

Retail trade, May 2019

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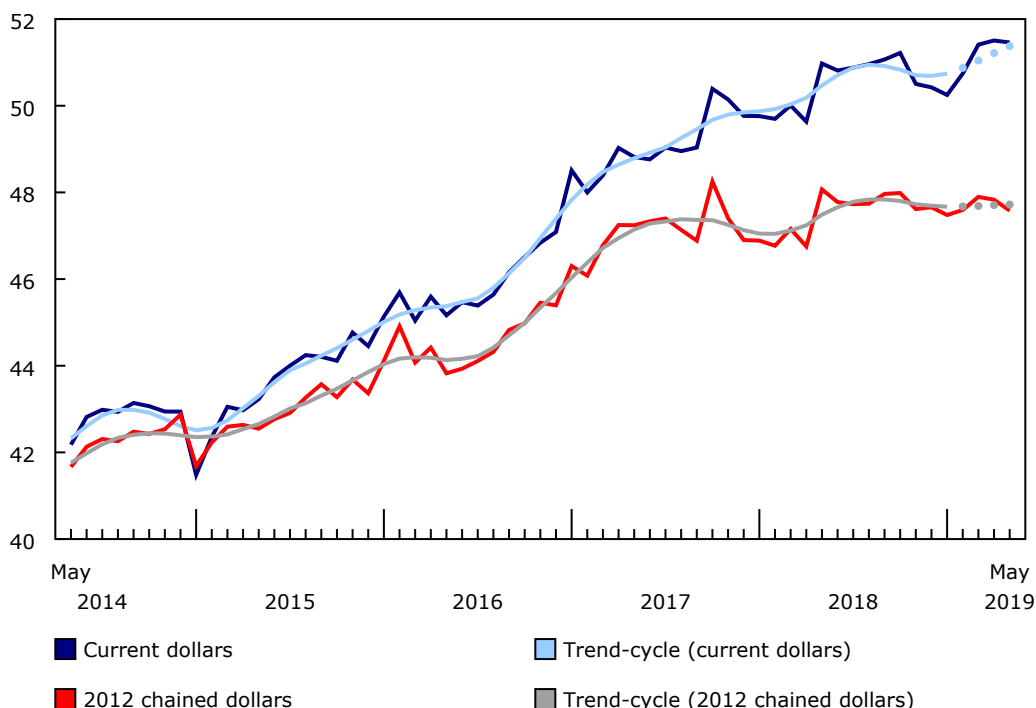
Retail sales declined for the first time in four months, edging down 0.1% to \$51.5 billion in May. Excluding sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations, retail sales decreased 1.0%.

Sales were down in 4 of 11 subsectors, representing 39% of retail trade. Lower sales at food and beverage stores were the main contributors to the decline.

After removing the effects of price changes, retail sales in volume terms decreased 0.5%.

Chart 1
Retail sales edge down in May

billions of dollars



Source(s): Tables [20-10-0008-01](#) and [20-10-0078-01](#).

Retail sales down in four subsectors

Receipts at food and beverage stores decreased 2.0% in May after increasing for three consecutive months. All store types within this subsector experienced lower sales this month, with the largest declines coming from supermarkets and other grocery stores (-2.0%) and beer, wine and liquor stores (-2.7%).

Sales at clothing and clothing accessories stores (-2.7%) and general merchandise stores (-1.1%) were down for the second month in a row.

For the fourth consecutive month, sales at gasoline stations (+3.5%) increased.



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Sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers edged up 0.5% in May, as lower sales at new car dealers (-0.1%) were offset by an increase in sales at all other store types in this subsector.

Sales at cannabis stores (+14.8%) rose in May, surpassing \$85 million. This increase marked the third consecutive month of double-digit growth. Gains were widespread across all provinces, with Quebec and Ontario accounting for the majority of the increase.

Sales decrease in eight provinces

For the first time in three months, sales in Alberta (-1.7%) were down, due to lower sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers.

In Nova Scotia (-2.3%) and Manitoba (-1.6%), retail sales decreased for the second time in the past three months. Declines were reported at motor vehicle and parts dealers.

Sales increased for the fourth consecutive month in Ontario (+0.5%), primarily as a result of higher sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers. In the CMA of Toronto, retail sales rose 0.3%.

Following a decrease in April, sales in Quebec were up 0.9% in May, largely on higher sales in the census metropolitan area (CMA) of Montréal (+1.8%).

