

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Health Reports

February 2009

The February 2009 edition of *Health Reports* contains two articles.

The article, "The natural history of health-related quality of life: A 10-year cohort study," describes how Canadians' health evolves as they age from mid- to late life. Unlike many other studies, the analysis follows individuals through the transition from households to institutions. For more information, contact Heather M. Orpana (613-951-1650; heather.orpana@statcan.gc.ca), Health Information and Research Division.

The article, "Combining cycles of the Canadian Community Health Survey," presents methods of combining cycles of the Canadian Community Health Survey and discusses issues to consider if these data are to be combined. For more information, contact Steven Thomas (613-951-7300; steven.thomas@statcan.gc.ca), Household Survey Methods Division.

The February 2009 online edition of *Health Reports*, Vol. 20, no. 1 (82-003-XWE, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Christine Wright (613-951-1765; christine.wright@statcan.gc.ca), Health Information and Research Division.



Releases

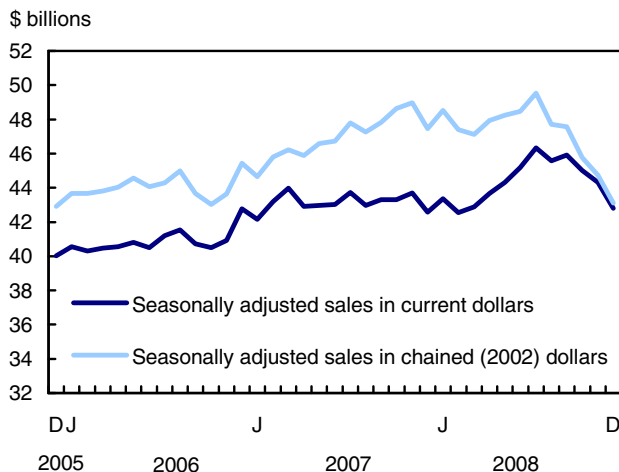
Wholesale trade

December 2008

Wholesale sales declined 3.4% to \$42.8 billion in December, the largest month-over-month decrease since August 2003.

In terms of the volume of sales, wholesale sales fell 3.6%.

Wholesale sales fall for fourth time in five months



Canadian wholesalers sell to both the domestic and international markets, and are active importers and exporters. The decline in sales reflected both lower export demand for Canadian goods, a significant part of which flows through wholesale markets, and weaker sales in Canada.

In December, five out of seven sectors, which account for about two-thirds of wholesale sales, reported declines.

The machinery and electronic equipment sector declined 4.5% in December.

The automotive products sector declined 3.4% to \$6.5 billion. Sales of motor vehicles fell 5.0% to \$4.8 billion, their lowest level since May 2001.

Wholesalers in the building materials sector reported a 4.8% decrease, reflecting declines in the three trade groups: building supplies (-5.1%), metal products (-2.1%) and lumber and millwork (-7.9%).

Only two sectors posted an increase in sales in December: the food, beverages and tobacco sector

Note to readers

Wholesale sales in volume terms are calculated by deflating current dollar values using import and industry product price indexes. Since many of the goods sold by wholesalers are imported, fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar can have an important influence on the prices of goods bought and sold by wholesalers.

The wholesale sales series in chained (2002) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index with 2002 as the reference year.

(+1.2%) and the personal and household goods sector (+0.4%).

The largest decline in December occurred in the "other products" sector, which ranges from recycled metal, recycled paper and paperboard, stationery and office supplies, and other paper and disposable plastic products wholesalers, to agricultural feed and seed wholesalers and agricultural chemical and other farm suppliers, chemical (except agricultural) and allied products, and all other wholesalers.

Sales in this broad sector, which accounted for almost 40% of the decline in total wholesale sales, fell 10.4%. The main contributors were declines in agricultural chemical and other farm supplies, non-agricultural chemicals, and recyclable metals. Since August 2008, when this sector reached a high of \$6.7 billion, sales have fallen 23.1%.

Wholesale sales down in all provinces

Wholesale sales were down in all 10 provinces. In Ontario, they fell 1.3% and in Quebec, they dropped 3.6%.

In December, lower sales of motor vehicles and declines in the "other products" sector were the major contributors to the decreases in Ontario. In Quebec, the decline reflected weakness in a number of sectors led by "other products" and building materials.

