

**NOTES ON**  
**THE SERVICES SECTOR OF THE**  
**INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (ISIC)**

**STATISTICS CANADA**  
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# INTRODUCTION

The US Office of Business and Management and the US Bureau of the Census, EUROSTAT and Statistics Canada have produced an officially agreed upon concordance between the industrial classifications of the three agencies and ISIC Rev. 3 of the UN.

In order to achieve this goal of producing an international concordance, an activity file consisting of activity descriptions used by Statistics Canada and the US Bureau of the Census was coded to each of the industrial classifications. The activity file is a database containing over 30,000 activity titles that have been extracted from the CSIC 1970 and 1980, the US SIC, and other relevant sources.

In producing the international concordance, the three agencies agreed to reassign a small number of activities to other ISIC classes, even though it is explicitly stated in ISIC that they belong elsewhere. These activity reassignments, for the services part of ISIC, are listed in the first section of this paper.

The second section of the paper lists some recommendations for changes to ISIC.

During the process of assigning ISIC codes to the activity titles, it was often necessary for the working group to make interpretations of the ISIC industry class definitions. The third section of this paper includes a list of those activity descriptions that have been assigned to ISIC classes in which the definition does not clearly indicate their inclusion. Excluded activities have been listed when the ISIC definition does not clearly indicate that they do not belong.

# **1. ACTIVITY REASSIGNMENT BY THE THREE AGENCIES**

**ISIC 2230      Reproduction of recorded media**

**ISIC 9211      Motion picture and video production and distribution**

ISIC Rev.3 includes the reproduction of motion picture film in class 2230 - Reproduction of recorded media. Canada, the United States and the European Communities prefer to assign this activity to class 9211 - Motion picture and video production and distribution, because it is normally associated with the production of motion pictures.

**ISIC 9214      Dramatic arts, music and other arts activities**

**ISIC 9219      Other entertainment activities n.e.c.**

ISIC Rev. 3 includes the activities of own account actors and directors in class 9219 - Other entertainment activities n.e.c. (see final exclusion in ISIC class 9211). Canada, the United States and the European Communities prefer to assign this activity to class 9214 - Dramatic arts, music and other arts activities, where other similar activities are classified.

**ISIC 9219      Other entertainment activities n.e.c.**

**ISIC 9249      Other recreational activities**

ISIC Rev. 3 includes the activities of fairs in class 9249 - Other recreational activities. Canada, the United States and the European Communities prefer to assign the activities of agricultural fairs to class 9219 - Other entertainment activities n.e.c., because these fairs are generally for displaying agricultural products and are different from the recreational fairs classified to 9249.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO ISIC**

### **ISIC 5139 Wholesale of other household goods**

This industry includes "...wholesale of pharmaceutical and medical goods, surgical and orthopaedic instruments and devices...". It is strongly recommended that these products not be classified as household goods. It is difficult to conceive that such products as surgical apparatus could be considered to be household goods.

### **ISIC 5139 Wholesale of other household goods**

### **ISIC 5149 Wholesale of other intermediate products, waste and scrap**

It is recommended that the wholesale of paper and paperboard be reassigned from ISIC 5139 to ISIC 5149, since these are normally considered to be intermediate products.

### **ISIC 6303 Other supporting transport activities**

It is recommended that, if marinas are to be included in this class, the definition be expanded to describe the various activities of marinas, such as providing docking facilities, the sale of gasoline, food, boats and accessories, boat storage, boat rental, etc.

### **ISIC 7010 Real estate activities with own or leased property**

### **ISIC 9303 Funeral and related activities**

### **ISIC 9309 Other service activities n.e.c.**

The sale of cemetery lots (graves) is explicitly mentioned in the definitions for both of these classes. It is recommended that this activity be classified to ISIC 9309 - Other service activities n.e.c., instead of either of the classes that presently include this activity.

### **ISIC 7130 Renting of personal and household goods n.e.c.**

This class includes "...the renting of such goods as ... pleasurecraft and related facilities...". The exclusion for this class states "...Renting of leisure and pleasure equipment can also be undertaken by the recreational industries and is then classified in the appropriate class of division 92 (Recreational, cultural and sporting activities). It is recommended that the definition of ISIC 7130 be rewritten to provide further clarification.

# **INTERPRETATION OF ISIC**

An asterisk (\*) is shown against items that have been assigned to an ISIC class eventhough it is explicitly described as belonging to another class in ISIC.

