



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

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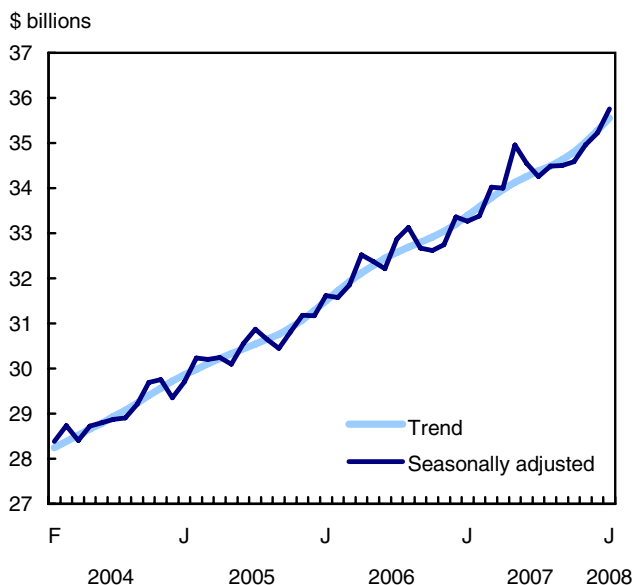
## Releases

## Retail trade

January 2008

Retailers began 2008 on a strong note, as sales increased 1.5% in January to an estimated \$35.8 billion. This was the third consecutive month of strong gains in retail sales. Following moderate sales in mid-2007, retail sales have returned to the rapid growth that began in 2004.

## Retail sales increase for a third consecutive month in January



Although retail sales in all sectors were up, five of them posted increases of more than 1.0% in January. Building and outdoor home supplies stores led the way at 3.2%, followed by clothing and accessories stores (+2.9%), furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores (+2.5%), the automotive sector (+1.8%), and general merchandise stores (+1.1%).

Food and beverage stores (+0.9%) also experienced sizeable growth in January. Pharmacies and personal care stores (+0.3%) and miscellaneous retailers (+0.1%) posted fairly stable sales.

On the strength of these increases, total retail sales, excluding sales by dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, rose 1.3% in January, the second strongest increase in eight months.

When price changes are taken into account, retail sales in constant dollars rose 1.0% in January.

## Passenger cars dominate new car sales

Higher sales by new car dealers (+2.6%) in January can largely be attributed to buyers' enthusiasm for passenger cars. The additional discounts granted in connection with new Canadian prices, the one percentage point reduction in the goods and services tax introduced on January 1, 2008, and the more advantageous financing rates seem to have paid off.

According to the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey, the number of passenger cars sold in January jumped by a staggering 16.2% compared with December 2007. The effect of the strong increase in the number of passenger cars sold on overall dealers' sales was mitigated by the slow growth in the number of trucks sold (+0.5%).

Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers saw their sales increase for a third consecutive month (+1.1%) after five months of decreases or stagnation.

The increase in sales by gasoline stations (+0.8%) could largely be attributed to the 1.9% rise in gasoline prices, as reported in the Consumer Price Index. Sales at gasoline stations have generally been on the rise since the decline observed in September 2006.

## An outstanding start to the year for many retailers

The exceptional weather fluctuations in December and January, the one percentage point reduction in the goods and services tax, and practices regarding the use of gift cards seem to have launched 2008 off to a good start for many retailers.

The strongest increase in retail sales in January was observed at building and outdoor home supplies stores (+3.2%), representing the second highest rate of growth since May 2007. This increase can primarily be attributed to a 2.3% rise in sales at home centres and hardware stores, reversing the downward trend that characterized the second part of 2007. Sales by specialized building materials and garden stores were up by 7.0% following two consecutive months of decreases.

The clothing and accessories stores sector followed closely, with a substantial increase in sales in January (+2.9%) that completely offset the 2.6% drop in sales in December. January's increase was largely driven

by strong sales by clothing stores (+4.3%), which showed renewed vigour in the wake of a 3.0% drop in December. Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores witnessed a second consecutive decrease in sales (-1.8%).

Sales in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores sector were up sharply in January (+2.5%) after falling in December. All retail groups in this sector posted good sales levels. Furniture stores led the way with a 3.5% increase, followed closely by home furnishings stores (+3.1%) and computer and software stores (+3.1%). For home furnishings stores, this was the second straight monthly increase in sales of more than 2.0% and represented the continuation of a prolonged upward trend. Lastly, sales by home electronics and appliance stores were up by 1.3%, the third increase in four months.

In January, general merchandise stores (+1.1%) posted their fifth sales increase in six months. The rise in sales in this sector coincided with higher sales by clothing and accessories stores (+2.9%) in January. Continuing reductions in clothing prices in recent months seem to have contributed to the upward sales trend in this sector. Sales of clothing and accessories accounted for more than 15% of sales by general merchandise stores, according to the Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey.