E-commerce sales by Canadian retailers

The figures in the following sections are based on unadjusted (that is, not seasonally adjusted) estimates.

On an unadjusted basis, retail e-commerce sales were \$1.8 billion in May, accounting for 3.0% of total retail trade, compared with 1.9% of total retail trade in May 2016—the year when official monthly statistics for retail e-commerce were first published. On a year-over-year basis, retail e-commerce increased 21.8%, while total unadjusted retail sales were up 1.6%.

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](#).

With this release, volume data in table 20-10-0078-01 have been revised back to January 2015 in order to incorporate updated weights based on annual revisions to the retail commodity survey.

As of October 17, 2018, the date of legalization, the Monthly Retail Trade Survey now collects and disseminates data on the sales of licensed cannabis stores. This includes both in-store and Internet-based sales.

For more information regarding cannabis statistics, consult the [Cannabis Stats Hub](#).

Seasonally adjusted estimates for cannabis store retailers are presented in unadjusted form as there is no seasonal pattern established by official statistics yet. Establishing such a pattern requires several months of observed data. In the interim, the seasonally adjusted estimates for cannabis store retailers will be identical to the unadjusted figures.

Statistics Canada's retail e-commerce figures include the electronic sales of two distinct types of retailers. The first type do not have a storefront. These businesses are commonly referred to as pure-play Internet retailers and are classified to North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 45411—Electronic Shopping and Mail Order Houses. The second type have a storefront and are commonly referred to as brick and mortar retailers. If the online operations of a brick and mortar retailer are separately managed, they too are classified to NAICS 45411.

Common electronic commerce transactions, such as travel and accommodation bookings, ticket purchases and financial transactions are not included in Canadian retail sales figures.

For more information on retail e-commerce in Canada, see "[Retail E-Commerce in Canada](#)."

Total retail sales expressed in volume terms are calculated by deflating current dollar values using consumer price indexes. The retail sales series in chained (2012) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index with 2012 as the reference year. For more information, see [Calculation of Volume of Retail Trade Sales](#).

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

Real-time tables

Real-time tables 20-10-0054-01 and 20-10-0079-01 will be updated on July 29.

Next release

Data on retail trade for June will be released on August 23.

Table 1
Retail sales by province, territory and census metropolitan area – Seasonally adjusted

	May 2018	April 2019 ^r	May 2019 ^p	April to May 2019	May 2018 to May 2019
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	50,974	51,505	51,459	-0.1	1.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	745	728	717	-1.5	-3.8
Prince Edward Island	202	210	202	-3.9	-0.2
Nova Scotia	1,325	1,360	1,329	-2.3	0.3
New Brunswick	1,086	1,113	1,094	-1.7	0.7
Quebec	10,983	10,950	11,049	0.9	0.6
Montréal	5,205	5,382	5,477	1.8	5.2
Ontario	18,924	19,315	19,414	0.5	2.6
Toronto	7,631	8,069	8,091	0.3	6.0
Manitoba	1,734	1,794	1,765	-1.6	1.8
Saskatchewan	1,639	1,666	1,655	-0.7	1.0
Alberta	6,943	6,959	6,838	-1.7	-1.5
British Columbia	7,221	7,231	7,216	-0.2	-0.1
Vancouver	3,369	3,318	3,350	0.9	-0.6
Yukon	69	73	74	0.7	6.2
Northwest Territories	66	67	66	-0.7	1.0
Nunavut	36	40	40	1.5	11.2

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Source(s): Table [20-10-0008-01](#).

Table 2
Retail sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	May 2018	April 2019 ^r	May 2019 ^p	April to May 2019	May 2018 to May 2019
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade (current dollars)	50,974	51,505	51,459	-0.1	1.0
Total retail trade (2012 chained dollars)	48,068	47,831	47,580	-0.5	-1.0
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	37,361	37,584	37,473	-0.3	0.3
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations	31,428	32,012	31,707	-1.0	0.9
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	13,613	13,921	13,986	0.5	2.7
New car dealers	10,862	11,128	11,118	-0.1	2.4
Used car dealers	964	1,056	1,075	1.8	11.5
Other motor vehicle dealers	896	857	886	3.4	-1.0
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	890	880	907	3.1	1.9
Furniture and home furnishings stores	1,566	1,647	1,656	0.5	5.8
Furniture stores	968	1,023	1,033	1.0	6.7
Home furnishings stores	598	624	623	-0.1	4.2
Electronics and appliance stores	1,257	1,175	1,189	1.2	-5.4
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	3,252	3,118	3,124	0.2	-3.9
Food and beverage stores	10,367	10,741	10,524	-2.0	1.5
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	7,051	7,353	7,203	-2.0	2.2
Convenience stores	689	668	667	-0.3	-3.3
Specialty food stores	654	667	657	-1.4	0.5
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,973	2,052	1,996	-2.7	1.2
Health and personal care stores	3,917	4,017	4,047	0.8	3.3
Gasoline stations	5,934	5,572	5,765	3.5	-2.8
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	2,919	2,927	2,847	-2.7	-2.5
Clothing stores	2,259	2,270	2,213	-2.5	-2.1
Shoe stores	354	334	328	-1.8	-7.4
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	306	323	306	-5.4	0.1
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	1,058	1,051	1,031	-1.9	-2.6
General merchandise stores	5,817	5,978	5,913	-1.1	1.7
Miscellaneous store retailers	1,276	1,359	1,376	1.3	7.9
Cannabis stores ¹		75	86	14.8	

