Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 1205-9137

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, February 19, 2010
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Retail trade, December 2009 2
Retail sales rose 0.4% in December, mostly offsetting the decline in November. The rebound was largely caused by a shift in the timing of clothing and footwear purchases as a result of November's unseasonably warm weather throughout most of Canada. In volume terms, retail sales increased 0.6%.

Employment Insurance, December 2009 4
The number of regular Employment Insurance beneficiaries fell for the third consecutive month, down 40,100 in December to 744,000. There were fewer beneficiaries in all provinces in December, with the most notable decreases observed in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta.

Leading indicators, January 2010 11

Apartment Building Construction Price Index, fourth quarter 2009 13

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports, January 2010 14

National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey, 2008 14

Road motor vehicle registrations, 2009 14

New products and studies 15

Release dates: February 22 to 26, 2010 16

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Canada

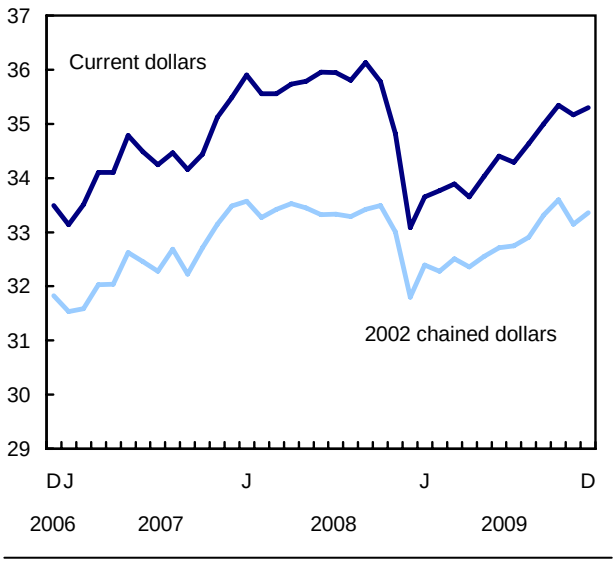
Releases

Retail trade

December 2009

Retail sales in current dollars rose 0.4% in December to $35.3 billion, mostly offsetting the decline in November. Sales in volume terms increased 0.6% in December. Retail sales volumes have been following an upward trend since the beginning of 2009.

Retail sales rose in December



Sales increased in five of eight retail store sectors in December. November's unseasonably warm weather caused some consumers to postpone purchases of clothing and footwear until December.

The largest contributor to the overall increase was a 3.3% rise in sales at general merchandisers, which include department stores. This increase offset the decline observed in November.

Clothing and accessories stores saw their sales increase 2.1% in December. Within the sector, sales rose 5.2% at shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores and 1.2% at clothing stores.

Sales in the automotive sector rose 0.9% in December. Gasoline stations (+2.2%) registered higher sales for a fifth consecutive month. Used and recreational motor vehicles and parts dealers (+1.7%) had higher sales for the eighth month in a row. Sales at new car dealers edged down 0.2%, the second decline in sales after six months of increases.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted and are expressed in current dollars unless otherwise specified.

At the end of each calendar year, seasonally adjusted monthly figures are revised to equal the sum of the unadjusted estimates. Revised seasonally adjusted figures are presented this month for September to November 2009. The complete revision of seasonally adjusted data for the 2009 calendar year will be released in April 2010.

Total retail sales by volume are measured by deflating values in current dollars of the various trade groups using consumer price indexes. This retail sales in chained dollars series (2002) is a chain Fisher volume index with 2002 as the reference year.

Sales at furniture, home furnishings and electronic stores (+0.5%) have been trending upward since May 2009. The largest contributor to December's increase was a 1.8% gain at furniture stores.

Lower sales at food and beverage stores (-1.3%) dampened retail sales in December. Sales at supermarkets were down 1.5%, more than offsetting the increase observed in November. Sales at beer, wine and liquor stores (-1.4%) were down for a third consecutive month following strong growth in the first nine months of the year.

Sales up in six provinces

Retail sales rose in six provinces in December. The largest contributor to the increase was Alberta where sales rose 1.8%, its strongest gain since November 2007.

Retailers in Quebec reported a 0.7% sales increase after two months of little change. This resumes an upward trend observed since the beginning of 2009.

New Brunswick (+2.0%) was the only Atlantic province to report a sales increase in December. This increase almost offset the declines of the previous two months.

It is possible to consult the tables of raw data by industry and by province and territory from the *Tables by subject* module of our website.

