

The Daily

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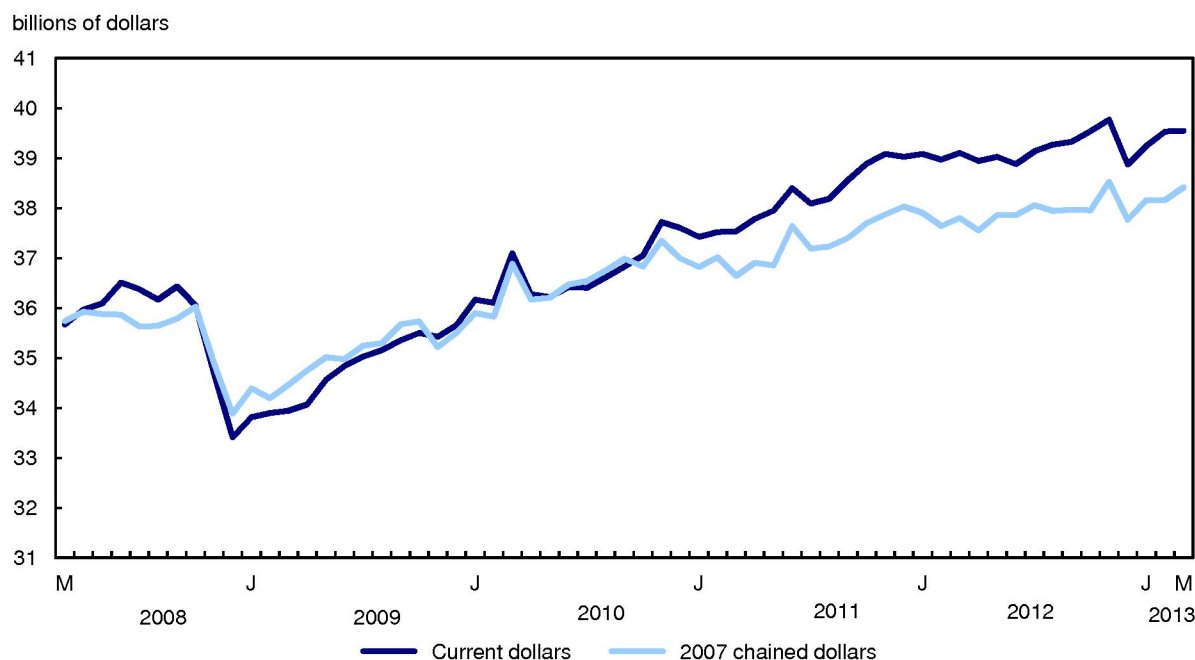
Canada

Releases

Retail trade, March 2013

Retail sales were flat in March, holding at \$39.5 billion. After removing the effects of price changes, particularly lower gasoline prices, retail sales in volume terms rose 0.7%.

Chart 1
Retail sales flat in March



Higher sales were reported in 6 of 11 subsectors, representing 47% of total retail sales.

The largest increase in sales among all subsectors was a 3.1% rise at clothing and clothing accessories stores. Higher sales at clothing stores led the gain, rising 3.5%, the third increase in four months. Sales at shoe stores (+0.9%) advanced for a fourth straight month. Following three consecutive monthly declines, gains were reported by jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores (+2.3%).

Sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers rose 0.7%, a third consecutive monthly gain. Higher receipts at other motor vehicle dealers (+6.1%) and at new car dealers (+0.3%) accounted for most of the gain. The advance in sales in the "other motor vehicle dealers" industry did not offset the decline in February. This industry includes retailers of recreational vehicles, motorcycles and boats.

Furniture and home furnishings stores posted a 0.3% increase in sales, reflecting stronger sales at furniture stores (+1.2%). Home furnishings stores (-1.0%) declined for a fourth month in a row.

Sales at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers edged up 0.1%. Sales in this subsector have been relatively flat since the middle of 2012.

Gasoline station sales decreased 1.3% in March, mainly reflecting lower prices at the pump.

Following two consecutive monthly gains, sales at general merchandise stores declined 0.6% in March. Weaker sales were reported by department stores (-0.6%) and other general merchandise stores (-0.6%).

The 0.9% decrease in receipts at electronics and appliance stores did not offset the sales gain in February.

Sales up in six provinces

Retail sales rose in six provinces in March. Ontario (+0.4%) reported the largest increase in dollar terms and a third consecutive monthly sales gain. This increase was in part the result of higher sales at new car dealers.

The 0.9% rise in sales in British Columbia was led by gains at motor vehicle and parts dealers.

Receipts in Quebec (+0.4%) and New Brunswick (+1.2%) both increased for a third straight month.

