percentage of men with hypertension were being treated with antihypertensive medication (76%) than were women (83%).

Among women with hypertension who were taking antihypertensive medication, 18% had blood pressure that remained out of control, compared with 10% among their male counterparts.

This gap in blood pressure control between the sexes occurred only at older ages. For example, among 60- to 69-year-olds who were using antihypertensive medication, the percentage not controlled was 19% for women, compared with 7% for men.

### One-fifth of adults in pre-hypertension range

A substantial percentage of adults had measured blood pressure that placed them in the pre-hypertensive range, defined according to internationally recognized standards as systolic blood pressure of 120 to 139 mm Hg, or diastolic blood pressure of 80 to 89 mm Hg. Pre-hypertension is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and is strongly predictive of hypertension.

About 20% people aged 20 to 79 had blood pressure in the pre-hypertension range. Pre-hypertension was more prevalent among men (25%) than among women (15%).

Three more waves of data from the CHMS will be released in 2010. Laboratory data reflecting cardiovascular health, chronic and infectious disease markers and nutrition will be released in the spring. They will be followed in the summer by data on environmental exposure measures, and in the fall, data on directly measured physical activity.

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5071.**

The article, "Blood pressure in Canadian adults," which is part of today's *Health Reports* online release, is now available (82-003-X, free). From the *Key resource* module of our website, choose *Publications*. For more information about this article, contact Kathryn Wilkins (613-951-1769: [kathryn.wilkins@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:kathryn.wilkins@statcan.gc.ca)), Health Analysis Division.

Today's online release also includes "Resting blood pressure and heart rate measurement in the Canadian Health Measures Survey, cycle 1." This article provides an overview of the blood pressure and heart rate collection method used for cycle 1 of the Canadian Health Measures Survey and information about methodological and analytical issues faced during the collection and analysis of these data. For more information, contact Jeanine Bustros (613-951-9476; [jeanine.bustros@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:jeanine.bustros@statcan.gc.ca)), Physical Health Measures Division.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; [christine.wright@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:christine.wright@statcan.gc.ca)), Health Analysis Division. ■

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## Travel between Canada and other countries

December 2009

Travel to Canada by foreign residents increased 0.9% between November and December to 2.0 million trips, largely as a result of an increase in overnight trips by American residents.

Increases occurred in all modes of travel by American residents in December. Overnight plane travel rose by 2.4%. Overnight car trips were up 0.9%, while same day car trips edged up 0.2%.

Residents of overseas countries made 343,000 trips to Canada in December, up 0.2% over November. The number of trips to Canada by residents of half of the top 12 countries increased while the other half declined. Most notably, trips by residents of China rose 10.3% and those from Indian residents were up 24.8%, following declines in November.

Canadian residents made 4.3 million trips outside of the country in December, up 2.6% from the previous month. Trips to both the United States and overseas destinations increased compared with November.

Overall, Canadian residents made 3.5 million trips to the United States, a 2.5% increase. The fastest change was a 4.9% increase in overnight air trips to the United States. Same-day car trips to the United States increased 3.5%, while overnight car trips fell 0.5%.

Canadian residents took 710,000 trips to overseas destinations in December, up 3.4% from November.

On an annual basis, travel between Canada and the United States was lower in 2009 than it was the year

before. All categories of travel between the two countries fell with same day car travel dropping the most.

American residents made 9.2% fewer trips to Canada in 2009 with same-day car travel decreasing 13.9%. Similarly, Canadian residents made 10.0% fewer trips to the United States in 2009 as same day car trips dropped 13.3%.

Travel to Canada from residents of countries other than the United States was down 12.5% in 2009 while the number of trips by Canadian residents to overseas countries increased by 1.3%. This was the only major travel category to have an increase in 2009.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.**

The December 2009 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 25, no. 12 (66-001-P, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; [tourism@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:tourism@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Durk (613-951-5859; [paul.durk@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:paul.durk@statcan.gc.ca)), Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics Division.

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## Travel between Canada and other countries

	December 2008 <sup>r</sup>	November 2009 <sup>r</sup>	December 2009 <sup>p</sup>	2009 <sup>p</sup>	November to December 2009	2008 to 2009
	Seasonally adjusted		Unadjusted			
	thousands				% change <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Canadian trips abroad<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>3,926</b>	<b>4,143</b>	<b>4,253</b>	<b>47,484</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>-8.2</b>
To the United States	3,190	3,457	3,543	39,254	2.5	-10.0
To other countries	735	686	710	8,230	3.4	1.3
Same-day car trips to the United States	1,688	1,872	1,937	20,858	3.5	-13.3
Total trips, one or more nights	2,192	2,236	2,280	26,188	2.0	-3.1
United States <sup>3</sup>	1,456	1,550	1,571	17,958	1.3	-5.0
Car	843	946	942	10,796	-0.5	-4.8
Plane	515	518	544	6,089	4.9	-4.1
Other modes of transportation	99	86	85	1,073	-0.3	-12.1
Other countries <sup>4</sup>	735	686	710	8,230	3.4	1.3
<b>Travel to Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,257</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>24,696</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-9.8</b>
From the United States	1,879	1,658	1,675	20,526	1.0	-9.2
From other countries	377	342	343	4,170	0.2	-12.5
Same-day car trips from the United States	721	625	627	7,838	0.2	-13.9
Total trips, one or more nights	1,445	1,295	1,311	15,805	1.2	-7.8
United States <sup>3</sup>	1,077	961	976	11,735	1.6	-6.1
Car	648	571	576	7,051	0.9	-4.3
Plane	306	276	283	3,281	2.4	-8.6
Other modes of transportation	123	114	117	1,404	3.1	-9.2
Other countries <sup>4</sup>	368	334	335	4,070	0.1	-12.3
<b>Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin<sup>5</sup></b>						
United Kingdom	68	65	62	724	-5.2	-16.7
France	34	34	34	412	-1.4	-3.2
Germany	28	25	26	319	1.0	-4.0
Japan	23	18	19	206	6.8	-28.4
Australia	19	18	17	214	-5.9	-14.1
China	14	12	13	166	10.3	0.2
South Korea	13	12	12	144	-0.7	-26.7
India	10	8	10	112	24.8	-3.0
Hong Kong	11	10	10	112	-2.4	-15.6
Netherlands	9	9	9	111	1.3	-10.6
Switzerland	8	8	9	101	8.5	1.5
Mexico	21	9	9	172	-4.8	-36.5

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

3. Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

4. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

5. Includes same-day and overnight trips.

## Steel pipe and tubing

December 2009

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

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The December 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](mailto:manufact@statcan.gc.ca)), Manufacturing and Energy Division.

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## **Personal services industry**

2008

Data on personal services industry are now available for the reference year 2008.

**Available on CANSIM: table 359-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2424.**

The publication *Service Bulletin: Personal Services*, 2008 (63-240-X, free), will be available in April.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-801-3282; 613-951-4612; [servicesind@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:servicesind@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Joan Farnworth (613-951-6303; [joan.farnworth@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:joan.farnworth@statcan.gc.ca)), Service Industries Division. ■

## **Monthly Survey of Large Retailers**

December 2009

Data for the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for December.

**Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.**

A data table is also available in the *Summary Tables* module online.

For general information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ashley Ker (613-951-2252), Distributive Trades Division. ■

## New products and studies

**International Travel: Advance Information**,  
December 2009, Vol. 25, no. 12  
Catalogue number **66-001-P** (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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

**Health Reports**, Vol. 21, no. 1  
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