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Releases

Wholesale trade

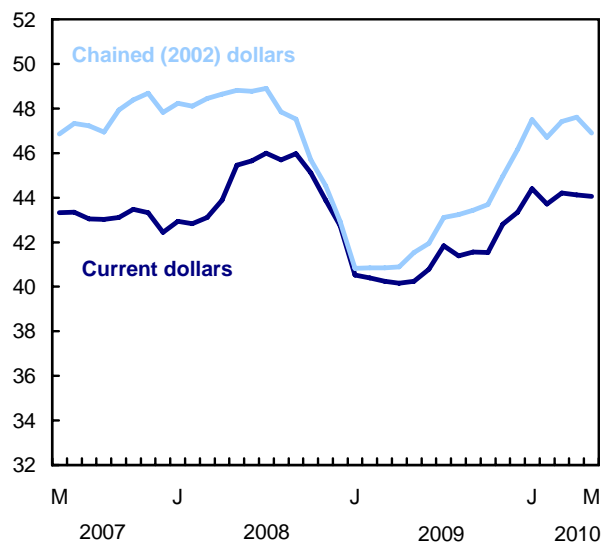
May 2010

Wholesale sales edged down 0.1% to \$44.1 billion in May. Despite increases in six of the seven subsectors, sales fell because of a sharp decline in the agricultural supplies industry.

In volume terms, wholesale sales were down 1.5% in May.

Wholesale sales edge down in May

\$ billions



The substantial decrease in the volume of sales compared with the decline in the current dollar value of sales in May primarily reflects higher prices for the imported products sold by wholesalers. This was partly attributable to the depreciation of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar during the month.

Sales of the agricultural supplies industry fell a substantial 29.5% in May. Poor weather in Western Canada resulted in lower farm demand for fertilizer and seeds.

The slump in the agricultural supplies industry's sales is the main reason for the slower sales of wholesalers in the miscellaneous subsector, the only subsector that was down in May.

The other six wholesale subsectors posted gains. The largest increases in dollar terms were in the

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 April 21, 2010, release of February 2010 data, the presentation of results makes direct use of the North American Industry Classification System instead of its trade group variant (see concordance table).

machinery, equipment and supplies subsector and the food, beverage and tobacco subsector.

Sales in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector rose 1.9% to \$9.1 billion in May, their highest level since January 2009. There were gains in three of the subsector's four industries. This coincides with a rise in the volume of machinery and equipment imports.

The food, beverage and tobacco subsector (+1.3%) posted its seventh consecutive increase, as a result of a 1.7% sales increase in the food industry.

Wholesale sales were down on the Prairies in May

Sales were down in six provinces in May. A major part of the downturn was in the Prairie provinces.

Saskatchewan (-12.3%) had the steepest decline in Canada, primarily because of weaker sales in the agricultural supplies industry. This was the province's largest decline in wholesale sales since March 2005.

The decrease in the agricultural supplies industry also affected Manitoba (-9.1%) and Alberta (-0.7%). Manitoba's decline was its largest in seven years.

In Ontario, sales rose slightly (+0.4%) in May, the fourth increase since the beginning of the year. In Quebec, sales edged down 0.2% in May, following a 2.3% advance in April.

Inventories grow for the third time in four months

Wholesale trade inventories climbed 1.7% to \$52.4 billion in May. This was the largest increase since January 2007.

Overall, 16 of the 25 wholesale trade industries reported higher inventory levels.

Wholesalers in construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies industry posted the biggest inventory gains in dollar terms, followed by agricultural supplies wholesalers.

The growth in inventories, combined with the slight decline in sales, translated into an increase in the inventory-to-sales ratio from 1.17 in April to 1.19 in May.

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.

Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0011 to 081-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

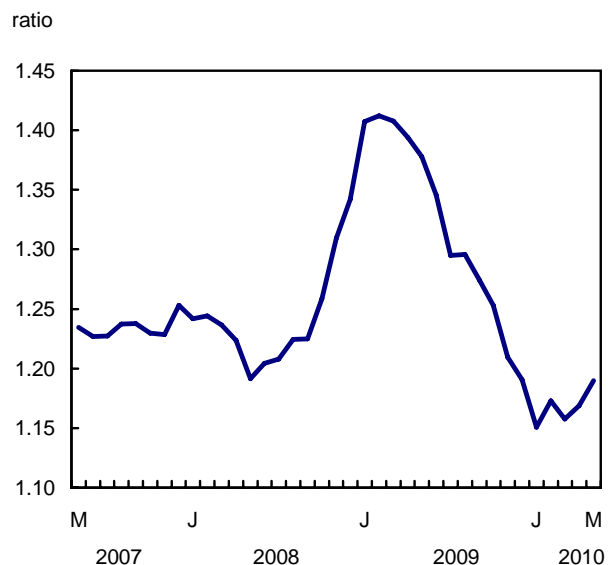
The May 2010 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-X, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade data for June will be released on August 19.

