

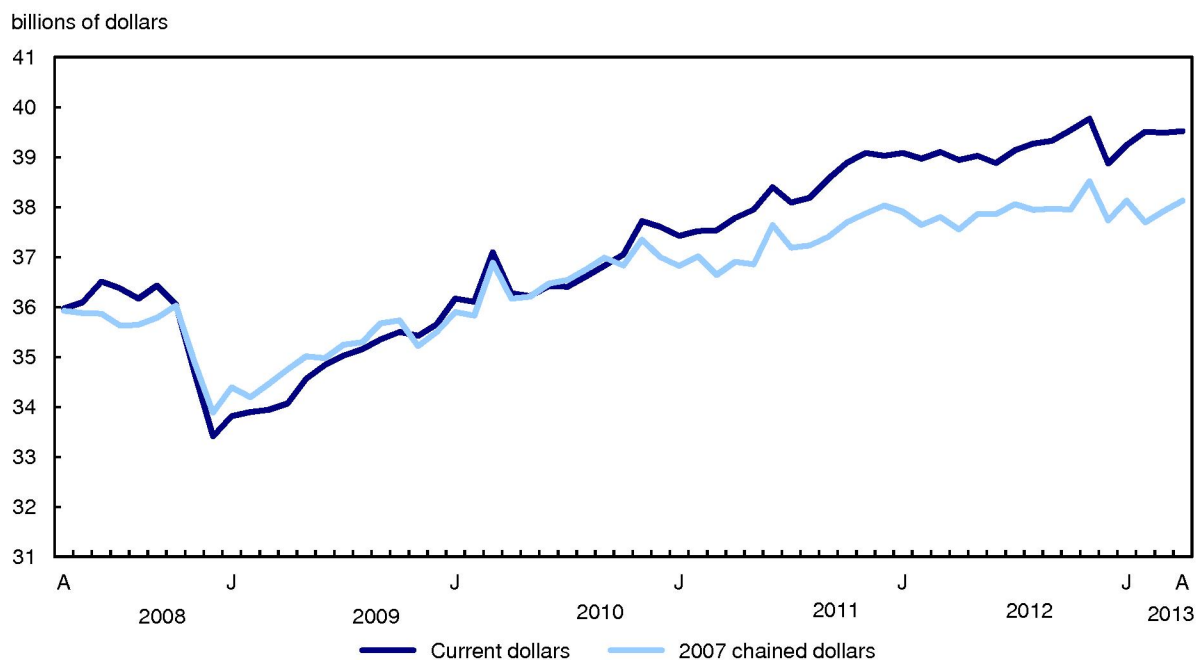
Retail trade, April 2013

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, June 21, 2013

Retail sales edged up 0.1% to \$39.5 billion in April, following flat sales in March. Stronger sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers were offset by weaker sales at gasoline stations.

In volume terms, retail sales increased 0.5%.

Chart 1
Retail sales edge up in April



Higher sales were reported in 6 of 11 subsectors, representing 51% of total retail sales.

The largest sales increase in dollar terms among all subsectors was a 1.4% advance at motor vehicle and parts dealers. Higher sales at new car dealers (+2.2%), particularly truck sales, led the gain. This was the fourth consecutive monthly increase in sales at new car dealers. Used car dealers reported a third straight monthly sales decline, falling 0.9%. Other motor vehicle dealers (-4.7%) and automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (-1.3%) were both down from the previous month.

Receipts at general merchandise stores rose 0.7%, as a result of higher sales at "other general merchandise stores" (+1.9%). Department store sales were down 0.8% from March, declining for the second consecutive month.

Electronics and appliance stores posted a 2.1% gain, the third increase in four months following a downward trend in 2012.

Gasoline station sales fell 2.9% in April, mainly reflecting lower prices at the pump.

The 1.9% decline in sales at clothing and clothing accessories stores did not offset the sales gain in March. Lower sales at clothing stores (-2.6%) accounted for most of the decline.



Lower receipts at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (-1.0%) more than offset gains made in February and March. Sales in this subsector have been relatively flat since the middle of 2012.

Sales up in seven provinces

Retail sales rose in seven provinces in April. Alberta (+1.7%) reported the largest increase in dollar terms, on the strength of new and used car sales.

Following four straight monthly declines, sales in Saskatchewan grew 1.8%.

The 0.6% sales gain in Manitoba did not offset the decline in March.

Sales in all four Atlantic provinces were up in April, led by a 2.3% gain in Nova Scotia.

The largest decline in dollar terms occurred in Quebec (-0.7%), where sales fell for a second month in a row, with widespread decreases across store types.

After rising for three straight months, sales in Ontario declined 0.4%.

