



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Retail trade, June 2003** 2  
Consumer spending in retail stores advanced 0.3% in June to \$26.4 billion. Nevertheless, the second quarter ended with a 0.2% sales decline.
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## NEW PRODUCTS

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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### Retail trade

June 2003

Consumer spending in retail stores advanced 0.3% in June to \$26.4 billion, after a 0.5% gain in May. These two consecutive monthly gains did not make up entirely for the lost sales in April and March, leaving retail sales just below the peak reached in February 2003. Previously, retail sales had generally been increasing since the September 2001 slump.

In constant dollars, retail sales rose 0.5% in June.

All retail sectors posted increases in June, except the automotive sector, where sales declined 1.1%. Excluding sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers, the largest component of the automotive sector, total retail sales jumped 1.2%.

Retailers in the food (+1.9%), other retail (+1.9%) and clothing (+1.0%) sectors enjoyed the largest sales gains. The "other retail" category includes stores such as liquor, sporting goods and jewellery. Sales increases were moderate in the furniture (+0.3%), drug (+0.2%) and general merchandise (+0.1%) sectors.

#### Lower gasoline prices pull down second quarter

Despite sizeable gains in several sectors, retail sales fell 0.2% in the second quarter compared with the first quarter when sales rose 1.8%. In fact, sales increased by at least 1% in four of the seven retail sectors in the second quarter: furniture (+2.3%), food (+1.4%), clothing (+1.3%) and drug (+1.2%). Retailers in the general merchandise (+0.8%) and "other retail" (+0.5%) sectors also experienced increases.

Lower gasoline prices at the pump reduced the value of sales in gasoline service stations by 14.1% in the second quarter. Excluding sales by gasoline service stations, total retail sales advanced 1.1% in the second quarter compared with the first.

In constant dollars, retail sales rose 0.5% in the second quarter compared with the first.

#### Auto sales remain volatile

Motor and recreational vehicle dealers experienced a 2.1% reduction in sales in June, after posting a 2.9% gain in the previous month. Sales in the overall automotive sector fell 1.1% despite advances in auto parts, accessories and services stores (+1.4%) and gasoline service stations (+0.9%). Sales by motor and recreational vehicle dealers have remained essentially

#### Note to readers

*Estimates from the Monthly Retail Trade Survey are classified according to the 1980 Standard Industrial Classification.*

at the same level since the start of 2002, which was a record year for new vehicle sales.

Food retailers enjoyed a 1.9% sales gain in June, after experiencing a 2.3% decline in May. Food stores have experienced robust growth in the first half of 2003, with year-over-year sales increases averaging 6.5% per month compared to 4.5% in the same period of 2002.

Cash registers kept ringing for a second straight month in all types of clothing stores in June. Sales advanced 1.0%, following a 2.2% increase in May. These gains brought sales in the clothing sector to new heights after a period of considerable volatility in 2002, which left sales essentially flat in that year.

#### Retail sales up in most provinces

Consumer spending in retail stores increased in all provinces in June, except Prince Edward Island (-1.0%), Saskatchewan (-0.9%) and Ontario (-0.1%).

Sales by Ontario retailers remained essentially steady after bouncing back from the SARS-induced decline reported in April. Plunging sales in the automotive sector, caused by a significant 14.5% drop in the number of new motor vehicles sold in June, were offset by increases in the remaining retail sectors in Ontario. Retail sales in Ontario showed little progress since the beginning of the year, after advancing from the fall of 2001.

The largest sales gains in June were posted by retailers in the Atlantic provinces, except Prince Edward Island. Retail sales advanced by more than 1.0% in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Generally, retailers in these provinces enjoyed renewed growth since the fall of 2002, after experiencing essentially flat sales in the previous months.

#### Related indicators for July

Total employment edged down 0.1% in July after a 0.3% surge in June. The total number of people employed in July was essentially the same as in last March. Housing starts continued to show strength, with an 8.5% jump in the number of new projects from the previous month. Using preliminary data from the auto

industry, it is estimated that new motor vehicles sold in July rebounded by about 11% from June.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0001 to 080-0005 and 076-0005.**

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

The June 2003 issue of *Retail trade* (63-005-XIB, \$16/\$155) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541; cell: 613-293-2397; [paul.gratton@statcan.ca](mailto:paul.gratton@statcan.ca)), Distributive Trades Division. □

