

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, October 16, 2009

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Releases

Consumer Price Index, September 2009

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Consumer prices fell 0.9% in the 12 months to September, following a 0.8% decrease in August. Excluding energy, the Consumer Price Index rose 1.3% on a year-over-year basis. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, consumer prices increased 0.1% from August to September.

Investment in non-residential building construction, third quarter 2009

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Investment in non-residential building construction reached \$10.4 billion in the third quarter, down 3.9% from the second quarter. This was the third consecutive quarterly decrease attributable largely to lower spending on commercial and industrial building construction.

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Consumer Price Index

September 2009

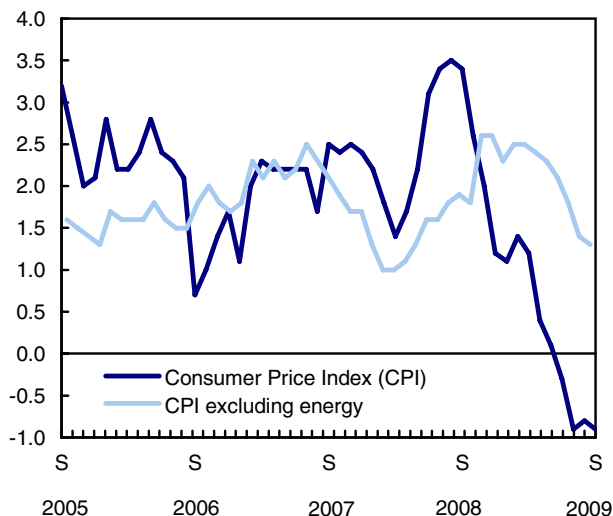
Consumer prices were 0.9% lower in September than they were in September 2008, following a 12-month decline of 0.8% in August.

The major contributor to the year-over-year decline in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in September was energy products, as it has been for a number of months. Overall, in the 12 months to September, energy prices fell 18.7%.

Excluding energy, the CPI rose 1.3% between September 2008 and September 2009.

While the 12-month change in the CPI is still negative, the CPI excluding energy remains positive

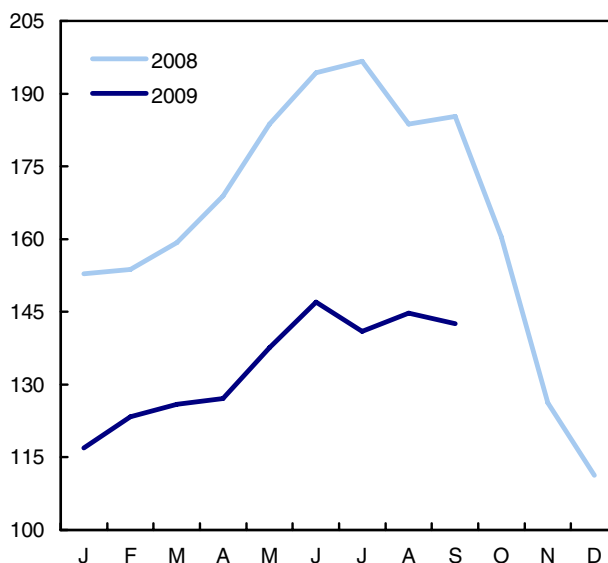
12-month % change



Consumers paid 23.0% less at the pump in September than they did a year earlier, compared with a 21.2% drop in August.

Evolution of the gasoline price index in 2008 and 2009

Index (2002=100)



Transportation costs fell 7.2% in the 12 months to September, making this component the most significant downward contributor to the drop in the CPI. This decrease was due to 12-month price declines for both gasoline and passenger vehicles.

A 1.8% drop in the shelter component also exerted downward pressure on the CPI. Prices for natural gas, fuel oil and other fuels, and mortgage interest cost were significantly lower than in September 2008.

The primary upward pressure on the CPI came from food prices, which increased 2.8% in the past 12 months. However, this was the slowest rate of growth since June 2008. Both food purchased from stores and from restaurants were responsible for the rise of the food component.

Among other components recording price increases were household operations, furnishings and equipment (+2.2%), health and personal care (+3.9%), and recreation, education and reading (+1.1%).

