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The Daily

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Releases

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Canada

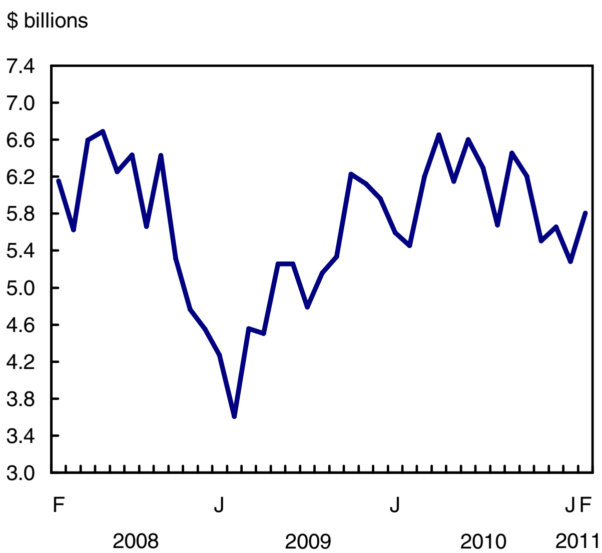
Releases

Building permits

February 2011

Municipalities issued building permits worth $5.8 billion in February, up 9.9% from January. The February advance was a result of gains in the non-residential sector in Alberta and Ontario, which more than offset the decline in the residential sector.

Total value of permits



In the non-residential sector, the value of permits totalled $2.8 billion in February, up 72.9% compared with January. Alberta and Ontario accounted for much of the growth at the national level. In February, five other provinces also posted gains in the non-residential sector.

In contrast, the value of residential permits fell 18.3% to $3.0 billion in February. The decrease was attributable to both multi-family and single-family dwellings. Ontario and Quebec registered the largest declines.

Non-residential sector: Gains in all three components

Industrial construction intentions increased to a record $884.4 million in February. The gain occurred as a result of higher construction intentions for transportation-related buildings in Alberta and manufacturing plants in Ontario.

> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.*
>
> *The Building Permits Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity.*
>
> *The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.*
>
> *The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (for example, waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.*
>
> *For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec) is divided into two areas: Gatineau part and Ottawa part.*
>
> ***Revision***
>
> *Preliminary data are provided for the current reference month. Revised data, based on late responses, are updated for the previous month.*

In the institutional component, the value of permits issued by municipalities doubled to $702 million, following four consecutive monthly declines. The increase in February came from seven provinces, led by Ontario. The gain in Ontario was attributable to higher construction intentions for government administrative buildings.

In the commercial component, the value of permits rose 22.6% to $1.2 billion. The gain in February followed three consecutive monthly declines. In February, seven provinces contributed to the increase, through various types of buildings, including hotels, retail stores and warehouses.

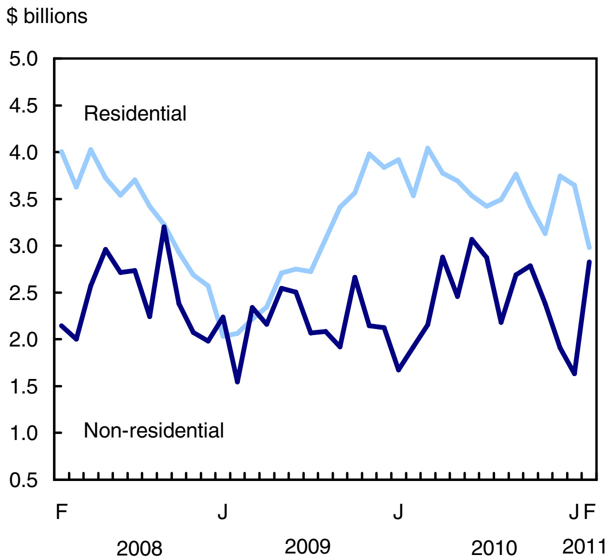
Residential sector: Declines in single-family and multi-family dwelling intentions

Construction intentions for multi-family dwellings fell 34.4% to $892 million in February. This was the first time in a year that the value of multi-family permits fell below the billion-dollar mark. The decline was attributable to decreases in five provinces, particularly Ontario and Quebec.

