

History of the Retail Store Survey

Changes in concepts, classification and methodology did lead to differences between data from the Retail Store Survey and the Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS) conducted for the 1998 reference year and the previous Annual Wholesale and Retail Trade Survey (AWRTS), survey number 2433, of which retail trade used to be a part of for reference years prior to 1998. Under the previous SIC 80-based ARTS and AWRTS, the determination of inclusion within the retail sector was primarily based on the activity in which a company was engaged and the class of customer to which products were sold. Under the NAICS, that determination is based primarily on the material and service, skills and technology used in the “production” of the sale of goods, with “class of customer” a much lesser consideration.

The 1998 reference year data were published in “*Retailing in Canada – Last Edition – 1998*”, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 63-236-XIB. Information on methodology and on data quality, as well as an image of the questionnaire, are provided at the end of the publication. Data for the retail portion of the distributions trades in Canada for reference years prior to 1998 were published in the same publication then named “Wholesaling and Retailing in Canada”. The data produced by the Retail Store Survey (covering independent retail outlets) for the 1999 and 2000 reference years are available together with the data from the Annual Retail Chain Survey (survey number 2447) on a CD-ROM product, Catalogue no. 63F0026XCB. Since reference year 2001, the data from both surveys are released together in the Daily in an article titled “Annual Retail Trade”.