

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, first quarter 2014

Retail sales reached \$106.9 billion in the first quarter, up 3.8% from the first quarter of 2013. Higher sales were reported in 7 of the 10 major commodity groups.

Over a third of the overall increase came from a 10.9% sales gain in automotive fuels, oils and additives, the commodity group's highest growth since the fourth quarter of 2011. Most of the growth came from an increase in the volume of sales.

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services grew 6.4%, marking the fourth consecutive quarterly gain. Higher sales of new automotive vehicles (+6.1%) led the advance. Sales of new trucks, vans, mini-vans, sport utility vehicles and buses (+11.5%) rose for the fifth consecutive quarter, more than offsetting the decline from new cars (-3.6%). Sales of used automotive vehicles increased 9.1%, while automotive parts and accessories grew 3.6%.

Sales receipts of food and beverages advanced 0.9%. Sales of food rose 1.3%, mainly as a result of higher prices as reflected in the Consumer Price Index. The largest contributors to this advance were fresh fruits and vegetables (+7.1%) as well as fresh meat and poultry (+3.2%). Decreases in both alcoholic beverages (-0.4%) and non-alcoholic beverages (-1.3%) tempered the gains.

Retail sales of health and personal care items rose 6.3%, the largest year-over-year gain since 2007. Leading the gains were higher sales of drugs (+6.7%) and personal care, health and beauty products (+5.9%).

Sales of hardware, lawn and garden products fell 2.4%. This reflected lower sales of hardware and home renovation products (-1.5%) as well as lawn and garden products (-8.1%).

Receipts of furniture, home furnishings and electronics decreased 1.0% as a result of lower sales of home electronics, computers and cameras (-3.9%), which posted a ninth consecutive quarterly decline. Sales of household appliances rose 4.7%, helping to offset the decrease.

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. For example, no adjustment has been made for Easter, which occurred in the first quarter of 2013 but took place in the second quarter of 2014. All percentage changes are year over year.

Data have been revised back to the first quarter of 2013. The revisions take into account the late reporting or correction of respondent information and classification changes. Revised data are now available on CANSIM.

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

	First quarter 2013 ^r	Fourth quarter 2013 ^r	First quarter 2014 ^p	First quarter 2013 to first quarter 2014
	\$ millions			% change
Commodity, total	102,974	128,527	106,878	3.8
Food and beverages	25,957	29,405	26,190	0.9
Health and personal care products	10,093	11,746	10,732	6.3
Clothing, footwear and accessories	7,231	12,345	7,258	0.4
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	8,256	11,525	8,174	-1.0
Motor vehicles, parts and services	21,142	25,300	22,489	6.4
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	13,034	14,570	14,452	10.9
Housewares	1,950	2,608	2,013	3.2
Hardware, lawn and garden products	5,171	7,016	5,048	-2.4
Sporting and leisure goods	2,607	4,554	2,597	-0.4
All other goods and services	7,534	9,460	7,927	5.2

^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; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New motor vehicle sales, May 2014

New motor vehicle sales data are now available for May.

Note to readers

These data are subject to revision.

Available in CANSIM: table 079-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2402.

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).

New products and studies

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