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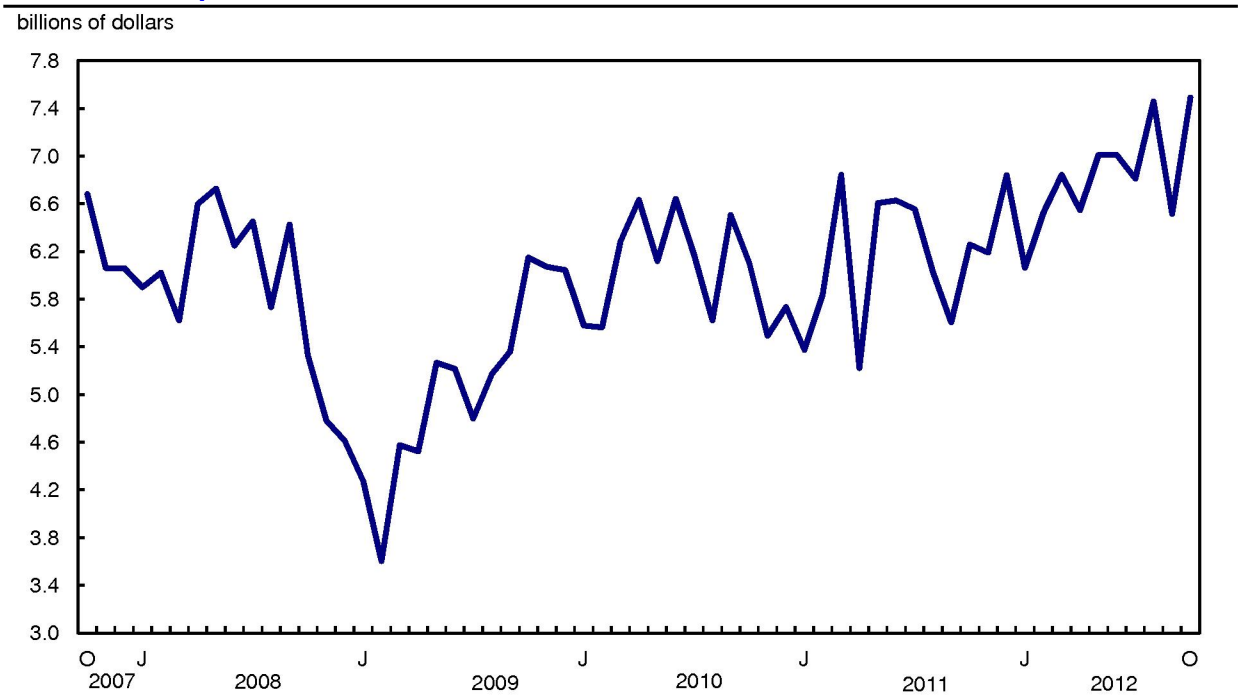
Building permits, October 2012

The total value of building permits rose 15.0% to $7.5 billion in October, following a 12.7% decline in September. The increase was primarily the result of higher construction intentions for non-residential buildings, mostly in Ontario and Quebec.

Chart 1
Total value of permits



Construction intentions in the non-residential sector grew 50.3% to $3.4 billion, following a 29.4% decrease in September. Ontario and Quebec were responsible for most of the advance observed at the national level. British Columbia and Prince Edward Island posted declines.

In the residential sector, the value of permits fell 4.1% to $4.1 billion in October, the third monthly decrease in four months. British Columbia had the largest decline, followed by Ontario. Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba also recorded decreases. The Atlantic provinces and Quebec posted gains.

