



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

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<b>Retail trade, June 2005</b>	2
Retail sales bounced back 1.1% in June to \$30.8 billion after falling 1.2% in May. While half of the eight retail sectors enjoyed sizable sales gains, about two-thirds of June's increase came from stronger auto sales.	
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## Releases

### Retail trade

June 2005

Retail sales bounced back 1.1% in June to \$30.8 billion after falling 1.2% in May. While half of the eight retail sectors enjoyed sizable sales gains, about two-thirds of June's increase came from stronger auto sales.

Excluding sales by dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, retail sales advanced by 0.4% in June, following a 0.3% decline the previous month.

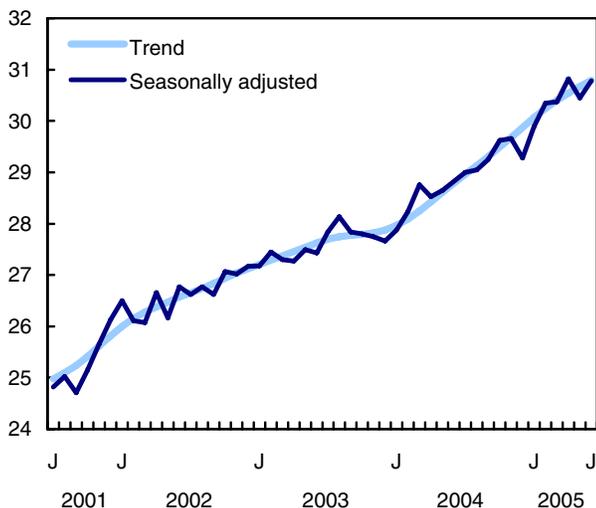
Total spending in retail stores was 1.6% higher in the second quarter of 2005 than in the first quarter, when sales jumped by 2.3%. The solid growth in the first quarter of 2005 was the strongest quarterly gain since the fourth quarter of 2001.

In June, retailers experienced their 15th monthly sales gain in the 18 months since the start of 2004. Previously, sales had declined in the last four months of 2003 after generally advancing since the fall of 2001.

Once prices are taken into account, constant dollar retail sales rose 1.0% in June after declining 1.1% in May.

#### Retail sales growth resumes in June following a setback the month before

\$ billions



In June, consumers increased their spending in the automotive (+2.9%), general merchandise (+1.1%),

furniture and electronics (+1.1%) and clothing (+0.6%) sectors, after cutting back on their purchases in these same sectors in the previous month. Also in June, spending was reduced in the food and beverage (-0.5%) and building supplies (-0.4%) sectors, while remaining flat in pharmacies and essentially unchanged (+0.2%) in the miscellaneous sector. The miscellaneous sector includes retailers such as sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores.

#### Consumers back in auto dealers' showrooms

A quick sales rebound at new car dealers (+4.3%) and a price-induced sales increase at gasoline stations (+1.9%) led to the 2.9% sales gain in the overall automotive sector in June. Sales at new car dealers have been on the rise since early 2004, up 13.9% since January 2004, the last month before sales began their most recent period of increases. For their part, gasoline stations have experienced growing sales since June 2003, mostly due to higher gasoline prices at the pump. The value of gasoline station sales have risen by 34.4% over the last two years.

Despite the 0.9% sales decline in June, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers have shown essentially the same overall sales gain as new car dealers since early 2004. Sales at used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers have increased by 14.3% since January 2004.

After staying away in the previous two months, shoppers increased their spending by 1.1% in the general merchandise sector in June. Within this sector, both department stores (+1.8%) and other general merchandise stores (+0.4%) enjoyed higher sales. Even with June's sizable gain, sales in the general merchandise sector remained essentially flat in the second quarter of 2005 (-0.1%) following a 2.7% jump in the first quarter. This was their strongest quarterly sales gain since the last quarter of 2001 (+3.1%).