In the West, the largest decline occurred in Saskatchewan (-14.9%), where sales have lost a quarter of their value since their August 2008 high.

In Alberta, sales fell 6.0%, while British Columbia posted a 6.1% decline. Sales in both provinces reflected weakness in the "other products," machinery and electronic equipment and building materials sectors.

Declines within the Atlantic provinces ranged from 2.1% in Nova Scotia to 6.4% in Prince Edward Island.

Slight increase in inventories

Inventories edged up 0.1% in December.

Of the 15 wholesale trade groups, 9 reported higher inventory levels, including apparel (+3.7%), pharmaceuticals (+1.6%), building supplies (+1.3%) and motor vehicle parts and accessories (+0.5%).

These increases were partially offset by declines in computer and other electronic equipment (-8.6%) and lumber and millwork (-4.4%) inventories.

The slowdown in sales and rise in inventories led to an increase in the inventory-to-sales ratio from 1.32 in November to 1.37 in December. 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.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

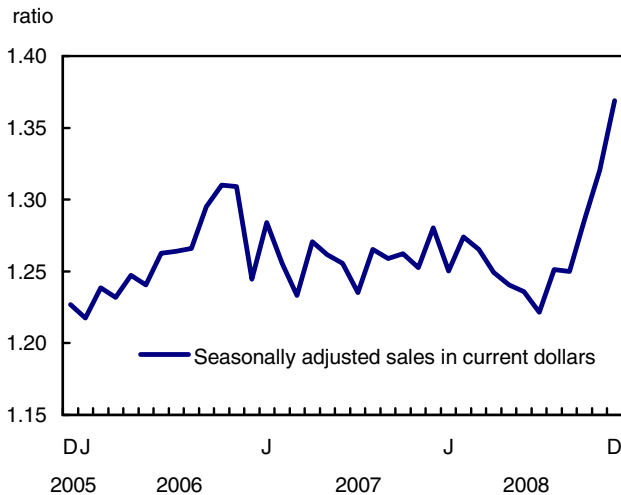
The December 2008 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-XWE, free) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade estimates for January will be released on March 18.

To obtain data or general information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Steve Chadder (613-951-0303; steve.chadder@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Inventory-to-sales ratio continues to increase



