Catalogue 11-001-X (ISSN 1205-9137)

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, November 22, 2012
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

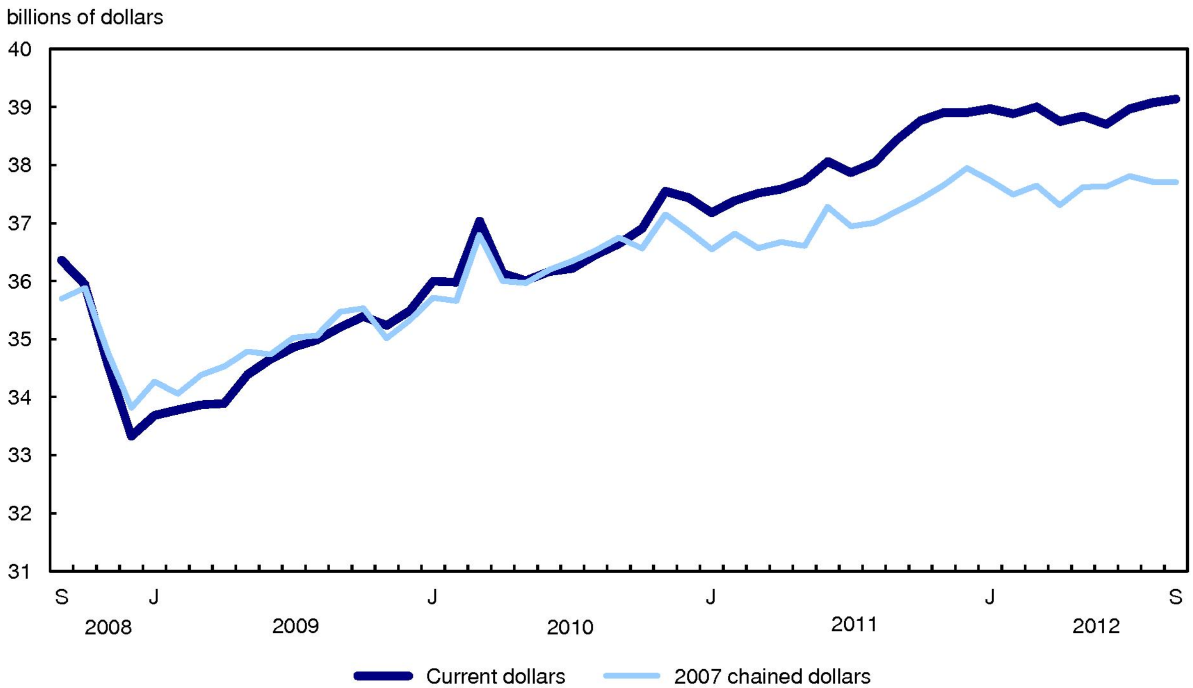
Releases

Releases

Retail trade, September 2012

Retail sales edged up 0.1% to $39.1 billion in September, following increases in the previous two months. Retail sales in volume terms were flat.

Chart 1
Retail sales edge up in September



In current dollars, gains were reported in 7 of 11 subsectors, representing almost 70% of total retail trade.

The largest increase in dollar terms among all subsectors was a 0.6% rise at motor vehicle and parts dealers. A 0.9% increase at new car dealers was partially offset by a 2.7% decline at automotive parts, accessories and tire stores.

Following two monthly declines, sales rose 2.5% at miscellaneous store retailers. Stores in this subsector include used merchandise stores, office supplies and stationery stores, and pet supplies stores.

Clothing and clothing accessories store sales increased 0.8% after falling for the previous three months. Higher sales were reported by clothing stores (+0.8%) and shoe stores (+2.5%), while sales fell at jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores (-0.8%).

Food and beverage store receipts edged up 0.1%, the fourth increase in five months. Sales were up 0.2% at supermarkets and other grocery stores. Specialty food stores (+1.4%) rose for a fifth consecutive month. Beer, wine and liquor store sales declined 1.0%.

Sales at electronics and appliance stores rose 0.8%. Sales in this store type have been on a general downward trend since the end of 2011, mainly as a result of lower receipts from sales of televisions.

General merchandise store sales decreased 0.7%. Department store sales declined 0.9%, while the "other general merchandise stores" industry had a sales decrease of 0.6%.

Sales at gasoline stations declined 0.6% after two consecutive monthly increases.

Sales up in five provinces

Retail sales rose in five provinces in September. Alberta (+1.7%) reported the largest gain in dollar terms, in part a result of higher sales at new car dealers. Sales advanced in this province for three consecutive months.

