

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, October 23, 2012
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Retail trade, August 2012	2
Retail sales rose 0.3% in August. After removing the effects of price changes, particularly higher food and gasoline prices, retail sales in volume terms declined 0.3%.	
Large urban transit, August 2012	7
Investment in new housing construction, August 2012	8

New products and studies	9
---------------------------------	---

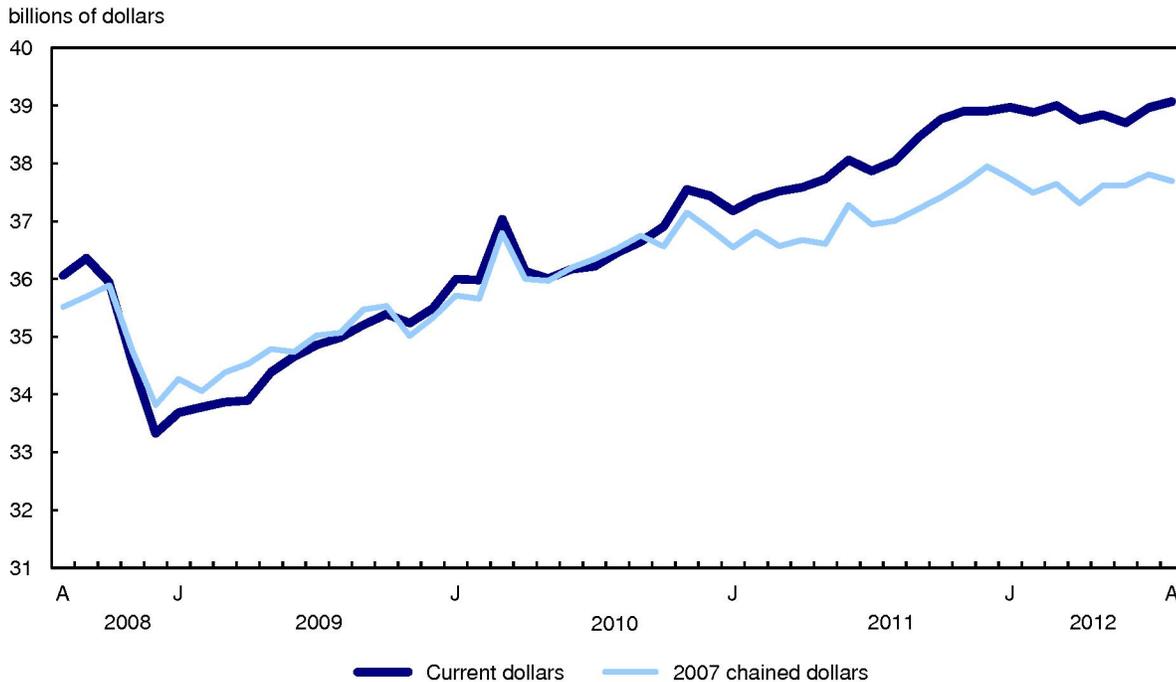


Releases

Retail trade, August 2012

Retail sales rose 0.3% to \$39.1 billion in August. After removing the effects of price changes, particularly higher food and gasoline prices, retail sales in volume terms declined 0.3%.

Chart 1
Retail sales increase in August



In current dollars, gains were reported in 5 of 11 subsectors, representing 53% of total retail trade.

The largest increase in dollar terms among all subsectors was a 2.9% rise at gasoline stations, reflecting higher prices at the pump. Sales in this subsector had been relatively flat since the end of 2011.

General merchandise store sales increased for a second consecutive month, rising 0.6% in August. The "other general merchandise stores" industry led the gain, increasing 1.0%. Department store sales edged up 0.2%. Food and non-alcoholic beverages account for approximately 25% of sales at general merchandise stores.

Food and beverage store receipts rose 0.3%, the third increase in four months. Higher sales at supermarkets and other grocery stores (+0.5%) accounted for most of the increase. Food prices according to the Consumer Price Index increased 0.3% in August on a seasonally adjusted monthly basis. Sales in beer, wine and liquor stores declined for a third straight month, decreasing 0.4%.

Sporting goods, hobby, book and music store sales advanced 1.0% in August, more than offsetting declines in June and July.

Sales at miscellaneous retailers declined for a second month in a row, falling 3.1%. Declines in July and August more than offset gains in early 2012. Stores in this subsector include used merchandise stores, office supplies and stationery stores, and pet supplies stores.

Clothing and clothing accessories store sales decreased for a third month in a row, falling 1.1%. Lower sales were reported by all store types within this subsector.

Receipts at motor vehicle and parts dealers edged down 0.2%. Retail sales in the "other motor vehicle dealers" industry (-4.0%) and used car dealers (-2.0%) decreased for a fourth time in five months. These declines were partially offset by a third straight monthly sales gain at automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (+1.6%) and new car dealers (+0.1%).

Sales up in six provinces

Retail sales rose in six provinces in August. Ontario (+0.6%) reported the largest gain in dollar terms after posting flat sales in July.

