The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

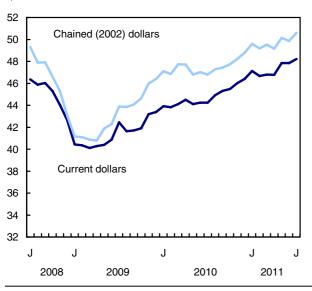
Wholesale trade

July 2011

Wholesale sales advanced 0.8% in July to \$48.2 billion after remaining unchanged in June. Although five of the seven subsectors, representing more than 85% of total sales, reported increases, most of the growth was concentrated in the machinery, equipment and supplies, the personal and household goods, and the motor vehicle and parts subsectors.

Wholesale sales increase in July

\$ billions



In volume terms, wholesale sales grew 1.5% in July. The difference between the growth rates expressed in current and constant dollars reflects lower prices for imported products sold by wholesalers. This was partly attributable to the appreciation of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar during the month.

Widespread sales increase

The machinery, equipment and supplies subsector registered the highest increase in dollar terms as

Note to readers

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

Wholesale 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 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.

sales rose 2.1% in July. All four industries in this subsector posted gains with the largest increase from wholesalers of construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies.

Sales in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector have been showing an upward trend since the second quarter of 2010. This reflects higher business investment in plant and equipment, which has increased for six consecutive quarters.

After a decline in June, sales in the personal and household goods subsector rose 2.9% in July, the highest month-over-month growth recorded by this subsector since April 2008. Sales grew in most of the industries, with personal goods reporting the highest increase.

Following three consecutive months of declines, sales in the motor vehicle and parts subsector advanced 2.6% in July. This coincided with higher production and imports of automotive products. Prior to July, sales in this subsector had been affected by disruptions in the supply chain following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March.

Overall growth in wholesale trade in July was dampened by a 5.1% decline in the miscellaneous subsector. This resulted mainly from lower sales of agricultural supplies (-18.5%), which had been strong in May and June.

Ontario accounts for most of the increase

Ontario accounted for almost all of the national sales increase in July. Sales grew 2.1% after declining 0.9% in June. Higher sales of machinery, equipment and supplies, and motor vehicle and parts contributed to most of the increase.

Among the western provinces, only Manitoba (+1.1%) posted an increase. After increasing in June, sales in Saskatchewan and Alberta declined largely as a result of lower sales in the agricultural supplies industry.

In the Atlantic provinces, only Prince Edward Island reported gains as its sales grew 0.4%.

Sales in Quebec fell slightly (-0.1%), their second consecutive decrease.

Inventories continue to rise

Inventories rose 0.3% to \$56.5 billion in July, posting their seventh consecutive monthly increase.

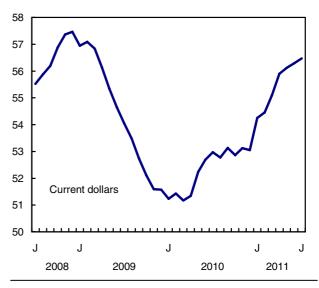
Inventories were up in 11 of the 25 wholesale industries. Wholesalers in the construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies industry, and the new motor vehicle parts and accessories industry reported the largest gains in dollar terms.

The inventory-to-sales ratio declined from 1.18 in June to 1.17 in July.

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.

Inventories increase in July





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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The July 2011 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-X, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade data for August will be released on October 20.

To obtain data, or for more 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 Farzana Choudhury (613-951-2020; farzana.choudhury@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

