

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Sales of new motor vehicles fell 14.8% in December to 109,831 units. This was the largest monthly decline and lowest sales level since January 1998, when an ice storm crippled parts of the country.	
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Releases

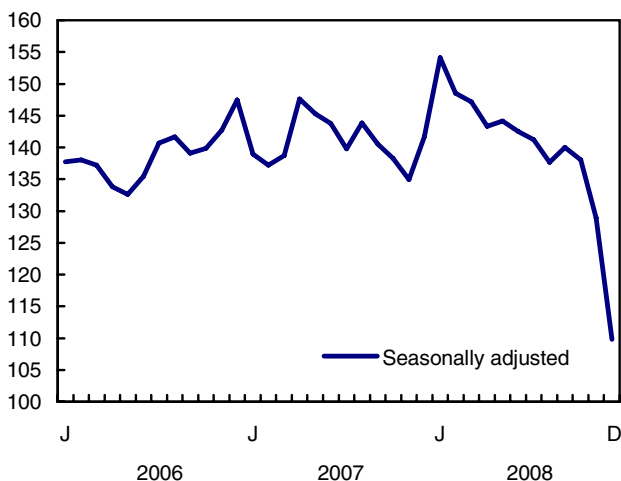
New motor vehicle sales

December 2008

Sales of new motor vehicles fell 14.8% in December to 109,831 units. This was the largest monthly decline and lowest sales level since January 1998, when an ice storm crippled parts of the country.

New motor vehicle sales have been falling since September

thousands of units



Note: The last few months could be subject to revisions when more data are added.

After sharp declines in November and December, preliminary industry data indicate that the number of new motor vehicles sold rose by about 6% in January.

Passenger car and truck sales both drop in December

Sales of new trucks (which include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, light and heavy trucks, vans and buses) fell 20.4% to 50,997 units. This was the largest decrease for this vehicle type since January 1998.

Sales of passenger cars declined 9.2% to 58,834 units in December. This decline reflects lower sales of North American built passenger cars, which fell 14.8%. This was the largest decline by passenger cars of this origin since January 2007. Sales of overseas-built passenger cars were flat.

Sales down in all provinces

New motor vehicle sales were down in all provinces in December. The largest drops were in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Ontario, with sales declines of over 15% each.

Available on CANSIM: table 079-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

The December 2008 issue of *New Motor Vehicle Sales* (63-007-XWE, free) will be available soon.

Data on new motor vehicle sales for January will be released on March 20.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Switzer (613-951-7137), Distributive Trades Division.

□

New motor vehicle sales

	December 2007	November 2008 ^f	December 2008 ^p	December 2007 to December 2008	November to December 2008
Seasonally adjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	141,649	128,882	109,831	-22.5	-14.8
Passenger cars	69,332	64,777	58,834	-15.1	-9.2
North American ¹	43,062	39,898	33,996	-21.1	-14.8
Overseas	26,270	24,879	24,838	-5.5	-0.2
Trucks, vans and buses	72,317	64,105	50,997	-29.5	-20.4
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,412	2,206	2,042	-15.3	-7.4
Prince Edward Island	463	439	385	-16.8	-12.3
Nova Scotia	4,203	4,010	3,487	-17.0	-13.0
New Brunswick	3,082	2,954	2,715	-11.9	-8.1
Quebec	33,888	32,755	30,388	-10.3	-7.2
Ontario	51,004	45,384	36,785	-27.9	-18.9
Manitoba	4,052	3,847	3,470	-14.4	-9.8
Saskatchewan	4,220	4,382	3,235	-23.3	-26.2
Alberta	21,484	18,761	16,110	-25.0	-14.1
British Columbia ²	16,841	14,144	11,214	-33.4	-20.7
	December 2007	November 2008 ^f	December 2008 ^p	December 2007 to December 2008	
Unadjusted					
	number of vehicles			% change	
New motor vehicles	122,954	107,709	97,164	-21.0	
Passenger cars	52,979	51,476	44,974	-15.1	
North American ¹	34,864	31,930	28,021	-19.6	
Overseas	18,115	19,546	16,953	-6.4	
Trucks, vans and buses	69,975	56,233	52,190	-25.4	
New motor vehicles					
Newfoundland and Labrador	1,577	1,662	1,404	-11.0	
Prince Edward Island	334	339	297	-11.1	
Nova Scotia	3,269	3,027	2,783	-14.9	
New Brunswick	2,425	2,130	2,153	-11.2	
Quebec	23,786	24,546	21,582	-9.3	
Ontario	47,060	39,881	35,481	-24.6	
Manitoba	3,785	3,222	3,317	-12.4	
Saskatchewan	4,078	3,780	3,432	-15.8	
Alberta	20,240	17,286	15,526	-23.3	
British Columbia ²	16,400	11,836	11,189	-31.8	

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

2. Includes Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

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



Non-residential Building Construction Price Index

Fourth quarter 2008

The composite price index for non-residential building construction decreased 2.8% in the fourth quarter to 151.5 (2002=100) compared with the previous quarter. The quarterly decrease was mostly the result of the decline in construction material prices and a weakening of the non-residential building construction market.

Compared with the fourth quarter of 2007, the composite price index for non-residential building construction was up 8.2%.

Of the seven census metropolitan areas (CMAs) surveyed, Edmonton recorded the highest quarterly decrease (-5.3%), while Montréal (+1.1%) registered the largest increase. The quarterly decrease for Edmonton was the largest recorded for this CMA since the index was first published in the first quarter of 1981.

Compared with the fourth quarter of 2007, Calgary had the largest increase (+10.4%), while Vancouver (+4.0%) recorded the smallest year-over-year increase.

Note: In the fourth quarter of 2008, the five building models used in the calculation of non-residential building construction price indexes were replaced with updated models. Also, the base year was changed to 2002=100.

