

The Daily

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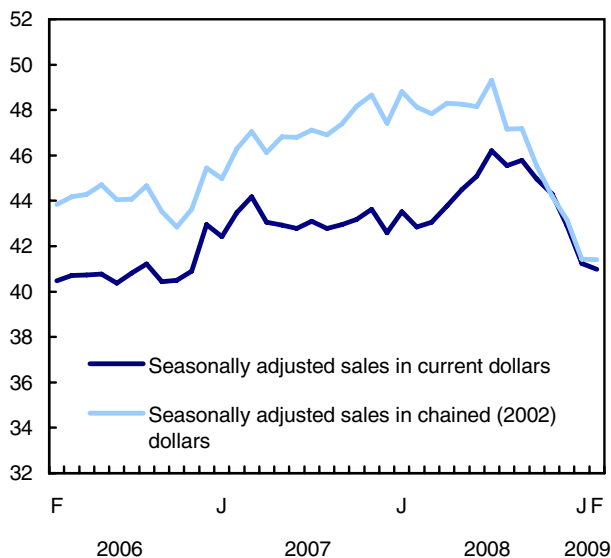
Wholesale trade

February 2009

Wholesale sales fell 0.6% to \$41.0 billion in current dollars in February. Declining sales in the machinery and equipment trade group and the "other products" sector were major factors contributing to this decrease. In terms of the volume of sales, wholesale sales were flat.

Wholesale sales fall for sixth time in seven months

\$ billions



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 February, four out of seven sectors, accounting for over two-thirds of total wholesale sales, posted declines.

The machinery and electronic equipment sector declined 1.6%, largely as a result of lower sales in the machinery and equipment trade group (-5.2%), which accounts for close to half of the sales in this sector. Within this trade group, declines were observed in industrial as well as in mining, oil and gas well machinery and equipment wholesalers.

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.

Unadjusted monthly data were revised as of January 2006, while seasonally adjusted estimates were revised as of January 2004. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of respondent information, correction of information on data provided, the replacement of estimated figures with actual values (once available), the re-classification of companies within, into and out of the wholesale trade industry and updates to seasonal and trading day factors.

Data in constant prices have also been revised to incorporate the revision to the current dollar series for the period from 2004 to date.

The revised data are now available on CANSIM and by special request, and will also appear in the February 2009 issue of Wholesale Trade (63-008-XWE, free).

Sales in the "other products" sector fell 4.0% to \$5.3 billion in February, offsetting a 4.0% rise in January. The main contributors were declines in all other wholesalers and agricultural chemical and other farm supplies. This was the lowest level in this sector since August 2007. The "other products" sector includes a wide range of wholesaling activity ranging 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.

Declines were also seen in the food and beverages sector (-1.0%) and the building materials sector (-0.9%).

The largest increase came in the automotive products sector, which rose 4.0% in February, following a 21.8% decline in January. Sales of motor vehicles increased 9.4%, offsetting some of the losses in January. Sales in motor vehicle parts and accessories fell 7.6% in February, its largest drop since April 2003.

Wholesale sales down in five provinces

Provincially, Saskatchewan registered the largest decrease (-6.4%) in February, following a 10.7% increase in January. Lower sales in the "other products"