Wholesale merchants' sales

	December 2007	September 2008 ^r	October 2008 ^r	November 2008 ^r	December 2008 ^p	November to December 2008	December 2007 to December 2008
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	42,571	45,915	45,018	44,327	42,809	-3.4	0.6
Farm products	447	471	459	491	440	-10.4	-1.6
Food, beverages and tobacco products	7,344	7,876	7,989	7,979	8,075	1.2	10.0
Food products	6,676	7,175	7,294	7,334	7,378	0.6	10.5
Alcohol and tobacco	667	701	695	645	697	8.0	4.4
Personal and household goods	6,591	6,823	6,721	6,735	6,764	0.4	2.6
Apparel	805	828	837	878	831	-5.4	3.2
Household and personal products	2,750	2,746	2,672	2,621	2,668	1.8	-3.0
Pharmaceuticals	3,036	3,249	3,212	3,236	3,265	0.9	7.5
Automotive products	7,335	7,279	6,855	6,682	6,453	-3.4	-12.0
Motor vehicles	5,838	5,591	5,193	5,053	4,799	-5.0	-17.8
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,497	1,688	1,661	1,629	1,654	1.5	10.5
Building materials	6,154	6,624	6,622	6,522	6,211	-4.8	0.9
Building supplies	3,743	3,960	3,957	3,966	3,762	-5.1	0.5
Metal products	1,443	1,715	1,717	1,652	1,617	-2.1	12.1
Lumber and millwork	968	949	948	904	832	-7.9	-14.0
Machinery and electronic equipment	9,188	10,314	10,254	10,147	9,695	-4.5	5.5
Machinery and equipment	4,551	5,321	5,296	5,235	4,914	-6.1	8.0
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,618	2,880	2,837	2,813	2,699	-4.0	3.1
Office and professional equipment	2,019	2,114	2,121	2,099	2,081	-0.8	3.1
Other products	5,513	6,527	6,117	5,772	5,172	-10.4	-6.2
Total, excluding automobiles	35,236	38,636	38,163	37,645	36,356	-3.4	3.2
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	247	283	293	290	277	-4.6	11.9
Prince Edward Island	36	41	43	46	43	-6.4	18.0
Nova Scotia	552	617	614	605	592	-2.1	7.4
New Brunswick	433	483	457	446	435	-2.4	0.6
Quebec	7,924	8,817	8,570	8,413	8,111	-3.6	2.4
Ontario	21,469	22,174	21,598	21,301	21,029	-1.3	-2.1
Manitoba	1,013	1,087	1,043	1,035	1,003	-3.2	-1.0
Saskatchewan	1,290	1,846	1,789	1,760	1,498	-14.9	16.1
Alberta	5,183	5,949	6,079	5,946	5,589	-6.0	7.8
British Columbia	4,349	4,542	4,465	4,420	4,149	-6.1	-4.6
Yukon	11	13	12	11	11	1.4	-2.6
Northwest Territories	61	58	50	53	54	1.3	-11.7
Nunavut	3	5	3	2	18	705.3	602.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note: Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	December 2007	September 2008 ^r	October 2008 ^r	November 2008 ^r	December 2008 ^p	November to December 2008	December 2007 to December 2008	November 2008 ^r	December 2008 ^p
	Wholesale inventories							Inventory-to-sales ratio	
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions				% change				
Inventories	54,504	57,387	57,881	58,537	58,601	0.1	7.5	1.32	1.37
Farm products	166	183	183	181	185	2.2	11.4	0.37	0.42
Food products	4,124	4,538	4,600	4,660	4,658	-0.1	12.9	0.64	0.63
Alcohol and tobacco	318	365	374	381	369	-3.2	16.0	0.59	0.53
Apparel	1,800	1,917	1,944	1,952	2,025	3.7	12.5	2.22	2.44
Household and personal products	4,053	4,030	4,202	4,151	4,093	-1.4	1.0	1.58	1.53
Pharmaceuticals	3,552	3,901	3,849	4,011	4,077	1.6	14.8	1.24	1.25
Motor vehicles	4,637	4,547	4,535	4,441	4,360	-1.8	-6.0	0.88	0.91
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,225	3,295	3,292	3,376	3,393	0.5	5.2	2.07	2.05
Building supplies	6,105	6,122	6,142	6,232	6,314	1.3	3.4	1.57	1.68
Metal products	2,806	3,141	3,206	3,209	3,246	1.1	15.7	1.94	2.01
Lumber and millwork	1,133	1,212	1,195	1,176	1,124	-4.4	-0.8	1.30	1.35
Machinery and equipment	11,643	11,909	11,996	12,225	12,359	1.1	6.1	2.34	2.52
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,660	1,827	1,845	1,950	1,782	-8.6	7.3	0.69	0.66
Office and professional equipment	2,673	2,840	2,870	2,872	2,884	0.4	7.9	1.37	1.39
Other products	6,608	7,560	7,650	7,720	7,733	0.2	17.0	1.34	1.50

^r revised

^p preliminary

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



Apartment Building Construction Price Index

Fourth quarter 2008

The composite price index for apartment building construction decreased 2.6% from the previous quarter to 145.0 (2002=100) in the fourth quarter of 2008. The quarterly decrease was mostly the result of the decline in construction material prices and a weakening of the building construction market.

Of the seven census metropolitan areas surveyed, Edmonton recorded the highest quarterly decrease (-6.1%), while Montréal (+0.9%) registered the largest increase.

Compared with the fourth quarter of 2007, the composite price index for apartment building construction was up 4.8%. Toronto had the largest year-over-year increase (+7.3%), while Vancouver (+0.8%) recorded the smallest increase.

Note: In the fourth quarter of 2008, the building model used to calculate the Apartment Building Construction Price Index was replaced with an updated model. Also, the base year was changed to 2002=100.

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 Ottawa 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 327-0044.

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 or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-3117; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Prices Division.

