

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Retail trade, March 2009	2
Retail sales increased for the third consecutive month in March, rising 0.3%. Higher sales at new car dealers was the main contributor to this increase. In volume terms, retail sales rose 0.7%.	
Natural gas sales, March 2009	5
Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports, April 2009	5
Large urban transit, March 2009	5
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products, February 2009	6
Refined petroleum products, March 2009	6

New products

7

Release dates: May 25 to May 29, 2009

9



Releases

Retail trade

March 2009

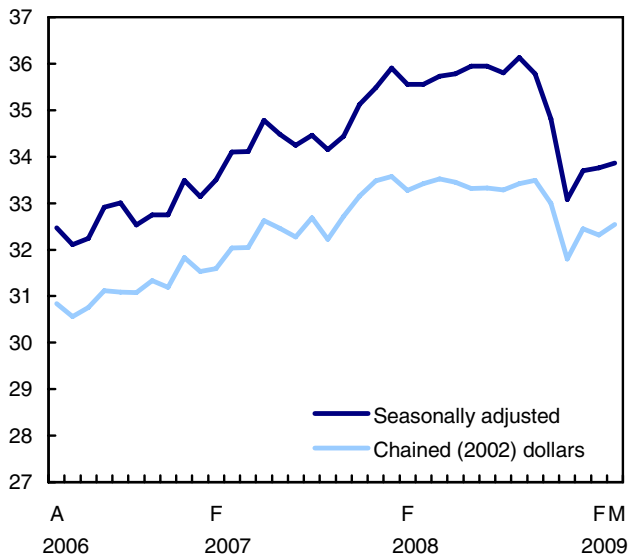
Retail sales increased for the third consecutive month in March, rising 0.3% in current dollars to \$33.9 billion. Higher sales at new car dealers was the main contributor to this increase. In volume terms, retail sales rose 0.7%.

Note to readers

Total retail sales by volume are measured by deflating values in current dollars of the various trade groups using consumer price indexes. This retail sales release, in chained dollars series (2002), is a chain Fisher volume index with 2002 as the reference year.

Retail trade

\$ billions



in part higher food prices. Food and beverage stores and pharmacies and personal care stores are the only two sectors where March's sales level was above the October 2008 level.

Of the four sectors with a decline in sales, the largest was a 0.7% drop at miscellaneous retailers (which include, among others, sporting goods stores and office supply stores), followed by a 0.6% decrease in the building and outdoor home supplies stores. The decline in the building and outdoor home supplies sector was due to lower sales in the westernmost provinces. In addition to lower housing starts, unseasonably poor weather in Alberta may have been a contributing factor.

Sales in Quebec continue to lead in March

Sales increased in seven provinces in March, led by a third consecutive month of rising sales in Quebec (+2.0%) and Ontario (+0.6%). Since falling sharply in December, sales have been generally up or stable in all provinces except Alberta. Quebec is the only province that has essentially returned to its sales level of November 2008.

The largest sales decline in March was a 1.8% drop in Alberta, which followed a 1.5% decrease in February. The province had the lowest growth rate in the number of new motor vehicles sold among all provinces in March. Retail sales in the province were at their lowest level since March 2006.

It is possible to consult the tables of unadjusted data by [industry](#) and by [province and territory](#) from the *Tables by subject* module of our website.

For information on related indicators, refer to the [Latest statistics](#) page on our website.

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

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

The March 2009 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X, free) will be available shortly.

The three consecutive months of gains in retail sales in current dollars have not completely offset the sharp declines reported in November and December. March's retail sales stood 6.3% lower than the peak reached in September 2008. Most of this decline reflects price changes. In volume terms, sales are down 2.6% from September 2008.

The main contributor to the rise in retail sales was a 3.6% increase in sales at new car dealers. This was lower than the 6.3% rise in the number of new motor vehicles sold reported by the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey, as dealers offered higher rebates. The automotive sector as a whole increased by 0.5%, as the rise in sales at new car dealers was partially offset by lower sales at gasoline stations (-2.8%) and used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers (-2.6%).

Sales at food and beverage stores rose for the third consecutive month, increasing 0.9%. This reflects

Data on retail trade for April will be released on June 19.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (613-951-3549; toll-free 1-877-421-3067;

retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Serge Grenier (613-951-3566), Distributive Trades Division.

