

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Canadian Health Measures Survey, 2007 to 2009	3
New data from the Canadian Health Measures Survey show that 41% of Canadian adults had a high total cholesterol level. In addition, 4% of Canadians aged 6 to 79, or just over 1.1 million people, were considered vitamin D-deficient.	
Leading indicators, February 2010	5
Natural gas sales, January 2010	7
Large urban transit, January 2010	7

(continued on page 2)

Perspectives on Labour and Income

Spring 2010 print edition

The Spring 2010 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, includes five articles previously released in the online edition.

"Canada's employment downturn" examines changes in employment levels from October 2008 to October 2009 across a variety of personal and job characteristics.

"Immigrant low-income rates: The role of market income and government transfers" looks at long-term trends in the incidence of low income among working-age immigrants, immigrant seniors and the children of immigrants.

"The financial impact of student loans" examines the increase in the student borrowing rate among postsecondary graduates between 1995 and 2005, finding that borrowers differ little from non-borrowers in terms of employment rates and total personal income, but that borrowers were less likely to have savings or investments, or own their own homes.

"Employer top-ups" studies who is likely to receive a top-up (or a Supplemental Unemployment Benefit), which some employers provide to parents to compensate for earnings lost by employees on leave, and whether the benefit influences mothers' return-to-work behaviour.

"Immigrants working in regulated occupations" focuses on university graduates whose studies would normally lead to employment in a regulated occupation such as medicine, law or education.

The Spring 2010 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 22, no. 1 (75-001-X, \$20/\$63), is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Ted Wannell (613-951-3546; ted.wannell@statcan.gc.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

New products and studies

8

Releases

Canadian Health Measures Survey

2007 to 2009

New data from the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) show that 41% of Canadian adults had a high total cholesterol level. In addition, 4% of Canadians aged 6 to 79, or just over 1.1 million people, were considered vitamin D-deficient.

These findings are included in the second data release from the CHMS, which collected key information about the health of Canadians by means of direct physical measurements. The CHMS tested blood samples of participants for a number of lipids, which are a class of fats that include cholesterol and triglycerides, and for vitamin D and other nutrition markers.

Lipids (cholesterol levels)

High levels of total cholesterol increase with age. About 27% of adults aged 20 to 39 had high levels of total cholesterol from 2007 to 2009. This percentage increased to 47% among those aged 40 to 59 and 54% of those aged 60 to 79.

Lipids are a class of fats, or fat-like substances, which includes cholesterol and triglycerides. There are two types of cholesterol. "Good cholesterol" (high density lipoprotein or HDL cholesterol) helps to prevent the narrowing of arteries. "Bad cholesterol" (low density lipoprotein or LDL cholesterol) can lead to cardiovascular disease.

About 36% of adult Canadians had unhealthy levels of LDL cholesterol, while 30% had unhealthy levels of HDL cholesterol. Unhealthy levels of LDL cholesterol generally increase with age, but peaked at 43% among adults aged 40 to 59.

Overall, about 25% of Canadian adults had unhealthy levels of triglycerides. This percentage also increased with age, from 17% among adults aged 20 to 39 to 34% among the age group 60 to 79.

About 36% of Canadians aged 20 to 79 who did not have a healthy level of good cholesterol were obese, compared with 16% of those with a healthy level of good cholesterol. Unhealthy levels of total cholesterol, triglycerides, and bad cholesterol were generally associated with higher measured hypertension.

Vitamin D: Most Canadians have adequate concentrations

About 5% of men and 3% of women aged 6 to 79 were considered vitamin D-deficient. The highest prevalence of deficiency occurred among men

Note to readers

This second release of data from the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) provides information on more than 60 laboratory measures related to nutrition (such as vitamin D, folate, vitamin B12), chronic diseases (such as high cholesterol and diabetes) and infectious diseases (hepatitis).

These indicators were collected from March 2007 to February 2009 from a representative sample of about 5,600 Canadians aged 6 to 79 years at 15 sites across the country.

Healthy and unhealthy levels of lipids used in this data release are based on recommendations from the CHMS Physician Advisory Committee and the US National Cholesterol Education Program. Desirable levels of total cholesterol are defined as below 5.2 millimoles per litre (mmol/L) for adults aged 20 to 79; desirable triglyceride levels were defined as below 1.7 mmol/L, and levels of "bad" (LDL) cholesterol as below 3.4 mmol/L. Desirable levels of "good" (HDL) cholesterol were defined as above 1.0 mmol/L for men and 1.3 mmol/L for women.

