

The Daily

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Police reported 611 homicides in Canada in 2008, 17 more than the previous year, resulting in a 2% rise in the national homicide rate. The 2008 increase was due almost entirely to increases in Alberta and British Columbia, much of which was gang-related.

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Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada

October 2009

This issue of Statistics Canada's free online publication, *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, contains two articles.

"First Nations women and postsecondary education in Canada: Snapshots from the census" explores the postsecondary educational attainment of First Nations women in Canada. While many do not complete high school, there is evidence that First Nations women return to school later in life and as such, have a different path to postsecondary education than women in the overall Canadian population.

"First Nations women and postsecondary education: Findings from the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey" finds that 6 in 10 off-reserve First Nations women aged 25 to 64 who had taken postsecondary education had applied for financial assistance to pursue their studies. The vast majority of those who had applied reported having received some form of funding and of those, three-quarters completed their postsecondary studies.

This issue also includes a series of new tables, along with a fact sheet, entitled "Postsecondary enrolment and graduation," which are part of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program.

The October 2009 issue of *Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada*, Vol. 6, no. 4 (81-004-X, free), is now available. From the *Publications* module of our website, choose *Education Matters*.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-307-3382; 613-951-7608; fax: 613-951-9040; educationstats@statcan.gc.ca), Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics Division.



Statistics
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New products

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Releases

Homicide in Canada

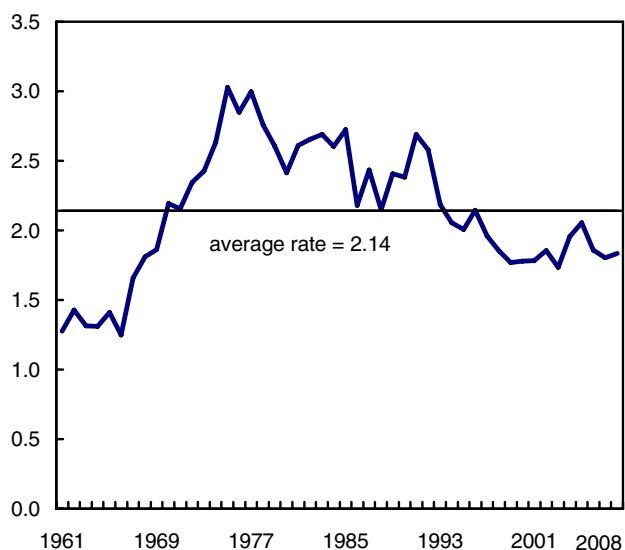
2008

Police reported 611 homicides in Canada in 2008, 17 more than the previous year, resulting in a 2% rise in the national homicide rate. The 2008 increase was due almost entirely to increases in Alberta and British Columbia, much of which was gang-related.

After peaking in the mid-1970s, the homicide rate generally declined until 1999 and has been relatively stable since. Gang-related homicides, however, have been on the rise since the early 1990s and accounted for almost 1 in 4 homicides in 2008.

Homicides

rate per 100,000 population



There were 200 homicides committed with a firearm in 2008, 12 more than in 2007. The rate of homicides committed with a firearm has increased 24% since 2002.

There were 146 female homicide victims, 17 fewer than in 2007. Women accounted for 24% of homicide victims in 2008, the lowest proportion since statistics were first collected.

In 2008, 55 youth aged 12 to 17 were accused of committing homicide, well below the peak of 85 in 2006. About 1 in 5 homicides committed by youth in 2008 was gang-related.

Note to readers

A census metropolitan area (CMA) refers to an area with a population of at least 100,000, including an urban core with a population of at least 50,000 together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration. The areas that police forces serve may differ in their mix of urban/suburban populations, making the comparability of crime rates among these forces difficult. This lack of comparability is addressed by analyzing crime rates by CMA.

Rise in gang-related homicides

Police reported 138 homicides in 2008 as gang-related, 20 more than in 2007. These include homicides linked to organized crime groups or street gangs, as well as the death of any innocent bystanders during the incident.

Most gang-related homicides occurred within Canada's largest census metropolitan areas (CMAs). The 10 largest CMAs accounted for just over half of all homicides in the nation in 2008, but slightly more than two-thirds of all gang-related homicides.

