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Releases

Perspectives on Labour and Income
Spring 2011 print edition

The Spring 2011 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, released today, includes four articles previously released in the online edition.

"Why has the gender wage gap narrowed?" analyses the narrowing wage gap according to the changing characteristics of men and women in paid work, the changes in pay received for those characteristics, and the extent to which who works in each period affects the results.

"Seniors' self-employment" uses census data to study self-employment among senior men and women. Trends in self-employment rates and categories are presented, along with occupational and industrial profiles.

"Retirement, health and employment among those 55 plus" examines four distinct states of retirement among older Canadians: fully retired; partially retired; previously retired but returned to work; and never retired.

"Inside the labour market downturn" investigates how various categories of non-workers grew in the past two years. It also discusses alternative measures of unemployment that include some of these categories in the calculations. Several of the alternative measures also include part-time workers who would prefer to work full time.

This edition also features the "What's New?" section, which highlights recent reports and studies of interest from Statistics Canada and other organizations.

The Spring 2011 print edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 23, no. 1 (75-001-X, $20/$63), is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, contact Ted Wannell (613-951-3546; *ted.wannell@statcan.gc.ca*), Labour Statistics Division.

Releases

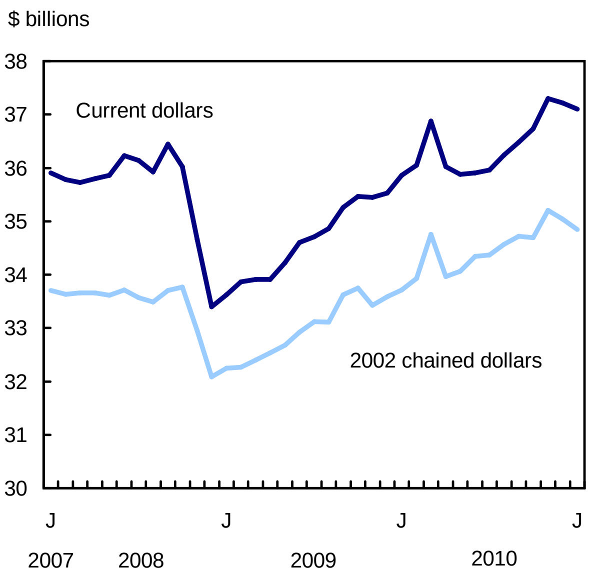
Retail trade

January 2011

Retail sales decreased 0.3% to $37.1 billion in January, the second decline in two months. Lower sales at new car dealers were the main contributor to the decline.

Sales in volume terms decreased 0.6%.

Retail sales decline in January



> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Beginning in January 2011, data for department stores (NAICS 4521) and other general merchandisers (NAICS 4529) are now available.*
>
> *All the data in this release are seasonally adjusted and in current dollars, unless otherwise noted.*
>
> *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 in chained dollars series (2002) is a chain Fisher volume index with 2002 as the reference year.*

Lower sales were reported in 7 of 11 subsectors, representing 55% of total retail sales.

The largest decrease (in dollars) among all subsectors was registered by motor vehicle and parts dealers (-1.5%). Sales at new car dealers (-1.7%) declined for a second consecutive month after seven months of increases.

Sales at gasoline stations fell 1.4% in January. This was the first decline in sales since June 2010.

Sales at furniture and home furnishings stores fell 2.3% in January, erasing the gain in December. This decline reflected a 3.6% decrease at furniture stores.

Clothing and clothing accessories stores registered a 0.8% decrease in January. Lower sales at clothing stores (-1.3%) and jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores (-1.6%) offset an increase at shoe stores (+3.7%).

The subsector with the largest sales increase (in dollars) was food and beverage stores, where sales rose 0.7%. Sales gains were also reported at supermarkets and other grocery stores (+0.9%) and beer, wine and liquor stores (+2.0%).

The 1.2% increase at general merchandise stores, which includes department stores, represents a fourth increase in five months.

For a third time in four months, higher sales were reported at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (+1.0%).

Sales at sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores rose 0.9% in January after a decline in December.

Sales down in the four largest provinces

Lower sales were reported in four provinces, representing 85% of total retail sales.

The largest contributor to the national decline was Quebec (-1.0%), where sales fell for first time since June 2010. The Quebec sales tax rate increased by one percentage point in January 2011.

Sales decreased by 0.5% in both Ontario and Alberta in January.

The 0.4% decline in British Columbia in January followed a large decrease in December.

In Saskatchewan, sales increased 3.0% in January after retreating in December.

Higher sales were reported in all of the Atlantic provinces. The largest gain occurred in New Brunswick (+2.3%), offsetting the decline in December.

