

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Retail trade

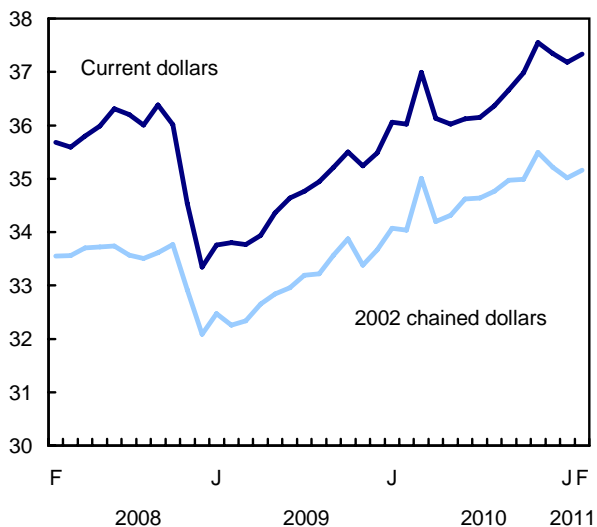
February 2011

Retail sales increased 0.4% in February to \$37.3 billion, offsetting most of the decline in January. Higher sales were reported in 9 of 11 subsectors.

In volume terms, sales increased 0.4%.

Retail sales increase in February

\$ billions



The largest contribution to the gain in current dollars came from gasoline stations, where sales increased 1.3%. This was the seventh increase in eight months.

Sales at clothing and clothing accessories stores advanced 2.5%, more than offsetting the decline in January. Clothing stores (+3.1%) as well as jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores (+1.8%) had higher sales, while sales fell at shoe stores (-1.5%).

After declining in January, sales at furniture and home furnishings stores grew 2.1% in February. Higher sales at furniture stores (+4.5%) accounted for the gain. Sales at furniture and home furnishing stores have risen in six of the past seven months.

Food and beverage store sales advanced 0.3% in February, the second consecutive monthly increase. Sales gains were reported at supermarkets and other grocery stores (+0.4%) and beer, wine and liquor stores (+0.7%).

Note to readers

All the data in this release are seasonally adjusted and in current dollars, unless otherwise noted.

Unadjusted monthly estimates were revised back to January 2010, while seasonally adjusted estimates were revised back to January 2007. The revisions take into account late reporting or correction of respondent information, classification changes, as well as updates to seasonal and trading day factors. With these revisions, the annual sum of seasonally adjusted figures will now correspond to the annual sum of unadjusted estimates for reference year 2010.

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. This series has been revised back to January 2004.

Sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers fell 0.6%, a third consecutive monthly decline. The main contributor was a 0.6% drop in sales at new car dealers. Lower sales were also reported at automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (-0.3%) and at other motor vehicle dealers (-1.7%). The exception was used car dealers (+0.5%), where sales increased for the fifth time in six months.

Electronics and appliance store sales fell for a fourth month in a row, decreasing 0.6%.

Sales up in six provinces

Retail sales rose in six provinces in February.

The largest contributor to the national gain was Ontario, where sales increased 0.7% following two consecutive monthly declines.

The 1.5% sales increase in Alberta offset two previous months of declines.

The 0.8% decline in Quebec contributed the most towards the dampening of national retail sales. The decline reflected, in part, lower sales of new motor vehicles in the province. This was the second decline in retail sales in Quebec following six consecutive monthly gains.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, sales declined 0.3% in February following four consecutive months of increases.

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

Data on retail trade for March will be released on May 20.

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

	February 2010	January 2011 ^r	February 2011 ^p	January to February 2011	February 2010 to February 2011
Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions			% change	
Canada	36,022	37,180	37,338	0.4	3.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	619	643	641	-0.3	3.5
Prince Edward Island	147	148	149	0.8	1.0
Nova Scotia	1,046	1,056	1,045	-1.1	-0.2
New Brunswick	887	908	902	-0.6	1.7
Quebec	8,220	8,431	8,365	-0.8	1.8
Ontario	12,664	13,249	13,345	0.7	5.4
Manitoba	1,298	1,337	1,364	2.0	5.1
Saskatchewan	1,232	1,308	1,313	0.4	6.5
Alberta	4,952	5,157	5,237	1.5	5.7
British Columbia	4,824	4,804	4,839	0.7	0.3
Yukon	46	52	53	2.0	15.0
Northwest Territories	58	59	59	0.2	2.7
Nunavut	28	29	28	-4.1	-0.2