Retail sales

	March 2008	December 2008 ^r	January 2009 ^r	February 2009 ^r	March 2009 ^p	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
Seasonally adjusted							
	\$ millions				% change		
Automotive	12,533	10,007	10,301	10,283	10,333	0.5	-17.6
New car dealers	6,450	5,039	5,273	5,224	5,414	3.6	-16.1
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,620	1,567	1,554	1,533	1,493	-2.6	-7.9
Gasoline stations	4,463	3,401	3,473	3,525	3,426	-2.8	-23.2
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,562	2,439	2,417	2,382	2,378	-0.2	-7.2
Furniture stores	847	796	787	775	779	0.5	-8.0
Home furnishings stores	512	452	451	442	449	1.5	-12.3
Computer and software stores	116	101	105	107	107	0.1	-7.7
Home electronics and appliance stores	1,086	1,090	1,074	1,057	1,042	-1.4	-4.1
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	2,257	2,138	2,122	2,189	2,177	-0.6	-3.5
Home centres and hardware stores	1,838	1,725	1,706	1,766	1,758	-0.5	-4.4
Specialized building materials and garden stores	419	413	416	423	419	-1.0	0.1
Food and beverage stores	7,830	8,091	8,276	8,308	8,387	0.9	7.1
Supermarkets	5,613	5,861	6,011	6,005	6,061	0.9	8.0
Convenience and specialty food stores	835	842	841	851	853	0.2	2.2
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,382	1,389	1,424	1,451	1,473	1.5	6.5
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,412	2,405	2,480	2,474	2,487	0.5	3.1
Clothing and accessories stores	1,986	1,912	1,969	1,973	1,963	-0.5	-1.1
Clothing stores	1,524	1,465	1,510	1,515	1,509	-0.4	-1.0
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	462	447	459	459	454	-1.0	-1.6
General merchandise stores	4,177	4,316	4,319	4,338	4,340	0.1	3.9
Miscellaneous retailers	1,799	1,774	1,811	1,813	1,800	-0.7	0.0
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	903	894	905	901	905	0.4	0.2
Miscellaneous store retailers	896	880	906	912	895	-1.9	-0.1
Total retail sales	35,557	33,081	33,695	33,760	33,865	0.3	-4.8
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	27,486	26,475	26,868	27,003	26,958	-0.2	-1.9
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	574	569	569	577	586	1.5	2.0
Prince Edward Island	141	138	140	138	140	1.3	-1.3
Nova Scotia	1,022	957	970	973	978	0.5	-4.3
New Brunswick	792	792	797	791	796	0.6	0.5
Quebec	7,747	7,629	7,644	7,717	7,872	2.0	1.6
Ontario	12,669	11,570	11,994	12,096	12,175	0.6	-3.9
Manitoba	1,264	1,208	1,204	1,206	1,199	-0.6	-5.1
Saskatchewan	1,202	1,128	1,157	1,160	1,161	0.1	-3.4
Alberta	5,203	4,708	4,722	4,652	4,567	-1.8	-12.2
British Columbia	4,812	4,261	4,376	4,327	4,266	-1.4	-11.3
Yukon	44	41	42	41	42	2.4	-5.1
Northwest Territories	60	56	56	55	57	3.3	-5.3
Nunavut	25	26	26	26	26	0.6	5.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Retail sales

	March 2008	February 2009 ^r	March 2009 ^p
	Unadjusted		
	\$ millions		
Automotive	12,003	8,094	10,341
New car dealers	6,371	4,050	5,761
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,392	1,081	1,353
Gasoline stations	4,240	2,963	3,226
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	2,310	1,867	2,148
Furniture stores	774	605	717
Home furnishings stores	462	352	423
Computer and software stores	123	99	115
Home electronics and appliance stores	950	812	894
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	1,712	1,414	1,700
Home centres and hardware stores	1,380	1,131	1,362
Specialized building materials and garden stores	332	282	337
Food and beverage stores	7,524	7,152	7,672
Supermarkets	5,503	5,341	5,677
Convenience and specialty food stores	794	717	771
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,227	1,094	1,225
Pharmacies and personal care stores	2,348	2,261	2,431
Clothing and accessories stores	1,651	1,341	1,624
Clothing stores	1,301	1,012	1,277
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	350	330	347
General merchandise stores	3,620	3,165	3,660
Miscellaneous retailers	1,583	1,413	1,564
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	774	651	769
Miscellaneous store retailers	809	761	795
Total retail sales	32,750	26,707	31,140
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	24,988	21,576	24,025
Provinces and territories			
Newfoundland and Labrador	496	442	514
Prince Edward Island	119	103	118
Nova Scotia	933	766	890
New Brunswick	717	613	718
Quebec	7,120	5,965	7,169
Ontario	11,512	9,545	11,206
Manitoba	1,170	955	1,117
Saskatchewan	1,094	903	1,058
Alberta	4,913	3,734	4,235
British Columbia	4,547	3,577	3,989
Yukon	39	31	36
Northwest Territories	65	50	61
Nunavut	25	22	27

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Natural gas sales

March 2009 (preliminary)

Natural gas sales totalled 7 544 million cubic metres in March, down 9.4% from March 2008.

