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Wholesale trade, March 2014

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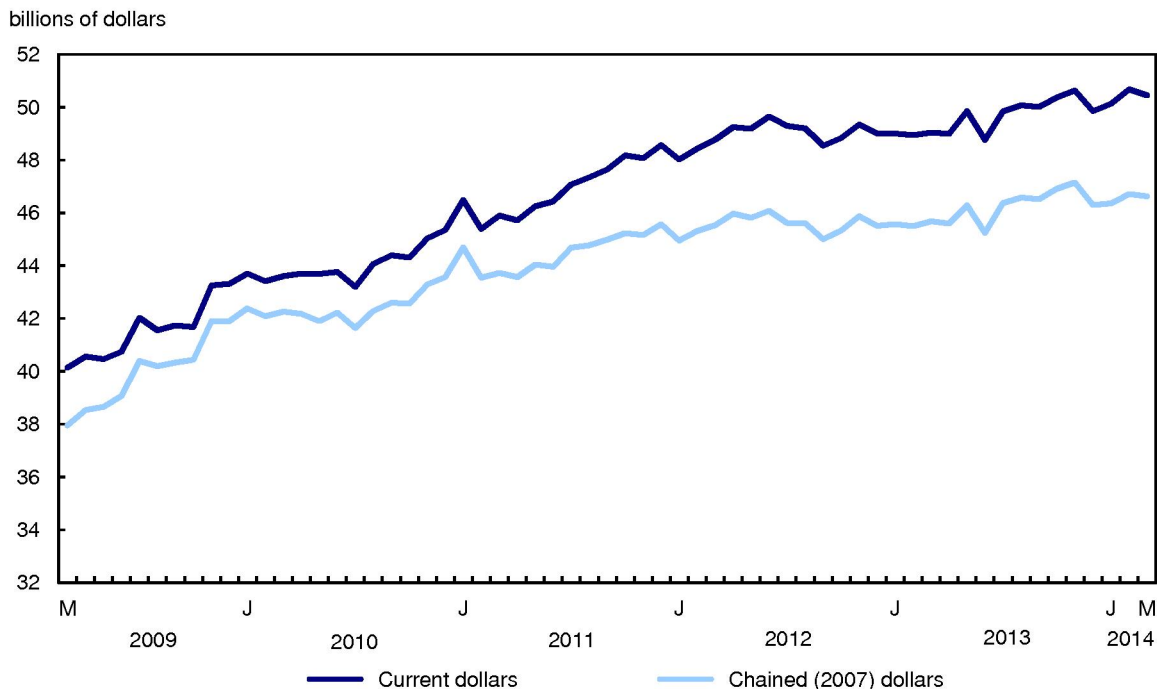
Releases

Wholesale trade, March 2014

Following two consecutive monthly gains, wholesale sales decreased 0.4% to \$50.5 billion in March. Lower sales were recorded in three of the seven subsectors, which together accounted for 51% of wholesale sales. The motor vehicle and parts subsector recorded the largest decline in March. Excluding this subsector, sales edged up 0.1% to \$42.3 billion.

In volume terms, wholesale sales were down 0.2%.

Chart 1
Wholesale sales decline in March



Lower sales in three subsectors drive decline

The motor vehicle and parts subsector recorded the largest decline in March, falling 3.0% to \$8.1 billion, the lowest level since September 2012. The motor vehicle industry (-4.4%) accounted for the decrease. Retail sales of motor vehicle and parts were flat in February.

Sales in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector declined 1.4% to \$10.6 billion, a third decrease in four months. The computer and communications equipment and supplies industry (-5.7%) accounted for most of the subsector's decline. Sales in this industry fell to the lowest level in nine months.

Lower sales were also recorded in the personal and household goods subsector, which fell 1.5% to \$7.2 billion as a result of lower sales in five of its six industries.

The food, beverage and tobacco subsector rose 1.2% to \$10.1 billion, the fifth increase in six months. All of the subsector's industries contributed to the gain, with the largest contribution coming from the food industry (+1.1%).

