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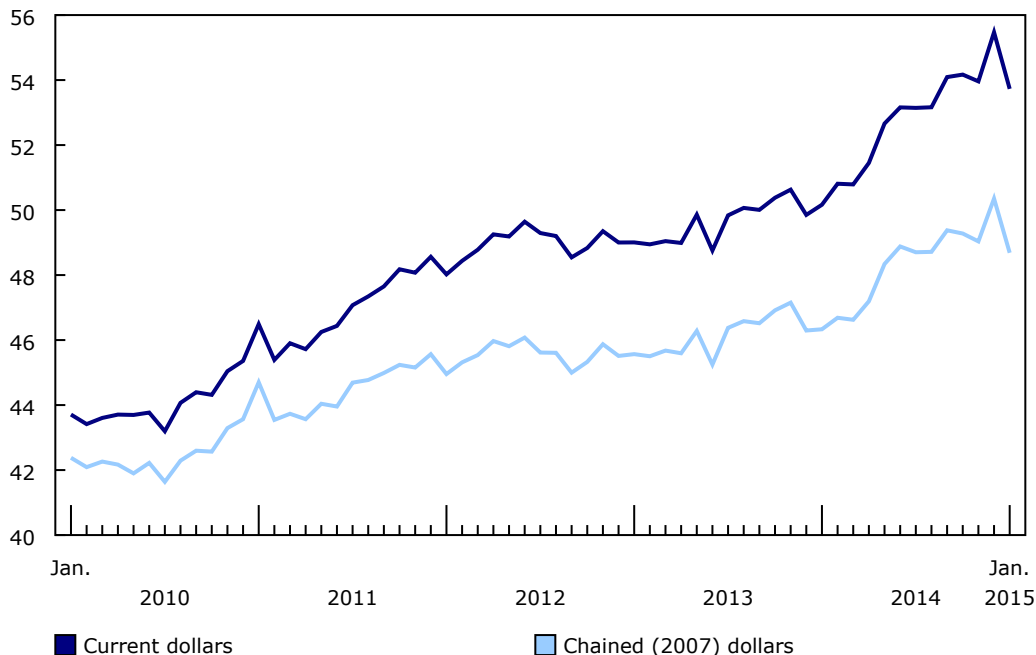
Wholesale trade, January 2015

In January, wholesale sales recorded the largest monthly decline since January 2009, decreasing 3.1% to \$53.7 billion, which more than offset the gain in December. Sales were down in four of seven subsectors, led by motor vehicle and parts. Excluding this subsector, wholesale sales declined 1.3%.

In volume terms, wholesale sales fell 3.3%.

Chart 1 Wholesale sales decrease in January

billions of dollars



Source(s): CANSIM tables [081-0011](#) and [081-0015](#).

Lower sales in four subsectors

The motor vehicle and parts subsector recorded the largest decline in January, falling 11.3% to \$9.0 billion. Lower sales in the motor vehicle industry (-15.0%) accounted for most of the decline, bringing this industry and its subsector to their lowest levels since April 2014. Imports and manufacturing sales of motor vehicles also decreased in January. Retail sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers were down in October, November and December 2014.

Sales in the building material and supplies subsector decreased 5.3% to \$7.7 billion, the lowest level since May 2014. Every industry posted lower sales, led by the electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies industry, which fell 9.8% in January, offsetting the gain in December.

After five consecutive monthly gains, sales in the miscellaneous subsector declined 2.7% to \$7.2 billion. The agricultural supplies industry led the decrease (-11.2%), partially offsetting the gain in December.

Sales in the farm product subsector decreased 8.6% to \$692 million, the second decline in three months. Despite the recent declines, sales in this subsector were 8.4% higher than in January 2014.

Sales in the personal and household goods subsector (\$7.5 billion) and the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector (\$11.3 billion) were unchanged in January. In the personal and household goods subsector, lower sales in the textile, clothing and footwear industry (-4.8%) and the home furnishings industry (-8.7%) were offset by gains in the other four industries. In the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector, lower sales in the computer and communications equipment and supplies industry (-3.2%) were almost entirely offset by gains elsewhere.

