



The Daily

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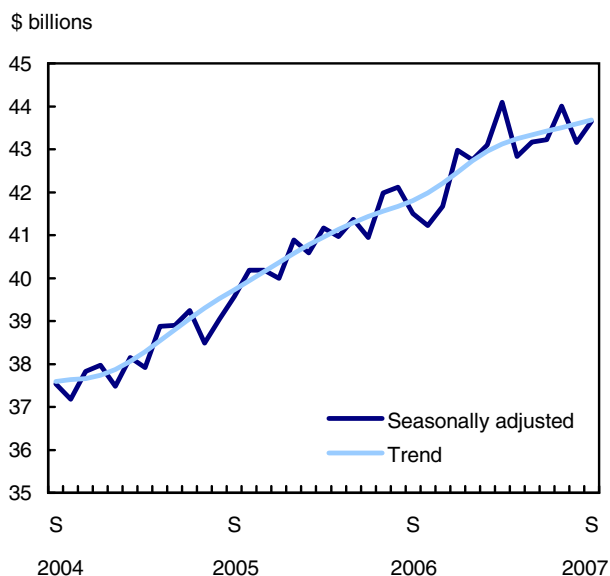
Wholesale trade

September 2007

Widespread gains contributed to an estimated 1.1% rise in sales in September to \$43.7 billion, partially offsetting August's 1.9% decline.

September's increase, coupled with a healthy gain in July, pushed overall sales in the third quarter up 1.2%, more than reversing the second quarter's 0.6% decline.

Wholesale sales head back up in September



Led by stronger sales of "other products", five of the seven wholesale sectors reported increases in September. Sales in the "other products" sector rose 4.2%, boosted by higher sales of agricultural chemicals. The personal and household goods sector also had a solid month (+2.0%), as did the food, beverages and tobacco sector (+1.4%). Other sectors posted smaller gains, while sales in the key automotive products sector, which have been quite volatile in recent months, were unchanged.

The building materials sector registered the only decline (-0.2%) in September following another large drop in lumber sales.

Sales in constant prices, which take price fluctuations into account, rose 1.5% in September to \$48.4 billion.

Higher sales of agricultural chemicals give a boost to the "other products" sector

The "other products" sector, which consists primarily of wholesalers of agricultural fertilizers and supplies, chemicals, recycled materials and paper products, recorded its biggest gain of 2007 in September, as sales rose 4.2% to \$5.5 billion.

Sales of agricultural chemicals such as fertilizers were particularly strong, reflecting strong global demand for these products. According to the latest international trade figures, exports of fertilizers and fertilizer materials surged 25.6% in the first nine months of 2007 to hit the \$3 billion mark. While the United States remains by far the largest market for Canadian fertilizers with around two-thirds of the demand, surging demand from major developing countries, most notably China and India, has been a significant factor behind the rapid growth in these exports in 2007.

Widespread gains in the personal and household goods sector

Sales in the personal and household goods sector rose 2.0% in September to \$6.6 billion. All three trade groups in this sector contributed to the increase.

Wholesalers of apparel led the way, with a 4.3% rise in sales to \$800 million. After starting the year with five straight declines, sales in this trade group have picked up of late, posting increases in three of the previous four months.

The household and personal products and pharmaceuticals trade groups, both of which registered declines in August, also advanced in September. Sales of household and personal products rose 2.2% to \$2.8 billion, while the pharmaceuticals trade group gained 1.2% to \$3.0 billion.

Building materials sector held back for the second straight month by weak lumber sales

After dropping 2.4% in August, sales in the building materials sector edged down 0.2% in September to \$6.1 billion.

As was the case in August, the lumber and millwork trade group was the major contributor to the decline in this sector. Following significant drops in each of July and August, sales in the lumber and millwork trade group fell a further 7.8% in September to \$932 million, their lowest monthly level since January 2004.