Retail sales in Nova Scotia (+0.6%) increased in March after three consecutive monthly declines.

Following two consecutive monthly gains, retailers in Alberta registered a 1.8% sales decline.

Retail sales in Saskatchewan (-1.7%) fell for a fourth straight month in March, with widespread declines across subsectors.

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](#).

Table 1
Retail sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2012	February 2013 ^r	March 2013 ^p	February to March 2013	March 2012 to March 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	39,103	39,534	39,548	0.0	1.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	669	689	699	1.3	4.4
Prince Edward Island	160	160	158	-1.0	-1.2
Nova Scotia	1,100	1,086	1,092	0.6	-0.7
New Brunswick	928	912	923	1.2	-0.6
Quebec	8,636	8,753	8,785	0.4	1.7
Ontario	13,824	13,784	13,838	0.4	0.1
Manitoba	1,412	1,438	1,429	-0.6	1.2
Saskatchewan	1,442	1,471	1,445	-1.7	0.3
Alberta	5,613	5,985	5,874	-1.8	4.7
British Columbia	5,160	5,108	5,156	0.9	-0.1
Yukon	57	56	56	0.9	-2.1
Northwest Territories	70	64	62	-3.4	-11.5
Nunavut	32	30	31	2.0	-2.2

^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

	March 2012	February 2013 ^r	March 2013 ^p	February to March 2013	March 2012 to March 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade (current dollars)	39,103	39,534	39,548	0.0	1.1
Total retail trade (2007 chained dollars)	37,805	38,160	38,415	0.7	1.6
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	30,342	30,683	30,635	-0.2	1.0
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	25,430	25,617	25,635	0.1	0.8
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	8,760	8,851	8,913	0.7	1.7
New car dealers	7,034	7,157	7,177	0.3	2.0
Used car dealers	524	508	515	1.3	-1.6
Other motor vehicle dealers	621	577	612	6.1	-1.5
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	582	609	609	-0.1	4.7
Furniture and home furnishings stores	1,256	1,273	1,277	0.3	1.7
Furniture stores	790	796	805	1.2	1.9
Home furnishings stores	466	477	472	-1.0	1.3
Electronics and appliance stores	1,288	1,224	1,213	-0.9	-5.8
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	2,310	2,241	2,243	0.1	-2.9
Food and beverage stores	8,856	9,004	8,999	-0.1	1.6
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,261	6,365	6,363	0.0	1.6
Convenience stores	578	552	553	0.2	-4.4
Specialty food stores	437	457	458	0.2	5.0
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,581	1,629	1,625	-0.3	2.8
Health and personal care stores	2,732	2,843	2,845	0.0	4.1
Gasoline stations	4,912	5,066	5,000	-1.3	1.8
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	2,213	2,206	2,274	3.1	2.8
Clothing stores	1,699	1,705	1,765	3.5	3.9
Shoe stores	268	258	260	0.9	-2.8
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	246	243	249	2.3	1.2
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	906	867	868	0.1	-4.1
General merchandise stores	4,947	4,993	4,962	-0.6	0.3
Department stores	2,285	2,249	2,235	-0.6	-2.2
Other general merchandise stores	2,662	2,744	2,728	-0.6	2.5
Miscellaneous store retailers	924	964	953	-1.2	3.2

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

Data on retail trade for April will be released on June 21.

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.

Job vacancies, three-month average ending in February 2013

Canadian businesses had 210,000 job vacancies in February, a decrease of 26,000 from February 2012. There were 6.4 unemployed people for every job vacancy, up from 5.9 one year earlier.

The increase in the ratio of unemployment to job vacancies was a result of a faster decrease in the number of job vacancies than in the number of unemployed people.

The national job vacancy rate was 1.5% in February, down from 1.7% 12 months earlier.

Note to readers

Monthly data are based on three-month moving averages. For example, data for the current month are based on an average of the data from the current month and the previous two months.

Data on job vacancies are not seasonally adjusted and should only be compared on a year-over-year basis. Given this is a new data series, trends are not yet available; therefore, data should be interpreted with caution.

With each release, data for the current reference month are subject to revision. Data have been revised for the previous month. Users are encouraged to request and use the most up-to-date data for each month.

Available in CANSIM: tables 284-0001 to 284-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5202.

The next job vacancies release, for March, will be on June 18.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118; jason.gilmore@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Investment in new housing construction, March 2013

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

Available in CANSIM: table 026-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5155.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 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.

Civil aviation operating statistics, March 2013

Operational data on civil aviation are now available for March.

Note to readers

Data for April 2012 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: tables 401-0001 and 401-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5026.

A [data table](#) is also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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).

Dairy statistics, March 2013

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

Available 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, 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).

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