Seasonally adjusted monthly CPI increases

On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI rose 0.1% from August to September, after rising 0.3% from July to August. The seasonally adjusted monthly CPI has gone up in four of the past five months.

12-month change: Transportation, shelter, and clothing and footwear continue to exert downward pressure on the CPI

Overall, three of the eight major components in the CPI recorded decreases in the 12 months to September: transportation, shelter, and clothing and footwear.

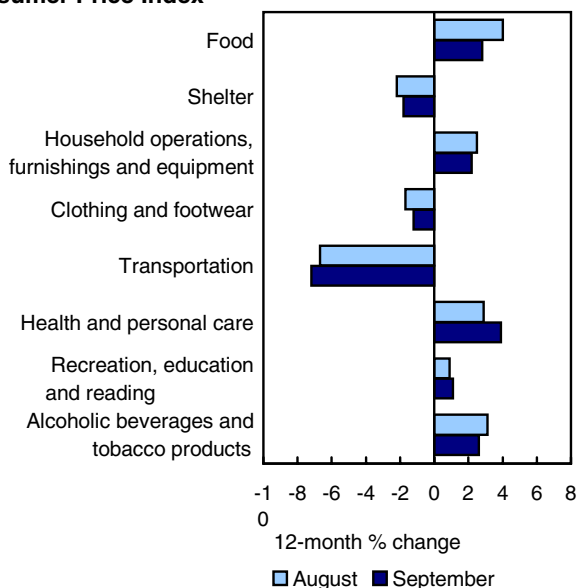
In addition to lower prices for gasoline, consumers paid 5.9% less for purchasing passenger vehicles, following a 4.7% decrease in August. A 5.1% increase in passenger vehicle insurance premiums mitigated the overall drop in the transportation component.

The decline in shelter costs in September was primarily the result of continuing price decreases in natural gas (-33.0%), fuel oil and other fuels (-32.7%), and homeowner's replacement costs (-3.7%). Shelter costs were also dampened by downward pressure from mortgage interest costs.

The mortgage interest cost index, which measures the change in the interest portion of payments on outstanding mortgage debt, fell 2.2% in September, following a 1.1% decrease in August.

An 8.0% increase in homeowners' maintenance and repairs costs and a 3.2% rise in property taxes slowed the decline in the shelter index.

Transportation, shelter, and clothing and footwear continue to exert downward pressure on the Consumer Price Index



Clothing and footwear prices fell 1.2% between September 2008 and September 2009, led by lower prices for both women's (-3.3%) and men's clothing (-1.3%).

Food costs continued to be pushed up by higher prices for food purchased from stores (+2.7%). Prices for meat increased 2.6% while prices for fish rose 8.8%.

As well, increases were recorded for dairy products and eggs (+2.5%), sugar and confectionery (+8.7%), and food purchased from restaurants (+2.8%).

On the other hand, prices for fresh fruit have declined by 4.5% in the past 12 months.

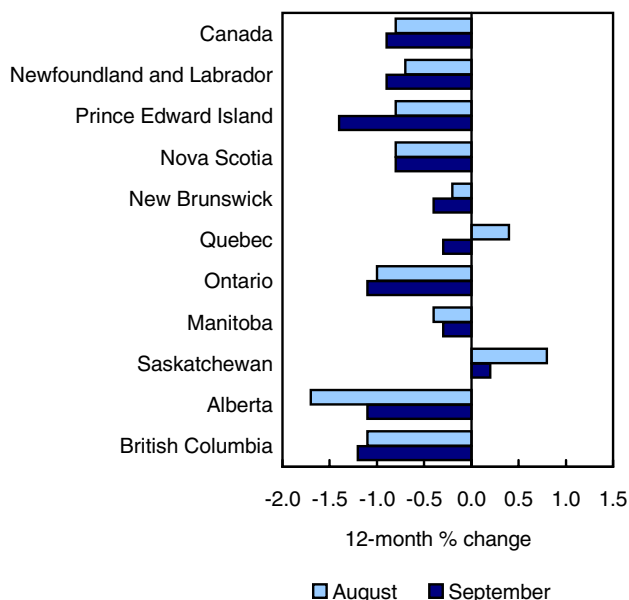
Broad-based price advances were recorded in the household operations, furnishings and equipment component. Prices rose for household goods and services, child care and domestic services, paper, plastic and foil supplies and telephone services in the 12 months to September.