The 1.1% sales increase in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics sector in June came almost solely from a 3.1% sales jump in home electronics and appliance stores. Sales in home electronics and appliance stores have risen almost every month since the start of 2005, except for a 0.7% decline in May. This sequence of increases has led sales in the second quarter of 2005 to a level 11.5% above sales in the same quarter of 2004.

Clothing and accessories stores posted a 0.6% sales increase in June, gaining back only some of May's losses (-2.1%). Nevertheless, sales advanced 1.3%

in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the first quarter, when sales jumped 3.5%. Sales in clothing and accessories stores have been rising strongly since January 2005 after a year of little change.

### Sales up in all provinces east of Saskatchewan

All provinces east of Saskatchewan experienced sales increases of at least 0.7% in June, following a reduction in consumer spending in retail stores in these provinces in May.

Prince Edward Island (+3.9%) and New Brunswick (+3.0%) enjoyed the largest sales increases in June, after posting the most pronounced declines in May. In spite of June's strong results, retailers in Prince Edward Island (-1.0%) and New Brunswick (-0.7%) suffered the only two provincial quarterly sales declines in the second quarter of 2005.

Retail stores in Quebec (+2.0%) and Ontario (+1.6%) posted sales advances above the national average in June. Higher sales in the automotive, clothing and general merchandise sectors were behind the overall retail sales increase in Quebec. In Ontario, increased spending was not only noted in the same three retail sectors in June, but also in the building supplies sector. Retail sales in Quebec and Ontario have generally been increasing since the start of 2004.

In June, retail sales were down in Saskatchewan (-1.2%) and Alberta (-0.3%), while remaining essentially flat in British Columbia (-0.1%). June's declines in Saskatchewan and Alberta came on the heels of the only sales gains observed in all provinces in May. Lower sales in the majority of sectors were behind the overall retail sales declines seen in these two provinces in June.

Despite June's decline, retailers in Saskatchewan (+5.1%) and Alberta (+4.4%) experienced by far the

best quarterly sales gains of any province in the second quarter of 2005 compared with the first quarter. All remaining provinces that enjoyed positive growth posted sales increases below the national average in the second quarter, except for the 2.3% sales gain observed in Nova Scotia.

### Related indicators for July

While total employment remained flat in July, the number of hours spent by workers on the job increased by 0.6%. Housing starts reached their highest level of the year in July after edging up 0.4% compared with June. In fact, July's activity on the new housing market was the eighth busiest month for home builders in the last 18 years. Early results from the auto industry indicate an increase of about 7% in the number of new motor vehicles sold in July compared with June.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017 and 076-0005.**

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

The June issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XIE, \$18/\$166) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for July will be released on September 21.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541), Distributive Trades Division.

