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Wholesale trade, May 2015

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Wholesale sales decreased 1.0% to \$54.5 billion in May, following two consecutive increases. Lower sales in four subsectors, which together represented 65% of wholesale sales, accounted for the decline. Excluding the motor vehicle and parts subsector, wholesale sales declined 0.6%.

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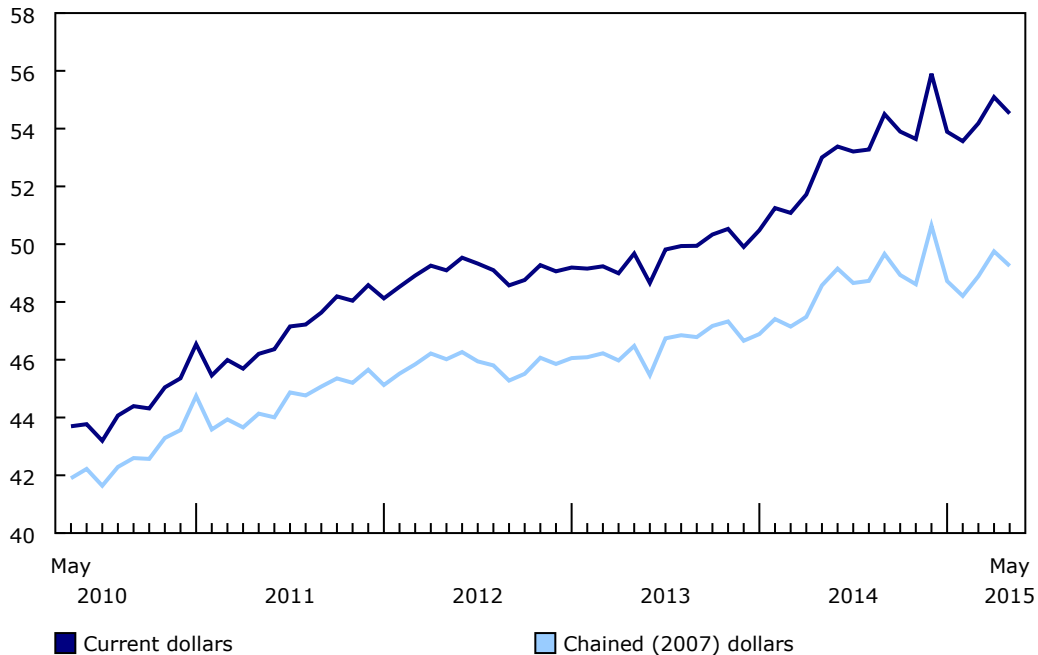
Wholesale trade, May 2015

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In volume terms, wholesale sales were down 1.0%.

Chart 1 Wholesale sales decrease in May

billions of dollars



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

Lower sales in four subsectors

The motor vehicle and parts subsector posted the largest decline in dollar terms in May, decreasing 3.1% to \$9.7 billion following two consecutive gains. The motor vehicle industry accounted for the decline in May, down 4.2% following a 12.5% gain in April.

The miscellaneous subsector declined for the fourth time in five months, down 3.7% to \$7.1 billion in May, more than offsetting its gain in April. The agricultural supplies industry (-6.3%) contributed the most to the decline, reaching its lowest level in six months. The recyclable material industry declined for the sixth time in eight months, down 5.6% to its lowest level in 16 months.

Sales in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector decreased 1.8% to \$11.1 billion in May, more than offsetting the gain in April. A third decrease in four months in the other machinery, equipment and supplies industry (-4.6%) led the decline. Another large contributor was the farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment industry (-7.5%), which posted its second consecutive decrease. May's decline brought this industry to its lowest level since July 2012.

The personal and household goods subsector recorded a second consecutive decline in May, down 0.4% to \$7.6 billion, on weaker sales in four of its six industries.

Sales in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector rose 2.3% to \$10.7 billion in May, more than offsetting the decline in April. The food industry (+2.6%) led the gain with its sixth increase in seven months.

Sales down in six provinces

In May, sales were down in six provinces, which together represented 86% of wholesale sales. Ontario and Alberta contributed the most to the decline.

In Ontario, sales decreased 1.1% to \$27.2 billion in May, offsetting some of its 3.4% gain in April. Lower sales in the motor vehicle and parts subsector and the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector led the decline.