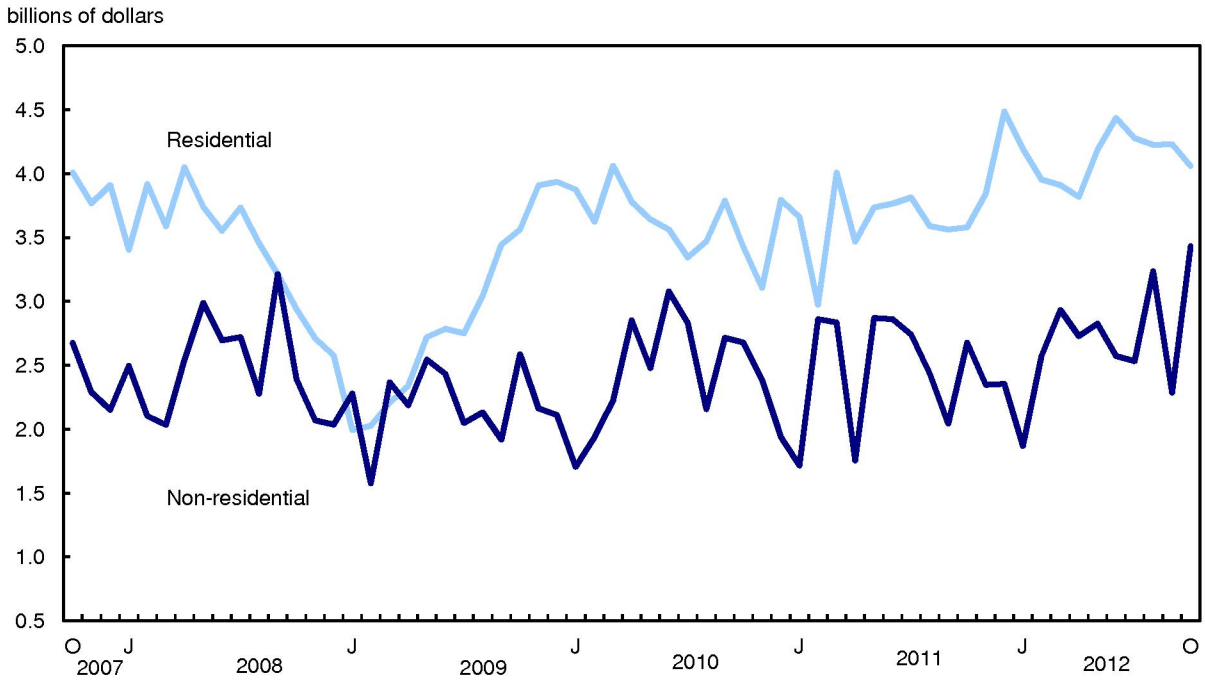
Non-residential sector: Strong gains in the industrial and institutional components

In the industrial component, the value of permits tripled to $1.1 billion in October, rising above the $1 billion mark for the first time. The increase, which followed a 48.8% decline in September, was largely the result of higher construction intentions for manufacturing plants, transportation-related buildings and utilities buildings. Construction intentions for industrial buildings were up in every province except Manitoba and New Brunswick.

The value of permits in the institutional component rose 69.6% to $982 million in October. The increase was largely attributable to higher construction intentions for medical facilities and educational institutions in Ontario, and for government buildings and educational institutions in Manitoba.

In the commercial component, the value of permits edged up 0.1% to $1.4 billion. The advance came from a variety of buildings, including retail complexes, recreational facilities, and hotels and restaurants in Ontario and Quebec. Commercial construction intentions declined in four provinces, with British Columbia and Alberta posting the largest decreases.

Chart 2
Residential and non-residential sectors



Residential sector: Lower construction intentions for single-family and multi-family dwellings

Construction intentions for single-family dwellings fell 4.9% to $2.4 billion in October. It was the third decrease in four months. The decline was mainly attributable to lower construction intentions in five provinces, led by Ontario, with Manitoba and Quebec well behind. In contrast, Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta recorded the largest gains.

Municipalities issued $1.7 billion worth of building permits for multi-family dwellings in October, 3.0% less than in September. It was the fourth consecutive monthly decrease. There were declines in three provinces, led by British Columbia, followed by Alberta and Saskatchewan. The decrease in British Columbia was enough to offset the advances observed in other provinces.

Municipalities approved the construction of 18,744 new dwellings in October, up 6.9% from September.

The growth was because of a 16.3% increase in multi-family units to 11,818. In contrast, the number of permits issued for single-family dwellings fell 6.0% to 6,926 units.

