

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, October 24, 2008

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Consumer prices rose 3.4% in the 12 months to September, due largely to higher energy and food prices. This was a slightly slower pace than August's 3.5% increase, when the pace of consumer price growth was the highest since March 2003. The seasonally-adjusted monthly CPI rose 0.2% from August to September.	
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Perspectives on Labour and Income

October 2008 online edition

The October 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, features two articles.

"Skilled trades employment" examines the need for skilled tradespersons and employment trends in selected trades over the past 20 years, along with the socioeconomic traits of the workers and the characteristics of their jobs.

"Interprovincial mobility and earnings" looks at interprovincial migration as a key component of demographic change in Canada, including its effects on the performance and efficiency of labour markets and productivity, and the better earnings growth for migrants than non-migrants. Key factors affecting the probability of migration are identified through regression analysis.

The October 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 9, no. 10 (75-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Henry Pold (613-951-4608; henry.pold@statcan.gc.ca), Labour and Household Surveys Analysis Division.



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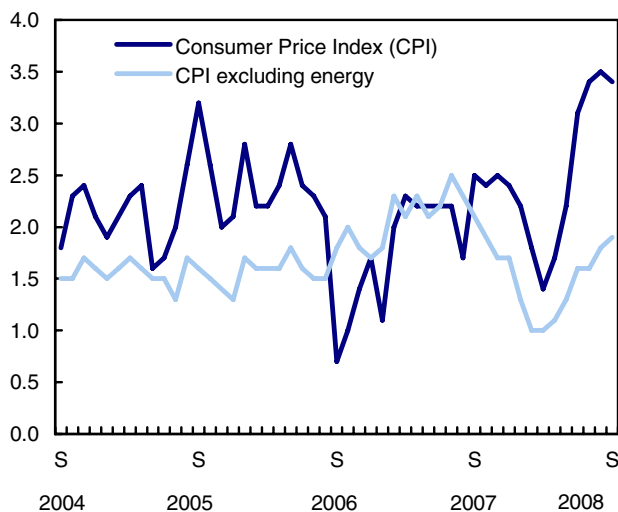
Consumer Price Index

September 2008

Consumer prices rose 3.4% in the 12 months to September, due largely to higher energy and food prices. This was a slightly slower pace than August's 3.5% increase, when the pace of consumer price growth was the highest since March 2003. The seasonally-adjusted monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.2% from August to September.

The all-items CPI eases while the CPI excluding energy advances slightly

12-month % change



The CPI excluding gasoline increased 2.2% in the 12 months to September; stripping away all energy components, the CPI advanced 1.9%.

Of the eight major components of the CPI, shelter costs remained the primary contributor to the 12-month increase in consumer prices in September. Food costs replaced transportation as the second leading contributor. Transportation costs, now third, continued to be buoyed by higher gasoline prices, although lower prices for vehicles have had a moderating effect.

Increasing costs for mortgage interest, natural gas and fuel oil and other fuels continued to propel costs for shelter. Nearly all food items registered price

increases, but bread and cereal products, fresh fruit and vegetables and dairy products contributed significantly to higher food prices in September.

The seasonally-adjusted monthly CPI rose 0.2% from August to September, up from the 0.1% increase posted in the previous period.

12-month change: Transportation costs ease but food prices gain momentum

A large upward contributor to the 12-month change in the CPI was gasoline. Prices at the pump rose 26.5% in September and varied considerably during the month.

Mid-September, gasoline prices rose by over 10 cents a litre in many regions of the country as Hurricane Ike loomed over the Gulf Coast and caused a significant reduction in crude oil production. Consumers, however, received some relief as pump prices retreated towards the end of the month.