For information on related indicators, refer to the *Latest statistics* page on our website.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The December 2009 issue of the publication *Retail Trade* (63-005-X, free) will be available shortly.

Data on retail trade for January will be released on March 19.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; toll-free 1-877-421-3067; *retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Switzer (613-951-7137), Distributive Trades Division.

Retail sales

	December 2008	September 2009[r]	October 2009[r]	November 2009[r]	December 2009[p]	November to December 2009	December 2008 to December 2009
	Seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Automotive	**10,007**	**11,188**	**11,574**	**11,568**	**11,670**	**0.9**	**16.6**
New car dealers	5,039	5,909	6,140	6,006	5,994	-0.2	19.0
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,567	1,572	1,605	1,616	1,644	1.7	4.9
Gasoline stations	3,401	3,706	3,829	3,945	4,031	2.2	18.5
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**2,439**	**2,420**	**2,430**	**2,444**	**2,456**	**0.5**	**0.7**
Furniture stores	796	806	810	812	826	1.8	3.8
Home furnishings stores	452	483	490	489	478	-2.4	5.6
Computer and software stores	101	104	104	107	108	1.1	6.4
Home electronics and appliance stores	1,090	1,028	1,027	1,037	1,045	0.8	-4.1
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**2,138**	**2,241**	**2,266**	**2,302**	**2,274**	**-1.2**	**6.4**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,725	1,830	1,862	1,864	1,856	-0.5	7.6
Specialized building materials and garden stores	413	411	405	438	419	-4.4	1.4
Food and beverage stores	**8,091**	**8,342**	**8,224**	**8,243**	**8,133**	**-1.3**	**0.5**
Supermarkets	5,861	5,983	5,908	5,968	5,880	-1.5	0.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	842	839	845	852	850	-0.2	1.0
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,389	1,520	1,471	1,423	1,403	-1.4	1.1
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**2,405**	**2,562**	**2,553**	**2,538**	**2,505**	**-1.3**	**4.2**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,912**	**1,938**	**1,974**	**1,899**	**1,939**	**2.1**	**1.4**
Clothing stores	1,465	1,482	1,508	1,469	1,487	1.2	1.5
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	447	455	466	430	452	5.2	1.1
General merchandise stores	**4,316**	**4,432**	**4,445**	**4,306**	**4,448**	**3.3**	**3.1**
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,774**	**1,877**	**1,876**	**1,866**	**1,874**	**0.4**	**5.6**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	894	952	934	894	908	1.6	1.6
Miscellaneous store retailers	880	926	941	972	965	-0.6	9.7
Total retail sales	**33,081**	**35,001**	**35,342**	**35,167**	**35,299**	**0.4**	**6.7**
Total excluding automotive sector	**23,075**	**23,813**	**23,768**	**23,599**	**23,629**	**0.1**	**2.4**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**26,475**	**27,519**	**27,597**	**27,544**	**27,660**	**0.4**	**4.5**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	569	621	632	622	614	-1.2	8.0
Prince Edward Island	138	148	145	148	148	0.0	7.1
Nova Scotia	957	1,039	1,049	1,060	1,053	-0.7	10.1
New Brunswick	792	860	849	840	857	2.0	8.2
Quebec	7,629	8,089	8,091	8,059	8,114	0.7	6.3
Ontario	11,570	12,462	12,646	12,564	12,542	-0.2	8.4
Manitoba	1,208	1,260	1,278	1,276	1,280	0.3	6.0
Saskatchewan	1,128	1,174	1,190	1,177	1,187	0.9	5.2
Alberta	4,708	4,650	4,681	4,661	4,742	1.8	0.7
British Columbia	4,261	4,566	4,647	4,626	4,630	0.1	8.7
Yukon	41	44	45	46	45	-1.7	11.8
Northwest Territories	56	61	62	60	58	-3.6	4.3
Nunavut	26	27	27	28	28	0.7	8.2