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 080-0020 and 080-0021.

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

The January 2011 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X, free) will be available shortly.

Data on retail trade for February will be released on April 21.

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 Jake W. Purdy (613-951-0984), Distributive Trades Division.

Retail sales by province and territory

	January 2010	December 2010[r]	January 2011[p]	December 2010 to January 2011	January 2010 to January 2011
	Seasonally adjusted				
	$ millions			% change	
Canada	**35,865**	**37,219**	**37,104**	**-0.3**	**3.5**
Newfoundland and Labrador	614	629	640	1.7	4.2
Prince Edward Island	148	145	146	0.5	-1.2
Nova Scotia	1,040	1,060	1,070	1.0	2.9
New Brunswick	869	882	902	2.3	3.8
Quebec	8,153	8,519	8,433	-1.0	3.4
Ontario	12,658	13,261	13,192	-0.5	4.2
Manitoba	1,290	1,334	1,337	0.2	3.7
Saskatchewan	1,230	1,266	1,303	3.0	6.0
Alberta	4,897	5,191	5,165	-0.5	5.5
British Columbia	4,838	4,793	4,776	-0.4	-1.3
Yukon	45	51	52	1.0	14.4
Northwest Territories	57	59	59	0.5	3.8
Nunavut	27	30	30	0.2	10.8

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.*

Retail sales by industry

	January 2010	December 2010[r]	January 2011[p]	December 2010 to January 2011	January 2010 to January 2011
	Seasonally adjusted				
	$ millions			% change	
Total retail trade	**35,865**	**37,219**	**37,104**	**-0.3**	**3.5**
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	**28,362**	**29,019**	**29,025**	**0.0**	**2.3**
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	**24,451**	**24,400**	**24,471**	**0.3**	**0.1**
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	**7,503**	**8,200**	**8,080**	**-1.5**	**7.7**
New car dealers	5,942	6,615	6,505	-1.7	9.5
Used car dealers	486	483	483	0.0	-0.7
Other motor vehicle dealers	562	579	557	-3.8	-1.0
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	513	523	535	2.2	4.2
Furniture and home furnishing stores	**1,305**	**1,262**	**1,234**	**-2.3**	**-5.5**
Furniture stores	830	809	779	-3.6	-6.1
Home furnishings stores	475	454	454	0.1	-4.3
Electronics and appliance stores	**1,133**	**1,165**	**1,157**	**-0.6**	**2.1**
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	**2,596**	**2,221**	**2,243**	**1.0**	**-13.6**
Food and beverage stores	**8,516**	**8,601**	**8,658**	**0.7**	**1.7**
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,044	6,094	6,148	0.9	1.7
Convenience stores	590	546	545	-0.2	-7.7
Specialty food stores	386	442	415	-6.1	7.5
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,496	1,520	1,551	2.0	3.7
Health and personal care stores	**2,569**	**2,593**	**2,580**	**-0.5**	**0.4**
Gasoline stations	**3,911**	**4,619**	**4,553**	**-1.4**	**16.4**
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	**1,985**	**2,114**	**2,097**	**-0.8**	**5.6**
Clothing stores	1,539	1,652	1,630	-1.3	5.9
Shoe stores	234	234	243	3.7	3.5
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	211	228	224	-1.6	6.1
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	**953**	**958**	**967**	**0.9**	**1.4**
General merchandise stores	**4,447**	**4,602**	**4,658**	**1.2**	**4.7**
Department stores	x	x	2,219	x	x
Other general merchandise stores	x	x	2,438	x	x
Miscellaneous store retailers	**946**	**884**	**878**	**-0.6**	**-7.2**

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
x *suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act*
Note: *Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.*

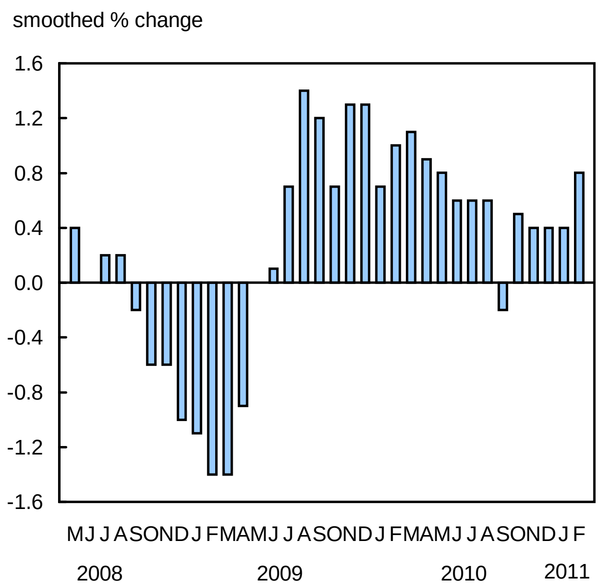
■

Leading indicators

February 2011

The composite leading index rose 0.8% in February, double its gain in each of the previous three months and its largest advance since May 2010. The increase was broadly-based, with 9 of the 10 components posting gains in February compared with 5 rising the month before. A turnaround in manufacturing contributed to the overall increase in the index.

