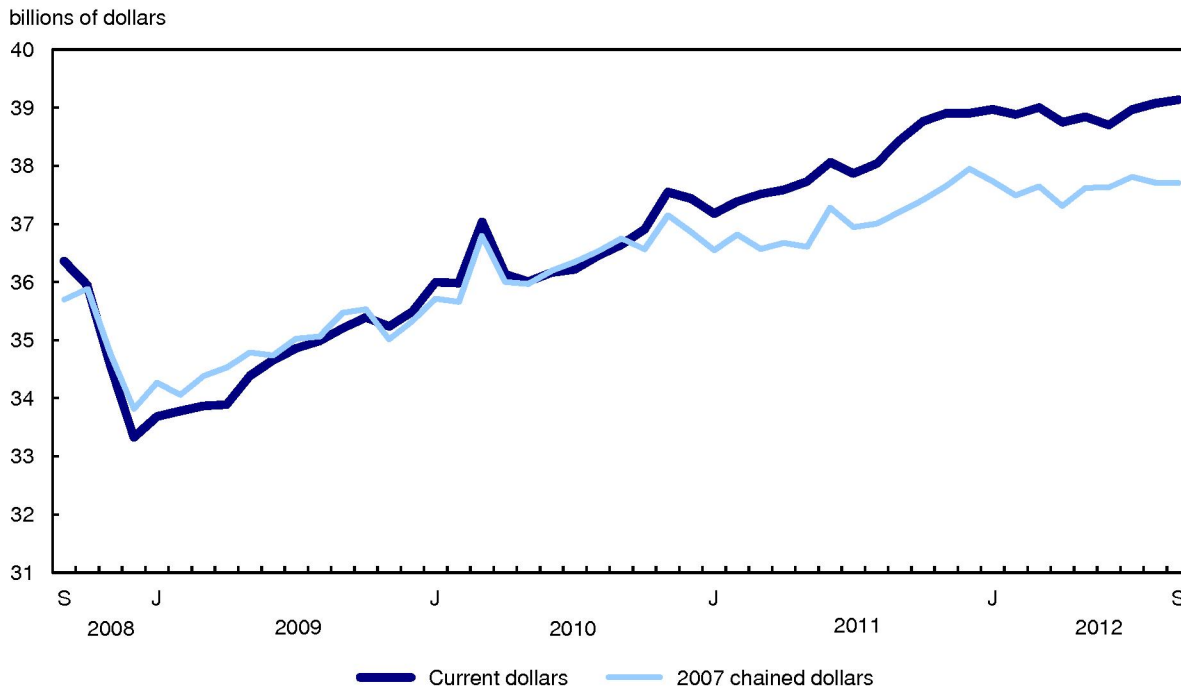


Retail trade, September 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, November 22, 2012

Retail sales edged up 0.1% to \$39.1 billion in September, following increases in the previous two months. Retail sales in volume terms were flat.

Chart 1
Retail sales edge up in September



In current dollars, gains were reported in 7 of 11 subsectors, representing almost 70% of total retail trade.

The largest increase in dollar terms among all subsectors was a 0.6% rise at motor vehicle and parts dealers. A 0.9% increase at new car dealers was partially offset by a 2.7% decline at automotive parts, accessories and tire stores.

Following two monthly declines, sales rose 2.5% at miscellaneous store retailers. Stores in this subsector include used merchandise stores, office supplies and stationery stores, and pet supplies stores.

Clothing and clothing accessories store sales increased 0.8% after falling for the previous three months. Higher sales were reported by clothing stores (+0.8%) and shoe stores (+2.5%), while sales fell at jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores (-0.8%).

Food and beverage store receipts edged up 0.1%, the fourth increase in five months. Sales were up 0.2% at supermarkets and other grocery stores. Specialty food stores (+1.4%) rose for a fifth consecutive month. Beer, wine and liquor store sales declined 1.0%.

Sales at electronics and appliance stores rose 0.8%. Sales in this store type have been on a general downward trend since the end of 2011, mainly as a result of lower receipts from sales of televisions.