In the recreation, education and reading component, the cost of cablevision and satellite services increased 6.7%. Students paid 4.4% more in tuition fees and 7.4% more for school textbooks and supplies. These increases were partly offset by declines in the prices of traveller accommodation (-5.8%) and computer equipment and supplies (-10.7%).

Provinces: Consumer prices down in nine provinces

Consumer prices declined in nine provinces between September 2008 and September 2009. The fastest declines occurred in Prince Edward Island (-1.4%), British Columbia (-1.2%), Alberta (-1.1%) and Ontario (-1.1%).

Saskatchewan, the only province posting positive year-over-year change



The most significant downward pressure on prices in all provinces came from lower gasoline prices, which fell by as much as 26.0% in Alberta compared with September 2008.

Factors putting upward pressure on consumer prices varied considerably from province to province, but rising food prices were common across them all.

In British Columbia, prices were down for the fourth consecutive month. The two main contributors in the decline were a 16.3% decrease in energy costs and a 14.5% drop in homeowner's replacement costs.

In Alberta, the main factor was a 3.2% decrease in shelter costs, a much larger drop than the 1.8% national decline. This was due mainly to falling prices in natural gas, electricity, and homeowner's replacement costs.

In Ontario, consumer prices fell 1.1%. Energy prices in Ontario declined 20.5% between September 2008 and September 2009.

The only province in which prices rose in the 12 months to September was Saskatchewan (+0.2%), where seven of the eight major components in the CPI increased. The only component registering a decline was transportation (-10.3%).

12-month change in the Bank of Canada's core index

The Bank of Canada's core index advanced 1.5% over the 12 months to September, following a 1.6% rise in August. This was the slowest advance since the 1.5% increase recorded in July 2008.

The seasonally adjusted monthly core index increased 0.1% from August to September, matching the rate of growth recorded 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-X, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

The September 2009 issue of the Consumer Price Index, Vol. 88, no. 9 (62-001-X, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. A paper copy is also available (62-001-X, \$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 18.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax 613-951-2848; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Consumer Prices Division.

□

Consumer Price Index and major components, Canada¹ (2002=100)

	Relative importance ²	September 2008	September 2009	August 2008 to August 2009	September 2008 to September 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
All-items	100.00³	115.7	114.7	-0.8	-0.9
Food	17.04	117.1	120.4	4.0	2.8
Shelter	26.62	123.1	120.9	-2.2	-1.8
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	105.6	107.9	2.5	2.2
Clothing and footwear	5.36	96.1	94.9	-1.7	-1.2
Transportation	19.88	122.4	113.6	-6.7	-7.2
Health and personal care	4.73	109.4	113.7	2.9	3.9
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	103.9	105.0	0.9	1.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	128.0	131.3	3.1	2.6
All-items (1992=100)		137.7	136.5	-0.7	-0.9
Special aggregates					
Goods	48.78	111.5	107.4	-3.3	-3.7
Services	51.22	119.8	121.9	1.7	1.8
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	110.8	111.8	0.9	0.9
Energy	9.38	161.5	131.3	-19.1	-18.7
Core CPI ⁴	82.71	112.4	114.1	1.6	1.5

1. The month-to-month percentage changes are available from the monthly publication *The Consumer Price Index*.
2. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
3. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
4. 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, 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 2008	September 2009	August 2008 to August 2009	September 2008 to September 2009
Unadjusted					
				% change	
Canada	100.00²	115.7	114.7	-0.8	-0.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	116.2	115.2	-0.7	-0.9
Prince Edward Island	0.35	120.3	118.6	-0.8	-1.4
Nova Scotia	2.56	117.6	116.7	-0.8	-0.8
New Brunswick	1.97	114.7	114.2	-0.2	-0.4
Québec	21.05	114.0	113.7	0.4	-0.3
Ontario	41.22	115.1	113.8	-1.0	-1.1
Manitoba	3.06	115.2	114.8	-0.4	-0.3
Saskatchewan	2.64	117.3	117.5	0.8	0.2
Alberta	11.43	122.8	121.5	-1.7	-1.1
British Columbia	14.29	114.1	112.7	-1.1	-1.2
Whitehorse	0.06	114.8	113.7	-1.0	-1.0
Yellowknife	0.08	117.2	116.4	-0.5	-0.7
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.02	111.9	113.2	1.6	1.2