Apartment Building Construction Price Index¹

	Fourth quarter 2008	Fourth quarter 2007 to fourth quarter 2008	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2008
	(2002=100)	% change	
Composite index	145.0	4.8	-2.6
Halifax	130.8	5.4	0.4
Montréal	131.8	6.5	0.9
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ottawa part	137.7	7.0	-1.2
Toronto	141.2	7.3	-1.1
Calgary	173.3	7.0	-4.6
Edmonton	164.4	4.2	-6.1
Vancouver	155.7	0.8	-4.7

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

Fruit and vegetable production 2008

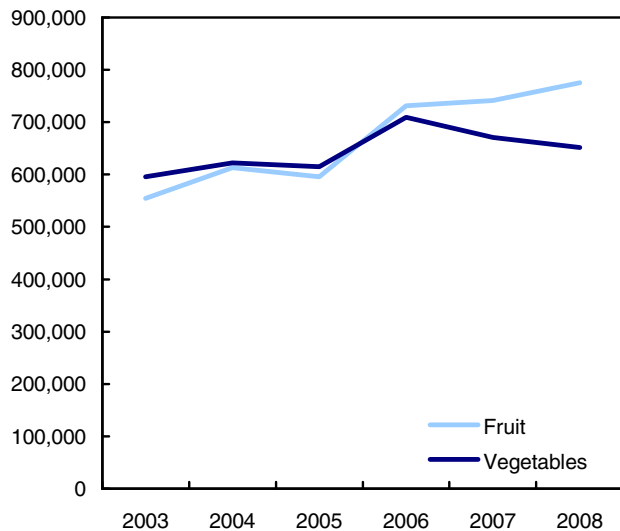
Total sales of fruit and vegetables by Canadian farmers amounted to over \$1.4 billion in 2008, up \$14.7 million from 2007. Fruit crops accounted for just over one-half of the total.

Farmers received \$775 million for fruit crops, up 4.6% from 2007. The increase was driven by the processing market, especially by gains in sales of blueberries, cranberries and vinifera grapes for processing.

Sales for vegetables fell 2.9% to \$651 million. The decline affected both the processing and fresh markets. Historically, about three-quarters of the value of vegetables come from fresh market sales, while the rest comes from sales to processors. This was the case in 2008.

Fruit and vegetable sales

\$ thousands



Farmers planted 543,310 acres in fruits and vegetables in 2008, down 5.8% or 33,375 acres from 2007. The reduced planting area, combined with inclement weather in some regions, resulted in a 7.5% decline in production of fruits and vegetables.

Sweet corn, the largest vegetable crop, accounted for more than 20% of the 258,650 acres of vegetables planted in 2008. Green peas were the second largest, with 14.0% of acreage. Except for radishes and spinach, plantings fell for all vegetables.

Farmers had 284,660 acres in fruit in 2008, down 2.4% from 2007. Blueberries accounted for almost half of this acreage, followed by apples (17.4%) and vinifera grapes (7.7%). Farmers planted more cranberries and blueberries in 2008, while the area for apples declined, partly because of replanting programs in some provinces.

Farmers in just two provinces (Ontario and Quebec) accounted for more than 80% of sales of vegetables. The vast majority of fruit sales came from three provinces: British Columbia, 35.3%, Ontario, 29.2%, and Quebec, 23.1%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 001-0009 and 001-0013.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3407 and 3411.

The February 2009 issue of *Fruit and Vegetable Production* (22-003-XWE, free), which is published twice a year in June and February, will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Lorie Shinder (613-951-0524; lorie.shinder@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. □

Fruit and vegetable sales

	2007	2008	2007 to 2008
	\$ millions		% change
Fruit			
Canada	741	775	4.6
Atlantic provinces	97	92	-5.7
Quebec	151	179	19.1
Ontario	236	226	-4.0
Prairies	5	5	-1.9
British Columbia	253	273	8.0
Vegetables			
Canada	671	651	-2.9
Atlantic provinces	35	31	-12.0
Quebec	248	250	0.8
Ontario	292	283	-2.9
Prairies	45	42	-7.4
British Columbia	53	47	-10.5

Stocks of frozen poultry meat

February 1, 2009 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage on February 1 totalled 65 684 metric tonnes, up 4.4% from a year ago.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0023 and 003-0024.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Venturino (613-951-9278; sandra.venturino@statcan.gc.ca) or Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; bernadette.alain@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Primary iron and steel

December 2008

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

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

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

The December 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

Health Reports, Vol. 20, no. 1
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