

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Study: Reconciling Canadian-U.S. measures of household disposable income and household debt

This analytical document provides guidance to data users who wish to undertake a comparative analysis of the disposable income and credit market debt of the Canadian and the U.S. household sectors.

The Canadian System of National Accounts was recently revised to better reflect the new international System of National Accounts 2008 accounting standard. In many cases, Canada has chosen to adopt international definitions and presentations.

In some cases, this resulted in a divergence between Canadian measures of national account information and U.S. measures. One difference concerns the measurement of household disposable income and credit market debt.

This study presents a way to place these two measures on a conceptually and definitionally consistent basis with the corresponding measures in the United States. It recognizes the current differences in data availability, concepts and definitions between the national accounts systems in the two countries.

In 2011, the level of Canadian household disposable income was 6.9% higher after adjusting it for U.S. concepts and definitions, whereas household debt was 0.5% higher.

As a result, the Canadian household credit market debt to disposable income ratio comparable with the U.S. measure was 150.23% in the fourth quarter of 2011. In the same quarter, the Canadian household credit market debt to disposable income ratio was 161.73%.

The study notes that this is considered an interim solution, and does not argue that this is a better or more representative measure.

As the national accounts systems in the two countries become more harmonized and better aligned to the international national accounting standards, the adjustments suggested in this study should become redundant.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1806.

The study "Reconciling Canadian - U.S. measures of household disposable income and household debt," part of the publication *Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts* (13-605-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 us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Residential construction investment, third quarter 2012

Data on residential construction investment are now available for the third quarter.

Note to readers

Following the release of the historical revision of the "Canadian economic accounts" at the beginning of October 2012, data on residential construction investment have been revised from the first quarter of 1996 to the third quarter of 2012.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 026-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5016.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mariane Nozière Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

Investment in non-residential building construction (revised data), third quarter 2012

Following the release of the "Canadian economic accounts" for the third quarter of 2012, revised data on investment in non-residential building for the third quarter are now available.

Note to readers

Data have also been revised for the first and second quarters of 2012.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Don Overton (613-951-1239), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

Childhood National Immunization Coverage Survey, 2011

Data from the Childhood National Immunization Coverage Survey are now available for 2011.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5185.

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

For more information about the survey and its results, contact the Public Health Agency of Canada (613-941-8189).

Farm operating revenues and expenses, 2011

Data on farm operating revenues and expenses for 2011 are now available.

Note to readers

The Agriculture Taxation Data Program uses taxation records to produce data on operating revenues and expenses for the agriculture sector.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 002-0044 to 002-0063.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3447.

[Data tables](#) are also available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

Final data on farm operating revenues and expenses for 2011 will be released on March 27, 2013.

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

New products and studies

New products

Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts

Catalogue number 13-605-X (HTML, free)

Sawmills, September 2012, Vol. 66, no. 9

Catalogue number 35-003-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

New studies

Reconciling Canadian - U.S. measures of household disposable income and household debt

Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts



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