



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, October 23, 1990

For release at 8:30 a.m.

## MAJOR RELEASES

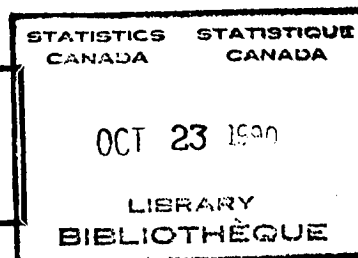
- **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, August 1990** 2  
Manufacturers' shipments, new orders, and inventories all decreased in August while unfilled orders increased slightly.
- **Wholesale Trade, August 1990** 5  
Wholesale merchants' sales totalled \$15.4 billion in August 1990, a decrease of 4.9% from a year earlier.

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NOT FOR LOAN  
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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Monthly Survey of Manufacturing

August 1990

#### Seasonally Adjusted

A decrease in Canadian manufacturers' shipments for August outweighed increases in the two previous months. The decrease was mainly in transportation equipment, notably due to a slowdown in motor vehicle industries, and to strikes in the primary metals industries. Inventories continued to decline.

The short-term trend for shipments has shown slight increases for the last four months. This was mainly due to growth in the trends for transportation equipment, food, chemicals, primary metals and fabricated metals products industries, partially offset by declines in 12 of the remaining major groups, notably wood, paper and refined petroleum and coal products industries. The trend for manufacturing shipments excluding transportation equipment fell for the twelfth month in a row; however, the rate of decline has slowed from -0.6% in January to -0.1% in July. The unfilled orders trend remained unchanged, following eight months of decline. The trend for inventories decreased for the sixth consecutive month.

#### Highlights

- Preliminary estimates indicate that Canadian manufacturers' **shipments** decreased 1.4% to \$24.6 billion in August 1990. Decreases for transportation equipment and primary metals industries were partially offset by an increase for the refined petroleum and coal products industries.
- **Inventories** (owned) decreased marginally by 0.1% to \$37.0 billion. Decreases for primary metals and fabricated metal products industries were offset by increases for transportation equipment and refined petroleum and coal products industries. The trend for inventories has been declining for the last six months.
- The **inventories to shipments ratio** increased from 1.49 in July to 1.51 in August. The trend has decreased from 1.54 in March 1990 to 1.50 in July.

- **Unfilled orders** increased by 0.4% to a level of \$28.0 billion. Increases for transportation equipment, notably in the aircraft industries, were partly offset by decreases for the fabricated metal and electrical and electronic products industries. The trend for unfilled orders remained unchanged, following eight months of decline.

Unfilled orders are the stock of orders which will generate future shipments, assuming that orders are not cancelled.

New orders are defined as the sum of shipments for the current month (i.e. orders received this month and shipped within the same month) plus the change in unfilled orders.

- **New orders** decreased 1.1% to a level of \$24.7 billion, following four consecutive increases. The trend has increased since February 1990, though at a slower pace in the last two months.

#### Year-to-date

- Cumulative shipments for the first eight months of 1990 were estimated at \$197.1 billion, 2.5% lower than the value for the corresponding period in 1989.

