

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Wholesale trade, January 2010	2
Wholesale sales in current dollars rose 3.0% in January to \$44.4 billion, the strongest increase in three years. Canadian wholesale sales have maintained an upward trend since mid-2009.	
Stocks of frozen poultry meat, March 1, 2010	6
Refined petroleum products, January 2010	6
Crude oil and natural gas production, January 2010	6
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products, November 2009	6
Food services and drinking places, annual, 2008	6

New products and studies	7
---------------------------------	---



Releases

Wholesale trade

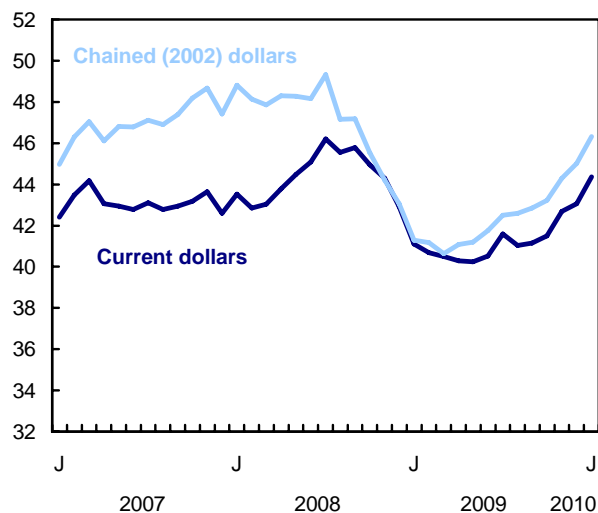
January 2010

Wholesale sales in current dollars rose 3.0% in January to \$44.4 billion, the strongest increase in three years. Canadian wholesale sales have maintained an upward trend since mid-2009.

In volume terms, wholesale sales grew by 2.9%.

Wholesale sales rise for the seventh time in eight months

\$ billions



The higher sales in January reflected increases in all sectors. In particular, four sectors accounted for 80% of the growth: automotive products; building materials; machinery and electronic equipment; and "other products."

Sales in the automotive products sector grew by 4.8% to \$7.8 billion in January, a fourth consecutive increase. This advance was entirely attributable to the motor vehicles group (+6.1%), while sales of motor vehicle parts and accessories edged down 0.3%.

Wholesale sales of building materials reached \$6.0 billion in January. The three trade groups that comprise this sector all increased. The largest gains were recorded in the metal products group and the building supplies group.

Higher sales in the building materials sector coincided with an increase in housing starts in Canada. According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing

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.

Starting with the next release, estimates for the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey will reflect a new sample. In addition, the presentation of results will change from the Trade Groups to the North American Industry Classification System (see concordance table).

Current tables 081-0007 to 081-0010 will be terminated and replaced by new CANSIM matrices 081-0011 to 081-0013. Estimates for February 2010 as well as estimates from January 2004 will be available in these new CANSIM tables in the next release.

Corporation, housing starts in January were up 5.8% from December.

The machinery and electronic equipment sector posted a 2.6% increase, reflecting sharply higher sales in the machinery and equipment group.

Sales in the "other products" sector grew by 4.1%, largely due to a surge in sales of agricultural chemicals. These products account for approximately one-quarter of the sales of this sector, which also includes recycled materials, paper products and non-agricultural chemicals.

Most provinces post gains

Except for Nova Scotia, all provinces posted higher wholesale sales in January.

Saskatchewan (+18.4%) registered the largest provincial gain in percentage terms. This growth was attributable to rising sales in the "other products" sector. This was the strongest increase in wholesale sales in Saskatchewan since July 1993.

In British Columbia, wholesale sales rose 4.0% in January, largely due to the automotive products and machinery and electronic equipment sectors.

Wholesale sales increased by 2.4% in both Quebec and Ontario. The sales increase in Quebec was attributable to higher sales in the personal and household goods and building materials sectors.