Wholesale merchants' inventories and inventory-to-sales ratio

	February 2008	November 2008 ^r	December 2008 ^r	January 2009 ^r	February 2009 ^p	January to February 2009	February 2008 to February 2009	January 2009 ^r	February 2009 ^p
	Wholesale inventories					Inventory-to-sales ratio			
	Seasonally adjusted								
	\$ millions					% change			
Inventories	54,308	58,746	58,667	58,828	58,862	0.1	8.4	1.43	1.44
Farm products	172	180	179	176	170	-3.4	-1.5	0.38	0.36
Food products	4,258	4,682	4,623	4,630	4,643	0.3	9.0	0.62	0.63
Alcohol and tobacco	359	431	400	420	430	2.2	19.9	0.55	0.55
Apparel	1,785	1,975	2,057	2,106	2,096	-0.5	17.4	2.53	2.44
Household and personal products	4,045	4,124	4,071	4,084	4,048	-0.9	0.1	1.54	1.51
Pharmaceuticals	3,802	4,035	4,112	4,087	4,097	0.2	7.8	1.24	1.24
Motor vehicles	4,559	4,368	4,268	4,096	4,099	0.1	-10.1	1.20	1.09
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,201	3,352	3,382	3,350	3,343	-0.2	4.4	2.06	2.23
Building supplies	5,915	6,270	6,362	6,412	6,498	1.3	9.9	1.76	1.79
Metal products	2,781	3,209	3,251	3,274	3,287	0.4	18.2	2.24	2.45
Lumber and millwork	1,061	1,118	1,054	1,048	1,023	-2.5	-3.6	1.46	1.31
Machinery and equipment	11,448	12,383	12,388	12,537	12,504	-0.3	9.2	2.61	2.75
Computer and other electronic equipment	1,657	1,917	1,773	1,764	1,738	-1.5	4.9	0.72	0.67
Office and professional equipment	2,636	2,885	2,912	2,950	2,995	1.5	13.6	1.39	1.43
Other products	6,629	7,818	7,837	7,892	7,890	0.0	19.0	1.43	1.49

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Wholesale merchants' sales

	February 2008	November 2008 ^r	December 2008 ^r	January 2009 ^r	February 2009 ^p	January to February 2009	February 2008 to February 2009
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
Total, wholesale sales	42,855	44,303	42,912	41,237	40,979	-0.6	-4.4
Farm products	459	480	437	459	469	2.1	2.2
Food, beverages and tobacco products	7,624	8,020	8,157	8,231	8,147	-1.0	6.9
Food products	6,843	7,290	7,369	7,462	7,365	-1.3	7.6
Alcohol and tobacco	781	730	789	769	782	1.7	0.2
Personal and household goods	6,501	6,744	6,753	6,784	6,827	0.6	5.0
Apparel	789	888	822	833	859	3.1	8.9
Household and personal products	2,683	2,622	2,666	2,658	2,675	0.7	-0.3
Pharmaceuticals	3,030	3,234	3,264	3,294	3,293	0.0	8.7
Automotive products	7,065	6,716	6,457	5,051	5,250	4.0	-25.7
Motor vehicles	5,527	5,093	4,806	3,425	3,749	9.4	-32.2
Motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,538	1,623	1,651	1,625	1,502	-7.6	-2.3
Building materials	6,050	6,456	6,147	5,817	5,764	-0.9	-4.7
Building supplies	3,714	3,974	3,795	3,635	3,639	0.1	-2.0
Metal products	1,480	1,627	1,573	1,463	1,343	-8.2	-9.3
Lumber and millwork	856	856	778	719	782	8.8	-8.7
Machinery and electronic equipment	9,260	10,126	9,658	9,380	9,225	-1.6	-0.4
Machinery and equipment	4,713	5,253	4,907	4,805	4,553	-5.2	-3.4
Computer and other electronic equipment	2,580	2,782	2,657	2,456	2,582	5.1	0.1
Office and professional equipment	1,966	2,092	2,094	2,118	2,090	-1.3	6.3
Other products	5,897	5,760	5,302	5,516	5,296	-4.0	-10.2
Total, excluding automobiles	35,790	37,587	36,455	36,187	35,729	-1.3	-0.2
Sales, province and territory							
Newfoundland and Labrador	248	285	279	278	292	5.0	18.1
Prince Edward Island	38	44	40	38	37	-3.1	-1.4
Nova Scotia	570	606	591	568	591	4.0	3.7
New Brunswick	425	452	441	438	438	0.1	3.0
Quebec	8,181	8,352	8,207	8,008	8,117	1.4	-0.8
Ontario	20,945	21,354	20,862	19,493	19,365	-0.7	-7.5
Manitoba	1,164	1,102	1,074	1,114	1,124	0.9	-3.4
Saskatchewan	1,467	1,741	1,507	1,668	1,561	-6.4	6.4
Alberta	5,382	5,887	5,638	5,488	5,310	-3.2	-1.3
British Columbia	4,360	4,414	4,194	4,065	4,057	-0.2	-6.9
Yukon	14	11	11	11	11	3.2	-19.4
Northwest Territories	58	54	53	59	58	-2.3	-0.7
Nunavut	3	3	16	7	16	121.0	500.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