The value of building permits for single-family dwellings fell 8.6% to $2.1 billion, following three consecutive monthly gains. The February decrease was a result of declines in six provinces, led by Ontario, Quebec and Alberta.

At the national level, municipalities approved the construction of 13,488 new dwellings in February, down 24.6%. The decrease was largely attributable to multi-family dwellings, which fell 36.6% to 6,690 units. Single-family dwellings declined 7.3% to 6,798 units.

Residential and non-residential sectors



Value of permits up in half the provinces

In February, the value of building permits was up in five provinces, led by Alberta.

Alberta posted large gains as a result of increases in permits for the industrial, commercial and institutional components. British Columbia, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island also recorded increases in February, as a result of higher values of building permits in the non-residential sector.

The largest decreases occurred in Quebec and Ontario. The decline was attributable to permits for both multi-family and single-family dwellings.

Higher permit values in most census metropolitan areas

The total value of permits was up in 23 of the 34 census metropolitan areas in Canada.

The non-residential sector was responsible for increases in Calgary, London, Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo and Edmonton.

The largest declines were in Montréal, Toronto, Regina and Ottawa. In Montréal, the decrease was primarily a result of a decline in multi-family and non-residential permits, which had posted a significant increase in January. In Toronto, the decline was mainly attributable to a drop in the residential sector, which more than offset the gain in the non-residential sector. In Regina and Ottawa, the decrease came from both the residential and non-residential sectors, following large gains in January.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008 and 026-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The February 2011 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-X, free) will be available soon.

The March building permit data will be released on May 5.

To order data, contact Jasmine Gaudreault (toll-free 1-800-579-8533; 613-951-6321; *bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca*). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-0087), Investment and Capital Stock Division. □

Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, Canada

	February 2010	December 2010	January 2011[r]	February 2011[p]	January to February 2011	February 2010 to February 2011
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions				% change	
Total	**5,454.2**	**5,654.4**	**5,283.2**	**5,808.8**	**9.9**	**6.5**
Residential	3,535.2	3,742.9	3,648.7	2,982.8	-18.3	-15.6
Single[1]	2,602.1	2,093.8	2,287.6	2,090.4	-8.6	-19.7
Multiple	933.0	1,649.2	1,361.1	892.4	-34.4	-4.4
Non-residential	1,919.0	1,911.5	1,634.5	2,826.1	72.9	47.3
Industrial	268.2	455.7	278.9	884.4	217.1	229.8
Commercial	1,254.6	1,026.2	1,011.0	1,239.3	22.6	-1.2
Institutional	396.3	429.6	344.5	702.3	103.9	77.2
	number of units				% change	
Total dwellings	**15,638**	**17,696**	**17,888**	**13,488**	**-24.6**	**-13.7**
Single[1]	8,913	6,953	7,333	6,798	-7.3	-23.7
Multiples	6,725	10,743	10,555	6,690	-36.6	-0.5

