

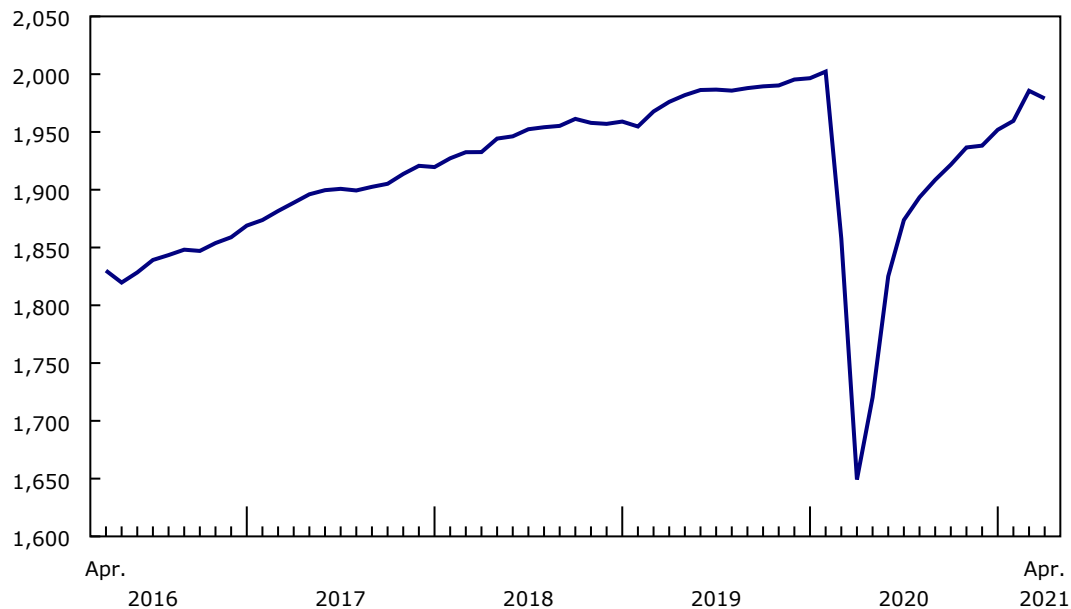
Gross domestic product by industry, April 2021

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Real gross domestic product (GDP) contracted 0.3% in April after 11 consecutive monthly increases. With the first decline in 12 months, total economic activity remained at about 1% below its level before the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020.

Chart 1 Real gross domestic product declines in April

billions of chained (2012) dollars — all industries



Source(s): Table 36-10-0434-01.

Overall, 12 of 20 industrial sectors were down as gains in goods-producing industries (+0.5%) were more than offset by contractions in services-producing industries (-0.6%).

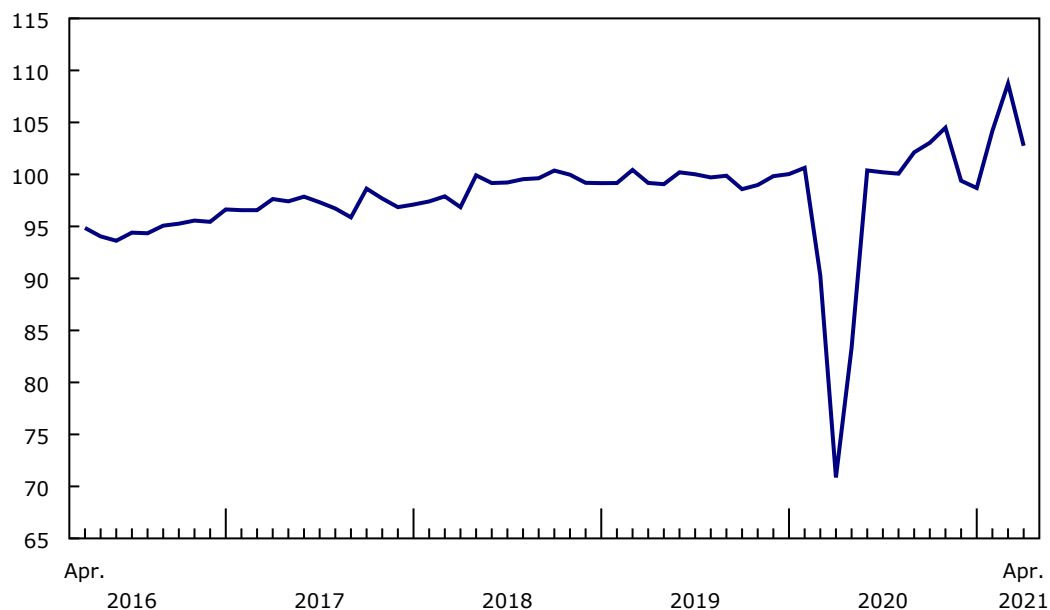
Preliminary information indicates a decrease in real GDP of approximately 0.3% in May. The retail trade, construction and real estate rental and leasing sectors contributed the most to the declines, while the finance and insurance, and wholesale trade sectors posted gains. Because of its preliminary nature, this estimate will be revised on July 30 with the release of official GDP data for May.