The Non-residential Building Construction Price Index provides an indication of the changes in new construction costs in six census metropolitan

areas or CMAs (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ottawa part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Three construction categories (industrial, commercial and institutional buildings) are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school). Besides the CMA and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the changes in costs is available by trade group (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical) within the building types.

These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0043 and 327-0044.

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

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

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: 613-951-2848; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Prices Division.

Non-residential building construction price indexes¹

	Fourth quarter 2008	Fourth quarter 2007 to fourth quarter 2008	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2008
	(2002=100)	% change	
Composite	151.5	8.2	-2.8
Halifax	136.3	6.7	0.1
Montréal	133.6	8.3	1.1
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ottawa part	141.8	8.7	-1.4
Toronto	147.0	9.1	-1.5
Calgary	178.1	10.4	-4.6
Edmonton	170.2	7.1	-5.3
Vancouver	157.3	4.0	-4.4

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

Personal services industry 2007

Total operating revenues for the personal services industry reached \$9.1 billion in 2007, up 5.5% from 2006.

Personal care services, the largest of the four sectors of the industry, increased revenues by 6.8%. This sector accounted for \$4.2 billion, or 46% of total revenues.

The other three sectors of the industry include funeral services, which accounted for 17% of revenues, dry cleaning and laundry, 22%, and other personal services, 15%.

Operating expenses for the entire industry reached \$8.1 billion, up 5.4% from a year earlier. As a result, overall operating profit margins increased to 10.2% from 10.1% in 2006.

Firms in Ontario accounted for 43% of revenues, followed by those in Quebec at 20%.

Firms in British Columbia (+9.4%) recorded the highest annual revenue growth rate.

Note: Industry data on expenses, salaries and wages and profit margins for Canada and the provinces are now available for 2007.

All data in this release are expressed in current dollars.

Available on CANSIM: table 359-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2424.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bob Allan (613-951-2648; fax: 613-951-6696; bob.allan@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division.

Total operating revenue of the personal services industry

	2006	2007	2006 to 2007
	\$ millions		% change
Personal care services	3,912.7	4,177.1	6.8
Funeral services	1,476.0	1,523.0	3.2
Dry cleaning and laundry	1,964.6	2,019.8	2.8
Other personal services	1,241.7	1,350.5	8.8
Total	8,595.0	9,070.4	5.5

Air fare 2006

The average domestic and international air fare (all types) paid by passengers was \$252.00 in 2006, up 0.3% from \$251.20 in 2005, continuing the upward trend that began in 2004.

The average domestic air fare (all types) paid by passengers was \$192.00 in 2006, up 0.3% from \$191.40 in 2005, a slowdown from the 5.9% rate of growth posted in 2005.

The average international air fare (all types) was \$350.20 in 2006, up 1.4% from \$345.50 in 2005. This increase followed the 4.6% decline reported between 2004 and 2005.

In 2006, 97.3% of passengers on domestic and international scheduled services flew on discount fares, up 0.5 percentage points from 96.8% in 2005.

On domestic scheduled services, 96.4% of passengers travelled on discount fares in 2006, up 0.5 percentage points from 95.9% in 2005.

On international scheduled services, 98.9% of passengers flew on discount fares in 2006,

up 0.6 percentage points from 98.3% in 2005. In 2004, discounted passengers accounted for 99.0% of total international traffic.

Note: Average air fares are calculated for each flight stage. When the passenger boards the aircraft at one airport and departs the aircraft at another airport is considered a flight stage.

Fare Basis Survey data are now available for 2006. The survey covers Air Canada, Jazz, Air Canada's Canadian regional code-share partners, Air Transat and WestJet.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2708.

The air fare data will appear in the publication *Aviation: Service Bulletin*, Vol. 41, no. 2 (51-004-XWE, free), which will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division.

Dairy statistics

December 2008 (preliminary)

Cheese manufacturers produced 13 391 metric tonnes of cheddar cheese and 15 177 metric tonnes of specialty cheeses in December. Processed cheese production stood at 5 559 metric tonnes.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0007 to 003-0012, 003-0029, 003-0033 and 003-0034.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3430, 3431 and 3432.

The fourth quarter 2008 issue of *Dairy Statistics*, Vol. 3, no. 4 (23-014-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 Anna Michalowska (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; 613-951-2442; fax: 613-951-3868), Agriculture Division. ■

New products

Dairy Statistics, fourth quarter 2008, Vol. 3, no. 4
Catalogue number 23-014-XWE
(free).

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

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

How to order products

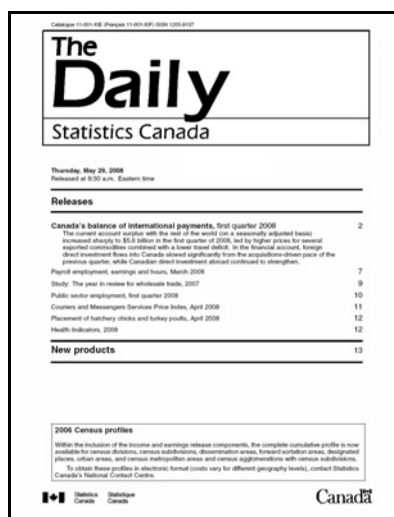
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Release dates: February 16 to 20, 2009

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	December 2008
16	Canada's international transactions in securities	December 2008
17	Livestock statistics	January 1, 2009
18	Wholesale trade	December 2008
19	Measuring the contribution of the unincorporated sector in the Canadian economy	1997 to 2002
19	Aboriginal Peoples Survey	2006
19	Travel between Canada and other countries	December 2008
19	Leading indicators	January 2009
20	Consumer Price Index	January 2009