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

□

The inventory-to-sales ratio increases in May



Wholesale merchants' sales by industry

	May 2009	April 2010 ^r	May 2010 ^p	April to May 2010	May 2009 to May 2010
Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions			% change	
Total, wholesale sales	40,242	44,114	44,059	-0.1	9.5
Total, excluding motor vehicle and parts wholesalers	34,428	36,911	36,815	-0.3	6.9
Farm product	486	544	575	5.8	18.4
Food, beverage and tobacco	8,003	8,413	8,524	1.3	6.5
Food	7,102	7,488	7,613	1.7	7.2
Beverage	408	399	389	-2.4	-4.4
Cigarette and tobacco product	493	527	522	-0.9	5.7
Personal and household goods	6,849	7,029	7,036	0.1	2.7
Textile, clothing and footwear	798	884	869	-1.6	9.0
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	732	729	710	-2.6	-3.0
Home furnishings	465	489	480	-1.8	3.3
Personal goods	844	828	831	0.4	-1.5
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	3,377	3,433	3,455	0.7	2.3
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	F	667	691	3.6	F
Motor vehicle and parts	5,813	7,203	7,244	0.6	24.6
Motor vehicle	4,250	5,572	5,696	2.2	34.0
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,525	1,588	1,507	-5.1	-1.2
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	F	43	41	-4.3	F
Building material and supplies	5,382	6,204	6,293	1.4	16.9
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	1,803	1,954	1,980	1.3	9.8
Metal service centres	1,033	1,212	1,301	7.3	25.9
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	2,546	3,038	3,012	-0.9	18.3
Machinery, equipment and supplies	8,593	8,956	9,127	1.9	6.2
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	1,133	1,039	998	-3.9	-11.8
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	2,539	2,738	2,842	3.8	11.9
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	2,495	2,895	2,928	1.1	17.3
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,426	2,284	2,359	3.3	-2.8
Miscellaneous	5,117	5,765	5,259	-8.8	2.8
Recyclable material	406	641	635	-1.0	56.3
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	668	697	689	-1.2	3.1
Agricultural supplies	1,280	1,490	1,050	-29.5	-18.0
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	956	976	987	1.2	3.3
Other miscellaneous	1,807	1,961	1,898	-3.2	5.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

F too unreliable to be published

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

Wholesale merchants' sales by province and territory

	May 2009	April 2010 ^r	May 2010 ^p	April to May 2010	May 2009 to May 2010
Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions			% change	
Canada	40,242	44,114	44,059	-0.1	9.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	263	302	299	-1.1	13.5
Prince Edward Island	34	43	42	-2.2	23.4
Nova Scotia	549	648	660	1.7	20.1
New Brunswick	440	492	495	0.6	12.4
Quebec	8,054	8,530	8,517	-0.2	5.7
Ontario	20,232	22,556	22,655	0.4	12.0
Manitoba	1,128	1,131	1,028	-9.1	-8.9
Saskatchewan	1,303	1,539	1,349	-12.3	3.6
Alberta	4,385	4,935	4,901	-0.7	11.8
British Columbia	3,791	3,872	4,049	4.6	6.8
Yukon	12	12	12	6.2	5.9
Northwest Territories	44	49	47	-4.0	6.6
Nunavut	7	5	6	10.5	-19.9

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Wholesale merchants' inventories

