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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, December 21, 2011
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Releases

(continued on page 2)

Health Reports
December 2011 online edition

The December 2011 online issue of *Health Reports* contains two articles.

The article "Gender differences in functional limitations among Canadians with arthritis: The role of disease duration and comorbidity," analyses data from the arthritis component of the 2009 Survey on Living with Chronic Diseases in Canada. The study addresses a number of questions: Are there overall differences in functional limitations between men and women? Are there gender differences in the influence of disease duration and of chronic comorbidity on functional limitations? And do the associations between health-related behaviours, socio-demographic and socio-economic factors and functional limitations differ between men and women?

For more information on this article, contact Walter Omariba (613-951-6528; *walter.omariba@statcan.gc.ca*), Health Analysis Division.

The article "Strategies for handling normality assumptions in multi-level modeling: A case study estimating trajectories of Health Utilities Index Mark 3 scores," based on longitudinal data from the first six cycles of the National Population Health Survey to estimate lifetime health status dynamics. Health status trajectories measured by the Health Utilities Index Mark 3 (HUI3) modeled as a function of age alone and also of age and socio-economic covariates revealed non-normal residuals and variance estimation problems. The study investigated the possibility of transforming the HUI3 distribution to obtain residuals that approximate a normal distribution.

For more information on this article, contact by Julie Bernier (613-951-4556; *julie.bernier@statcan.gc.ca*), Health Analysis Division.

The complete version of the latest issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 22, no. 4 (82-003-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*. A print version (82-003-X, $24/$68) is also available. See *How to order products*.

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

Releases

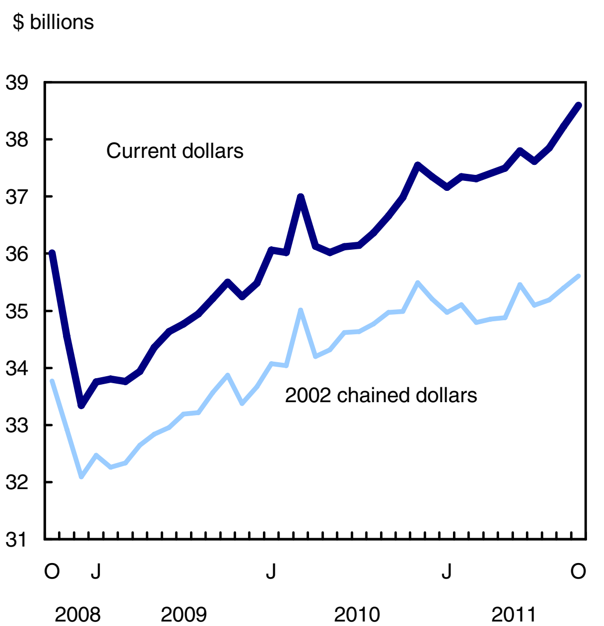
Retail trade

October 2011

Retail sales rose 1.0% to $38.6 billion in October, a third consecutive monthly increase. Gains were reported in 7 of 11 subsectors, representing 76% of retail sales. The increase was led by higher sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations.

In volume terms, sales were also up for a third month in a row, rising 0.6% in October.

Retail sales increase in October



Motor vehicle and parts dealers saw a 2.0% increase in sales in October. This gain was mainly accounted for by higher sales at new car dealers (+2.4%), which rose for a third straight month. Sales increases were also reported in the "other motor vehicle dealers" industry (+2.4%) and at automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (+1.6%). Used car dealers reported a 2.9% decline.

Note to readers

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

Total retail sales by volume are measured by deflating values in current dollars of the various trade groups using consumer price indexes. This retail sales in chained dollars series (2002) is a chain Fisher volume index with 2002 as the reference year.

Gasoline station sales rose 1.8%, mainly reflecting higher prices at the pump. Sales in this subsector have been on an upward trend since the middle of 2010.

Sales at food and beverage stores increased for a fifth consecutive month, rising 0.6% in October. Gains were reported by all store types in this subsector.

Clothing and clothing accessories stores sales went up 1.9%. The largest contributor to the increase was clothing stores (+1.6%). Jewellery, luggage and leather store sales rose 3.5%, continuing a strong upward trend that began in spring 2011.

Sales advanced 1.7% at sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores. Sales at these stores have grown 5.0% since July.

General merchandise store sales, which account for 12% of total retail sales, decreased 0.5%.