A fourth consecutive monthly increase was recorded in the miscellaneous subsector, which rose 1.7% to \$6.7 billion in March. All but one of the subsector's industries contributed to the increase.

In March, sales rose 0.7% to \$7.1 billion in the building material and supplies subsector, the third consecutive monthly increase. This month's level was the highest on record for the subsector.

Sales down in five provinces

In March, lower sales were recorded in five provinces, which together accounted for 60% of wholesale sales. Ontario was the largest contributor to the decline.

Ontario posted the largest decline in dollar terms in March, down 1.5% to \$24.0 billion. The decrease was Ontario's third in four months and more than offset the gain in February. The motor vehicle and parts subsector and the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector were the largest contributors to the decline.

Nova Scotia recorded a fifth consecutive monthly decline, with sales falling 4.7% to \$0.7 billion, the lowest level since July 2011. The decrease was widespread across subsectors.

Sales in Prince Edward Island decreased 9.2% to \$0.1 billion, the lowest level in six months. Lower sales in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector led the decline.

Saskatchewan registered a 3.5% increase as sales rose to \$2.1 billion, the highest level since May 2013. The gain was widespread across most subsectors and was led by the miscellaneous subsector.

Sales rose 3.2% to \$1.5 billion in Manitoba, the fourth increase in five months.

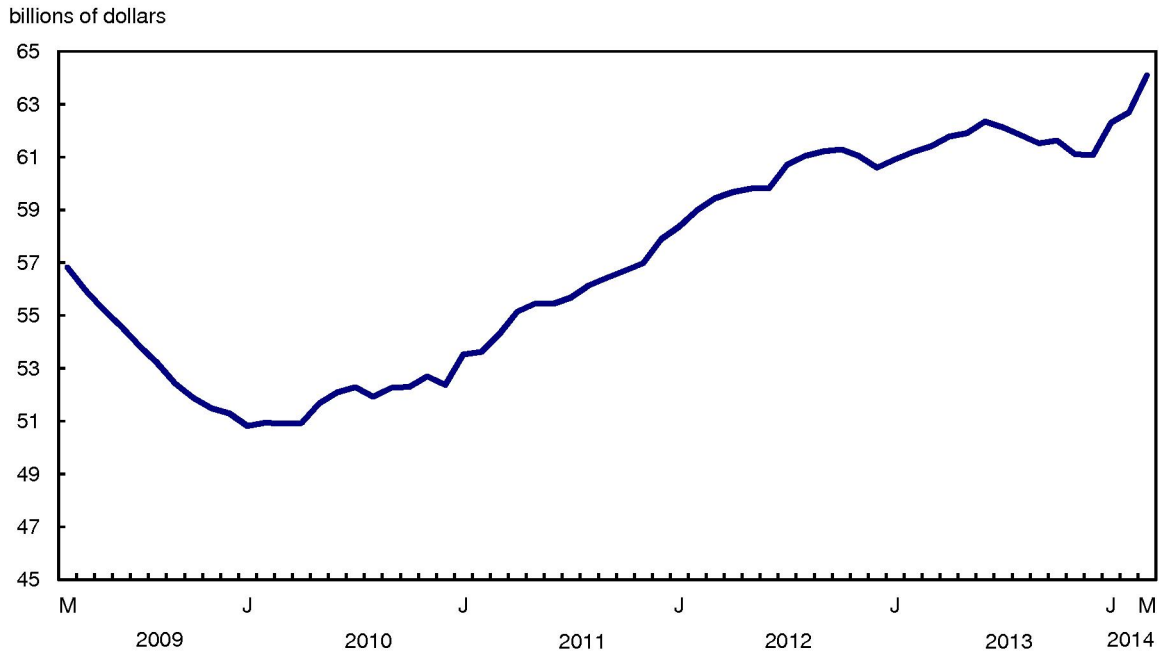
A third consecutive increase was recorded in Quebec, where sales rose 0.4% to \$9.5 billion. The food, beverage and tobacco subsector and the miscellaneous subsector accounted for most of the gain.