Sales down in five provinces

Wholesale sales declined in five provinces in January, representing 67% of total wholesale sales. Ontario accounted for most of the decrease.

In Ontario, sales fell 5.5% to \$26.1 billion, offsetting December's gain. Every wholesale subsector declined, led by motor vehicle and parts.

Widespread declines across most subsectors were also recorded in British Columbia and Nova Scotia. Sales in British Columbia declined for the first time in five months, falling 2.3% to \$5.2 billion, led by lower sales in the building material and supplies subsector. In Nova Scotia, sales fell 11.7% to \$724 million, the lowest level since April 2014.

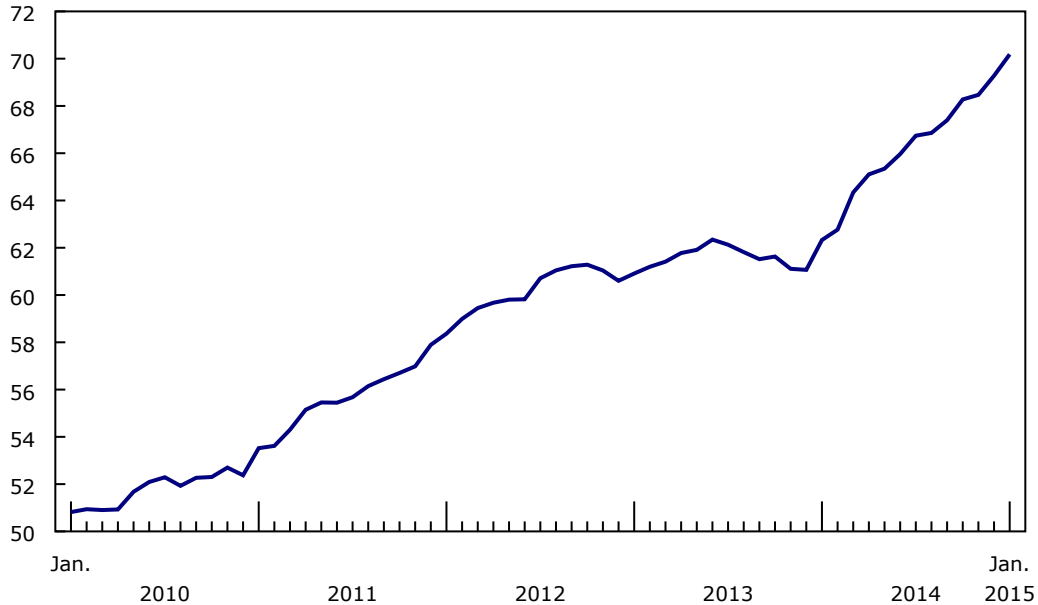
After five consecutive monthly gains, sales in Saskatchewan were down 1.8% to \$2.3 billion. Declines in the miscellaneous subsector and the farm product subsector accounted for the decrease.

Inventories rise in January

Inventories rose for a 13th consecutive month, up 1.3% to \$70.2 billion in January. Six of seven subsectors, representing 91% of total wholesale inventories, posted not only monthly gains but also record high levels in January.

Chart 2 Wholesale inventories increase in January

billions of dollars



Source(s): CANSIM table [081-0012](#).

In dollar terms, the largest gain was in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector (+2.0%), a second consecutive increase.

Inventories grew for a fifth consecutive month in the motor vehicle and parts subsector (+2.8%) and a second consecutive month in the personal and household goods subsector (+1.3%).

Inventories in the building material and supplies subsector (+0.6%) and the miscellaneous subsector (+0.5%) both rose for the 11th time in 12 months.

Inventories declined 0.5% in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector, following 10 consecutive monthly gains.

The inventory-to-sales ratio rose from 1.25 in December to 1.31 in January, the highest ratio since June 2009 when it was 1.34.

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

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](#).

The Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey covers all industries within the wholesale sector as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), with the exception of oilseed and grain merchant wholesalers (NAICS 41112), petroleum and petroleum products merchant wholesalers (NAICS 412) and business-to-business electronic markets, and agents and brokers (NAICS 419).

