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The Daily

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Releases

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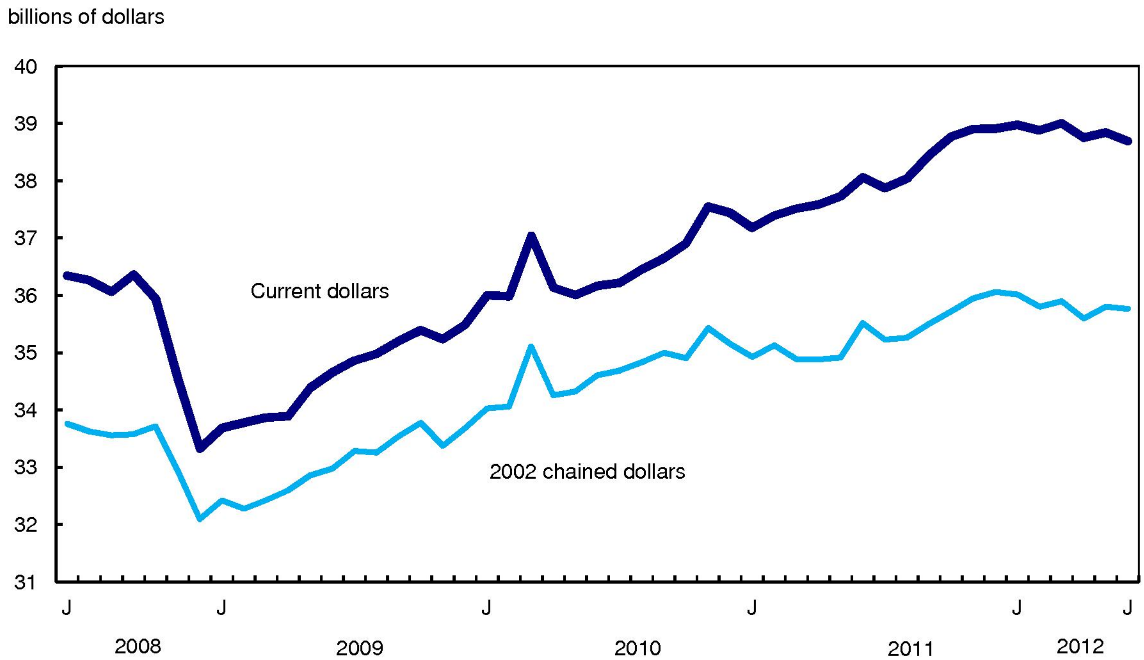
Releases

Retail trade, June 2012

Retail sales declined 0.4% to $38.7 billion in June, more than offsetting the gain in May. Lower sales were reported in 7 of 11 subsectors, representing 64% of retail trade.

In volume terms, retail sales edged down 0.1%.

Chart 1
Retail sales decrease in June



General merchandise store receipts fell 1.5% in June. Store closures contributed to lower sales at department stores (-2.6%). Sales at other general merchandise stores declined 0.6%.

Gasoline station sales decreased 1.3%, reflecting lower prices at the pump. This was the sixth decrease in eight months.

Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers reported a 2.1% sales decline. Lower receipts in recent months may reflect in part an advance of spring sales for this store type in February and March.

Sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers decreased 0.4%. After peaking in January 2012, sales in this subsector have been on a downward trend. Lower receipts at new car dealers (-0.6%) and at other motor vehicle dealers (-1.3%) accounted for the June decline. Gains were reported by used car dealers (+1.8%) and automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (+0.4%).

Furniture and home furnishing stores (-0.5%) reported a fifth sales decrease in six months. Home furnishing stores declined 1.8% in June and have been on a downward trend since the beginning of 2012. Sales at furniture stores increased 0.3%.

Food and beverage store receipts rose 0.5%. Higher sales at supermarkets and other grocery stores (+1.0%) accounted for most of the increase.

Following declines in April and May, sales at electronics and appliance stores rose 1.1% in June.

Sales decrease most in Alberta

Retail sales fell in six provinces in June. Alberta (-1.3%) reported the largest decline in dollar terms after posting the largest increase in May. Lower sales of new motor vehicles were the main reason for the June decrease.

Sales in British Columbia declined 1.0% in June, after relatively flat sales the previous three months.

Ontario retailers registered a 0.3% decrease in sales, largely offsetting May's gain.

Sales in Nova Scotia (-3.4%) declined for the third time in four months.

After three consecutive monthly declines, Quebec reported a 0.7% increase.

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 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.

