

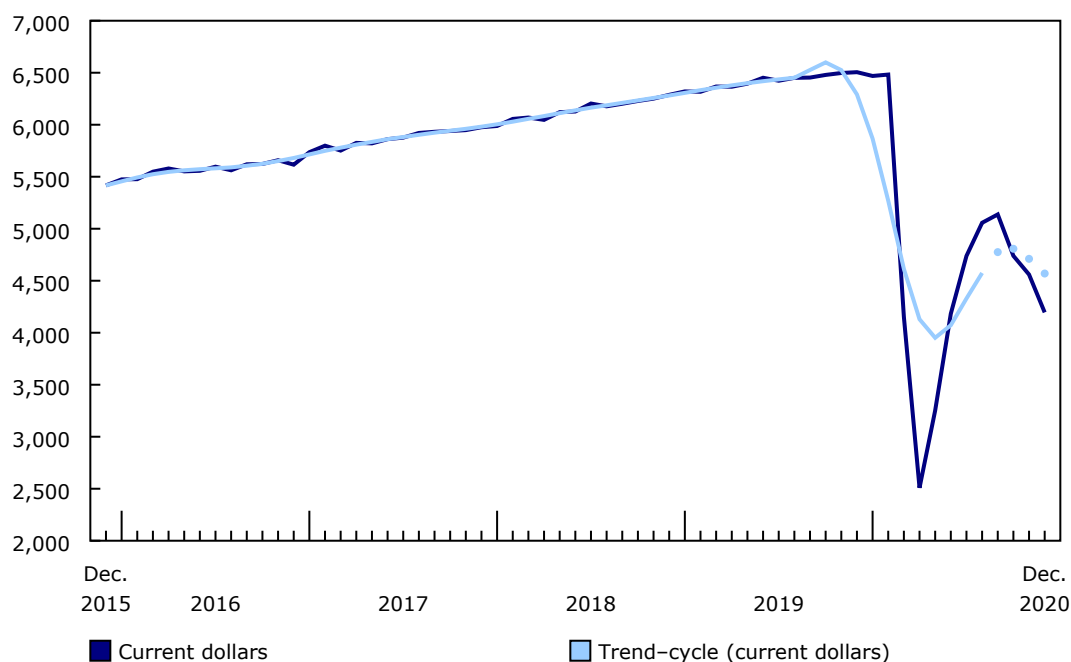
Food services and drinking places, December 2020

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On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales in the food services and drinking places subsector fell 8.0% to \$4.2 billion in December 2020. Decreased sales were reported in full-service restaurants (-18.3%), limited-service restaurants (-1.9%) and drinking places (-18.9%). Sales increased 5.5% in special food services. Lower sales were reported in seven provinces with Ontario (-9.9%) and Alberta (-16.2%) posting the largest decreases.

Chart 1
Sales in food services and drinking places

millions of current dollars



Note(s): The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart for the current reference month and the three previous months. For more information, see the note to readers.
Source(s): Table 21-10-0019-01.

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

COVID-19 pandemic takes a bite out of restaurant sales

The figures in this section are based on seasonally unadjusted estimates.

In 2020, the food services and drinking places subsector was directly affected by measures imposed by the government and by anxiety among Canadians about the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting in March, all provinces imposed restrictions and closures. Large-scale business losses were experienced across the subsector, with unadjusted sales falling 28.2% in 2020 compared with 2019.



With many dining rooms closed across the country, restaurants transitioned to take-out and delivery as their primary means of conducting business. Best-positioned to make this transition, limited-service eating places saw sales decline by 13.4% in 2020. In comparison, over the same period, full-service restaurants saw a far greater decrease in sales (-37.5%), partly because of their larger share of [sales coming from alcoholic beverages](#) (18.8% in 2019). Drinking places and special food services saw the largest decreases in 2020 because of full closures and limitations on indoor gatherings. Sales at drinking places declined 47.8% and sales of special food services were down 48.3% in 2020.

The largest decreases in both dollar and percentage terms were in the most populous provinces: Ontario (-31.1%), Quebec (-31.3%), British Columbia (-25.4%) and Alberta (-24.6%).

Prices continued to rise in the subsector as the [prices for food purchased from restaurants](#) increased 2.2% in 2020 compared with 2019, while the [prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments](#) increased 1.4% over the same period.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted and expressed in current dollars, unless otherwise noted. Seasonally adjusted data are data that have been modified to eliminate the effect of seasonal and calendar influences to allow for more meaningful comparisons of economic conditions from period to period. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

Trend-cycle data are included in selected charts to complement the seasonally adjusted series. These data represent a smoothed version of the seasonally adjusted time series and provide information on longer-term movements, including changes in direction underlying the series. 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. Both seasonally adjusted data and trend-cycle estimates are subject to revision as additional observations become available. These revisions could be large and could even lead to a reversal of movement, especially for reference months near the end of the series or during periods of economic disruption.

Table 1
Food services and drinking places – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2019	September 2020 ^r	October 2020 ^r	November 2020 ^r	December 2020 ^p	November to December 2020	December 2019 to December 2020
	thousands of dollars					% change	
Total, food services sales	6,505,406	5,137,540	4,739,288	4,559,745	4,195,351	-8.0	-35.5
Full-service restaurants	2,898,692	2,148,006	1,847,845	1,687,836	1,378,596	-18.3	-52.4
Limited-service eating places	2,849,858	2,624,935	2,551,309	2,550,852	2,501,379	-1.9	-12.2
Special food services	536,316	231,317	233,006	224,988	237,454	5.5	-55.7
Drinking places	220,539	133,282	107,128	96,068	77,922	-18.9	-64.7
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	69,726	62,602	63,740	65,720	65,867	0.2	-5.5
Prince Edward Island	27,065	22,147	24,126	25,596	21,146	-17.4	-21.9
Nova Scotia	148,095	121,936	126,162	122,941	108,126	-12.1	-27.0
New Brunswick	105,923	94,025	89,302	90,748	89,665	-1.2	-15.3
Quebec	1,280,689	991,542	764,682	771,386	722,348	-6.4	-43.6
Ontario	2,568,073	1,942,565	1,816,642	1,787,693	1,611,579	-9.9	-37.2
Manitoba	183,175	161,280	143,159	114,063	119,620	4.9	-34.7
Saskatchewan	161,504	150,606	144,116	128,201	129,274	0.8	-20.0
Alberta	832,397	693,836	676,183	628,556	527,019	-16.2	-36.7
British Columbia	1,113,444	884,150	878,109	812,458	788,587	-2.9	-29.2
Yukon	7,430	6,294	6,485	6,006	5,836	-2.8	-21.5
Northwest Territories	6,348	5,112	5,036	4,935	4,778	-3.2	-24.7
Nunavut	F	1,443	1,547	F	1,506	F	F

r revised

P preliminary

F too unreliable to be published

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).