	May 2009	April 2010 ^r	May 2010 ^p	April to May 2010	May 2009 to May 2010
Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	55,451	51,566	52,423	1.7	-5.5
Farm product	161	172	181	5.7	12.6
Food	4,389	4,268	4,050	-5.1	-7.7
Beverage	247	233	233	0.1	-5.5
Cigarette and tobacco product	243	220	234	6.7	-3.7
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,851	1,568	1,710	9.1	-7.6
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	836	749	720	-3.9	-13.9
Home furnishings	977	955	945	-1.1	-3.3
Personal goods	1,587	1,471	1,517	3.1	-4.4
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	4,033	4,180	4,187	0.2	3.8
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	627	611	611	-0.1	-2.6
Motor vehicle	3,677	3,510	3,530	0.6	-4.0
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,190	2,932	2,986	1.8	-6.4
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	F	75	78	4.0	F
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	2,991	2,828	2,825	-0.1	-5.5
Metal service centres	2,790	2,523	2,560	1.5	-8.2
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	4,173	4,383	4,455	1.6	6.8
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	3,243	2,978	3,119	4.7	-3.8
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	8,180	6,879	7,081	2.9	-13.4
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	1,518	1,476	1,577	6.9	3.8
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,546	3,190	3,332	4.5	-6.0
Recyclable material	342	362	342	-5.5	0.1
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	670	590	590	-0.1	-12.0
Agricultural supplies	2,757	2,227	2,390	7.3	-13.3
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,122	966	951	-1.5	-15.2
Other miscellaneous	2,224	2,221	2,218	-0.1	-0.3

^r revised

^p preliminary

F too unreliable to be published

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

Study: Health-promoting factors and good health among Canadians in mid- to late life 2009

A sizeable proportion of people aged 45 or older reported that they were in good health in 2009, based on their self-perceived general and mental health, as well as on measures of functional ability and independence in their daily life.

According to new data from the Canadian Community Health Survey: Healthy Aging, three-quarters (76%) of Canadians in mid-life (45 to 64) and 56% of seniors aged 65 or older reported good health.

Understandably, the prevalence of good health declines with age. However, even up to age 85, at least half the population was in good health in 2009.

As expected, the more chronic conditions people had, the less likely they were to have good health. Even so, good health existed in the presence of chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, arthritis and back problems, all of which were common among people aged 45 or older.

A number of factors over which individuals have some control were associated with good health. These were: not smoking, weight control, regular exercise, fruit and vegetable consumption, sleeping well, oral health, low stress, and participation in activities with family and friends.

About 84% of people aged 45 to 64 and 91% of seniors reported positive tendencies on four or more of these health-promoting factors. The more factors on which positive tendencies were reported, the greater the likelihood of having good health. For example, 77% of seniors who reported positive tendencies on all eight factors were in good health; among people aged 45 to 64, the figure was 92%.

The survey also found that Canadians aged 45 or older were slightly more likely to be in good health in 2009 than they had been almost a decade earlier.

These results are important because demographic projections show that Canada's population is aging. As the baby-boom population reaches 65 during the next two decades, this demographic change will accelerate.

Note: Data for the Canadian Community Health Survey: Healthy Aging, were collected between December 2008 and November 2009. The sample consisted of 30,865 people aged 45 and older, representing 13.6 million Canadians, living in private households in the 10 provinces.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5146.

The article, "Health-promoting factors and good health among Canadians in mid- to late life," which is part of today's *Health Reports*, Vol. 21, no. 3 (82-003-X, free) online release, is now available. From the *Key resource* module of our website, choose *Publications*. For more information about this article, contact Pamela L. Ramage-Morin (613-951-1760; pamela.ramage-morin@statcan.gc.ca), Health Analysis Division.

For more information about the Canadian Community Health Survey: Healthy Aging, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality, contact Client Services (613-951-1746; hd-ds@statcan.gc.ca), Health Statistics Division.

Today's online release also includes "Validation of self-rated mental health." This article assesses the association between self-rated mental health and selected World Mental Health-Composite International Diagnostic Interview-measured disorders, self-reported diagnoses of mental disorders, and psychological distress in the Canadian population. For more information, contact Farah N. Mawani (613-682-1862; fmawani@mentalhealthcommission.ca), Mental Health Commission of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario or Heather Gilmour (613-951-2114; heather.gilmour@statcan.gc.ca), Health Analysis Division.

For more information about Health Reports, contact Janice Felman (613-951-6446; janice.felman@statcan.gc.ca), Health Analysis Division. ■

Study: Labour market activity among seniors 1981 to 2006

Between 1996 and 2006, the employment rate for seniors age 65 and older increased from 12% to 15% for men, and from 4% to 6% for women. These increases followed declines during the 1980s and 1990s.

Senior men and women in the highest and lowest levels of the family income distribution were more likely to be employed than those in the middle. However, seniors in the highest income group were significantly less likely to work full time for the whole year than those in the lowest income group.

Seniors were more likely to be employed if they had higher levels of education, few activity limitations and an outstanding mortgage, even after controlling for income from other sources.

Almost one-half of working seniors were employed in the business and consumer services industry. The most common occupation among senior men was farmer. Senior women were more likely to be employed as retail salespersons and sales clerks.