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Retail sales by industry

	February 2010	January 2011 ^r	February 2011 ^p	January to February 2011	February 2010 to February 2011
Seasonally adjusted					
	\$ millions			% change	
Total retail trade	36,022	37,180	37,338	0.4	3.7
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	28,245	29,112	29,317	0.7	3.8
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	24,338	24,543	24,688	0.6	1.4
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	7,777	8,067	8,021	-0.6	3.1
New car dealers	6,203	6,489	6,451	-0.6	4.0
Used car dealers	479	488	491	0.5	2.5
Other motor vehicle dealers	574	555	545	-1.7	-5.0
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	521	535	534	-0.3	2.5
Furniture and home furnishing stores	1,251	1,249	1,275	2.1	1.9
Furniture stores	827	788	824	4.5	-0.4
Home furnishings stores	425	461	452	-2.0	6.4
Electronics and appliance stores	1,143	1,152	1,146	-0.6	0.3
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	2,342	2,241	2,246	0.2	-4.1
Food and beverage stores	8,527	8,652	8,674	0.3	1.7
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,020	6,138	6,163	0.4	2.4
Convenience stores	563	571	569	-0.5	1.0
Specialty food stores	396	410	400	-2.4	1.1
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,548	1,532	1,543	0.7	-0.3
Health and personal care stores	2,663	2,690	2,707	0.6	1.7
Gasoline stations	3,907	4,570	4,629	1.3	18.5
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	2,042	2,077	2,128	2.5	4.2
Clothing stores	1,591	1,610	1,661	3.1	4.4
Shoe stores	235	243	239	-1.5	2.0
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	216	224	228	1.8	5.5
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	925	947	960	1.4	3.8
General merchandise stores	4,506	4,645	4,646	0.0	3.1
Department stores	x	2,212	2,176	-1.6	x
Other general merchandise stores	x	2,433	2,470	1.5	x
Miscellaneous store retailers	940	890	905	1.6	-3.7

^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.



Study: Debt and family type

2009

Data from the Canadian Financial Capabilities Survey indicate that in 2009, 76% of Canadians aged 19 to 64 lived in a household that carried debt. Among those with debt, the average debt load was about \$119,000.

This study uses indicators such as ratios of debt to income and ratios of debts to assets to examine the types of families most likely to face financial instability as a result of their debt. Young families were most often in this situation.

For example, among couple families with debt in 2009, those in the 19-to-34 age group had a ratio of debt to pre-tax income of 180%. This means that for every \$1,000 in pre-tax income, these families owed \$1,800.

In contrast, the ratio of debt to income for couple families in the 50-to-64 group was 125%. For every \$1,000 in pre-tax income, they owed \$1,250.

Survey data also indicated that 4.2% of all households had annual debt repayments equal to 40% or more of their income. In general, the Bank of Canada considers households to be at greater financial risk if their total debt payments are equivalent to 40% or more of their income.

Income was a key factor in determining high debt ratios. For example, households with incomes of less than \$50,000 had more than six times the odds of having debt payments of 40% or more of pre-tax income and 1.6 times the odds of having a debt-to-asset ratio of 80% or greater, compared with those with incomes between \$50,000 and \$79,999. These results held irrespective of the family type.

People born in Canada had 60% lower odds of having debt payments of 40% or more of pre-tax income compared with those born outside Canada. Living in a census metropolitan area with high housing prices was also associated with having high debt ratios.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5159.

The article "Debt and family type in Canada" is now available in the April 2011 online issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 91 (11-008-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Also in this issue of *Canadian Social Trends* is the article "How does bankruptcy affect retirement plans?" Using the 2007 General Social Survey, this article identifies pre-retirees aged 45 to 64 who have experienced a bankruptcy and examines how they are preparing for retirement.

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

release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.gc.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Study: How personal bankruptcy affects retirement plans

2007

According to the 2007 General Social Survey, almost 8% of non-retired Canadians aged 45 to 64, or more than 480,000 people, had experienced at least one bankruptcy during their adulthood. On average, they were 40 years old at the time.