Despite recent declines, overall sales in the lumber and millwork trade group in the first nine months of 2007 were unchanged from the same period in 2006. Although sales in this trade group have been significantly affected by the well-publicized difficulties in the US housing market, the majority of the products sold by wholesalers in this trade group were destined for the Canadian housing market, where demand remains fairly strong.

Saskatchewan boosted by healthy demand for agricultural products

A marked turnaround in sales in Saskatchewan, coupled with healthy gains in Alberta, Quebec and Ontario, were the major highlights in September.

Following five straight monthly declines, sales in Saskatchewan surged 10.1% in September to \$1.3 billion, their highest level since April. A turnaround in the "other products" sector (mainly agricultural chemicals and fertilizers), which had been responsible for most of the recent declines, was behind most of September's gain.

September also proved to be another good month for Alberta's wholesalers, as their sales increased (+1.8%) for the fourth consecutive month to a new high of \$5.7 billion. Higher sales in the food, beverage and tobacco products, and the "other products" sectors were behind most of September's rise.

In Quebec, sales advanced (+2.1%) for the third consecutive month to \$8.5 billion. Stronger demand for personal and household goods, building materials and food products was the main factor behind this change.

After hitting their lowest level of the year in August, sales in Ontario recovered in September, up 1.2% to \$21.4 billion. The building materials and "other products" sectors were among the major contributors to the increase.

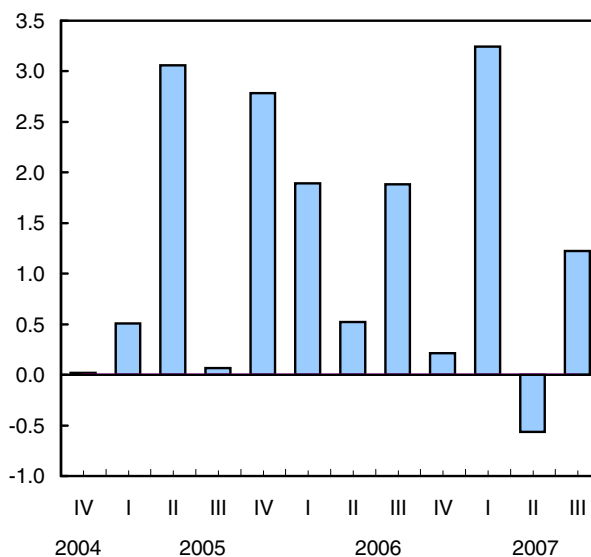
The most notable drop came in British Columbia, where sales fell (-3.1%) for the second consecutive month to \$4.3 billion. As was the case in August, weak lumber sales were mostly to blame. Despite these recent declines, the sales trend for the province remains positive following significant gains earlier in 2007.

Third quarter sales rebound from second quarter decline

Four of the seven wholesale sectors reported higher sales during the third quarter. The personal and household goods sector led the way (+3.4%), thanks to healthy sales of pharmaceuticals and apparel. With the exception of the first quarter of 2006, when sales were flat, quarterly growth in this sector has been growing without interruption since the second quarter of 2003.

Wholesale sales rebound in the third quarter

% change in sales



Wholesalers in the machinery and electronic equipment sector also had a good third quarter, posting their eighth consecutive quarterly gain (+2.5%). Within this sector, higher sales in the machinery and equipment trade group were responsible for the increase, as sales in both the computer and other electronic equipment, and the office and professional equipment trade groups edged down.

The automotive products sector, which was the major contributor to the overall second quarter drop, fell again in the third quarter (-0.9%). Weak sales of motor vehicles were behind the decline. The drops in the latest quarters represent a marked change from the robust growth (+7.1%) registered in the first quarter of 2007.

On the provincial and territorial front, eight provinces and territories recorded higher sales during the third quarter.

Wholesalers in Alberta shook off a second quarter decline (-4.0%) to register their fastest quarterly growth (+6.5%) in 10 years, thanks to gains in a number of sectors.