Alberta recorded a sixth consecutive decline, decreasing 2.2% to \$6.7 billion in May. The miscellaneous subsector and the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector were the largest contributors to the decline. The miscellaneous subsector also contributed to a fifth consecutive decline in Saskatchewan, down 3.0% to \$2.3 billion, and to lower sales in Newfoundland and Labrador, down 7.4% to \$400 million.

Sales were down in Quebec for the third time in four months, declining 0.8% to \$9.7 billion in May. Lower sales in the motor vehicle and parts subsector led the decrease.

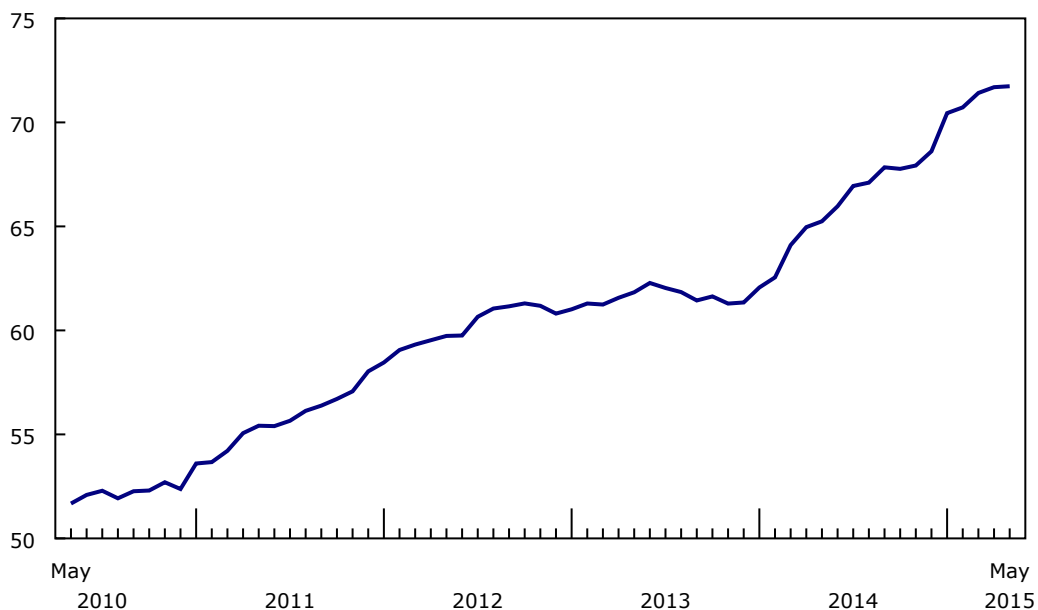
Sales in British Columbia rose 1.2% to \$5.2 billion in May, on the strength of widespread gains across subsectors. The increase partially offset the decline in April.

Inventories edge up in May

Wholesale inventories edged up 0.1% to \$71.7 billion in May, a seventh consecutive increase. Gains were recorded in four of seven subsectors, representing 56% of total wholesale inventories.

Chart 2
Wholesale inventories edge up in May

billions of dollars



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

Following two consecutive declines, the personal and household goods subsector (+2.0%) recorded the largest increase in dollar terms in May.

Inventories in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector (+1.4%) rose for a second consecutive month, while the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector (+0.2%) recorded a sixth consecutive increase.

Following two consecutive gains, the motor vehicle and parts subsector (-1.8%) recorded the largest decrease in dollar terms.

Inventories declined for the first time in 15 months in the building material and supplies subsector (-0.5%).

The inventory-to-sales ratio rose from 1.30 in April to 1.32 in May. 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).

Next release

Wholesale trade data for June will be released on August 20.

