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Releases

New products and studies

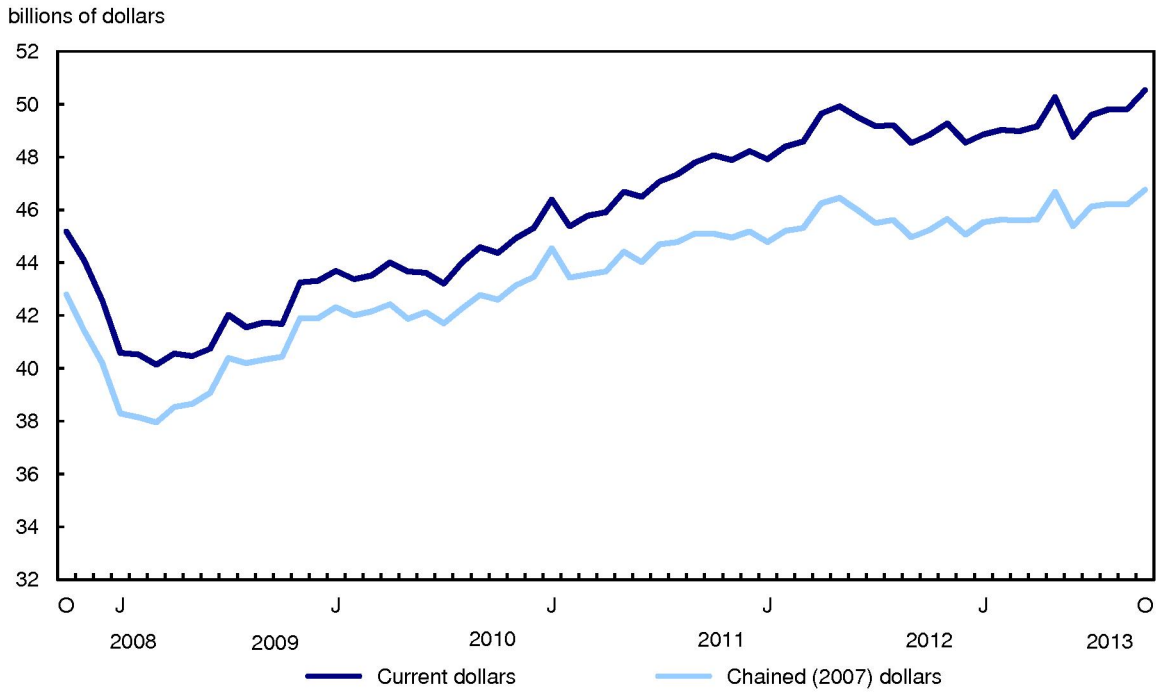
Releases

Wholesale trade, October 2013

Following two months of weak growth, wholesale sales increased 1.4% to $50.5 billion in October. Higher sales were reported in five of seven subsectors, representing over 70% of wholesale sales.

In volume terms, wholesale sales were up 1.2%.

Chart 1
Wholesale sales increase in October



Higher sales in most subsectors

The machinery, equipment and supplies subsector led the growth in wholesale sales in October, rising 5.6% to $11.2 billion. This was the largest monthly growth for the subsector since September 2003. Gains were recorded in all of the subsector's industries, led by increases in the construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies industry (+8.6%) and the computer and communications equipment and supplies industry (+6.6%).

The second largest increase in dollar terms occurred in the personal and household goods subsector (+1.2%). Gains in the home entertainment equipment and household appliance industry (+9.8%) and the pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies industry (+1.9%) accounted for most of the growth.

Sales rose in the farm product subsector (+12.0%), its sixth consecutive monthly increase. This was the highest monthly growth rate recorded to date.

The building material and supplies subsector (+1.0%) posted a fourth consecutive monthly gain.