July

June

July

Wholesale merchants' sales by industry - Seasonally adjusted

	2010	2011 ^r	2011 ^p	to	2010
				July	to
				2011	July
					2011
		\$ millions		% change	
Total, wholesale sales	44,234	47,845	48,208	0.8	9.0
Total, excluding motor vehicle and parts	,	,•.•	10,200	5.5	0.0
wholesalers	36,808	40.168	40.333	0.4	9.6
Farm product	517	561	532	-5.3	2.8
Food, beverage and tobacco	8,620	8,993	9,069	0.8	5.2
Food	7,684	8,015	8,102	1.1	5.4
Beverage	419	471	468	-0.7	11.5
Cigarette and tobacco product	516	507	500	-1.3	-3.1
Personal and household goods	6,911	6,888	7,087	2.9	2.5
Textile, clothing and footwear	873	934	928	-0.6	6.3
	6/3	934	920	-0.6	0.3
Home entertainment equipment and household	700	004	704	0.0	0.4
appliance	732	684	731	6.9	-0.1
Home furnishings	513	466	480	2.9	-6.4
Personal goods	769	728	825	13.2	7.3
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	3,340	3,438	3,482	1.3	4.3
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	684	638	640	0.4	-6.4
Motor vehicle and parts	7,426	7,677	7,875	2.6	6.1
Motor vehicle	5,748	5,833	5,974	2.4	3.9
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,638	1,795	1,853	3.3	13.2
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	41	49	47	-2.9	16.5
Building material and supplies	6,052	6,544	6,603	0.9	9.1
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning					
equipment and supplies	1,920	2,069	2,109	1.9	9.8
Metal service centres	1,242	1,489	1,467	-1.5	18.2
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building	-,	1,122	1,121		
supplies	2,890	2,986	3,027	1.4	4.7
Machinery, equipment and supplies	9,062	10,157	10,372	2.1	14.5
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	1,007	1,170	1,218	4.1	21.0
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial	1,007	1,170	1,210	***	21.0
machinery, equipment and supplies	2,813	3,343	3,479	4.1	23.7
	2,013	3,343	3,479	4.1	23.7
Computer and communications equipment and	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.7	0.4
supplies	2,988	3,238	3,260	0.7	9.1
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,255	2,405	2,415	0.4	7.1
Miscellaneous	5,646	7,025	6,670	-5.1	18.1
Recyclable material	662	881	951	7.9	43.8
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic					
product	756	788	779	-1.2	3.0
Agricultural supplies	1,335	2,151	1,752	-18.5	31.2
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,054	1,170	1,137	-2.8	7.9
Other miscellaneous	1,840	2,035	2,051	0.8	11.5

revised

P preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to total as a result of rounding.

Wholesale merchants' sales by province and territory - Seasonally adjusted

	• •	-			
	July	June	July	June	July
	2010	2011 ^r	2011 ^p	to	2010
				July	to
				2011	July
					2011
		\$ millions		% change	
Canada	44,234	47,845	48,208	0.8	9.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	275	342	322	-5.8	17.2
Prince Edward Island	39	48	48	0.4	23.4
Nova Scotia	640	646	627	-3.0	-2.1
New Brunswick	503	506	505	-0.1	0.4
Quebec	8,560	9,197	9,190	-0.1	7.4
Ontario	22,518	23,809	24,297	2.1	7.9
Manitoba	1,135	1,257	1,271	1.1	11.9
Saskatchewan	1,365	1,822	1,778	-2.4	30.3
Alberta	5,130	5,930	5,917	-0.2	15.3
British Columbia	4,000	4,221	4,190	-0.7	4.8
Yukon	11	12	11	-11.5	1.0
Northwest Territories	54	50	49	-1.9	-8.2
Nunavut	4	5	3	-36.4	-21.8

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p preliminaryNote: Figures may not add up to total as a result of rounding.

Wholesale merchants' inventories by industry - Seasonally adjusted

	July	June	July	June	July
	2010	2011 ^r	2011 ^p	to	2010
				July	to
				2011	July
					2011
		\$ millions		% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	52,969	56,295	56,469	0.3	6.6
Farm product	153	177	180	1.7	17.5
Food	4,253	4,635	4,624	-0.2	8.7
Beverage	244	268	259	-3.6	6.0
Cigarette and tobacco product	217	216	215	-0.3	-0.9
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,649	1,947	1,935	-0.6	17.4
Home entertainment equipment and household					
appliance	775	731	771	5.5	-0.5
Home furnishings	956	998	1,014	1.6	6.1
Personal goods	1,506	1,361	1,339	-1.6	-11.1
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	4,006	4,261	4,231	-0.7	5.6
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	632	686	732	6.6	15.8
Motor vehicle	3,592	3,411	3,469	1.7	-3.4
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,055	3,237	3,352	3.5	9.7
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	75	84	82	-1.7	10.2
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning					
equipment and supplies	2,789	3,189	3,147	-1.3	12.8
Metal service centres	2,656	3,057	3,023	-1.1	13.8
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building					
supplies	4,563	4,646	4,628	-0.4	1.4
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	3,166	3,227	3,279	1.6	3.6
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial					
machinery, equipment and supplies	7,461	7,685	7,809	1.6	4.7
Computer and communications equipment and	ŕ	,	•		
supplies	1,614	1,910	1,899	-0.6	17.7
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,155	3,173	3,203	1.0	1.5
Recyclable material	323	530	531	0.1	64.5
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic					
product	625	686	685	-0.1	9.7
Agricultural supplies	2,568	2,734	2,592	-5.2	0.9
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	823	987	966	-2.0	17.4
Other miscellaneous	2,115	2,458	2,502	1.8	18.3
	-,·· -	-,	-,	• • •	. 3.0