## **ISIC 5010      Sale of motor vehicles**

### **Inclusions:**

- automobile auctioneers, wholesale

### **Exclusions:**

- the sale of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) (ISIC 5040)

## **ISIC 5020      Maintenance and repair of motor vehicles**

### **Inclusions:**

- the combination of motor vehicle part sales and repair of vehicles or installation of parts
- motor vehicle towing
- motor vehicle repair space rental
- automotive testing, inspection and diagnostic services
- installation of refrigeration units in trucks

### **Exclusions:**

- the repair, installation or replacement of automotive radios (ISIC 5233)
- the sale and installation of motor vehicle air conditioning equipment (ISIC 5030)
- the sales and service of refrigeration units for trucks and trailers (ISIC 5150)

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- the sale and installation of motor vehicle air conditioning equipment (ISIC 5030)
- the sales and service of refrigeration units for trucks and trailers (ISIC 5150)

## **ISIC 5030     Sale of motor vehicle parts and accessories**

### **Inclusions:**

- dismantlers or recyclers of used automobiles who sell the parts
- home and auto supply stores
- the sale and installation of automobile air conditioning equipment

### **Exclusions:**

- the wholesaling of automotive chemicals (ISIC 5149)
- automobile wrecking for scrap (ISIC 5149)
- sales and service of refrigeration units for trucks and trailers (ISIC 5150)
- the combination of sales of parts and motor vehicle repair (ISIC 5020)

## **ISIC 5040     Sale, maintenance and repair of motorcycles and related parts and accessories**

### **Inclusions:**

- the retail and wholesale sale of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs)

## **ISIC 5050     Retail sale of automotive fuel**

### **Inclusions:**

- truck stops

## **ISIC 5110     Wholesale on a fee or contract basis**

### **Inclusions:**

- unspecified commission agents

### **Exclusions:**

- automobile auctioneers (ISIC 5010)

## **ISIC 5121      Wholesale of agricultural raw materials and live animals**

### **Inclusions:**

- businesses which buy goods from the farmer and sell them to other wholesalers and processors
- the wholesaling of materials used by farmers for the production of crops and livestock
- the wholesaling of live bait

### **Exclusions:**

- honey wholesalers (ISIC 5122)
- pet food wholesalers (ISIC 5122)

## **ISIC 5122      Wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco**

### **Inclusions:**

- wholesalers who sell processed or packaged agricultural products
- pet food wholesalers
- honey wholesalers

### **Exclusions:**

- livestock feed wholesalers (ISIC 5121)

## **ISIC 5131      Wholesale of textiles, clothing and footwear**

### **Inclusions:**

- bullet proof vests, wholesale

## **ISIC 5139      Wholesale of other household goods**

### **Inclusions:**

- the wholesaling of motor vehicle sound systems and citizen band radios
- the wholesaling of free-standing and "to-be-built-in" kitchen cabinets

### **Exclusions:**

- the wholesaling of home computers, software and diskettes (ISIC 5150)
- laboratory equipment, wholesale (ISIC 5150)
- ceramic floor and wall tiles, wholesale (ISIC 5143)
- office, store, restaurant, barber and beauty shop, and theatre furniture and fixtures, including partitions and shelving (ISIC 5150)
- electronic communications equipment, wholesale (ISIC 5150)
- paper and paperboard, wholesale (ISIC 5149) \*



## **ISIC 5141     Wholesale of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and related products**

### **Inclusions:**

- the fueling of aircrafts

## **ISIC 5142     Wholesale of metals and metal ores**

### **Inclusions:**

- products produced by metal foundries
- fire hydrants, wholesale
- steel wool, wholesale
- springs, wholesale

## **ISIC 5143     Wholesale of construction materials, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies**

### **Inclusions:**

- the wholesaling of automotive mechanics' tools and equipment (hand-held only)
- monument and tombstone wholesalers
- commercial and industrial cutlery, wholesale
- log marketing boards
- the wholesaling of mobile homes
- the wholesaling of prefabricated homes, cottages and other structures
- the wholesaling of air pollution control equipment, ventilating equipment, dust collecting equipment, and exhaust and air-moving equipment

### **Exclusions:**

- garage service equipment, wholesale (ISIC 5150)
- electrical construction materials, wholesale (ISIC 5150)