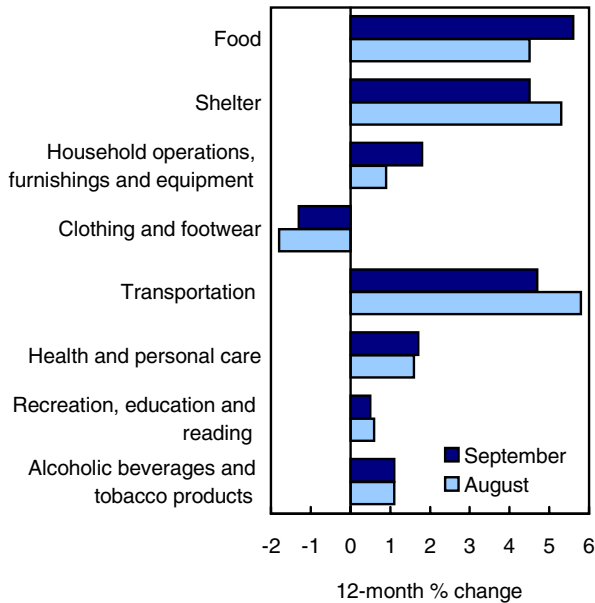
Helping to mitigate the increase in costs for transportation was a 9.3% decline in prices to purchase and lease passenger vehicles. This was the largest drop since February 1956. Overall, transportation costs rose 4.7%, a slowdown from the 5.8% rate of growth posted in August.

Out of the eight major components, prices for food posted the strongest growth and replaced transportation costs as the second major contributor behind shelter to the 12-month change in the CPI in September. Prices for food have been gaining momentum since the beginning of 2008. In the first nine months of 2008, prices for food were up 2.4% compared with the same period in 2007. Overall, food prices in the 12 months to September rose 5.6%, an increase from the 4.5% rise recorded in August.

Rising prices for bakery and cereal products (+15.5%) continued to exert the strongest upward pressure on prices for food. Also contributing to rising food costs were price increases for fresh fruit, vegetables and milk.

Shelter costs (+4.5%) continued to rise in September as a result of increases in mortgage interest cost and prices for certain fuel (natural gas and fuel oil and other fuels). A 1.9% decline in electricity prices helped to offset increasing prices for other utility items. The drop in electricity prices was the largest since November 2003.

The food price index posts the largest percentage gain



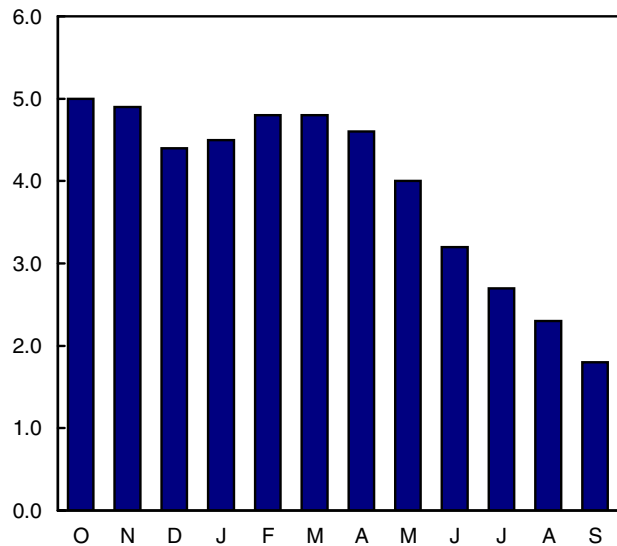
Also helping to ease costs associated with shelter was the continual slowdown in homeowner's replacement costs, which represents the worn-out structural portion of housing and is estimated using new housing prices excluding land. Homeowner's replacement costs eased to a growth rate of 1.8% in September, after rising 2.3% in August. Easing new housing prices have resulted in a slowing of this index since the relative highs recorded in late 2006.

The recreation, education and reading price index advanced 0.5% in September after rising 0.6% in August. Stronger price declines for computer equipment and supplies, video equipment, some other electronic items and to purchase recreational vehicles helped to offset increasing tuition fees.

Students paid 4.0% more in tuition fees in 2008, up from the 3.0% rise in 2007. Higher tuition fees in Quebec and Ontario accounted for most of this growth.