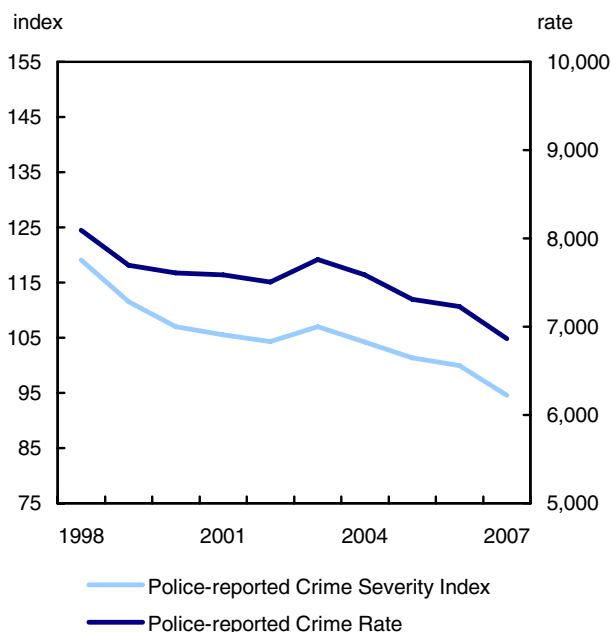
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Police-reported Crime Severity Index

1998 to 2007

According to the new Police-reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI), police-reported crime in Canada in 2007 was less serious overall than 10 years earlier. The traditional Police-reported Crime Rate (PRCR), which tracks the volume of police-reported crime, also dropped over the 10 years, but to a lesser degree. However, the seriousness of police-reported violent crime did not follow this downward trend and remained stable.

Police-reported overall Crime Severity Index and Police-reported Crime Rate, 1998 to 2007



The Police-reported Crime Severity Index tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime. Each offence is assigned a weight and more serious crimes are assigned higher weights, or relative importance. Changes in more serious crimes, such as break-ins and robberies, drive changes in the index.

Crime severity is expressed as an index for which 2006 is the base year at 100. In 2007, the index for overall crime was 94.6, down from 119.1 in 1998. This means that crime severity fell by about 20% during the decade. The 10-year decline was driven by a 40% drop in break-ins.

Note to readers

This release launches the Police-reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI), a new tool that, for the first time, tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime.

For a full explanation of the index and how it is calculated, consult the report Measuring Crime in Canada: Introducing the Crime Severity Index and Improvements to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (85-004-XWE, free). A short background is also available by request.

The new index adds to existing measures of crime. The traditional Police-reported Crime Rate (PRCR) will continue to be released annually. Statistics Canada also releases victimization data from the General Social Survey every five years. The new index will become part of Statistics Canada's annual release of police-reported crime statistics in July 2009.

The index was developed in response to a request by the police community to create a measure of crime that reflects the relative seriousness of different offences and addresses limitations of the current Police-reported Crime Rate. Its development was guided by a Working Group comprised of representatives from police; federal, provincial/territorial justice partners; and academics.

The Police-reported Crime Rate, which measures changes in the volume of crime, counts each criminal incident equally. As a result, the rate is dominated by high volume, less-serious offences.

The Police-reported Crime Severity Index measures changes in the severity of crime from year to year. Each type of offence is assigned a weight derived from actual sentences handed down by courts in all provinces and territories. Weights are calculated using the five most recent years of available sentencing data.

More serious crimes are assigned higher weights, less serious offences lower weights. As a result, when all crimes are included, more serious offences have a greater impact on changes in the index.