Table 1
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

| | May 2014 | April 2015 ^r | May 2015 ^p | April to May 2015 | May 2014 to May 2015 |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | millions of dollars | | | % change | |
| Total, wholesale sales (current dollars) | 53,003 | 55,091 | 54,524 | -1.0 | 2.9 |
| Total, wholesale sales (2007 chained dollars) | 48,574 | 49,751 | 49,248 | -1.0 | 1.4 |
| Total wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding motor vehicle and parts | 43,495 | 45,087 | 44,825 | -0.6 | 3.1 |
| Farm product | 674 | 735 | 745 | 1.2 | 10.4 |
| Food, beverage and tobacco | 10,225 | 10,422 | 10,666 | 2.3 | 4.3 |
| Food | 9,220 | 9,368 | 9,610 | 2.6 | 4.2 |
| Beverage | 488 | 518 | 527 | 1.7 | 7.9 |
| Cigarette and tobacco product | 516 | 537 | 529 | -1.3 | 2.6 |
| Personal and household goods | 7,367 | 7,618 | 7,588 | -0.4 | 3.0 |
| Textile, clothing and footwear | 947 | 996 | 993 | -0.3 | 4.8 |
| Home entertainment equipment and household appliance | 781 | 783 | 771 | -1.5 | -1.2 |
| Home furnishings | 506 | 508 | 519 | 2.2 | 2.6 |
| Personal goods | 717 | 764 | 747 | -2.2 | 4.2 |
| Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies | 3,728 | 3,899 | 3,911 | 0.3 | 4.9 |
| Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries | 688 | 668 | 646 | -3.3 | -6.1 |
| Motor vehicle and parts | 9,508 | 10,004 | 9,699 | -3.1 | 2.0 |
| Motor vehicle | 7,044 | 7,462 | 7,152 | -4.2 | 1.5 |
| New motor vehicle parts and accessories | 2,407 | 2,491 | 2,494 | 0.1 | 3.6 |
| Used motor vehicle parts and accessories | 57 | 52 | 52 | 1.3 | -8.2 |
| Building material and supplies | 7,475 | 7,585 | 7,584 | -0.0 | 1.5 |
| Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies | 2,297 | 2,436 | 2,393 | -1.8 | 4.2 |
| Metal service centres | 1,708 | 1,554 | 1,502 | -3.4 | -12.1 |
| Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies | 3,469 | 3,595 | 3,689 | 2.6 | 6.3 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 11,058 | 11,328 | 11,122 | -1.8 | 0.6 |
| Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment | 1,328 | 1,333 | 1,233 | -7.5 | -7.2 |
| Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies | 3,833 | 3,824 | 3,864 | 1.0 | 0.8 |
| Computer and communications equipment and supplies | 3,423 | 3,527 | 3,505 | -0.6 | 2.4 |
| Other machinery, equipment and supplies | 2,474 | 2,643 | 2,520 | -4.6 | 1.9 |
| Miscellaneous | 6,695 | 7,398 | 7,121 | -3.7 | 6.4 |
| Recyclable material | 802 | 743 | 701 | -5.6 | -12.6 |
| Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product | 935 | 1,000 | 1,006 | 0.6 | 7.6 |
| Agricultural supplies | 1,915 | 2,262 | 2,120 | -6.3 | 10.7 |
| Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product | 1,196 | 1,322 | 1,267 | -4.2 | 5.9 |
| Other miscellaneous | 1,848 | 2,071 | 2,028 | -2.1 | 9.8 |

^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

| | May 2014 | April 2015 ^r | May 2015 ^p | April to May 2015 | May 2014 to May 2015 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | millions of dollars | | | % change | |
| Canada | 53,003 | 55,091 | 54,524 | -1.0 | 2.9 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 394 | 432 | 400 | -7.4 | 1.5 |
| Prince Edward Island | 54 | 58 | 59 | 1.6 | 9.4 |
| Nova Scotia | 762 | 770 | 755 | -2.0 | -0.9 |
| New Brunswick | 526 | 519 | 527 | 1.7 | 0.2 |
| Quebec | 9,596 | 9,738 | 9,662 | -0.8 | 0.7 |
| Ontario | 25,789 | 27,521 | 27,229 | -1.1 | 5.6 |
| Manitoba | 1,438 | 1,513 | 1,513 | 0.0 | 5.2 |
| Saskatchewan | 2,109 | 2,388 | 2,316 | -3.0 | 9.8 |
| Alberta | 7,040 | 6,894 | 6,741 | -2.2 | -4.2 |
| British Columbia | 5,219 | 5,186 | 5,249 | 1.2 | 0.6 |
| Yukon | 10 | 10 | 9 | -3.7 | -3.1 |
| Northwest Territories | 58 | 55 | 57 | 3.2 | -2.3 |
| Nunavut | 7 | 8 | 7 | -12.9 | -8.9 |