British Columbia registered a 0.3% sales increase.

The largest decline in dollar terms was in Quebec, where sales fell 0.7%, partly as a result of lower sales at new car dealers.

Sales in Ontario were flat in September, following an increase in August.

Note to readers

All the data in this release are seasonally adjusted and in current dollars, unless otherwise noted. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends.

Total retail sales expressed in volume are calculated by deflating current dollar values using consumer price indexes. The retail sales series in chained (2007) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index with 2007 as the reference year.

Data for total retail sales in volume, including the chain Fisher volume index, have been revised from January 2004 onward to reflect methodological enhancements. In addition, the reference year has changed from 2002 to 2007 for these volume data. For more information, see Calculation of Volume of Retail Trade Sales.

The former CANSIM table 080-0021 has been replaced by CANSIM table 080-0024. Revised data dating back to January 2004 are now available in this new CANSIM table.

Table 1
Retail sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	September 2011	August 2012r	September 2012p	August to September 2012	September 2011 to September 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	**38,444**	**39,079**	**39,137**	**0.1**	**1.8**
Newfoundland and Labrador	663	700	693	-1.0	4.4
Prince Edward Island	158	161	162	0.9	2.8
Nova Scotia	1,104	1,118	1,112	-0.5	0.7
New Brunswick	934	912	923	1.1	-1.3
Quebec	8,600	8,618	8,561	-0.7	-0.4
Ontario	13,607	13,702	13,697	0.0	0.7
Manitoba	1,380	1,388	1,404	1.2	1.7
Saskatchewan	1,378	1,474	1,466	-0.5	6.4
Alberta	5,422	5,784	5,880	1.7	8.5
British Columbia	5,050	5,073	5,090	0.3	0.8
Yukon	56	56	56	1.4	1.3
Northwest Territories	61	63	63	0.2	3.2
Nunavut	31	30	30	-0.8	-3.8

r *revised*

p *preliminary*

Note(s): *Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.*

Table 2
Retail sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	September 2011	August 2012[r]	September 2012[p]	August to September 2012	September 2011 to September 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade	**38,444**	**39,079**	**39,137**	**0.1**	**1.8**
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	**29,898**	**30,325**	**30,335**	**0.0**	**1.5**
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	**25,005**	**25,325**	**25,363**	**0.2**	**1.4**
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	**8,546**	**8,753**	**8,803**	**0.6**	**3.0**
New car dealers	6,840	7,105	7,172	0.9	4.9
Used car dealers	520	478	477	-0.2	-8.3
Other motor vehicle dealers	607	585	584	-0.1	-3.7
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	579	585	569	-2.7	-1.8
Furniture and home furnishing stores	**1,244**	**1,276**	**1,273**	**-0.2**	**2.3**
Furniture stores	782	798	800	0.2	2.3
Home furnishings stores	462	477	473	-1.0	2.3
Electronics and appliance stores	**1,241**	**1,169**	**1,179**	**0.8**	**-5.0**
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	**2,280**	**2,269**	**2,277**	**0.3**	**-0.1**
Food and beverage stores	**8,694**	**8,800**	**8,807**	**0.1**	**1.3**
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,166	6,231	6,245	0.2	1.3
Convenience stores	525	525	529	0.6	0.8
Specialty food stores	423	440	446	1.4	5.6
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,581	1,604	1,587	-1.0	0.4
Health and personal care stores	**2,724**	**2,807**	**2,825**	**0.6**	**3.7**
Gasoline stations	**4,893**	**5,001**	**4,971**	**-0.6**	**1.6**
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	**2,179**	**2,192**	**2,209**	**0.8**	**1.4**
Clothing stores	1,683	1,704	1,717	0.8	2.0
Shoe stores	251	247	253	2.5	1.0
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	245	241	239	-0.8	-2.6
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	**941**	**943**	**938**	**-0.5**	**-0.3**
General merchandise stores	**4,807**	**4,979**	**4,943**	**-0.7**	**2.8**
Department stores	2,253	2,273	2,254	-0.9	0.0
Other general merchandise stores	2,555	2,705	2,689	-0.6	5.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	**893**	**890**	**912**	**2.5**	**2.0**

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*
Note(s): *Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.*

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

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

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 080-0020 and 080-0024.

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

The September 2012 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X, free) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for October will be released on December 20.