Note: The article "Labour market activity among seniors" is based on information from censuses conducted every five years from 1981 to 2006.

The article "Labour market activity among seniors" is now available in the July 2010 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 11, no. 7 (75-001-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website, under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sharanjit Uppal (613-951-3887; sharanjit.uppal@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Study: Income in manufacturing regions 2000 to 2007

Between 2000 and 2007, the probability of experiencing a decrease in income was significantly linked to the degree of concentration of regional employment in the manufacturing sector. The more employment is concentrated in this sector, the greater the likelihood of income loss.

Compared with residents of regions with a low manufacturing concentration, residents of regions where manufacturing industries predominate had a 13% to 18% greater probability of income loss. In regions with a moderate manufacturing concentration, this probability was 7% to 10% higher.

In regions with a high manufacturing concentration, while the likelihood of income loss was greater among workers in the manufacturing sector, it was also significant among workers in other sectors.

Manufacturing workers living in regions with a high concentration of manufacturing employment were 9% to 16% more likely to experience a decrease in income than their counterparts living in regions with a low concentration.

Workers in other sectors were between 8% and 11% more likely to experience a loss of income than their counterparts living in regions with a low concentration.

Between 2000 and 2007, the manufacturing sector lost 278,000, or one in six manufacturing jobs in

Canada, reducing its relative share of employment from 16% to 12%.

Regions where employment is highly concentrated in the manufacturing sector are mainly located in Quebec and Ontario, for example, Windsor and Oshawa (in Ontario), and Granby and Thetford Mines (in Quebec). This type of region experienced the greatest manufacturing job losses.

Among manufacturing workers in regions with a high concentration of manufacturing employment, workers age 20 to 29 were most affected by the employment decline in this sector. They were as much as twice as likely to experience a loss of income as those holding a comparable job in a region with a low manufacturing concentration.

In addition, living in a region with a high manufacturing concentration between 2000 and 2007 increased the probability of receiving Employment Insurance benefits. Manufacturing workers in these regions were 39% more likely to receive EI benefits than their counterparts in regions with a low concentration.

Note: The article "Income in manufacturing regions" uses data from the Longitudinal Administrative Database from 2000 to 2007. The geographic regions selected for this study were census areas: census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations. The rate of employment concentration in the manufacturing sector was calculated for each metropolitan area and agglomeration, and is equal to the number of manufacturing jobs divided by the total number of local jobs. These areas and agglomerations were grouped into three categories based on the concentration of local manufacturing employment: low concentration (12% or less), moderate (more than 12% and less than 20%) and high (20% or more).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4107.

The article "Income in manufacturing regions" is now available in the July 2010 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 11, no. 7 (75-001-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website, under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact André Bernard (613-951-4660; andre.bernard@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division. ■

Motor vehicle fuel sales

2009 (preliminary)

Gross sales of gasoline rose 1.3% to 41.0 billion litres in 2009, following a slight drop in 2008.

The increase in gross gasoline sales coincided with a 16.7% decline in the average retail gasoline prices, which fell from \$1.14 per litre in 2008 to \$0.95 per litre in 2009.

However, the growth in sales was in accord with a 3.1% increase in kilometres driven during the year by gasoline motor vehicle drivers, according to the Canadian Vehicle Survey.

Gross sales were up in all provinces and territories, except for Alberta (-0.7%).

Motorists in the two most populous provinces, Ontario and Quebec combined, accounted for about 60% of Canada's gasoline consumption in 2009. Ontario drivers consumed the highest amount, 15.8 billion litres, or 38.6% of the total, while those in Quebec purchased 8.4 billion litres, or 20.4%. Drivers in Alberta accounted for 13.6% of total gasoline sales.

Nationally, gasoline sales peaked during July and August, each with 3.7 billion litres, the result of increased demand for fuel stemming from the busy summer driving season.

Note: Data on the volume of gasoline (in litres) sold in Canada are now available. Included are both gross and net annual volume figures from 1993 to 2009, inclusively. Gross sales represent the total volume sold, while net sales correspond to the volume sold on which taxes were paid. Breakdowns by province and territory as well as by month are also available. Annual sales volumes between 1993 and 2009 are also provided by province for diesel.

Motor vehicle fuel sales data for 2008 have been revised.

Available on CANSIM: tables 405-0002 and 405-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2746.

For more information, to order data, 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. ■

New products and studies

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Vol. 11, no. 7
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