

The Daily

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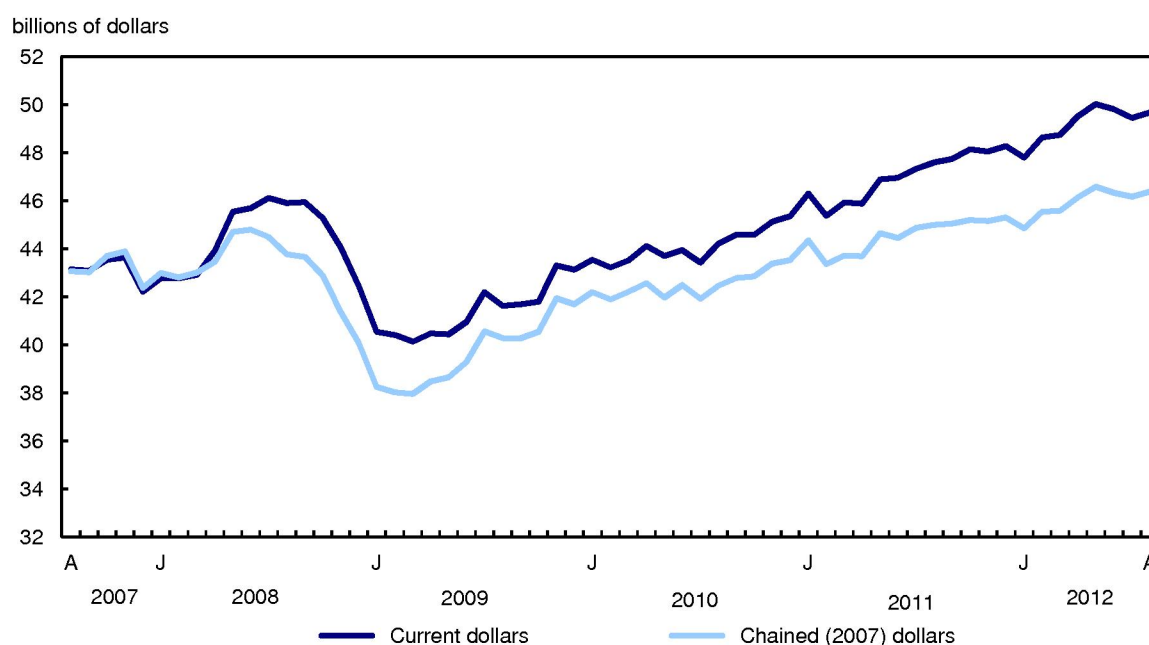
Releases

Wholesale trade, August 2012

Wholesale sales rose by 0.5% to \$49.7 billion in August, following two consecutive monthly declines. Higher sales in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector, and the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector, were the main contributors to the increase.

In volume terms, wholesale sales were up 0.5% in August.

Chart 1
Wholesale sales increase in August



Sales increase in four out of seven subsectors

In August, four out of seven subsectors, representing 56% of total sales, reported increases.

The largest advance was in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector, where sales rose 2.3% to \$9.5 billion. The gain was based solely on growth in the food industry (+2.7%), which posted its largest advance since February 2010. This increase followed a decline of 2.1% in July.

The machinery, equipment and supplies subsector rose 1.4%, the fourth increase in five months. All four industries in this subsector posted gains in August, with the farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment industry (+4.3%) and the construction, forestry, mining and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies industry (+1.4%) accounting for two-thirds of the increase.

After relatively flat sales since April 2012, the building material and supplies subsector gained 1.0% in August. This increase reflected higher sales in all three industries of the subsector.