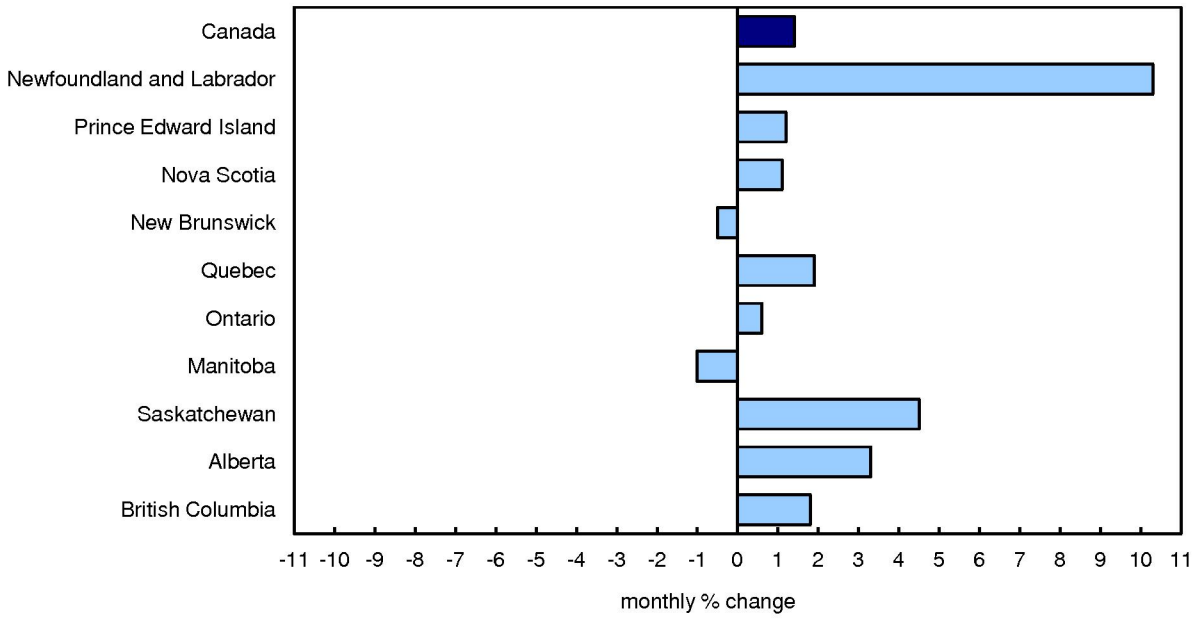
Wholesale sales in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector rose 0.4% in October. This subsector has recorded three increases in the past four months, but has yet to return to its May 2013 peak.

The motor vehicle and parts subsector decreased 1.4% in October following three consecutive monthly gains. Lower sales in the motor vehicle industry (-2.6%) accounted for the decline.

Sales up in most provinces

In October, higher sales were recorded in eight provinces, which together accounted for over 95% of wholesale sales in Canada. Alberta, Quebec and Ontario were responsible for most of the gain.

Chart 2
Wholesale sales up in most provinces in October



Sales in Alberta rose 3.3% after edging down for two consecutive months. Gains in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector contributed to the increase.

The October increase in Quebec (+1.9%) more than offset the decline in September.

Wholesale sales rose in Ontario (+0.6%) for the fourth consecutive month.

Saskatchewan's wholesale sales grew 4.5% in October. The gain was widespread across subsectors.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, wholesale sales rose 10.3%, primarily a result of increases in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector.

Manitoba (-1.0%) recorded the largest decline among the provinces. Wholesale sales have been relatively flat in this province since June 2013.

New Brunswick (-0.5%) was the only other province to record a sales decrease in October. It was the fourth consecutive decline for this province.

Inventory levels edge down in October

Inventories edged down 0.2% to $61.8 billion in October. Three of seven subsectors recorded declines, accounting for almost 60% of wholesale inventories.

The largest decrease in dollar terms was in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector (-1.3%), the third decline in four months.

The motor vehicle and parts subsector (-1.1%) recorded a drop in inventories for a second consecutive month.

The largest increase in dollar terms occurred in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector (+2.4%) and the miscellaneous subsector (+1.6%). This was the second consecutive monthly gain for both subsectors.