All retail groups in the food and beverage stores sector increased their sales. The sales resurgence at beer, wine and liquor stores (+3.1%), the second highest increase since early 2007, was the primary reason for the sector's gain. Supermarkets saw their sales rise by 0.4%, the fifth increase in six months, while sales at convenience and specialty food stores edged up 0.3% in January.

### **Retailers in Central and Atlantic provinces picked up the pace in January**

Most provinces posted retail sales growth in January. The strongest monthly increases were observed in the Atlantic provinces of Nova Scotia (+4.6%), New Brunswick (+3.7%), Prince Edward Island (+3.4%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (+3.3%). For the Atlantic provinces as a whole, this represents a resurgence in sales after two consecutive monthly declines. Sales in these provinces were strongly influenced by the predominance of passenger cars in new car sales.

Sales in Quebec, another market in which passenger cars dominate new car sales, climbed 2.7% in January, the fourth monthly increase in a row.

Sales in Manitoba (+1.8%) continued their growth, with a fifth consecutive monthly gain of at least 1.0%. Sales in Ontario (+1.6%) were up for the fourth time in five months.

Following an increase in December that saw an end to the stagnation observed in the previous six months, British Columbia experienced a slight 0.2% decrease in retail sales in January. Sales in Saskatchewan and Alberta were relatively stable. New car sales in those provinces are generally dominated by trucks.

All three territories saw higher sales, particularly in Nunavut (+5.4%), which posted its largest increase since July 2006. The Common Experience Payment to former students of Indian residential schools and to their families may have influenced sales.

### **Related indicators for February**

Job growth continued in February, with an estimated increase of 43,000 jobs, bringing Canada's employment rate to an unprecedented high (63.9%). For the second month in a row, the unemployment rate was 5.8%, the lowest level in 33 years.

Preliminary data on automotive industry sales indicate that the number of new cars sold in February decreased, mainly as a result of truck sales.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the seasonally adjusted annual number of housing starts in Canada rose from 222,700 in January to 256,900 in February, representing a substantial 15.4% increase.

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

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

The January 2008 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XWE, free) will be available shortly.

Data on retail trade for February will be released on April 25.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; toll-free 1-877-421-3067; [retailinfo@statcan.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.ca)). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claude Bilodeau (613-951-1816), Distributive Trades Division.

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## Retail sales

	January 2007	October 2007 <sup>r</sup>	November 2007 <sup>r</sup>	December 2007 <sup>r</sup>	January 2008 <sup>p</sup>	December 2007 to January 2008	January 2007 to January 2008
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions					% change	
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>11,315</b>	<b>11,893</b>	<b>12,033</b>	<b>12,457</b>	<b>12,678</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>12.0</b>
New car dealers	6,370	6,482	6,251	6,536	6,705	2.6	5.2
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,463	1,563	1,575	1,638	1,655	1.1	13.1
Gasoline stations	3,482	3,848	4,207	4,284	4,319	0.8	24.0
<b>Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>2,503</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>2,572</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Furniture stores	847	841	853	824	853	3.5	0.7
Home furnishings stores	472	508	490	503	518	3.1	9.7
Computer and software stores	124	116	117	113	117	3.1	-5.8
Home electronics and appliance stores	975	1,037	1,072	1,070	1,083	1.3	11.1
<b>Building and outdoor home supplies stores</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>2,251</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>2,213</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Home centres and hardware stores	1,749	1,810	1,808	1,805	1,847	2.3	5.6
Specialized building materials and garden stores	418	442	430	408	436	7.0	4.2
<b>Food and beverage stores</b>	<b>7,388</b>	<b>7,678</b>	<b>7,762</b>	<b>7,697</b>	<b>7,764</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Supermarkets	5,261	5,486	5,528	5,511	5,533	0.4	5.2
Convenience and specialty food stores	815	849	863	850	852	0.3	4.6
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,312	1,344	1,371	1,336	1,378	3.1	5.1
<b>Pharmacies and personal care stores</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>2,398</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Clothing and accessories stores</b>	<b>1,978</b>	<b>1,991</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>1,966</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Clothing stores	1,514	1,524	1,546	1,499	1,564	4.3	3.3
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	464	466	474	467	459	-1.8	-1.1
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>3,967</b>	<b>4,043</b>	<b>4,151</b>	<b>4,179</b>	<b>4,223</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>Miscellaneous retailers</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>1,825</b>	<b>1,804</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	859	895	893	888	891	0.4	3.7
Miscellaneous store retailers	868	931	932	916	915	-0.1	5.4
<b>Total retail sales</b>	<b>33,271</b>	<b>34,583</b>	<b>34,959</b>	<b>35,222</b>	<b>35,752</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers</b>	<b>25,437</b>	<b>26,538</b>	<b>27,133</b>	<b>27,049</b>	<b>27,392</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	533	563	562	575	594	3.3	11.4
Prince Edward Island	131	137	135	135	139	3.4	5.9
Nova Scotia	957	993	987	972	1,017	4.6	6.2
New Brunswick	756	802	803	787	816	3.7	7.9
Quebec	7,398	7,555	7,648	7,656	7,862	2.7	6.3
Ontario	11,777	12,247	12,417	12,565	12,768	1.6	8.4
Manitoba	1,129	1,213	1,226	1,245	1,268	1.8	12.3
Saskatchewan	1,013	1,112	1,140	1,165	1,166	0.0	15.1
Alberta	4,917	5,091	5,148	5,173	5,180	0.1	5.4
British Columbia	4,543	4,747	4,764	4,820	4,811	-0.2	5.9
Yukon	39	43	43	44	44	1.5	14.1
Northwest Territories	53	58	61	60	62	3.1	16.2
Nunavut	23	23	24	24	25	5.4	12.5