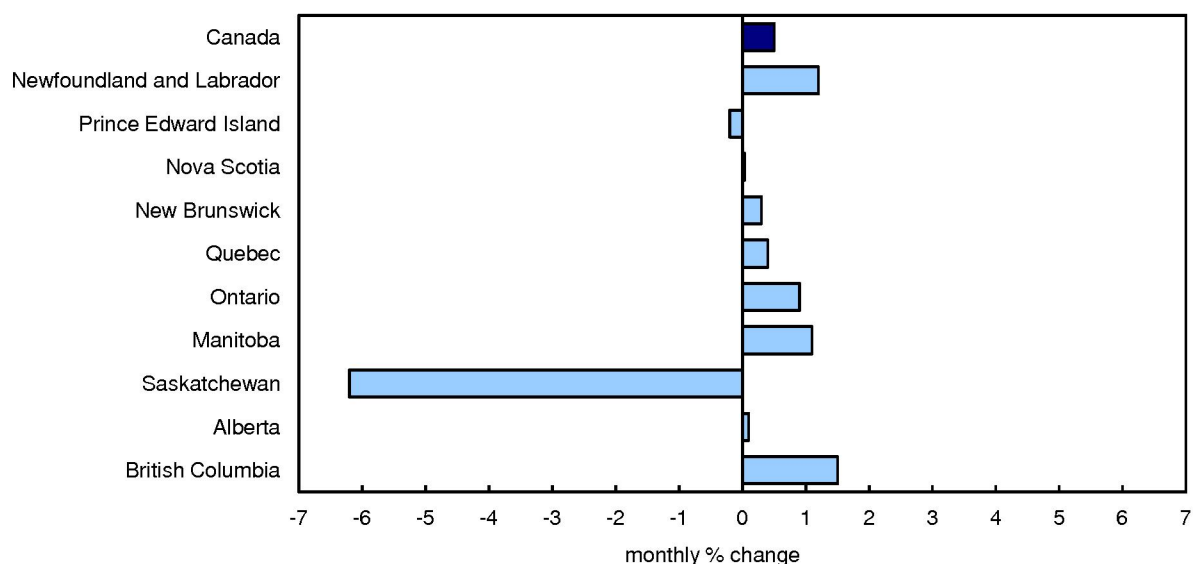
The largest decrease occurred in the miscellaneous subsector, where sales fell 1.9%. This was the fourth consecutive decrease in the subsector. The chemical (except agricultural) and allied product industry (-4.8%) and the agricultural supplies industry (-2.8%) accounted for most of the decline in August.

The motor vehicle and parts subsector (-0.7%) and the personal and household goods subsector (-0.5%) also reported losses in August.

Wholesale sales up in most provinces

Sales were up in eight provinces in August, with Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec accounting for most of the national increase.

Chart 2
Wholesale sales up in most provinces



Sales in Ontario, which account for close to 50% of total wholesale trade, advanced 0.9%, partially offsetting a decline in July. Sales in Ontario have increased six out of eight months since January 2012.

Sales in British Columbia gained 1.5%, the first increase in three months.

In Quebec, sales rose 0.4%, following a 0.9% decrease in July.

Saskatchewan reported the largest sales decrease (-6.2%), the third consecutive monthly decline. Lower sales in the agricultural supplies industry contributed to the drop in August.

Inventories continue to increase

Inventories rose 0.8% to \$61.6 billion in August, a ninth consecutive monthly increase. Overall, 12 of the 25 industries registered higher inventories.

The largest increases in dollar terms were in the motor vehicle industry (+8.7%) and the construction, forestry, mining and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies industry (+1.8%).

The inventory-to-sales ratio was unchanged at 1.24 in August.

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.

Note to readers

All the data in this release are seasonally adjusted and in current dollars, unless otherwise noted. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends](#).

Total wholesale sales expressed in volume are calculated by deflating current dollar values using relevant price indexes. The wholesale sales series in chained (2007) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index with 2007 as the reference year.

Data for total wholesale sales in volume, including the chain Fisher volume index, have been revised from January 2004 onward to reflect methodological enhancements. In addition, the reference year has changed from 2002 to 2007 for these volume data. For more information, see [Sales in volume for Wholesale Trade](#).

The former CANSIM table 081-0013 has been replaced by CANSIM table 081-0015. Revised data dating back to January 2004 are now available in this new CANSIM table.