The inventory-to-sales ratio decreased from 1.24 in September to 1.22 in October. This was the lowest ratio since June 2012.

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 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. For more information, see Sales in volume for Wholesale Trade.

Table 1
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	October 2012	September 2013[r]	October 2013[p]	September to October 2013	October 2012 to October 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale sales (current dollars)	**48,837**	**49,810**	**50,530**	**1.4**	**3.5**
Total, wholesale sales (2007 chained dollars)	**45,230**	**46,200**	**46,759**	**1.2**	**3.4**
Total wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding motor vehicle and parts	**40,657**	**41,179**	**42,023**	**2.0**	**3.4**
Farm product	562	615	689	12.0	22.6
Food, beverage and tobacco	9,621	9,689	9,732	0.4	1.2
Food	8,641	8,679	8,755	0.9	1.3
Beverage	475	508	477	-6.0	0.5
Cigarette and tobacco product	505	502	500	-0.5	-0.9
Personal and household goods	6,914	7,117	7,200	1.2	4.1
Textile, clothing and footwear	936	997	971	-2.6	3.7
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	705	692	760	9.8	7.8
Home furnishings	469	478	472	-1.2	0.7
Personal goods	711	719	684	-4.8	-3.8
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	3,509	3,574	3,641	1.9	3.8
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	584	657	672	2.3	15.0
Motor vehicle and parts	8,180	8,630	8,507	-1.4	4.0
Motor vehicle	6,095	6,493	6,321	-2.6	3.7
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	2,037	2,084	2,130	2.2	4.6
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	48	53	55	3.9	13.3
Building material and supplies	6,892	7,097	7,171	1.0	4.0
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	2,167	2,158	2,162	0.1	-0.3
Metal service centres	1,532	1,613	1,639	1.6	7.0
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	3,192	3,326	3,370	1.3	5.6
Machinery, equipment and supplies	10,611	10,587	11,183	5.6	5.4
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	1,298	1,299	1,353	4.1	4.2
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	3,652	3,604	3,916	8.6	7.2
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	3,227	3,300	3,519	6.6	9.1
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,433	2,383	2,395	0.5	-1.6
Miscellaneous	6,058	6,074	6,049	-0.4	-0.1
Recyclable material	632	651	657	1.0	4.0
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	863	901	902	0.1	4.6
Agricultural supplies	1,516	1,594	1,595	0.1	5.2
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,196	1,125	1,120	-0.4	-6.3
Other miscellaneous	1,851	1,803	1,774	-1.6	-4.1

[r] *revised*

[p] *preliminary*

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

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

	October 2012	September 2013[r]	October 2013[p]	September to October 2013	October 2012 to October 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	**48,837**	**49,810**	**50,530**	**1.4**	**3.5**
Newfoundland and Labrador	345	324	358	10.3	3.7
Prince Edward Island	49	54	55	1.2	12.7
Nova Scotia	716	709	717	1.1	0.1
New Brunswick	497	503	501	-0.5	0.7
Quebec	9,444	9,277	9,452	1.9	0.1
Ontario	23,565	24,297	24,440	0.6	3.7
Manitoba	1,300	1,348	1,335	-1.0	2.6
Saskatchewan	1,793	1,928	2,014	4.5	12.4
Alberta	6,454	6,552	6,770	3.3	4.9
British Columbia	4,592	4,733	4,816	1.8	4.9
Yukon	12	11	10	-9.3	-15.9
Northwest Territories	55	65	56	-14.6	1.2
Nunavut	15	8	6	-17.1	-56.9