Table 1
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2014	December 2014 ^r	January 2015 ^p	December 2014 to January 2015	January 2014 to January 2015
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale sales (current dollars)	50,164	55,471	53,729	-3.1	7.1
Total, wholesale sales (2007 chained dollars)	46,332	50,353	48,685	-3.3	5.1
Total wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding motor vehicle and parts	42,009	45,375	44,772	-1.3	6.6
Farm product	639	758	692	-8.6	8.4
Food, beverage and tobacco	9,936	10,408	10,501	0.9	5.7
Food	8,963	9,373	9,448	0.8	5.4
Beverage	500	497	529	6.5	5.9
Cigarette and tobacco product	473	538	524	-2.6	10.7
Personal and household goods	7,347	7,456	7,459	0.0	1.5
Textile, clothing and footwear	976	988	941	-4.8	-3.6
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	803	704	731	3.7	-9.0
Home furnishings	463	538	491	-8.7	6.0
Personal goods	721	712	736	3.4	2.0
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	3,683	3,843	3,886	1.1	5.5
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	700	670	675	0.8	-3.5
Motor vehicle and parts	8,155	10,096	8,957	-11.3	9.8
Motor vehicle	5,886	7,623	6,478	-15.0	10.1
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	2,215	2,421	2,430	0.4	9.7
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	54	51	49	-3.9	-8.7
Building material and supplies	7,001	8,083	7,654	-5.3	9.3
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	2,151	2,745	2,476	-9.8	15.1
Metal service centres	1,555	1,680	1,614	-3.9	3.8
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	3,294	3,658	3,564	-2.6	8.2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	10,641	11,288	11,285	-0.0	6.0
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	1,336	1,321	1,338	1.2	0.1
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	3,618	3,766	3,832	1.8	5.9
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	3,337	3,682	3,562	-3.2	6.8
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,350	2,519	2,553	1.3	8.6
Miscellaneous	6,445	7,382	7,180	-2.7	11.4
Recyclable material	704	838	833	-0.6	18.3
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	887	912	892	-2.1	0.6
Agricultural supplies	1,804	2,330	2,068	-11.2	14.7
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,192	1,366	1,367	0.1	14.7
Other miscellaneous	1,858	1,936	2,020	4.3	8.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Source(s): CANSIM tables [081-0011](#) and [081-0015](#).

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

	January 2014	December 2014 ^r	January 2015 ^p	December 2014 to January 2015	January 2014 to January 2015
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	50,164	55,471	53,729	-3.1	7.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	403	419	427	1.9	5.8
Prince Edward Island	58	59	62	4.9	6.2
Nova Scotia	696	820	724	-11.7	4.0
New Brunswick	494	517	521	0.9	5.5
Quebec	9,357	9,723	9,733	0.1	4.0
Ontario	24,084	27,630	26,103	-5.5	8.4
Manitoba	1,361	1,482	1,474	-0.5	8.3
Saskatchewan	2,027	2,372	2,330	-1.8	15.0
Alberta	6,750	7,110	7,130	0.3	5.6
British Columbia	4,854	5,275	5,152	-2.3	6.1
Yukon	11	10	11	9.8	-1.5
Northwest Territories	61	50	52	3.9	-15.5
Nunavut	8	5	10	90.7	23.1

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Source(s): CANSIM table [081-0011](#).