^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

| | May 2014 | April 2015 ^r | May 2015 ^p | April to May 2015 | May 2014 to May 2015 |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | millions of dollars | | | % change | |
| Total, wholesale inventories | 65,245 | 71,693 | 71,739 | 0.1 | 10.0 |
| Farm product | 207 ^E | 269 ^E | F | F | F |
| Food, beverage and tobacco | 5,885 | 6,382 | 6,469 | 1.4 | 9.9 |
| Food | 5,319 | 5,807 | 5,866 | 1.0 | 10.3 |
| Beverage | 324 | 335 | 345 | 3.1 | 6.6 |
| Cigarette and tobacco product | 242 | 239 | 258 | 7.8 | 6.8 |
| Personal and household goods | 11,174 | 11,953 | 12,189 | 2.0 | 9.1 |
| Textile, clothing and footwear | 2,133 | 2,117 | 2,127 | 0.5 | -0.3 |
| Home entertainment equipment and household appliance | 778 | 793 | 802 | 1.0 | 3.0 |
| Home furnishings | 1,196 | 1,231 ^E | 1,220 | -0.9 | 2.0 |
| Personal goods | 1,305 | 1,484 | 1,549 ^E | 4.4 | 18.8 |
| Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies | 5,063 | 5,618 | 5,767 | 2.6 | 13.9 |
| Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries | 699 | 710 | 724 | 1.9 | 3.6 |
| Motor vehicle and parts | 8,586 | 10,016 | 9,833 | -1.8 | 14.5 |
| Motor vehicle | 4,751 | 5,628 | 5,490 | -2.5 | 15.6 |
| New motor vehicle parts and accessories | 3,731 | 4,278 | 4,239 | -0.9 | 13.6 |
| Used motor vehicle parts and accessories | 104 | 110 | 104 | -5.6 | -0.1 |
| Building material and supplies | 11,730 | 12,955 | 12,885 | -0.5 | 9.8 |
| Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies | 3,088 | 3,415 | 3,396 | -0.6 | 10.0 |
| Metal service centres | 3,401 | 3,771 | 3,749 | -0.6 | 10.2 |
| Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies | 5,241 | 5,769 | 5,740 | -0.5 | 9.5 |
| Machinery, equipment and supplies | 19,358 | 21,056 | 21,093 | 0.2 | 9.0 |
| Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment | 4,301 | 4,543 | 4,525 | -0.4 | 5.2 |
| Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies | 9,730 | 10,587 | 10,617 | 0.3 | 9.1 |
| Computer and communications equipment and supplies | 1,759 | 2,054 | 2,061 | 0.3 | 17.2 |
| Other machinery, equipment and supplies | 3,568 | 3,872 | 3,890 | 0.5 | 9.0 |
| Miscellaneous | 8,305 | 9,061 | 9,000 | -0.7 | 8.4 |
| Recyclable material | 530 | 558 | 555 | -0.5 | 4.8 |
| Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product | 754 | 804 | 798 | -0.7 | 5.9 |
| Agricultural supplies | 3,481 | 3,744 | 3,617 | -3.4 | 3.9 |
| Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product | 1,133 | 1,314 | 1,331 | 1.3 | 17.5 |
| Other miscellaneous | 2,408 | 2,642 | 2,699 | 2.2 | 12.1 |

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

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

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Travel between Canada and other countries, May 2015

Travel to Canada, both from the United States and other countries, rose 2.5% to 2.3 million trips in May. Travel by residents of the United States to Canada increased 2.2%, primarily as a result of a 2.5% gain in overnight trips made by Americans.

Travel from overseas countries increased 3.6% to 462,000 trips. Travel from Germany and Brazil to Canada represented the largest percentage increases, both up 13.3% in May.

In the other direction, travel abroad by Canadian residents increased 1.5% from April to 4.9 million trips, primarily due to a 2.0% gain in same-day car trips by Canadians to the United States.

The number of trips made by Canadian residents to overseas countries increased 3.1% to 962,000 trips.

Note to readers

Monthly data are seasonally adjusted. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