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.*

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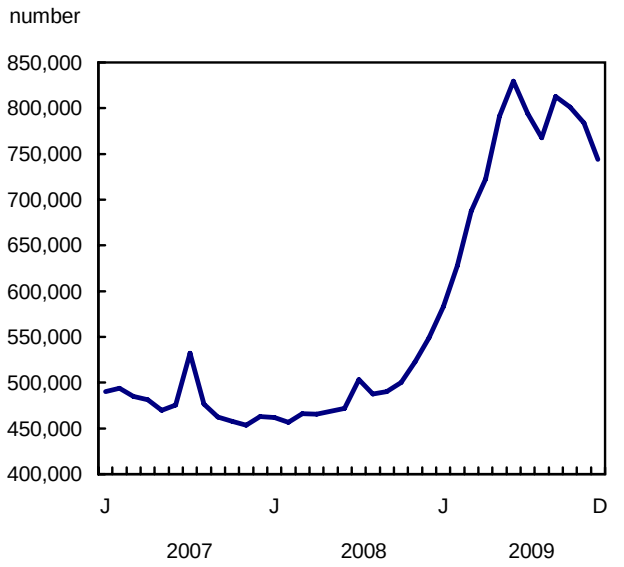
Employment Insurance

December 2009

The number of regular Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries fell for the third consecutive month, down 40,100 in December to 744,000. There were fewer beneficiaries in all provinces in December, with the most notable decreases observed in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta.

The number of people receiving EI benefits continued to decline in December



The number of people receiving regular EI benefits fell by 85,300 since the highpoint of 829,300 reached last June. Despite the decline in recent months, the number of beneficiaries remains 243,700 above its October 2008 level when employment was at a peak.

Compared with 12 months earlier, the number of people receiving regular EI benefits was higher in December 2009 in all census metropolitan areas (CMAs) (see map). The pace of increase, however, has slowed. Between December 2008 and December 2009, the number of regular beneficiaries more than doubled in 3 CMAs (Calgary, Edmonton and Greater Sudbury). This contrasts with June 2009 when the number of beneficiaries had doubled in 14 CMAs in the previous 12 months.

To receive EI benefits, individuals must first submit a claim. The number of claims provides an indication of the number of people who could become beneficiaries.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified.

Each month, Statistics Canada now provides enhanced analysis of the current labour market situation, using Employment Insurance (EI) statistics and other sources. Earlier in February 2010, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) provided a picture of overall labour market conditions, including unemployment, total employment and those affected by changes in the labour market. In this release, Statistics Canada provides additional sub-provincial detail through the EI statistics. Details by industry will follow with data from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.

EI statistics are produced from an administrative data source from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. These statistics may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the Employment Insurance Act *or administrative procedures. The number of regular beneficiaries and the number of claims received for November and December 2009 are preliminary.*

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received EI benefits from the 6th to the 12th of December. This period coincides with the reference week of the LFS for December.

EI statistics indicate the number of people who received EI benefits, and should not be confused with data coming from the LFS, which provides information on the total number of unemployed people.

There is always a certain proportion of unemployed people who do not qualify for benefits. Some unemployed people have not contributed to the program because they have not worked in the past 12 months or their employment is not insured. Other unemployed people have contributed to the program but do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as workers who left their job voluntarily or those who did not accumulate enough hours of work to receive benefits.

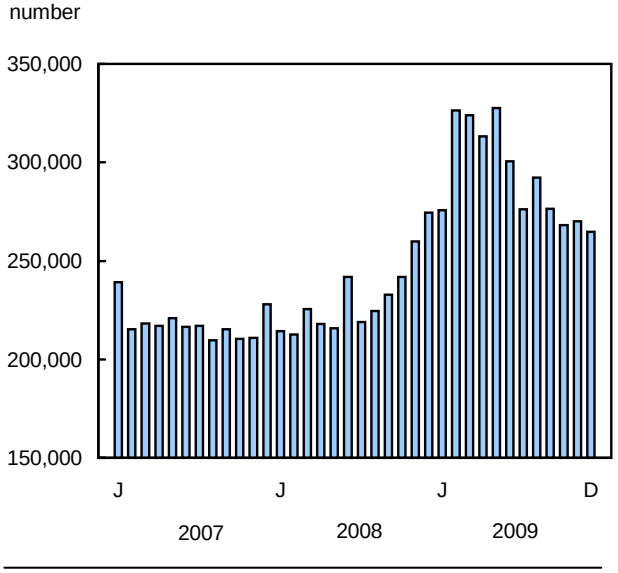
The change in the number of regular EI beneficiaries is the reflection of various situations, including people becoming beneficiaries, and people leaving the EI system, either to go back to work or because they have exhausted their weeks of benefits.

The data on employment used in this analysis are drawn from the LFS.

In December, there were 264,700 initial and renewal claims received, a decline of 5,500 from the previous month. This decrease occurred in five provinces, with the most notable decline in Ontario, down 7,200. At the same time, there were increases in five other provinces, particularly in Quebec.

With the decline in December, the number of initial and renewal claims received continued on a downward trend that began last May. Since then, the number of claims received has fallen by 63,000 with decreases in all provinces.