Note: Figures may not add up to total as a result of rounding.

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Leading indicators

August 2011

The composite leading index was little changed in August for the third month in a row. Of the 10 components, 6 continued to expand in August, the same number as in July. The weakness in the index was concentrated in the housing index and the stock market, both of which fell more than the month before. The unsmoothed version of the index showed a slight improvement, with a 0.6% increase in August matching its gain in July as a recovery of manufacturing from supply disruptions in the second quarter outweighed losses in the stock market and in housing.

Most of the 0.7% drop in the housing index originated in lower existing home sales. Housing starts levelled off, after recovering over the previous five months. Furniture and appliance sales remained robust, rising 1.1%. Spending on other durable goods rose 1.6%, its largest monthly increase during the recovery, partly as shortages of Japanese models began to ease.

Manufacturing remained mixed. New orders rose 3.4% for a second straight month, as manufacturers began to recover from a series of supply disruptions

in autos, petroleum and metal refining that had hampered second-quarter output. However, the trend of shipments has not yet begun to recover, and the ratio of sales to stocks fell for a third straight month. The average workweek continued to fall, although factory employment has been stable in recent months. This partly reflects a decision by firms to keep their workers on staff during the supply disruptions, but at reduced hours.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

This release will be reprinted in the October 2011 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 24, no. 10 (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

	March 2011	April 2011	May 2011	June 2011	July 2011	August 2011	Last month of
							data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	251.7	253.6	255.2	255.1	255.4	255.3	0.0
Housing index (1992=100) ¹	127.9	127.5	127.7	128.4	128.1	127.2	-0.7
Business and personal services employment							
('000)	2,956	2,968	2,979	2,989	3,006	3,009	0.1
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	13,643	13,841	13,913	13,863	13,625	13,353	-2.0
Money supply, M1 (\$ millions, 1992) ²	225,642	226,315	226,361	226,810	227,419	228,192	0.3
US Conference Board leading indicator							
$(1992=100)^3$	137.0	138.0	138.6	139.2	139.9	140.4	0.4
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	37.3	37.4	37.4	37.1	36.8	36.6	-0.5
New orders, durables (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	23,388	23,546	25,513	25,452	26,311	27,211	3.4
Shipments/inventories of finished goods ⁴	1.95	1.96	1.97	1.96	1.94	1.92	-0.02 ⁵
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	2,893	2,905	2,926	2,959	2,995	3,028	1.1
Other durable goods sales (\$ millions, 1992) ⁴	10,384	10,371	10,381	10,366	10,382	10,548	1.6
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	256.2	255.2	258.0	253.1	254.5	256.0	0.6

^{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.

Travel between Canada and other countries July 2011

Travel by Canadian residents abroad reached 5.0 million trips in July, down 0.4% compared with June. At the same time, residents from abroad took 2.0 million trips to Canada, also down 0.4%.

Canadian residents took 1.8 million overnight trips to the United States in July, up 2.2% compared with the previous month. This was the highest level recorded since record keeping began in 1972.

Overnight travel by Canadians to the United States was up in all transportation modes. Overnight plane travel increased 2.8% to its highest level since record keeping began in 1972.

Overnight travel by car (+1.8%) also rose. The increase in overnight travel was offset by a 2.0% decrease in same-day car travel by Canadian residents to the United States.

The number of overnight trips by Canadian residents to overseas countries reached 751,000 in July, a decrease of 1.7% compared with June.

In the other direction, travel by US residents to Canada was down 0.5% to 1.6 million trips in July. American residents took 593,000 same-day car trips in July, virtually unchanged (+0.1%) compared with the previous month.

