

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

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### Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, fourth quarter 2013

Retail sales rose 3.5% from the same quarter a year earlier to \$128.0 billion in the fourth quarter of 2013. Sales were up in 9 of the 10 major commodity groups.

Over one-third of the total growth for the fourth quarter came from the sale of motor vehicles, parts and services (+7.3%). Higher sales of new trucks, vans, mini-vans, sport utility vehicles and buses (+15.2%) led the gains within the commodity group, more than compensating for the small decline in new car sales (-0.1%). Sales of used automotive vehicles rose 6.4% while sales of automotive parts and accessories increased 4.4%.

Retail sales of food and beverages rose 2.0%. Most of the gains came from food (+2.8%), with fresh fruit and vegetables (+7.5%) and fresh meat and poultry (+3.7%) leading the way. There was a shift in where food products were purchased, as general merchandise stores increased their market share by 0.7 percentage points from the fourth quarter of 2012 to 18.4%.

Automotive fuels, oils and additives sales rose 3.6%, continuing the upward trend dating back to the fourth quarter of 2009.

Sales receipts of clothing, footwear and accessories rose 3.6% year over year. Increases in women's clothing and accessories (+5.3%) and men's clothing and accessories (+3.4%) were largely driven by gains in outerwear and accessories. Sales of footwear rose 6.1%, the largest increase in nearly two years, led by gains in non-athletic footwear.

Sales of health and personal care products rose 4.4%. Prescription drug sales (+6.9%) were mainly responsible for the gain.

Extreme weather conditions in the latter half of the fourth quarter heavily influenced sales of hardware, lawn and garden products (+1.8%). Sales of hardware and home renovation products edged up (+0.2%) while sales of outdoor power equipment and accessories contributed to the 13.2% gain in the sale of lawn and garden products.

Furniture, home furnishings and electronics was the only major commodity group not posting gains in the fourth quarter, down 0.4% from the same quarter last year. Sales of home electronics, computers and cameras fell 1.4%, continuing the downward trend that started at the beginning of 2012. However, offsetting these declines were higher sales of household appliances (+2.6%).

#### **Note to readers**

*The Retail Commodity Survey collects data on 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 2012 <sup>r</sup>	Third quarter 2013 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 2013 <sup>p</sup>	Fourth quarter 2012 to fourth quarter 2013
	\$ millions			% change
<b>Commodity, total</b>	<b>123,744</b>	<b>125,394</b>	<b>128,041</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Food and beverages	28,852	28,625	29,443	2.0
Health and personal care products	11,244	10,760	11,742	4.4
Clothing, footwear and accessories	11,825	9,324	12,251	3.6
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	11,591	9,753	11,548	-0.4
Motor vehicles, parts and services	23,492	27,584	25,218	7.3
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	13,638	14,818	14,132	3.6
Housewares	2,527	2,334	2,597	2.8
Hardware, lawn and garden products	6,953	8,726	7,080	1.8
Sporting and leisure goods	4,492	3,373	4,554	1.4
All other goods and services	9,129	10,097	9,478	3.8

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> 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; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

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## New motor vehicle sales, February 2014

New motor vehicle sales data are now available for February.

### **Note to readers**

*These data are subject to revision.*

**Available in CANSIM: table 079-0003.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.**

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