## **ISIC 5149     Wholesale of other intermediate products, waste and scrap**

### **Inclusions:**

- the wholesaling of chemically-based or non-metallic mineral products which have a wide range of uses (i.e. caulking materials, drilling muds and adhesives, sealants, glues, etc.)
- automotive chemicals, wholesale (i.e. brake fluid, anti-freeze, fuel additives, etc.)
- industrial strength cleaning products, wholesale
- the wholesaling of animal or vegetable oils and greases
- newsprint and paper dealers, wholesale
- metal polishes, wholesale
- automobile wrecking for scrap
- paper and paperboard, wholesale \*

### **Exclusions:**

- dismantlers or recyclers of used automobiles who sell the parts (ISIC 5030)

## **ISIC 5150     Wholesale of machinery, equipment and supplies**

### **Inclusions:**

- the sales and service of refrigeration units for trucks and trailers
- garage service equipment, wholesale
- electrical construction materials, wholesale
- storage batteries, wholesale
- wholesaling of bottles, cans, boxes and crates that are filled using the machinery in this class
- parts for radios, wholesale
- the wholesaling of home computers, software and diskettes
- laboratory equipment, wholesale
- audio and video recording tapes, wholesale (i.e. cassettes)
- caskets, wholesale
- shoe findings, heels and soles, wholesale
- the wholesaling of office, store, restaurant, barber and beauty shop, and theatre furniture and fixtures, as well as partitions and shelving
- the wholesaling of replacement parts for the machinery included in this class
- industrial heat exchange equipment, industrial power boilers, and industrial water pumps, wholesale
- the wholesaling of medical and dental equipment
- electronic communications equipment, wholesale

### **Exclusions:**

- the installation of refrigeration units in trucks (ISIC 5020)
- hand-held mechanics' tools, wholesale (ISIC 5143)
- the wholesaling of construction material, except electrical (ISIC 5143)
- radio and television receiving sets, wholesale (ISIC 5139)

## **ISIC 5220     Retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco in specialized stores**

### **Exclusions:**

- the retail sale of pet food (ISIC 5239)
- fruit and vegetable markets and stands, retail (ISIC 5252)

## **ISIC 5233     Retail sale of household appliances, articles and equipment**

### **Inclusions:**

- the retail sale of free-standing and "to-be-built-in" kitchen cabinets
- retail electric razor shops
- the repair, installation or replacement of automotive radios

### **Exclusions:**

- the retail sale of flatware, hollow ware and silverware, made of precious metal (ISIC 5239)

## **ISIC 5239     Other retail sale in specialized stores**

### **Inclusions:**

- the retail sale of flatware, hollow ware and silverware, made of precious metal
- retail art galleries
- the retail sale of pet food
- the retail sale of mobile homes and their parts, accessories and equipment
- swimming pools, saunas, hot-tubs and whirlpools, retail
- water conditioning equipment, retail
- the retail sale of office furniture and machinery

### **Exclusions:**

- flatware, hollow ware and cutlery, not made of precious metal (ISIC 5233)
- the wholesale of office furniture and machinery (ISIC 5150)

## **ISIC 5252     Retail sale via stalls and markets**

### **Inclusions:**

- fruit and vegetable stands, retail

## **ISIC 5260      Repair of personal and household goods**

### **Inclusions:**

- the polishing of furniture
- engraving services, except identification engraving
- key duplicating services
- the repair and restoration of antiques, except furniture, art and automobiles

### **Exclusions:**

- identification engraving services (ISIC 7492)

## **ISIC 6023      Freight transport by road**

### **Inclusions:**

- "baggage transfer"
- postal delivery services by a contract trucking company

## **ISIC 6303      Other supporting transport activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- routine aircraft maintenance, inspection and testing services
- aircraft upholstery repair services
- the cleaning of railway cars and boats, ferries and ships, except janitorial type
- livestock feeding stations and stockyards

### **Exclusions:**

- aircraft maintenance activities involving overhauling of aircraft (ISIC 3530)
- janitorial-type cleaning of boats, trains, etc. (ISIC 7493)
- flagging service (traffic control) (ISIC 7499)

## **ISIC 6411      National post activities**

### **Exclusions:**

- postal delivery services performed by contract trucking establishments (ISIC 6023)

## **ISIC 6412      Courier activities other than national post activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- liquor delivery services
- restaurant food delivery services