Table 1
Travel between Canada and other countries – Seasonally adjusted

| | May 2014 ^r | April 2015 ^r | May 2015 ^p | April to May 2015 |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| | thousands | | | % change ¹ |
| Canadian trips abroad² | 5,407 | 4,802 | 4,872 | 1.5 |
| To the United States | 4,521 | 3,869 | 3,910 | 1.1 |
| To other countries | 886 | 933 | 962 | 3.1 |
| Same-day car trips to the United States | 2,548 | 2,031 | 2,071 | 2.0 |
| Total trips, one or more nights | 2,824 | 2,739 | 2,766 | 1.0 |
| United States ³ | 1,938 | 1,806 | 1,804 | -0.1 |
| Car | 1,139 | 1,026 | 1,049 | 2.2 |
| Plane | 698 | 682 | 665 | -2.5 |
| Other modes of transportation | 101 | 98 | 91 | -7.2 |
| Other countries ⁴ | 886 | 933 | 962 | 3.1 |
| Travel to Canada² | 2,146 | 2,230 | 2,286 | 2.5 |
| From the United States | 1,712 | 1,784 | 1,824 | 2.2 |
| From other countries | 434 | 446 | 462 | 3.6 |
| Same-day car trips from the United States | 588 | 618 | 629 | 1.7 |
| Total trips, one or more nights | 1,380 | 1,434 | 1,472 | 2.7 |
| United States ³ | 967 | 1,002 | 1,028 | 2.5 |
| Car | 565 | 590 | 607 | 2.8 |
| Plane | 288 | 298 | 303 | 1.8 |
| Other modes of transportation | 114 | 114 | 118 | 3.0 |
| Other countries ⁴ | 413 | 431 | 445 | 3.1 |
| Travel to Canada: Top overseas markets,⁵ by country of origin⁶ | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 57 | 60 | 60 | 0.4 |
| China | 41 | 44 | 43 | -1.5 |
| France | 40 | 41 | 42 | 0.4 |
| Germany | 28 | 27 | 31 | 13.3 |
| Australia | 25 | 24 | 26 | 5.6 |
| Japan | 23 | 24 | 25 | 7.7 |
| South Korea | 16 | 17 | 18 | 5.5 |
| India | 15 | 16 | 17 | 3.2 |
| Mexico | 15 | 17 | 16 | -1.8 |
| Hong Kong | 12 | 12 | 12 | 0.1 |
| Brazil | 8 | 9 | 10 | 13.3 |
| Italy | 11 | 10 | 10 | -2.2 |

^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. Overseas markets refer to countries other than the United States.

6. Includes same-day and overnight trips.

Source(s): CANSIM tables [427-0004](#), [427-0005](#) and [427-0006](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [427-0001 to 427-0006](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5005](#).

The May 2015 issue of *International Travel: Advance Information*, Vol. 31, no. 5 ([66-001-P](#)), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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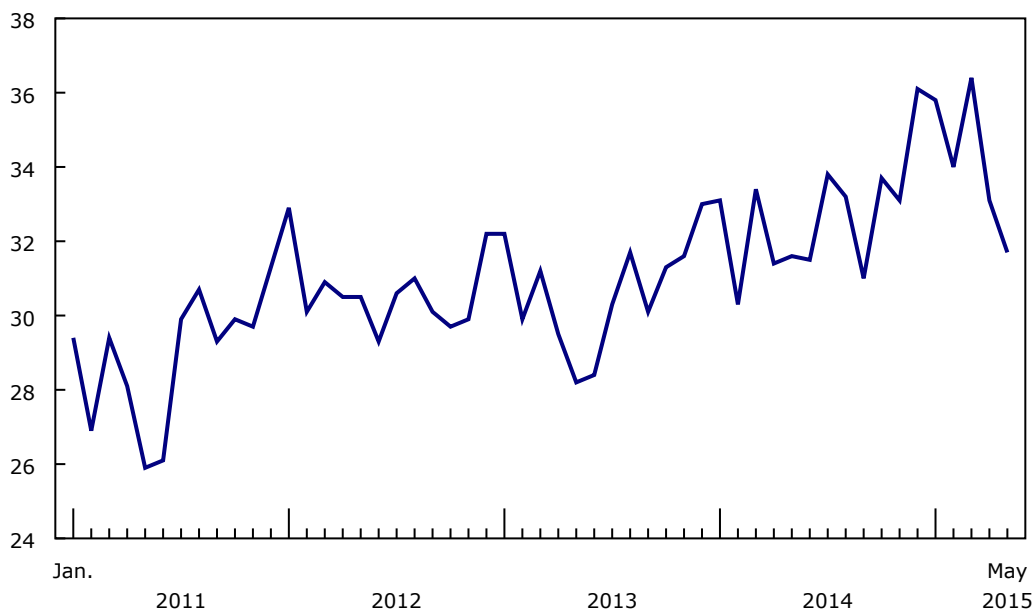
Pipeline transportation of crude oil and refined petroleum products, May 2015

Canadian pipelines net receipts of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products edged up 0.5% from the same month a year earlier to 31.7 million cubic metres in May.

