

Food services and drinking places, February 2020

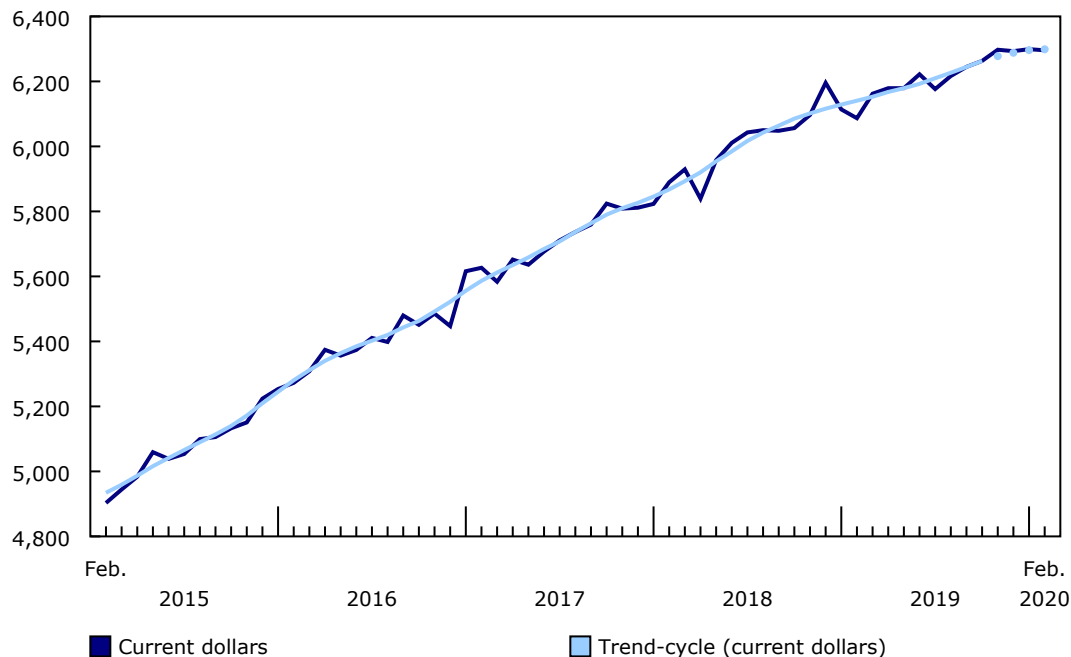
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, April 23, 2020

For the month of February, the onset of COVID-19 in Canada affected the Canadian food services and drinking places subsector minimally, lowering total seasonally adjusted sales by a negligible amount. The push for social distancing, self-isolation—and in some cases, quarantine—was only being considered at the time, unlike the current situation, where these measures are placing new and evolving pressures on consumers and the food service industry. The impacts of COVID-19 on the sector will be more noticeable in subsequent months.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales in the food services and drinking places subsector decreased 0.1% to \$6.3 billion in February. Lower sales were reported at full-service restaurants (-0.3%) and special food services (-0.5%), whereas limited-service restaurants (+0.1%) and drinking places (+1.5%) posted increases. Four provinces reported lower sales, with the greatest contributor to the decrease being Ontario (-0.7%). British Columbia (+0.7%) and Alberta (+0.5%) reported the highest dollar increases. Following January's record-breaking snow storm, sales bounced back in Newfoundland and Labrador (+4.8%), however this did not offset January's large decline.

Chart 1
Sales in food services and drinking places

millions of current dollars



Source(s): Table 21-10-0019-01.

Further information can be found in the dashboard "[Food Services and Drinking Places Sales](#)." This web application provides access to data on sales in food services and drinking places for Canada, and by province and territory. This dynamic application allows users to compare provincial and territorial data through interactive maps and charts.



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

Year-over-year sales in the food services and drinking places subsector increase

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

Unadjusted sales for February were up 6.8% in the food services and drinking places subsector compared with February 2019. Sales increased in each of the following industry groups: limited-service restaurants (+7.2%), full-service restaurants (+6.0%), special food services (+10.6%) and drinking places (+3.9%).

Year-over-year sales increased in nine provinces, with Ontario (+6.7%) and Quebec (+9.6%) contributing to most of the total national increase. Newfoundland and Labrador (-0.1%) posted the only decline this February compared with February 2019.

Prices for food purchased from restaurants were up 2.5% in February compared with the same month in the previous year and prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments were up 1.9% in the same period.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted and are 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 previous two months, and seasonally adjusted data are revised for the previous three months.

Table 1
Food services and drinking places – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2019	November 2019 ^r	December 2019 ^r	January 2020 ^r	February 2020 ^p	January to February 2020	February 2019 to February 2020
	thousands of dollars					% change	
Total, food services sales	6,086,719	6,297,370	6,293,093	6,299,109	6,295,717	-0.1	3.4
Full-service restaurants	2,710,002	2,793,562	2,797,706	2,791,770	2,784,087	-0.3	2.7
Limited-service eating places	2,696,160	2,782,530	2,794,566	2,798,182	2,801,699	0.1	3.9
Special food services	472,095	516,408	495,144	506,449	504,130	-0.5	6.8
Drinking places	208,463	204,869	205,677	202,708	205,801	1.5	-1.3
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	72,535	73,909	73,425	67,604	70,822	4.8	-2.4
Prince Edward Island	24,020	25,534	25,642	25,064	25,675	2.4	6.9
Nova Scotia	140,850	146,728	145,121	143,509	144,693	0.8	2.7
New Brunswick	104,827	105,134	105,305	105,918	105,031	-0.8	0.2
Quebec	1,172,546	1,237,537	1,233,726	1,238,783	1,239,340	0.0	5.7
Ontario	2,429,816	2,495,152	2,497,465	2,522,316	2,504,622	-0.7	3.1
Manitoba	180,240	179,387	179,838	180,828	180,558	-0.1	0.2
Saskatchewan	157,260	159,395	161,555	161,641	160,569	-0.7	2.1
Alberta	765,312	802,812	800,395	798,765	803,029	0.5	4.9
British Columbia	1,025,503	1,057,352	1,056,129	1,039,817	1,046,743	0.7	2.1
Yukon	5,587	6,699	6,834	7,073	6,902	-2.4	23.5
Northwest Territories	6,614	6,227	6,195	6,262	6,226	-0.6	-5.9
Nunavut	1,608	1,504	1,463	1,528	1,507	-1.4	-6.3

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Source(s): Table 21-10-0019-01.

Available tables: table 21-10-0019-01.

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).