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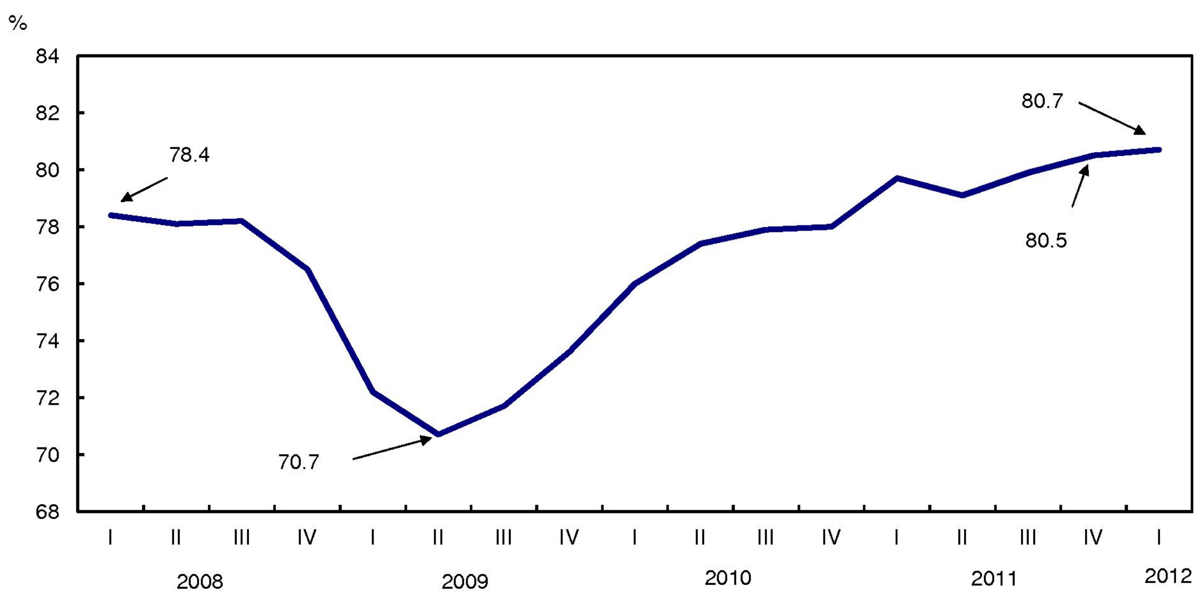
Releases

Releases

Industrial capacity utilization rates, first quarter 2012

Canadian industries operated at 80.7% of their production capacity in the first quarter, up 0.2 percentage points from the previous quarter. An increase in capacity use in manufacturing was partially offset by declines in the resource and energy sectors. The increase of 0.2 percentage points followed an advance of 0.8 percentage points in the third quarter and 0.6 percentage points in the fourth quarter of 2011.