For more information or to order data, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

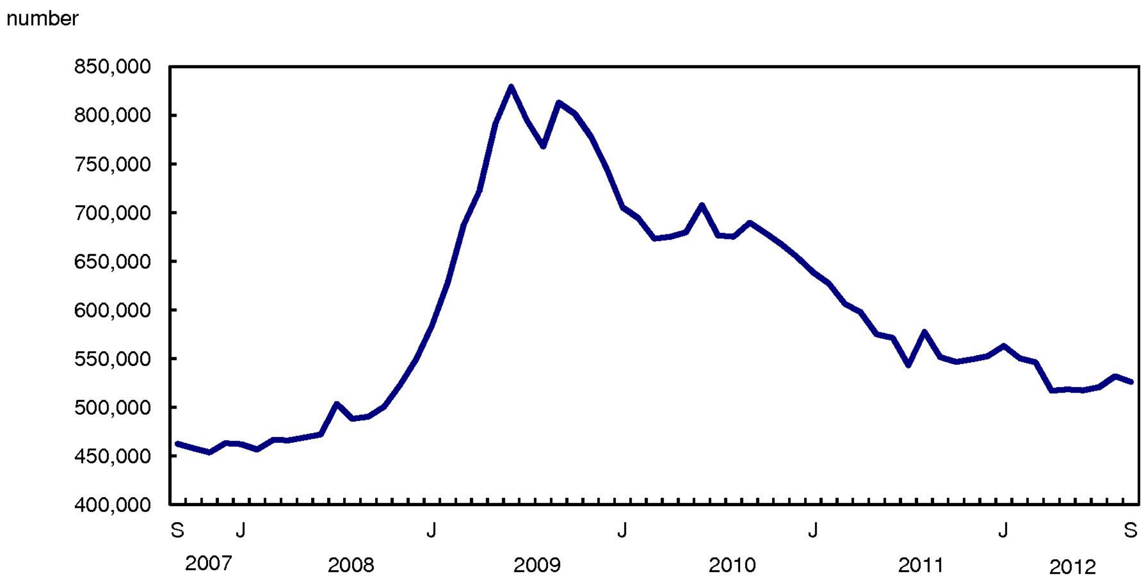
For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jake Purdy (613-951-0984; jake.purdy@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Employment Insurance, September 2012

Following an increase in August, the number of people receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits in September declined slightly, by 5,700 (-1.1%), to 525,900.

The number of beneficiaries edged down in Quebec, British Columbia and New Brunswick, while it rose slightly in Manitoba.

Chart 1
Employment Insurance beneficiaries down slightly in September



Claims unchanged in September

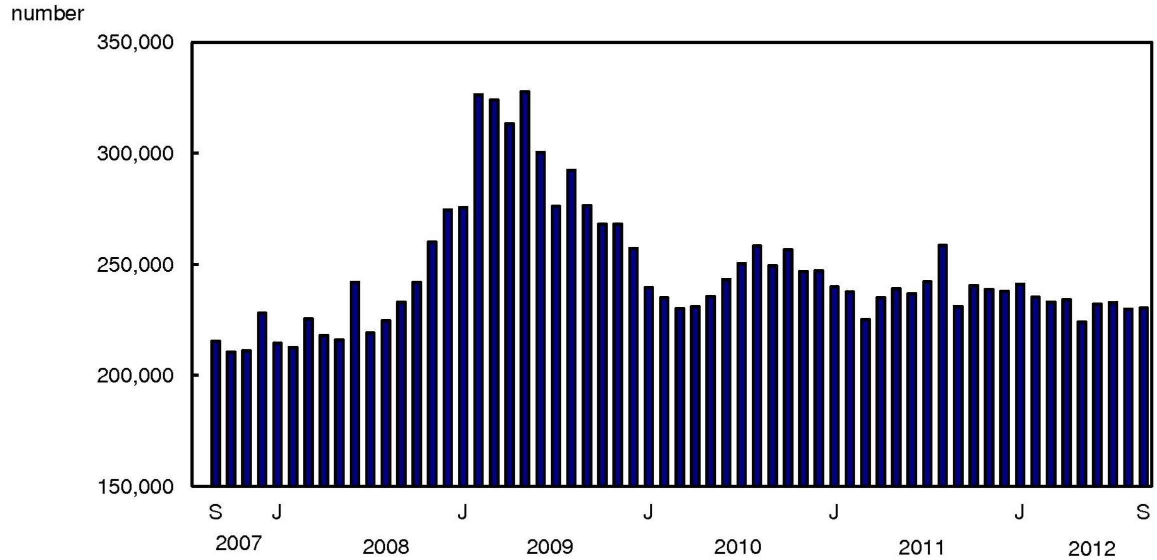
To receive EI benefits, individuals must first submit a claim. The number of claims provides an indication of the number of people who could become beneficiaries.