Table 1
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	August 2011	July 2012 ^r	August 2012 ^p	July to August 2012	August 2011 to August 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale sales	47,585	49,439	49,665	0.5	4.4
Total, excluding motor vehicle and parts wholesalers	40,137	40,951	41,234	0.7	2.7
Farm product	589	564	573	1.5	-2.8
Food, beverage and tobacco	9,171	9,324	9,537	2.3	4.0
Food	8,199	8,291	8,518	2.7	3.9
Beverage	459	508	501	-1.3	9.1
Cigarette and tobacco product	513	525	517	-1.5	0.9
Personal and household goods	7,146	7,024	6,987	-0.5	-2.2
Textile, clothing and footwear	947	960	962	0.2	1.6
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	743	713	685	-3.9	-7.7
Home furnishings	411	450	468	3.9	13.8
Personal goods	785	744	737	-0.8	-6.1
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	3,570	3,470	3,494	0.7	-2.1
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	689	687	640	-6.8	-7.1
Motor vehicle and parts	7,447	8,488	8,431	-0.7	13.2
Motor vehicle	5,608	6,456	6,421	-0.6	14.5
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,791	1,981	1,962	-1.0	9.5
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	47	50	49	-2.4	4.1
Building material and supplies	6,421	6,792	6,861	1.0	6.8
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	2,119	2,108	2,142	1.6	1.1
Metal service centres	1,347	1,554	1,569	1.0	16.5
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	2,954	3,130	3,149	0.6	6.6
Machinery, equipment and supplies	10,173	10,803	10,956	1.4	7.7
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	1,421	1,192	1,243	4.3	-12.5
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	3,491	3,720	3,770	1.4	8.0
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	2,874	3,344	3,352	0.3	16.6
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,386	2,549	2,591	1.6	8.6
Miscellaneous	6,638	6,443	6,321	-1.9	-4.8
Recyclable material	889	658	669	1.8	-24.7
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	929	886	870	-1.8	-6.4
Agricultural supplies	1,463	1,736	1,686	-2.8	15.3
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,150	1,224	1,165	-4.8	1.4
Other miscellaneous	2,207	1,941	1,930	-0.5	-12.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note(s): Figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

Table 2
Wholesale merchants' sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	August 2011	July 2012 ^r	August 2012 ^p	July to August 2012	August 2011 to August 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	47,585	49,439	49,665	0.5	4.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	340	328	332	1.2	-2.4
Prince Edward Island	49	48	47	-0.2	-3.6
Nova Scotia	667	726	726	0.0	8.8
New Brunswick	504	488	489	0.3	-2.9
Quebec	9,095	9,563	9,599	0.4	5.5
Ontario	23,612	23,892	24,112	0.9	2.1
Manitoba	1,289	1,291	1,306	1.1	1.3
Saskatchewan	1,677	1,938	1,818	-6.2	8.5
Alberta	5,949	6,544	6,548	0.1	10.1
British Columbia	4,334	4,540	4,607	1.5	6.3
Yukon	11	14	14	-2.3	24.3
Northwest Territories	49	63	62	-1.9	24.9
Nunavut	9	5	6	15.0	-31.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note(s): Figures may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

Table 3
Wholesale merchants' inventories by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	August 2011	July 2012 ^r	August 2012 ^p	July to August 2012	August 2011 to August 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	56,564	61,128	61,633	0.8	9.0
Farm product	186	166	162	-2.1	-12.6
Food	4,739	4,935	4,953	0.4	4.5
Beverage	271	299	299	0.0	10.6
Cigarette and tobacco product	219	235	226	-3.8	2.9
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,929	1,925	1,844	-4.2	-4.4
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	774	742	740	-0.3	-4.5
Home furnishings	961	1,002	981	-2.1	2.1
Personal goods	1,419	1,541	1,540	-0.1	8.5
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	4,218	4,777	4,806	0.6	13.9
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	694	742	718	-3.2	3.5
Motor vehicle	3,602	4,382	4,763	8.7	32.2
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,212	3,760	3,814	1.4	18.8
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	87	112	111	-0.9	27.8
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	3,118	3,158	3,158	0.0	1.3
Metal service centres	3,020	3,364	3,307	-1.7	9.5
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	4,597	4,795	4,828	0.7	5.0
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	3,310	3,568	3,627	1.6	9.6
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	7,990	9,095	9,256	1.8	15.8
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	1,524	1,650	1,602	-2.9	5.1
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,291	3,539	3,451	-2.5	4.9
Recyclable material	606	556	580	4.2	-4.3
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	741	730	732	0.4	-1.2
Agricultural supplies	2,598	2,559	2,630	2.8	1.2
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	919	1,116	1,115	-0.1	21.3
Other miscellaneous	2,539	2,382	2,391	0.4	-5.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note(s): Figures may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 081-0011, 081-0012 and 081-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The August 2012 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-X, free) will soon be available.