Nova Scotia (+2.8%) reported a second consecutive monthly increase, with widespread sales gains across store types.

Sales in Saskatchewan rose 0.6%, a seventh month of uninterrupted growth.

Newfoundland and Labrador posted the sixth increase in seven months, with sales gaining 1.0% in August.

British Columbia registered a 0.9% sales decrease, the fifth decline in six months.

Note to readers

All the data in this release are seasonally adjusted and in current dollars, unless otherwise noted. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends](#).

Total retail sales expressed in volume are calculated by deflating current dollar values using consumer price indexes. The retail sales series in chained (2007) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index with 2007 as the reference year.

Data for total retail sales in volume, including the chain Fisher volume index, have been revised from January 2004 onward to reflect methodological enhancements. In addition, the reference year has changed from 2002 to 2007 for these volume data. For more information, see [Calculation of Volume of Retail Trade Sales](#).

The former CANSIM table 080-0021 has been replaced by CANSIM table 080-0024. Revised data dating back to January 2004 are now available in this new CANSIM table.

Table 1
Retail sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	August 2011	July 2012 ^r	August 2012 ^p	July to August 2012	August 2011 to August 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	38,039	38,967	39,069	0.3	2.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	655	698	705	1.0	7.6
Prince Edward Island	155	161	161	-0.1	3.3
Nova Scotia	1,088	1,092	1,123	2.8	3.2
New Brunswick	921	918	912	-0.7	-1.0
Quebec	8,534	8,642	8,657	0.2	1.4
Ontario	13,485	13,608	13,684	0.6	1.5
Manitoba	1,369	1,391	1,385	-0.4	1.2
Saskatchewan	1,356	1,474	1,482	0.6	9.3
Alberta	5,331	5,743	5,765	0.4	8.1
British Columbia	4,999	5,091	5,046	-0.9	0.9
Yukon	55	57	56	-1.3	3.0
Northwest Territories	60	62	63	0.5	4.1
Nunavut	30	30	31	0.4	2.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note(s): Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Table 2
Retail sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	August 2011	July 2012 ^r	August 2012 ^P	July to August 2012	August 2011 to August 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade	38,039	38,967	39,069	0.3	2.7
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	29,774	30,188	30,307	0.4	1.8
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	24,912	25,332	25,311	-0.1	1.6
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	8,266	8,779	8,762	-0.2	6.0
New car dealers	6,571	7,093	7,101	0.1	8.1
Used car dealers	494	493	483	-2.0	-2.1
Other motor vehicle dealers	625	610	586	-4.0	-6.3
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	576	583	592	1.6	2.7
Furniture and home furnishing stores	1,258	1,287	1,286	-0.1	2.2
Furniture stores	782	803	803	0.1	2.8
Home furnishings stores	476	485	482	-0.5	1.3
Electronics and appliance stores	1,219	1,165	1,167	0.1	-4.3
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	2,260	2,272	2,262	-0.4	0.0
Food and beverage stores	8,687	8,755	8,779	0.3	1.1
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,179	6,198	6,231	0.5	0.8
Convenience stores	533	526	519	-1.4	-2.7
Specialty food stores	419	436	440	0.9	5.0
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,556	1,595	1,589	-0.4	2.1
Health and personal care stores	2,728	2,829	2,806	-0.8	2.9
Gasoline stations	4,862	4,856	4,996	2.9	2.7
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	2,184	2,228	2,203	-1.1	0.8
Clothing stores	1,684	1,727	1,713	-0.8	1.7
Shoe stores	260	255	247	-3.4	-5.2
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	240	246	243	-1.1	1.3
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	919	935	945	1.0	2.8
General merchandise stores	4,773	4,946	4,978	0.6	4.3
Department stores	2,255	2,271	2,276	0.2	0.9
Other general merchandise stores	2,518	2,675	2,702	1.0	7.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	882	916	887	-3.1	0.5

^r revised

^P preliminary

Note(s): Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

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

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

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 080-0020 and 080-0024.

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

The August 2012 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X, free) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for September will be released on November 22.

For more information or to order data, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ashley Ker (613-951-2252), Distributive Trades Division.

Large urban transit, August 2012

Total operating revenue (excluding subsidies) for 10 of Canada's largest urban transit systems rose 6.7% from August 2011 to \$245.8 million in August.

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

Over the same period, ridership levels increased 5.7% to 122.3 million passenger trips.

Available without charge in 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 Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Investment in new housing construction, August 2012

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

Note to readers

Effective with this month's release of data on investment in new housing construction, data for table 026-0017 have been converted from the 2002 reference year to the 2007 reference year. Constant dollar values and the associated price index will henceforth be expressed in terms of 2007 prices. These changes affect data from 1994 to date.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 026-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mariane Nozière Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

New products and studies

There are no new products today.



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-X.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access or subscribe to *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2012. All rights reserved. Use of this publication is governed by the [Statistics Canada Open Licence Agreement](#):

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/reference/copyright-droit-auteur-eng.htm>