Table 3
Wholesale merchants' inventories by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2014	December 2014 ^r	January 2015 ^p	December 2014 to January 2015	January 2014 to January 2015
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	62,327	69,278	70,183	1.3	12.6
Farm product	240 ^E	277 ^E	F	F	F
Food, beverage and tobacco	5,680	6,440	6,407	-0.5	12.8
Food	5,086	5,806	5,839	0.6	14.8
Beverage	353	343	330	-3.6	-6.3
Cigarette and tobacco product	242	292	238	-18.4	-1.5
Personal and household goods	11,149	11,777	11,928	1.3	7.0
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,959	2,053	2,090	1.8	6.7
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	783	768	784	2.0	0.1
Home furnishings	1,162	1,236	1,229	-0.6	5.8
Personal goods	1,458	1,387	1,482	6.8	1.7
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	5,014	5,631	5,632	0.0	12.3
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	773	701	711	1.4	-8.1
Motor vehicle and parts	8,048	9,378	9,636	2.8	19.7
Motor vehicle	4,380	5,170	5,403	4.5	23.4
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,554	4,100	4,128	0.7	16.2
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	114	107	105	-2.7	-8.4
Building material and supplies	11,374	12,716	12,794	0.6	12.5
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	3,038	3,243	3,287	1.3	8.2
Metal service centres	3,242	3,910	3,908	-0.0	20.6
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	5,094	5,562	5,599	0.7	9.9
Machinery, equipment and supplies	18,040	19,808	20,205	2.0	12.0
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	4,044	4,393	4,516	2.8	11.7
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	8,884	9,828	9,988	1.6	12.4
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	1,620	1,843	1,896	2.9	17.0
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,492	3,744	3,806	1.7	9.0
Miscellaneous	7,796	8,882	8,926	0.5	14.5
Recyclable material	507	634	624	-1.5	23.2
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	701	704	717	1.9	2.3
Agricultural supplies	3,104	3,744	3,778	0.9	21.7
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	980	1,300	1,315	1.2	34.3
Other miscellaneous	2,504	2,500	2,491	-0.4	-0.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

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

Source(s): CANSIM table [081-0012](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [081-0011](#), [081-0012](#) and [081-0015](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2401](#).

The January 2015 issue of *Wholesale Trade* ([63-008-X](#)) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade data for February will be released on April 21.

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.

Study: Changes in the regional distribution of new immigrants to Canada

Almost half of all new immigrants to Canada in 2000 planned to settle in Toronto. By 2012, that proportion had fallen to less than one in three. The decade of the 2000s saw a rising share of new arrivals, instead, opting for other destinations, particularly locales on the Prairies.

There were several possible reasons for the shift, including changes in the programs through which immigrants entered Canada, changes in the source countries from which they arrived, as well as changes in relative regional economic performance.

The study specifically examined changes in both intended and actual settlement destinations of new immigrants. Between 2000 and 2010, the share of new immigrants intending to settle in Toronto declined from 48% to 33%, while the share intending to settle in Montréal increased from 12.5% to 16.6%.

In the West, the share intending to settle in Alberta increased from 6.3% to 11.6%, the share intending to settle in Manitoba increased from 2.0% to 5.6% and the share intending to settle in Saskatchewan increased from 0.8% to 2.7%. The share intending to settle in Vancouver declined from 14.6% to 13.3%.

Shifts in the actual destinations of new immigrants were broadly similar to shifts in their intended destinations.

The programs through which new immigrants entered Canada changed during the 2000s and had implications for settlement patterns. In particular, the share entering through Provincial Nominee Programs increased from less than 1% in 2000 to 13% in 2010, with this most evident in the western provinces. The source countries from which immigrants arrived also changed, with different groups varying in the extent to which they settled in locations such as Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver or other communities.

Between 2000 and 2010, changes in the use of immigration programs and in source countries accounted for approximately 40% of the decline in the share of new immigrants settling in Toronto. In Montréal, changing immigration programs reduced the share of new immigrants settling there, but this was offset by an increase associated with changing source countries.

Changing immigration programs, and particularly Provincial Nominee Programs, accounted for virtually all of the increase in the share of new immigrants settling in Winnipeg and Saskatchewan, and for much of the increase in smaller communities in Alberta. However, changing immigration programs and source countries did not account for much of the increases in the shares of new immigrants settling in Calgary and Edmonton.

Because of the small number of destinations that could be reliably examined, the effects of economic conditions and job growth could not be directly examined in the analysis, although they likely played a role in the changing shares of immigrants going to Alberta and Toronto.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5057](#).

The research paper "Changes in the Regional Distribution of New Immigrants to Canada," which is part of the *Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series* ([11F0019M](#)), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Similar studies are available in the [Update on Social Analysis Research](#) module of our website.

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 Aneta Bonikowska (613-864-0571; aneta.bonikowska@statcan.gc.ca), Social Analysis and Modelling Division.

Canada's population estimates, fourth quarter 2014

According to preliminary estimates, Canada's population was estimated at 35,702,700 on January 1, 2015, up 26,900 from October 1, 2014. The population growth rate in Canada was 0.1% in the fourth quarter, similar to the growth rate in the fourth quarter of 2013. Yearly population growth stood at 1.0% in 2014, also similar to the growth rate observed in 2013 (+1.1%).