Quebec (+1.6%) and British Columbia (+1.7%) also rang up healthy gains in the third quarter. Quebec was aided by the strength of the personal and household goods, and machinery and electronic equipment sectors, while in British Columbia, higher sales in the personal and household goods, food, beverages and tobacco products, and automotive products sectors more than offset weakness in the building materials sector.

For the second consecutive quarter, sales in Ontario were held in check (-0.1%) by another weak

performance in the automotive products sector, which accounts for around a quarter of all sales in the province.

Inventories changed little following significant increase in August

After registering the second highest increase of the year in August (+1.0%), inventories were little changed (-0.1%) in September, at \$54.8 billion.

Of 15 trade groups, 10 reported lower inventories in September. Among the most notable movers were motor vehicles (-1.2%), metal products (-1.7%) and motor vehicle parts and accessories (-1.3%).

Gains were most apparent in the apparel (+5.0%) and machinery and equipment (+0.7%) trade groups.

The inventory-to-sales ratio edged down from its highest level of the year, from 1.27 in August to 1.26 in September. Following a brief spike in the fall of 2006, the ratio has remained relatively stable over the past 12 months.

The inventory-to-sales ratio is a key measure of the time, in months, that would be required to exhaust existing inventories if sales were to remain at their current level.

Available on CANSIM: tables 081-0007 to 081-0010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The September 2007 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will be available soon.

Wholesale trade estimates for October will be released on December 19.

To obtain data or more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Atkins (613-951-0291; marc.atkins@statcan.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	September 2006	June 2007 ^r	July 2007 ^r	August 2007 ^r	September 2007 ^p	August to September 2007	September 2006 to September 2007	August 2007 ^r	September 2007 ^p
	Wholesale inventories							Inventory-to-sales ratio	
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
Inventories	52,899	54,103	54,264	54,833	54,788	-0.1	3.6	1.27	1.26
Farm products	196	199	195	205	199	-3.0	1.9	0.46	0.44
Food products	4,290	4,598	4,585	4,614	4,591	-0.5	7.0	0.64	0.62
Alcohol and tobacco	285	310	304	317	312	-1.5	9.5	0.48	0.47
Apparel	1,661	1,680	1,686	1,714	1,799	5.0	8.3	2.23	2.25
Household and personal products	3,885	3,912	3,916	3,975	4,011	0.9	3.2	1.43	1.41
Pharmaceuticals	3,172	3,521	3,433	3,553	3,577	0.7	12.8	1.20	1.19
Motor vehicles	4,878	4,580	4,672	4,792	4,737	-1.2	-2.9	0.78	0.77
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,277	3,319	3,390	3,392	3,348	-1.3	2.2	2.16	2.15
Building supplies	5,583	5,847	5,892	5,944	5,921	-0.4	6.1	1.59	1.57
Metal products	3,001	2,988	2,899	2,858	2,811	-1.7	-6.3	2.03	1.94
Lumber and millwork	1,056	1,108	1,123	1,102	1,076	-2.3	1.9	1.09	1.16
Machinery and equipment	11,236	11,609	11,577	11,559	11,637	0.7	3.6	2.61	2.59
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,598	1,751	1,725	1,806	1,788	-1.0	11.9	0.67	0.66
Office and professional equipment	2,687	2,629	2,653	2,700	2,674	-0.9	-0.5	1.32	1.33
Other products	6,095	6,051	6,215	6,303	6,307	0.1	3.5	1.20	1.15