[r] *revised*

[p] *preliminary*

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

Table 3
Wholesale merchants' inventories by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	October 2012	September 2013[r]	October 2013[p]	September to October 2013	October 2012 to October 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	**61,348**	**61,890**	**61,768**	**-0.2**	**0.7**
Farm product	172	190	203	6.8	18.0
Food, beverage and tobacco	5,561	5,657	5,790	2.4	4.1
Food	4,999	5,108	5,237	2.5	4.7
Beverage	324	312	322	3.4	-0.6
Cigarette and tobacco product	238	236	231	-2.3	-2.9
Personal and household goods	10,307	11,000	10,922	-0.7	6.0
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,838	2,028	2,002	-1.3	9.0
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	723	737	727	-1.3	0.7
Home furnishings	959	1,070	1,063	-0.6	10.9
Personal goods	1,467	1,456	1,420	-2.5	-3.2
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	4,641	4,939	4,916	-0.5	5.9
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	679	770	792	2.9	16.6
Motor vehicle and parts	8,284	8,197	8,110	-1.1	-2.1
Motor vehicle	4,346	4,320	4,346	0.6	0.0
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,837	3,756	3,644	-3.0	-5.0
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	101	122	120	-1.7	19.0
Building material and supplies	11,380	11,290	11,303	0.1	-0.7
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	3,149	2,973	3,014	1.4	-4.3
Metal service centres	3,379	3,445	3,408	-1.1	0.9
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	4,852	4,872	4,882	0.2	0.6
Machinery, equipment and supplies	18,103	17,898	17,661	-1.3	-2.4
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	3,709	4,025	4,095	1.8	10.4
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	9,395	8,915	8,569	-3.9	-8.8
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	1,713	1,577	1,567	-0.7	-8.5
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,287	3,382	3,430	1.4	4.3
Miscellaneous	7,540	7,657	7,780	1.6	3.2
Recyclable material	575	548	563	2.7	-2.0
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	673	666	654	-1.7	-2.8
Agricultural supplies	2,777	2,879	2,958	2.8	6.5
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,087	1,005	1,003	-0.1	-7.7
Other miscellaneous	2,428	2,560	2,601	1.6	7.1

[r] *revised*

[p] *preliminary*

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

Available in CANSIM: tables 081-0011, 081-0012 and 081-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The October 2013 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-X) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade data for November will be released on January 21, 2014.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Elspeth Hazell (613-951-8090; elspeth.hazell@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Study: Gender differences in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science programs at university

Young women who attend university are less likely than young men to choose a program in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science (STEM), regardless of mathematical ability in high school.

Although they represented the majority of university graduates in 2011, women accounted for 39% of all STEM university graduates aged 25 to 34.

In all non-STEM fields of study, women accounted for 66% of all university graduates aged 25 to 34, and approximately 80% of graduates in health and education-related programs.

Even when they chose to pursue STEM degrees, young women were concentrated in science and technology rather than in other STEM disciplines. In 2011, they represented 59% of all graduates aged 25 to 34 in science and technology, compared with 23% among graduates in engineering, and 30% among graduates in mathematics and computer science.

Consequently, 39% of the 132,500 women aged 25 to 34 with a STEM degree had a specialization in engineering, mathematics or computer science, compared with 72% of the 206,600 men of the same age with a STEM degree.

Fewer women choosing STEM, even among those who had higher PISA scores

The better students perform academically in their teenage years, the more likely they are to choose a STEM program at university.

However, if women are less likely to choose a STEM program when they go to university, it is not because of differences in high school academic performance.

One standard measure of academic performance is the internationally recognized Programme for International Student Assessment, generally known by its acronym PISA. The PISA tests are administered periodically to a sample of students aged 15 to gauge their reading, science and mathematical ability.

Among women who attended university and who had better mathematics PISA scores at age 15 — defined as those who were in the top three levels of PISA scores (out of six) — 23% chose a STEM program.

In comparison, 46% of men who attended university and had higher mathematics PISA scores at age 15 chose a STEM program. Participation in STEM university programs was also relatively higher among boys in the three lowest categories of mathematics PISA scores at 39%, compared with 15% among girls.

Boys with lower PISA scores were therefore more likely to choose a STEM program, when going to university, than girls with higher PISA scores.

In fact, among girls who were in the top three categories of PISA scores, social science programs were first chosen by 48% of those who eventually went to university.

Conversely, the proportion of boys with higher and lower PISA scores who chose a program in social sciences was just over 30%.