Overnight travel by Americans to Canada decreased 1.2% to 966,000 trips. The number of overnight plane trips decreased 1.9%, while overnight car travel recorded a slight increase of 0.3%.

Overseas residents took 378,000 trips to Canada in July, down 0.2%.

Of the top 12 overseas markets, 7 recorded declines in July. The largest decrease was recorded by residents of Germany (-8.0%) while the strongest increase was recorded by residents of Japan (+12.4%).

Note: Monthly data are seasonally adjusted. All seasonally adjusted data have been revised back to January 2010. Revisions have been made to some non-seasonally adjusted series for each month of the fourth guarter of 2010 and the first guarter of 2011.

NEXUS travel data (for both land and sea) are not included.

Available on CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The July 2011 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 27, no. 7 (66-001-P, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; tourism@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, please contact Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; frances.kremarik@statcan.gc.ca), Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division.

Travel between Canada and other countries - Seasonally adjusted

	July 2010 ^r	June 2011 ^r	July 2011 ^p	June to
	2010	2011	2011	July
				2011
	t	housands		% change ¹
Canadian trips abroad ²	4,499	4,994	4,976	-0.4
To the United States	3,764	4,230	4,225	-0.1
To other countries	735	764	751	-1.7
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,036	2,413	2,365	-2.0
Total trips, one or more nights	2,425	2,535	2,561	1.0
United States ³	1,690	1,771	1,811	2.2
Car	1,010	1,027	1,045	1.8
Plane	587	643	661	2.8
Other modes of transportation	93	101	104	2.6
Other countries ⁴	735	764	751	-1.7
Travel to Canada ²	2,062	2,032	2,023	-0.4
From the United States	1,692	1,653	1,645	-0.5
From other countries	369	379	378	-0.2
Same-day car trips from the United States	612	593	593	0.1
Total trips, one or more nights	1,354	1,347	1,335	-0.9
United States ³	994	977	966	-1.2
Car	595	559	561	0.3
Plane	290	298	292	-1.9
Other modes of transportation	110	120	113	-5.8
Other countries ⁴	360	370	369	-0.4
Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by				
country of origin ⁵				
United Kingdom	60	57	57	-0.6
France	36	39	38	-1.5
Germany	28	30	27	-8.0
China	17	21	22	3.6
Australia	20	22	21	-3.2
Japan	21	 17	19	12.4
South Korea	15	14	14	-3.2
India	11	12	12	0.5
Hong Kong	9	11	11	-1.1
Mexico	10	11	10	-3.1
Switzerland	9	9	10	5.3
Italy	9	9	9	1.5

r revised

Study: Trends in precipitation in Canada 1948 to 2009

During the past six decades, precipitation has risen across Canada, with increases especially significant in the northern Arctic climatic regions.

This analysis of total precipitation (a combination of snow and rainfall) data from Environment Canada shows that between 1948 and 2009 precipitation increased nationally.

For the purposes of this study, the amount of precipitation that occurred between 1961 and 1990, roughly in the middle of the study period, was considered as "normal."

In 1948, the trend for precipitation nationally was nearly 9% below the normal. However, by 2009, the amount had increased to around 8% above the normal, a 17-percentage-point increase.

Most of the nation's 11 climatic regions showed increases in precipitation during this period, particularly those in the North.

In the Far North climactic region of Arctic Mountains and Fiords, precipitation rose 34 percentage points, twice the national average increase.

Precipitation in the Arctic Tundra showed a similar rise, while the increase in the Mackenzie District was more moderate.

Although other climatic regions such as the Northwestern Forest and South British Columbia

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Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

^{3.} Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other methods.

^{4.} Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

^{5.} Includes same-day and overnight trips.

Mountains received more precipitation compared with the normal, the trend was not as pronounced.

On a seasonal basis, precipitation rose nationally in all four seasons during the six decades. The largest increases occurred in the spring and the smallest in the summer.

Of the northern climatic regions, two – the Arctic Mountains and Fiords and the Arctic Tundra – saw the largest increases in precipitation during the six decades. This was particularly the case for precipitation in the spring for both climatic regions.

In winter, precipitation also increased the most in the North, especially in the Arctic Tundra region, the Arctic Mountains and Fiords region as well as the Mackenzie District region.

