

The Daily

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Releases

Retail trade, December 2014

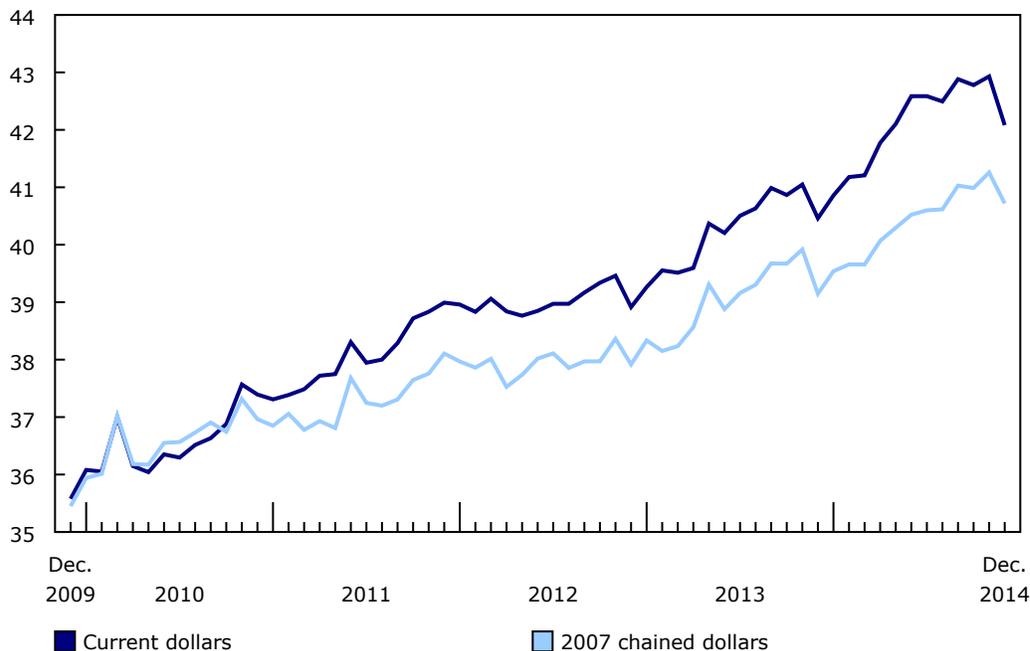
Retail sales fell 2.0% to \$42.1 billion in December. This was the largest decline since April 2010.

After removing the effects of price changes, particularly lower gas prices, sales in volume terms declined 1.3%.

Lower sales were reported in 9 of 11 subsectors, representing 71% of retail trade.

Chart 1 Retail sales decline in December

billions of dollars



Source(s): CANSIM tables [080-0020](#) and [080-0024](#).

Retail sales decrease in December

Sales at gasoline stations fell 7.4% in December, reflecting lower prices at the pump. This was the sixth straight monthly decrease and the largest decline since December 2008.

Lower sales at new car dealers accounted for most of the decrease at motor vehicle and parts dealers (-1.0%). After peaking in September, sales at new car dealers (-1.0%) declined for the third month in a row. Weaker sales were also reported at automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (-4.8%) and other motor vehicle dealers (-0.7%). Sales at used car dealers rose 3.1%, the second consecutive monthly gain.

The largest increase in dollar terms came from a 1.0% gain at food and beverage stores, reflecting higher sales at beer, wine and liquor stores (+4.0%), specialty food stores (+3.1%) and convenience stores (+2.3%). Sales at supermarkets and other grocery stores edged down 0.1% in December.

Weaker holiday sales

Most store types typically associated with holiday shopping registered weaker sales in December, more than offsetting November gains in these subsectors.

Receipts at clothing and clothing accessories stores declined 5.6%. Lower sales at clothing stores (-6.0%) accounted for most of this decline. Following a double-digit gain in November, sales at shoe stores fell 9.4% in December. Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores posted a 1.8% gain, the third increase in four months.