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).
2. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Consumer Price Index and major components (2002=100)

	Relative importance ¹	July 2009	August 2009	September 2009	July to August 2009	August to September 2009
Seasonally Adjusted						
					% change	
All-items	100.00²	114.0	114.3	114.4	0.3	0.1
Food	17.04	121.8	121.6	121.4	-0.2	-0.2
Shelter	26.62	120.9	121.1	120.9	0.2	-0.2
Household operations and furnishings	11.10	107.2	107.2	107.7	0.0	0.5
Clothing and footwear	5.36	92.6	92.4	92.6	-0.2	0.2
Transportation	19.88	114.3	114.8	113.6	0.4	-1.0
Health and personal care	4.73	112.4	112.5	113.6	0.1	1.0
Recreation, education and reading	12.20	103.1	103.2	103.3	0.1	0.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products	3.07	131.5	131.4	131.3	-0.1	-0.1
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	82.96	113.1	113.4	113.5	0.3	0.1
All-items excluding food and energy	73.57	111.5	111.5	111.5	0.0	0.0
All-items excluding eight of the most volatile components	82.71	112.3	112.4	112.5	0.1	0.1
Core CPI ³	82.71	113.7	113.8	113.9	0.1	0.1

1. 2005 CPI basket weights at April 2007 prices, Canada: Effective May 2007. Detailed weights are available under the Documentation section of survey 2301 (www.statcan.gc.ca/imdb-bmdi/index-eng.htm).

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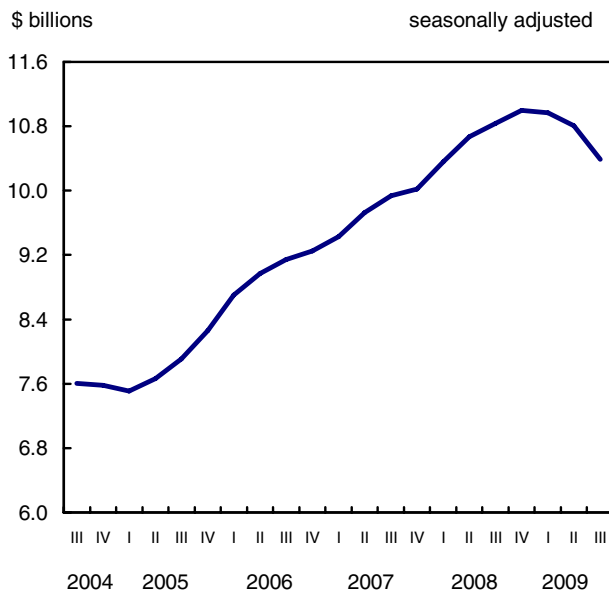


Investment in non-residential building construction

Third quarter 2009

Investment in non-residential building construction reached \$10.4 billion in the third quarter, down 3.9% from the second quarter. This was the third consecutive quarterly decrease attributable largely to lower spending on commercial and industrial building construction.

Investment down in non-residential building construction



Investors injected \$6.0 billion into commercial projects, down 7.5% from the second quarter. For the industrial component, investment fell 8.8% to \$1.1 billion.

In contrast, spending in the institutional component continued to rise, up 5.5% to \$3.3 billion.

Of the six provinces that posted decreases in the third quarter, Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia reported the sharpest drops, mainly as a result of lower spending on commercial construction.

In contrast, New Brunswick posted the strongest quarterly increase, as a result of higher spending in the institutional and commercial components.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

Investments in non-residential building construction exclude engineering construction. This series is based on the Building Permits Survey of municipalities, which collects information on construction intentions.

Work put-in-place patterns are assigned to each type of structure (industrial, commercial and institutional). These work patterns are used to distribute the value of building permits according to project length. Work put-in-place patterns differ according to the value of the construction project; a project worth several million dollars will usually take longer to complete than will a project of a few hundred thousand dollars.