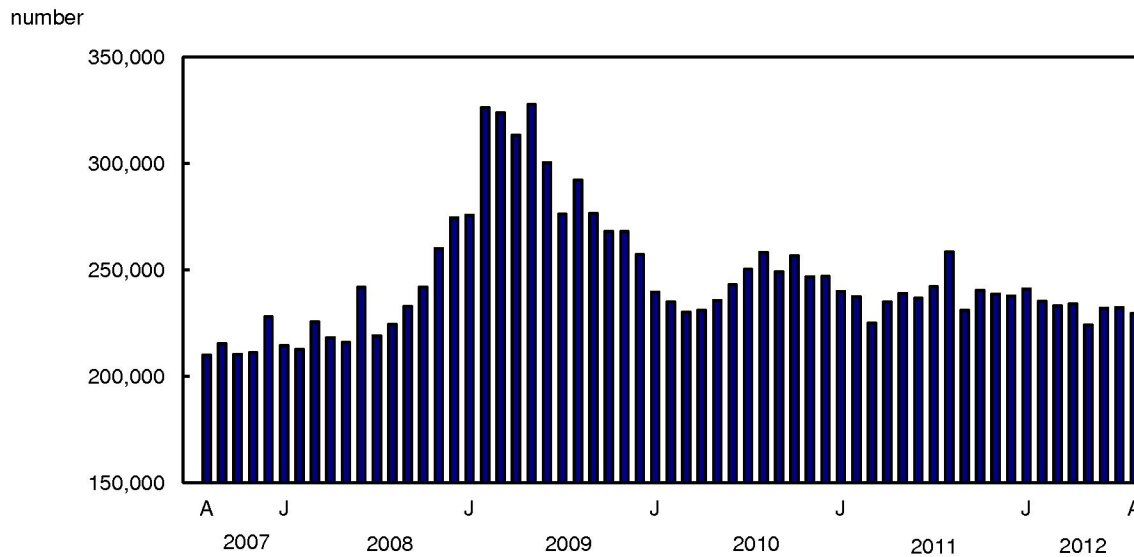
Wholesale trade data for September will be released on November 20.

For more information, or to order data, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Steve Chadder (613-951-0303; steve.chadder@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

The number of beneficiaries rose notably in Quebec, while Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Ontario also experienced increases.

Chart 2
Number of claims edges down in August



More beneficiaries in a number of provinces

The number of people receiving regular benefits increased in several provinces. In Quebec, following a period of declines that began earlier in the year, the number rose 7.0% in August, the largest percentage increase of all provinces.

There were also notable increases in the number of beneficiaries in Alberta (+3.5%), British Columbia (+3.4%), New Brunswick (+3.4%) and Saskatchewan (+3.3%).

The number of beneficiaries increased 1.9% in Ontario, while it was little changed in the other provinces.

Note to readers

Employment Insurance regular benefits are available to eligible individuals who lose their jobs and who are available for and able to work, but can't find a job. The change in the number of regular beneficiaries reflects various situations, including people becoming beneficiaries, people going back to work, and people exhausting their regular benefits.

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends](#).

EI statistics are produced from administrative data sources provided by Service Canada and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. These statistics may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the Employment Insurance Act or administrative procedures. The number of regular beneficiaries and the number of claims received for July and August are preliminary.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all people who received EI benefits from August 12 to 18. This period coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

EI statistics indicate the number of people who received EI benefits, and should not be confused with LFS data, which provide information on the total number of unemployed people.

There is always a certain proportion of unemployed people who do not qualify for benefits. Some unemployed people have not contributed to the program because they have not worked in the past 12 months or their employment is not insured. Other unemployed people have contributed to the program but do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as workers who left their job voluntarily or those who did not accumulate enough hours of work to receive benefits.