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Data for this Canadian industry are presented in unadjusted form as there is no seasonal pattern established by official statistics yet.

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

Source(s): Tables [20-10-0008-01](#) and [20-10-0078-01](#).

Table 3
Retail sales by industry at 2012 constant prices – Seasonally adjusted

	May 2018	April 2019 ^r	May 2019 ^p	April to May 2019	May 2018 to May 2019
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade at 2012 constant prices¹	48,098	47,862	47,631	-0.5	-1.0
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	35,888	35,773	35,580	-0.5	-0.9
Total excluding motor vehicles and parts dealers and gasoline stations	30,282	30,336	29,985	-1.2	-1.0
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	12,210	12,089	12,051	-0.3	-1.3
New car dealers	9,742	9,633	9,567	-0.7	-1.8
Used car dealers	855	907	921	1.5	7.7
Other motor vehicle dealers	761	727	724	-0.4	-4.9
Automotive parts, accessories and tire stores	852	823	840	2.1	-1.4
Furniture and home furnishings stores	1,521	1,582	1,601	1.2	5.3
Furniture stores	946	995	1,012	1.7	7.0
Home furnishings stores	575	588	589	0.2	2.4
Electronics and appliance stores	1,445	1,390	1,400	0.7	-3.1
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	2,995	2,795	2,798	0.1	-6.6
Food and beverage stores	9,520	9,565	9,331	-2.4	-2.0
Supermarkets and other grocery (except convenience) stores	6,537	6,573	6,412	-2.4	-1.9
Convenience stores	582	552	547	-0.9	-6.0
Specialty food stores	589	578	566	-2.1	-3.9
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,812	1,863	1,807	-3.0	-0.3
Health and personal care stores	4,094	4,202	4,222	0.5	3.1
Gasoline stations	5,606	5,437	5,595	2.9	-0.2
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	2,864	2,849	2,765	-2.9	-3.5
Clothing stores	2,225	2,228	2,165	-2.8	-2.7
Shoe stores	352	326	322	-1.2	-8.5
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods stores	287	295	278	-5.8	-3.1
Sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores	1,033	1,017	998	-1.9	-3.4
General merchandise stores	5,605	5,681	5,605	-1.3	0.0
Miscellaneous store retailers	1,205	1,254	1,265	0.9	5.0
Cannabis stores ²		67	79	16.8	

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Calculated using the Laspeyres method.

2. Data for this Canadian industry are presented in unadjusted form as there is no seasonal pattern established by official statistics yet.

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

Source(s): Table 20-10-0078-01.

Table 4
Retail e-commerce sales – Unadjusted

	May 2018	April 2019	May 2019	May 2019
	millions of dollars			year-over-year % change
Retail trade sales (44-453)	57,278	50,994	57,867	1.0
Electronic shopping and mail-order houses sales (45411)	1,024	1,154	1,354	32.2
Retail e-commerce ¹	1,460	1,557	1,778	21.8
Retail e-commerce ¹ (% of total retail trade)	2.50	2.99	3.00	...

... not applicable

1. Retail e-commerce includes e-sales from both store retailers included in the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) 44-453 and non-store retailers included in electronic shopping and mail order houses (NAICS 45411).

Note(s): For more information on retail e-commerce, see "[Retail E-Commerce in Canada](#)."

Source(s): Table [20-10-0072-01](#).

Available tables: [20-10-0008-01](#), [20-10-0072-01](#) and [20-10-0078-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2406](#) and [2408](#).

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300;
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