The number of claims received has been trending down since the peak in May 2009



Fewer beneficiaries in all provinces

All provinces saw fewer regular EI beneficiaries in December, especially Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta.

In Ontario, the number of people receiving regular benefits dropped by 16,900 in December to 251,400, bringing total declines since last June to 35,200. Over the same six-month period, employment in the province increased by 34,000 with gains in educational services; health care and social assistance; professional, scientific and technical services as well as construction.

The number of beneficiaries in Quebec fell by 4,600 for the second consecutive month, decreasing to 198,100, a 12,000 decline compared with June 2009.

In British Columbia, the number of EI recipients decreased by 3,300 to 89,300. This represents the fifth decline for the province in six months. Since June 2009, there have been employment gains in a number of industries, most notably finance, insurance, real estate and leasing.

The number of Albertans receiving regular EI benefits totalled 70,100 in December, down 3,200 from November, following three months of increases. This leaves the number of beneficiaries in the province 7,200 above the level of June 2009.

Sub-provincial and demographic overview

Increase in number of EI beneficiaries slowed in most large centres

Employment Insurance data by sub-provincial region, sex and age are not seasonally adjusted. Therefore, they are compared on a year-over-year basis.

The number of EI beneficiaries continued to increase in many large centres, but at a slower pace than in recent months. Large centres are those with a population greater than 10,000.

In Ontario, the number of EI recipients more than doubled in only 1 of its 41 large centres, namely Greater Sudbury. This contrasts with year-over-year increases ending in June, when the number of beneficiaries more than doubled in 26 of the large centres in the province.

In Greater Sudbury, the number of people receiving benefits rose from 2,300 to 4,700. This increase coincided with a decline in employment in a number of industries, including its natural resources sector.

The number of EI recipients in Toronto rose from 58,600 to 87,500 (+49.2%), its slowest year-over-year increase in 2009.

The number of beneficiaries declined in Quebec in almost half of its 33 large centres. This was in sharp contrast with the previous months in 2009, when there were few centres with year-over-year declines.

From December 2008 to December 2009, the number of EI beneficiaries in Montréal rose by 27.4% to 70,700, the largest increase of all centres in the province. The number of beneficiaries rose slightly in Québec (CMA), up 11.0% to 11,400.

In British Columbia, the number of beneficiaries increased between December 2008 and December 2009 in all large centres, albeit at a slower pace than in previous months. The fastest year-over-year percentage increases were in Fort St. John and Cranbrook. In Vancouver, the number of people receiving regular benefits increased to 35,900 (+15,100) and in Victoria the number of beneficiaries rose to 4,500 (+1,900). In 2009, employment in the province fell in a number of industries, including manufacturing, construction and natural resources.

In Alberta, the number of beneficiaries continued to at least double in virtually all large centres. The year-over-year increases in December, however, were slower than in previous months. In Calgary, the number of people receiving regular benefits increased from 6,300 in December 2008 to 19,600 in December 2009, while the number in Edmonton rose from 6,700 to 17,300 over the same period. In 2009, there were fewer workers employed in the province in manufacturing, natural resources and professional, scientific and technical services.

Slower year-over-year growth in the number of male and female beneficiaries in all age groups

In December, the year-over-year increase in the number of regular EI beneficiaries was the slowest since January 2009. All of the age groups experienced similar growth rates from December 2008 to December 2009.

The number of beneficiaries aged 55 and over rose by 32.5% in December 2009 compared with 12 months earlier, with women up 36.0% and men up 30.7% over the period.

At the same time, the number of beneficiaries under the age of 25 saw an increase of 31.4% to 77,700 in December 2009. This was much slower than the year-over-year increases observed throughout most of 2009. For the first time since July 2008, women under the age of 25 experienced a larger year-over-year percentage increase than young men, with respective increases of 42.4% and 27.6%.

From December 2008 to December 2009, there were 115,900 more core-aged EI beneficiaries (25 to 54 year-olds), an increase of 29.0%, with similar percentage increases for core-aged men and core-aged women. This contrasts with most of 2009 when the number of male EI beneficiaries aged 25 to 54 grew at a much faster pace than for women in the same age group.

Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *Subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

Data on Employment Insurance for January will be released on March 24.

A set of maps, *Employment Insurance Statistics Maps*, December 2009 (73-002-X, free), is now available online. The maps show percent changes in the number of people receiving regular EI benefits for all census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations in Canada. From the *Key resource* module of our website, under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Labour*.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750) or Dominique Pérusse (613-951-4064), Labour Statistics Division.