Sales at furniture and home furnishings stores decreased for a second consecutive month, declining 0.8% in October. Lower sales at furniture stores (-1.5%) were partially offset by a 0.3% gain in sales at home furnishings stores.

Highest growth in Western provinces

Retail sales rose in eight provinces in October, with the Western provinces reporting the highest growth.

Alberta (+3.0%) registered the largest sales gain, in part reflecting strong sales of new motor vehicles.

Sales in British Columbia rose 1.7% in October following an upward trend that started at the end of 2010.

Sales in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan rose 1.9%.

After two consecutive monthly gains, sales in Ontario edged down 0.1% in October.

It is possible to consult the tables of unadjusted data by industry and by province and territory from the *Tables by subject* module of our website.

For information on related indicators, refer to the *Latest statistics* page on our website.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0020 and 080-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The October 2011 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X, free) will be available shortly.

Data on retail trade for November will be released on January 24, 2012.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jake W. Purdy (613-951-0984), Distributive Trades Division.

Retail sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	October 2010	September 2011r	October 2011p	September to October 2011	October 2010 to October 2011
	$ millions			% change	
Canada	**36,988**	**38,228**	**38,598**	**1.0**	**4.4**
Newfoundland and Labrador	621	666	667	0.2	7.4
Prince Edward Island	149	160	162	1.2	8.7
Nova Scotia	1,063	1,109	1,109	0.0	4.3
New Brunswick	891	939	952	1.3	6.8
Quebec	8,410	8,501	8,566	0.8	1.9
Ontario	13,178	13,539	13,525	-0.1	2.6
Manitoba	1,314	1,387	1,414	1.9	7.6
Saskatchewan	1,274	1,383	1,409	1.9	10.6
Alberta	5,058	5,420	5,584	3.0	10.4
British Columbia	4,890	4,978	5,065	1.7	3.6
Yukon	52	57	57	0.6	11.0
Northwest Territories	59	58	58	0.0	-0.5
Nunavut	28	30	30	-1.2	4.6

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to total as a result of rounding.*

Retail sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	October 2010	September 2011[r]	October 2011[p]	September to October 2011	October 2010 to October 2011
	$ millions			% change	
Total retail trade	**36,988**	**38,228**	**38,598**	**1.0**	**4.4**
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	**28,777**	**29,685**	**29,885**	**0.7**	**3.9**
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	**24,497**	**24,843**	**24,956**	**0.5**	**1.9**
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	**8,212**	**8,543**	**8,713**	**2.0**	**6.1**
New car dealers	6,594	6,839	7,000	2.4	6.2
Used car dealers	489	520	505	-2.9	3.4
Other motor vehicle dealers	592	609	624	2.4	5.4
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	537	575	584	1.6	8.7
Furniture and home furnishing stores	**1,244**	**1,244**	**1,234**	**-0.8**	**-0.8**
Furniture stores	793	780	768	-1.5	-3.1
Home furnishings stores	451	464	466	0.3	3.2
Electronics and appliance stores	**1,209**	**1,167**	**1,175**	**0.7**	**-2.8**
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	**2,211**	**2,283**	**2,274**	**-0.4**	**2.9**
Food and beverage stores	**8,663**	**8,734**	**8,787**	**0.6**	**1.4**
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,160	6,178	6,197	0.3	0.6
Convenience stores	552	554	564	1.9	2.2
Specialty food stores	417	420	433	3.1	3.8
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,534	1,582	1,593	0.7	3.8
Health and personal care stores	**2,695**	**2,626**	**2,669**	**1.7**	**-1.0**
Gasoline stations	**4,279**	**4,843**	**4,929**	**1.8**	**15.2**
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	**2,060**	**2,145**	**2,186**	**1.9**	**6.1**
Clothing stores	1,602	1,658	1,685	1.6	5.2
Shoe stores	235	243	248	2.3	5.5
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	223	244	253	3.5	13.3
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	**959**	**955**	**971**	**1.7**	**1.3**
General merchandise stores	**4,568**	**4,806**	**4,783**	**-0.5**	**4.7**
Department stores	x	2,255	2,257	0.1	x
Other general merchandise stores	x	2,551	2,525	-1.0	x
Miscellaneous store retailers	**888**	**884**	**876**	**-0.8**	**-1.3**

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*
x *suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act*
Note: *Figures may not add up to total as a result of rounding.*

■

Study: Economic growth in Canada and the United States
1997 to 2011

Living standards in Canada are growing at a faster pace than in the United States even though comparisons of labour productivity—the most often-cited indicator—show Canada falling behind during the past decade.