Those who had experienced bankruptcy had lower levels of education and were more likely to have a history of changing jobs more frequently than those who had no history of bankruptcy.

They were less likely to be employed in higher-income, white-collar positions such as management, professional or technical occupations and less likely to have private pensions from current or previous employment.

About two-thirds (61%) lived in a household with an annual income under \$50,000, compared with 37% of other pre-retirement Canadians.

A slight majority of pre-retirees who had experienced bankruptcy wanted to retire by the age of 65. However, less than half believed that their retirement income would be sufficient to maintain their standard of living.

Pre-retirees who had experienced bankruptcy were less advanced in their preparations for retirement, even when compared to pre-retirees who had similar economic and demographic characteristics but had never experienced bankruptcy.

Among pre-retirees who had experienced bankruptcy, 52% owned their home, 38% had contributed to a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP) in the previous five years and 37% had contributed to a private pension plan through their current or previous employment. For the comparison group of never-bankrupt pre-retirees, the proportions were 77%, 52% and 36%, respectively.

Overall, 75% of pre-retirees who had experienced bankruptcy held at least one of these assets for retirement: their own home, an RRSP or a private pension. The proportion was 89% for the comparison group of never-bankrupt pre-retirees.

In addition, 70% of pre-retirees who had experienced bankruptcy were employing other financial strategies to prepare for retirement, such as building savings and investments, and paying down debts. Just under three-quarters of the comparison group of never-bankrupt pre-retirees were also following the same strategy.

Note: This article used data from the 2007 General Social Survey to examine non-retired people aged 45 to 64 who had experienced a bankruptcy in adulthood. It investigated the extent to which they are different from other pre-retirees, and how they have been preparing for their retirement.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4502.

The article "How does bankruptcy affect retirement plans?" is now available in the April 2011 online issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 91 (11-008-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Also in this issue of *Canadian Social Trends* is the article "Debt and family type in Canada". This article explores rising levels of household debt over the past 40 years using National Accounts data. It also uses data from the 2009 Canadian Financial Capability Survey to examine which types of families are most likely to experience high levels of debt and to have a high debt-to-income ratio relative to other family types.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; sasd-dssea@statcan.gc.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

March 2011

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in March compared with the previous month. The composite index increased by 1.7% in March compared with the same month a year earlier.

Note: Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 22 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes on a 2007=100 time base are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0045.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2307.

The fourth quarter 2010 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available soon.

The construction union wage rate indexes for April will be released on May 19.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-888-951-4550; 613-951-4550; fax: 613-951-3117; ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division. ■

Production and disposition of tobacco products

March 2011

Canadian manufacturers produced 2.0 billion cigarettes in March, up 21.1% from February. The total number of cigarettes sold increased by 7.6% to 1.7 billion and closing inventories increased by 9.0% to 2.5 billion cigarettes in March.

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 March 2011 issue of *Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products*, Vol. 40, no. 3 (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. ■

Large urban transit

February 2011 (preliminary)

Total operating revenue (excluding subsidies) for 10 of Canada's largest urban transit properties rose 5.2% from February 2010 to \$235.8 million in February.

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

Ridership levels fell to 127.1 million passenger trips in February, down 2.2% from the same month a year earlier.

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. ■

Investment in new housing construction

February 2011

Data on the investment in new housing construction (including single dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing, apartments and condominiums) are now available for February.

Available on CANSIM: table 026-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.

To order data, for more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mariane Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520; bdp_information@statcan.gc.ca), Investment and Capital Stock Division. ■

New products and studies

Canadian Social Trends, Summer 2011, no. 91
Catalogue number 11-008-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Canadian Economic Observer, April 2011, Vol. 24,
 no. 4
Catalogue number 11-010-X (Print, \$25/\$243)

Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products,
 March 2011, Vol. 40, no. 3
Catalogue number 32-022-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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Release dates: April 26 to 29, 2011

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
26	Production of principal field crops	March 2011 intentions
28	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	February 2011
28	Gross domestic product by industry: Provinces and territories	2010
29	Gross domestic product by industry	February 2011