Composite leading indicator



In manufacturing, new orders for durable goods rebounded 1.0%, after three straight declines. Some of this upturn reflects the marked improvement in exports in December. The ratio of shipments to inventories posted its first gain in five months. Manufacturers appeared optimistic that the improvement in demand was sustainable, as they extended the length of the workweek and substantially boosted employment levels over the last three months.

The stock market continued to lead all components with a 2.7% increase in February. The housing index was close behind with a 1.8% advance, mostly due to higher existing home sales. The improvement in housing was reflected in furniture and appliance sales, up 0.9% for their first gain in eight months. Spending on other durable goods rose 0.6%.

Available on CANSIM: table 377-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1601.

This release will be reprinted in the April 2011 issue of *Canadian Economic Observer*, Vol. 24, no. 4 (11-010-X, free). For more information on the economy, consult the *Canadian Economic Observer*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Philip Cross (613-951-9162; *ceo@statcan.gc.ca*), Current Economic Analysis Group.

Leading indicators

	September 2010	October 2010	November 2010	December 2010	January 2011	February 2011	Last month of data available
							% change
Composite leading indicator (1992=100)	**243.0**	**244.2**	**245.2**	**246.2**	**247.1**	**249.1**	**0.8**
Housing index (1992=100)[1]	119.3	117.7	119.9	121.5	123.3	125.5	1.8
Business and personal services employment ('000)	2,982	2,991	2,979	2,973	2,961	2,956	-0.2
S&P/TSX stock price index (1975=1,000)	11,811	11,993	12,325	12,671	12,999	13,352	2.7
Money supply, M1 ($ millions, 1992)[2]	219,921	220,827	221,551	222,504	223,701	224,730	0.5
US Conference Board leading indicator (1992=100)[3]	133.1	133.5	133.8	134.4	135.2	136.0	0.6
Manufacturing							
Average workweek (hours)	36.6	36.7	36.8	36.8	36.8	36.9	0.3
New orders, durables ($ millions, 1992)[4]	23,918	23,939	23,924	23,634	23,150	23,376	1.0
Shipments/inventories of finished goods[4]	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.92	1.93	0.01[5]
Retail trade							
Furniture and appliance sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	2,918	2,900	2,897	2,894	2,893	2,920	0.9
Other durable goods sales ($ millions, 1992)[4]	10,074	10,097	10,196	10,333	10,432	10,497	0.6
Unsmoothed composite leading indicator	**241.3**	**248.7**	**245.8**	**249.1**	**250.6**	**251.1**	**0.2**

1. *Composite index of housing starts (units) and house sales (multiple listing service).*
2. *Deflated by the Consumer Price Index for all items.*
3. *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the month immediately preceding.*
4. *The figures in this row reflect data published in the month indicated, but the figures themselves refer to data for the second preceding month.*
5. *Difference from previous month.*

■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

February 2011

Canadian manufacturers produced 1.8 billion cigarettes in February, down 1.4% from the previous month. The total number of cigarettes sold increased by 11.2% to 1.7 billion and closing inventories increased by 3.1% to 2.3 billion cigarettes in February.

Note: This survey collects data on the production of tobacco products in Canada by Canadian manufacturers and the disposition or sales of this production. It does not collect data on imported tobacco products. Therefore, sales information in this release is not a proxy for domestic consumption of tobacco products.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0062.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2142.

The February 2011 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 40, no. 2 (32-022-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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; *manufact@statcan.gc.ca*), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Real estate rental and leasing and property management industries

2009

Data on the real estate rental and leasing and property management industries are now available for 2009.

Available on CANSIM: table 352-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4705.

The publication *Service Bulletin: Real Estate Rental and Leasing and Property Management*, 2009 (63-249-X, free), will be available in April.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-801-3282; 613-951-4612; *servicesind@statcan.gc.ca*), Service Industries Division. ■

New products and studies

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, February 2011, Vol. 40, no. 2
Catalogue number 32-022-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Spring 2011, Vol. 23, no. 1
Catalogue number 75-001-X (Print, $20/$63)

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