Nationally, the number of initial and renewal claims was virtually unchanged in September at 230,300.

The situation varied among the provinces. Claims increased 11.5% in Prince Edward Island, 9.4% in Alberta, 5.1% in Manitoba and 4.7% in Ontario. There were smaller increases of 2.7% in New Brunswick and 2.5% in British Columbia.

At the same time, claims fell 3.8% in Saskatchewan and 3.0% in Quebec. There was little change in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Chart 2
Number of claims unchanged nationally in September



Small decrease in beneficiaries in a number of provinces

The number of people receiving regular EI benefits declined slightly in September in a number of provinces. In Quebec, the number decreased 1.6%, following a notable increase of 6.2% the month before.

There were smaller declines in the number of beneficiaries in British Columbia (-1.1%) and New Brunswick (-1.0%). The number of people receiving benefits in British Columbia has held fairly steady since April, while, in New Brunswick, it was on an upward trend over the same period.

In September, the number of beneficiaries rose slightly in Manitoba, continuing an upward trend that began last April. There was little change in the other provinces in September.

Note to readers

Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits are available to eligible individuals who lose their jobs and who are available for and able to work, but can't find a job. The change in the number of regular beneficiaries reflects various situations, including people becoming beneficiaries, people going back to work, and people exhausting their regular benefits.

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends.

EI statistics are produced from administrative data sources provided by Service Canada and 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. A recent example is the pilot project entitled "Working While on Claim," which was introduced on August 5, 2012.

The number of regular beneficiaries and the number of claims received for the current and previous month are subject to revision.

The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all people who received EI benefits from September 9 to 15. This period coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

EI statistics indicate the number of people who received EI benefits, and should not be confused with LFS data, which provide 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.

Table 1
Employment Insurance: Statistics by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	August 2012p	September 2012p	August to September 2012	September 2011 to September 2012	August to September 2012	September 2011 to September 2012
	number		change in number		% change	
Beneficiaries receiving regular benefits						
Canada	**531,540**	**525,870**	**-5,670**	**-25,500**	**-1.1**	**-4.6**
Newfoundland and Labrador	33,270	33,330	60	-4,900	0.2	-12.8
Prince Edward Island	8,090	8,040	-50	-710	-0.6	-8.1
Nova Scotia	30,590	30,550	-40	-2,250	-0.1	-6.9
New Brunswick	34,290	33,930	-360	20	-1.0	0.1
Quebec	157,340	154,790	-2,550	-6,710	-1.6	-4.2
Ontario	158,650	157,590	-1,060	-6,750	-0.7	-4.1
Manitoba	13,290	13,490	200	720	1.5	5.6
Saskatchewan	9,890	9,900	10	100	0.1	1.0
Alberta	26,690	26,760	70	-3,430	0.3	-11.4
British Columbia	57,350	56,700	-650	-3,210	-1.1	-5.4
Yukon	990	1,070	80	150	8.1	16.3
Northwest Territories	860	830	-30	-100	-3.5	-10.8
Nunavut	540	550	10	20	1.9	3.8
Initial and renewal claims received						
Canada	**229,820**	**230,310**	**490**	**-600**	**0.2**	**-0.3**
Newfoundland and Labrador	8,600	8,700	100	-430	1.2	-4.7
Prince Edward Island	2,260	2,520	260	20	11.5	0.8
Nova Scotia	9,390	9,410	20	-800	0.2	-7.8
New Brunswick	9,700	9,960	260	-360	2.7	-3.5
Quebec	71,390	69,250	-2,140	2,380	-3.0	3.6
Ontario	70,200	73,470	3,270	590	4.7	0.8
Manitoba	7,200	7,570	370	330	5.1	4.6
Saskatchewan	5,790	5,570	-220	-250	-3.8	-4.3
Alberta	16,490	18,040	1,550	670	9.4	3.9
British Columbia	25,540	26,180	640	-1,120	2.5	-4.1
Yukon	300	330	30	10	10.0	3.1
Northwest Territories	290	310	20	10	6.9	3.3
Nunavut	210	200	-10	-10	-4.8	-4.8

p *preliminary*

Note(s): *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.*

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0004, 276-0006, 276-0009 and 276-0011.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *Key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*, choose *Subject,* then *Labour*.