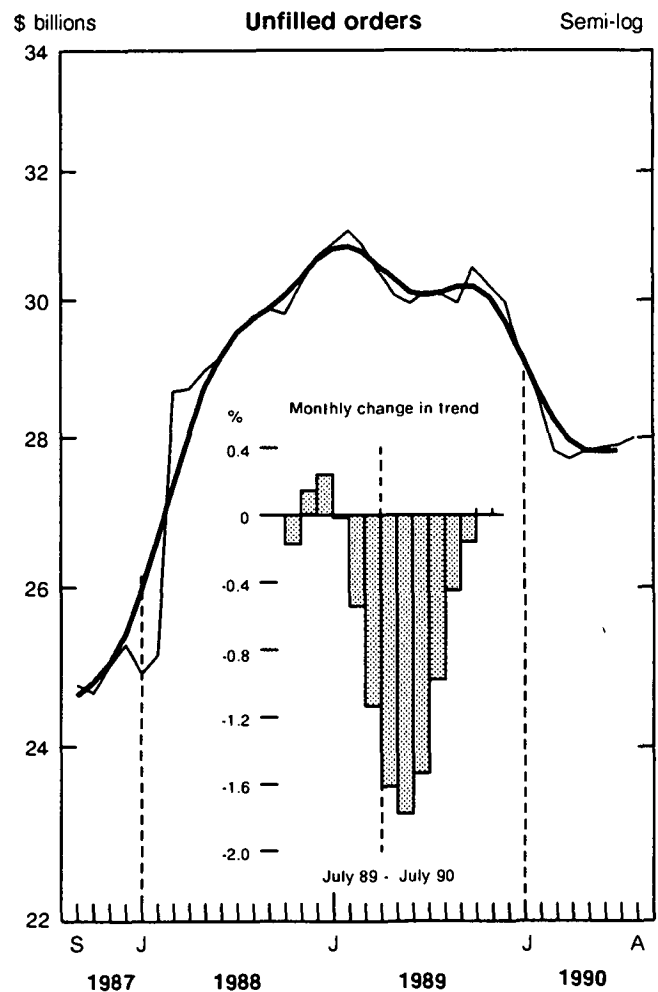
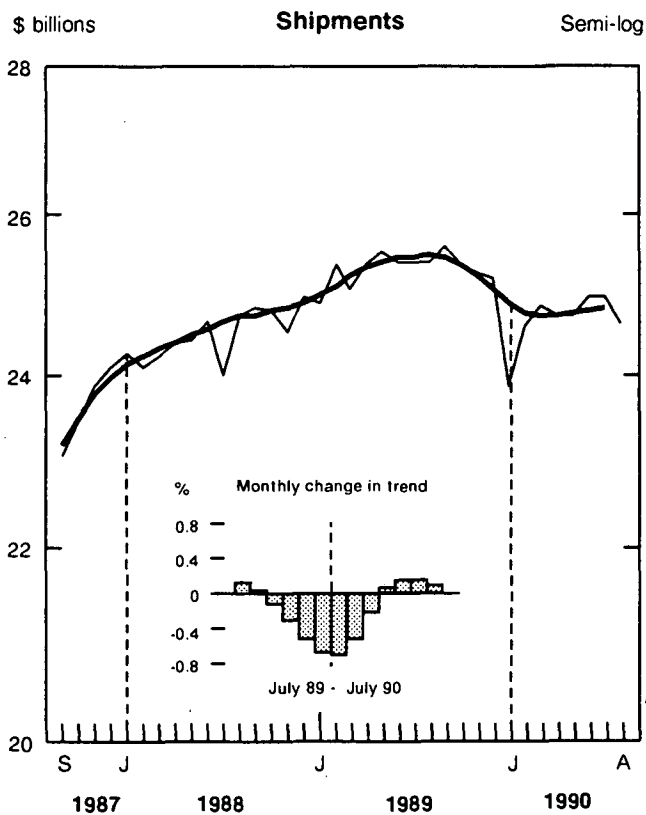
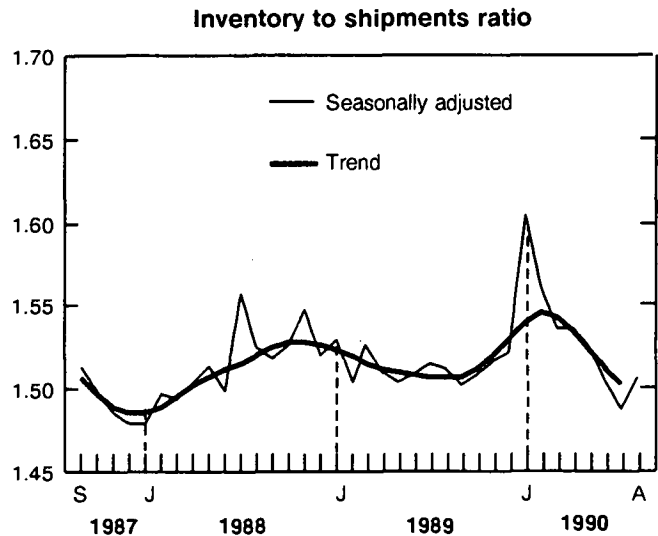
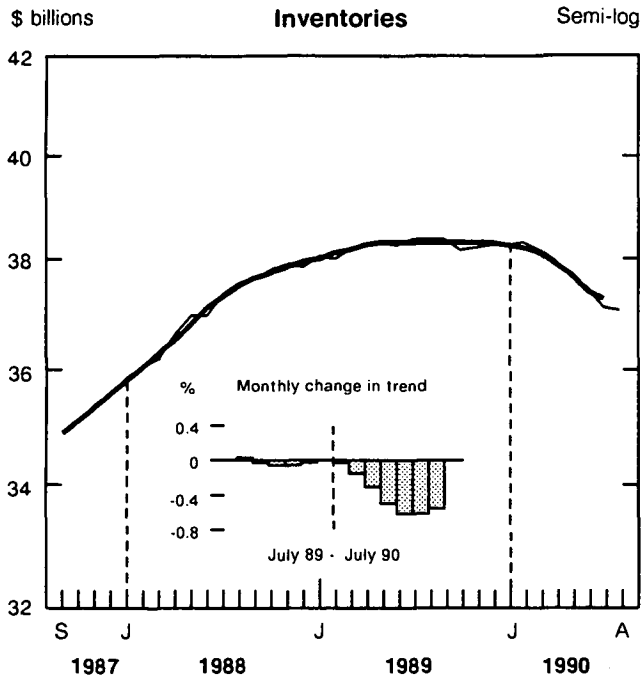
**Available on CANSIM: matrices 9550-9580.**