The 9.2% drop in sales at electronics and appliance stores more than offset the gains of the previous six months. The decrease was widespread across most product types.

General merchandise store receipts declined 2.0% in December, led by a 3.9% decrease at department stores.

Sales at sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores declined 1.3%, partially offsetting the sales gain in November. Lower sales at sporting goods stores offset gains made at hobby, toy and games stores.

Sales down in every province

Retail sales were down in every province in December.

Ontario (-2.3%) reported the largest decrease in dollar terms, with widespread declines across most store types.

Sales declines in the Prairie provinces were mainly a result of lower sales at gasoline stations and motor vehicle and parts dealers. Sales in Alberta (-2.5%) and Saskatchewan (-3.6%) were both down for the third consecutive month. Sales in Manitoba decreased 2.8% in December, more than offsetting the gain in November.

British Columbia reported a 2.2% decrease in December, with widespread declines.

Lower sales at gasoline stations accounted for most of the decline in Quebec (-0.5%). Results for other types of retailers were mixed.

Among the Atlantic provinces, New Brunswick (-1.9%) reported the largest decrease in dollar terms.

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.

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 [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

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

	December 2013	November 2014 ^r	December 2014 ^p	November to December 2014	December 2013 to December 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	40,461	42,930	42,081	-2.0	4.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	711	758	743	-1.9	4.4
Prince Edward Island	158	168	162	-3.8	2.5
Nova Scotia	1,117	1,159	1,145	-1.1	2.5
New Brunswick	924	976	957	-1.9	3.6
Quebec	8,933	9,121	9,075	-0.5	1.6
Ontario	14,031	15,093	14,745	-2.3	5.1
Manitoba	1,431	1,532	1,489	-2.8	4.1
Saskatchewan	1,511	1,601	1,543	-3.6	2.1
Alberta	6,197	6,624	6,456	-2.5	4.2
British Columbia	5,298	5,746	5,618	-2.2	6.0
Yukon	54	55	52	-4.3	-3.0
Northwest Territories	67	70	66	-5.8	-2.1
Nunavut	29	29	30	2.1	2.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Source(s): CANSIM table [080-0020](#).

Table 2
Retail sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2013	November 2014 ^r	December 2014 ^p	November to December 2014	December 2013 to December 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade (current dollars)	40,461	42,930	42,081	-2.0	4.0
Total retail trade (2007 chained dollars)	39,148	41,258	40,719	-1.3	4.0
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	31,187	32,543	31,798	-2.3	2.0
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	25,814	27,377	27,014	-1.3	4.7
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	9,274	10,387	10,284	-1.0	10.9
New car dealers	7,489	8,489	8,405	-1.0	12.2
Used car dealers	521	573	591	3.1	13.5
Other motor vehicle dealers	634	648	644	-0.7	1.6
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	631	676	644	-4.8	1.9
Furniture and home furnishings stores	1,206	1,357	1,344	-1.0	11.5
Furniture stores	757	856	852	-0.5	12.5
Home furnishings stores	449	501	493	-1.7	9.8
Electronics and appliance stores	1,173	1,334	1,212	-9.2	3.3
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	2,133	2,397	2,373	-1.0	11.3
Food and beverage stores	8,995	9,186	9,274	1.0	3.1
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,305	6,427	6,419	-0.1	1.8
Convenience stores	549	578	592	2.3	7.8
Specialty food stores	500	503	519	3.1	3.9
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,641	1,677	1,744	4.0	6.3
Health and personal care stores	3,047	3,121	3,126	0.2	2.6
Gasoline stations	5,373	5,167	4,783	-7.4	-11.0
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	2,308	2,512	2,371	-5.6	2.7
Clothing stores	1,808	1,979	1,861	-6.0	3.0
Shoe stores	262	289	262	-9.4	-0.2
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	239	244	248	1.8	4.0
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	921	1,012	999	-1.3	8.5
General merchandise stores	5,078	5,486	5,374	-2.0	5.8
Department stores	2,169	2,376	2,283	-3.9	5.3
Other general merchandise stores	2,910	3,110	3,091	-0.6	6.2
Miscellaneous store retailers	953	972	941	-3.2	-1.3

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Source(s): CANSIM tables [080-0020](#) and [080-0024](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [080-0020](#) and [080-0024](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2406](#) and [2408](#).