□

**Retail sales**

	June 2004	March 2005 <sup>r</sup>	April 2005 <sup>r</sup>	May 2005 <sup>r</sup>	June 2005 <sup>p</sup>	May to June 2005	June 2004 to June 2005
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions				% change		
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,693</b>	<b>10,254</b>	<b>10,584</b>	<b>10,240</b>	<b>10,539</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>8.7</b>
New car dealers	5,664	5,905	6,144	5,831	6,084	4.3	7.4
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,211	1,299	1,329	1,336	1,323	-0.9	9.3
Gasoline stations	2,818	3,050	3,112	3,073	3,132	1.9	11.1
<b>Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>2,116</b>	<b>2,159</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Furniture stores	685	742	766	728	724	-0.5	5.7
Home furnishings stores	366	383	390	389	390	0.3	6.6
Computer and software stores	125	135	140	136	136	-0.1	8.3
Home electronics and appliance stores	783	856	863	857	884	3.1	12.9
<b>Building and outdoor home supplies stores</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>1,907</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Home centres and hardware stores	1,380	1,465	1,526	1,523	1,522	-0.1	10.3
Specialized building materials and garden stores	372	376	394	392	385	-1.8	3.7
<b>Food and beverage stores</b>	<b>6,814</b>	<b>7,163</b>	<b>7,164</b>	<b>7,254</b>	<b>7,216</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Supermarkets	4,930	5,189	5,192	5,249	5,240	-0.2	6.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	731	769	769	775	764	-1.4	4.5
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,153	1,205	1,202	1,231	1,212	-1.5	5.1
<b>Pharmacies and personal care stores</b>	<b>1,907</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Clothing and accessories stores</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>1,772</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Clothing stores	1,271	1,356	1,380	1,343	1,356	1.0	6.7
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	401	416	410	409	406	-0.7	1.3
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>3,495</b>	<b>3,667</b>	<b>3,640</b>	<b>3,602</b>	<b>3,642</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Department stores	1,812	1,901	1,862	1,845	1,878	1.8	3.6
Other general merchandise stores	1,683	1,766	1,778	1,757	1,764	0.4	4.8
<b>Miscellaneous retailers</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>1,584</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	741	779	788	777	769	-1.1	3.8
Miscellaneous store retailers	786	798	799	806	818	1.4	4.0
<b>Total retail sales</b>	<b>28,820</b>	<b>30,375</b>	<b>30,822</b>	<b>30,451</b>	<b>30,782</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers</b>	<b>21,945</b>	<b>23,170</b>	<b>23,349</b>	<b>23,284</b>	<b>23,375</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	469	488	495	487	490	0.7	4.5
Prince Edward Island	114	118	122	116	121	3.9	5.4
Nova Scotia	874	877	899	883	893	1.2	2.2
New Brunswick	652	698	696	678	698	3.0	6.9
Quebec	6,550	6,941	7,004	6,928	7,064	2.0	7.8
Ontario	10,688	11,166	11,372	11,099	11,274	1.6	5.5
Manitoba	978	1,028	1,041	1,023	1,033	1.0	5.7
Saskatchewan	859	908	929	953	942	-1.2	9.7
Alberta	3,593	3,919	4,025	4,050	4,038	-0.3	12.4
British Columbia	3,943	4,125	4,132	4,127	4,122	-0.1	4.6
Yukon	35	37	38	39	37	-5.5	4.5
Northwest Territories	44	49	48	48	48	0.1	9.4
Nunavut	19	21	21	20	22	5.6	11.0

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

**Retail sales**

	June 2004	May 2005 <sup>r</sup>	June 2005 <sup>p</sup>	June 2004 to June 2005
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>11,137</b>	<b>11,730</b>	<b>12,223</b>	<b>9.8</b>
New car dealers	6,697	6,850	7,283	8.7
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,490	1,734	1,639	10.0
Gasoline stations	2,950	3,146	3,302	11.9
<b>Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores</b>	<b>1,882</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Furniture stores	714	720	751	5.2
Home furnishings stores	366	372	383	4.6
Computer and software stores	116	127	125	8.3
Home electronics and appliance stores	686	725	778	13.4
<b>Building and outdoor home supplies stores</b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>2,466</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Home centres and hardware stores	1,731	1,919	1,896	9.6
Specialized building materials and garden stores	503	547	523	4.0
<b>Food and beverage stores</b>	<b>6,872</b>	<b>7,192</b>	<b>7,364</b>	<b>7.2</b>
Supermarkets	4,938	5,229	5,317	7.7
Convenience and specialty food stores	772	791	806	4.4
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,162	1,172	1,241	6.8
<b>Pharmacies and personal care stores</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Clothing and accessories stores</b>	<b>1,613</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>8.4</b>
Clothing stores	1,215	1,308	1,337	10.1
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	398	414	411	3.2
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>3,604</b>	<b>3,634</b>	<b>3,821</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Department stores	1,757	1,752	1,858	5.8
Other general merchandise stores	1,848	1,883	1,964	6.3
<b>Miscellaneous retailers</b>	<b>1,503</b>	<b>1,532</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	683	709	727	6.5
Miscellaneous store retailers	820	823	858	4.7
<b>Total retail sales</b>	<b>30,730</b>	<b>32,208</b>	<b>33,179</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers</b>	<b>22,544</b>	<b>23,624</b>	<b>24,257</b>	<b>7.6</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	512	517	538	5.1
Prince Edward Island	128	123	134	5.2
Nova Scotia	950	912	990	4.3
New Brunswick	709	718	772	8.9
Quebec	7,050	7,625	7,742	9.8
Ontario	11,404	11,698	12,117	6.3
Manitoba	1,045	1,071	1,117	6.9
Saskatchewan	918	1,004	1,012	10.3
Alberta	3,783	4,219	4,292	13.4
British Columbia	4,125	4,214	4,348	5.4
Yukon	40	41	43	5.3
Northwest Territories	47	45	52	10.9
Nunavut	20	21	21	9.9