For more information, please consult the August 1990 issue of *Monthly Survey of Manufacturing* (31-001, \$17.30/\$173), now available.

Data for shipments by province in greater detail than normally published may be available on request. For further information, please contact Mark Marcogliese (613-951-9834), Michel Labonté (613-951-3508) or the Monthly Survey of Manufacturing Section (613-951-9832), Industry Division.

**Note:** The appendix in the March 1990 issue of catalogue 31-001 contains estimated values of shipments, inventories and orders revised back to January 1987. ☐

# Manufacturers' Inventories, Shipments and Unfilled Orders, August 1990



# Shipments, Inventories and Orders in all Manufacturing Industries

August 1990

Period	Not seasonally adjusted				Seasonally adjusted			
	Shipments	Inven- tories	Unfilled orders	New orders	Shipments	Inven- tories	Unfilled orders	New orders
\$ millions								
August 1989	25,165	38,370	30,020	25,004	25,376	38,355	30,046	25,311
September 1989	26,272	37,988	29,624	25,875	25,580	38,362	29,920	25,455
October 1989	26,552	37,842	29,954	26,883	25,333	38,173	30,494	25,907
November 1989	26,012	37,865	29,590	25,647	25,229	38,216	30,177	24,912
December 1989	22,926	37,681	29,095	22,431	25,161	38,255	29,927	24,911
January 1990	22,546	38,406	29,103	22,555	23,856	38,237	29,139	23,068
February 1990	23,117	38,944	28,861	22,875	24,564	38,316	28,619	24,044
March 1990	26,276	38,646	28,374	25,789	24,844	38,135	27,803	24,028
April 1990	24,452	38,456	28,210	24,288	24,706	37,926	27,687	24,590
May 1990	26,795	37,878	28,404	26,989	24,706	37,642	27,826	24,845
June 1990	26,405	37,341	27,876	25,878	24,939	37,449	27,848	24,960
July 1990	22,756	36,793	27,821	22,701	24,944	37,066	27,878	24,974
August 1990	24,259	36,960	27,889	24,327	24,583	37,031	27,988	24,693