Ontario wholesalers greatly benefited from strong sales in the automotive products sector.

Inventory-to-sales ratio declines

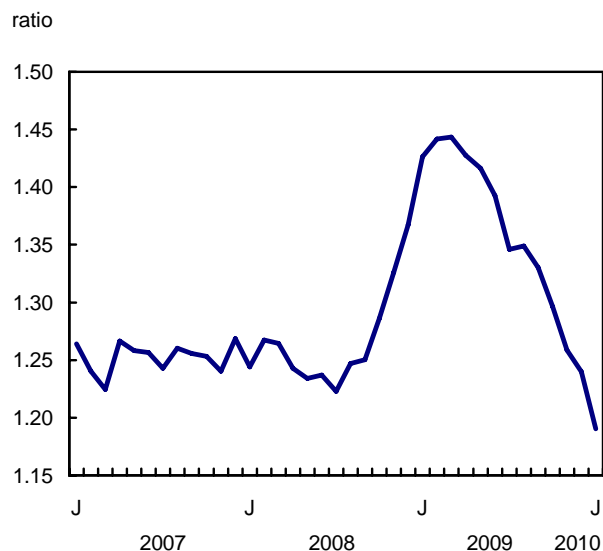
Wholesale trade inventories declined 1.1% in January to \$52.8 billion, their lowest level since December 2006. This was the 11th consecutive monthly decline.

Overall, 11 of the 15 wholesale trade groups reported reduced inventories in January. The trade groups whose inventories showed the largest declines in dollar terms were machinery and equipment (-2.0%) and "other products" (-3.2%).

Increased sales for wholesalers, combined with decreased inventories, led to a decline in the inventory-to-sales ratio, which fell from 1.24 in December to 1.19 in January. By way of comparison, the inventory-to-sales ratio reached a high of 1.44 in March 2009.

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 January 2010 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-X, free) will be available soon.

Wholesale trade data for February will be released on April 21.

To obtain data or general information, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; toll-free 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 Trade Division.

□

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	January 2009	October 2009 ^r	November 2009 ^r	December 2009 ^r	January 2010 ^p	December 2009 to January 2010	January 2009 to January 2010	December 2009 ^r	January 2010 ^p
	Wholesale inventories					Inventory-to-sales ratio			
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
Inventories	58,641	53,803	53,722	53,378	52,805	-1.1	-10.0	1.24	1.19
Farm products	178	167	152	153	158	3.3	-11.1	0.32	0.32
Food products	4,633	4,464	4,519	4,522	4,556	0.7	-1.7	0.62	0.61
Alcohol and tobacco	421	389	395	399	397	-0.5	-5.7	0.48	0.49
Apparel	2,109	1,850	1,798	1,766	1,756	-0.6	-16.7	1.92	1.93
Household and personal products	4,045	3,646	3,580	3,497	3,480	-0.5	-14.0	1.27	1.27
Pharmaceuticals	4,086	4,165	4,404	4,228	4,147	-1.9	1.5	1.26	1.17
Motor vehicles	4,089	3,689	3,780	3,836	3,904	1.8	-4.5	0.64	0.61
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,346	3,394	3,341	3,292	3,285	-0.2	-1.8	2.23	2.23
Building supplies	6,371	5,982	5,940	5,829	5,791	-0.7	-9.1	1.54	1.47
Metal products	3,248	2,580	2,573	2,513	2,481	-1.3	-23.6	2.19	2.01
Lumber and millwork	1,040	868	831	850	862	1.4	-17.1	1.07	1.09
Machinery and equipment	12,542	11,457	11,412	11,348	11,118	-2.0	-11.3	2.80	2.58
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,754	1,646	1,703	1,607	1,556	-3.2	-11.3	0.59	0.57
Office and professional equipment	2,940	2,637	2,599	2,570	2,566	-0.2	-12.7	1.23	1.24
Other products	7,841	6,868	6,695	6,969	6,749	-3.2	-13.9	1.32	1.22