Starting with the next release, total retail sales published in volume, including the chain Fisher volume index, will be revised from January 2004 onward to reflect methodological enhancements. In addition, the reference year will change from 2002 to 2007 for these volume data.

Table 1
Retail sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	June 2011	May 2012[r]	June 2012[p]	May to June 2012	June 2011 to June 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	**38,060**	**38,844**	**38,690**	**-0.4**	**1.7**
Newfoundland and Labrador	651	686	676	-1.4	3.9
Prince Edward Island	157	161	158	-1.6	0.9
Nova Scotia	1,101	1,108	1,070	-3.4	-2.8
New Brunswick	933	910	910	0.0	-2.4
Quebec	8,559	8,506	8,563	0.7	0.0
Ontario	13,497	13,667	13,629	-0.3	1.0
Manitoba	1,370	1,374	1,376	0.1	0.4
Saskatchewan	1,369	1,440	1,441	0.1	5.3
Alberta	5,278	5,702	5,629	-1.3	6.6
British Columbia	4,998	5,140	5,089	-1.0	1.8
Yukon	56	56	55	-1.9	-1.4
Northwest Territories	61	61	61	0.1	1.0
Nunavut	29	32	30	-3.6	3.2

[r] *revised*
[p] *preliminary*
Note(s): *Figures may not add to totals as a result of rounding.*

Table 2
Retail sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	June 2011	May 2012[r]	June 2012[p]	May to June 2012	June 2011 to June 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade	**38,060**	**38,844**	**38,690**	**-0.4**	**1.7**
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	**29,633**	**30,183**	**30,065**	**-0.4**	**1.5**
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	**24,860**	**25,328**	**25,274**	**-0.2**	**1.7**
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	**8,427**	**8,662**	**8,625**	**-0.4**	**2.4**
New car dealers	6,758	6,987	6,947	-0.6	2.8
Used car dealers	503	500	509	1.8	1.1
Other motor vehicle dealers	585	603	595	-1.3	1.7
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	581	572	574	0.4	-1.2
Furniture and home furnishing stores	**1,262**	**1,262**	**1,257**	**-0.5**	**-0.4**
Furniture stores	795	802	805	0.3	1.2
Home furnishings stores	467	460	452	-1.8	-3.2
Electronics and appliance stores	**1,248**	**1,182**	**1,195**	**1.1**	**-4.3**
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	**2,267**	**2,235**	**2,188**	**-2.1**	**-3.4**
Food and beverage stores	**8,639**	**8,809**	**8,855**	**0.5**	**2.5**
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,138	6,219	6,282	1.0	2.3
Convenience stores	535	536	527	-1.6	-1.5
Specialty food stores	415	431	433	0.5	4.3
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,551	1,623	1,614	-0.6	4.0
Health and personal care stores	**2,744**	**2,760**	**2,773**	**0.4**	**1.0**
Gasoline stations	**4,773**	**4,855**	**4,791**	**-1.3**	**0.4**
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	**2,166**	**2,261**	**2,254**	**-0.3**	**4.0**
Clothing stores	1,684	1,765	1,770	0.2	5.1
Shoe stores	252	248	245	-1.1	-2.9
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	230	248	239	-3.3	4.0
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	**924**	**941**	**938**	**-0.3**	**1.6**
General merchandise stores	**4,728**	**4,956**	**4,881**	**-1.5**	**3.2**
Department stores	2,242	2,264	2,205	-2.6	-1.7
Other general merchandise stores	2,486	2,693	2,676	-0.6	7.6
Miscellaneous store retailers	**881**	**920**	**933**	**1.4**	**5.9**

r revised

p preliminary

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

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 without charge in CANSIM: tables 080-0020 and 080-0021.

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

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

Data on retail trade for July will be released on September 25.

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.

Production of principal field crops, July 2012

Prairie farmers anticipate record canola production in 2012, as well as increases in wheat and barley. At the national level, production is set to increase for corn for grain and soybeans.

Overall, weather conditions in the West in 2012 have been closer to normal, following two years of excess moisture conditions in parts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Canola

Prairie farmers anticipate a record 15.2 million metric tonnes of canola in 2012, surpassing the record of 14.0 million tonnes set last year.

Farmers in all three Prairie provinces anticipate an increase in canola production, with the potential for records in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In Saskatchewan, 7.3 million tonnes of canola are expected to be produced in 2012, up 4.5% from the 2011 record of 7.0 million tonnes. In Alberta, farmers anticipate a record 5.4 million tonnes, a 1.4% increase over the previous record of 5.3 million tonnes set in 2011.