Police in the metropolitan area of Toronto reported 24 gang-related homicides, the most of any CMA. However, accounting for population, Calgary's 16 gang-related homicides in 2008 gave it the highest rate among the 10 largest metropolitan areas.

Firearms were used more often in gang-related homicides than in other types of homicide. In 2008, about three-quarters of gang-related homicides in Canada were committed with a firearm, compared with about 20% of homicides unrelated to gangs.

Homicides committed with a firearm generally on the rise since 2002

The overall rate of homicides committed with a firearm gradually declined from the mid-1970s to 2002. Since then, this rate has generally been increasing.

Of the 200 firearm homicides in 2008, 121 or 61% were committed with a handgun, 34 with a rifle/shotgun and 17 with a sawed-off rifle/shotgun. Over the past 30 years, the use of handguns to commit homicide has generally been increasing, while the use of rifles or shotguns has generally declined.

Police in the Toronto metropolitan area reported 50 firearm homicides in 2008, the most of any CMA.

Taking population into account, however, the 12 firearm homicides in Winnipeg and the 16 in Edmonton gave those metropolitan areas the highest rates among the 10 largest CMAs.

Lowest rate of female homicide victims

Both the rate of females killed (0.87 per 100,000 population), as well as the proportion (24%), were the lowest since 1961.

Two possible explanations for the declining proportion are, first, a drop in rates of spousal homicide over the past 30 years, which usually involves female victims. The second is the growth in gang-related homicides since the early 1990s, which typically involve male victims.

Of all solved homicides in 2008, 15% were committed by a spouse, 19% by a family member other than a spouse, 41% by an acquaintance and 9% by someone known to the victim through a criminal relationship. The remaining 17% of victims were killed by a stranger, consistent with previous years.

Police reported 62 spousal homicides, unchanged from 2007. In 2008, the spousal homicide rate was at its lowest point in over 40 years.

Women are about three times more likely to be a victim of a spousal homicide than men. In 2008, 45 women and 17 men were killed by a current or former spouse. In addition, 27 homicides were committed by a current or former boyfriend/girlfriend or intimate partner, 8 more than the previous year.

Homicide rates highest in the West and North

The highest homicide rates per 100,000 population continue to be reported in the western provinces and territories. Manitoba reported the highest rate among the provinces in 2008, followed by Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec reported the lowest rates. Homicide rates in New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario were at or near their lowest level in 40 years.

Among the largest centres, rates were highest in the western metropolitan areas of Abbotsford–Mission, Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Kelowna, Calgary and Vancouver.

Police in Toronto reported 103 homicides, the most of all CMAs. However, Toronto's rate of 1.9 homicides per 100,000 population was slightly higher than the national average of 1.8.

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

Residents of largest cities not at highest risk of being a victim

Residents of large urban areas tend to be at slightly less risk of being a victim of a homicide than those living in smaller urban or rural areas. In 2008, the 22.9 million Canadians living in 1 of the 34 CMAs had a lower homicide rate (1.8) than the 10.4 million Canadians living outside a CMA (2.0).

Homicide rates in CMAs declined 7% in 2008, while rates in areas outside CMAs increased 25%. The increase in small urban and rural areas occurred mainly in Alberta and British Columbia.

Available on CANSIM: tables 253-0001 to 253-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3315.

The *Juristat* article "Homicide in Canada, 2008," Vol. 29, no. 4 (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.

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Homicides by province and territory

	2008	
	number	rate ¹
Canada	611	1.83
Newfoundland and Labrador	5	0.98
Prince Edward Island	2	1.43
Nova Scotia	12	1.28
New Brunswick	3	0.40
Quebec	92	1.19
Ontario	176	1.36
Manitoba	54	4.47
Saskatchewan	30	2.95
Alberta	110	3.07
British Columbia	117	2.67
Yukon	3	9.05
Northwest Territories	3	6.93
Nunavut	4	12.72