The seriousness of police-reported crime fell in every year during the decade, except for 2003. In that year, the index rose as a result of increases in robberies and break-ins.

The traditional Police-reported Crime Rate measures changes in the volume of police-reported crime. The majority of offences making up the rate are high-volume, less-serious offences, such as mischief and minor thefts.

The Police-reported Crime Rate also dropped between 1998 and 2007 but to a lesser degree than the index. The volume of police-reported crime fell by 15% compared with the 21% decline in the severity of crime.

The index and the rate provide different information on police-reported crime trends and may diverge at points. For example, between 1999 and 2002, the Police-reported Crime Rate was relatively stable while there was a notable drop in crime severity.

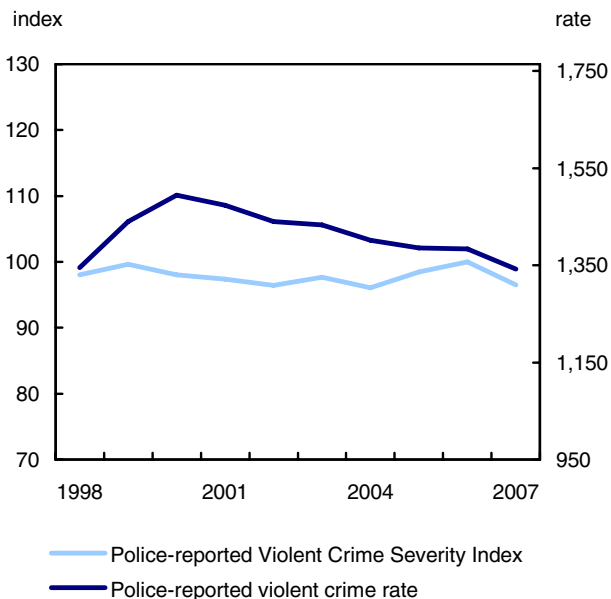
The severity index fell due to a decrease in several serious crimes, such as break-ins (-16%) and robberies

(-11%), while an increase in reported incidents of mischief kept the rate stable.

Police-reported violent crime severity

The Violent Crime Severity Index and the traditional violent crime rate include only police-reported crimes against the person, such as homicide, robberies and sexual assault. Changes in more serious violent crimes, because they are assigned higher weights, have a greater impact on the violent severity index than on the rate.

Police-reported Violent Crime Severity Index and police-reported violent crime rate, 1998 to 2007



In contrast to the downward trend in the seriousness of police-reported crime as a whole, the index for just violent crime stayed relatively stable during the decade. This suggests that the situation with respect to serious crimes against the person was about the same as 10 years ago.

In 1998, the Violent Crime Severity Index value was 98.0 and in 2007, it was 96.5, a drop of about 2%. The traditional violent crime rate was also at about the same level in 2007 as in 1998.

However, the Violent Crime Severity Index and the rate moved in different directions at various points throughout the decade.

For example, between 2004 and 2006, the violent crime severity index rose by 4%. During this period, there were increases in many serious violent crimes,

including attempted murder and aggravated assault, the most serious form of assault.

These increases were not picked up in the violent crime rate, due to a decline in minor assaults, the highest-volume violent crime.

Severity of crime in the provinces and territories

The Police-reported Crime Severity Index can be used for measuring the increase or decrease in the severity of police-reported crime over time in any given jurisdiction. It can also be used to compare severity among jurisdictions in any given year.

Police-reported crime rates have generally been higher in the west and north than in eastern and central regions of the country. This is also true for crime severity. Provincially, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia had crime severity index values well above the other provinces in 2007.

Ontario and Quebec have had the lowest police-reported crime rates in recent years. However, with respect to the seriousness of police-reported crime, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick had the lowest index values.

Crime severity fell in every province during the 10-year period, with the largest declines in Ontario and Quebec.

Severity of crime in Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver

Among Canada's three largest census metropolitan areas, crime was less serious overall in Toronto in 2007 than in either Montréal or Vancouver.