Sales in Newfoundland and Labrador grew 4.0% to \$0.4 billion on the strength of gains in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector and the miscellaneous subsector.

Inventories rise in March

Inventories recorded a third consecutive gain in March, rising 2.3% to \$64.1 billion, the highest level on record. Increases were recorded in five of seven subsectors, accounting for 91% of wholesale inventories.

Chart 2
Wholesale inventories increase in March



The largest increases in dollar terms were in the motor vehicle and parts subsector (+6.9%) and the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector (+1.7%), the third consecutive gain for both subsectors.

The building material and supplies subsector (+2.8%), the personal and household goods subsector (+1.3%), and the miscellaneous subsector (+0.9%) all recorded their third gain in four months.

The inventory-to-sales ratio rose from 1.24 in February to 1.27 in March. The inventory-to-sales ratio is a measure of the time in months required to exhaust inventories if sales were to remain at their current level.

Note to readers

All 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 wholesale sales expressed in volume are calculated by deflating current dollar values using relevant price indexes. The wholesale sales series in chained (2007) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index with 2007 as the reference year. For more information, see [Sales in volume for Wholesale Trade](#).

Data in volume terms were revised back to January 2013.

Table 1
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2013	February 2014 ^r	March 2014 ^p	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale sales (current dollars)	49,044	50,680	50,454	-0.4	2.9
Total, wholesale sales (2007 chained dollars)	45,676	46,717	46,628	-0.2	2.1
Total wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding motor vehicle and parts	40,641	42,319	42,344	0.1	4.2
Farm product	526	644	646	0.3	22.8
Food, beverage and tobacco	9,523	10,002	10,123	1.2	6.3
Food	8,554	8,999	9,101	1.1	6.4
Beverage	473	502	507	1.0	7.2
Cigarette and tobacco product	496	502	515	2.7	3.9
Personal and household goods	6,868	7,346	7,233	-1.5	5.3
Textile, clothing and footwear	894	958	942	-1.7	5.4
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	690	809	757	-6.4	9.8
Home furnishings	458	470	465	-0.9	1.5
Personal goods	708	753	705	-6.3	-0.4
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	3,429	3,660	3,688	0.8	7.5
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	689	697	676	-3.0	-1.9
Motor vehicle and parts	8,403	8,362	8,110	-3.0	-3.5
Motor vehicle	6,401	6,107	5,840	-4.4	-8.8
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	1,951	2,201	2,214	0.6	13.5
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	51	54	56	3.6	9.1
Building material and supplies	6,915	7,053	7,102	0.7	2.7
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	2,163	2,141	2,214	3.4	2.4
Metal service centres	1,488	1,633	1,622	-0.7	9.0
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	3,264	3,279	3,266	-0.4	0.1
Machinery, equipment and supplies	10,307	10,713	10,568	-1.4	2.5
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	1,264	1,355	1,346	-0.7	6.5
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	3,587	3,615	3,632	0.5	1.3
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	3,021	3,377	3,184	-5.7	5.4
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,435	2,366	2,406	1.7	-1.2
Miscellaneous	6,502	6,561	6,671	1.7	2.6
Recyclable material	606	718	727	1.2	19.9
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	880	900	945	5.0	7.4
Agricultural supplies	2,065	1,851	1,877	1.4	-9.1
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,117	1,229	1,227	-0.2	9.9
Other miscellaneous	1,834	1,862	1,896	1.8	3.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Table 2
Wholesale merchants' sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2013	February 2014 ^r	March 2014 ^p	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	49,044	50,680	50,454	-0.4	2.9
Newfoundland and Labrador	362	403	420	4.0	15.9
Prince Edward Island	50	61	56	-9.2	10.8
Nova Scotia	683	683	651	-4.7	-4.6
New Brunswick	473	504	504	-0.1	6.4
Quebec	9,391	9,459	9,502	0.4	1.2
Ontario	23,502	24,382	24,014	-1.5	2.2
Manitoba	1,286	1,405	1,451	3.2	12.8
Saskatchewan	2,139	2,041	2,111	3.5	-1.3
Alberta	6,358	6,815	6,827	0.2	7.4
British Columbia	4,714	4,837	4,829	-0.2	2.4
Yukon	13	12	12	-3.9	-8.3
Northwest Territories	62	69	70	1.6	13.1
Nunavut	11	9	9	-1.2	-16.9