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Employment Insurance: Statistics by province and territory

	November 2009[p]	December 2009[p]	November to December 2009	December 2008 to December 2009	November to December 2009	December 2008 to December 2009
	Seasonally adjusted					
	number		change in number		% change	
Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits						
Canada	**784,130**	**744,010**	**-40,120**	**195,030**	**-5.1**	**35.5**
Newfoundland and Labrador	40,620	40,370	-250	3,250	-0.6	8.8
Prince Edward Island	8,690	8,670	-20	610	-0.2	7.6
Nova Scotia	34,280	33,640	-640	4,240	-1.9	14.4
New Brunswick	36,150	34,890	-1,260	3,960	-3.5	12.8
Quebec	202,630	198,060	-4,570	25,130	-2.3	14.5
Ontario	268,350	251,430	-16,920	76,610	-6.3	43.8
Manitoba	17,060	16,730	-330	5,120	-1.9	44.1
Saskatchewan	14,090	13,080	-1,010	4,000	-7.2	44.1
Alberta	73,250	70,060	-3,190	47,530	-4.4	211.0
British Columbia	92,580	89,260	-3,320	36,130	-3.6	68.0
Yukon	1,070	1,060	-10	170	-0.9	19.1
Northwest Territories	930	910	-20	190	-2.2	26.4
Nunavut	510	510	0	90	0.0	21.4
Initial and renewal claims received						
Canada	**270,180**	**264,670**	**-5,510**	**-9,760**	**-2.0**	**-3.6**
Newfoundland and Labrador	9,420	9,280	-140	-340	-1.5	-3.5
Prince Edward Island	2,600	2,640	40	150	1.5	6.0
Nova Scotia	10,130	10,450	320	-80	3.2	-0.8
New Brunswick	10,220	10,270	50	-280	0.5	-2.7
Quebec	74,020	77,470	3,450	-990	4.7	-1.3
Ontario	92,340	85,100	-7,240	-14,670	-7.8	-14.7
Manitoba	8,890	8,830	-60	1,360	-0.7	18.2
Saskatchewan	6,300	6,610	310	920	4.9	16.2
Alberta	26,100	25,260	-840	5,070	-3.2	25.1
British Columbia	32,290	31,480	-810	-2,260	-2.5	-6.7
Yukon	310	320	10	10	3.2	3.2
Northwest Territories	360	330	-30	10	-8.3	3.1
Nunavut	180	210	30	30	16.7	16.7

[p] *preliminary*

Note: *The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.*

Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by age group, sex, province and territory

	December 2008	December 2009[p]	December 2008 to December 2009	December 2008 to December 2009
	Unadjusted for seasonality			
	number		change in number	% change
Canada				
Both sexes	564,190	732,880	168,690	29.9
Under 25 years	59,140	77,690	18,550	31.4
25 to 54 years	399,650	515,520	115,870	29.0
55 years and over	105,400	139,680	34,280	32.5
Men	359,960	466,380	106,420	29.6
Under 25 years	44,200	56,410	12,210	27.6
25 to 54 years	247,020	320,160	73,140	29.6
55 years and over	68,730	89,810	21,080	30.7
Women	204,240	266,510	62,270	30.5
Under 25 years	14,940	21,280	6,340	42.4
25 to 54 years	152,630	195,360	42,730	28.0
55 years and over	36,670	49,870	13,200	36.0
Newfoundland and Labrador				
Both sexes	39,980	42,330	2,350	5.9
Under 25 years	3,610	3,960	350	9.7
25 to 54 years	27,540	28,690	1,150	4.2
55 years and over	8,840	9,690	850	9.6
Men	23,630	25,490	1,860	7.9
Women	16,360	16,850	490	3.0
Prince Edward Island				
Both sexes	9,930	10,490	560	5.6
Under 25 years	910	1,010	100	11.0
25 to 54 years	6,560	6,800	240	3.7
55 years and over	2,460	2,680	220	8.9
Men	5,910	6,210	300	5.1
Women	4,030	4,280	250	6.2
Nova Scotia				
Both sexes	29,640	33,080	3,440	11.6
Under 25 years	3,070	3,530	460	15.0
25 to 54 years	20,600	22,640	2,040	9.9
55 years and over	5,970	6,910	940	15.7
Men	17,940	19,980	2,040	11.4
Women	11,700	13,090	1,390	11.9
New Brunswick				
Both sexes	33,870	37,140	3,270	9.7
Under 25 years	2,860	3,200	340	11.9
25 to 54 years	23,690	25,460	1,770	7.5
55 years and over	7,310	8,480	1,170	16.0
Men	22,150	24,030	1,880	8.5
Women	11,710	13,110	1,400	12.0
Quebec				
Both sexes	182,970	201,590	18,620	10.2
Under 25 years	20,890	22,300	1,410	6.7
25 to 54 years	127,280	138,830	11,550	9.1
55 years and over	34,800	40,460	5,660	16.3
Men	119,120	130,000	10,880	9.1
Women	63,850	71,590	7,740	12.1
Ontario				
Both sexes	163,040	225,340	62,300	38.2
Under 25 years	16,150	21,970	5,820	36.0
25 to 54 years	120,710	164,520	43,810	36.3
55 years and over	26,180	38,860	12,680	48.4
Men	104,310	141,240	36,930	35.4
Women	58,720	84,110	25,390	43.2