In Manitoba, farmers reported they expect to produce 2.5 million tonnes of canola in 2012, up 49.7% from 2011. The yield is expected to increase 12.9% from 27.8 bushels per acre in 2011 to 31.4 bushels per acre in 2012. Farmers anticipate a harvested area of 3.5 million acres in 2012, exceeding the record of 3.2 million acres in 2009.

Wheat

Total wheat production on the Prairies is expected to reach 24.8 million tonnes in 2012, up 9.7% from 22.6 million tonnes in 2011.

This increase is anticipated despite a decline in average yield from 42.1 bushels per acre in 2011 to 41.5 bushels per acre in 2012. The decline in yield would be offset by an 11.4% increase in harvested area to just under 22.0 million acres.

In Manitoba, wheat production is expected to increase by 1.5 million tonnes (+69.9%) to 3.7 million tonnes, the result of improved growing conditions from 2011.

In Saskatchewan, farmers anticipate an 8.4% increase in production, while in Alberta, wheat production is set to decline by 3.5%.

Barley

Barley production on the Prairies is anticipated to rise 23.8% to 9.0 million tonnes in 2012. This is the result of farmers expecting a record average yield of 65.1 bushels per acre, breaking the previous record of 63.3 bushels per acre set in 2008, combined with an increased area to be harvested of 6.3 million acres, up 16.9% from 5.4 million acres in 2011.

Alberta farmers expect a record barley yield of 70.6 bushels per acre, up from the previous record of 67.0 bushels per acre set in 2011. Production in 2012 is estimated at 5.3 million tonnes, up 17.2% from 4.6 million tonnes in 2011.

In Saskatchewan, barley production is set to rise 21.9% to 3.0 million tonnes.

Soybeans

Nationally, total soybean production in 2012 is anticipated to increase 3.7% to just over 4.4 million tonnes.

In Manitoba, farmers anticipate a record soybean production of 710 300 tonnes in 2012, up 71.7% from 2011. The previous record of 435 400 tonnes was set in 2010. They are expecting an average yield of 30.7 bushels per acre, up from 26.7 bushels per acre in 2011.

In the East, farmers in Quebec reported that they expect a record production of 813 000 tonnes in 2012, up from 800 000 tonnes in 2011 and surpassing the previous record of 807 000 tonnes set in 2010. The new record would occur despite an anticipated 3.3% decline in harvested area in 2012.

In Ontario, the harvested area is expected to increase to a record 2.6 million acres from 2.4 million acres in 2011. However, this would be offset by a decrease in average yield from 44.9 bushels per acre in 2011 to 39.4 bushels per acre in 2012, resulting in a 4.6% decline in soybean production compared with 2011 to 2.8 million tonnes.

Corn for grain

Nationally, the production of corn for grain is anticipated to reach just over 11.7 million tonnes, up 9.5% from 2011.

In Quebec, farmers anticipate an 18.6% increase in production to 3.5 million tonnes. This reflects a 4.8% increase in yield from 132.1 bushels per acre in 2011 to 138.4 bushels per acre in 2012, and an increase in harvested area from 873,500 acres to 988,400 acres.

Ontario farmers anticipate a 3.2% increase in production of corn for grain to 7.5 million tonnes in 2012. Yield is expected to decline 9.8% to 136.7 bushels per acre from 151.6 bushels per acre in 2011, but harvested area is expected to increase 14.4% to 2.2 million acres.

In Manitoba, the production of corn for grain is set to increase from 414 000 tonnes in 2011 to 688 400 tonnes in 2012. Farmers anticipate harvesting 290,000 acres in 2012, exceeding the record of 225,000 acres set in 1981.

Note to readers

The July Farm Survey of crop production covering about 15,000 Canadian farmers was conducted from July 25 to August 1, 2012. Farmers were asked to report their estimated area, yield and production of grains, oilseeds and special crops.

Final production estimates for 2012 will be released on December 5, 2012 and are subject to revision for two years.

Auxiliary data source: *As an additional tool to assess growing conditions of field crops during the crop year, readers are invited to visit the Crop Condition Assessment Program web application. Readers can monitor a vegetation index of crop land on a weekly basis.*

Table 1
July estimates of production of principal field crops

Crop	2010	2011	July 2012p	2010 to 2011	2011 to July 2012
	thousands of metric tonnes			% change	
Total wheat[1]	23 167	25 261	27 013	9.0	6.9
Spring wheat	17 485	18 031	19 058	3.1	5.7
Durum wheat	3 025	4 172	4 273	37.9	2.4
Winter wheat	2 657	3 058	3 682	15.1	20.4
Canola	12 773	14 165	15 410	10.9	8.8
Corn for grain	11 715	10 689	11 703	-8.8	9.5
Barley	7 605	7 756	9 508	2.0	22.6
Soybeans	4 345	4 246	4 405	-2.3	3.7
Oats	2 480	2 997	2 994	20.9	-0.1
Dry field peas	3 018	2 116	2 981	-29.9	40.9
Flaxseed	423	368	547	-12.9	48.4
Fall rye	232	195	312	-16.2	60.4

p preliminary
1. Total wheat is the sum of winter wheat, spring wheat and durum wheat.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 001-0010 and 001-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3401 and 3465.