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Wholesale merchants' sales

	September 2006	June 2007 ^r	July 2007 ^r	August 2007 ^r	September 2007 ^p	August to September 2007	September 2006 to September 2007
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	41,499	43,221	44,002	43,155	43,650	1.1	5.2
Farm products	464	470	453	447	451	1.1	-2.7
Food, beverages and tobacco products	7,702	7,832	7,784	7,910	8,020	1.4	4.1
Food products	7,040	7,169	7,144	7,254	7,360	1.5	4.5
Alcohol and tobacco	662	663	640	656	660	0.7	-0.3
Personal and household goods	6,103	6,285	6,545	6,508	6,638	2.0	8.8
Apparel	730	753	787	767	800	4.3	9.6
Household and personal products	2,649	2,709	2,782	2,775	2,835	2.2	7.0
Pharmaceuticals	2,724	2,822	2,975	2,967	3,002	1.2	10.2
Automotive products	7,581	7,853	8,118	7,714	7,715	0.0	1.8
Motor vehicles	5,971	6,287	6,553	6,142	6,159	0.3	3.2
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,611	1,566	1,565	1,571	1,556	-1.0	-3.4
Building materials	5,866	6,238	6,304	6,155	6,146	-0.2	4.8
Building supplies	3,606	3,684	3,748	3,734	3,762	0.7	4.3
Metal products	1,252	1,420	1,485	1,411	1,452	2.9	16.0
Lumber and millwork	1,007	1,134	1,071	1,011	932	-7.8	-7.5
Machinery and electronic equipment	8,657	9,258	9,541	9,164	9,204	0.4	6.3
Machinery and equipment	4,039	4,422	4,691	4,425	4,491	1.5	11.2
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,586	2,774	2,756	2,701	2,705	0.2	4.6
Office and professional equipment	2,031	2,061	2,095	2,038	2,007	-1.5	-1.2
Other products	5,127	5,285	5,258	5,258	5,477	4.2	6.8
Total, excluding automobiles	33,918	35,368	35,884	35,442	35,935	1.4	5.9
Sales, by province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	227	271	283	275	282	2.7	23.9
Prince Edward Island	36	41	36	38	42	10.3	19.2
Nova Scotia	563	569	567	578	572	-1.1	1.5
New Brunswick	412	429	420	432	423	-2.1	2.9
Quebec	7,827	8,227	8,276	8,322	8,497	2.1	8.6
Ontario	20,594	21,380	21,814	21,182	21,428	1.2	4.0
Manitoba	1,041	989	1,077	1,090	1,093	0.3	4.9
Saskatchewan	1,245	1,262	1,251	1,173	1,292	10.1	3.8
Alberta	5,249	5,437	5,516	5,550	5,650	1.8	7.6
British Columbia	4,267	4,582	4,720	4,475	4,337	-3.1	1.6
Yukon	11	10	10	14	13	-7.7	23.0
Northwest Territories	24	21	22	23	18	-23.8	-26.6
Nunavut	3	3	10	3	2	-20.8	-10.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

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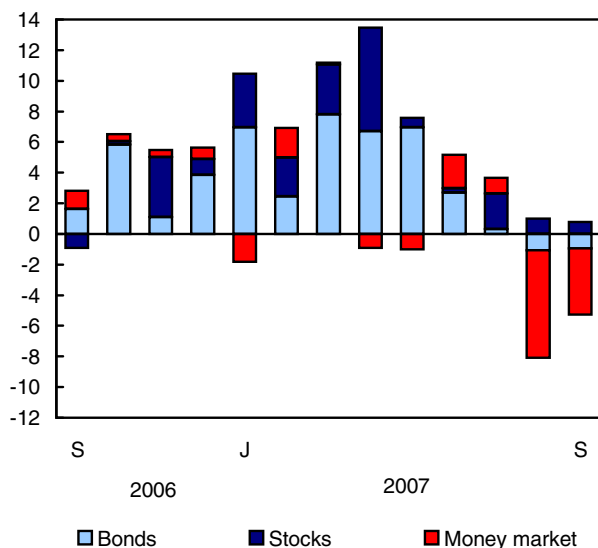
Canada's international transactions in securities

September 2007

Canadians continued to divest foreign securities in September, shedding a significant \$4.5 billion worth. This followed a record \$7.1 billion divestment in August. In both months, this activity was mainly due to a substantial disposition of foreign money market instruments. Meanwhile, non-residents removed \$5.2 billion worth of Canadian securities from their holdings, split almost equally between bonds and equities. September marked the fifth consecutive month in which non-residents divested from Canadian securities.