Additional data from the capital and repair expenditures surveys are used to create this investment series. Investment in non-residential building data are benchmarked to Statistics Canada's System of National Accounts of non-residential building investment series.

For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec) is divided into two areas: the Ottawa part and the Gatineau part.

Investment fell in 17 of the 34 census metropolitan areas. The most pronounced decreases were in Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary, mainly because of the decline in commercial construction projects.

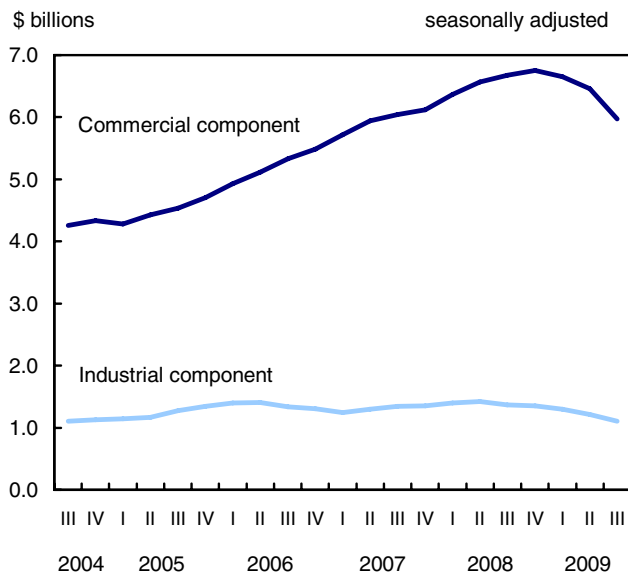
Ottawa-Gatineau (Ottawa part) posted the most substantial growth in the third quarter, with investment rising by 4.8% to \$309 million. This increase was attributed to gains in all three components.

Decrease in the commercial component

Investment in the construction of commercial buildings declined for the third consecutive quarter. This decrease was the result of lower spending in Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia for office buildings, shopping centres and warehouses.

While nine provinces recorded decreases in commercial investment, the most significant declines occurred in Alberta (-13.2% to \$1.4 billion), Ontario (-6.5% to 2.2 billion) and British Columbia (-10.8% to \$785 million).

Commercial and industrial components decline



In contrast, New Brunswick, the Northwest Territories and Yukon showed increases in the commercial component, principally as a result of higher spending on office building construction.

Decline in the industrial component

Spending in the industrial component was down for a fifth consecutive quarter, in the wake of lower spending on the construction of manufacturing plants and utilities buildings in eight provinces.

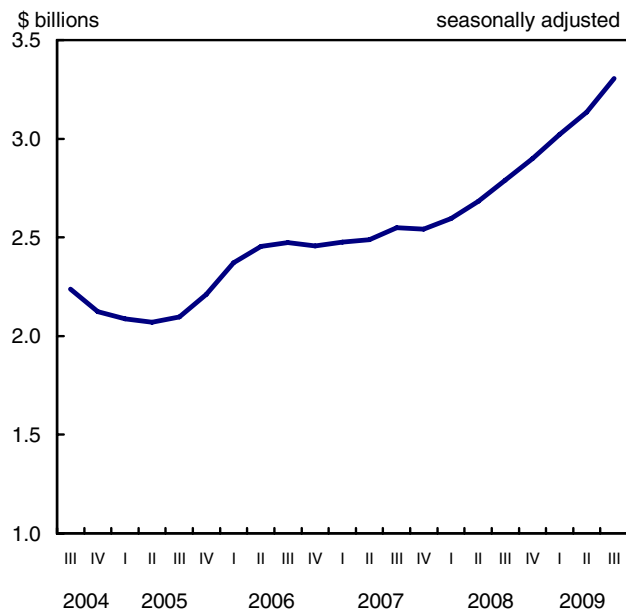
Provincially, the most substantial contributions to the quarterly decline were those recorded in Alberta, where investment fell 19.9% to \$216 million, and in Quebec, where it was down 13.1% to \$250 million.

However, Manitoba and Nova Scotia posted strong increases in the third quarter, mainly because of higher spending on the construction of buildings for the primary sector.

Growth in the institutional component

Spending in the institutional component was up for a seventh consecutive quarter, mainly as a result of higher investment in educational institutions in eight provinces and the Northwest Territories.