The volume of sales to the residential (-1.8%), commercial (-7.1%) and industrial, including direct sales (-15.0%) sectors were down in March compared with March 2008.

Total sales in March were 3.5% lower compared with February.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

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

Natural gas sales

	March 2008	February 2009	March 2009 ^P	February to March 2009	March 2008 to March 2009
	thousands of cubic metres			% change	
Total sales	8 328 805	7 819 845	7 544 032	-3.5	-9.4
Residential ¹	2 466 513	2 672 221	2 422 939	-9.3	-1.8
Commercial ²	1 765 679	1 799 994	1 639 785	-8.9	-7.1
Industrial ³ and direct sales ⁴	4 096 613	3 347 630	3 481 308	4.0	-15.0

^P preliminary

1. Gas sold for domestic purposes, including space heating, water heating and cooking, to a residential dwelling unit.
2. Gas sold to customers engaged in wholesale or retail trade, governments, institutions, office buildings, etc.
3. Gas sold to customers engaged in a process that creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product. Includes mining and manufacturing establishments. Includes firm, interruptible and buy/sell agreements.
4. Represents direct, non-utility, sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

Aircraft movement statistics: Major airports

April 2009

Aircraft take-offs and landings at Canadian airports with NAV CANADA air traffic control towers and flight service stations were down 6.2% in April compared with April 2008. These 93 airports reported 520,716 movements in April compared with 554,885 movements at 95 airports in April 2008.

Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0007 to 401-0020.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.

The April 2009 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics: NAV CANADA Towers and Flight Service Stations (TP 141)* (51-007-X, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. This report is a joint publication of Statistics Canada and Transport Canada.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Large urban transit

March 2009 (preliminary)

Combined ridership and revenue levels for 10 of Canada's largest urban transit properties increased in March compared with the same month a year earlier.

These 10 companies represent about 80% of total urban transit across the country.

Ridership levels rose to 132.9 million passenger trips in March, up 2.6% from the same month a year earlier.

The increase in ridership pushed revenue (excluding subsidies) up 3.9% from March 2008 to \$225.3 million.

Available on CANSIM: table 408-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2745.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-500-8400; fax: 613-951-0009; transportationstatistics@statcan.gc.ca), Transportation Division. ■

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products

February 2009

Data on the net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons, liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products, pipeline exports of crude oil and deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: tables 133-0001 to 133-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2148 and 2191.

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

Refined petroleum products

March 2009 (preliminary)

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for March. 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; energ@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire, March 2009,
Vol. 5, no. 3
Catalogue number 41-019-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

**Aircraft Movement Statistics: NAV CANADA Towers
and Flight Service Stations (TP 141)**, April 2009
Catalogue number 51-007-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Wholesale Trade, March 2009, Vol. 72, no. 3
Catalogue number 63-008-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Canada's International Transactions in Securities,
March 2009, Vol. 75, no. 3
Catalogue number 67-002-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2009
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Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2009 2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.0 billion in the first quarter of 2009, led by higher prices for several export commodities compared with a lower base level in the financial account. Energy and investment flows into Canada almost tripled from the equivalent quarter of the previous year, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

Farmer employment, earnings and hours, March 2009 7

Study: The year to review for wholesale trade, 2007 9

Public sector employment, first quarter 2009 10

Customer and Messenger Services Price Index, April 2009 11

Placement of Subsidy Checks and Salary Pools, April 2009 12

Health Indicators, 2008 12

New products 13

2006 Census profiles

With the inclusion of the income and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profiles are now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions.

To obtain these profiles in electronic format (costs vary by different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

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Release dates: May 25 to May 29, 2009

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
25	Farm income	2008
26	Employment Insurance	March 2009
27	Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	First quarter 2009
28	International travel account	First quarter 2009
28	Characteristics of international travellers	Fourth quarter, 2008
28	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	March 2009
29	Balance of international payments	First quarter 2009