Canadian portfolio investment in foreign securities

\$ billions



Heavy divestment by residents in foreign money market instruments for the second month

Canadians disposed of \$4.4 billion worth of foreign money market instruments in September, adding to August's record divestment of \$7.0 billion. In both months, the divestment was focussed on non-US foreign paper.

Currency-wise, the reduction in holdings in September was equally split between Canadian dollar-denominated and US dollar-denominated foreign paper. However, over 80% of August's divestment was in Canadian dollar-denominated foreign paper.

Related market information

In September, Canadian short-term **interest rates** increased by 14 basis points to 3.97%, while US short-term rates dropped 31 basis points to 3.89%. The resulting differential of 8 basis points caused short-term rates to favour investment in Canada for the first time since February 2005.

Both Canadian and US long-term interest rates inched up in September, by 3 and 6 basis points respectively. Canadian interest rates stood at 4.41%, while US rates rose to 4.63%. The resulting differential between the two countries increased to 22 basis points in favour of investment in the United States.

After three consecutive months of decline, Canadian **stock prices** rebounded 3.2% in September, as the Standard and Poor's / Toronto Stock Exchange Composite Index closed the month at a record 14,098.9. Meanwhile, US stocks gained 3.6% in September with the Standard and Poor's Composite Index reaching 1,526.8 at month's end.

The **Canadian dollar** hiked 5.8 cents US in September, the second highest monthly increase on record. The Canadian dollar traded for \$1.005 US, the highest level since November 1976. At the end of September, the Canadian dollar had increased 15.56 US cents since the beginning of 2007.

Definitions

The data series on international security transactions cover portfolio transactions in stocks, bonds and money market instruments for both Canadian and foreign issues.

Stocks include common and preferred equities, as well as warrants.

Debt securities include bonds and money market instruments.

Bonds have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

Money market instruments have an original term to maturity of one year or less.

On a sector basis, over 60% of the divestment was in money market instruments issued by foreign banks. In addition, Canadians disposed of \$605 million worth of US treasury bills, following investments totalling \$1.1 billion in these instruments in July and August.

Residents also dispose of foreign bonds

Canadians trimmed \$940 million worth of foreign bonds from their holdings in September, following a similar divestment (\$1.1 billion) in August. Residents had been investing an average \$4.1 billion per month from December 2005 to July 2007.

Over the month, Canadians sold \$1.1 billion worth of US government bonds, continuing the divestment trend started in June. In September, the prices of US government benchmark bonds soared in response to

the deep cut in interest rates by the US Federal Reserve. The majority of the sales in September involved bonds with shorter term to maturity (2 to 5 years) compared to August (5 to 10 years).

Currency-wise, residents sold \$341 million worth of maple bonds (Canadian dollar-denominated foreign bonds) in September, the second consecutive month of divestment in these instruments.

Canadians buy US equities

Residents continued to acquire foreign corporate shares for the 12th consecutive month, adding \$792 million worth in September. Investment centred on US equities as residents acquired \$944 million worth.

Decrease in foreign holdings of Canadian bonds due to record retirements

Foreign investors cut \$2.6 billion worth of Canadian bonds from their holdings in September. This reduction was due to a record level of net retirements (\$6.5 billion), as non-residents invested \$4.2 billion in outstanding bonds. Net retirements were mostly in Canadian dollar-denominated bonds, and were split between federal and provincial government bonds, as well as federal government enterprise bonds.

The \$4.2 billion foreign investment in outstanding bonds was composed mainly of Canadian dollar denominated-bonds issued by the federal government (\$1.5 billion) and its enterprises (\$2.7 billion).

Non-residents buy US dollar-denominated Canadian money market paper

Foreign investors bought \$303 million worth of Canadian money market paper in September, switching from two months of divestment totalling \$1.5 billion.