Vitamin D deficiency was defined as a concentration below 27.5 nanomoles per litre (nmol/L). Vitamin D inadequacy for bone health was defined as a concentration below 37.5 nmol/L. These standards for Vitamin D levels were set in 1997 by the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C. and are currently under joint review by Canada and the United States.

Millimoles per litre and nanomoles per litre (nmol/L) are measures of concentration that reflect the number of molecules per litre of blood.

aged 20 to 39, about 7% of whom were considered vitamin D-deficient.

Vitamin D is a nutrient that helps the body use calcium and phosphorus to build and maintain strong bones and teeth. When it is deficient, the body absorbs very little calcium. Deficiency in children can cause nutritional rickets, a condition that results in soft bones and skeletal deformities. In adults, low levels of vitamin D can cause osteoporosis.

The survey found that the vast majority (90%) of Canadians aged 6 to 79 had concentrations of vitamin D in their blood that were considered adequate for bone health.

Conversely, 10% or roughly 3 million people had concentrations considered inadequate; of these, 1.1 million were considered vitamin D-deficient. Men were more likely than women to have inadequate concentrations.

For both sexes, levels of vitamin D followed a U-shape by age group: highest among children and seniors, and lowest at ages 20 to 39. Levels tended to be higher among women than men.

A factor associated with lower concentrations was, for some people, darker skin pigmentation. This is because it is more difficult for people with darker skin to get adequate vitamin D through sun exposure. White ethnic origin tended to be associated with higher levels of concentration of vitamin D.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5071.

The article, "Vitamin D status of Canadians as measured in the 2007 to 2009 Canadian Health Measures Survey," which is part of today's *Health Reports* (82-003-X, free) online release, is now available. From the *Key resource* module of our website, choose *Publications*.

Fact sheets on vitamin D and lipids (82-625-X, free) are also available.

The publication *Canadian Health Measures Survey: Cycle 1 Data Tables*, 2007 to 2009 (82-623-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information about vitamin D, contact Kellie Langlois (613-951-3806; kellie.langlois@statcan.gc.ca), Health Analysis Division.

For more information on lipids and on the Canadian Health Measures Survey, 2007 to 2009, contact Jeanine Bustros (613-951-9476; jeanine.bustros@statcan.gc.ca), Physical Health Measures Division. ■

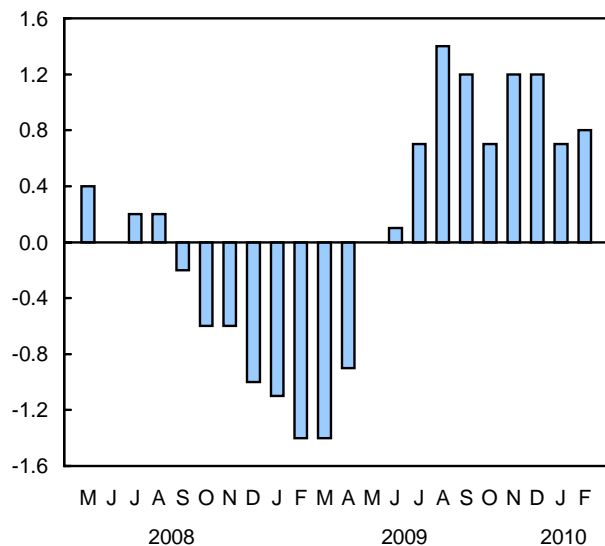
Leading indicators

February 2010

The composite index rose 0.8 % in February after a 0.7% advance in January. In February, 9 of the 10 components rose, up from 8 in January. Household demand again led the increase, while manufacturing continued to recover.

Composite leading indicator

smoothed % change



The housing index accelerated to 1.7% growth, after slowing over the previous four months. However, all of the increase originated in higher housing starts, as existing home sales fell for the first time since

February 2009. The sustained gains in housing were reflected in a 1.2% increase in sales of furniture and appliances, their largest advance in over three years. Spending on other durable goods rose 0.7%, their eighth straight increase. Personal services again led the gain in the services employment component.

The leading indicator for the United States grew 0.8%, matching the ninth straight increase for Canada. Consumer confidence has been slower to recover than in Canada, as jobs have lagged in the United States. Instead, growth has been led by the spread in interest rates and the index of supplier deliveries.