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*
1. *Included in this category are the following types of dwellings: single-detached, mobile home and cottage.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	February 2010	December 2010	January 2011[r]	February 2011[p]	January to February 2011	February 2010 to February 2011
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions				% change	
Canada	**5,454.2**	**5,654.4**	**5,283.2**	**5,808.8**	**9.9**	**6.5**
Residential	**3,535.2**	**3,742.9**	**3,648.7**	**2,982.8**	**-18.3**	**-15.6**
Non-residential	**1,919.0**	**1,911.5**	**1,634.5**	**2,826.1**	**72.9**	**47.3**
Newfoundland and Labrador	87.4	76.0	88.6	84.3	-4.8	-3.6
Residential	66.4	67.6	76.1	66.7	-12.4	0.4
Non-residential	21.0	8.4	12.4	17.6	41.6	-16.2
Prince Edward Island	14.8	23.5	15.1	17.2	13.8	16.5
Residential	9.5	16.2	7.3	9.2	25.6	-4.2
Non-residential	5.2	7.3	7.8	8.1	2.9	54.2
Nova Scotia	97.8	93.5	102.3	110.2	7.7	12.6
Residential	59.0	79.7	62.4	88.7	42.1	50.2
Non-residential	38.8	13.8	39.9	21.5	-46.1	-44.5
New Brunswick	61.2	76.8	53.2	42.8	-19.5	-30.1
Residential	48.0	40.7	29.3	32.2	10.0	-32.9
Non-residential	13.3	36.1	24.0	10.6	-55.6	-20.0
Quebec	1,304.2	1,033.2	1,334.8	1,123.4	-15.8	-13.9
Residential	924.6	749.0	1,034.8	811.8	-21.6	-12.2
Non-residential	379.7	284.2	300.0	311.6	3.9	-17.9
Ontario	2,010.1	2,493.5	2,092.3	2,006.9	-4.1	-0.2
Residential	1,111.7	1,687.8	1,304.0	887.6	-31.9	-20.2
Non-residential	898.5	805.7	788.3	1,119.4	42.0	24.6
Manitoba	112.2	163.6	128.2	136.4	6.3	21.5
Residential	85.0	116.5	113.4	100.5	-11.4	18.3
Non-residential	27.2	47.2	14.9	35.9	141.4	31.7
Saskatchewan	120.3	205.7	194.1	172.1	-11.3	43.1
Residential	72.9	123.4	105.4	100.5	-4.6	37.9
Non-residential	47.5	82.2	88.7	71.7	-19.2	51.0
Alberta	987.6	866.9	697.1	1,478.0	112.0	49.6
Residential	666.2	467.2	458.3	431.8	-5.8	-35.2
Non-residential	321.4	399.7	238.8	1,046.1	338.0	225.5
British Columbia	649.9	616.6	567.3	631.4	11.3	-2.8
Residential	487.3	391.2	449.1	448.9	0.0	-7.9
Non-residential	162.7	225.5	118.2	182.5	54.4	12.2
Yukon	5.8	3.3	9.6	3.9	-59.1	-32.5
Residential	4.2	2.7	8.5	3.5	-58.6	-17.2
Non-residential	1.6	0.5	1.2	0.4	-63.1	-72.9
Northwest Territories	2.5	1.9	0.4	1.6	270.3	-36.5
Residential	0.4	1.0	0.2	0.8	269.4	97.2
Non-residential	2.1	0.9	0.2	0.8	271.2	-63.8
Nunavut	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.6	59,900.0	302.7
Residential	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	...	1,969.0
Non-residential	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-100.0	-100.0

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
... *not applicable*
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area[1]

	February 2010	December 2010	January 2011[r]	February 2011[p]	January to February 2011	February 2010 to February 2011
	Seasonally adjusted					
	$ millions				% change	
Total: Census metropolitan area	**3,844.9**	**4,227.3**	**3,937.4**	**4,487.7**	**14.0**	**16.7**
St. John's	58.8	42.0	59.0	30.1	-48.9	-48.7
Halifax	39.8	48.7	44.9	67.2	49.7	68.6
Moncton	16.5	13.8	11.3	6.1	-46.3	-63.2
Saint John	12.7	11.7	12.3	8.9	-28.1	-30.1
Saguenay	10.1	10.4	11.5	18.8	63.8	86.7
Québec	152.2	120.2	125.6	117.6	-6.4	-22.8
Sherbrooke	44.1	35.5	35.0	42.3	21.0	-4.0
Trois-Rivières	59.9	27.1	9.1	15.3	67.5	-74.4
Montréal	536.5	428.4	706.5	510.9	-27.7	-4.8
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	165.1	169.7	288.7	201.5	-30.2	22.1
Gatineau part	51.4	40.2	55.3	47.0	-15.0	-8.6
Ottawa part	113.7	129.5	233.4	154.5	-33.8	35.9
Kingston	12.5	21.5	7.5	8.9	18.3	-29.1
Peterborough	9.0	2.8	2.2	7.1	231.4	-20.8
Oshawa	78.4	37.6	50.4	41.1	-18.3	-47.6
Toronto	893.5	1,301.8	1,045.8	943.4	-9.8	5.6
Hamilton	101.3	106.9	117.3	123.7	5.4	22.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	29.6	40.4	30.7	53.7	75.1	81.6
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	171.0	288.0	142.3	198.4	39.4	16.0
Brantford	8.8	12.1	7.4	16.4	123.6	86.8
Guelph	35.4	10.8	12.1	18.8	55.1	-46.8
London	69.2	74.9	48.0	118.0	145.6	70.4
Windsor	75.1	52.2	9.3	13.8	48.2	-81.6
Barrie	9.2	11.3	7.1	13.4	88.1	45.4
Greater Sudbury	4.6	45.4	23.7	9.0	-62.0	94.5
Thunder Bay	3.7	4.7	6.0	7.3	22.2	94.3
Winnipeg	74.3	106.6	93.8	103.2	10.0	38.9
Regina	32.0	34.3	108.8	28.5	-73.8	-11.0
Saskatoon	38.5	105.3	63.0	67.4	7.0	75.2
Calgary	274.5	309.6	181.7	945.1	420.2	244.3
Edmonton	386.4	256.5	235.5	284.8	20.9	-26.3
Kelowna	53.9	33.9	14.0	14.8	5.8	-72.5
Abbotsford–Mission	9.8	57.1	6.4	20.7	224.6	111.6
Vancouver	326.6	328.1	375.6	381.5	1.6	16.8
Victoria	51.9	78.1	45.3	50.2	10.8	-3.3

