

The Daily

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Releases

Retail trade, February 2013

2

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Refined petroleum products, March 2013

7

New products and studies

8



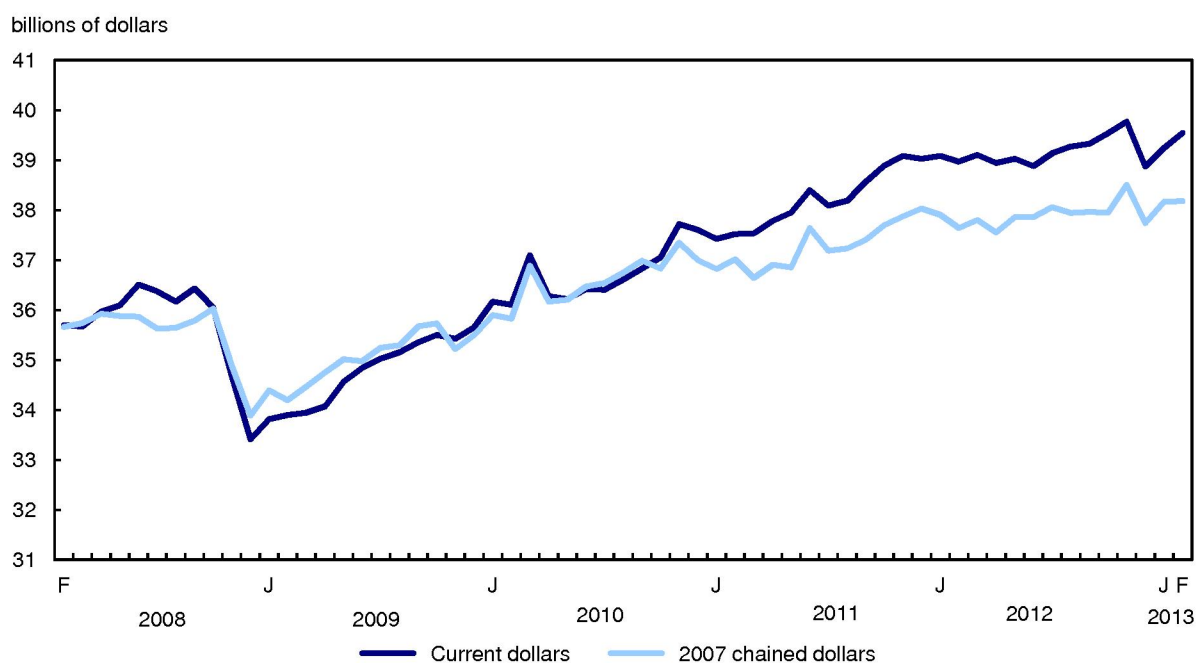
Releases

Retail trade, February 2013

Retail sales rose 0.8% to \$39.5 billion in February, a second consecutive monthly sales gain. Higher sales were reported in 7 of 11 subsectors, representing 82% of total retail trade.

After removing the effects of price changes, particularly higher gasoline prices, retail sales in volume terms were flat.

Chart 1 Retail sales increase in February



The largest advance in dollar terms among all subsectors was a 2.8% rise at general merchandise stores. Higher sales in the "other general merchandise stores" industry accounted for most of the gain, increasing 4.4% in February. Department store sales rose 0.8%.

Following three straight monthly declines, sales at gasoline stations increased 1.9% as a result of higher prices at the pump.

Sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers rose for a second month in a row, up 1.0% in February. Sales gains at new car dealers (+2.0%) more than offset declines at "other motor vehicle dealers" (-7.3%) and used car dealers (-2.3%).

Following flat sales in January, electronics and appliance stores reported a 1.3% sales gain in February. Despite this gain, sales in this subsector have been on a downward trend since the beginning of 2012.

Food and beverage store sales edged up 0.1%. A 0.3% increase at supermarkets and other grocery stores was partially offset by a 0.6% decline at beer, wine and liquor stores.

The 2.5% decline in receipts at furniture and home furnishings stores did not offset the sales gain in January. Lower sales at furniture stores (-2.9%) was the main contributor to the decline.

Clothing and clothing accessories stores reported a 0.6% decrease in February. Following two consecutive monthly gains, receipts at clothing stores declined 0.8%. This was partially offset by a third straight monthly sales gain at shoe stores (+2.4%).

Sales up in eight provinces

Retail sales rose in eight provinces in February. Alberta (+2.2%) reported the largest gain in dollar terms. This was the third rise in sales in Alberta in four months.

Receipts in Ontario (+0.7%) and Quebec (+0.7%) increased for a second consecutive month.

Manitoba retail sales advanced 2.0% in February, more than offsetting declines in December and January.

The 0.3% sales decrease in British Columbia partially offset the gain in January. Sales in this province have been relatively flat since the middle of 2012.

For a third straight month, retailers in Nova Scotia (-0.6%) reported sales declines.