Table 1
Employment Insurance: Statistics by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	July 2012 ^P	August 2012 ^P	July to August 2012	August 2011 to August 2012	July to August 2012	August 2011 to August 2012
	number		change in number		% change	
Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits						
Canada	518,010	534,420	16,410	-43,040	3.2	-7.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	33,180	33,200	20	-3,790	0.1	-10.2
Prince Edward Island	8,080	8,090	10	-570	0.1	-6.6
Nova Scotia	30,410	30,560	150	-2,410	0.5	-7.3
New Brunswick	33,160	34,280	1,120	210	3.4	0.6
Quebec	146,790	157,030	10,240	-9,080	7.0	-5.5
Ontario	155,910	158,890	2,980	-14,750	1.9	-8.5
Manitoba	13,040	13,160	120	-110	0.9	-0.8
Saskatchewan	9,570	9,890	320	-420	3.3	-4.1
Alberta	25,730	26,620	890	-5,740	3.5	-17.7
British Columbia	55,810	57,690	1,880	-3,570	3.4	-5.8
Yukon	960	970	10	30	1.0	3.2
Northwest Territories	880	870	-10	-70	-1.1	-7.4
Nunavut	530	540	10	50	1.9	10.2
Initial and renewal claims received						
Canada	232,300	229,350	-2,950	-29,070	-1.3	-11.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,710	8,620	-90	-910	-1.0	-9.5
Prince Edward Island	2,400	2,250	-150	-330	-6.3	-12.8
Nova Scotia	10,020	9,460	-560	-990	-5.6	-9.5
New Brunswick	9,900	9,710	-190	-900	-1.9	-8.5
Quebec	67,890	71,430	3,540	-10,140	5.2	-12.4
Ontario	78,720	69,820	-8,900	-8,830	-11.3	-11.2
Manitoba	7,480	7,180	-300	-630	-4.0	-8.1
Saskatchewan	5,840	5,740	-100	-670	-1.7	-10.5
Alberta	17,740	16,190	-1,550	-2,190	-8.7	-11.9
British Columbia	26,960	25,440	-1,520	-2,820	-5.6	-10.0
Yukon	350	300	-50	-30	-14.3	-9.1
Northwest Territories	310	290	-20	-50	-6.5	-14.7
Nunavut	200	210	10	0	5.0	0.0

^P preliminary

Note(s): The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0004, 276-0006, 276-0009 and 276-0011.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

[Data tables](#) are also now available online. From the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*, choose *Subject*, then *Labour*.

Data on Employment Insurance for September will be released on November 22.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Travel between Canada and other countries, August 2012

Travel to Canada increased 1.9% to 2.1 million trips in August. This gain was entirely attributable to more US visitors as travel from overseas countries decreased.

American residents made 1.7 million trips to Canada in August, a 2.3% increase from July. This occurred despite a 0.9% decline in same-day car travel as US residents took 627,000 same-day car trips to Canada.

Trips of one or more nights by Americans were up 3.8% from July with gains in overnight car (+4.3%) and plane travel (+3.8%).

Travel from overseas countries to Canada decreased 0.2% in August to 375,000 trips.

In August, 8 of the top 12 overseas markets recorded decreases in travel to Canada. The largest percentage decrease was in travel from the Netherlands (-3.4%), while both France and Australia recorded declines of 3.2%. Travel from Hong Kong and Japan made the strongest gains at 5.0% and 4.4% respectively.

In the opposite direction, Canadians took 5.4 million trips abroad, a 0.3% decline from July. This was the result of 0.4% fewer trips to the United States by Canadian residents.

Canadians made 2.7 million same-day car trips to the United States in August, down 0.6% from July. There was also a 0.2% decline in overnight travel to the United States. Although overnight car travel rose 0.7%, it was not enough to offset the 1.2% decrease in overnight plane travel.

Canadians also made 791,000 trips to overseas countries in August, up 0.2% from July.

Note to readers

Monthly data are seasonally adjusted. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends](#).

Table 1
Travel between Canada and other countries – Seasonally adjusted

	August 2011 ^r	July 2012 ^r	August 2012 ^p	July to August 2012
	thousands			% change ¹
Canadian trips abroad²	5,200	5,412	5,395	-0.3
To the United States	4,444	4,623	4,604	-0.4
To other countries	756	789	791	0.2
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,609	2,677	2,660	-0.6
Total trips, one or more nights	2,552	2,691	2,688	-0.1
United States ³	1,796	1,902	1,898	-0.2
Car	1,055	1,140	1,148	0.7
Plane	640	652	644	-1.2
Other modes of transportation	101	110	106	-4.3
Other countries ⁴	756	789	791	0.2
Travel to Canada²	2,095	2,064	2,103	1.9
From the United States	1,716	1,689	1,728	2.3
From other countries	379	376	375	-0.2
Same-day car trips from the United States	668	633	627	-0.9
Total trips, one or more nights	1,329	1,321	1,357	2.7
United States ³	958	957	994	3.8
Car	566	563	587	4.3
Plane	280	287	298	3.8
Other modes of transportation	112	108	109	1.3
Other countries ⁴	371	363	363	-0.1
Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin⁵				
United Kingdom	57	54	55	0.9
France	37	38	37	-3.2
China	23	27	27	-2.2
Germany	27	26	26	0.2
Australia	21	24	23	-3.2
Japan	19	19	20	4.4
India	13	13	13	-1.3
Mexico	11	12	12	-0.1
South Korea	12	12	12	-2.5
Hong Kong	11	10	11	5.0
Switzerland	10	10	10	-2.7
Netherlands	9	8	8	-3.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. 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. Data for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and data 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.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The August 2012 issue of *International Travel: Advance Information*, Vol. 28, no. 8 (66-001-P, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frances Kremarik (613-951-4240; frances.kremarik@statcan.gc.ca), Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division.

