

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Police-reported crime statistics, 2008

2

Police-reported crime in Canada continued to decline in 2008. Both the traditional crime rate and the new Crime Severity Index fell 5%, meaning that both the volume of police-reported crime and its severity decreased. Violent crime also dropped, but to a lesser extent.

Incarceration of Aboriginal people in adult correctional services

7

Investment in new housing construction, May 2009

9

Government expenditures on culture, 2006/2007

9

New products

10



Releases

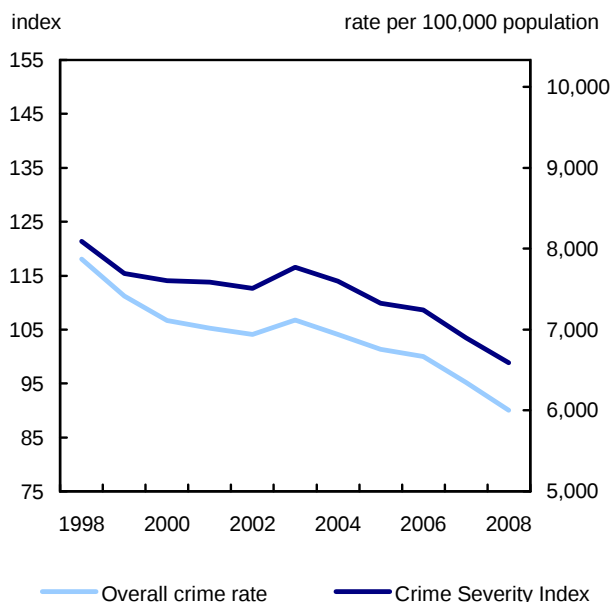
Police-reported crime statistics

2008

Police-reported crime in Canada continued to decline in 2008. Both the traditional crime rate and the new Crime Severity Index fell 5%, meaning that both the volume of police-reported crime and its severity decreased. Violent crime also dropped, but to a lesser extent.

This was the fifth consecutive annual decline in police-reported crime. There were about 77,000 fewer reported crimes in 2008, including 28,000 fewer thefts of \$5,000 and under, 22,000 fewer break-ins and 20,000 fewer motor vehicle thefts.

Police-reported crime rate and Crime Severity Index, Canada



Crime severity was down in virtually all provinces. The largest decline was reported in Manitoba, where the Police-reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI) was down 14%. The one notable exception was a 7% increase in the PRCSI in Prince Edward Island.

About 1 in 5 crimes reported to police is violent. There were 3,500 fewer reported violent incidents in 2008, including 2,000 fewer robberies.

Note to readers

This release is based on a Juristat article that presents information on the trends in overall, violent and non-violent police-reported crime at the national, provincial/territorial and census metropolitan area levels.

For the first time, the release includes information on both the volume and severity of police-reported crime. The traditional police-reported crime rate (PRCR) measures changes in the volume of crime. The new Police-reported Crime Severity Index (PRCSI), introduced in the spring of 2009, tracks changes in the severity of police-reported crime.

In the PRCSI, each type of offence is assigned a weight derived from actual sentences handed down by courts in all provinces and territories. 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. 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-X, free).

Data are drawn from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, a census survey of all crime known to, and substantiated by, police services. These crime statistics conform to a nationally-approved set of common crime categories and definitions and have been systematically reported by police services and submitted to Statistics Canada each year since 1962.

As a complementary measure of crime, Statistics Canada also releases victimization data from the General Social Survey every five years. The next victimization data are expected in the summer of 2010.

Homicides, which make up less than 1% of violent crime, were one of the few violent crimes to increase in 2008.

The police-reported crime rate (PRCR) for youth aged 12 to 17 fell by 5% in 2008, the fourth decline in the past five years. The youth violent crime rate, which declined 3%, has been relatively stable since 2000.

Crime severity highest in the North and West

Among the provinces, crime severity continues to be highest in the West. In 2008, Saskatchewan's PRCSI of 156 was well above the national index of 90. Index values in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut were more than double that of Saskatchewan.

Prince Edward Island's index, despite having increased, was the lowest in the country at 68.

Most of Canada's census metropolitan areas (CMAs) reported drops in their PRCSI in 2008.

Winnipeg, St. John's, Regina, Saskatoon, Moncton and Saguenay all reported declines of at least 10% in crime severity.