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Note:** Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

## Retail sales

	January 2007	December 2007 <sup>r</sup>	January 2008 <sup>p</sup>	January 2007 to January 2008
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Automotive</b>	<b>9,124</b>	<b>10,629</b>	<b>10,392</b>	<b>13.9</b>
New car dealers	4,983	5,388	5,329	7.0
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,030	1,214	1,168	13.4
Gasoline stations	3,111	4,028	3,894	25.2
<b>Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>3,745</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Furniture stores	742	940	764	3.0
Home furnishings stores	405	660	449	10.8
Computer and software stores	130	140	123	-6.0
Home electronics and appliance stores	857	2,005	947	10.5
<b>Building and outdoor home supplies stores</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>1,617</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Home centres and hardware stores	1,273	1,448	1,328	4.4
Specialized building materials and garden stores	271	311	289	6.4
<b>Food and beverage stores</b>	<b>6,594</b>	<b>8,814</b>	<b>7,110</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Supermarkets	4,953	5,997	5,365	8.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	708	907	745	5.1
Beer, wine and liquor stores	933	1,909	1,000	7.2
<b>Pharmacies and personal care stores</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>2,777</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Clothing and accessories stores</b>	<b>1,447</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Clothing stores	1,119	2,433	1,170	4.5
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	328	878	323	-1.6
<b>General merchandise stores</b>	<b>3,146</b>	<b>6,280</b>	<b>3,404</b>	<b>8.2</b>
<b>Miscellaneous retailers</b>	<b>1,517</b>	<b>2,671</b>	<b>1,582</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	771	1,564	803	4.1
Miscellaneous store retailers	747	1,108	779	4.3
<b>Total retail sales</b>	<b>27,767</b>	<b>39,986</b>	<b>30,230</b>	<b>8.9</b>
<b>Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers</b>	<b>21,755</b>	<b>33,384</b>	<b>23,733</b>	<b>9.1</b>
<b>Provinces and territories</b>				
Newfoundland and Labrador	413	671	473	14.4
Prince Edward Island	102	150	110	7.9
Nova Scotia	789	1,138	855	8.4
New Brunswick	619	887	674	9.0
Quebec	6,013	8,121	6,526	8.5
Ontario	9,926	14,783	10,895	9.8
Manitoba	931	1,401	1,066	14.6
Saskatchewan	845	1,302	979	15.8
Alberta	4,157	5,811	4,392	5.7
British Columbia	3,877	5,582	4,150	7.0
Yukon	30	47	35	14.7
Northwest Territories	46	66	54	17.1
Nunavut	19	27	22	14.4

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Note:** Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.

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## Employment Insurance

January 2008 (preliminary)

An estimated 456,200 Canadians (seasonally adjusted) received regular Employment Insurance benefits in January, down 3,430 from the previous month. The number of persons receiving regular Employment Insurance benefits decreased in seven provinces, and fell by more than 2% in Ontario (-2.4%) and Prince Edward Island (-2.3%). Regular benefit payments in January totalled \$678.6 million.

Compared with January 2007, the number of Canadians receiving regular benefits has declined 6.6%. Provincially, the largest year-over-year drop in regular beneficiaries was in Saskatchewan (-12.9%) and Manitoba (-11.7%).

Over the last year, the number of regular beneficiaries (unadjusted for seasonality) decreased by more than 20% in four Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) — Windsor (-27%), Regina (-25%), Saint-John (-23%) and Saskatoon (-22%). Oshawa was the only CMA where the number of regular beneficiaries increased (+24%).

The number of Canadians receiving regular benefits declined for both males (-5.8%) and females (-6.6%) compared with January 2007.