September's investment was largely in federal enterprise paper (\$589 million) and other Canadian corporate paper (\$283 million). Meanwhile, non-residents disposed of \$572 million worth of government treasury bills.

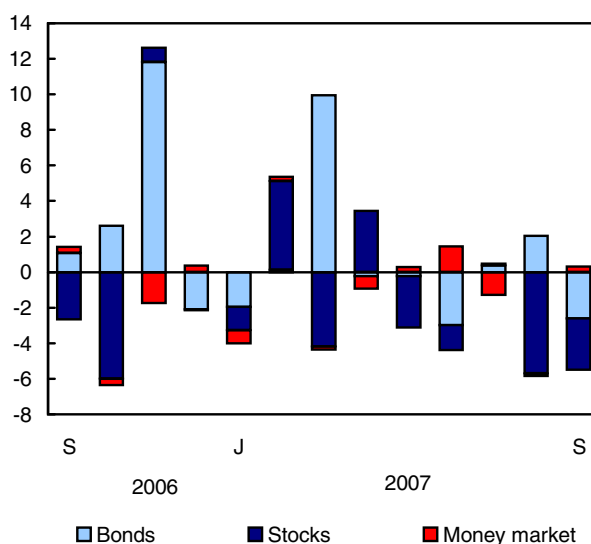
On a currency basis, all foreign investment was in US dollar-denominated paper (\$498 million worth), as non-residents divested \$274 million worth of Canadian dollar-denominated foreign paper. In September, the Canadian dollar strongly appreciated against its US counterpart and reached its highest level in the past three decades.

More divestment in outstanding Canadian stock

Non-residents sold \$2.9 billion worth of Canadian stocks in September, despite a rebound in Canadian equity prices. This closes the third quarter of 2007 with a record divestment of \$8.5 billion worth. September's reduction in foreign holdings was mainly in outstanding Canadian stocks as non-residents sold \$2.4 billion worth. Geographically, American and European investors sold \$1.4 billion and \$1.8 billion worth respectively.

Foreign portfolio investment in Canadian securities

\$ billions



Available on CANSIM: tables 376-0018 to 376-0029, 376-0042, 376-0058 and 376-0063.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1535.

The September 2007 issue of *Canada's International Transactions in Securities* (67-002-XWE, free) will be available soon.

Data on Canada's international transactions in securities for October will be released on December 17.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-1855; infobalance@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Yiling Zhang (613-951-2057), Balance of Payments Division.

□

Canada's international transactions in securities

	June 2007	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007	January to September 2006	January to September 2007
\$ millions						
Foreign investment in Canadian securities	-2,961	-848	-3,815	-5,211	27,215	-6,314
Bonds (net)	-2,989	373	2,052	-2,614	5,674	4,498
Outstanding	-1,430	459	1,335	4,226	6,012	6,004
New issues	6,978	1,976	787	4,715	25,653	34,899
Retirements	-7,250	-2,228	-948	-11,238	-26,774	-37,454
Change in interest payable ¹	-1,287	166	878	-317	784	1,049
Money market paper (net)	1,454	-1,316	-148	303	5,463	-856
Government of Canada	1,358	-1,038	912	-572	4,085	-2,400
Other	96	-278	-1,060	875	1,378	1,544
Stocks (net)	-1,426	95	-5,719	-2,900	16,078	-9,955
Outstanding	-485	3,238	-3,127	-2,379	17,505	3,419
Other transactions	-941	-3,144	-2,592	-521	-1,426	-13,374
Canadian investment in foreign securities	-5,161	-3,649	7,124	4,507	-61,055	-43,033
Bonds (net)	-2,704	-317	1,065	940	-32,835	-31,835
Stocks (net)	-263	-2,301	-987	-792	-23,149	-21,102
Money market paper (net)	-2,194	-1,032	7,046	4,359	-5,071	9,903

1. Interest accrued less interest paid.

Note: A minus sign indicates an outflow of money from Canada, that is, a withdrawal of foreign investment from Canada or an increase in Canadian investment abroad.