Note: The article "Precipitation trends in Canada" is the third in an ongoing series in *EnviroStats* showcasing data related to Canada's climate and the impacts of climate change. These articles are short statistical analyses of climate-related data, such as sea ice extent and snow cover. The second article in the series, released in March 2011, examined temperature trends across Canada.

This article examines precipitation on the basis of percentage departures from normal between 1948 and 2009 for 11 climatic regions and for Canada as a whole. Data came from Environment Canada's *Climate Trends and Variations Bulletin*. More information on percentage departure from normal can be found in this bulletin on Environment Canada's website (www.ec.gc.ca/adsc-cmda).

Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Statistics Canada are collaborating on a project to prepare a series of CANSIM tables, some of which will be available late in 2011.

The article "Precipitation trends in Canada" is now available in the fall 2011 issue of *EnviroStats*, Vol. 5, no. 3 (16-002-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The articles "Natural resource wealth, 2010" and "Ecoregion profile: Eastern Vancouver Island" are also available in this issue of *EnviroStats*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.gc.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division.

Study: Layoffs during the last three recessions

1981 to 2010

Canadian workers were less likely to be laid off during the last economic recession than their counterparts during the two recessions in the early 1980s and 1990s. They were also more likely to find a job in the short term.

On a monthly basis, 2.0% of employees were laid off temporarily or permanently between October 2008 and December 2010. This compares with 2.9% during the early 1980s and 2.7% in the early 1990s.

Of all workers laid off between October 2008 and December 2010, 50% found a paid job between one and four months after they were laid off. This compares with roughly 42% during the two previous recessions.

The chances of being temporarily or permanently laid off were relatively high among young people aged 15 to 24, those with no university degree, workers with fewer than two years of seniority and those employed in the goods sector.

The workers most likely to have found a job in the short term had a university degree, more than five years of seniority, and initially expected to be recalled.

The last recession was also of shorter duration in terms of employment. Total employment on a seasonally-adjusted basis took 27 months to return to its pre-downturn level. This compares with 53 months during the early 1990s and 40 months during the early 1980s.

On average, employees who were laid off during the most recent downturn and who found a job in the short term saw their average weekly wages drop from \$734 to \$703. Among these employees, one-quarter saw their weekly wages decline by 23% or more, while another one-quarter saw increases in weekly pay of at least 18%.

Note: The study "Workers Laid-off During the Last Three Recessions: Who Were They, and How Did They Fare?" profiles workers laid off during the downturns that took place during the early 1980s, the early 1990s and from 2008 to 2010. For each downturn, it provides estimates of layoff rates as well as employment rates shortly after layoffs. For the most recent downturn, wage changes experienced by laid-off workers who found paid employment between one and four months after being laid-off were examined. Data came from the Labour Force Survey.

Due to data limitations, the layoff concept used in this study includes both temporary layoffs (in which workers are eventually recalled by their employer) and permanent layoffs. Thus, it is not equivalent to job loss.

The research paper "Workers Laid-off During the Last Three Recessions: Who Were They, and How Did They Fare?," part of *Analytical Studies Research Paper*

Series (11F0019M2011337, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Similar studies from the Social Analysis division are available online (www.statcan.gc.ca/socialanalysis).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact René Morissette (613-951-3608), Social Analysis Division.

Civil aviation operating statistics

January to July 2011

Monthly operational data on civil aviation are now available for January to July.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0001 and 401-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5026.

Data tables are also available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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; fax: 613-951-0009; *transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca*), Transportation Division.

Canada's natural resource wealth

Data for Canada's natural resource wealth are now available for 2010.

Available on CANSIM: tables 153-0001 to 153-0008, 153-0010 to 153-0028 and 378-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5114.

These data are also examined in the article "Natural resource wealth, 2010," available in the fall 2011 issue of *EnviroStats*, Vol. 5, no. 3 (16-002-X, free), 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 the information officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.gc.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division.

New products and studies

Study: Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series: "Workers Laid-off During the Last Three Recessions: Who Were They, and How Did They Fare?," no. 337

Catalogue number 11F0019M2011337 (PDF, free; HTML, free)

EnviroStats, fall 2011, Vol. 5, no. 3
Catalogue number 16-002-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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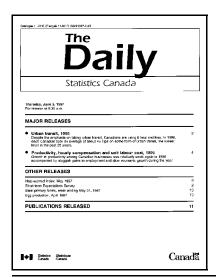
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