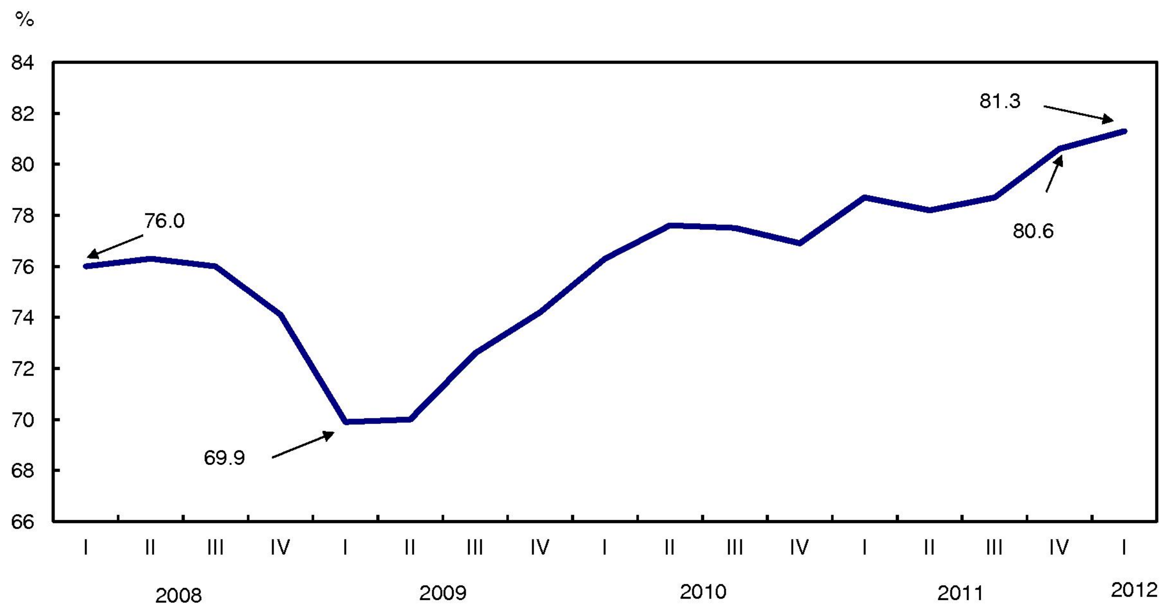
Chart 1
Slight increase in the capacity utilization rate



Manufacturing: Transportation equipment and machinery industries continue to drive up capacity utilization

In the first quarter, the strength of the manufacturing industries as a whole was responsible for the growth in capacity use of Canadian industries for a second consecutive quarter. Capacity utilization in the manufacturing sector increased 0.7 percentage points to 81.3%. This was the third straight advance since the decline in the second quarter of 2011.

Chart 2
Manufacturing: Still growing



The capacity utilization rate was up in 13 of the 21 major manufacturing industries in the first quarter.

The largest contributors to the increase in the capacity utilization rate were the transportation equipment, machinery, wood product manufacturing and fabricated metal products industries. Capacity use declined in some industries, particularly the computer and electronic product manufacturing industry and, to a lesser extent, the primary metals, food and paper industries.

Demand for motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts raised the capacity utilization rate in the transportation equipment industry by 2.2 percentage points to 89.5%.

Higher production of machinery for the commercial and services industry, as well as the mining and oil and gas extraction industry was largely responsible for the 3.0 percentage point advance in the machinery industry's capacity use rate, bringing it to 88.5%.

The capacity utilization rate in the wood product manufacturing industry rose from 74.0% in the fourth quarter of 2011 to 77.2% in the first quarter of 2012. The increase was mainly the result of higher production in the sawmills and wood preservation industry.

The fabricated metal products industry reported a 2.2 percentage point increase in its capacity utilization to 81.3% in the first quarter. This advance was primarily attributable to increased activity in machine shops and turned product and screw, nut and bolt manufacturing.

The computer and electronic product manufacturing industry posted the largest decline in capacity use. The industry operated at 86.1% of its capacity, down 5.5 percentage points. The main reason for the decrease was lower production of communications equipment and computer and peripheral equipment.

Non-manufacturing industries: Reduced capacity utilization for the sector

For a second straight quarter, the non-manufacturing sector experienced a decline in its capacity utilization.

Capacity use in the oil and gas extraction industry continued to climb, rising from 89.6% to 90.2%. The construction industry also reported an increase in its capacity utilization rate, from 77.7% in the fourth quarter of 2011 to 78.8% in the first quarter of 2012. The growth was the result of an advance in all types of construction, except non-residential building construction.

However, capacity use decreased for the forestry and logging industry; the electric power generation, transmission and distribution industry; and the mining and quarrying industry.

Increased crude oil extraction was responsible for the 0.6 percentage point increase in the capacity utilization rate of the oil and gas extraction industry to 90.2%, as gas extraction was down.

Reduced activity in the forestry and logging industry accounted for the 3.7 percentage point decline in its capacity utilization rate in the first quarter to 88.0%.