Seasonally Adjusted										
Shipments		Inventories		Inventory to shipments ratio		Unfilled orders		New orders		
S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	S.A.	Trend	
Month to month % change				Ratio		Month to month % change				
August 1989	0.1	0.0	0.0	1.51	1.51	-0.2	0.1	-0.8	0.1	
September 1989	0.8	-0.1	0.0	1.50	1.51	-0.4	0.2	0.6	-0.2	
October 1989	-1.0	-0.3	-0.5	1.51	1.51	1.9	0.0	1.8	-0.6	
November 1989	-0.4	-0.5	0.1	1.51	1.52	-1.0	-0.5	-3.8	-1.0	
December 1989	-0.3	-0.7	0.1	1.52	1.53	-0.8	-1.1	0.0	-1.1	
January 1990	-5.2	-0.7	0.0	1.60	1.54	-2.6	-1.6	-7.4	-0.9	
February 1990	3.0	-0.5	0.2	1.56	1.54	-1.8	-1.8	4.2	-0.4	
March 1990	1.1	-0.2	-0.5	1.53	1.54	-2.9	-1.5	-0.1	0.1	
April 1990	-0.6	0.0	-0.5	1.54	1.53	-0.4	-1.0	2.3	0.6	
May 1990	0.0	0.2	-0.7	1.52	1.52	0.5	-0.4	1.0	0.7	
June 1990	0.9	0.1	-0.5	1.50	1.51	0.1	-0.2	0.5	0.6	
July 1990	0.0	0.1	-1.0	1.49	1.50	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	
August 1990	-1.4	*	-0.1	1.51	*	0.4	*	-1.1	*	

\* The short-term trend represents a weighted average of the data.

## Wholesale Trade

August 1990

### Highlights

#### Unadjusted Sales – August 1990

- In August, wholesale merchants' sales were \$15.4 billion, a decrease of 4.9% from the same month a year earlier. This year-over-year sales decline follows a revised growth of 0.9% for July. The downward trend continued as a year-over-year sales decrease was recorded for the sixth time in eight months.

supplies (-18.9%) and wholesalers of lumber and building materials (-11.4%). Wholesalers of food, beverage, drug and tobacco products reported a notable gain of 4.9%.

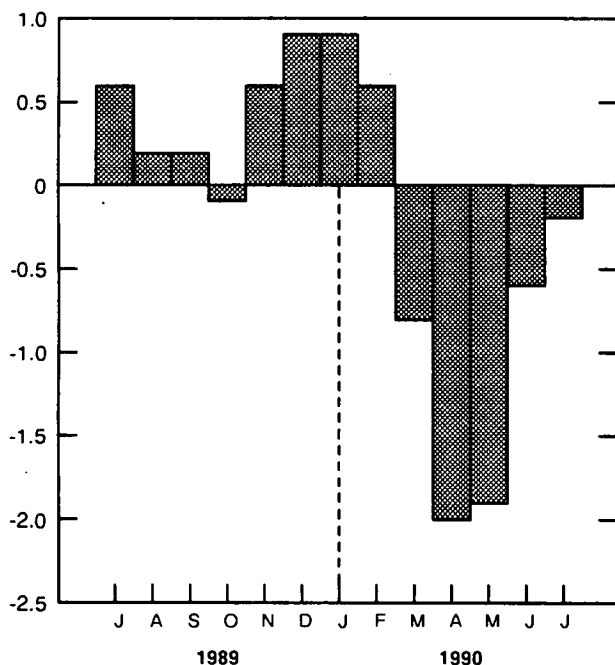
- Regionally, seven provinces and territories posted sales decreases ranging from -7.9% in British Columbia to -1.8% for Saskatchewan, while all of the Atlantic provinces registered higher sales.

#### Year-to-date

- In the first eight months of 1990, cumulative sales were estimated at \$124.2 billion, 1.4% lower than the value for the corresponding period in 1989.

#### Wholesale Merchants Sales

% monthly change, seasonally adjusted  
(three-month moving average)



#### Seasonally Adjusted Sales – July 1990

- Wholesale merchants' sales on a seasonally adjusted basis were down 0.2% from the previous month, to \$15.2 billion in July 1990. Sales declined for the fifth consecutive month.
- Five of the nine trade groups registered lower sales; it was the third consecutive monthly drop posted for these five trade groups. The trade groups having the most significant dollar impact on the overall sales decreases in July 1990 were wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies (-2.4%), wholesalers of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies (-2.3%) and wholesalers of lumber and building materials (-1.7%).
- Regionally, four provinces registered declines: Alberta (-1.5%), British Columbia (-1.4%), Ontario (-0.4%) and Quebec which was virtually unchanged. Growth was led by Yukon and Northwest Territories (+3.2%), followed by Newfoundland (+2.2%).