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. For more information, see [Calculation of Volume of Retail Trade Sales](#).

With this release, retail trade data are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System. Unadjusted and seasonally adjusted monthly data were revised back to January 2004. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of respondent information, correction of information in the data provided, the replacement of estimated figures with actual values (once available), the re-classification of companies within, into and out of the retail trade industry and updates to seasonal factors.

Data in volume terms have also been revised back to January 2004.

Table 1
Retail sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

| | February 2012 | January 2013 ^r | February 2013 ^p | January to February 2013 | February 2012 to February 2013 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | millions of dollars | | | % change | |
| Canada | 38,967 | 39,244 | 39,548 | 0.8 | 1.5 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 664 | 683 | 687 | 0.7 | 3.5 |
| Prince Edward Island | 160 | 159 | 160 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Nova Scotia | 1,113 | 1,095 | 1,089 | -0.6 | -2.2 |
| New Brunswick | 938 | 902 | 905 | 0.3 | -3.5 |
| Quebec | 8,636 | 8,678 | 8,736 | 0.7 | 1.2 |
| Ontario | 13,715 | 13,682 | 13,783 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Manitoba | 1,416 | 1,410 | 1,439 | 2.0 | 1.6 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,424 | 1,491 | 1,496 | 0.3 | 5.0 |
| Alberta | 5,574 | 5,859 | 5,988 | 2.2 | 7.4 |
| British Columbia | 5,168 | 5,133 | 5,115 | -0.3 | -1.0 |
| Yukon | 56 | 56 | 56 | -0.5 | -0.2 |
| Northwest Territories | 71 | 64 | 64 | 0.0 | -10.6 |
| Nunavut | 31 | 31 | 30 | -1.1 | -3.0 |

^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

| | February 2012 | January 2013 ^r | February 2013 ^p | January to February 2013 | February 2012 to February 2013 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | millions of dollars | | | % change | |
| Total retail trade (current dollars) | 38,967 | 39,244 | 39,548 | 0.8 | 1.5 |
| Total retail trade (2007 chained dollars) | 37,639 | 38,167 | 38,182 | 0.0 | 1.4 |
| Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers | 30,202 | 30,457 | 30,672 | 0.7 | 1.6 |
| Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations | 25,263 | 25,506 | 25,625 | 0.5 | 1.4 |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers | 8,766 | 8,787 | 8,875 | 1.0 | 1.3 |
| New car dealers | 7,065 | 7,029 | 7,170 | 2.0 | 1.5 |
| Used car dealers | 519 | 527 | 515 | -2.3 | -0.8 |
| Other motor vehicle dealers | 598 | 645 | 598 | -7.3 | 0.0 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores | 584 | 586 | 593 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| Furniture and home furnishing stores | 1,266 | 1,310 | 1,277 | -2.5 | 0.9 |
| Furniture stores | 797 | 819 | 796 | -2.9 | -0.2 |
| Home furnishings stores | 469 | 491 | 482 | -1.9 | 2.8 |
| Electronics and appliance stores | 1,286 | 1,213 | 1,229 | 1.3 | -4.4 |
| Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers | 2,265 | 2,227 | 2,229 | 0.1 | -1.6 |
| Food and beverage stores | 8,847 | 8,993 | 9,003 | 0.1 | 1.8 |
| Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores | 6,256 | 6,350 | 6,366 | 0.3 | 1.8 |
| Convenience stores | 577 | 548 | 550 | 0.3 | -4.8 |
| Specialty food stores | 437 | 452 | 454 | 0.4 | 3.8 |
| Beer, wine and liquor stores | 1,576 | 1,643 | 1,633 | -0.6 | 3.6 |
| Health and personal care stores | 2,738 | 2,850 | 2,849 | 0.0 | 4.1 |
| Gasoline stations | 4,939 | 4,951 | 5,047 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| Clothing and clothing accessories stores | 2,184 | 2,211 | 2,198 | -0.6 | 0.6 |
| Clothing stores | 1,689 | 1,714 | 1,700 | -0.8 | 0.6 |
| Shoe stores | 247 | 251 | 257 | 2.4 | 4.2 |
| Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores | 248 | 246 | 241 | -2.2 | -3.1 |
| Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores | 884 | 870 | 874 | 0.5 | -1.1 |
| General merchandise stores | 4,870 | 4,863 | 4,997 | 2.8 | 2.6 |
| Department stores | 2,241 | 2,233 | 2,251 | 0.8 | 0.5 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 2,629 | 2,631 | 2,746 | 4.4 | 4.4 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 922 | 968 | 968 | 0.0 | 4.9 |

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note(s): Figures may not add up to total 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 in CANSIM: tables 080-0020 and 080-0024.

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

The February 2013 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for March will be released on May 22.

For more information or to order data, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 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; ashley.ker@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.

Refined petroleum products, March 2013

Data on the production, inventories and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for March. Other selected data about these products are also available.

Note to readers

These data are subject to revision.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

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