Capacity use in the mining and quarrying industry decreased from 64.2% to 60.3%, largely because of lower production by potash mines and by copper, nickel, lead and zinc ore mines.

The 1.9 percentage point decrease in the capacity utilization rate in the electric power generation, transmission and distribution industry was attributable to reduced demand for electricity because of a mild winter.

Note to readers

The industrial capacity utilization rate is the ratio of an industry's actual output to its estimated potential output. For most industries, the annual estimates are obtained from the Capital and Repair Expenditures Survey while the quarterly pattern is derived from output-to-capital ratio series, the output being the real gross domestic product at basic prices, seasonally adjusted, by industry.

This program covers all manufacturing and selected non-manufacturing industries.

At the time of this release, rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 2010 to reflect updated source data.

Table 1
Industrial capacity utilization rates

	First quarter 2011[r]	Fourth quarter 2011[r]	First quarter 2012	Fourth quarter 2011 to first quarter 2012	First quarter of 2011 to first quarter 2012
	%			percentage point change	
Total industrial	**79.7**	**80.5**	**80.7**	**0.2**	**1.0**
Forestry and logging	91.1	91.7	88.0	-3.7	-3.1
Mining and oil and gas extraction	80.8	80.4	79.3	-1.1	-1.5
Oil and gas extraction	86.8	89.6	90.2	0.6	3.4
Mining	69.1	64.2	60.3	-3.9	-8.8
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	90.2	86.9	85.0	-1.9	-5.2
Construction	77.2	77.7	78.8	1.1	1.6
Manufacturing	78.7	80.6	81.3	0.7	2.6
Food	81.4	79.2	78.2	-1.0	-3.2
Beverage and tobacco products	72.1	68.9	68.8	-0.1	-3.3
Beverage	73.5	69.7	69.8	0.1	-3.7
Tobacco	63.2	63.9	62.2	-1.7	-1.0
Textiles	70.4	70.2	74.1	3.9	3.7
Textile mills	75.2	74.0	79.0	5.0	3.8
Textile product mills	64.9	65.8	68.4	2.6	3.5
Clothing	76.0	76.8	75.1	-1.7	-0.9
Leather and allied products	66.8	75.1	78.6	3.5	11.8
Wood products	73.6	74.0	77.2	3.2	3.6
Paper	92.4	85.6	83.3	-2.3	-9.1
Printing and related support activities	72.1	71.0	72.8	1.8	0.7
Petroleum and coal products	80.7	78.5	77.9	-0.6	-2.8
Chemical	76.5	78.2	79.0	0.8	2.5
Plastics and rubber products	73.8	78.3	79.5	1.2	5.7
Plastic products	71.8	76.5	77.8	1.3	6.0
Rubber products	82.2	85.7	86.7	1.0	4.5
Non-metallic mineral products	76.4	77.4	80.1	2.7	3.7
Primary metal	80.2	82.8	80.4	-2.4	0.2
Fabricated metal products	78.0	79.1	81.3	2.2	3.3
Machinery	74.0	85.5	88.5	3.0	14.5
Computer and electronic products	87.5	91.6	86.1	-5.5	-1.4
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	80.7	74.1	76.7	2.6	-4.0
Transportation equipment	80.9	87.3	89.5	2.2	8.6
Furniture and related products	76.0	75.4	76.6	1.2	0.6
Miscellaneous manufacturing	83.2	78.0	74.3	-3.7	-8.9

[r] *revised*

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 028-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.