General merchandise store sales decreased 0.7%. Department store sales declined 0.9%, while the "other general merchandise stores" industry had a sales decrease of 0.6%.

Sales at gasoline stations declined 0.6% after two consecutive monthly increases.

Sales up in five provinces

Retail sales rose in five provinces in September. Alberta (+1.7%) reported the largest gain in dollar terms, in part a result of higher sales at new car dealers. Sales advanced in this province for three consecutive months.

British Columbia registered a 0.3% sales increase.

The largest decline in dollar terms was in Quebec, where sales fell 0.7%, partly as a result of lower sales at new car dealers.

Sales in Ontario were flat in September, following an increase in August.

Note to readers

All the 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 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.

Data for total retail sales in volume, including the chain Fisher volume index, have been revised from January 2004 onward to reflect methodological enhancements. In addition, the reference year has changed from 2002 to 2007 for these volume data. For more information, see [Calculation of Volume of Retail Trade Sales](#).

The former CANSIM table 080-0021 has been replaced by CANSIM table 080-0024. Revised data dating back to January 2004 are now available in this new CANSIM table.

Table 1
Retail sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	September 2011	August 2012 ^r	September 2012 ^p	August to September 2012	September 2011 to September 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	38,444	39,079	39,137	0.1	1.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	663	700	693	-1.0	4.4
Prince Edward Island	158	161	162	0.9	2.8
Nova Scotia	1,104	1,118	1,112	-0.5	0.7
New Brunswick	934	912	923	1.1	-1.3
Quebec	8,600	8,618	8,561	-0.7	-0.4
Ontario	13,607	13,702	13,697	0.0	0.7
Manitoba	1,380	1,388	1,404	1.2	1.7
Saskatchewan	1,378	1,474	1,466	-0.5	6.4
Alberta	5,422	5,784	5,880	1.7	8.5
British Columbia	5,050	5,073	5,090	0.3	0.8
Yukon	56	56	56	1.4	1.3
Northwest Territories	61	63	63	0.2	3.2
Nunavut	31	30	30	-0.8	-3.8

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Table 2
Retail sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	September 2011	August 2012 ^r	September 2012 ^p	August to September 2012	September 2011 to September 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade	38,444	39,079	39,137	0.1	1.8
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	29,898	30,325	30,335	0.0	1.5
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	25,005	25,325	25,363	0.2	1.4
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	8,546	8,753	8,803	0.6	3.0
New car dealers	6,840	7,105	7,172	0.9	4.9
Used car dealers	520	478	477	-0.2	-8.3
Other motor vehicle dealers	607	585	584	-0.1	-3.7
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	579	585	569	-2.7	-1.8
Furniture and home furnishing stores	1,244	1,276	1,273	-0.2	2.3
Furniture stores	782	798	800	0.2	2.3
Home furnishings stores	462	477	473	-1.0	2.3
Electronics and appliance stores	1,241	1,169	1,179	0.8	-5.0
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	2,280	2,269	2,277	0.3	-0.1
Food and beverage stores	8,694	8,800	8,807	0.1	1.3
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,166	6,231	6,245	0.2	1.3
Convenience stores	525	525	529	0.6	0.8
Specialty food stores	423	440	446	1.4	5.6
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,581	1,604	1,587	-1.0	0.4
Health and personal care stores	2,724	2,807	2,825	0.6	3.7
Gasoline stations	4,893	5,001	4,971	-0.6	1.6
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	2,179	2,192	2,209	0.8	1.4
Clothing stores	1,683	1,704	1,717	0.8	2.0
Shoe stores	251	247	253	2.5	1.0
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	245	241	239	-0.8	-2.6
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	941	943	938	-0.5	-0.3
General merchandise stores	4,807	4,979	4,943	-0.7	2.8
Department stores	2,253	2,273	2,254	-0.9	0.0
Other general merchandise stores	2,555	2,705	2,689	-0.6	5.3
Miscellaneous store retailers	893	890	912	2.5	2.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

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.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 080-0020 and 080-0024.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 2406 and 2408.

The September 2012 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X, free) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for October will be released on December 20.

For more information or to order data, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jake Purdy (613-951-0984; jake.purdy@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.