Institutional component increases



Alberta showed the largest gain, as a result of higher spending on health and educational institutions.

In Quebec, higher investment in the construction of educational institutions more than offset the declines observed in the other categories of institutional buildings.

In contrast, Ontario posted the sharpest drop. This decrease was largely explained by lower spending on the construction of health care facilities and homes for the aged.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5014.

More detailed data on investment in non-residential building construction are also available in free tables from the *Summary tables* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bechir Oueriemmi (613-951-1165; bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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Investment in non-residential building construction, by census metropolitan area¹

	Third quarter 2008	Second quarter 2009	Third quarter 2009	Second quarter to third quarter 2009
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Total	8,176	8,273	7,956	-3.8
St. John's	44	60	48	-20.0
Halifax	90	95	98	3.2
Moncton	45	40	43	7.8
Saint John	32	43	53	23.0
Saguenay	39	64	75	16.7
Québec	271	280	275	-1.6
Sherbrooke	47	44	45	2.1
Trois-Rivières	50	45	51	12.9
Montréal	913	842	831	-1.2
Ottawa-Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	340	377	391	3.7
Gatineau part	53	82	82	0.0
Ottawa part	287	295	309	4.8
Kingston	83	70	61	-12.7
Peterborough	22	27	23	-13.1
Oshawa	96	112	100	-10.5
Toronto	1,997	1,954	1,777	-9.1
Hamilton	227	236	245	4.0
St. Catharines-Niagara	66	62	70	12.1
Kitchener	175	203	200	-1.4
Brantford	19	30	33	11.9
Guelph	34	34	40	15.9
London	169	162	143	-11.6
Windsor	62	46	53	14.1
Barrie	80	135	136	0.9
Greater Sudbury	59	59	54	-8.1
Thunder Bay	25	38	29	-24.0
Winnipeg	134	148	153	3.8
Regina	65	90	92	1.8
Saskatoon	145	193	184	-4.5
Calgary	1,249	1,142	1,098	-3.8
Edmonton	580	650	630	-3.2
Kelowna	72	74	88	18.1
Abbotsford-Mission	62	41	36	-11.4
Vancouver	798	760	670	-11.8
Victoria	85	118	131	11.0

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

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

Investment in non-residential building construction

	Third quarter 2008	Second quarter 2009	Third quarter 2009	Second quarter to third quarter 2009
Seasonally adjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
Canada	10,837	10,807	10,387	-3.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	74	89	75	-15.2
Prince Edward Island	23	36	32	-10.6
Nova Scotia	160	171	169	-1.3
New Brunswick	147	158	175	10.4
Quebec	1,836	1,842	1,844	0.1
Ontario	4,024	4,065	3,896	-4.2
Manitoba	205	213	224	5.3
Saskatchewan	302	386	388	0.5
Alberta	2,686	2,505	2,305	-8.0
British Columbia	1,353	1,305	1,222	-6.3
Yukon	9	6	11	89.1
Northwest Territories	11	24	38	55.6
Nunavut	7	7	7	13.1

Dairy statistics

August 2009 (preliminary)

Dairy farmers sold almost 642 710 kilolitres of milk and cream to dairies in August, up 2.4% from August 2008.

Fluid milk sales stood at 244 160 kilolitres, and industrial milk sales at 398 550 kilolitres. Industrial milk is used to manufacture butter, cheese, yogurt, ice cream, milk powders and concentrates.

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

The third quarter 2009 issue of *Dairy Statistics*, Vol. 4, no. 3 (23-014-X, free), will be available in November.

For more information, call Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anna Michalowska (613-951-2442; anna.michalowska@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Refined petroleum products

August 2009 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for August. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

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. ■

Crude oil and natural gas production

August 2009 (preliminary)

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

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

The Consumer Price Index, September 2009, Vol. 88, no. 9

Catalogue number 62-001-X (PDF, free; Print, \$12/\$111; HTML, free)

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Release dates: October 19 to 23, 2009

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
19	Canada's international transactions in securities	August 2009
20	Wholesale trade	August 2009
20	Travel between Canada and other countries	August 2009
20	Leading indicators	September 2009
21	Health Reports	October 2009
22	Retail trade	August 2009