

Retail trade, May 2014

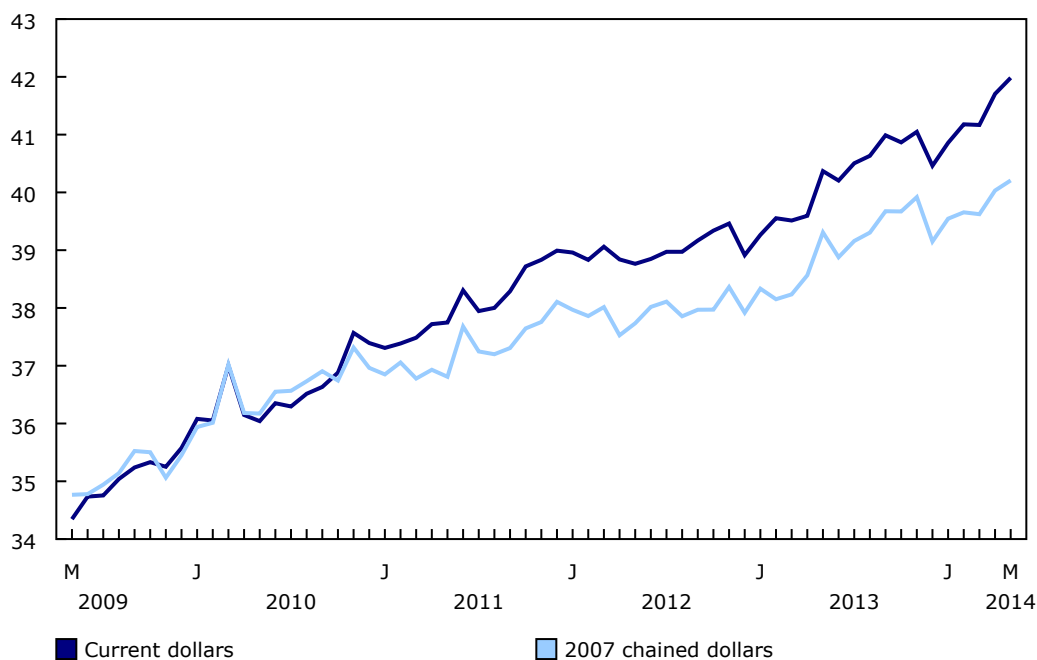
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Retail sales rose 0.7% to \$42.0 billion in May. Gains were reported in 7 of 11 subsectors, representing 56% of retail trade.

In volume terms, retail sales increased 0.4%.

Chart 1
Retail sales increase in May

billions of dollars



Motor vehicle and parts dealers lead increase

Sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers rose 2.5% in May, accounting for the largest gain among all subsectors. Building on a 3.5% increase in April, sales at new car dealers rose 2.3% in May. According to the New Motor Vehicle Sales Survey, a record 197,740 units were sold in May, mainly as a result of higher sales of light trucks. Higher sales at other motor vehicle dealers (+4.7%) largely offset declines in March and April. Other motor vehicle dealers include retailers of recreational vehicles, motorcycles and boats. Sales at used car dealers (+3.0%) and automotive parts, accessories and tire stores (+1.7%) were both up in May.

Higher sales were reported at gasoline stations (+2.0%) for the seventh consecutive month.

Sales at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers rose 3.5% following a delayed start to spring.

Growth in sales continued at furniture and home furnishings stores (+3.7%) in May. Sales at furniture stores (+4.2%) and home furnishing stores (+2.8%) both rose for the fourth time in five months.

Sporting goods, hobby, book and music store sales grew 2.1%, their fourth consecutive monthly increase.



Food and beverage store sales decreased 1.6%, mainly reflecting lower sales at supermarkets and other grocery stores (-1.9%) and, to a lesser extent, beer, wine and liquor stores (-2.5%). Combined, these two store types more than offset gains at convenience stores (+2.3%) and specialty food stores (+0.4%).

Sales at health and personal care stores (-1.2%) declined for the first time in four months, mainly as a result of lower sales at pharmacies and drug stores.

General merchandise stores posted a 0.5% decrease in May, mainly due to lower sales at other general merchandise stores (-0.7%).