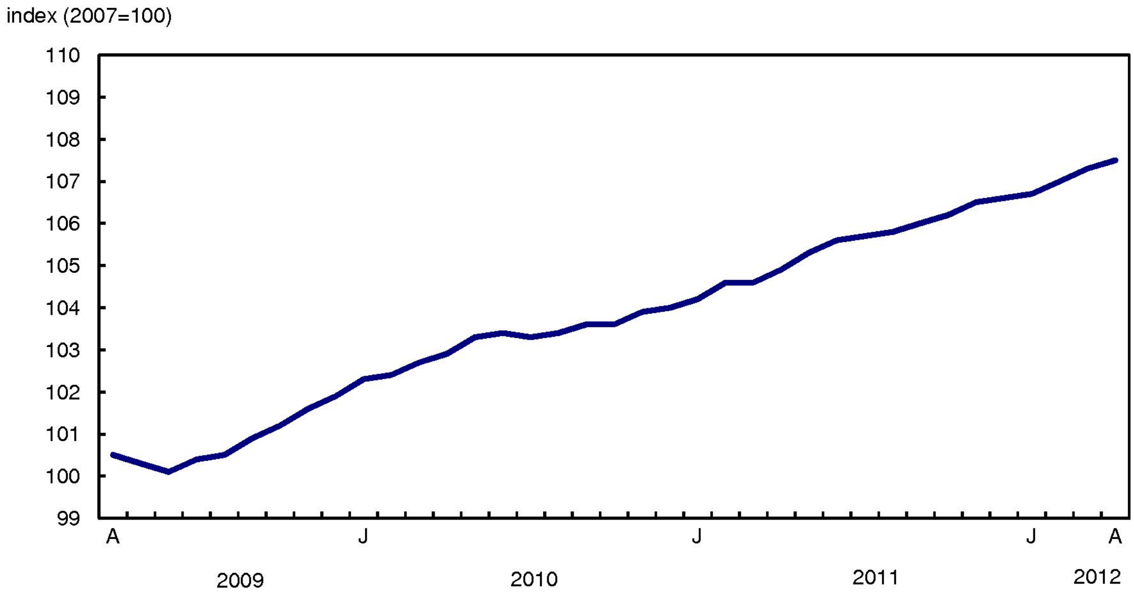
Data on industrial capacity utilization rates for the second quarter will be released on September 13.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Luc Provençal (613-951-1960; luc.provencal@statcan.gc.ca), National Accounts Integration and Development Division.

New Housing Price Index, April 2012

The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) rose 0.2% in April, following a 0.3% increase in March.

Chart 1
Evolution of the New Housing Price Index



The metropolitan regions of Toronto and Oshawa and of Edmonton were the top contributors to the increase in April.

In Toronto and Oshawa, the rise in prices was predominantly explained by good market conditions.

In Edmonton, builders returned to list prices after reporting promotional pricing and lower negotiated selling prices in previous months.

From March to April, Saskatoon (+0.8%) posted the largest monthly price advance, followed by London (+0.6%) and Hamilton (+0.4%).

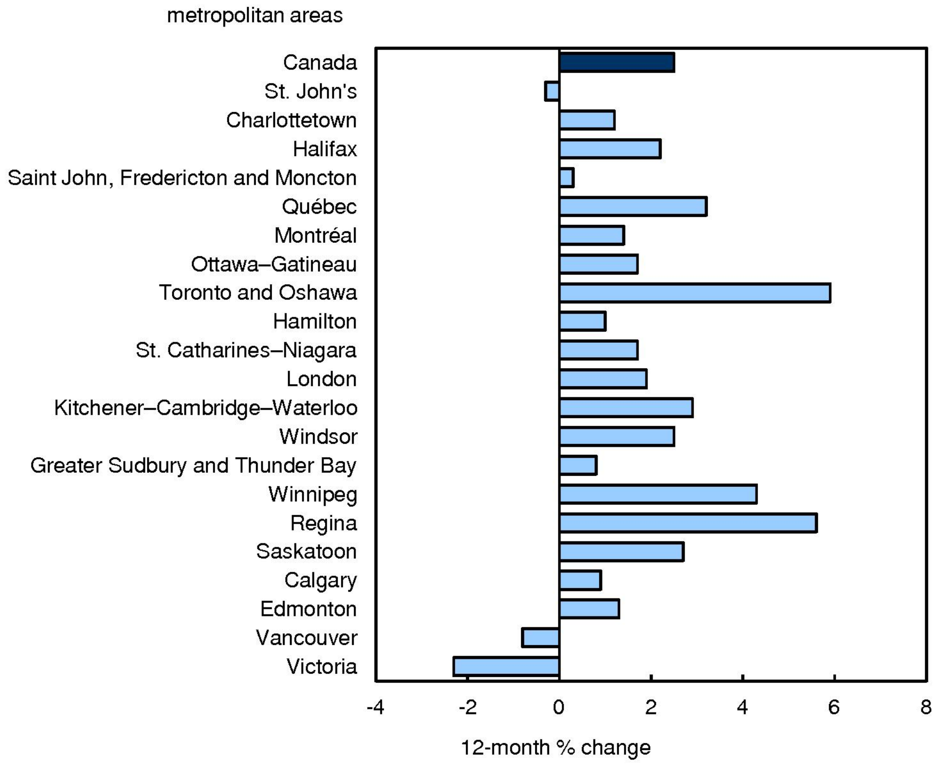
In Saskatoon, price increases were primarily the result of higher land prices.