The only three CMAs to report an increase in crime severity were Trois-Rivières (+14%), Peterborough (+7%) and Sherbrooke (+3%).

The highest police-reported crime severity indexes in 2008 were all found in western CMAs. Crime severity was highest in Regina, followed by Abbotsford–Mission, Saskatoon, Kelowna, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver.

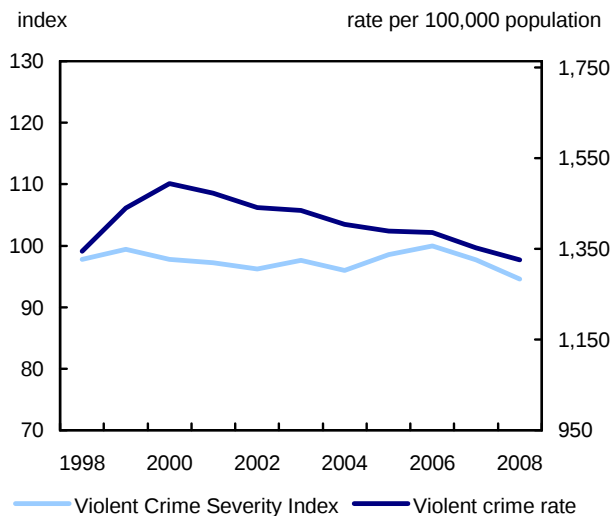
Among central and eastern CMAs, only Thunder Bay, Brantford, Saint John, Halifax and Montréal reported index values above the national average.

Crime was least severe in Guelph, followed by Saguenay, Barrie, Québec and Toronto. Toronto's index dropped 6% in 2008 and was about 30% lower than the national index.

Violent crime severity stable over past 10 years

The Police-reported Violent Crime Severity Index declined 3% in 2008, mainly due to the 7% drop in the rate of robberies and a 10% drop in attempted murders. Violent crime severity in Canada has been relatively stable over the past decade.

Police-reported violent crime rate and Violent Crime Severity Index, Canada



Note: The violent crime rate has been expanded to include a number of offences not previously included, beginning in 1998.

The traditional violent crime rate, a measure of the volume of violent crime reported to police, fell 2%.

In 2008, three CMAs reported increases of over 15% in their Violent Crime Severity Index: Gatineau, Abbotsford–Mission and Windsor. At the other extreme, four CMAs reported decreases of at least 15%: Saskatoon, Greater Sudbury, Saguenay and Guelph.

Regina, Saskatoon and Winnipeg reported the highest violent crime index among the 33 CMAs in 2008. In contrast to its overall crime index, Toronto's violent crime index was slightly above the national average.

Increase in homicides

Police reported 611 homicide victims, an increase of 17 from 2007. The homicide rate rose 2% in 2008 but has been relatively stable over the past decade.

Manitoba reported a rate of 4.5 homicides per 100,000 population in 2008, the highest among the provinces. New Brunswick's rate of 0.4 was the lowest in that province in 40 years as well as the lowest in the country.

Homicide rates were highest in the western CMAs of Abbotsford–Mission (4.7), Winnipeg (4.1), Regina (3.8), Edmonton (3.4), Kelowna (3.4), Calgary (2.9) and Vancouver (2.4).

With 103 homicides in 2008, Toronto had the most homicides of any CMA. However, taking population into account, Toronto's rate of 1.9 homicides per 100,000 was slightly higher than the national average of 1.8.

Montréal (1.3) and Hamilton (0.9) each reported their lowest homicide rates since 1981, when data first became available at the CMA level.

Decline in other serious violent crimes

In addition to the 10% drop in the rate of attempted murders in 2008, serious assaults dropped for the first time in almost a decade. There were nearly 58,000 aggravated assaults and assaults with a weapon reported by police, a 2% drop in the rate from 2007.

The robbery rate in Canada has been gradually decreasing over the past decade, with a further 7% decline in 2008. About 15% of robberies involved a firearm. Robberies committed with a firearm remained stable in 2008 after reaching a 30-year low in 2007.

Police-reported break-ins and motor vehicle thefts down

The rate of break-ins dropped 10% in 2008, continuing the steady decline seen since 1991. Police reported over 200,000 break-ins, of which 6 in 10 were residential.

Abbotsford–Mission and Regina reported the highest break-in rates among CMAs. In contrast to the declining trend across the country, Trois-Rivières reported a 31% increase in its rate of break-ins in 2008.