The December 2014 issue of *Retail Trade* ([63-005-X](#)) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for January will be released on March 20.

For more information, or to order data, 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 Jason Aston (613-951-0746; jason.aston@statcan.gc.ca), Retail and Service Industries Division.

Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products, December 2014

Canadian pipelines net receipts of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products totalled 36.1 million cubic metres in December, up 9.4% from the same month in 2013. The increase reflects higher receipts from processing plants (up 13.2% to 19.1 million cubic metres), as well as higher receipts from fields, refineries and imports. Conversely, receipts from other sources, such as rail and truck terminals, fell 10.7% from the same month a year earlier to 1.3 million cubic metres.

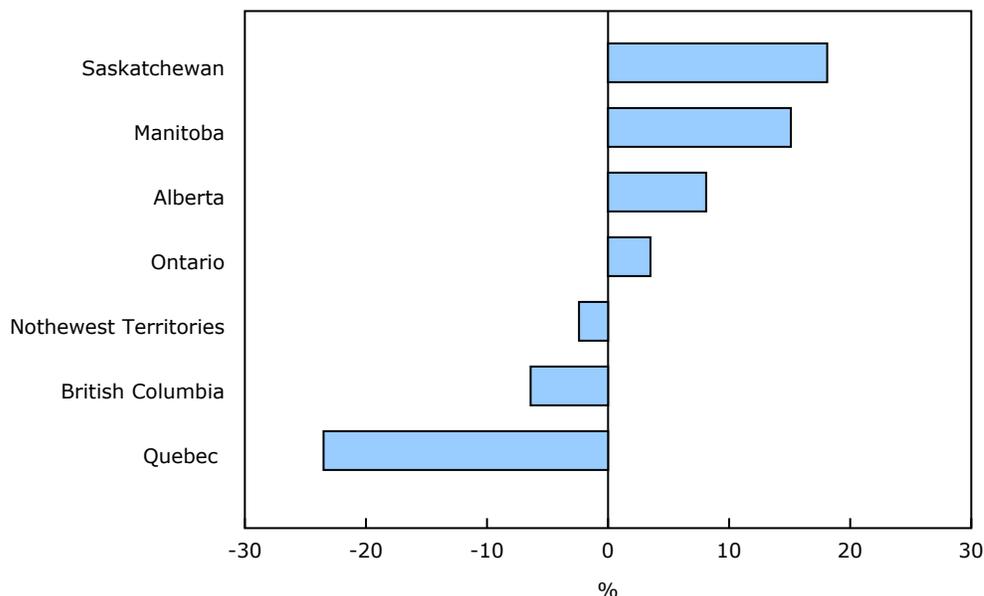
Deliveries to processing plants increase

Net deliveries of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products reached 36.0 million cubic metres in December, up 7.8% from the same month last year. The gain was mainly attributable to deliveries to processing plants, which rose 11.9% to 14.4 million cubic metres. Deliveries to refineries edged down 0.4% to 5.8 million cubic metres.

Annual net receipts grow in 2014

Net receipts by pipelines amounted to 392.2 million cubic metres at the close of 2014, up 6.7% from the total in 2013. Saskatchewan (+18.1%) posted the largest percentage increase in net receipts among the provinces, followed by Manitoba (+15.1%). Net receipts in Quebec declined 23.5%, partly as a result of changes in pipeline operations.