Available on CANSIM: matrices 648 and 649.

The August 1990 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008, \$14.40/\$144) will be available the first week of November. See "How to Order Publications".

For more information on this release contact Gilles Berniquez (613-951-3540), Industry Division.

- The overall decline between August 1989 and August 1990 sales was primarily attributable, in order of dollar impact, to decreases reported by wholesalers of other machinery, equipment and supplies (-9.1%), wholesalers of metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and

# Wholesale Merchants Sales, by Trade Group and Region

August 1990

Trade group	Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted						
	Aug 1989	July 1990 <sup>r</sup>	Aug 1990 <sup>p</sup>	Aug 1990/ 1989	July 1989	April 1990 <sup>r</sup>	May 1990 <sup>r</sup>	June 1990 <sup>r</sup>	July 1990 <sup>p</sup>	July 1990/ June 1990	July 1990/ 1989
	millions of \$			%	millions of \$				%	%	
<b>Canada</b>											
Food, beverage, drug and tobacco products	3,642	3,659	3,819	4.9	3,472	3,574	3,570	3,573	3,620	1.3	4.3
Apparel and dry goods	551	375	477	-13.5	421	398	373	360	351	-2.5	-16.5
Household goods	541	466	554	2.5	525	560	546	538	540	0.4	2.8
Motor vehicles, parts and accessories	1,698	1,571	1,665	-1.9	1,763	1,738	1,696	1,691	1,708	1.0	-3.1
Metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies	1,393	1,039	1,129	-18.9	1,319	1,237	1,191	1,151	1,125	-2.3	-14.7
Lumber and building materials	1,841	1,654	1,632	-11.4	1,623	1,552	1,532	1,515	1,489	-1.7	-8.2
Farm machinery, equipment and supplies	491	400	395	-19.5	398	381	378	376	363	-3.4	-8.7
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,518	3,080	3,199	-9.1	3,669	3,724	3,638	3,538	3,455	-2.4	-5.8
Other products	2,495	2,454	2,510	0.6	2,341	2,465	2,406	2,495	2,553	2.4	9.1
<b>Total, all trades</b>	<b>16,170</b>	<b>14,698</b>	<b>15,381</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>15,531</b>	<b>15,628</b>	<b>15,331</b>	<b>15,237</b>	<b>15,204</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
<b>Regions</b>											
Newfoundland	168	166	188	12.0	159	159	159	161	165	2.2	3.6
Prince Edward Island	37	38	38	2.3	37	39	37	38	38	1.9	2.9
Nova Scotia	361	398	396	9.7	375	405	400	394	396	0.7	5.7
New Brunswick	280	283	292	4.2	284	272	271	272	276	1.6	-2.9
Quebec	4,200	3,589	3,950	-5.9	3,843	3,836	3,756	3,736	3,735	---	-2.8
Ontario	6,447	5,790	6,074	-5.8	6,334	6,296	6,178	6,140	6,117	-0.4	-3.4
Manitoba	544	526	534	-1.9	508	514	511	520	524	0.8	3.2
Saskatchewan	567	535	557	-1.8	529	515	511	522	529	1.3	0.0
Alberta	1,486	1,398	1,436	-3.3	1,446	1,505	1,486	1,460	1,439	-1.5	-0.5
British Columbia	2,059	1,954	1,897	-7.9	1,999	2,094	2,022	1,990	1,961	-1.4	-1.9
Yukon and Northwest Territories	22	22	20	-6.7	17	18	17	17	17	3.2	0.1

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## DATA AVAILABILITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Railway Carloadings

Seven-day Period Ending October 14, 1990

#### Highlights

- Revenue freight loaded by railways in Canada during the week totalled 4.6 million tonnes, a decrease of 4.4% from the same period last year.
- Piggyback traffic decreased 9.5% from the same period last year. The number of cars loaded decreased 5.1% during the same period.
- The tonnage of revenue freight loaded to date this year is 0.7% lower than that loaded in the previous year.