Police reported about 125,000 stolen vehicles in 2008, down from 145,000 in 2007. As a result, the rate of motor vehicle thefts dropped 15%, continuing the downward trend observed since the mid-1990s.

Despite a 44% drop, Winnipeg still reported the highest rate of vehicle thefts, followed by Abbotsford–Mission, Kelowna and Brantford.

Increases in impaired driving and cannabis possession

The police-reported rate of impaired driving increased for the second consecutive year in 2008, up 6%. However, impaired driving rates have generally been declining over the past 20 years.

There were about 102,000 reported drug offences in 2008, virtually unchanged from 2007. The drug

offence rate, which has been generally increasing since the early 1990s, reached a 30-year high in 2007.

Cannabis offences increased in 2008, while declines were reported for cocaine and other drug offences. Possession of cannabis, which continued to account for almost half of all drug offences, posted a rate increase of 5% in 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 252-0013, 252-0014, 252-0051 and 252-0052.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3302.

The *Juristat* article "Police-reported crime statistics in Canada, 2008," Vol. 29, no. 3 (85-002-X, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects*, choose *Crime and Justice*, then *Juristat*.

To obtain the 2008 crime statistics profiles for all 33 census metropolitan areas or a ranking of Crime Severity Index values for all 225 municipal police services with a population of over 10,000, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-387-2231; 613-951-9023), Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

□

Selected violations, by most serious offences, Canada

Type of violations	2008	2007 to 2008
	number	rate
		% change in rate
Population	33,311,389	...
Total, all violations	2,473,087	7,424
Total Criminal Code violations (including traffic)	2,337,874	7,018
Total Criminal Code violations (excluding traffic), crime rate	2,194,705	6,588
Total violent Criminal Code violations ¹	441,782	1,326
Homicide	611	2
Other violations causing death	85	0
Attempted murder	723	2
Sexual assault, level 3, aggravated	139	0
Sexual assault, level 2, weapon or bodily harm	352	1
Sexual assault, level 1	20,992	63
Sexual violations against children	1,379	4
Assault, level 3, aggravated	3,554	11
Assault, level 2, weapon or bodily harm	54,251	163
Assault, level 1	180,096	541
Assault police officer	9,699	29
Other assaults	4,079	12
Firearms (use of, discharge, pointing)	1,506	5
Robbery	32,281	97
Forcible confinement or kidnapping	4,671	14
Abduction	464	1
Extortion	1,385	4
Criminal harassment	18,347	55
Uttering threats	78,500	236
Threatening or harassing phone calls	24,756	74
Other violent Criminal Code violations	3,912	12
Total non-violent Criminal Code violations (excluding traffic)	1,752,923	5,262
Breaking and entering	209,755	630
Possession of stolen property	30,957	93
Theft of motor vehicle	125,271	376
Theft over \$5,000 (non-motor vehicle)	16,743	50
Theft \$5,000 and under (non-motor vehicle)	552,155	1,658
Fraud	90,932	273
Mischief	375,079	1,126
Arson	13,270	40
Counterfeiting	1,015	3
Weapons violations	15,098	45
Child pornography	1,408	4
Prostitution	3,874	12
Disturb the peace	118,833	357
Administration of justice violations	165,556	497
Other non-violent Criminal Code violations	32,977	99
Total Criminal Code traffic violations	143,169	430
Impaired driving	84,759	254
Other Criminal Code traffic violations	58,410	175
Total federal statute violations	135,213	406
Possession of cannabis	50,145	151
Possession of cocaine	10,423	31
Possession of other Controlled Drugs and Substances Act drugs	9,353	28
Trafficking, production or distribution of cannabis	14,958	45
Trafficking, production or distribution of cocaine	11,169	34
Trafficking, production or distribution of other Controlled Drugs and Substances Act drugs	5,917	18
Youth Criminal Justice Act violations	10,791	32
Other federal statutes violations	22,457	67

... not applicable

1. The violent crime rate has been expanded to include a number of offences not previously included.

Note: Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population.