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

Homicides by census metropolitan area

	2008	
	number	rate ¹
500,000 and over population		
Winnipeg	31	4.07
Edmonton	39	3.44
Calgary	34	2.87
Vancouver	54	2.37
Toronto	103	1.86
Montréal	48	1.27
Ottawa ²	11	1.20
Québec	8	1.09
Hamilton	6	0.85
Kitchener	4	0.78
100,000 to less than 500,000 population		
Abbotsford–Mission	8	4.71
Regina	8	3.82
Kelowna	6	3.43
Windsor	7	2.10
Halifax	7	1.77
Saskatoon	4	1.55
Brantford	2	1.46
Victoria	5	1.44
St. Catharines–Niagara	6	1.36
Gatineau ³	4	1.35
Greater Sudbury	2	1.22
Oshawa	4	1.12
Saint John	1	0.98
Peterborough	1	0.83
Trois-Rivières	1	0.68
Kingston	1	0.64
St. John's	1	0.55
London	2	0.41
Barrie	0	0.00
Guelph	0	0.00
Moncton	0	0.00
Saguenay	0	0.00
Sherbrooke	0	0.00
Thunder Bay	0	0.00

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

2. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

3. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

Gang-related and firearm homicides, census metropolitan areas over 500,000 population

	2008			
	Firearm homicides		Gang-related homicides	
	number	rate ¹	number	rate ¹
500,000 and over population				
Winnipeg	12	1.58	6	0.79
Edmonton	16	1.41	9	0.79
Vancouver	29	1.27	19	0.83
Calgary	13	1.10	16	1.35
Toronto	50	0.90	24	0.43
Montréal	14	0.37	17	0.45
Ottawa	3	0.33	3	0.33
Québec	0	0.00	1	0.34
Hamilton	0	0.00	0	0.00
Kitchener	0	0.00	0	0.00

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population.

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Trends in police-reported serious assaults

2008

Serious assaults, as well as assaults against peace officers, have increased by more than 20% during the past decade. They are among the few police-reported violent crimes on the rise in Canada.

In 2008, police reported about 3,500 aggravated assaults and 54,000 assaults with a weapon or assaults causing bodily harm.

In addition, police reported almost 10,000 assaults against peace officers in 2008. Almost 70% of these occurred in conjunction with at least one other offence, most commonly obstruction of a peace officer, level 1 assault and uttering threats. The large majority of these assaults were committed without a weapon.

Increase in assaults seen across the country

The increase in serious assaults over the past 10 years occurred in virtually every province and territory. Some of the largest increases were reported in Nova Scotia, although rates in the province for these offences are similar to the national average.

Ontario reported a much smaller increase than other provinces between 1998 and 2008. The rate for aggravated assaults was up 6%, while that for assaults with a weapon or assaults causing bodily harm rose 2%.

Among the provinces, the highest rates for serious assaults and assaults against peace officers occurred in Saskatchewan, while the lowest were in Prince Edward Island, similar to overall violent crime.

Spouses, acquaintances and strangers each account for about one-third of serious assaults

There are three primary situations in which serious assaults occur, each accounting for about one-third of all serious assaults: incidents of family violence, disputes between acquaintances and disputes between strangers.

Females were most often seriously assaulted by a family member, usually a spouse, whereas males were most often assaulted by an acquaintance or a stranger.

Increases in serious assaults greatest for youth

In 2008, youth aged 12 to 17 accounted for 20% of all persons accused of committing serious assaults,

Note to readers

This release is based on an article in Juristat that analyzes data on three types of serious assault reported to, and substantiated by, Canadian police services between 1983 and 2008. The analysis focuses on the decade from 1998 to 2008, due to recent rising trends.

The three types of assault are: aggravated assault, referred to as level 3 assault, in which a victim is wounded, maimed, disfigured or whose life is endangered; assault with a weapon or assault causing bodily harm, both referred to as level 2 assault; and, assault against peace officers, which includes police, correctional officers and some court officials.

Most assaults are classified by police as level 1 assault (common assault), in which little or no physical harm is caused to victims. This report does not analyze these assaults.

Data are from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, beginning in 1983, when major changes were made to the Criminal Code definitions of assault that affected the comparability of data prior to this time.

slightly lower than the proportion of youth for all violent crimes. However, the growth in the rate of youth committing serious assaults was much higher than that for adults.

The 28% increase in the rate of youth committing aggravated assaults or assaults with a weapon or assaults causing bodily harm was more than double the 12% growth for adults over the past 10 years.