Chart 1
Change in total net receipts of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products by province, 2013 to 2014



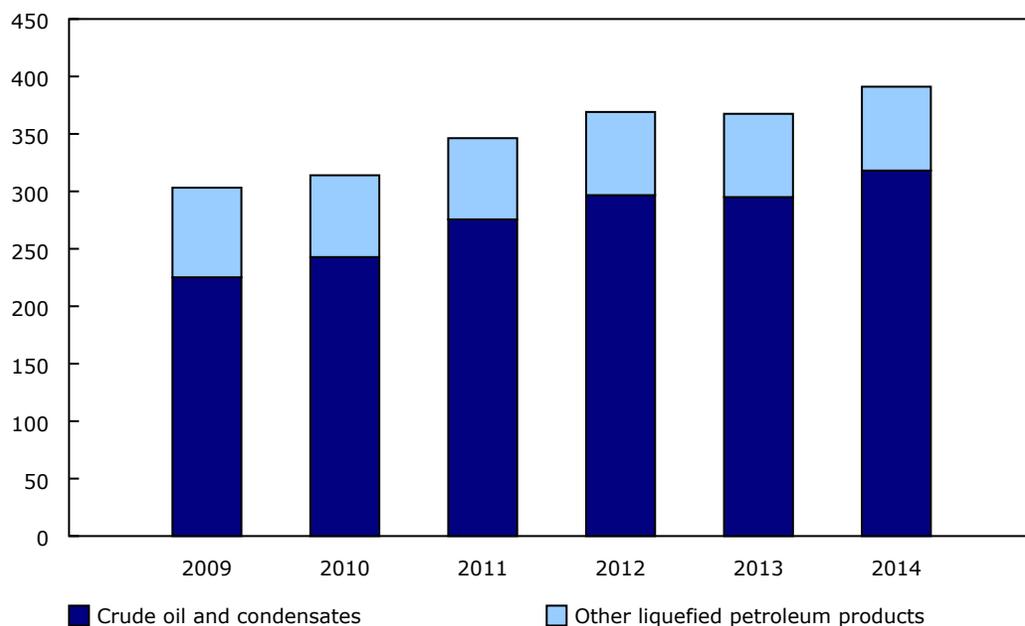
Source(s): CANSIM table [133-0003](#).

Net deliveries increase in 2014

Net deliveries of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products by pipeline totalled 391.1 million cubic metres in 2014, up 6.4% from 2013. Crude oil and condensates rose by 7.9%, while deliveries of other liquefied petroleum products increased 0.6%.

Chart 2 Canadian pipelines yearly net deliveries of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products

millions of cubic metres



Source(s): CANSIM table [133-0003](#).

In 2014, 142.7 million cubic metres of crude oil and condensates were exported, up 8.8% from a year earlier. Conversely, exports of other liquefied petroleum products declined 43.6% to 1.9 million cubic metres, largely stemming from a change in pipeline operations in Western Canada.

Inventories grow in December

Inventories of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products held in tanks and terminals rose 11.3% to 6.2 million cubic metres compared with the same month in 2013. Inventories held in pipelines increased 3.6% to 12.6 million cubic metres.

Note to readers

This report covers the monthly activities of all pipelines in Canada receiving and delivering crude oils, liquefied petroleum gases (propane, butane and ethane) and refined petroleum products.

Oil pipelines net receipts include receipts of products from fields, processing plants, refineries, imports, and other sources. Total receipts include net receipts and transfers from provinces and other pipelines. Net deliveries include deliveries to refineries, plants, exports, and other destinations. Total deliveries include net deliveries and transfers to other provinces and other pipelines, inventory changes, and line losses and adjustments.

The difference between total receipts and deliveries is in inventory changes and line losses and adjustments applied to total deliveries.

Available in CANSIM: tables [133-0001](#) to [133-0005](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2148](#) and [2191](#).

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).

Natural gas sales, December 2014

Natural gas sales totalled 9 756 million cubic metres in December, down 4.5% from December 2013.

The volumes of sales to the residential (-11.4%) and commercial (-8.7%) sectors were down while the industrial sector (+0.5%) was up compared with the same month a year earlier.

Total sales in December were 15.4% higher compared with the previous month.