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Table 3
Wholesale merchants' inventories by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2013	February 2014 ^r	March 2014 ^P	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	61,412	62,697	64,108	2.3	4.4
Farm product	168	260	250	-4.0	48.8
Food, beverage and tobacco	5,454	5,598	5,591	-0.1	2.5
Food	4,924	4,998	5,003	0.1	1.6
Beverage	310	354	346	-2.4	11.5
Cigarette and tobacco product	220	246	241	-1.8	9.7
Personal and household goods	10,338	10,981	11,126	1.3	7.6
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,819	1,961	1,945	-0.8	6.9
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	786	803	828	3.1	5.5
Home furnishings	999	1,197	1,231	2.8	23.2
Personal goods	1,454	1,305	1,395	6.9	-4.1
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	4,584	4,933	4,958	0.5	8.2
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	696	781	769	-1.6	10.4
Motor vehicle and parts	8,323	8,299	8,872	6.9	6.6
Motor vehicle	4,387	4,565	4,917	7.7	12.1
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,829	3,620	3,839	6.1	0.3
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	108	115	116	1.7	8.3
Building material and supplies	11,681	11,183	11,502	2.8	-1.5
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	3,204	3,003	2,982	-0.7	-6.9
Metal service centres	3,437	3,221	3,235	0.4	-5.9
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	5,040	4,959	5,285	6.6	4.9
Machinery, equipment and supplies	17,981	18,431	18,753	1.7	4.3
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	3,936	4,168	4,354	4.5	10.6
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	9,000	9,109	9,094	-0.2	1.0
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	1,646	1,621	1,662	2.5	0.9
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,398	3,534	3,644	3.1	7.2
Miscellaneous	7,466	7,944	8,015	0.9	7.3
Recyclable material	483	529	480	-9.2	-0.5
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	678	710	715	0.6	5.5
Agricultural supplies	2,893	3,125	3,182	1.8	10.0
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	986	1,031	1,085	5.2	10.0
Other miscellaneous	2,427	2,548	2,554	0.2	5.2

^r revised

^P preliminary

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

Available in CANSIM: tables 081-0011, 081-0012 and 081-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The March 2014 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-X) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade data for April will be released on June 18.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Elspeth Hazell (613-951-8090; elspeth.hazell@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Wholesale Trade Division.

Travel between Canada and other countries, March 2014

In March, travel to and from Canada both declined, led by decreases in the number of US residents visiting Canada and in the number of Canadians travelling to the United States.

Travel from Canada to the United States fell 0.9% in the month to 4.4 million trips. Trips decreased for same-day car visitors (-1.0%), overnight car visitors (-0.8%) and overnight plane visitors (-0.8%). This was the fourth consecutive monthly decline in Canadian visitors to the United States.

United States travel to Canada fell 0.7% in March to 1.6 million trips, the second lowest monthly level since October 2009. This was due to a 1.6% decline in same-day car trips, as well as a small decrease (-0.4%) in overnight trips to 967,000.

Travel from Canada to all other countries and travel to Canada from overseas were both largely stable.

Of the top 12 overseas markets, 7 recorded decreases in travel to Canada in March. Chinese residents made 6.6% fewer visits to Canada in the month, while the number of trips made by Australian residents declined 3.8%. This was offset by a 7.4% increase in trips to Canada by United Kingdom residents, as well as a 5.4% increase in visits from France.