Study: Profile of parents in stepfamilies, 2011

In September 2012, data on the family structure and number of children in stepfamilies were released from the 2011 Census of Population, marking the first time information on stepfamilies had been collected in the census. A new report available today examines in more detail the characteristics of parents or stepparents in stepfamilies gathered by the 2011 General Social Survey (GSS).

Parents in stepfamilies differ from those in intact families in many respects. For example, the median age of parents in stepfamilies when they entered their current union was 33 for women and 36 for men. For parents in intact families, the median age was 25 for women and 28 for men.

By definition, parents in stepfamilies are more likely to have had more than one conjugal union in their lifetime. According to the GSS data, three-quarters of parents in stepfamilies were in their second or third union, compared with 16% of parents in intact families.

Over time, it has become more common for parents in stepfamilies to have children together. In 2011, 43% of parents in stepfamilies had children who were born or adopted into their current union, up from 34% in 2001.

Stepfamily parents were over three times more likely to be in a common-law union than intact-family parents. About 48% of parents in stepfamilies were living common-law in 2011, compared with 14% among parents in intact families.

There was no significant difference between the distribution of family income of parents in stepfamilies and those in intact families. On the other hand, parents in stepfamilies were somewhat more active in the labour force. In 2011, 85% of stepfamily parents were employed, compared with 80% of intact-family parents.

Both partners were employed in the case of 68% of stepfamily parents, and 61% in the case of intact-family parents. In 2011, 85% of stepfamily parents who worked full time had a spouse who also worked full time, compared with 77% of parents in intact families.

In 2011, 18% of stepfamily parents reported they were unable to meet a scheduled financial obligation at least once in the year prior to the survey, compared with 11% of intact-family parents. These obligations included making rent or mortgage payments, paying an electric, gas or water bill, or repaying a consumer loan.

Roughly 6 in 10 parents in both stepfamilies and intact families reported they had delayed payments when they were unable to meet a deadline.

In addition, 21% of parents in stepfamilies identified financial concerns as the main source of stress in their daily lives, nearly twice the proportion of 12% among parents in intact families.

Note to readers

This release provides results from the 2011 General Social Survey on Families. A total of 22,435 individuals aged 15 and over participated in this survey in all 10 provinces. The target population included all non-institutionalized people, that is, individuals living in private households.

In addition to producing an overall picture of today's families in Canada, the General Social Survey collected information on transitions and challenges faced by families. Topics included leaving the parental home, conjugal history (marriages, common-law unions, separations and divorces), children (birth, adopted, step), maternity and parental leaves, child care arrangements, (re)partnering and fertility intentions, child custody and financial support arrangements for children and ex-spouses following conjugal dissolution, and work history.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4501.

The articles "Selected Tables on Families in Canada" and "Being a Parent in a Stepfamily: A Profile" are now available in the publication *2011 General Social Survey: Overview of Families in Canada* (89-650-X, free). From the *Key resource* module of our website, choose *Publications*. Additional tables on families in Canada are also included in the publication.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

International merchandise trade: Historical revision by North American Product Classification System, January 1988 to August 2012

Revised data for Canadian international merchandise trade, based on the North American Product Classification System, are now available for the reference period of January 1988 to August 2012.

Seasonal adjustment models and tools have also been updated as well as price indexes basket and base year (2007=100).

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0058 to 228-0068.

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

For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends](#).

For more information on the North American Product Classification System change, see our web page dedicated to [classification](#) consultation and notification.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers, August 2012

Data for the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for August.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A [data table](#) is 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 Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Dairy statistics, August 2012

Dairy statistics for Canada and the provinces are now available for August.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 003-0007 to 003-0012, 003-0029, 003-0033 and 003-0034.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3430, 3431 and 3432.

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Civil aviation operating statistics, August 2012

Operational data on civil aviation are now available for August.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 401-0001 and 401-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5026.

A [data table](#) is also available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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