With respect to assaults against peace officers, the difference was even greater. The increase among youth was 52%, compared with 7% for adults.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3302.

The *Juristat* article "Trends in police-reported serious assaults," Vol. 29, no. 4 (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.

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Police-reported serious assaults, by province and territory

	2008			1998 to 2008	2008			1998 to 2008
	Aggravated assault				Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm			
	number	rate per 100,000 population	% change in rate		number	rate per 100,000 population	% change in rate	
Newfoundland and Labrador	29	5.7	62.3		713	140.4	54.7	
Prince Edward Island	2	1.4	...		105	75.1	56.9	
Nova Scotia	87	9.3	41.6		1,498	159.6	110.7	
New Brunswick	59	7.9	69.3		1,059	141.7	59.0	
Quebec	245	3.2	-37.7		11,259	145.3	67.4	
Ontario	1,290	10.0	6.1		14,762	114.2	1.5	
Manitoba	324	26.8	46.7		3,976	329.2	23.3	
Saskatchewan	357	35.1	70.3		3,921	385.9	61.4	
Alberta	659	18.4	46.0		6,914	192.9	43.5	
British Columbia	433	9.9	59.4		9,104	207.8	26.6	
Yukon	12	36.2	2.5		158	476.7	78.9	
Northwest Territories ¹	24	55.4	-9.8		413	954.2	167.5	
Nunavut ¹	33	104.9	369.1		369	1,173.4	249.7	
Canada	3,554	10.7	22.6		54,251	162.9	31.7	

... not applicable

1. The percent change is calculated from 1999 to 2008 as Nunavut was part of the Northwest Territories before 1999.

Police-reported assaults against peace officers, by province and territory

	2008			1998 to 2008
	Assault against peace officers			
	number	rate per 100,000 population	% change in rate	
Newfoundland and Labrador	103	20.3	92.1	
Prince Edward Island	13	9.3	-25.7	
Nova Scotia	362	38.6	168.3	
New Brunswick	259	34.7	15.1	
Quebec	2,753	35.5	23.6	
Ontario	2,834	21.9	23.7	
Manitoba	439	36.3	35.1	
Saskatchewan	532	52.4	66.0	
Alberta	1,166	32.5	33.0	
British Columbia	1,102	25.2	17.6	
Yukon	23	69.4	35.1	
Northwest Territories ¹	60	138.6	101.3	
Nunavut ¹	53	168.5	73.9	
Canada	9,699	29.1	28.7	

1. The percent change is calculated from 1999 to 2008 as Nunavut was part of the Northwest Territories before 1999.

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Railway carloadings

August 2009

The Canadian railway industry saw a decline in the volume of cargo carried in August, the result of a drop in commodities loaded in Canada as well as traffic received from the United States.

Total freight traffic originating in Canada and freight received from the United States dropped to 21.2 million metric tonnes in August, down 16.8% from August 2008. This marked the lowest amount of traffic carried for the month of August in 10 years.

Freight loaded by the Canadian railway industry's core transportation systems, non-intermodal and intermodal, accounted for the majority of the overall drop in cargo loaded. The industry loaded 18.8 million metric tonnes of cargo in August, down 17.0% from August 2008.

Non-intermodal freight loadings, which are typically carried in bulk or loaded in box cars, fell 16.9% to 16.7 million metric tonnes. The decrease was the result of reduced loadings in the majority of the commodity groups carried by the railways. The commodity groups with the largest declines by tonnage were iron ore and concentrates (down 1.2 million metric tonnes), potash, coal, and iron and steel, primary or semi-finished.

Despite the overall drop in non-intermodal loadings, the industry saw significant gains in tonnage loadings of wheat, other cereal grains, and animal or vegetable fats, oils and flours.

Intermodal freight loadings, transported through containers and trailers loaded onto flat cars, decreased 18.3% compared with August 2008 to 2.0 million metric tonnes.

Rail freight traffic coming from the United States dropped to 2.5 million metric tonnes, down 15.0% from August 2008.

From a geographic perspective, 58.7% of the overall volume of cargo loaded by Canadian railways was in the Western Division of Canada, with the remainder loaded in the Eastern Division. The Eastern and Western

Divisions, for statistical purposes, are separated by an imaginary line running from Thunder Bay to Armstrong, Ontario. Freight loaded at Thunder Bay is included in the Western Division while loadings at Armstrong are reported in the Eastern Division.