Note to readers

Monthly data are seasonally adjusted. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see "Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends."

Table 1
Travel between Canada and other countries – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2013 ^r	February 2014 ^r	March 2014 ^P	February to March 2014
	thousands			% change ¹
Canadian trips abroad²	5,535	5,290	5,252	-0.7
To the United States	4,760	4,471	4,433	-0.9
To other countries	775	818	819	0.1
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,755	2,480	2,454	-1.0
Total trips, one or more nights	2,741	2,772	2,761	-0.4
United States ³	1,967	1,954	1,942	-0.6
Car	1,194	1,154	1,145	-0.8
Plane	667	698	693	-0.8
Other modes of transportation	105	102	104	2.0
Other countries ⁴	775	818	819	0.1
Travel to Canada²	2,132	2,039	2,028	-0.5
From the United States	1,740	1,637	1,626	-0.7
From other countries	392	402	402	-0.1
Same-day car trips from the United States	615	572	563	-1.6
Total trips, one or more nights	1,407	1,361	1,357	-0.3
United States ³	1,028	971	967	-0.4
Car	600	553	548	-0.9
Plane	309	311	314	0.9
Other modes of transportation	119	108	106	-1.5
Other countries ⁴	379	389	390	0.1
Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets, by country of origin⁵				
United Kingdom	55	52	55	7.4
France	40	38	40	5.4
China	29	37	34	-6.6
Germany	27	27	28	3.4
Australia	23	23	22	-3.8
Japan	21	20	20	1.1
South Korea	13	14	14	-1.6
Mexico	13	14	14	-3.3
India	13	14	13	-3.5
Hong Kong	11	11	11	-1.0
Switzerland	9	10	9	-1.9
Italy	8	9	9	0.8

^r revised

^P preliminary

1. Percentage change is based on unrounded data.

2. Totals exceed the sum of "same-day car trips" and "total trips, one or more nights" because they include all of the same-day trips.

3. Data for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and data for planes, trains, boats and other methods of transportation.

4. Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only via the United States.

5. Includes same-day and overnight trips.

Available in CANSIM: tables 427-0001 to 427-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5005.

The March 2014 issue of *International Travel, Advance Information*, Vol. 30, no. 3 (66-001-P), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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).

Job vacancies in brief, three-month average ending in February 2014

There were 194,000 job vacancies among Canadian businesses in February, a decline of 21,000 compared with February 2013. There were 7.0 unemployed people for every job vacancy, up from 6.3 one year earlier. This increase in the ratio of unemployment to job vacancy was mostly the result of the decline in job vacancies.

The national job vacancy rate was 1.3% in February, down from 1.5% a year 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.

This analysis focuses on differences between estimates that are statistically significant at the 68% confidence level.

Available in CANSIM: tables 284-0001 and 284-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5202.

The job vacancies release for March will be on June 17.

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).

Income of immigrants: Quebec, 2011

Data from the Longitudinal Immigration Database for Quebec are now available for 1980 to 2011. Tables at the Canada level were released in [The Daily](#) on December 23, 2013.

Note to readers

The Longitudinal Immigration Database provides information on immigrant economic outcomes. It was created to respond to the need for detailed and reliable data on the outcome and impact of immigration policy levers. It allows the analysis of different categories of immigrants over a period long enough to assess the impact of immigrant characteristics at landing, such as education and knowledge of French or English, on their settlement outcome.

The database combines an Administrative Landing File with the T1 Family File through exact matching record-linkage techniques. The overall linkage rate is approximately 80%. The population includes immigrants who landed between 1980 and 2011 and who filed taxes at least once between 1982 and 2011.

Available in CANSIM: tables 054-0014 and 054-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5057.

A more detailed description of immigrant admission categories from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) are available on the CIC website (www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/glossary.asp).

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Michael Wendt (613-951-7314; michael.wendt@statcan.gc.ca), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division.

New products and studies

New products

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