[p] *preliminary*

Note: *The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.*

Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by age group, sex, province and territory

	December 2008	December 2009[p]	December 2008 to December 2009	December 2008 to December 2009
	Unadjusted for seasonality			
	number		change in number	% change
Manitoba				
Both sexes	12,320	16,830	4,510	36.6
Under 25 years	1,590	2,260	670	42.1
25 to 54 years	8,550	11,580	3,030	35.4
55 years and over	2,190	2,990	800	36.5
Men	8,740	12,030	3,290	37.6
Women	3,580	4,800	1,220	34.1
Saskatchewan				
Both sexes	9,910	13,580	3,670	37.0
Under 25 years	1,070	1,660	590	55.1
25 to 54 years	6,680	9,220	2,540	38.0
55 years and over	2,160	2,700	540	25.0
Men	7,070	9,750	2,680	37.9
Women	2,840	3,820	980	34.5
Alberta				
Both sexes	22,050	60,410	38,360	174.0
Under 25 years	2,330	7,120	4,790	205.6
25 to 54 years	15,630	43,580	27,950	178.8
55 years and over	4,090	9,710	5,620	137.4
Men	13,690	40,050	26,360	192.5
Women	8,360	20,360	12,000	143.5
British Columbia				
Both sexes	57,910	89,040	31,130	53.8
Under 25 years	6,430	10,360	3,930	61.1
25 to 54 years	40,480	61,980	21,500	53.1
55 years and over	11,010	16,700	5,690	51.7
Men	35,740	55,540	19,800	55.4
Women	22,170	33,490	11,320	51.1
Yukon				
Both sexes	1,150	1,330	180	15.7
Under 25 years	100	130	30	30.0
25 to 54 years	790	900	110	13.9
55 years and over	250	300	50	20.0
Men	740	880	140	18.9
Women	410	450	40	9.8
Northwest Territories				
Both sexes	820	1,020	200	24.4
Under 25 years	80	100	20	25.0
25 to 54 years	620	760	140	22.6
55 years and over	120	150	30	25.0
Men	560	700	140	25.0
Women	260	320	60	23.1
Nunavut				
Both sexes	440	520	80	18.2
Under 25 years	50	60	10	20.0
25 to 54 years	360	410	50	13.9
55 years and over	40	50	10	25.0
Men	320	390	70	21.9
Women	120	130	10	8.3

[p] *preliminary*

Note: *The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.*

Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits by census metropolitan areas

	December 2008	December 2009[p]	December 2008 to December 2009	December 2008 to December 2009
	Unadjusted for seasonality			
	number		change in number	% change
Newfoundland and Labrador				
St. John's	4,420	5,340	920	20.8
Nova Scotia				
Halifax	4,770	6,000	1,230	25.8
New Brunswick				
Saint John	1,820	2,540	720	39.6
Quebec				
Saguenay	4,840	5,010	170	3.5
Québec	10,310	11,440	1,130	11.0
Sherbrooke	3,180	3,400	220	6.9
Trois-Rivières	3,840	3,970	130	3.4
Montréal	55,480	70,670	15,190	27.4
Ottawa–Gatineau, Gatineau part	2,920	3,390	470	16.1
Ontario				
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ottawa part	5,500	7,770	2,270	41.3
Kingston	1,250	1,770	520	41.6
Oshawa	4,040	6,350	2,310	57.2
Toronto	58,620	87,490	28,870	49.2
Hamilton	7,280	10,880	3,600	49.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	7,140	9,900	2,760	38.7
Kitchener	6,260	8,760	2,500	39.9
London	7,440	8,000	560	7.5
Windsor	6,370	6,580	210	3.3
Greater Sudbury	2,260	4,690	2,430	107.5
Thunder Bay	1,820	2,480	660	36.3
Manitoba				
Winnipeg	5,520	8,710	3,190	57.8
Saskatchewan				
Regina	1,120	1,750	630	56.3
Saskatoon	1,350	2,310	960	71.1
Alberta				
Calgary	6,310	19,640	13,330	211.3
Edmonton	6,700	17,260	10,560	157.6
British Columbia				
Abbotsford–Mission	3,070	4,590	1,520	49.5
Vancouver	20,820	35,920	15,100	72.5
Victoria	2,580	4,470	1,890	73.3