Available on CANSIM: table 404-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2732.

The August 2009 issue of *Monthly Railway Carloadings*, Vol. 86, no. 8 (52-001-X, 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 the Dissemination Unit (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Hog inventories

Third quarter 2009

Hog inventories on Canadian farms declined 7.3% between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009. The main factors in the decline were low market prices, the restructuring of farms and farm closures.

As of October 1, 2009, Canadian farmers had 11.8 million hogs on their farms, down from 12.7 million on the same date last year. At the same time, the number of farms with hog operations declined from 8,500 to 7,700.

The number of sows reported on farms reached 1.3 million, down 4.4% from October 1, 2008. The number of sows anticipated to farrow is expected to continue declining, according to the industry.

Hog producers exported about 1.6 million hogs during the third quarter of 2009, down 27.2% from the same period last year. During the same period, domestic slaughter of hogs increased 5.9% as slaughter capacity improved in some regions.

Available on CANSIM: tables 003-0004, 003-0087 to 003-0090, 003-0092 and 003-0093.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3460.

The third quarter 2009 issue of *Hog Statistics*, Vol. 8, no. 4 (23-010-X, free), is now available. From the

Publications page of our website, under *All subjects*, choose *Agriculture*.

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 Robert Plourde (613-951-8716; robert.plourde@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

Hog inventories at October 1

	2009	2008 to 2009	2009	2008 to 2009	2009	2008 to 2009	2009	2008 to 2009
	Breeding		Market hogs				Total hogs	
			under 20 kg		20 kg and over			
	thousands of head	% change	thousands of head	% change	thousands of head	% change	thousands of head	% change
Canada	1,353	-4.5	3,594	-7.9	6,873	-7.4	11,820	-7.3
East	759	-2.3	2,253	-1.4	3,981	-8.5	6,992	-5.6
Atlantic	20	-24.7	53	-16.8	69	-12.1	142	-15.9
Quebec	383	-0.7	1,179	-2.8	2,274	-6.7	3,835	-5.0
Ontario	356	-2.4	1,021	1.4	1,638	-10.7	3,015	-6.0
West	594	-7.2	1,342	-17.2	2,892	-6.0	4,828	-9.5
Manitoba	329	-3.5	703	-28.4	1,378	2.3	2,410	-9.7
Saskatchewan	91	-19.5	166	3.0	533	-14.8	790	-12.2
Alberta	157	-7.2	436	-0.5	921	-11.6	1,515	-8.2
British Columbia	17	3.0	36	-4.2	60	-1.5	113	-1.7

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

Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey poults

September 2009 (preliminary)

Placements of hatchery chicks on farms stood at 53.8 million birds in September, down 0.6% from September 2008. Placements of turkey poults on farms decreased to 1.7 million birds.

Available on CANSIM: table 003-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5039.

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 Robert Plourde (613-951-8716; robert.plourde@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Victim Services Survey

2007/2008

Results from the Victim Services Survey are now available for 2007/2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 256-0018 to 256-0021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5035.

The *Juristat* article "Victim services in Canada, 2007/2008" Vol. 29, no. 4 (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. ■

New products

Hog Statistics, Third quarter 2009, Vol. 8, no. 4
Catalogue number 23-010-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Monthly Railway Carloadings, August 2009, Vol. 86, no. 8
Catalogue number 52-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Education Matters: Insights on Education, Learning and Training in Canada, Vol. 6, no. 4
Catalogue number 81-004-X (HTML, free)

Education Indicators in Canada: Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program, October 2009
Catalogue number 81-582-X (HTML, free)

Education Indicators in Canada: Fact Sheets: "Postsecondary Enrolment and Graduation", no. 3
Catalogue number 81-599-X2009003 (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Juristat, Vol. 29, no. 4
Catalogue number 85-002-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
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Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008	2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several exported commodities compared with a lower level of oil. In the financial account, foreign direct investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the expansion-driven pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.	
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2006 Census profiles

While the majority of the census and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions. To obtain these profiles in electronic format (links vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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