The publication *Field Crop Reporting Series:* "July 2012 Estimates of Production of Principal Field Crops", Vol. 91, no. 5 (22-002-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The stocks of principal field crops at July 31 will be released on September 7.

For more information, contact Statistic's Canada 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 Yves Gilbert (613-951-2577; yves.gilbert@statcan.gc.ca), or Heather Keehn (613-951-0730; heather.keehn@statcan.gc.ca), Agriculture Division.

Study: How the older unemployed look for work, 2006 to 2010

Older unemployed workers spent as much time on average looking for work as their younger counterparts did during the four-year period from 2006 to 2010.

On average, unemployed people aged 55 to 64 spent 13 hours per week looking for work. This was similar to the time spent by the youngest group of unemployed aged 20 to 34.

There were, however, differences in job-search methods between the younger and older unemployed. For 49% of the unemployed aged 20 to 34, directly contacting employers was the main job-search method used. In comparison, 42% of the unemployed aged 55 to 64 did the same.

On the other hand, 21% of the unemployed aged 55 to 64 mainly looked at job ads, twice the proportion of those aged 20 to 34.

The older unemployed were also less likely to use the Internet to look for work. About 18% of the unemployed aged 55 to 64 reported using the Internet or a kiosk as their main method of job searching, compared with 23% for the unemployed aged 20 to 34.

About 8% of the older unemployed mainly used a public or private employment agency, a proportion that is similar across all age groups.

By looking for work outside their community, the unemployed increase their chances of finding a suitable job. In this regard, the older unemployed were not significantly different from their younger counterparts as the probability of looking for work outside the community was about 40% in both age groups.

In addition, the older unemployed were more likely to say they would accept a new job if the wage offered was 10% lower than that of their previous job — 81% versus 69% for those aged 20 to 34.

Most of the older unemployed were pessimistic about their chances of finding an acceptable job in the next three months. Among the unemployed aged 55 to 64, 58% felt that their chances of finding such a job were "not very good." This was nearly twice the proportion for the unemployed aged 20 to 34.

The older unemployed who were pessimistic were more likely to report that their health and age were obstacles to their job search.

The study found that the time spent looking for work did not vary depending on the duration of the unemployment spell. People who were unemployed for 24 weeks or more spent as many hours looking for work as those unemployed for less than 8 weeks.

Note to readers

This article examines differences in job-search behaviours between the older unemployed and their younger counterparts. Data came from the Employment Insurance Coverage Survey from 2006 to 2010, which contains detailed information on job-search characteristics. Unemployed seniors aged 65 and over were excluded from the analysis, as were youth under 20 and students, so that the focus was on people whose attachment to the labour market was likely the strongest.

Data from the Labour Force Survey were also used.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3701 and 4428.

The article "The job search of the older unemployed" is now available in the August 2012 online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*, Vol. 24, no. 3 (75-001-X, free), from the *Publications* module of our website, under the *Key resource* tab.

This is the final online edition of *Perspectives on Labour and Income*. In future, analytical articles on changes in Canada's social and demographic fabric, and related studies, will appear on Statistics Canada's website in a new publication on social statistics. It will be available free of charge beginning in the Fall of 2012.

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 article, contact André Bernard (613-951-4660; andre.bernard@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

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

Dairy statistics, March to June 2012

Dairy statistics for Canada and the provinces are now available for March to June.

Note to readers

The publication Dairy Statistics (23-014-X) has been discontinued. The data previously contained in this publication continue to be available without charge in CANSIM.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 003-0007 to 003-0012, 003-0029, 003-0033 and 003-0034.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3430, 3431 and 3432.

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 Brad McKay (613-951-6571), Agriculture Division.

New products and studies

New products

Field Crop Reporting Series, July 2012 Estimates of Production of Principal Field Crops, Vol. 91, no. 5
Catalogue number 22-002-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Wholesale Trade, June 2012, Vol. 75, no. 6
Catalogue number 63-008-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Fall 2012, Vol. 24, no. 3
Catalogue number 75-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

New studies

The job search of the older unemployed
Perspectives on Labour and Income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