## Retail sales

	June 2002	March 2003 <sup>r</sup>	April 2003 <sup>r</sup>	May 2003 <sup>r</sup>	June 2003 <sup>p</sup>	May to June 2003	June to June 2002
seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,558</b>	<b>5,853</b>	<b>5,933</b>	<b>5,796</b>	<b>5,908</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,168	5,433	5,524	5,382	5,491	2.0	6.3
All other food stores	390	420	408	414	418	0.9	7.0
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,383</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Shoe stores	155	151	148	150	153	2.2	-1.3
Men's clothing stores	116	108	104	108	109	0.4	-6.4
Women's clothing stores	414	396	391	402	408	1.5	-1.6
Other clothing stores	699	706	711	724	728	0.6	4.2
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,228	1,243	1,251	1,277	1,295	1.5	5.5
Household furnishings stores	298	320	313	319	306	-4.2	2.5
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>10,312</b>	<b>10,654</b>	<b>10,388</b>	<b>10,496</b>	<b>10,385</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	6,909	6,864	6,841	7,042	6,891	-2.1	-0.3
Gasoline service stations	1,904	2,248	2,017	1,890	1,908	0.9	0.2
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,498	1,542	1,530	1,563	1,585	1.4	5.8
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,874</b>	<b>2,852</b>	<b>2,847</b>	<b>2,919</b>	<b>2,921</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Department stores	1,672	1,681	1,657	1,720	1,717	-0.2	2.7
Other general merchandise stores	1,201	1,171	1,190	1,198	1,203	0.4	0.2
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>2,802</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	793	790	790	798	800	0.1	0.8
Other durable goods stores	675	674	661	671	682	1.6	1.1
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,255	1,283	1,284	1,281	1,320	3.1	5.2
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>25,671</b>	<b>26,358</b>	<b>26,148</b>	<b>26,277</b>	<b>26,354</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>18,761</b>	<b>19,493</b>	<b>19,307</b>	<b>19,235</b>	<b>19,463</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	418	443	445	443	451	1.9	7.9
Prince Edward Island	105	110	112	110	109	-1.0	4.0
Nova Scotia	761	770	776	770	778	1.1	2.3
New Brunswick	612	611	623	608	619	1.7	1.1
Quebec	5,857	6,084	6,044	6,082	6,119	0.6	4.5
Ontario	9,608	9,941	9,712	9,882	9,874	-0.1	2.8
Manitoba	894	903	902	907	912	0.5	2.0
Saskatchewan	756	797	788	780	773	-0.9	2.3
Alberta	3,160	3,226	3,251	3,207	3,226	0.6	2.1
British Columbia	3,411	3,376	3,403	3,392	3,399	0.2	-0.3
Yukon	33	34	33	33	32	-2.1	-1.6
Northwest Territories	41	45	42	44	43	-1.9	5.8
Nunavut	17	18	18	18	19	3.2	7.3

<sup>R</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>P</sup> Preliminary figures.

## Retail sales

	June 2002	May 2003 <sup>r</sup>	June 2003 <sup>p</sup>	June 2002 to June 2003
	unadjusted			
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Food</b>	<b>5,712</b>	<b>6,269</b>	<b>5,808</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Supermarkets and grocery stores	5,305	5,834	5,387	1.6
All other food stores	407	434	421	3.5
<b>Drug and patent medicine stores</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Shoe stores	170	183	162	-4.3
Men's clothing stores	125	115	115	-7.5
Women's clothing stores	419	452	414	-1.0
Other clothing stores	643	695	664	3.3
<b>Furniture</b>	<b>1,479</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>1,551</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Household furniture and appliance stores	1,181	1,230	1,246	5.5
Household furnishings stores	298	318	305	2.5
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>11,466</b>	<b>12,475</b>	<b>11,770</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Motor and recreational vehicle dealers	7,862	8,707	8,042	2.3
Gasoline service stations	1,988	1,963	2,002	0.8
Automotive parts, accessories and services	1,617	1,805	1,725	6.7
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>2,889</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Department stores	1,650	1,707	1,664	0.8
Other general merchandise stores	1,213	1,239	1,225	1.0
<b>Retail stores not elsewhere classified</b>	<b>2,847</b>	<b>2,970</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Other semi-durable goods stores	862	925	862	-0.1
Other durable goods stores	666	686	672	0.8
All other retail stores not elsewhere classified	1,318	1,359	1,363	3.4
<b>Total, retail sales</b>	<b>26,977</b>	<b>29,011</b>	<b>27,578</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Total excluding motor and recreational vehicle dealers</b>	<b>19,115</b>	<b>20,304</b>	<b>19,535</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	447	493	482	7.8
Prince Edward Island	116	120	119	2.6
Nova Scotia	809	832	827	2.2
New Brunswick	652	672	659	1.2
Quebec	6,219	7,046	6,468	4.0
Ontario	10,118	10,855	10,343	2.2
Manitoba	919	981	938	2.1
Saskatchewan	787	837	798	1.3
Alberta	3,276	3,461	3,330	1.7
British Columbia	3,535	3,613	3,512	-0.6
Yukon	38	36	38	-1.6
Northwest Territories	44	45	45	2.8
Nunavut	17	19	18	8.7

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.



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**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, only Canadian took an average of about 4.1 per cent on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 20 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4  
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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