Higher material and labour costs were the main reason for price increases in London and Hamilton.

In April, prices were unchanged in 7 of the 21 metropolitan regions surveyed.

Monthly price declines were recorded in St. John's, St. Catharines–Niagara and Windsor (all -0.1%).

Chart 2
Toronto and Oshawa posts the highest year-over-year price increase



Year over year, the NHPI was up 2.5% in April, following a 2.6% increase the previous month. The main contributor to the advance was the metropolitan region of Toronto and Oshawa.

The largest year-over-year price increases were recorded in Toronto and Oshawa (+5.9%), Regina (+5.6%) and Winnipeg (+4.3%).

Other significant year-over-year increases in contractors' selling prices were observed in Québec (+3.2%) and Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo (+2.9%).

Among the 21 metropolitan regions surveyed, 3 posted 12-month price declines in April, with Victoria (-2.3%) posting the largest decrease.

Note to readers

The New Housing Price Index (NHPI) measures changes over time in the selling prices of new residential houses agreed upon between the contractor and the buyer at the time of the signing of the contract. It is designed to measure the changes in the selling prices of new houses where detailed specifications pertaining to each house remain the same between two consecutive periods. The prices collected from builders and included in the index are market selling prices less value added taxes, such as the Federal Goods and Services Tax or the Harmonized Sales Tax.

The provincial government of British Columbia introduced legislation on May 14, 2012, announcing the return to a Provincial Sales Tax on April 1, 2013. From April 1, 2012, until March 31, 2013, there are new housing transitional rebates in place. After the transition is complete, the Provincial Sales Tax on building materials in British Columbia will be embedded in the contractor's selling prices of new houses. These changes will be reflected in the NHPI as reported by respondents.

This release presents data that are not seasonally adjusted and the indexes published are final.