Receipts from refineries and bulk plants rose 8.2% to 4.8 million cubic metres. There were also higher receipts from imports (up 17.9% to 1.3 million cubic metres) and other sources (up 9.2% to 1.3 million cubic metres). Partly offsetting these increases were lower receipts from fields (down 4.6% to 7.9 million cubic metres) and processing plants (down 0.7% to 16.5 million cubic metres).

Chart 1 Canadian pipelines total net receipts of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products

millions of cubic metres



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

In May, net deliveries of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products edged up 0.2% from May 2014 to 32.0 million cubic metres. Deliveries to refineries declined by 8.9% to 4.9 million cubic metres. Deliveries also declined to plants (down 2.7% to 11.6 million cubic metres) and other facilities (down 2.7% to 2.5 million cubic metres). Deliveries for export were up 7.8% to 13.0 million cubic metres.

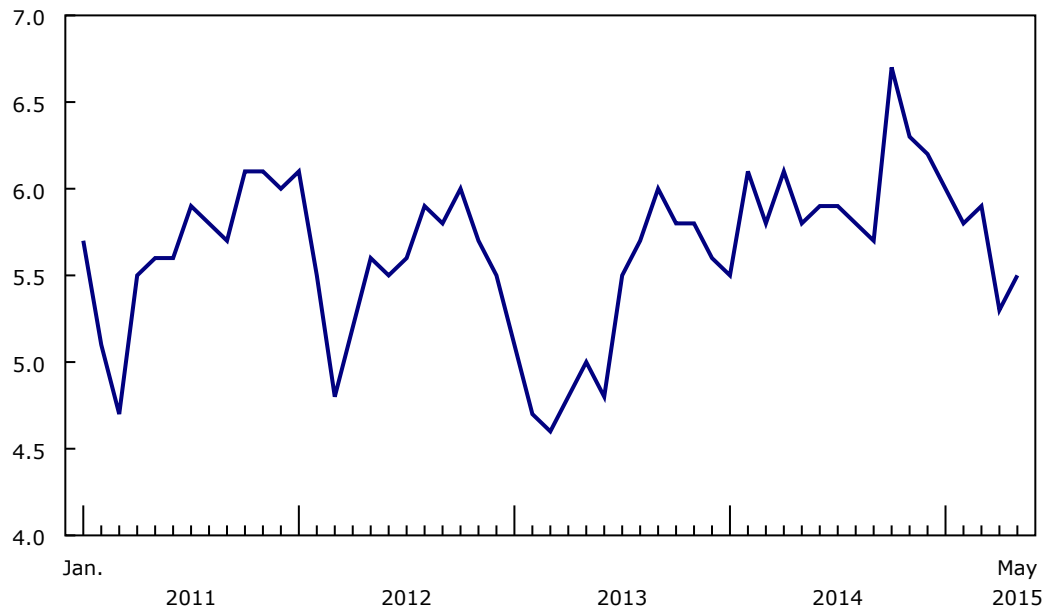
Inventories in tanks grow

Crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum products remaining in pipelines at the close of May declined 2.4% from April to 12.1 million cubic metres. Conversely, inventories held in tanks and terminals rose 3.6% to 5.5 million cubic metres.

Chart 2

Canadian pipelines total inventories of crude oil and condensates, and other liquefied petroleum held in tanks in Canada and the United States

millions of cubic metres



Source(s): CANSIM table [133-0001](#).

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](#).

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Natural gas sales, May 2015

Natural gas sales totalled 5.6 billion cubic metres in May, down 7.0% from May 2014.

The volume of sales to the residential (-16.6%), commercial (-7.9%) and industrial (-4.6%) sectors was down compared with the same month a year earlier.

Total sales in May were 22.2% lower compared with the previous month.

Note to readers

Data for April 2015 have been revised.

Table 1
Natural gas sales

| | May 2014 | April 2015 ^r | May 2015 ^p | April to May 2015 | May 2014 to May 2015 |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | thousands of cubic metres | | | % change | |
| Total sales | 6 003 283 | 7 172 769 | 5 583 055 | -22.2 | -7.0 |
| Residential ¹ | 994 024 | 1 567 619 | 829 173 | -47.1 | -16.6 |
| Commercial ² | 732 862 | 1 167 442 | 674 864 | -42.2 | -7.9 |
| Industrial ³ and direct sales ⁴ | 4 276 397 | 4 437 708 | 4 079 018 | -8.1 | -4.6 |

^r revised

^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.

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New products and studies

New products

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