Note to readers

These data are subject to revision.

Table 1
Natural gas sales

	December 2013	November 2014	December 2014 ^P	November to December 2014	December 2013 to December 2014
	thousands of cubic metres			% change	
Total sales	10 218 713	8 454 761	9 756 407	15.4	-4.5
Residential ¹	2 776 642	1 945 914	2 459 275	26.4	-11.4
Commercial ²	1 988 364	1 414 348	1 816 052	28.4	-8.7
Industrial ³ and direct sales ⁴	5 453 707	5 094 499	5 481 080	7.6	0.5

^P preliminary

1. Gas sold for domestic purposes, including space heating, water heating and cooking, to a residential dwelling unit.

2. Gas sold to customers engaged in wholesale or retail trade, governments, institutions, office buildings, etc.

3. Gas sold to customers engaged in a process that creates or changes raw or unfinished materials into another form or product. Includes mining and manufacturing establishments. Includes firm, interruptible and buy/sell agreements.

4. Represents direct, non-utility sales for consumption, where the utility acts solely as the transporter.

Source(s): Survey on Gas Utilities/Transportation and Distribution Systems (2149).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

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).

Investment in new housing construction, December 2014

Investment in new housing construction totalled \$3.7 billion in December, up 5.1% from the same month a year earlier.

The largest year-over-year advance occurred in Alberta, followed by British Columbia and Ontario. In Alberta, total investment in new residential building construction was up 16.7% to \$865 million. British Columbia saw an 11.3% increase in spending to \$633 million. In Ontario, investment rose 4.0% to \$1.2 billion. Conversely, Manitoba posted the largest decline (-18.8% to \$96 million).

At the national level, investment rose in all dwelling types. Single-family dwellings led the increase, with spending up 4.3% from December 2013 to \$2.0 billion in December 2014. Row houses followed, with a 12.8% advance to \$337 million. Spending in apartment and apartment-condominium building construction was up 3.3% to \$1.1 billion, while investment in semi-detached dwellings rose 12.0% to \$216 million.

Note to readers

Data on investment in new housing construction (including single-family dwellings, semi-detached dwellings, row housing, apartments and condominiums) are not seasonally adjusted and all comparisons in this release are between December 2013 and December 2014.

Data in CANSIM are available at the national and provincial levels, in both current and constant dollars (base year 2007).

Unless otherwise specified, the highlights refer to current dollars and are ranked in terms of dollar change rather than percentage change.

Estimates for investment in new housing construction are periodically revised when quarterly residential investment data are released.

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; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mariane Bien-Aimé (613-951-7520; mariane.bien-aime@statcan.gc.ca), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

Dairy statistics, December 2014

Consumers purchased 259 481 kilolitres of milk and cream in December, down 1.5% from December 2013. Sales of milk decreased 2.6% from the same month a year earlier to 224 287 kilolitres in December, while cream sales increased 5.9% to 35 194 kilolitres.

Note to readers

Dairy statistics are available for Canada and the provinces.

Data on dairy stocks for January 1, 2015, are now available in CANSIM table 003-0033. These data represent the ending stocks of the previous month.

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

Consumer Price Index: New basket weights, 2013

New Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights are now available. The updated weights are based on the 2013 Survey of Household Spending (SHS). They replace the previous weights, which were based on the 2011 SHS.

The new weights will be implemented with the January 2015 CPI, which will be released on February 26.

Available in CANSIM: table [326-0031](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2301](#).

More information about the concepts and use of the Consumer Price Index are available online in *The Canadian Consumer Price Index Reference Paper* ([62-553-X](#)) 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).

New products and studies

There are no new products today.

Release dates: February 23 to 27, 2015

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
24	Quarterly financial statistics for enterprises	Fourth quarter 2014
25	Study: Senior care: Differences by type of housing	2012
26	Consumer Price Index	January 2015
26	Payroll employment, earnings and hours	December 2014

See also the [release dates for major economic indicators](#) for the rest of the year.



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