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*
1. *Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.*
Note: *Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

■

Canadian international merchandise trade: Annual review
2010

Canada's international merchandise trade rebounded in 2010 from substantial declines the year before, but levels remained below those immediately prior to the economic downturn. At the same time, Canada's reliance on the United States as a trading partner fell even further as trade with Asia, particularly China, rose.

The 2010 international merchandise trade annual review reveals that exports rose 9.5% to $404.6 billion, led by higher exports of industrial goods and materials. Imports increased 10.6% to $413.6 billion, as volumes rose in all sectors.

As a result, Canada's trade deficit nearly doubled from $4.6 billion in 2009 to $9.0 billion in 2010.

The United States' share of Canada's trade (exports and imports combined) continued to fall in 2010, although it remained Canada's largest trading partner. The United States represented 62.5% of total merchandise trade in 2010, down from 76.3% in 2001. During the same period, Canada's trade with China more than tripled.

Share of exports to United States continues to decline

In 2010, the three main destinations for Canada's merchandise exports were the United States, the United Kingdom and China, unchanged from 2009. Although the value of Canada's exports to all three countries increased over the past decade, the share of exports to the United States fell. During the same period, the other two countries' share tripled, with the United Kingdom increasing from 1.3% to 4.1% while China's rose from 1.1% to 3.3%.

In 2010, the United States accounted for 74.9% of Canada's exports, down from 87.0% in 2001. Canada's exports to the United States increased 10.5% to $298.5 billion in 2010, reflecting higher exports of automotive products and energy products.

Exports to the United Kingdom rose 35.6%, led by exports of precious metals, which increased 55.9%. This gain was due almost entirely to the strong demand for gold throughout the year. Gold accounted for over one-half of the $16.4 billion worth of merchandise exported to the United Kingdom in 2010.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of Canada's international balance of payments, which also includes trade in services, investment income, current transfers as well as capital and financial flows.

International merchandise trade data on total trade and trade balances are presented on a balance of payment basis while the country data are presented on a customs basis. Balance of payments data are derived from customs data by making adjustments for characteristics such as valuation, coverage, timing and residency. These adjustments are made to conform to the concepts and definitions of the Canadian System of National Accounts.