**Note:** Piggyback traffic includes trailers and containers on flat cars. Piggyback traffic numbers are included in total carload traffic. All 1989 figures and 1990 cumulative data have been revised.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Surface Transport Unit, Transportation Division. ■

### Railway Operating Statistics

July 1990

The seven major railways reported a combined net loss of \$2.4 million in July 1990. Operating revenues of \$536.8 million were down \$36.3 million from the July 1989 figure.

Revenue freight tonne-kilometres were down 1.5% from July 1989. Freight train-kilometres registered an increase of 1.7% while freight car-kilometres decreased by 1.0%.

All 1989 figures and 1990 cumulative data have been revised.

**Available on CANSIM: matrix 142.**

The July 1990 issue of the *Railway Operating Statistics* (52-003, \$10.50/\$105) will be released the first week of November.

For more detailed information on this release, contact Angus MacLean (613-951-2484), Transportation Division. ■

### Stocks of Frozen Meat Products

October 1, 1990

Total frozen meat in cold storage as of October 1 amounted to 28 069 tonnes, as compared with 29 730 tonnes last month and 30 775 tonnes a year ago.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 87 and 9517-9525.**

To order *Stocks of Frozen Meat Products* (\$11.50/\$115), a statistical bulletin, contact Guy Gervais (613-951-2453).

For more information on this release, contact David Burroughs (613-951-2510), Agriculture Division. ■

### Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based)

August 1990

Commodity-country import trade statistics based on the Harmonized System (H.S.) for August 1990 are now available on microfiche, computer printouts or magnetic tapes in advance of the monthly publication.

The August 1990 issue of *Imports by Commodity (H.S. Based)* (65-007, \$55.10/\$551), will be available the second week of November. See "How to Order Publications".

For more detailed information on this release, contact Gordon Blaney (613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

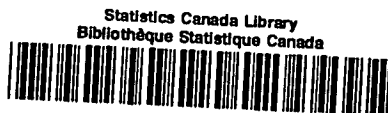
### Local Government Long-term Debt

September 1990

Estimates on the accumulated long-term debt of local governments in Canada, except Ontario, as at September 1990 are now available.

For further information on this release, contact Marlene Vollmer (613-951-1830), Public Institutions Division.

For more information, or general inquiries on Public Institutions Division's products or services, contact Patricia Phillips (613-951-0767). ■



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The Daily, October 23, 1990

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

### **Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, August 1990.**

#### **Catalogue number 31-001**

(Canada: \$17.30/\$173.00; United States: US\$20.80/US\$208.00; Other Countries: US\$24.20/US\$242.00).

### **Mineral Wool Including Fibrous Glass Insulation, September 1990.**

#### **Catalogue number 44-004**

(Canada: \$5.00/\$50.00; United States: US\$6.00/US\$60.00; Other Countries: US\$7.00/US\$70.00).

### **Factory Shipments of High Pressure Decorative Laminate Sheet, Quarter Ended September 1990.**

#### **Catalogue number 47-005**

(Canada: \$4.75/\$19.00; United States: US\$5.75/US\$23.00; Other Countries: US\$6.75/US\$27.00).

### **Air Carrier Operations in Canada, April-June 1989.**

#### **Catalogue number 51-002**

(Canada: \$24.25/\$97.00; United States: US\$29.00/US\$116.00; Other Countries: US\$34.00/US\$136.00).

### **Service Bulletin - Aviation, Vol. 22, No. 10, July 1990.**

#### **Catalogue number 51-004**

(Canada: \$9.30/\$93.00; United States: US\$11.20/US\$112.00; Other Countries: US\$13.00/US\$130.00).

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*Publications may also be ordered through Statistics Canada's offices in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver, or from authorized bookstore agents or other booksellers.*

*A national toll-free telephone order service is in operation at Statistics Canada. The toll-free line (1-800-267-6677) can be used by Canadian customers for the ordering of Statistics Canada products and services.*

# The Daily

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