

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, July 12, 2013

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Releases

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, first quarter 2013

Retail sales were flat in the first quarter compared with the first quarter of 2012, the smallest change since the third quarter of 2009. Higher sales were reported in 5 of 10 major commodity groups.

In the first quarter, food and beverages receipts rose 2.2% from the first quarter of 2012. The top contributors to the increase were sales of fresh fruits and vegetables (+6.6%) and alcoholic beverages (+3.4%).

Automotive fuels, oils and additives sales grew 2.1% in the first quarter compared with the first quarter of 2012. The majority of the increase was driven by a 2.2% rise in automotive fuels sales. These sales have been posting single-digit growth since the beginning of 2012, following two years of double-digit growth.

Furniture, home furnishings and electronics sales declined 3.5% in the first quarter compared with the first quarter of 2012. The largest contributor to this decrease was sales of home electronics, computers and cameras (-7.3%), which have declined in the last five quarters. Home furnishings sales decreased 2.5%, the largest drop since the second quarter of 2011.

In the first quarter, sales of motor vehicles, parts and services fell 1.7% from the first quarter of 2012. Sales of new automotive vehicles were down 1.8%, due to lower unit sales as reflected in data from the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey. New passenger car sales (-7.7%) were down for the first time since the third quarter of 2011, while the 1.5% decrease in sales of used automotive vehicles brought an end to seven consecutive quarters of positive growth.

Clothing, footwear and accessories receipts fell 1.7% in the first quarter compared with the first quarter of 2012. The majority of the decline came from sales of clothing and accessories (-2.1%), led by women's clothing and accessories (-2.8%).

Note to readers

The 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. For example, no adjustment has been made for Easter, which occurred in the first quarter of 2013 but had taken place in the second quarter of 2012. All percentage changes are year over year.

With this release, retail commodity data are based on the 2012 North American Industry Classification System. Unadjusted data were revised back to the first quarter of 2004. The revisions take into account the late reporting or correction of respondent information and classification changes. The revised data are now available on CANSIM.

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

	First quarter 2012 ^r	Fourth quarter 2012 ^r	First quarter 2013 ^p	First quarter 2012 to first quarter 2013
	millions of dollars			% change
Commodity, total	103,014	123,744	103,060	0.0
Food and beverages	25,204	28,852	25,761	2.2
Health and personal care products	10,029	11,244	10,141	1.1
Clothing, footwear and accessories	7,349	11,825	7,223	-1.7
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	8,630	11,591	8,330	-3.5
Motor vehicles, parts and services	21,510	23,492	21,141	-1.7
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	12,800	13,638	13,064	2.1
Housewares	1,887	2,527	1,981	5.0
Hardware, lawn and garden products	5,394	6,953	5,240	-2.9
Sporting and leisure goods	2,760	4,492	2,623	-5.0
All other goods and services	7,451	9,129	7,557	1.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Available in CANSIM: table 080-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

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

There are no new products today.

Release dates: July 15 to 19, 2013

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	May 2013
17	Canada's international transactions in securities	May 2013
17	Investment in non-residential building construction	Second quarter 2013
17	Health Reports	July 2013
18	Employment Insurance	May 2013
18	Wholesale trade	May 2013
18	Travel between Canada and other countries	May 2013
19	Consumer Price Index	June 2013

See also the release dates for major economic indicators for the rest of the year.



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