Food services and drinking places, March 2018

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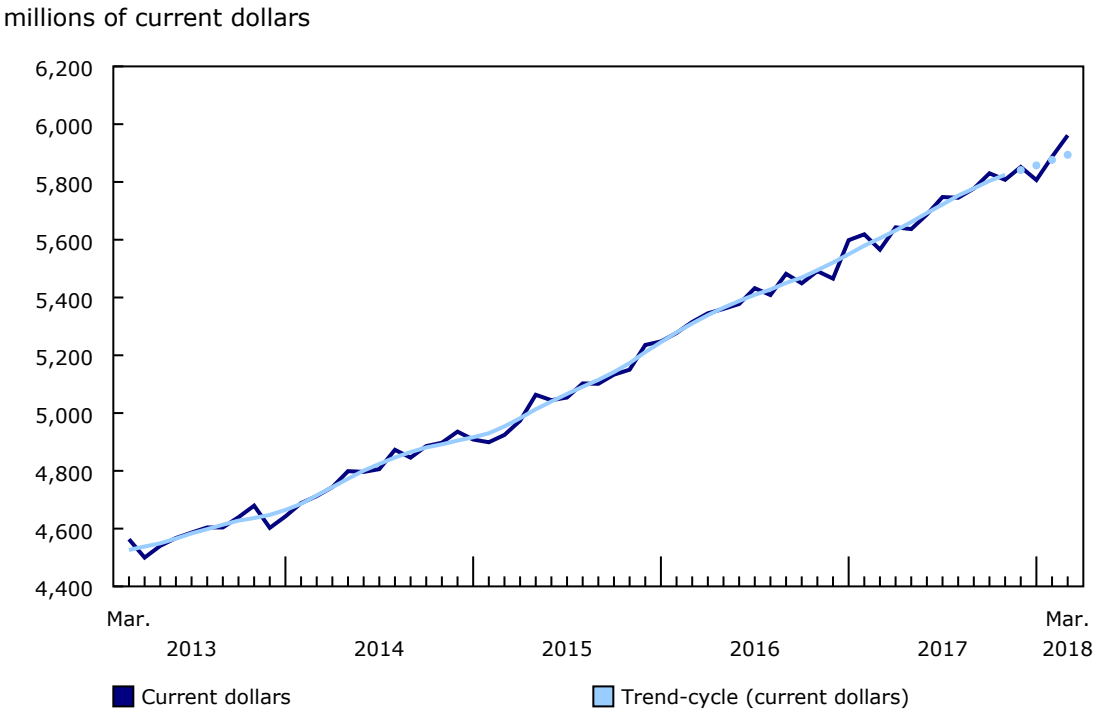
Sales in the food services and drinking places subsector were up 1.3% to $6.0 billion in March. Higher sales at limited-service (+1.5%) and full-service (+1.1%) restaurants accounted for most of the gain. Sales increases were also reported in the special food services industry group (+1.5%) and drinking places (+0.8%).

Chart 1
Sales at food services and drinking places



Source(s): CANSIM table 355-0006.

Higher sales were reported in eight provinces, with the largest increase in Ontario (+2.0%). Following two consecutive months of sales declines, Alberta (+2.0%) posted a sales gain in March. Sales in Saskatchewan (-0.3%) and Prince Edward Island (-1.3%) declined.

To find out more, consult the dashboard entitled Food Services and Drinking Places Sales. This web application provides access to data on the sales of food services and drinking places for Canada, the provinces and territories. This dynamic application allows users to compare provincial and territorial data with interactive maps and charts.

Sales in food services and drinking places subsector increase in the first quarter of 2018

The figures in this section are based on unadjusted (that is, not seasonally adjusted) estimates.

Unadjusted year-over-year sales were up in the food services and drinking places subsector, increasing 5.4% in the first quarter of 2018 compared with the first quarter of 2017.

Sales in each of the following industry groups increased: full-service restaurants (+6.2%), limited service restaurants (+5.6%), special food services (+2.1%) and drinking places (+0.9%). Sales increased in most of the provinces, with the largest gains in dollar terms being in Ontario (+6.7%), Quebec (+5.4%), British Columbia (+7.6%) and Alberta (+2.2%). Newfoundland and Labrador (-1.1%) was the only province to report declines in the first quarter of 2018.

Prices for food purchased from restaurants were up 4.4% in March 2018 compared with March 2017 and prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments were up 2.2% in the same period.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted and expressed in current dollars unless otherwise noted. For information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions.

For information on trend-cycle data, see the StatCan Blog and Trend-cycle estimates – Frequently asked questions.

Data for the current reference month are preliminary. Usually, unadjusted data are revised for the two previous months, and seasonally adjusted data are revised for the three previous months.

With the release of the March 2018 preliminary estimates, unadjusted monthly data were revised back to January 2009 and seasonally adjusted data were revised back to January 2006 in CANSIM table 355-0006. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of respondent information, corrections to the information provided, the replacement of imputed data with reported data (once available), introducing new births, utilizing the most recent administrative data, the re-classification of companies within, into and out of the food services and drinking places subsector, and updates to seasonal factors.

Table 1
Food services and drinking places – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2017	December 2017[r]	January 2018[r]	February 2018[r]	March 2018[p]	February to March 2018	March 2017 to March 2018
	thousands of dollars					change %	
Total, food services sales	**5,565,655**	**5,851,788**	**5,806,744**	**5,886,995**	**5,961,399**	**1.3**	**7.1**
Full-service restaurants	2,466,264	2,593,160	2,544,077	2,613,812	2,641,290	1.1	7.1
Limited-service eating places	2,465,258	2,600,750	2,610,713	2,618,872	2,657,333	1.5	7.8
Special food services	435,502	459,717	455,364	454,526	461,420	1.5	6.0
Drinking places	198,631	198,159	196,591	199,785	201,356	0.8	1.4
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	71,668	69,919	69,698	70,823	71,506	1.0	-0.2
Prince Edward Island	20,944	21,706	21,346	22,305	22,024	-1.3	5.2
Nova Scotia	132,308	135,895	135,218	137,858	139,386	1.1	5.3
New Brunswick	97,474	100,245	97,650	100,245	100,439	0.2	3.0
Quebec	1,039,670	1,096,991	1,075,751	1,099,485	1,104,565	0.5	6.2
Ontario	2,195,601	2,328,964	2,322,734	2,361,200	2,407,326	2.0	9.6
Manitoba	169,967	168,751	169,995	169,997	171,419	0.8	0.9
Saskatchewan	157,194	158,674	156,737	158,282	157,744	-0.3	0.3
Alberta	748,858	778,494	769,697	761,878	776,785	2.0	3.7
British Columbia	915,651	975,095	971,254	988,283	991,616	0.3	8.3
Yukon	6,105	6,098	6,005	5,914	6,191	4.7	1.4
Northwest Territories	7,514	8,786	8,267	8,508	10,010	17.7	33.2
Nunavut	2,701	2,169	2,393	2,217	2,387	7.7	-11.6

r revised
p preliminary
Note(s): Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.
Source(s): CANSIM table **355-0006**.

Available in CANSIM: table 355-0006.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2419.

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; **STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca**).