[p] *preliminary*

Note: *The number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits excludes claimants receiving training, job creation and self-employment benefits as well as other employment and support measures benefits.*

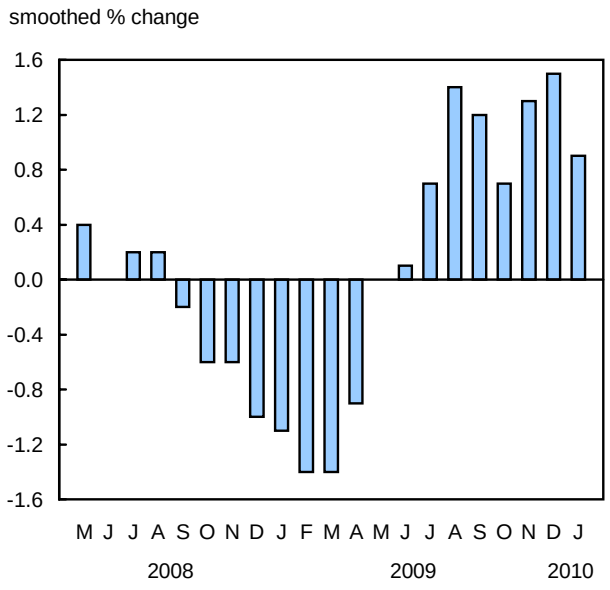
■

Leading indicators

January 2010

The composite leading index rose 0.9% in January, about equal to its average increase over the previous eight months but less than the 1.5% gain in December. Overall, 8 of the 10 components rose, while the 2 that declined were related to manufacturing.

Composite leading indicator



Household spending remained the leading source of growth in the overall index. The housing index advanced another 1.3%, with solid gains in both existing home sales and housing starts. Spending on durable goods continued to increase, despite a temporary deceleration in auto sales. Personal and business services contributed about equally to the growth in the services employment component.

The leading indicator for the United States rose about 1% for the fifth straight month. Real gross domestic product growth in the fourth quarter hit a six-year high. These gains in Canada's primary export market were reflected in the largest hike in the ratio of shipments to inventories since April 2002. The increase was driven by both a strengthening upturn in sales and steady declines in inventories. However, new orders for manufactured goods remained highly volatile, as consecutive gains of 7% were followed by a 1% decline. Most of this volatility originated in aerospace.

The stock market rally slowed, from a peak rate increase of over 5% in the trend to 0.4% in January.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

This release will be reprinted in the March 2010 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 23, no. 3 (11-010-X, free). For more information on the economy, consult the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; *ceo@statcan.gc.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group. □

Leading indicators

	August 2009	September 2009	October 2009	November 2009	December 2009	January 2010	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**218.5**	**221.2**	**222.8**	**225.7**	**229.0**	**231.1**	**0.9**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	113.3	120.0	126.9	130.9	134.7	136.4	1.3
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,893	2,883	2,873	2,884	2,906	2,916	0.3
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	10,345	10,759	10,867	11,082	11,273	11,319	0.4
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	198,200	200,282	202,960	205,766	208,111	209,835	0.8
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	121.5	122.7	123.9	124.9	125.9	127.0	0.9
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	36.9	37.1	37.1	37.1	37.1	37.0	-0.3
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	18,473	17,908	17,097	18,300	19,707	19,518	-1.0
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.56	1.59	1.60	1.62	1.65	1.69	0.04[5]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	2,807	2,811	2,826	2,847	2,862	2,871	0.3
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	9,445	9,546	9,620	9,749	9,886	9,987	1.0
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	**225.1**	**225.6**	**225.9**	**232.8**	**235.4**	**235.6**	**0.1**

1. *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2. *Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.*
3. *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4. *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.*
5. *Difference from previous month.*

■

Apartment Building Construction Price Index

Fourth quarter 2009

The composite price index for apartment building construction decreased 0.2% in the fourth quarter compared with the previous quarter. The quarterly drop in the price index was mainly due to a slight decline in the price of construction materials.

