

A Money and Credit Real-Time Database for Canada

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In this paper, the authors describe the contents of the new database of published information for a set of money and credit variables, which has been developed at the Bank of Canada, and discuss patterns in data revisions. This real-time database, which will make available estimates of money and credit data that have been published at different times, is expected to be of great help to researchers developing models based on money and credit data. The authors find that the revisions to non-bank data, seasonal adjustment factors, and the addition of new instruments appear to be the main sources of data revisions. While they find that most revisions are unbiased, they provide evidence that revisions to some of the money and credit aggregates are biased. In particular, revisions to long-term business credit and total business credit tend to show an upward bias over longer periods. The authors argue that this may be because there tends to be a delay in factoring the effects of financial innovations into time series. Practitioners should consider this when interpreting developments in business credit.

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