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures.

<sup>p</sup> Preliminary figures.

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## Population of businesses with employees

Second quarter 2005

Just over 1,045,900 Canadian businesses had employees in the second quarter of 2005, up 1.9% from the 1,025,500 figure for the same period last year, according to the count of payroll deduction accounts.

Increases in British Columbia (+3.5%), Alberta (+3.4%) and Ontario (+2.1%) contributed the most to the overall rise in the total number of businesses with employees compared to the same quarter in 2004.

The number of employer businesses rose 0.6% from the first quarter of 2005 to the second quarter. Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta accounted for the bulk of the increase.

Information on Nunavut and the Northwest Territories will be available individually when sufficient quarterly observations are collected.

**Available on CANSIM: table 178-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1105.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Beau Cinnamon (613-951-9021; fax: 613-951-0104; [beau.cinnamon@statcan.ca](mailto:beau.cinnamon@statcan.ca)), Business Register Division. ■

## Production and disposition of tobacco products

July 2005

Total cigarettes sold in July by Canadian manufacturers decreased 10.2% from June to 3.2 billion cigarettes, down 5.8% from July 2004.

Cigarette production for July decreased 10.2% from June to 3.1 billion cigarettes, but was 20.0% higher compared with July 2004.

At 4.6 billion cigarettes, the level of closing inventories for July was 9.7% lower compared with June but 28.0% higher compared with July 2004.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.**

The July 2005 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 34, no. 7 (32-022-XIE, \$6/\$51) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (613-951-9497; 1-866 873-8789 [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Construction type plywood

June 2005

Data on construction type plywood are now available for June.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0056 and 303-0057.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2138.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Primary iron and steel

June 2005

Data on primary iron and steel are now available for June.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0048 to 303-0051.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2116 and 2184.**

The June 2005 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XIE, \$6/\$51) will soon be available.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [manufact@statcan.ca](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Production of crude oil and natural gas

June 2005 (preliminary)

Provincial crude oil and marketable natural gas production data are now available for June.

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**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.**

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release,

contact the Marketing and Dissemination Section (613-951-9497; 1-866-873-8789; [energ@statcan.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

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## New products

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**Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products**,  
July 2005, Vol. 34, no. 7  
**Catalogue number 32-022-XIE** (\$6/\$51).

**Imports by Country**, January-June 2005, Vol. 62, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 65-006-XMB** (\$67/\$221).

**Imports by Country**, January-June 2005, Vol. 62, no. 2  
**Catalogue number 65-006-XPB** (\$133/\$441).

**Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education  
Statistics — Research Papers: Connectivity and ICT  
Integration in First Nations Schools: Results from  
the Information and Communications Technologies  
in Schools Survey**, 2003/04, no. 34  
**Catalogue number 81-595-MIE2005034**  
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-XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 8:30 a.m.

**MAJOR RELEASES**

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2  
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 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.

**OTHER RELEASES**

- Map-based index, May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production, Apr. 1997 12

**PUBLICATIONS RELEASED** 11



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