The 0.7% sales decrease in British Columbia did not offset the gain in March. Sales in this province have been relatively flat since the middle of 2012.

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 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. For more information, see [Calculation of Volume of Retail Trade Sales](#).

Table 1
Retail sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

| | April 2012 | March 2013 ^r | April 2013 ^p | March to April 2013 | April 2012 to April 2013 |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | millions of dollars | | | % change | |
| Canada | 38,942 | 39,488 | 39,519 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 672 | 704 | 714 | 1.4 | 6.2 |
| Prince Edward Island | 161 | 159 | 162 | 1.9 | 0.2 |
| Nova Scotia | 1,101 | 1,094 | 1,119 | 2.3 | 1.6 |
| New Brunswick | 929 | 917 | 925 | 0.9 | -0.4 |
| Quebec | 8,577 | 8,726 | 8,663 | -0.7 | 1.0 |
| Ontario | 13,717 | 13,789 | 13,738 | -0.4 | 0.1 |
| Manitoba | 1,407 | 1,426 | 1,435 | 0.6 | 2.0 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,453 | 1,459 | 1,486 | 1.8 | 2.2 |
| Alberta | 5,624 | 5,898 | 5,995 | 1.7 | 6.6 |
| British Columbia | 5,147 | 5,169 | 5,134 | -0.7 | -0.3 |
| Yukon | 55 | 55 | 54 | -2.2 | -2.3 |
| Northwest Territories | 68 | 62 | 64 | 4.2 | -4.9 |
| Nunavut | 31 | 31 | 31 | 0.6 | 2.5 |

^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

| | April 2012 | March 2013 ^r | April 2013 ^P | March to April 2013 | April 2012 to April 2013 |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | millions of dollars | | | % change | |
| Total retail trade (current dollars) | 38,942 | 39,488 | 39,519 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Total retail trade (2007 chained dollars) | 37,551 | 37,924 | 38,127 | 0.5 | 1.5 |
| Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers | 30,243 | 30,550 | 30,459 | -0.3 | 0.7 |
| Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations | 25,258 | 25,602 | 25,653 | 0.2 | 1.6 |
| Motor vehicle and parts dealers | 8,699 | 8,938 | 9,060 | 1.4 | 4.1 |
| New car dealers | 6,988 | 7,243 | 7,405 | 2.2 | 6.0 |
| Used car dealers | 504 | 504 | 499 | -0.9 | -1.0 |
| Other motor vehicle dealers | 617 | 594 | 566 | -4.7 | -8.3 |
| Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores | 591 | 598 | 590 | -1.3 | -0.2 |
| Furniture and home furnishings stores | 1,256 | 1,281 | 1,279 | -0.1 | 1.9 |
| Furniture stores | 794 | 812 | 814 | 0.3 | 2.5 |
| Home furnishings stores | 462 | 469 | 465 | -0.9 | 0.7 |
| Electronics and appliance stores | 1,271 | 1,227 | 1,253 | 2.1 | -1.4 |
| Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers | 2,279 | 2,253 | 2,231 | -1.0 | -2.1 |
| Food and beverage stores | 8,810 | 8,979 | 8,963 | -0.2 | 1.7 |
| Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores | 6,204 | 6,356 | 6,344 | -0.2 | 2.3 |
| Convenience stores | 568 | 550 | 551 | 0.2 | -2.9 |
| Specialty food stores | 431 | 462 | 461 | -0.2 | 6.8 |
| Beer, wine and liquor stores | 1,607 | 1,612 | 1,607 | -0.3 | 0.0 |
| Health and personal care stores | 2,777 | 2,852 | 2,887 | 1.2 | 4.0 |
| Gasoline stations | 4,984 | 4,947 | 4,806 | -2.9 | -3.6 |
| Clothing and clothing accessories stores | 2,163 | 2,265 | 2,223 | -1.9 | 2.8 |
| Clothing stores | 1,671 | 1,749 | 1,704 | -2.6 | 2.0 |
| Shoe stores | 247 | 257 | 251 | -2.4 | 1.7 |
| Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores | 245 | 259 | 268 | 3.7 | 9.5 |
| Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores | 872 | 874 | 883 | 1.0 | 1.3 |
| General merchandise stores | 4,903 | 4,904 | 4,939 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Department stores | 2,247 | 2,204 | 2,186 | -0.8 | -2.7 |
| Other general merchandise stores | 2,656 | 2,700 | 2,753 | 1.9 | 3.7 |
| Miscellaneous store retailers | 927 | 965 | 994 | 2.9 | 7.2 |

^r revised

^P preliminary

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

Available in CANSIM: tables 080-0020 and 080-0024.

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

The April 2013 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for May will be released on July 23.

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 Ashley Ker (613-951-2252; ashley.ker@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.