**Note:** Employment Insurance Statistics Program data are produced from an administrative data source and may, from time to time, be affected by changes to the *Employment Insurance Act* or administrative procedures. The number of beneficiaries is a measure of all persons who received Employment Insurance benefits from the 13th to the 19th of the month. This coincides with the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. The regular benefit payments figure measures the total of all monies paid to individuals from the 1st to the end of the month.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 276-0001 to 276-0006, 276-0009, 276-0011, 276-0015 and 276-0016.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2604.**

Data on Employment Insurance for February will be released on April 29.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-4090; toll-free 1-866-873-8788; [labour@statcan.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Gilles Groleau (613-951-4091), Labour Statistics Division.

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## Employment Insurance statistics

	January 2008	December 2007	January 2007	December 2007 to January 2008	January 2007 to January 2008
Seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
Regular beneficiaries	456,200 <sup>p</sup>	459,630 <sup>r</sup>	488,320	-0.7	-6.6
Regular benefits paid (\$ millions)	678.6 <sup>p</sup>	700.7 <sup>r</sup>	724.1	-3.2	-6.3
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	212.7 <sup>p</sup>	228,0 <sup>r</sup>	236.8	-6.7	-10.2
Unadjusted					
All beneficiaries (thousands) <sup>1</sup>	862.7 <sup>p</sup>	738.5 <sup>p</sup>	900.8		
Regular beneficiaries (thousands)	599.0 <sup>p</sup>	473.2 <sup>p</sup>	637.5		-6.1
Male (thousands)	397.5 <sup>p</sup>	288.9 <sup>p</sup>	421.8		-5.8
Female (thousands)	201.5 <sup>p</sup>	184.2 <sup>p</sup>	215.8		-6.6
Initial and renewal claims received (thousands)	305.8	317.3	351.5		
Payments (\$ millions)	1,438.9	1,304.1	1,636.8		
Year-to-date (January to January)					
			2008	2007	2007 to 2008
					% change
Claims received (thousands)			306	352	-13.1
Payments (\$ millions)			1,439	1,637	-12.1

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. "All beneficiaries" includes all claimants receiving regular benefits (for example, as a result of layoff) or special benefits (for example, as a result of illness) and are representative of data for the Labour Force Survey reference week which is usually the week containing the 15th of the month.

## Number of beneficiaries receiving regular benefits

	January 2008 <sup>p</sup>	December 2007 to January 2008	January 2007 to January 2008
Seasonally adjusted			
		% change	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>456,200</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-6.6</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	35,310	-0.6	-2.7
Prince Edward Island	7,680	-2.3	-0.3
Nova Scotia	26,670	-1.4	-4.0
New Brunswick	30,130	0.5	-4.9
Quebec	159,410	-0.9	-8.6
Ontario	124,210	-2.4	-5.0
Manitoba	9,390	-0.3	-11.7
Saskatchewan	8,280	-1.8	-12.9
Alberta	15,640	1.8	-7.3
British Columbia	37,280	1.1	-4.1
Yukon	700	-4.1	-9.1
Northwest Territories	640	1.6	-9.9
Nunavut	310	-3.1	-20.5

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Note:** The number of beneficiaries includes all claimants who received regular benefits for the Labour Force Survey reference week, usually containing the 15th day of the month.

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## Cereals and oilseeds review

January 2008

Data from the January issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* are now available. January's issue contains an overview of February's market conditions.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3401, 3403, 3404, 3443, 3464, 3476 and 5046.**

The January 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review*, Vol. 31, no. 1 (22-007-XIB, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Deliveries of major grains

February 2008

Data on February grain deliveries are now available.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0001.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3403, 3404 and 3443.**

The February 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in April.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Crushing statistics

February 2008

Oilseed processors crushed 340 271 metric tonnes of canola in February. Oil production totalled 143 025 metric tonnes in February, while meal production amounted to 204 288 metric tonnes.

**Available on CANSIM: table 001-0005.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3404.**

The February 2008 issue of *Cereals and Oilseeds Review* (22-007-XIB, free) will be available in April.

For general information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-800-465-1991; [agriculture@statcan.ca](mailto:agriculture@statcan.ca)), Agriculture Division. ■

## Refined petroleum products

January 2008 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for January. Other selected data about these products are also available.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.**

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



## New products

**Cereals and Oilseeds Review**, January 2008, Vol. 31, no. 1  
**Catalogue number 22-007-XIB**  
(free).

**Canada's International Transactions in Securities**, January 2008, Vol. 74, no. 1  
**Catalogue number 67-002-XWE**  
(free).

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Document 1 - 2006 (1 page) 11-001-XIE-0001-0001



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997  
For release at 9:30 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 the average of about 15 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 relatively weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth (GDP) in 1996.

#### OTHER RELEASES

- **Harbour Index: May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, Apr. 1997** 12

#### PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

11

Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada

### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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