## **ISIC 6511      Central banking**

### **Inclusions:**

- cooperative ventures (i.e. Cooperative credit society, "Caisses populaires, federation, league or regional", etc.)
- Federal Home Loan Banks

### **Exclusions:**

- Federal Home Loan Mortgage Companies (ISIC 6592)

## **ISIC 6592      Other credit granting**

### **Inclusions:**

- banks for cooperatives, agriculture
- mortgage brokers, using own money

### **Exclusions:**

- mortgage brokers, except using own money (ISIC 6719)

## **ISIC 6599      Other financial intermediation n.e.c.**

### **Inclusions:**

- venture capital companies
- Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) pools
- commodity trading companies and commodity contract pool operators

## **ISIC 6601      Life insurance**

### **Inclusions:**

- funeral and burial insurance

## **ISIC 6712      Security dealing activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- "mortgage, buying and selling (rediscounting)"
- "sale of partnership shares in real estate syndicates"

## **ISIC 6719      Activities auxiliary to financial intermediation n.e.c.**

### **Inclusions:**

- managers of mutual funds
- stock transfer agents
- fiduciary agents, other than real estate or trust
- tax certificate sale and redemption agencies
- agents, farm or business loan
- loan agents
- security holders and protective committees
- mortgage brokers, not using own money

### **Exclusions:**

- mortgage brokers, using own money (ISIC 6592)

## **ISIC 7010      Real estate activities with own or leased property**

### **Exclusions:**

- the rental of mobile homes (except on site) (ISIC 7111)

## **ISIC 7020      Real estate activities on a fee or contract basis**

### **Inclusions:**

- activities associated with, but not actually engaged in buying, selling, renting, managing and appraising real estate (i.e. rental listing services and right-of-way acquisition agents and contractors)
- real estate escrow agents

## **ISIC 7111     Renting of land transport equipment**

### **Inclusions:**

- the rental of mobile homes (except on site)

## **ISIC 7112     Rental of water transport equipment**

### **Inclusions:**

- the chartering of bareboat vessels

### **Exclusions:**

- the rental of pleasure boats (ISIC 9249)

## **ISIC 7122     Renting of construction and civil engineering machinery and equipment**

### **Exclusions:**

- the rental of woodworking machinery (ISIC 7129)
- the rental of carpentry equipment (ISIC 7130)

## **ISIC 7129     Renting of other machinery and equipment n.e.c.**

### **Inclusions:**

- the rental of woodworking machinery and equipment
- the rental and leasing of industrial trucks
- the rental of portable toilets

### **Exclusions:**

- carpentry equipment rental (ISIC 7130)

## **ISIC 7130     Renting of personal and household goods n.e.c.**

### **Inclusions:**

- carpentry equipment rental
- the rental of painting equipment, plumbing equipment and saws (exc. sawmills)
- medical and therapeutic equipment rental

### **Exclusions:**

- woodworking machinery and equipment rental (ISIC 7129)
- the rental of saddle-horses (ISIC 9249)
- the rental of bicycles and mopeds (ISIC 9249)
- the rental of rugs and carpets (ISIC 9301)

## **ISIC 7210     Hardware consultancy**

### **Inclusions:**

- "turnkey vendors, computer systems" and "value-added resellers, computer systems"

## **ISIC 7320     Research and experimental development on social sciences and humanities (SSH)**

### **Exclusions:**

- educational or personnel testing services (ISIC 7414)

## **ISIC 7411     Legal activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- services used by lawyers (i.e. patent agents and process servers)

### **Exclusions:**

- real estate escrow agents (ISIC 7020)



## **ISIC 7414      Business and management consultancy activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- management information systems (MIS) consultants
- educational and personnel testing services

### **Exclusions:**

- computer-oriented MIS consultants (ISIC 72)

## **ISIC 7421      Architectural and engineering activities and related technical consultancy**

### **Inclusions:**

- seismic drilling
- gemologist services
- mathematician services
- weather forecasting services

## **ISIC 7422      Technical testing and analysis**

### **Exclusions:**

- automotive testing, inspection and diagnostic services (ISIC 5020)

## **ISIC 7492      Investigation and security activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- fire alarm maintenance and monitoring
- lie detection (polygraph) services
- the rental of secured space (i.e. locker rental (except food), safe deposit companies, etc.)
- identification engraving services

### **Exclusions:**

- engraving services, except identification engraving services (ISIC 5260)

## **ISIC 7493     Building-cleaning activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- aircraft cleaning and janitorial services
- industrial machinery cleaning services