Girls with higher mathematics marks also less likely to choose a STEM program

As was the case with PISA scores, boys with lower mathematics marks in high school were, in fact, more likely than girls with higher marks to choose a STEM program when going to university.

For example, 52% of boys who had mathematics marks in the 80% to 89% range in high school chose a STEM program, compared with 22% of girls in the same category and 41% of girls who had marks in the 90% to 100% range.

In comparison, 61% of boys with mathematics marks in the 90% to 100% range in high school chose a STEM program at university.

Similar results were found with self-perceived measures of mathematical ability in high school. Among university-bound students who considered their mathematics skills as "excellent", 66% of males chose a STEM program compared with 47% of females. Among those who considered their mathematical abilities as "good", 36% of males and 15% of females chose a STEM program.

These gender differences remained even when measures of mathematical abilities in high school were considered together with other variables, including parental influence, reading scores and other demographic variables.

STEM degrees in engineering leading to better labour market outcomes among young graduates

The labour market conditions of young STEM graduates aged 25 to 34 varied across gender, type of program and indicators of labour market performance.

Generally, young STEM graduates in engineering had lower unemployment rates, lower rates of skills mismatch, and higher earnings than other categories of STEM graduates and non-STEM graduates.

In part because they were concentrated in engineering, men with a STEM degree had better labour market outcomes than their non-STEM counterparts. For example, employed men with a STEM degree who worked full-time, full-year earned a median of $62,000 in 2010, compared with $56,000 among non-STEM graduates.

The labour market outcomes of university-educated women with a STEM degree, who were more concentrated in science and technology, were more similar to those who earned a university degree outside of STEM.

Note to readers

In this release, the results about young science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science graduates aged 25 to 34 come from the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). The NHS collected information on the respondents' field of study, along with a number of other social and economic characteristics.

The relationship between mathematical ability in high school and program choice at university was studied with longitudinal data from the Youth in Transition Survey and the Programme for International Student Assessment. In this survey, students were surveyed in 2000 when they were 15, and were surveyed again every two years until they were 25, in 2010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 4435, 5060 and 5178.

The article "Gender differences in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science (STEM) programs at university" in *Insights on Canadian Society* (75-006-X) is now available. A longer study with more detailed results from the Youth in Transition Survey and the Programme for International Student Assessment, titled "Ability in Mathematics and Science at Age 15 and Program Choice in University: Differences by Gender" is also available in the *Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers* (81-595-M). From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, choose *Publications*.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Darcy Hango (613-951-7082; darcy.hango@statcan.gc.ca), Culture, Tourism and Centre for Education Statistics Division.

For more information on *Insights on Canadian Society*, contact Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté (613-951-0803; sebastien.larochelle-cote@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Railway carloadings, October 2013

The Canadian railway industry carried 31.2 million tonnes of freight in October, up 9.0% from the same month last year. The increase was attributable to loadings of several commodities, particularly coal, and non-intermodal shipments from the United States.

Rail freight originating in Canada and destined within Canada and other parts of the world rose 8.0% to 27.5 million tonnes. These shipments are composed of non-intermodal freight (that is, cargo moved via box cars or loaded in bulk) and intermodal freight (that is, cargo moved via containers and trailers on flat cars).

Canadian railways carried 304,000 carloads of non-intermodal freight traffic in October, an increase of 6.8%. On a volume basis, these shipments totalled 24.8 million tonnes, itself an 8.1% rise. Commodities with the strongest traffic, from a tonnage perspective, were coal (up 469 000 tonnes), iron ores and concentrates (up 329 000 tonnes), fuel oils and crude petroleum (up 318 000 tonnes), and wheat (up 314 000 tonnes).

Intermodal traffic reached 181,000 containers and trailers in October, a combined increase of 6.3%. The tonnage of these units totalled 2.7 million tonnes, a gain of 6.6%. Containerized cargo shipments represented the vast majority of the tonnage growth for the month.

Rail traffic coming from the United States rose 16.8% in October to 3.7 million tonnes. The robust growth stemmed primarily from non-intermodal shipments, which increased 16.5% to 3.4 million tonnes.