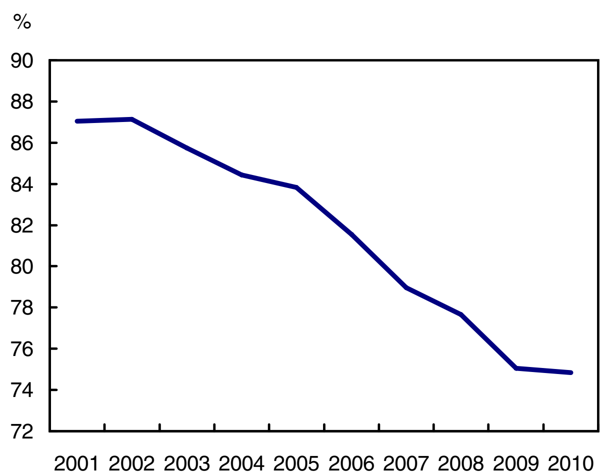
Revisions

Revisions to customs based data for the previous year are released with January and February reference months and subsequently on a quarterly basis of the current year. Revisions to balance of payments based data for the three previous years are released annually in June.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates produced for the energy sector with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

Share of exports to the United States

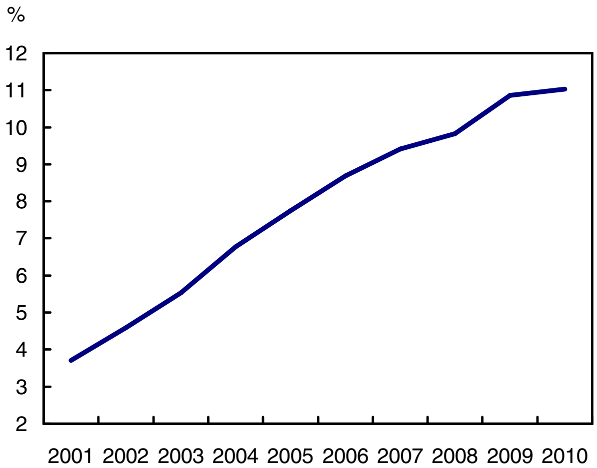


Exports to China increased 18.7% to $13.2 billion in 2010, their eighth consecutive annual increase. The top exports to China in 2010 were wood pulp and similar pulp, followed by coal and other bituminous substances.

China is a growing source of imports

As was the case with exports, the share of Canada's imports from the United States declined, from 63.6% in 2001 to 50.4% in 2010. During this period, the share of imports from China advanced steadily from 3.7% to 11.0%.

Share of imports from China



Canada imported $203.2 billion worth of merchandise from the United States in 2010, up 8.8% from 2009. The main imports were motor vehicle parts, passenger autos and trucks.

Canada's imports from Asia accounted for 20.2% of total imports in 2010, up from 13.6% in 2001. Imports from China accounted for over one-half of our imports from Asia.

Imports from China increased 12.1% to $44.5 billion. The top five commodities imported from China in 2010 were electronic computers, telecommunication equipment, games and toys, furniture and fixtures, and outerwear. Electronic computers have been the top import from China over the past decade.

Imports from Mexico rose 33.7% to $22.1 billion in 2010. Mexico's share has experienced almost continuous growth from 3.5% in 2001 to 5.5% in 2010. Imports of telecommunication equipment from Mexico have tripled over the past 10 years and have been the top import from this country since 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0003, 228-0043, 228-0049 and 228-0055.

The merchandise imports and exports data in the following tables are presented in dollar values.

Table 228-0003: Customs and balance of payments basis, by major groups and principal trading areas for all countries; annual.

Table 228-0043: Customs and balance of payments basis, by sector and sub-sector, for all countries; annual.

The merchandise imports and exports data in the following tables are indexes (2002=100).

Table 228-0049: Balance of payments and customs-based price and volume indexes for all countries; annual.

Table 228-0055: Price and volume indexes customs and balance of payments basis, by sector and sub-sector, for all countries; annual.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

These data are available in the Canadian international merchandise trade database.

The publication *International Merchandise Trade Annual Review*, 2010 (65-208-X, free), is now available online from the *Key resource* module of our website *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for February will be released on April 12.