Replacement costs continue to slide

12-month % change



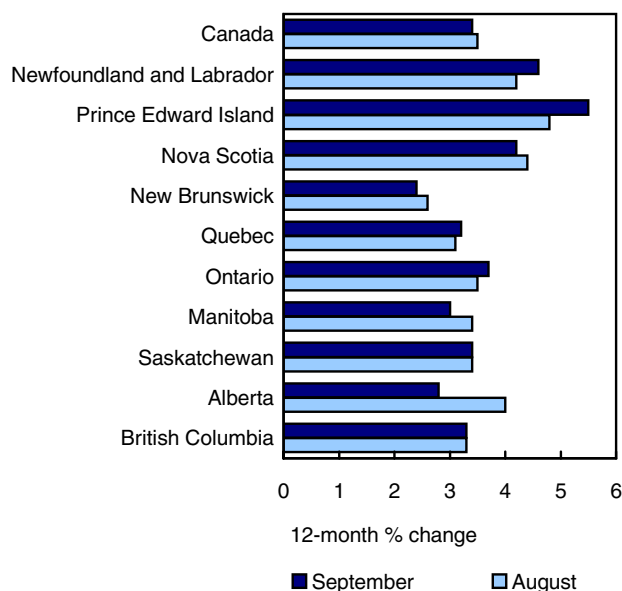
Out of the eight major components, clothing and footwear continued to remain the only downward contributor on the 12-month change in the CPI in September. Prices for clothing and footwear fell 1.3%, mainly the result of a 4.2% reduction in prices for women's clothing.

The provinces: Consumers in Alberta receive some relief as consumer prices retreat

Consumer prices across the country varied considerably, with increases ranging from a low of 2.4% in New Brunswick to a high of 5.5% in Prince Edward Island. Overall, four provinces realized a slowdown in consumer prices: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta.

Consumer prices in Alberta registered the smallest increase in September since December 2005. Consumers in Alberta faced a 2.8% rise in consumer prices in September, down from the 4.0% rise posted in August. Easing prices for natural gas was the primary contributor to the slowdown. Natural gas prices in Alberta rose 29.6%, after rising by 73.7% in August.

Consumer price increases in Alberta slow considerably



Gasoline prices continued to put the most upward pressure on consumer prices in all provinces. Continual price declines to purchase and lease passenger vehicles remained the most significant downward contributor in all provinces.

The rise of the Bank of Canada's core index holds steady

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 1.7% over the 12 months to September, identical to the rate posted in August.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index advanced 0.2% from August to September, after increasing 0.3% from July to August.

For a more detailed analysis, consult the publication *The Consumer Price Index*.

Available on CANSIM: tables 326-0009, 326-0012, 326-0015 and 326-0020 to 326-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2301.

More information about the concepts and use of the CPI are also available online in *Your Guide to the Consumer Price Index* (62-557-XIB, free) from the *Publications* module of our website.

The September 2008 issue of *The Consumer Price Index*, Vol. 87, no. 9 (62-001-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-XPE, \$12/\$111). A more detailed analysis of the CPI is available in this publication. See *How to order products*.

The October Consumer Price Index will be released on November 21.

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

□

Consumer Price Index and major components (2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	September 2007	September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008 % change
		Unadjusted		
All-items	100.00²	111.9	115.7	3.4
Food	17.04	110.9	117.1	5.6
Shelter	26.62	117.8	123.1	4.5
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	103.7	105.6	1.8
Clothing and footwear	5.36	97.4	96.1	-1.3
Transportation	19.88	116.9	122.4	4.7
Health and personal care	4.73	107.6	109.4	1.7
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	103.4	103.9	0.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	126.6	128.0	1.1
All-items (1992=100)		133.2	137.7	3.4
Special aggregates				
Goods	48.78	107.8	111.5	3.4
Services	51.22	115.9	119.8	3.4
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	109.7	110.8	1.0
Energy	9.38	136.6	161.5	18.2
Core CPI ³	82.71	110.5	112.4	1.7

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm>).

2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

3. The measure of Core Consumer Price Index (CPI) excludes from the all-items CPI the effect of changes in indirect taxes and eight of the most volatile components identified by the Bank of Canada: fruit, fruit preparations and nuts; vegetables and vegetable preparations; mortgage interest cost; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuel; gasoline; inter-city transportation; and tobacco products and smokers' supplies. For additional information on Core CPI, please consult the Bank of Canada website (www.bankofcanada.ca/en/inflation/index.htm).