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Apartment Building Construction Price Index

Third quarter 2007

The composite price index for apartment building construction was 156.2 (1997=100) in the third quarter, up 1.4% from the second quarter, and up 8.5% from the third quarter of 2006. The quarterly increase was mostly the result of higher labour and materials costs, and a strong market for building construction.

Western Canada recorded the highest quarterly changes, led by Edmonton (+2.6%), followed by Vancouver (+2.5%) and Calgary (+2.2%). Lower price increases were measured in Eastern Canada, with both Toronto and Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part recording advances of 0.7%, followed by Halifax and Montréal (+0.4% each).

Calgary experienced the highest gain (+18.1%) from the third quarter of 2006, followed by Edmonton (+17.9%), Vancouver (+13.8%), Toronto (+5.0%), Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part (+4.6%), Halifax (+3.6%) and Montréal (+3.2%).

Note: The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in six census metropolitan areas (CMAs)

(Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA. Besides each of the CMA indexes and the composite index, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical). These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade-group contractors who report on the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

The third quarter 2007 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in February 2008.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax 613-951-1539; prices-prix@statcan.ca), Prices Division.

Apartment Building Construction Price Index¹ (1997=100)

	Third quarter 2007	Third quarter 2006 to third quarter 2007 % change	Second to third quarter 2007
Composite index	156.2	8.5	1.4
Halifax	136.5	3.6	0.4
Montréal	140.5	3.2	0.4
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part	150.7	4.6	0.7
Toronto	157.3	5.0	0.7
Calgary	186.8	18.1	2.2
Edmonton	179.1	17.9	2.6
Vancouver	166.1	13.8	2.5

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

Crude oil and natural gas production

September 2007 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for September.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Dissemination Section (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; energ@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

September 2007

Data for the monthly survey of large retailers are now available for September.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A data table is also available from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins

September 2007

Data on industrial chemicals and synthetic resins are now available for September.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2183.

The September 2007 issue of *Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins*, Vol. 50, no. 9 (46-002-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; manufact@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

North American Transportation Statistics 2006

An updated version of the North American Transportation Statistics (NATS) database, a unique online source for comprehensive information on transportation activity, is being released today. The database is the result of a tripartite initiative representing the transportation and statistical agencies of Canada, the United States and Mexico.

All three countries have attempted to update the tables to include 2006 data.

The database covers 12 specific areas of interest, including transportation and the economy, passenger and freight transportation, transportation and energy consumption, as well as transportation safety.

The NATS database provides consistent and comparable data across modes of transportation and countries to help evaluate transportation benefits and impacts. It helps in understanding changes in dynamic transportation markets in this era of global economic growth.

The NATS database is available online in English, French and Spanish at the following URL: <http://nats.sct.gob.mx>.

For more information on the NATS database, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michel Savard (613-951-3175; michel.savard@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

New products

Finding and using statistics
Catalogue number 11-533-XWE
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Industrial Chemicals and Synthetic Resins,
September 2007, Vol. 50, no. 9
Catalogue number 46-002-XWE
(free).

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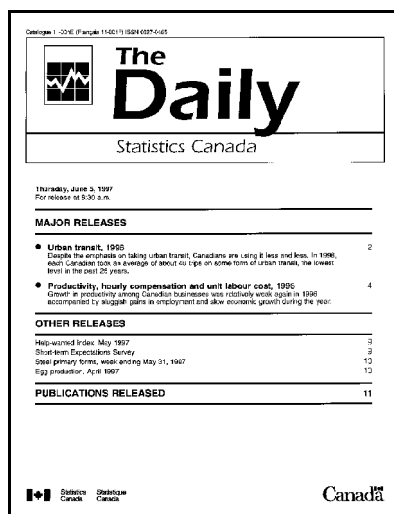
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