

Wholesale trade: Early indicator, December 2020

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Given the rapidly evolving economic situation, Statistics Canada is providing an advance estimate of sales in the wholesale trade sector for December. The advance results for December indicate that wholesale sales fell 1.7%. The decrease reflected lower sales in the machinery, equipment and supplies; food, beverage, and tobacco; and miscellaneous subsectors.

This estimate was calculated based on a weighted response rate of 47.1%. The average final response rate for the survey over the past 12 months has been 87.6%. As Statistics Canada continues to collect data for the December reference month, this early indicator is subject to a higher revision rate than the regular monthly release.

Note to readers

The percentage change is calculated using seasonally adjusted data and is expressed in current dollars.

This early indicator is a special product published in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide Canadians with timely information on the wholesale sector. The official estimate of wholesale sales for the month of December, which will be based on a more complete set of survey and administrative data, is scheduled for release on February 12, 2021.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jeff Paul (613-854-2518; jeff.paul@canada.ca), Mining, Manufacturing and Wholesale Trade Division.