Consumer Price Index by province, and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit (2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	September 2007	September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008 % change
		Unadjusted		
Canada	100.00²	111.9	115.7	3.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	111.1	116.2	4.6
Prince Edward Island	0.35	114.0	120.3	5.5
Nova Scotia	2.56	112.9	117.6	4.2
New Brunswick	1.97	112.0	114.7	2.4
Quebec	21.05	110.5	114.0	3.2
Ontario	41.22	111.0	115.1	3.7
Manitoba	3.06	111.8	115.2	3.0
Saskatchewan	2.64	113.4	117.3	3.4
Alberta	11.43	119.4	122.8	2.8
British Columbia	14.29	110.5	114.1	3.3
Whitehorse	0.06	110.8	114.8	3.6
Yellowknife	0.08	111.6	117.2	5.0
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	109.1	111.9	2.6

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm>).

2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Consumer Price Index and major components
(2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	July 2008	August 2008	September 2008	July to August 2008	August to September 2008
		Seasonally adjusted				
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	115.3	115.4	115.6	0.1	0.2
Food	17.04	115.9	116.7	117.7	0.7	0.9
Shelter	26.62	123.3	123.8	123.1	0.4	-0.6
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	104.4	104.4	105.3	0.0	0.9
Clothing and footwear	5.36	94.6	93.9	93.6	-0.7	-0.3
Transportation	19.88	125.7	123.1	122.4	-2.1	-0.6
Health and personal care	4.73	108.3	109.4	109.4	1.0	0.0
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	102.3	102.6	102.6	0.3	0.0
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	127.5	127.6	127.9	0.1	0.2
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	82.96	115.1	115.0	115.2	-0.1	0.2
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	110.4	110.6	110.5	0.2	-0.1
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	110.4	110.7	110.8	0.3	0.1
Core CPI ³	82.71	111.7	112.0	112.2	0.3	0.2

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada, effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 at (<http://www.statcan.ca/english/sdds/index.htm>).
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Study: Skilled trades employment 1987 to 2007

More than one million people worked in skilled trades in 2007, where employment growth has been a steady 2.2% a year on average since the recession of the early 1990s. This group includes trades (such as plumbers, masons, mechanics and crane operators) where a licence or certificate may be a condition of employment.

In 1987, Alberta accounted for 9% of all trades employment; by 2007, this proportion had increased to 15%. During the same period, the proportion for British Columbia rose from 11% to 15%.

In contrast, Ontario accounted for 36% of trades employment in 2007, down from 41% in 1987, primarily because of slower employment growth.

Average hourly earnings in 2007 were higher in the trades (\$22.36) than in other occupations (\$21.02) combined, reflecting in part the predominance of full-time jobs and the relatively high rate of unionization in the skilled trades. The highest earners were electricians, crane operators and plumbers.

Between 1997 and 2007, employees in the trades saw a 3.5% increase in their average constant dollar hourly earnings, half the 7.4% increase for those outside the trades.

Self-employment is a growing phenomenon among tradespeople. In 1987, 9% of those employed in the trades were self-employed; by 2007, this had increased to 15%. Some trades experienced even higher growth rates, although their self-employment rates had not caught up to the non-trades.

The aging of the population has led to general concerns about the replacement of retiring workers. The ratio of entrants (age 25 to 34) to near-retirees (50 or older) addresses the issue of demographic balance, and shows that the skilled trades had a higher ratio in 2007 than those in other occupations combined (1.0 versus 0.7). This ratio varied among the trades though, with some having a higher ratio of younger workers (plumbers and masons at about 1.5).

Overall, 17% of workers in the trades were immigrants, lower than the 21% in the non-trades occupations combined. None of the trades had a higher proportion of immigrants than the non-trades. In 2007, 10% of plumbers were immigrants, the lowest proportion.

Note: The article "Employment in the trades" published in *Perspectives on Labour and Income* uses the Labour Force Survey and the National Occupational Classification to examine employment trends in trades occupations and characteristics of tradesworkers. In

all, eight trades were selected for the purposes of this study. Trades in the service sector were not included.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

The article "Employment in the trades" is now available in the October 2008 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 9, no. 10 (75-001-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Wendy Pyper (613-951-0381; wendy.pyper@statcan.gc.ca), Income Statistics Division. ■

Business Conditions Survey: Traveller accommodation industries

Fourth quarter 2008 (outlook)

The business outlook of Canada's hotel operators for this final quarter of 2008 continued to be less optimistic relative to the business they had during the same period last year.

About 47% of hoteliers expected the number of room nights booked to be lower than they were in the fourth quarter last year, while 44% anticipated lower occupancy rates. In contrast, 10% expected increases in both areas.