Provinces: Ontario and Quebec post the largest advances

In October, the total value of building permits was up in six provinces. Ontario had the largest advance, followed by Quebec and Manitoba.

Ontario's gain was attributable to a strong increase in non-residential building construction intentions.

In Quebec, the gain was mostly the result of higher construction intentions for industrial and commercial buildings and, to a lesser extent, for multi-family dwellings. In Manitoba, construction permits for institutional buildings and multi-family dwellings were behind the increase.

British Columbia saw the largest decline, as a result of lower construction intentions for commercial and institutional buildings and multi-family dwellings.

Higher permits value in most census metropolitan areas

In October, the total value of permits was up in 20 of Canada's 34 census metropolitan areas.

The largest increases were in Hamilton, Toronto and Montréal. In Hamilton, the advance came mainly from permits for institutional buildings and, to a lesser extent, for multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings.

Toronto's increase was primarily the result of higher construction intentions for non-residential buildings. In Montréal, the gain was attributable in particular to higher construction intentions for industrial buildings and multi-family dwellings.

Vancouver had the largest decline, primarily because of lower construction intentions for commercial buildings, multi-family dwellings and institutional buildings. In Saskatoon, the decrease stemmed largely from lower construction intentions for institutional buildings, while in Gatineau, multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings were behind the decrease.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends.

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 for the entire population.

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

Data for the current reference month are subject to revision based on late responses. Data have been revised for the previous month.

Table 1
Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, Canada – Seasonally adjusted

	October 2011	August 2012	September 2012[r]	October 2012[p]	September to October 2012	October 2011 to October 2012
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total	**6,258.0**	**7,458.6**	**6,514.7**	**7,490.9**	**15.0**	**19.7**
Residential	3,580.2	4,223.6	4,231.6	4,058.8	-4.1	13.4
Single[1]	2,175.2	2,416.1	2,482.0	2,361.3	-4.9	8.6
Multiple	1,405.0	1,807.5	1,749.6	1,697.5	-3.0	20.8
Non-residential	2,677.8	3,235.0	2,283.0	3,432.1	50.3	28.2
Industrial	485.4	668.1	341.7	1,086.3	217.9	123.8
Commercial	1,153.7	1,510.0	1,362.4	1,363.8	0.1	18.2
Institutional	1,038.7	1,057.0	578.9	981.9	69.6	-5.5
	number of units				% change	
Total dwellings	**16,007**	**19,081**	**17,535**	**18,744**	**6.9**	**17.1**
Single[1]	6,768	7,214	7,370	6,926	-6.0	2.3
Multiple	9,239	11,867	10,165	11,818	16.3	27.9