Canada's largest metropolitan area, Toronto, had a Police-reported Crime Severity Index of 65.6 in 2007, well below the national average of 94.6 and the lowest of all 27 census metropolitan areas.

Montréal had an overall index of 94.3 while Vancouver's overall index was 128.5, well above the national average and sixth highest of all metropolitan areas.

On the other hand, Toronto's violent severity index was almost the same as the national average while the indexes for both Montréal and Vancouver were above. Vancouver's violent index was sixth highest of all the metropolitan areas.

Other census metropolitan areas

Of all census metropolitan areas, overall crime severity was highest in Regina in 2007. Regina's index value of 189.0 was about twice the national average of 94.6. However, the severity of police-reported crime in Regina has been declining in recent years.

Regina was followed by Saskatoon and Winnipeg in 2007. The seriousness of police-reported crime in Saskatoon has also declined in recent years, while in Winnipeg crime severity has remained relatively stable.

Although the Atlantic provinces had below-average Police-reported Crime Severity Index values, this was not the case for the three major metropolitan areas in those provinces. In 2007, Saint John, Halifax and St. John's all had overall index values above the national average.

For violent crime, index values were again highest in Saskatoon, Regina and Winnipeg. Québec had the lowest index value for violent crime.

Available on CANSIM: tables 252-0051 and 252-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3302.

The report, *Measuring Crime in Canada: Introducing the Crime Severity Index and Improvements to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey* (85-004-XWE, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, choose *All subjects*, then *Crime and justice*.

For more information, to obtain the Backgrounder, or to enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Information and Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Police-reported crime rate and Crime Severity Index values, 1998 to 2007

	Police-reported Crime Severity Index	Police-reported Crime Rate ¹	Police-reported Crime Severity Index	Police-reported Crime Rate ²
	total		violent	
1998	119.1	8,092	98.0	1,345
1999	111.5	7,694	99.6	1,440
2000	107.0	7,607	98.0	1,494
2001	105.5	7,586	97.4	1,473
2002	104.3	7,508	96.4	1,440
2003	107.0	7,761	97.7	1,433
2004	104.2	7,587	96.1	1,402
2005	101.4	7,310	98.5	1,386
2006	100.0	7,228	100.0	1,383
2007	94.6	6,862	96.5	1,342
		% change		
1998 to 2007 ³	-20.6	-15.2	-1.6	-0.2

1. The crime rate consists of all Criminal Code offences excluding traffic. It also excludes drug offences and all federal statutes.

2. The violent crime rate has been expanded to include a number of offences not previously included in the violent crime rate, including uttering threats, criminal harassment and forcible confinement.

3. Percent change calculations based on unrounded data.

Note: This table does not show the Non-violent Crime Severity Index or the property and Other Criminal Code crime rate. Rates are expressed per 100,000 population.

Police-reported crime rate and Crime Severity Index values, Canada and the provinces and territories, 2007

	Police-reported Crime Severity Index	Police-reported Crime Rate ¹	Police-reported Crime Severity Index	Police-reported Crime Rate ²
	total		violent	
Newfoundland and Labrador	75.3	6,375	61.8	1,482
Prince Edward Island	62.8	5,976	38.9	1,107
Nova Scotia	90.8	7,490	92.0	1,741
New Brunswick	70.0	5,521	64.2	1,365
Quebec	84.7	5,119	84.1	1,078
Ontario	73.3	5,062	83.1	1,066
Manitoba	149.9	10,868	173.6	1,986
Saskatchewan	164.7	13,270	170.5	2,623
Alberta	115.0	9,214	107.5	1,498
British Columbia	130.6	10,334	117.1	1,778
Yukon	189.2	21,320	196.2	3,969
Northwest Territories	339.2	43,903	345.1	9,396
Nunavut	310.3	29,997	487.7	8,829
Canada	94.6	6,862	96.5	1,342

1. The crime rate consists of all Criminal Code offences excluding traffic. It also excludes drug offences and all federal statutes.