Note to readers

All the data in this release are not seasonally adjusted.

For non-intermodal traffic, rail carriers report the number of cars and tonnes by commodity of revenue-generating freight that they have loaded in Canada.

For intermodal freight, the carriers report the number of units and tonnes for containers-on-flat-cars and trailers-on-flat-cars, with no commodity data.

Available in CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The October 2013 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 90, no. 10 (52-001-X), is now available from the *Browse by 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; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Construction Union Wage Rate Index, November 2013

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada rose by 0.2% in November compared with the previous month. The composite index increased 0.8% compared with November 2012.

Note to readers

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 22 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. The indexes (2007=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

The wage rates and indexes are subject to a 30-month revision period after dissemination of a given month's data. This is due to the length of time that can transpire between the expiration of a collective agreement and the ratification of a new collective agreement. The wage rates and indexes are not seasonally adjusted.

Available in CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0045.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index for December will be released on January 23, 2014.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Health Reports, December 2013

The December 2013 online issue of *Health Reports*, released today, contains one article.

The article, "An age- and cause-decomposition of differences in life expectancy between residents of Inuit Nunangat and residents of the rest of Canada, 1989 to 2008," presents a decomposition of life expectancy in order to determine what causes of death and what age groups contributed to the gap in life expectancy between residents of the Inuit Nunangat region and people in the rest of Canada over the 1989-to-2008 period. The decomposition method is easily interpretable, and the results are comparable to other population groups in Canada and to results for other countries.

The December 2013 online issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 24, no. 12 (82-003-X), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

For more information on this article, contact Michael Tjepkema (613-951-3896; michael.tjepkema@statcan.gc.ca), Health Analysis Division.

For information about *Health Reports*, contact Janice Felman (613-951-6446; janice.felman@statcan.gc.ca), Health Analysis Division.

Canada's population estimates, third quarter 2013

Demographic estimates by province and territory are now available for the third quarter.

Note to readers

Estimates released today are based on 2011 Census counts adjusted for census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves to which is added the estimated demographic growth for the period from May 10, 2011, to September 30, 2013.

These estimates are not to be confused with the 2011 Census population counts that were released on February 8, 2012.

Available in CANSIM: tables 051-0005, 051-0017, 051-0020, 051-0037, 051-0045 and 053-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3231, 3233 and 3601.

The July to September 2013 issue of *Quarterly Demographic Estimates*, Vol. 27, no. 3 (91-002-X), is now available from the *Browse by 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; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Dairy statistics, October 2013

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

Available 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.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

StatCan Blog, December 2013

Talking productivity

Productivity might be the most discussed, yet least understood measure of economic activity. The December edition of the StatCan Blog looks at productivity with an eye to understanding the work done by the agency to both measure and define it.

John Baldwin, the StatCan expert on productivity, describes how his team works as a research and development group, constantly testing assumptions and investigating potential improvements to methodology.

Through diligent dialogue with a host of stakeholders and colleagues around the world, the team is building a better understanding of how to provide measures that serve the user community.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Penny Stuart (613-951-2005; penny.stuart@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

Monthly Railway Carloadings, October 2013, Vol. 90, no. 10
Catalogue number 52-001-X (HTML | PDF)

Insights on Canadian Society
Catalogue number 75-006-X (HTML | PDF)

Health Reports, Vol. 24, no. 12
Catalogue number 82-003-X (HTML | PDF)

Quarterly Demographic Estimates, Vol. 27, no. 3
Catalogue number 91-002-X (HTML | PDF)

New studies

Gender differences in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science (STEM) programs at university
Insights on Canadian Society

Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics: Research Papers: "Ability in Mathematics and Science at Age 15 and Program Choice in University: Differences by Gender", No. 100
Catalogue number 81-595-M2013100 (HTML | PDF)

An age- and cause-decomposition of differences in life expectancy between residents of Inuit Nunangat and residents of the rest of Canada, 1989 to 2008
Health Reports

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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