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

	2008	2007 to 2008	2008	2007 to 2008
	Total crime		Violent crime	
	Crime Severity Index	% change	Violent Crime Severity Index	% change
Newfoundland and Labrador	71.2	-6	66.1	5
Prince Edward Island	68.2	7	43.2	8
Nova Scotia	83.6	-9	87.6	-5
New Brunswick	71.3	1	67.1	2
Quebec	82.5	-3	82.4	-2
Ontario	70.6	-5	81.5	-5
Manitoba	128.7	-14	158.2	-9
Saskatchewan	156.1	-5	155.6	-9
Alberta	110.1	-4	110.9	3
British Columbia	120.9	-8	115.0	-2
Yukon	181.5	-2	195.2	-2
Northwest Territories	337.7	1	339.9	-2
Nunavut	324.2	2	466.8	-9
Canada	90.0	-5	94.6	-3

Police-reported Crime Severity Index values, census metropolitan areas (CMAs)

	2008	2007 to 2008	2008	2007 to 2008
	Total crime		Violent crime	
	Crime Severity Index	% change	Violent Crime Severity Index	% change
500,000 and over population				
Winnipeg	124.4	-19	162.5	-11
Edmonton	122.0	-5	131.4	2
Vancouver	119.0	-9	125.0	-4
Montréal	91.2	-3	106.0	-3
Calgary	84.7	-8	89.7	-5
Hamilton	77.0	-7	88.1	-9
Ottawa ¹	69.0	-9	73.1	-4
Kitchener	68.9	-3	60.3	-10
Toronto	64.2	-6	95.8	-5
Québec	63.8	-3	55.7	5
100,000 to less than 500,000 population				
Regina	163.1	-13	169.9	-7
Abbotsford–Mission	142.5	-2	122.9	16
Saskatoon	137.8	-13	164.8	-21
Kelowna ²	126.4	-2	110.2	12
Thunder Bay	107.3	-3	117.0	-10
Brantford ²	104.3	-6	87.5	-11
Saint John	102.9	-2	109.3	2
Victoria	101.4	-5	79.6	-1
Halifax	95.6	-9	115.8	-7
St. John's	86.4	-15	73.8	-5
London	84.6	-5	65.3	-4
St. Catharines–Niagara	80.1	0	68.3	5
Trois-Rivières	78.2	14	60.3	0
Sherbrooke	76.6	3	58.0	-3
Gatineau ³	76.0	-6	78.3	18
Windsor	75.3	-8	77.1	15
Greater Sudbury	73.6	-7	75.1	-18
Moncton ²	72.8	-13	65.0	-11
Kingston	68.4	-3	61.2	1
Peterborough ²	66.1	7	68.7	10
Barrie ²	63.6	-6	52.5	-11
Saguenay	59.2	-11	57.1	-18
Guelph ²	57.7	-3	41.5	-15

1. Ottawa represents the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

2. Moncton, Peterborough, Brantford, Guelph, Barrie and Kelowna are new CMAs as of the 2006 Census.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.



Incarceration of Aboriginal people in adult correctional services

In 2007/2008, Aboriginal adults accounted for 22% of admissions to sentenced custody, while representing 3% of the Canadian population.

Age, level of education, and employment status can only partially explain the representation of Aboriginal adults incarcerated in Canadian prisons, according to a new study that used data from the Integrated Correctional Service Survey and the 2006 Census to analyze factors that could be contributing to the representation of Aboriginal adults in custody.

The provincial incarceration rate for Aboriginal adults in the jurisdictions studied was higher than the rate for non-Aboriginal adults. The gap in the incarceration rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal adults narrowed when age was considered, but Aboriginal adults continued to have consistently higher rates across all age groupings.

Analysis based on available data for Saskatchewan and Alberta showed that young adults without a high school diploma and without a job had the highest rates of incarceration.

For both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 20 to 34, incarceration rates declined as the education and employment situation improved. However, the decreases were greater for non-Aboriginal young adults.

When comparing persons of similar employment status and education level, the ratio between incarceration rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal

young adults in Saskatchewan and Alberta decreased by about half.

The analysis suggests that other factors, such as income, housing and rehabilitative needs, may be involved in the representation of Aboriginal offenders in custody.

Note: Rates of incarceration were calculated as of May 16, 2006, the day the census was taken. The rate represents the number of persons in remand, sentenced custody or other temporary detention that day for every 1,000 persons in the general population. Jurisdictions included in the analysis are: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Correctional Service of Canada.

Available on CANSIM: tables 251-0001 to 251-0003 and 251-0007.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3306 and 3901.