Following four consecutive monthly gains, sales at electronics and appliance stores declined 1.7%. May's decline more than offset gains in March and April.

Sales up in nine provinces

Retail sales were up in nine provinces in May. Higher sales in Ontario, Quebec and, to a lesser extent, New Brunswick, accounted for most of the increase.

Sales in Ontario (+0.7%) rose for the fourth time in five months. Gains were registered across most store types.

A 0.7% advance in Quebec was mainly attributable to higher sales at new car dealers.

Higher receipts were posted for the second consecutive month in New Brunswick, where sales rose 3.2% on the strength of higher sales at new car dealers.

On the Prairies, Alberta (+0.3%), Saskatchewan (+1.0%) and Manitoba (+0.7%) all posted increases. In Saskatchewan, retail sales rose for the fifth consecutive month.

Retail sales in British Columbia edged down 0.1% as a result of lower sales at supermarkets and other grocery stores.

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

	May 2013	April 2014 ^r	May 2014 ^P	April to May 2014	May 2013 to May 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	40,368	41,705	41,983	0.7	4.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	736	722	729	1.0	-1.0
Prince Edward Island	161	157	165	4.9	2.7
Nova Scotia	1,139	1,134	1,147	1.1	0.7
New Brunswick	925	933	962	3.2	4.0
Quebec	8,949	9,083	9,147	0.7	2.2
Ontario	14,044	14,473	14,580	0.7	3.8
Manitoba	1,460	1,498	1,509	0.7	3.4
Saskatchewan	1,552	1,595	1,611	1.0	3.8
Alberta	6,091	6,462	6,484	0.3	6.5
British Columbia	5,164	5,497	5,494	-0.1	6.4
Yukon	55	55	57	2.3	3.7
Northwest Territories	64	68	68	0.8	7.3
Nunavut	29	29	30	1.2	2.8

^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

	May 2013	April 2014 ^r	May 2014 ^P	April to May 2014	May 2013 to May 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade (current dollars)	40,368	41,705	41,983	0.7	4.0
Total retail trade (2007 chained dollars)	39,308	40,033	40,207	0.4	2.3
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	30,906	31,947	31,984	0.1	3.5
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	25,915	26,477	26,404	-0.3	1.9
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	9,462	9,758	9,999	2.5	5.7
New car dealers	7,663	7,964	8,149	2.3	6.3
Used car dealers	516	560	576	3.0	11.7
Other motor vehicle dealers	645	585	613	4.7	-5.0
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	638	649	661	1.7	3.5
Furniture and home furnishings stores	1,297	1,303	1,351	3.7	4.2
Furniture stores	829	822	857	4.2	3.4
Home furnishings stores	468	481	494	2.8	5.6
Electronics and appliance stores	1,231	1,237	1,215	-1.7	-1.2
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	2,320	2,263	2,342	3.5	0.9
Food and beverage stores	9,025	9,149	9,000	-1.6	-0.3
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,342	6,374	6,253	-1.9	-1.4
Convenience stores	545	574	587	2.3	7.8
Specialty food stores	473	509	511	0.4	8.0
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,665	1,691	1,648	-2.5	-1.0
Health and personal care stores	2,888	3,119	3,080	-1.2	6.6
Gasoline stations	4,991	5,470	5,580	2.0	11.8
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	2,261	2,295	2,296	0.0	1.5
Clothing stores	1,776	1,795	1,790	-0.3	0.8
Shoe stores	251	259	264	2.1	5.2
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	233	241	241	-0.2	3.2
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	905	918	938	2.1	3.6
General merchandise stores	5,006	5,247	5,221	-0.5	4.3
Department stores	2,207	2,273	2,269	-0.1	2.8
Other general merchandise stores	2,799	2,974	2,952	-0.7	5.5
Miscellaneous store retailers	981	946	960	1.5	-2.1

^r revised

^P preliminary

Note(s): Figures may not add up to totals 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 May 2014 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-X) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for June will be released on August 22.

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 Kimberley Evans (613-951-0502; kimberley.evans@statcan.gc.ca), Retail and Service Industries Division.