In the fourth quarter, population growth was above the national average (+0.1%) in Alberta (+0.3%), Manitoba (+0.3%) and Saskatchewan (+0.2%). In terms of yearly population growth, Alberta (+2.4%) continued to lead all provinces and territories in 2014, followed by Nunavut (+2.1%) and Saskatchewan (+1.5%). Conversely, the population decreased in the Northwest Territories (-0.8%), Newfoundland and Labrador (-0.4%) and New Brunswick (-0.1%) in 2014.

Note to readers

Estimates released today are based on 2011 Census counts adjusted for census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves to which are added the estimated demographic growth for the period from May 10, 2011 to December 31, 2014.

These estimates are not to be confused with the 2011 Census population counts that were released on February 8, 2012.

Available in CANSIM: tables [051-0005](#), [051-0017](#), [051-0020](#), [051-0037](#), [051-0045](#) and [053-0001](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [3231](#), [3233](#) and [3601](#).

The October to December 2014 issue of *Quarterly Demographic Estimates*, Vol. 28, no. 4 ([91-002-X](#)), 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).

StatCan Blog, March 2015

Businesses count

Statistics Canada is definitely in the business of reporting on businesses.

The business sector is a key component of Canada's economic lifeblood, so it is no surprise that the agency devotes time and resources to gauging the performance of enterprises from the smallest of the small businesses to the country's corporate giants.

This month, the [StatCan Blog](#) examines the work done to track business statistics in this country. One of the major advances in recent years was the introduction of the Integrated Business Statistics Program. The program aims to provide a standard framework for business surveys to improve efficiencies, enhance StatCan's data products and also lighten the paperwork for participants by cutting down on duplication.

Last fall, a small survey program on aquaculture released the first results based on these new datasets. In the months ahead, results from more and larger surveys will be released. By 2019, a total of 150 surveys, or 80% of the agency's business surveys, will be produced using the new process.

The March 2015 edition of the [StatCan Blog](#) is now available from the *Stay Connected* module of our website.

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 Penny Stuart (613-951-2005; penny.stuart@statcan.gc.ca), Communications Division.

Health Reports, March 2015

The March 2015 online issue of *Health Reports*, released today, contains two articles.

The first article, "Canadian Health Measures Survey: A tool for immigrant health research?," evaluates the representativeness of the pooled 2007/2009 and 2009/2011 Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) immigrant sample by comparing it with socio-demographic distributions from the 2006 Census and the 2011 National Household Survey, and with selected self-reported health and health behaviour indicators from the 2009/2010 Canadian Community Health Survey. The aim is to understand the strengths and limitations of the combined CHMS data for analysis of immigrant health.

For more information on this article, contact Edward Ng (edward.ng@statcan.gc.ca; 613-853-6760), Statistics Canada, Health Analysis Division.

The second article, "A spatial analysis of COPD prevalence, incidence, mortality and health service use in Ontario," is a population-based ecological analysis that examines physician-diagnosed chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) prevalence, incidence, mortality, and health care services use in Ontario over a 10-year period. Data were mapped and analyzed at the sub-Local Health Integration Network level.

For more information on this article, contact Eric Crighton (eric.crighton@uottawa.ca), University of Ottawa.

The March 2015 online issue of *Health Reports*, Vol. 26, no. 3 (**82-003-X**), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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

For more information about *Health Reports*, contact Janice Felman (613-799-7746; janice.felman@statcan.gc.ca), Health Analysis Division.

New products and studies

New products

Analytical Studies Branch Research Paper Series: "Changes in the Regional Distribution of New Immigrants to Canada", No. 366
Catalogue number [11F0019M2015366](#) (HTML | PDF)

Health Reports, Vol. 26, no. 3
Catalogue number [82-003-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

Quarterly Demographic Estimates, Vol. 28, no. 4
Catalogue number [91-002-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

New studies

[A spatial analysis of COPD prevalence, incidence, mortality and health service use in Ontario](#)
Health Reports

[Canadian Health Measures Survey: A tool for immigrant health research?](#)
Health Reports



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