### **Exclusions:**

- heavy cleaning activities on ships, planes, trains, etc. (ISIC 6303)
- furniture polishing (ISIC 5260)

## **ISIC 7495     Packaging activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- product sterilization services

## **ISIC 7499     Other business activities n.e.c.**

### **Inclusions:**

- pipeline inspection services
- construction testing and building inspection services
- flagging service (traffic control)
- package design and developing
- setting up tests for security firms
- patent developing and marketing
- resume service
- bail bonding and bondsmen
- the laminating of photographs (coating photos with plastic)
- inspection or weighing of commodities (not connected with transportation)
- field warehousing
- diving services
- water conditioning services
- cake decorating services
- self-employed naturalists
- bottle exchange

## **ISIC 7513      Regulation of and contribution to more efficient operation of business**

### **Inclusions:**

- conservation programs of all types, at all levels of government
- occupational safety and health standards services, provincial
- economic development agencies
- commodity exchange authorities
- irrigation districts, nonoperating
- sanitary districts, nonoperating

## **ISIC 7514      Ancillary service activities for the Government as a whole**

### **Inclusions:**

- "Auditor General's office, federal administration" and "audits, federal administration"
- liability insurance service (non-commercial), federal administration
- Ombudsman's office, provincial administration

## **ISIC 7523      Public order and safety activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- fishery inspection and protection services

## **ISIC 8021      General secondary education**

### **Inclusions:**

- handicapped schools that teach both elementary and secondary levels

## **ISIC 8030      Higher education**

### **Exclusions:**

- post secondary trade and vocational schools (ISIC 8090)

## **ISIC 8090     Adult and other education**

### **Inclusions:**

- colleges of art
- business colleges
- schools of nursing
- post secondary trade and vocational schools

## **ISIC 8511     Hospital activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- nursing stations

## **ISIC 8512     Medical and dental practice activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- pathologists' offices

### **Exclusions:**

- mental health clinics (ISIC 8519)

## **ISIC 8519     Other human health activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- denturists' offices
- mental health clinics

## **ISIC 8531     Social work with accommodation**

### **Inclusions:**

- homes for the deaf or blind, with health care

## **ISIC 8532      Social work without accommodation**

### **Inclusions:**

- out-patient treatment clinics for drug and alcohol addiction
- head start centres (exc. formal schooling)

### **Exclusions:**

- residential addiction treatment clinics (ISIC 8531)
- mental health clinics (ISIC 8519)
- baby-sitting services, conducted by a company which hires people to go into the client's home (ISIC 9309)

## **ISIC 9199      Activities of other membership organizations n.e.c.**

### **Inclusions:**

- humane societies

## **ISIC 9211      Motion picture and video production and distribution**

### **Inclusions:**

- motion picture duplicating and reproduction activities \*
- film, video or motion picture libraries

## **ISIC 9214      Dramatic arts, music and other arts activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- activities of own-account performers, artists, directors, etc. \*

## **ISIC 9219      Other entertainment activities n.e.c.**

### **Inclusions:**

- agricultural fairs \*

### **Exclusions:**

- animal amusement parks (ISIC 9233)
- activities of own-account performers, artists, directors, etc. (ISIC 9214) \*

## **ISIC 9241     Sporting activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- ski equipment rental
- health spas that require active participation
- sports governing bodies and regulatory sports associations

## **ISIC 9249     Other recreational activities**

### **Inclusions:**

- the rental of boats, bicycles and mopeds
- miniature golf courses
- horseback riding stables and the rental of saddle-horses
- river rafting operations
- waterslide operations
- go-cart raceway operation
- provincial parks
- amusement arcades
- the operation of juke boxes

### **Exclusions:**

- agricultural fairs (ISIC 9219) \*

## **ISIC 9301     Washing, and (dry-) cleaning of textile and fur products**

### **Inclusions:**

- the rental of rugs and carpets

## **ISIC 9302     Hairdressing and other beauty treatment**

### **Exclusions:**

- hair electrolysis and scalp treatment services (ISIC 9309)

## **ISIC 9309      Other service activities n.e.c.**

### **Inclusions:**

- computer photography
- hair electrolysis and scalp treating services
- baby-sitting services conducted by a company, which hires people to go into the client's home
- privately owned wedding chapels

### **Exclusions:**

- daycare operations (ISIC 8532)