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Wholesale merchants' sales

	January 2009	October 2009 ^r	November 2009 ^r	December 2009 ^r	January 2010 ^p	December 2009 to January 2010	January 2009 to January 2010
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions				% change		
Total, wholesale sales	41,115	41,499	42,677	43,053	44,365	3.0	7.9
Farm products	460	450	471	481	500	3.9	8.8
Food, beverages and tobacco products	8,241	8,021	8,200	8,161	8,263	1.2	0.3
Food products	7,475	7,236	7,403	7,338	7,451	1.5	-0.3
Alcohol and tobacco	765	785	798	823	812	-1.3	6.1
Personal and household goods	6,762	6,949	7,116	7,042	7,187	2.1	6.3
Apparel	821	808	844	920	908	-1.3	10.6
Household and personal products	2,640	2,661	2,698	2,761	2,733	-1.0	3.5
Pharmaceuticals	3,302	3,480	3,574	3,361	3,546	5.5	7.4
Automotive products	5,076	6,791	7,338	7,470	7,830	4.8	54.3
Motor vehicles	3,462	5,263	5,808	5,993	6,357	6.1	83.6
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,613	1,528	1,530	1,477	1,473	-0.3	-8.7
Building materials	5,777	5,525	5,632	5,733	5,973	4.2	3.4
Building supplies	3,623	3,670	3,775	3,795	3,947	4.0	9.0
Metal products	1,441	1,131	1,114	1,148	1,232	7.3	-14.5
Lumber and millwork	714	725	743	791	794	0.5	11.3
Machinery and electronic equipment	9,331	8,715	8,698	8,870	9,098	2.6	-2.5
Machinery and equipment	4,770	4,045	3,931	4,047	4,305	6.4	-9.8
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,455	2,612	2,697	2,731	2,730	0.0	11.2
Office and professional equipment	2,105	2,057	2,070	2,092	2,063	-1.4	-2.0
Other products	5,469	5,048	5,222	5,295	5,513	4.1	0.8
Total, excluding automobiles	36,039	34,708	35,339	35,583	36,534	2.7	1.4
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	280	294	309	314	322	2.4	15.0
Prince Edward Island	39	38	38	37	39	6.6	1.1
Nova Scotia	573	595	590	624	620	-0.7	8.2
New Brunswick	444	466	461	465	483	3.7	8.8
Quebec	8,054	7,934	8,052	8,174	8,374	2.4	4.0
Ontario	19,263	21,100	21,916	21,755	22,269	2.4	15.6
Manitoba	1,125	1,050	1,126	1,121	1,126	0.5	0.1
Saskatchewan	1,681	1,212	1,291	1,330	1,575	18.4	-6.3
Alberta	5,494	4,700	4,729	4,940	5,085	2.9	-7.4
British Columbia	4,088	4,051	4,101	4,218	4,388	4.0	7.3
Yukon	11	11	11	10	12	16.7	7.4
Northwest Territories	57	42	50	59	66	11.7	15.2
Nunavut	6	4	4	4	5	24.6	-9.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

■

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

March 1, 2010 (preliminary)

Data on stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage as of March 1 are now available.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

For more information, call 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. ■

Refined petroleum products

January 2010 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for January. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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. ■

Crude oil and natural gas production

January 2010 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for January.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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. ■

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

November 2009

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.

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. ■

Food services and drinking places, annual 2008

Data on the food services and drinking places industry are now available for 2008.

Available on CANSIM: table 355-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4704.

The publication *Service Bulletin: Food Services and Drinking Places*, 2008 (63-243-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 Pierre Felx (613-951-0075; pierre.felx@statcan.gc.ca) or Nicolas Dumais (514-283-3765; nicolas.dumais@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

New products and studies

There are no new products and studies today.

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

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 listproc@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.