With the US economy continuing to rebound, manufacturing orders and sales rose in Canada. New orders increased for the third time in four months. The ratio of shipments to inventories posted a seventh straight gain, as sales expanded while stocks fell. The average workweek in manufacturing was the only component to decline.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

This release will be reprinted in the April 2010 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 23, no. 4 (11-010-X, free). For more information on the economy, consult the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

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), Current Economic Analysis Group.

□

Leading indicators

	September 2009	October 2009	November 2009	December 2009	January 2010	February 2010	Last month of data available % change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	221.2	222.8	225.5	228.2	229.7	231.6	0.8
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	119.9	126.7	130.6	134.1	135.8	138.1	1.7
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,883	2,873	2,883	2,905	2,916	2,931	0.5
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	10,759	10,867	11,082	11,273	11,319	11,366	0.4
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	200,323	202,959	205,641	207,903	209,751	211,574	0.9
U.S. Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100) ³	122.7	123.9	124.9	125.9	127.1	128.1	0.8
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	37.1	37.1	37.0	36.8	36.5	36.2	-0.8
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	17,908	17,097	18,270	19,792	19,466	20,666	6.2
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.59	1.60	1.63	1.66	1.70	1.73	0.03 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	2,811	2,826	2,848	2,866	2,877	2,911	1.2
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	9,546	9,620	9,752	9,886	9,978	10,047	0.7
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	225.7	225.8	232.1	232.5	232.4	235.3	1.2

1. Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).
2. Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.
3. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.
4. The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.
5. Difference from previous month.

Natural gas sales

January 2010 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 9 832 million cubic metres in January, down 0.7% compared with January 2009.

The volume of sales to the residential (-2.1%) and commercial (-1.2%) sectors were down in January compared with January 2009. The volume of sales to the industrial, including direct sales (+0.6%) sector was up in January compared with January 2009.

Total sales in January were 9.6% higher compared with December 2009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

For more information, to order data, 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.

Natural gas sales

	January 2009	December 2009	January 2010 ^P	December 2009 to January 2010	January 2009 to January 2010
	thousands of cubic metres			% change	
Total sales	9 897 369	8 968 247	9 831 833	9.6	-0.7
Residential ¹	3 220 617	2 606 536	3 153 390	21.0	-2.1
Commercial ²	2 239 789	1 931 259	2 213 227	14.6	-1.2
Industrial ³ and direct sales ⁴	4 436 963	4 430 452	4 465 216	0.8	0.6

^P preliminary

1. Gas sold for domestic purposes, including space heating, water heating and cooking, to a residential dwelling unit.

2. Gas sold to customers engaged in wholesale or retail trade, governments, institutions, office buildings, etc.

3. Gas sold to customers engaged in a process that creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product. Includes mining and manufacturing establishments. Includes firm, interruptible and buy/sell agreements.

4. Represents direct, non-utility, sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

Large urban transit

January 2010 (preliminary)

Total operating revenue (excluding subsidies) for 10 of Canada's largest urban transit properties rose 12.7% from January 2009 to \$220.9 million in January 2010.

These 10 companies represent about 80% of total urban transit across the country.

Ridership levels rose to 123.0 million passenger trips in January, a 7.9% increase from the same month a year earlier.

Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division.

New products and studies

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire,
January 2010, Vol. 6, no. 1
Catalogue number 41-019-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Spring 2010,
Vol. 22, no. 1
Catalogue number 75-001-X (Print \$20/\$63)

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.

Health Reports, Vol. 21, no. 1
Catalogue number 82-003-X (Print \$24/\$68; PDF, free; HTML, free)

Canadian Health Measures Survey: Cycle 1 Data Tables, 2007 to 2009
Catalogue number 82-623-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Health Fact Sheets, 2007 to 2009
Catalogue number 82-625-X (HTML, free)

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.

Catalogue 11-001-XIE Français 11-001-XIE-1000-1000-1000-1000

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 09, 2008
Released at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.3 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several export commodities combined with a lower import deficit. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada showed significantly from the expenditure-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

Payroll employment, earnings and hours, March 2008 7

Study: The year in review for vulnerable trade, 2007 9

Public sector employment, first quarter 2008 10

Consumer and Mortgage Services Price Index, April 2008 11

Placement of tertiary students and tertiary profile, April 2008 12

Health Indicators, 2008 12

New products 13

2006 Census profiles

With the inclusion of the income and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions. To obtain these profiles in electronic format (across various for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

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.