Two other measures of standard of living—real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita and real gross national income (GNI) per capita—show that Canada's performance has improved relative to the United States during this period.

Labour productivity, a measure of real GDP per hour, suggests that Canada's economic performance has lagged behind that of the United States. Between the first quarter of 1997 and the first quarter of 2011, labour productivity in Canada declined 17% relative to that of the United States.

However, based on real GDP per capita, Canada's living standards improved by 5% relative to those of the United States during the same period. A large part of the difference in the trajectories of labour productivity and GDP per capita between Canada and the United States has been because of better job growth in Canada.

A larger proportion of the population that is working raises real GDP per capita. However, it also raises the number of hours worked, and therefore lowers labour productivity. Canada's lower productivity growth relative to that of the United States has occurred at the same time as it experienced stronger employment growth.

When real GNI per capita is used, Canada's living standards increased 12% relative to those of the United States between 1997 and 2011. Of the three measures considered for this study, real GNI offers the most comprehensive picture of a country's economic performance and changes in living standards.

Real GNI is a measure of the purchasing power of the income that accrues to Canadians through the production process, regardless of where that production occurs. It is a measure of real income that focuses on what Canadians can buy with their income.

Real GDP per capita measures income based on what is being produced, for example, the number of barrels of oil extracted. However, in a market economy such as Canada's, which trades extensively, that production can be turned into imports (for example, computers, electronics, cars, clothes and machinery) for consumption or investment.

To capture the full effect of that trade, it is necessary to incorporate international price movements, most importantly, the terms of trade. Real GNI combines production with income changes from non-merchandise trade-related international activity, that is, flows related to the income derived from international investment and relative price movements. Importantly, it also includes changes in the terms of trade.

The article "Economic growth in North America: Is Canada outperforming the United States," is now available in the publication *Economic Insights* (11-626-X2011001, free) from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Similar studies from the Economic Analysis Division are available online (*www.statcan.gc.ca/economicanalysis*).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ryan Macdonald (613-951-5687), Economic Analysis Division. ■

Railway carloadings
October 2011

Total freight traffic carried by Canadian railways rose to 28.4 million tonnes in October, up 10.1% from October 2010. The increase was the result of strong gains in cargo loadings from both sides of the border.

From a domestic perspective, the rail industry's freight loadings rose 7.8% to 25.0 million tonnes in October compared with the same month in 2010.

Non-intermodal cargo loadings rose to 22.6 million tonnes in October, up 8.7% from October 2010. The gain was the result of increases in more than half of the commodity classifications carried by railways. The commodity groups with the largest increases in tonnage were other cereal grains, lumber and colza seeds (canola).

Intermodal freight loadings of containers and trailers loaded on flat cars remained relatively unchanged at 2.4 million tonnes in October compared with the same month one year earlier.

At an international level, traffic received from the United States rose to 3.4 million tonnes in October, a strong increase of 30.4% compared with October 2010. The gain was mainly driven by increased non-intermodal traffic.

Geographically, 59.4% of the freight traffic originating in Canada was in the Western Division of Canada, with the remainder loaded in the Eastern Division. For statistical purposes, the Eastern and Western Divisions are separated by an imaginary line running from Thunder Bay to Armstrong, Ontario. Freight loaded at Thunder Bay is included in the Western Division while loadings at Armstrong are reported in the Eastern Division.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The October 2011 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 88, no. 10 (52-001-X, free), is now available 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 Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; *transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Large urban transit

October 2011 (preliminary)

Total operating revenue (excluding subsidies) for 10 of Canada's largest urban transit properties rose 5.6% from October 2010 to $251.9 million in October.

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

Ridership levels rose to 138.9 million passenger trips in October, a 3.9% 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 (1-866-500-8400; fax: 1-613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Investment in new housing construction

October 2011

Data on the investment in new housing construction (including single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing, apartments and condominiums) are now available for October.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.

To order data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mariane Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520; *bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca*), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

New products and studies

Study: Economic Insights: "Economic Growth in North America: Is Canada Outperforming the United States?", no. 1
Catalogue number 11-626-X2011001 (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Survey Methodology, December 2011, Vol. 37, no. 2
Catalogue number 12-001-X (PDF, free)

Monthly Railway Carloadings, October 2011, Vol. 88, no. 10
Catalogue number 52-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Health Reports, Vol. 22, no. 4
Catalogue number 82-003-X (PDF, free; HTML, free; Print, $24/$68)

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

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