Data on Employment Insurance for October will be released on December 19.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Machinery and Equipment Price Index, third quarter 2012

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index (MEPI) decreased 0.9% in the third quarter compared with the previous quarter. The import component was down 1.3% over this period, while the domestic component fell 0.1%.

All industries posted decreases in prices of machinery and equipment purchased in the third quarter. The largest contributors to the total MEPI quarterly decrease were the manufacturing and the finance, insurance and real estate industries (both -0.9%).

On a commodity basis, most commodities posted price decreases in the third quarter. Among these, other industry specific machinery (-1.1%) and trucks, road tractors and chassis (-1.4%) contributed the most to the quarterly decrease of the total MEPI.

The Canadian dollar appreciated 1.5% against the US dollar in the third quarter compared with the previous quarter. Variations in exchange rates can have a strong influence on the MEPI given the high weight that imported machinery and equipment has on the index.

Compared with the third quarter of 2011, the total MEPI increased 2.6%, with the import component rising 3.3% and the domestic component up 1.4% The movement in the import component was partly influenced by the year-over-year change in the Canadian dollar (-1.5%) against the US dollar.

Note to readers

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index provides quarterly data on price changes for machinery and equipment purchased by industries in Canada.

With each release, data for the previous four quarters may have been revised. The index is not seasonally adjusted.

Table 1
Machinery and Equipment Price Index – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance[1]	Third quarter 2011	Second quarter 2012[r]	Third quarter 2012[p]	Second quarter to third quarter 2012	Third quarter 2011 to third quarter 2012
	%	(1997=100)			% change	
Total Machinery and Equipment Price Index	**100.00**	**88.1**	**91.2**	**90.4**	**-0.9**	**2.6**
Domestic	**32.03**	**108.5**	**110.1**	**110.0**	**-0.1**	**1.4**
Imported	**67.97**	**78.6**	**82.3**	**81.2**	**-1.3**	**3.3**
Crop and animal production	4.07	101.4	105.5	104.5	-0.9	3.1
Forestry and logging	0.27	98.2	103.9	102.8	-1.1	4.7
Fishing, hunting and trapping	0.08	114.2	115.9	114.8	-0.9	0.5
Support activities for agriculture and forestry	0.10	99.8	103.7	102.8	-0.9	3.0
Mines, quarries and oil wells	4.26	106.0	111.5	110.6	-0.8	4.3
Utilities	3.55	97.3	100.3	99.0	-1.3	1.7
Construction	3.54	95.1	99.9	98.8	-1.1	3.9
All manufacturing	22.34	94.5	97.9	97.0	-0.9	2.6
Trade	8.38	86.4	89.1	88.4	-0.8	2.3
Transportation (excluding pipeline transportation)	7.66	102.8	106.9	106.0	-0.8	3.1
Pipeline transportation	1.18	103.6	107.6	106.7	-0.8	3.0
Warehousing and storage	0.26	107.2	111.9	111.4	-0.4	3.9
Finance, insurance and real estate	19.90	79.4	81.9	81.2	-0.9	2.3
Private education services	0.12	70.5	74.0	73.2	-1.1	3.8
Education services (excluding private), health care and social assistance	2.09	83.8	86.6	86.0	-0.7	2.6
Other services (excluding public administration)	16.39	74.5	76.4	75.8	-0.8	1.7
Public administration	5.81	80.3	82.7	82.0	-0.8	2.1

r revised

p preliminary

1. The relative importance in the Machinery and Equipment Price Index represent shares of capital investment by industry for year 1997. They are derived from the final demand matrix of the input-output table, compiled by the Canadian System of National Accounts.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 327-0041 and 327-0042.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2312.

The third quarter 2012 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in January 2013.

The Machinery and Equipment Price Index for the fourth quarter will be released on February 21, 2013.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Construction Union Wage Rate Index, October 2012

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada was unchanged in October compared with the previous month. The composite index increased 2.2% compared with October 2011.

Note to readers

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 22 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. The indexes (2007=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

The wage rates and indexes are subject to a 30-month revision period after dissemination of a given month's data. This is due to the length of time that can transpire between the expiration of a collective agreement and the ratification of a new collective agreement. The wage rates and indexes are not seasonally adjusted.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0045.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The third quarter 2012 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in January 2013.

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index for November will be released on December 20.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Investment in new housing construction, September 2012

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

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 026-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mariane Nozière Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

New products and studies

New products

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire, September 2012, Vol. 8, no. 9
Catalogue number 41-019-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)


The Daily
Statistics Canada
Releases
New products

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-X.

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

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