[r] revised

[p] preliminary

1. Included in this category are the following types of dwellings: single-detached, mobile home and cottage.

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

Table 2
Value of building permits, by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	October 2011	August 2012	September 2012[r]	October 2012[p]	September to October 2012	October 2011 to October 2012
	millions of dollars				% change	
Canada	**6,258.0**	**7,458.6**	**6,514.7**	**7,490.9**	**15.0**	**19.7**
Residential	**3,580.2**	**4,223.6**	**4,231.6**	**4,058.8**	**-4.1**	**13.4**
Non-residential	**2,677.8**	**3,235.0**	**2,283.0**	**3,432.1**	**50.3**	**28.2**
Newfoundland and Labrador	122.0	138.5	78.1	94.9	21.6	-22.2
Residential	58.4	76.3	50.8	60.2	18.3	3.1
Non-residential	63.7	62.2	27.2	34.7	27.6	-45.4
Prince Edward Island	19.2	28.8	24.1	19.4	-19.7	1.1
Residential	10.9	22.7	12.8	15.9	24.9	46.9
Non-residential	8.3	6.1	11.4	3.4	-69.7	-58.7
Nova Scotia	79.5	116.1	144.3	159.8	10.8	101.0
Residential	56.5	82.9	86.6	94.7	9.4	67.7
Non-residential	23.0	33.2	57.7	65.1	12.8	183.1
New Brunswick	80.5	102.1	75.1	95.6	27.3	18.7
Residential	46.9	54.4	36.3	42.1	16.1	-10.2
Non-residential	33.6	47.7	38.8	53.5	37.8	59.1
Quebec	1,186.4	1,408.8	1,241.7	1,479.7	19.2	24.7
Residential	786.1	838.0	869.0	876.5	0.9	11.5
Non-residential	400.3	570.7	372.6	603.2	61.9	50.7
Ontario	2,603.8	2,909.6	2,206.7	3,072.0	39.2	18.0
Residential	1,269.2	1,459.2	1,605.2	1,549.0	-3.5	22.0
Non-residential	1,334.6	1,450.4	601.5	1,523.0	153.2	14.1
Manitoba	182.9	178.9	204.3	256.1	25.4	40.0
Residential	100.0	113.3	126.9	119.0	-6.2	19.0
Non-residential	82.9	65.6	77.4	137.1	77.2	65.4
Saskatchewan	280.7	330.4	307.8	296.4	-3.7	5.6
Residential	152.6	180.4	177.6	150.9	-15.0	-1.1
Non-residential	128.1	150.0	130.3	145.5	11.7	13.6
Alberta	972.5	1,330.4	1,169.0	1,156.7	-1.0	18.9
Residential	602.9	822.2	710.2	688.4	-3.1	14.2
Non-residential	369.6	508.2	458.8	468.4	2.1	26.7
British Columbia	706.0	896.8	1,026.9	843.3	-17.9	19.4
Residential	488.8	560.6	543.1	451.2	-16.9	-7.7
Non-residential	217.1	336.2	483.7	392.0	-19.0	80.6
Yukon	19.1	9.2	7.8	11.3	45.8	-40.8
Residential	3.9	6.6	2.6	7.0	167.3	78.2
Non-residential	15.2	2.6	5.2	4.3	-15.8	-71.4
Northwest Territories	2.3	2.1	4.8	2.8	-41.7	20.7
Residential	1.1	1.3	4.5	1.8	-60.0	59.7
Non-residential	1.2	0.9	0.3	1.0	209.5	-15.8
Nunavut	3.0	6.9	24.2	2.8	-88.4	-8.0
Residential	2.9	5.7	6.0	2.0	-66.6	-30.3
Non-residential	0.2	1.2	18.2	0.8	-95.6	370.6

[r] *revised*

[p] *preliminary*

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

Table 3
Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area – Seasonally adjusted[1]

	October 2011	August 2012	September 2012[r]	October 2012[p]	September to October 2012	October 2011 to October 2012
	millions of dollars				% change	
Total, census metropolitan areas	**4,665.1**	**5,744.9**	**4,936.0**	**5,577.7**	**13.0**	**19.6**
St. John's	83.0	58.5	51.3	66.6	29.9	-19.7
Halifax	33.8	71.4	77.1	114.5	48.5	238.7
Moncton	22.6	49.6	36.3	32.2	-11.3	42.4
Saint John	9.7	19.8	11.8	7.1	-39.8	-26.3
Saguenay	19.9	30.8	37.7	24.1	-36.0	21.3
Québec	78.2	140.6	146.0	148.2	1.6	89.6
Sherbrooke	29.2	28.5	36.5	36.3	-0.7	24.4
Trois-Rivières	44.7	41.9	29.3	29.3	0.0	-34.4
Montréal	652.4	655.1	569.7	702.9	23.4	7.7
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	209.4	229.4	175.0	246.3	40.7	17.6
Gatineau part	41.6	62.8	80.3	48.7	-39.4	17.0
Ottawa part	167.8	166.6	94.8	197.6	108.6	17.8
Kingston	15.5	21.4	15.7	18.7	19.0	20.6
Peterborough	7.4	43.8	10.0	24.1	140.3	225.5
Oshawa	118.5	166.3	82.4	64.9	-21.2	-45.2
Toronto	1,225.3	1,441.7	1,267.8	1,583.3	24.9	29.2
Hamilton	83.6	303.6	91.5	419.7	358.7	401.8
St. Catharines–Niagara	28.7	37.9	50.4	63.4	25.8	120.7
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	65.2	97.7	60.1	39.7	-33.9	-39.0
Brantford	8.3	11.0	8.7	11.0	26.3	33.3
Guelph	28.3	27.0	17.3	17.9	3.7	-36.8
London	341.0	102.9	70.3	60.3	-14.2	-82.3
Windsor	49.7	49.6	41.3	36.4	-12.0	-26.9
Barrie	14.4	27.2	18.7	39.0	108.1	170.6
Greater Sudbury	35.3	22.8	20.2	60.1	197.8	70.3
Thunder Bay	8.7	13.0	8.5	17.3	103.4	100.2
Winnipeg	106.7	113.4	123.5	158.3	28.2	48.3
Regina	79.0	108.0	78.3	102.4	30.7	29.5
Saskatoon	113.1	112.8	139.7	100.5	-28.0	-11.1
Calgary	354.1	523.0	375.4	394.6	5.1	11.4
Edmonton	313.1	510.3	432.9	426.0	-1.6	36.1
Kelowna	28.6	34.8	17.4	43.7	152.0	53.0
Abbotsford–Mission	25.8	11.1	36.9	5.8	-84.3	-77.6
Vancouver	389.1	600.4	725.5	432.9	-40.3	11.3
Victoria	42.8	39.7	72.6	50.1	-31.0	16.9