Among the seven census metropolitan areas (CMAs) surveyed, Edmonton (-1.4%) posted the largest quarterly decrease while Montréal (+0.2%) had the largest increase.

Year over year, the composite price index for apartment building construction was down 7.4%. Of the CMAs surveyed, Vancouver (-14.5%) recorded the largest decline, while Montréal (+0.8%) posted the only increase.

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

The apartment building construction price indexes provide an indication of new construction cost changes in six census metropolitan areas (CMAs) (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ottawa part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Besides each of the CMA indexes and the composite index, there are further breakdowns of cost changes by trade groups within the building (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical). These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade-group contractors who report on the categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profits) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0044.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

The fourth quarter 2009 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in April.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-951-4550; 613-951-4550; fax: 613-951-3117; *ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca*), Producer Prices Division.

Apartment Building Construction Price Index[1]

	2009	Fourth quarter 2008	Third quarter 2009	Fourth quarter 2009	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2009	Fourth quarter 2008 to fourth quarter 2009
	relative importance[2]	(2002=100)			% change	
Composite index	**100.0**	**145.0**	**134.5**	**134.2**	**-0.2**	**-7.4**
Halifax	2.3	130.8	130.4	130.5	0.1	-0.2
Montréal	17.8	131.8	132.5	132.8	0.2	0.8
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ottawa part	1.8	137.7	135.0	135.1	0.1	-1.9
Toronto	32.2	141.2	135.9	135.3	-0.4	-4.2
Calgary	10.3	173.3	158.1	157.7	-0.3	-9.0
Edmonton	6.3	164.4	147.6	145.6	-1.4	-11.4
Vancouver	29.3	155.7	133.2	133.1	-0.1	-14.5

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas (CMA).
2. The relative importance is calculated using a price adjusted three-year average of the value of building permits for each CMA.

■

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

January 2010

Aircraft take-offs and landings at the 93 Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations increased by 7.2% in January compared with January 2009. These airports reported 388,346 movements in January compared with 362,228 movements in January 2009.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0007 to 401-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

The January 2010 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics: NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations (TP 141)* (51-007-X, free), is now available from *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*. This report is a joint publication of Statistics Canada and Transport Canada.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; *transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey

2008

Data from the 2008 National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey are now available.

The 2008 National Construction Industry Wage Rate Survey covered establishments with six or more employees in the construction industry for the province of Ontario.

The establishments were asked to provide wage rates for employees working full time in selected occupations and to indicate whether the workers were unionized. Data were collected for work on institutional or commercial construction sites only.

Note: This survey, conducted on behalf of the Labour Branch of Human Resources and Social Development Canada, helps establish wage schedules for workers on federal construction projects. It is conducted region by region on a rotating basis. It excludes Quebec, Manitoba and Yukon, where wage rates are established by the provincial or territorial government. The next round of the survey, scheduled for 2010, will cover British Columbia.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2935.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-679-2746, *sbss-info@statcan.gc.ca*), Small Business and Special Surveys Division.

For information or requests concerning the wage schedules developed from this survey data for workers on federal construction projects, contact Nathalie Nadon (819-997-3903; *nathalie.nadon@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca*), Human Resources and Social Development Canada. ■

Road motor vehicle registrations

2009

Data on road motor vehicle registrations are now available for 2009.

Available on CANSIM: table 405-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2747.

Annual data for 2009 are now available for free from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Réjean Doiron (613-951-5680; *rejean.doiron@statcan.gc.ca*) or Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; *transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

New products and studies

Aircraft Movement Statistics: NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations (TP 141), January 2010
Catalogue number 51-007-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Canada's International Transactions in Securities, December 2009, Vol. 75, no. 12
Catalogue number 67-002-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Employment Insurance Statistics Maps, December 2009
Catalogue number 73-002-X (HTML, free)

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Release dates: February 22 to 26, 2010

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
23	**Life expectancy and deaths**	2007
24	**Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises**	Fourth quarter 2009
24	**Characteristics of international overnight travellers**	Third quarter 2009
25	**International travel account**	Fourth quarter 2009
25	**Payroll employment, earnings and hours**	December 2009
26	**Balance of international payments**	Fourth quarter 2009
26	**Private and public investment in Canada**	2010