

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, fourth quarter 2011

Retail sales rose 3.8% from the fourth quarter of 2010 to the fourth quarter of 2011. Higher sales were reported in 9 of the 10 major commodity groups.

Automotive fuels, oils and additives (+11.5%) accounted for the largest year-over-year increase in sales. According to the Consumer Price Index, gasoline prices increased 13.1% over the same period.

Retail sales of motor vehicles, parts and services were up 5.8% in the fourth quarter. Most of the gain came from higher sales of new trucks, vans, minivans and sport-utility vehicles (+12.7%). Sales also grew for used automotive vehicles (+4.3%), automotive parts and accessories (+2.0%) and new cars (+1.7%).

Food and beverage sales rose 2.4%. Sales of this commodity group continued to shift away from food and beverage stores and toward general merchandise stores in 2011.

Sales of clothing, footwear and accessories increased 5.0% in the fourth quarter compared with the same quarter a year earlier. The largest contribution to the gain came from men's clothing and accessories.

Furniture, home furnishings and electronics (-0.9%) was the only commodity group that registered a decline. Lower sales of televisions and audio and video equipment (-13.2%) accounted for most of the decrease. Consumer prices fell for video equipment (-12.2%) and audio equipment (-8.8%) between the fourth quarter of 2010 and the fourth quarter of 2011.

Note to readers

The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey.

Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. All percentage changes are year over year.

Table 1
Sales by commodity, all retail stores – Seasonally unadjusted

	Fourth quarter 2010 ^r	Third quarter 2011 ^r	Fourth quarter 2011 ^p	Fourth quarter 2010 to fourth quarter 2011
	millions of dollars			% change
Commodity, total	117,505	117,855	121,945	3.8
Food and beverages	27,756	27,707	28,410	2.4
Health and personal care products	10,726	10,147	10,851	1.2
Clothing, footwear and accessories	11,404	9,025	11,975	5.0
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	11,834	9,609	11,721	-0.9
Motor vehicles, parts and services	21,765	24,281	23,026	5.8
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	11,719	13,744	13,067	11.5
Housewares	2,361	2,125	2,441	3.4
Hardware, lawn and garden products	6,768	8,629	6,981	3.1
Sporting and leisure goods	4,454	3,246	4,569	2.6
All other goods and services	8,720	9,342	8,902	2.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 080-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

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

Sawmills, January 2012

Lumber production by sawmills increased 16.8% from December to 4 418.3 thousand cubic metres in January. Compared with January 2011, lumber production increased 1.0%.

In January, sawmills shipped 4 179.6 thousand cubic metres of lumber, up 3.8% from December.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 303-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2134.

The January 2012 issue of *Sawmills*, Vol. 66, no. 1 (35-003-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 Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Cement, February 2012

Data on cement are now available for February.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

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 the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

Sawmills, January 2012, Vol. 66, no. 1
Catalogue number 35-003-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Building Permits, February 2012, Vol. 56, no. 2
Catalogue number 64-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)



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