r revised

p preliminary

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

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

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008 and 026-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The October 2012 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-X, free) will soon be available.

The November building permits data will be released on January 10, 2013.

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 Jason Aston (613-951-0746), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

Spending on research and development, 2012 (intentions)

Gross domestic expenditures on research and development (R&D) are anticipated to amount to $30.0 billion in 2012, up 0.3% from 2011.

The 2012 R&D intentions show a gradual recovery from the most recent economic downturn. While total R&D spending intentions are below the $30.8 billion peak in 2008, they are 28% higher than the $23.5 billion spent in 2002.

In 2012, business enterprises expect to spend $15.5 billion on R&D, up 0.9% from the previous year but 6.9% below the pre-recession peak. This anticipated expenditure accounts for 52% of total spending on R&D, down from 58% a decade earlier, illustrating this sector's reduced presence in R&D activities.

The higher education sector's R&D spending intentions are $11.5 billion, maintaining its position as the second largest R&D performing sector. Since 2002, R&D expenditures in this sector have increased almost 55%.

The federal government, the third largest performing sector, anticipates R&D spending at $2.5 billion, down 7.3% from 2011. This decline represents a return to more normal levels, as a result of the conclusion of federal stimulus spending. From 2002 to 2012, federal R&D expenditures on R&D increased 13.0%.

The remaining R&D performing sectors (provincial governments, provincial research organizations and private non-profit organizations) are expected to spend $547 million. This combined group's R&D expenditures are anticipated to increase 7.5% from 2011 and 58.6% from 2002.

For R&D funding, the business enterprise sector is expected to fund $14.1 billion in 2012, followed by the federal government sector at $5.8 billion and the higher education sector at $5.4 billion. The business enterprise sector and the higher education sector anticipate increases of 1.0% over 2011 R&D funding levels while the federal government sector anticipates a 3.1% decline. In comparison, provincial governments and provincial research organizations expect their R&D funding to increase by 2.8% to $1.7 billion in 2012.

Funding for R&D also includes the foreign sector, which is anticipated to provide $2.0 billion, up 1.8% from 2011.

Canada's gross domestic expenditures on research and development as a percentage of its gross domestic product for 2011 was 1.74. In 2010, Canada ranked fifth among the G8 countries with a ratio of 1.85.

Note to readers

Data on gross domestic spending for research and development (R&D) are performance-based. Intramural R&D expenditures are spent within organizations performing the R&D. The organizations can fund their own R&D or undertake R&D on behalf of other organizations. The R&D performing organizations indicate both the amount spent on intramural R&D as well as the source of funds by financing sector for this spending. These source of funds data become the funding sectors' measure of R&D financing.