For further information regarding Canada's international merchandise trade data, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2006 to 2010	2009 to 2010
	$ current, on a customs basis						
	$ millions					% change	
Largest trading partners							
Exports							
United States	359,135	355,610	375,480	270,074	298,524	-16.9	10.5
United Kingdom	10,137	12,789	12,996	12,087	16,396	61.7	35.6
China	7,802	9,512	10,468	11,152	13,232	69.6	18.7
Japan	9,420	9,223	11,086	8,316	9,194	-2.4	10.6
Mexico	4,376	4,958	5,844	4,805	5,008	14.5	4.2
All other countries	49,495	58,229	67,614	53,432	56,472	14.1	5.7
Total	**440,365**	**450,321**	**483,488**	**359,866**	**398,826**	**-9.4**	**10.8**
Imports							
United States	217,845	220,890	227,246	186,792	203,152	-6.7	8.8
China	34,508	38,331	42,628	39,655	44,464	28.9	12.1
Mexico	16,019	17,179	17,916	16,535	22,105	38.0	33.7
Japan	15,327	15,458	15,292	12,350	13,411	-12.5	8.6
Germany	11,165	11,505	12,713	10,657	11,281	1.0	5.9
All other countries	102,180	103,938	118,204	99,166	108,879	6.6	9.8
Total	**397,044**	**407,301**	**433,999**	**365,155**	**403,293**	**1.6**	**10.4**

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Electric utility construction price indexes

Annual 2009 (final) and annual 2010 (preliminary)

Construction costs for the distribution systems series increased by 2.2% in 2010 compared with the 2009 annual index. Higher costs for labour (+4.4%) and construction indirects (+2.2%) were the major contributors to the advance of the index.

Construction costs for the transmission line system series rose 0.9% during 2010, while the transmission line component increased 1.9%, largely as a result of installation labour (+4.4%). The substation component edged up 0.3% in 2010, led by a 2.1% increase in the construction indirects component.

Compared with 2008 final data, the 2009 data show increases for both the distribution systems series (+0.5%) and the transmission line system series (+0.6%). The transmission line component declined by 0.7%, while the substation component increased by 1.4%.

Note: This release presents data that are not seasonally adjusted and the indexes published are subject to a two-year revision period after dissemination of a given year's data.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0011.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2316.

The fourth quarter 2010 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available soon.

The electric utility construction price indexes data for the first half of 2011 will be released on September 15.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Client Services (toll-free 1-888-951-4550; 613-951-4550; fax: 613-951-3117; *ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca*), Producer Prices Division. ■

Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business

2009

The three volume series of *Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business* are now available on CD-ROM. The CD-ROM provides three years of data (2007, 2008 and 2009).

This series uses up-to-date, reliable and comprehensive data on Canadian businesses derived from Statistics Canada databases of financial statements and offers a full slate of financial ratios and a common-sized balance sheet for sectors and industries in Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2510.

The CD-ROM *Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business*, 2007 to 2009 (61-224-X, various prices), is now available. The set of all volumes cost $1,045; the set of Volumes 1, 2 and 3 national, $590; Volume 1 national, $240; Volume 2 national, $240; Volume 3 national, $240; Volume 3, province, territory or region, $240 each.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-263-1136 or 1-888-811-6235; 613-951-2604; *iofd-clientservicesunit@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Joycelyn Francisco (613-951-0583; *joycelyn.francisco@statcan.gc.ca*), Industrial Organization and Finance Division. ■

School board revenues and expenditures

2008

Data are now available for school board revenues and expenditures up to 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 478-0010 to 478-0012.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3119.

For more information, to order data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; *educationstats@statcan.gc.ca*), Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division. ■

New products and studies

Financial Performance Indicators for Canadian Business, 2007 to 2009
Catalogue number 61-224-X (CD-ROM, various prices)

International Merchandise Trade Annual Review, 2010
Catalogue number 65-208-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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

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.

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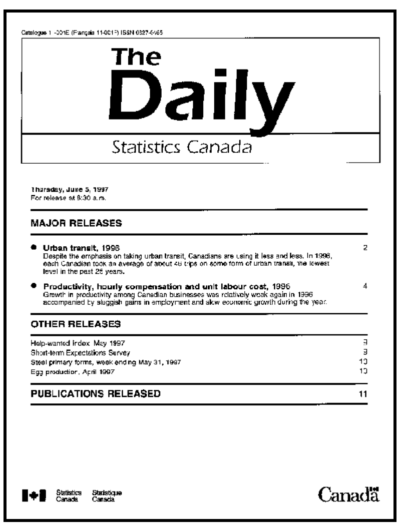
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- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
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