However, this outlook was a slight improvement over results from the summer quarter of 2008. At that time, 51% of hoteliers anticipated a lower number of room nights booked, and 49% anticipated lower occupancy rates for the third quarter.

For the fourth quarter, 10% of hoteliers anticipated an increase in the number of corporate travellers, whereas more than one-third expected a decline in corporate business.

Likewise, 34% of hotel operators expected their employees would be working fewer hours compared with the 10% who anticipated increases.

Of the major business impediments, exchange rate fluctuations, labour shortages, regional economic conditions, and excess room supply still figured prominently as concerns of hoteliers.

Note: The Business Conditions Survey for the traveller accommodation industries covers 1,437 businesses, mostly hotels. It was conducted in September 2008 to assess the fourth-quarter outlook for key indicators compared with the same period last year. These indicators include bookings, occupancy rates, average daily room rates, hours worked by employees, and number of corporate travellers.

Results are based on survey questionnaires sent to traveller accommodation providers and are weighted by their operating revenues. Consequently, larger businesses have a comparatively bigger impact on the results than smaller businesses.

The survey is made possible with the support of industry partners, the Canadian Tourism Commission, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Tourism Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, and Industry Canada.

Available on CANSIM: tables 351-0004 and 351-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5050.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Evelyn Park (613-951-3506; fax: 613-951-6696; evelyn.park@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division.

Traveller accommodation industries

	Fourth quarter 2007	First quarter 2008	Second quarter 2008	Third quarter 2008	Fourth quarter 2008
Number of room nights booked will be:					
About the same (%)	52	48	44	37	44
Higher (%)	25	22	26	12	10
Lower (%)	23	30	29	51	47
Balance of opinion	2	-8	-3	-39	-37
Occupancy rate will be:					
About the same (%)	51	48	41	38	46
Higher (%)	26	23	30	14	10
Lower (%)	23	29	29	49	44
Balance of opinion	3	-6	0	-35	-33
Number of corporate/commercial travellers will be:					
About the same (%)	56	63	55	46	54
Higher (%)	25	12	21	12	10
Lower (%)	19	24	24	42	36
Balance of opinion	6	-12	-4	-31	-27
Average daily room rate will be:					
About the same (%)	50	40	37	35	46
Higher (%)	37	41	48	34	27
Lower (%)	13	19	14	31	27
Balance of opinion	24	22	34	3	0
Total number of hours worked by employees will be:					
About the same (%)	62	60	62	53	56
Higher (%)	22	16	19	13	10
Lower (%)	16	24	19	34	34
Balance of opinion	6	-8	0	-20	-24
	Third quarter 2007	Fourth quarter 2007	First quarter 2008	Second quarter 2008	Third quarter 2008
			%		
Business impediments					
Exchange rate fluctuations	45	52	43	53	46
Excess room supply	23	28	31	26	27
Shortage of unskilled labour	39	28	31	28	31
Shortage of skilled labour	34	27	28	27	28
Lack of attractions or complementary facilities in the vicinity	18	20	17	17	16
Canada's reputation as a desired tourist destination	14	11	13	17	16
Regional economic conditions	8	11	12	23	29
Abnormal weather and/or natural disasters	6	8	11	8	9
Security concerns	3	2	5	4	3
Public health	2	0	1	0	1
No difficulties at this time	19	21	23	17	17

Note: Results have been rounded.

Primary iron and steel

August 2008

Data on primary iron and steel are now available for August.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.

The August 2008 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XWE, free) will soon be available.

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.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

The Consumer Price Index, September 2008, Vol. 87, no. 9
Catalogue number 62-001-XPE (\$12/\$111).

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

The Consumer Price Index, September 2008, Vol. 87, no. 9
Catalogue number 62-001-XWE
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Perspectives on Labour and Income, October 2008, Vol. 9, no. 10
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(free).

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
Released at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 2

The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several exported commodities compared with a lower level of imports. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the expansion-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

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2006 Census profiles

Within the releases of the census and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions. To obtain these profiles in electronic format (links vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.




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Release dates: October 27 to 31, 2008

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
29	Aboriginal Children's Survey	2006
29	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	August 2008
29	Employment Insurance	August 2008
30	Industrial product and raw materials price indexes	September 2008
31	Gross domestic product by industry	August 2008