Table 1
Research and development spending intentions

	2002	2011	2012	2011 to 2012
	millions of dollars			% change
Total, performing sector	**23,536**	**29,950**	**30,043**	**0.3**
Business enterprises	13,545	15,358	15,493	0.9
Higher education	7,455	11,414	11,528	1.0
Federal government	2,190	2,669	2,475	-7.3
Provincial government and provincial research organizations	282	365	401	9.9
Private non-profit	63	144	146	1.4
Total, funding sector	**23,536**	**29,950**	**30,043**	**0.3**
Business enterprises	12,117	13,932	14,067	1.0
Federal government	4,251	6,022	5,838	-3.1
Higher education	3,462	5,351	5,404	1.0
Foreign	1,925	1,926	1,960	1.8
Provincial government and provincial research organizations	1,153	1,652	1,698	2.8
Private non-profit	628	1,066	1,077	1.0

Note(s): *Components may not add to totals because of rounding. Performing and funding sectors are ranked separately from highest to lowest expenditures.*

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 358-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 4201, 4204, 4208, 4209, 4210, 4212 and 5109.

The publication *Gross Domestic Expenditures on Research and Development in Canada (GERD) and the Provinces,* national estimates for 2002 to 2012 and provincial estimates for 2006 to 2010, Vol. 5, no. 1 (88-221-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website, under *Publications*.

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

To enquire about the methods, concepts or data quality of this release, contact Catherine ten Den (613-951-2188; catherine.tenden@statcan.gc.ca) or Cindy Carter (613-951-1856; cindy.carter@statcan.gc.ca), Investment Science and Technology Division.

Fixed assets, 2012

In 2012, the value of the stock of Canada's fixed assets (building and engineering construction, machinery and equipment, and intellectual property products) stood at $2,129 billion, a 6.2% increase over 2011. These assets, in combination with other inputs such as labour, energy, and raw materials, contribute to the production of goods and services.

Among the three broad categories of assets, building and engineering construction accounted for 74.6% of total assets while machinery and equipment accounted for 15.6%. Intellectual property products, which include software, research and development and oil and gas and mining exploration, accounted for the remaining 9.8%.

Depreciation and the associated net stocks data are available on a current price basis, 2007 constant price basis and a chained (2007) dollar basis. The geometric method of depreciation, in lieu of linear, has become the new standard method of presenting the data. Depreciation and net stock data produced using linear and hyperbolic methods of depreciation continue to be available.

Data on investment, and net and gross stocks, are available by North American Industry Classification System, classes of assets and provinces and territories.

Consistent with the implementation of the revised international standards as published in the Canadian System of National Accounts (SNA 2008), military weapons systems and research and development are now capitalized — an expansion of the capital stock boundary.

Military weapons systems are included in the non-business sector capital stock while research and development are classified as intellectual property products and included in both the business sector and non-business sector.

Note to readers

Data in this release refers to the net stock in current dollars, based on a geometric method of depreciation.

Table 1
Fixed assets, year-end net stock

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	billions of dollars					
Total assets	**1,667**	**1,823**	**1,849**	**1,898**	**2,005**	**2,129**
Building and engineering construction	1,193	1,320	1,328	1,393	1,490	1,589
Machinery and equipment	300	317	331	312	315	333
Intellectual property products	174	187	189	193	200	208

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 031-0002 to 031-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2820.

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).

Coal and coke statistics, September 2012

Data on coal and coke are now available for September.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 135-0001 and 135-0002.

Table 135-0001: Coke.

Table 135-0002: Coal.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 2003 and 2147.

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).

Electric power statistics, September 2012

Data on electric power are now available for September.

Note to readers

Data from January to August have been revised.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 127-0002 and 127-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

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).

Small business profiles, 2010

Small business profiles for 2010 are now available. The profiles present financial data for small businesses in Canada, defined as having annual total revenue between $30,000 and $5 million in 2010. They are classified by industry, by province or territory, and by legal status (incorporated or unincorporated).

The SME Benchmarking Tool from Industry Canada provides these data at no cost.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5028.

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 on the SME Benchmarking Tool from Industry Canada, contact Customer Service (toll-free 1-800-328-6189; info@ic.gc.ca), Industry Canada.

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