Table 1
New Housing Price Indexes – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance[1]	April 2011	March 2012	April 2012	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	%	(2007=100)			% change	
Canada total	**100.00**	**104.9**	**107.3**	**107.5**	**0.2**	**2.5**
House only	**...**	**104.9**	**107.5**	**107.8**	**0.3**	**2.8**
Land only	**...**	**104.4**	**106.3**	**106.4**	**0.1**	**1.9**
St. John's	1.99	147.1	146.7	146.6	-0.1	-0.3
Charlottetown	0.25	101.7	102.8	102.9	0.1	1.2
Halifax	1.25	111.6	113.9	114.0	0.1	2.2
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton[2]	0.67	107.7	108.0	108.0	0.0	0.3
Québec	2.98	117.3	120.8	121.0	0.2	3.2
Montréal	10.79	113.6	115.2	115.2	0.0	1.4
Ottawa–Gatineau	5.67	113.1	115.0	115.0	0.0	1.7
Toronto and Oshawa[2]	26.56	109.3	115.4	115.8	0.3	5.9
Hamilton	3.08	104.3	104.9	105.3	0.4	1.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	1.01	104.0	105.9	105.8	-0.1	1.7
London	1.58	107.5	108.9	109.5	0.6	1.9
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	2.32	106.5	109.4	109.6	0.2	2.9
Windsor	0.50	96.2	98.7	98.6	-0.1	2.5
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay[2]	0.62	105.4	106.2	106.2	0.0	0.8
Winnipeg	2.28	122.8	127.8	128.1	0.2	4.3
Regina	0.99	145.2	153.3	153.3	0.0	5.6
Saskatoon	1.76	115.9	118.0	119.0	0.8	2.7
Calgary	10.84	95.4	96.2	96.3	0.1	0.9
Edmonton	11.99	89.6	90.5	90.8	0.3	1.3
Vancouver	11.48	98.9	98.1	98.1	0.0	-0.8
Victoria	1.39	88.1	86.1	86.1	0.0	-2.3

... not applicable
1. The relative importance is calculated using a price adjusted three-year average of the value of building completions for each metropolitan area.
2. In order to ensure data confidentiality, the following census metropolitan areas and census agglomeration are grouped together as follows: Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton; Toronto and Oshawa; and Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay.
Note(s): *View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.*

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 327-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The first quarter 2012 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in July.

The new housing price indexes for May will be released on July 12.

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 the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Summer 2012 print edition

The Summer 2012 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, includes four articles previously released in the online edition.

"Household debt in Canada" uses data from the 2009 Canadian Financial Capability Survey to study several aspects of household debt. It examines the characteristics of borrowers and the types of households that are more likely to carry debt. The paper also looks at the association between financial knowledge and the amount of debt held, using multivariate techniques.

"Labour Force Survey: 2011 year-end review" provides an overview of labour market trends in 2011, focusing on changes between December 2010 and December 2011.

"Job-related training of older workers" investigates job-related training of Canadian employees aged 55 to 64. Using the Access and Support to Education and Training Survey and several cycles of the Adult Education and Training Survey, it compares the training of older and core-age workers and tracks changes in the incidence and correlates of training over time.

In "Youth neither enrolled nor employed," the NEET indicator—the proportion of youth aged 15 to 29 who are neither in education nor employment—is regularly published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to document aspects of the transition into adulthood. The indicator emerged in the United Kingdom in the 1990s in response to concerns about the social exclusion of disadvantaged youth. This paper examines trends in Canadian NEET rates as well as the characteristics and activities of NEET youth.

This edition also features a yearly update on work absences as well at the "What's New?" section, which highlights recent studies of interest from Statistics Canada and other organizations.

Note to readers

This is the final print edition of Perspectives on Labour and Income. The last online edition of the publication will be released in August 2012. In future, analytical articles on the labour market, household income and related studies will appear on Statistics Canada's website in a new publication on social statistics. It will be available free of charge in fall 2012.

The Summer 2012 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 24, no. 2 (75-001-X, free online; print, $20/$63), 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 Ted Wannell (613-951-3546; ted.wannell@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

New motor vehicle sales, April 2012

New motor vehicle sales data are now available for April.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 079-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

For more information, to order data, 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 the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Balance sheet of the agricultural sector, December 31, 2011 (preliminary data)

Preliminary data on the balance sheet of the agricultural sector at December 31, 2011, are now available.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 002-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5029.

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 Stephen Boyd (613-951-1875; stephen.boyd@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

Steel pipe and tubing, April 2012

Data on the production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for April.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 303-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.

The April 2012 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-X, free) will soon be available.

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 the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Summer 2012, Vol. 24, no. 2
Catalogue number 75-001-X (free online; Print, $20/$63)

New studies

Economic Insights: "The New Investment Paradigm?", No. 7
Catalogue number 11-626-X2012007 (HTML, free | PDF, free)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