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Note: This table does not show the Non-violent Crime Severity Index or the property and Other Criminal Code crime rate. Rates are expressed per 100,000 population.

Police-reported crime rate and Crime Severity Index values, census metropolitan areas, 2007

	Police-reported Crime Severity Index	Police-reported Crime Rate ¹	Police-reported Crime Severity Index	Police-reported Crime Rate ²
	total		violent	
Population 500,000 and over				
Winnipeg	153.2	9,682	183.4	1,369
Edmonton	131.3	9,524	131.7	1,343
Vancouver	128.5	9,011	128.6	1,478
Montréal	94.3	5,581	108.1	1,088
Calgary	91.8	6,166	92.8	876
Hamilton	83.5	6,824	96.7	1,442
Ottawa	76.6	5,399	77.4	890
Québec	66.4	4,439	56.7	982
Toronto	65.6	4,278	95.0	1,036
100,000 to less than 500,000 population				
Regina	189.0	11,851	185.1	1,871
Saskatoon	158.6	11,623	212.2	2,115
Abbotsford	142.9	10,185	103.3	1,492
Thunder Bay	115.6	8,876	140.2	1,966
Victoria	109.2	9,213	81.2	1,408
Saint John	106.5	8,337	108.8	2,258
Halifax	106.3	8,000	125.3	1,873
St. John's	100.4	7,363	76.4	1,561
London	90.4	7,187	68.6	1,009
Windsor	82.5	6,119	67.1	1,032
Gatineau	81.8	5,689	69.6	1,265
St.Catharines-Niagara	81.4	5,614	64.6	986
Greater Sudbury	79.4	5,539	91.7	1,143
Sherbrooke	74.7	4,785	65.3	827
Kingston	72.7	5,931	62.9	1,282
Trois-Rivières	69.1	4,464	62.5	882
Kitchener	68.6	4,857	64.5	779
Saguenay	66.1	4,364	69.3	1,155

1. The crime rate consists of all Criminal Code offences excluding traffic. It also excludes drug offences and all federal statutes.

2. The violent crime rate has been expanded to include a number of offences not previously included in the violent crime rate, including uttering threats, criminal harassment and forcible confinement.

Note: This table does not show the Non-violent Crime Severity Index or the property and Other Criminal Code crime rate. Rates are expressed per 100,000 population.

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Stocks of frozen poultry meat

April 1, 2009 (preliminary)

Stocks of frozen poultry meat in cold storage totalled 68 891 metric tonnes on April 1, up 3.2% from the same date a year earlier.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3425.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; bernadette.alain@statcan.gc.ca) or Sandra Venturino (613-951-9278; sandra.venturino@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers

February 2009

Data for the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A data table is also available in the *Summary tables* module online.

Note: Monthly Survey of Large Retailers data are normally revised every year. With this release of February 2009 data, the unadjusted series have been revised back to January 2008. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of respondent information, correction of information on data provided. The revised data are now available on CANSIM and by request.

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 Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190), Distributive Trades Division. ■

Crude oil and natural gas production

February 2009 (preliminary)

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

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 dissemination officer (613-951-9497; toll-free 1-866-873-8789; energ@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canada's International Transactions in Securities,
February 2009, Vol. 75, no. 2
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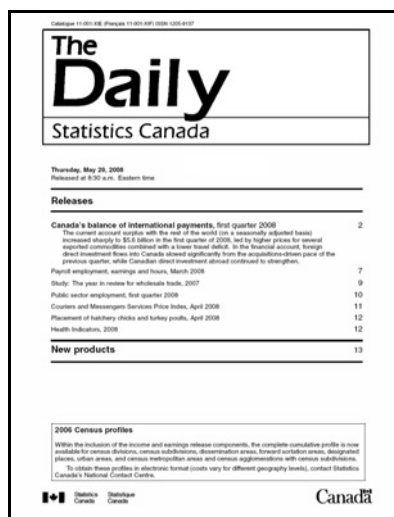
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