The *Juristat* article "The incarceration of Aboriginal people in adult correctional services", Vol. 29, no. 3 (85-002-X, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects*, choose *Crime and Justice*, then *Juristat*.

For more information, or to enquire about the 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. □

Aboriginal people as a proportion of admissions to adult provincial/territorial sentenced custody, and as a proportion of the general population, 2007/2008

Province and territory	Provincial and territorial sentenced custody ¹	Adult general population (18 years and older) ²
	% of admissions	% of population
Newfoundland and Labrador	21	4
Prince Edward Island	1	1
Nova Scotia	7	2
New Brunswick	8	2
Quebec	2	1
Ontario	9	2
Manitoba	69	12
Saskatchewan	81	11
Alberta	35	5
British Columbia	21	4
Yukon	76	22
Northwest Territories	86	45
Nunavut	..	78
All jurisdictions	22	3

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. Includes intermittent sentences.

2. Proportion is based on data from the 2006 Census.

Incarceration rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal persons aged 20 to 34, by employment and education status, selected jurisdictions, on May 16, 2006

Employment and education status	Aboriginal incarceration rate ¹	Non-Aboriginal incarceration rate ¹	Ratio between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal incarceration rates
New Brunswick and Nova Scotia²			
Overall population aged 20 to 34	4.8	1.8	2.7
Without a diploma	6.0	3.4	1.8
With a diploma	4.4	1.5	2.9
Without employment	8.6	4.9	1.8
With employment	2.2	0.7	3.0
Saskatchewan			
Overall population aged 20 to 34	22.1	1.0	22.2
Without a diploma, without employment	48.8	9.9	4.9
Without a diploma, with employment	41.4	2.7	15.1
With a diploma, without employment	9.9	1.4	7.3
With a diploma, with employment	4.3	0.3	13.0
Alberta			
Overall population aged 20 to 34	15.5	1.7	9.3
Without a diploma, without employment	46.1	14.1	3.3
Without a diploma, with employment	25.0	5.2	4.8
With a diploma, without employment	8.3	1.6	5.1
With a diploma, with employment	2.4	0.6	4.1

1. Incarceration rate per 1,000 population.

2. Due to small numbers for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, education and employment status were not analyzed in combination with one another. This table includes jurisdictions for which data were available.

Note: "Without employment" refers to all persons who did not have employment, including those who are unemployed, inactive and on disability. "Diploma" refers to a high school diploma or higher.



Investment in new housing construction

May 2009

Data on the investment in new housing construction (including single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing, apartments and condominiums) are now available for May.

These series are not offered on CANSIM.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.

To order data, to obtain more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Nicole Charron (613-951-0087; bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

Government expenditures on culture

2006/2007

Data on government expenditures on culture are now available for the 2006/2007 fiscal year.

Available on CANSIM: table 505-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3116 and 3117.

Detailed and summary data tables for government expenditures on culture, by function and province or territory, are now available in the publication *Government Expenditures on Culture: Data Tables*, 2006/2007 (87F0001X, free), from the *Publications* module of our website. Researchers can also request custom tabulations on a cost-recovery basis.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-767-5611; 613-951-2320; fax: 613-951-2307; culture@statcan.gc.ca), Demography Division. ■

New products

Wholesale Trade, May 2009, Vol. 72, no. 5
Catalogue number 63-008-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Canada's International Transactions in Securities,
May 2009, Vol. 75, no. 5
Catalogue number 67-002-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Juristat, Vol. 29, no. 3
Catalogue number 85-002-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

**Government Expenditures on Culture: Data
Tables**, 2006/2007
Catalogue number 87F0001X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

**Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language
Minorities (SVOLM): Public Use Microdata
File**, 2006, no. 1
Catalogue number 89M0028X (CD-ROM, \$255)

**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

To order by phone, please refer to:

- The title
 - The catalogue number
 - The volume number
 - The issue number
 - Your credit card number.
- From Canada and the United States, call: **1-800-267-6677**
From other countries, call: **1-613-951-2800**
To fax your order, call: **1-877-287-4369**
For address changes or account inquiries, call: **1-877-591-6963**

To order by mail, write to: Statistics Canada, Finance, 6th floor, R.H. Coats Bldg., Ottawa, K1A 0T6.
Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers
add 5% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet, write to: infostats@statcan.gc.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's
website (www.statcan.gc.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to lstproc@statcan.gc.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2009. All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.