Retail trade sector down following record March

Retail trade retreated 5.5% in April, dampening the previous two monthly expansions, as 10 of 12 subsectors were down.

Chart 2 Retail trade declines in April

gross domestic product in billions of chained (2012) dollars



Source(s): Table 36-10-0434-01.

Many provinces and territories reinstated tighter public health measures in April aimed at slowing down the third wave of COVID-19. These measures largely curtailed the strong "non-essential" shopping seen in March.

Clothing and clothing accessories (-21.0%), building material and garden equipment and supplies (-7.9%), sporting goods, hobby, book and music (-18.2%) stores and other traditional brick-and-mortar stores that rely more on in-store traffic recorded the largest declines.

Food and beverage stores (+0.5%) and miscellaneous store retailers (+0.5) were up, offsetting some of the declines.

Strength in construction sector continues

The construction sector rose 2.4% in April, up for a fifth consecutive month, as all components increased.

Residential building construction (+4.1%) led the expansion, with a fifth consecutive monthly increase. Continued growth in single-family homes and multi-unit dwellings construction more than offset lower activity in home improvements and renovations.

Repair construction increased 0.6%, while engineering and other construction activities grew 1.6%. Non-residential building construction rose 1.1%.

Real estate down as home resale activity slows

Real estate, rental and leasing contracted 0.7% in April, down for the first time since October 2020.

The output of offices of real estate agents and brokers dropped 10.6%, as home resale activity in the majority of Canadian urban centres, mainly in Ontario and British Columbia, slowed in April.

Legal services, which derive much of their activity from real estate transactions, declined 0.6% in April. Other professional, scientific and technical services, including scientific research and development, were down 0.3%, while computer systems design and related services (+0.7%) and architectural, engineering and related services (+0.5%) led growth in the broader professional, scientific and technical services sector.

Manufacturing sector retreats

The [manufacturing sector](#) contracted 1.0% in April, following 1.5% growth in March, as both durable and non-durable manufacturing declined in April.

Durable manufacturing decreased 1.8% in April, following a 2.1% increase in March, on declines largely concentrated in transportation equipment. The subsector was down 8.6% as the global semiconductor chip shortage contributed to production disruptions in motor vehicle (-20.9%) and motor vehicle parts (-13.4%) manufacturing industries.

Non-durable manufacturing edged down 0.2% in April, as five of the nine subsectors were down. Contributing the most to the decline was plastics and rubber products manufacturing (-6.4%). Lower demand from motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts manufacturers partially contributed to this decrease. Petroleum and coal product manufacturing contracted 3.3%, as some refining facilities suspended activities for maintenance in April. Offsetting some of the decrease were gains in chemical manufacturing (+3.4%) and food manufacturing (+1.5%), which recorded a notable increase in seafood product preparation associated with an [early start to snow crab fishing](#) in April.

Mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction up

Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction grew 1.4% in April, as all three subsectors were up. The gain in April came on the heels of a 1.7% increase in March

Mining and quarrying (except oil and gas) rose 1.5% in April, following a 2.4% gain in March. Metal ore mining (+3.0%) led the growth, as iron ore (+5.9%) and copper, nickel, lead and zinc mining (+4.8%) made the largest contribution to the growth. Coal mining increased 1.8% in April, while non-metallic mineral mining declined 2.4%, mainly as a result of lower potash and diamond mining.

Support activities for mining, and oil and gas extraction grew 7.9% in April, as all types of services were up.

Oil and gas extraction edged up 0.2% in April. A 1.9% decline in oil sands extraction, resulting from lower synthetic oil production in Alberta, was more than offset by a 2.7% increase in oil and gas extraction (except oil sands), as both crude petroleum extraction and natural gas extraction were up.

The public sector continues to grow

The public sector (educational services, health care and social assistance, and public administration) grew 0.3% in April, as most components were up.

The health care and social assistance sector rose 1.3% in April, up for the 12th month in a row, with ambulatory health care services (+2.4%) leading the growth.

The public administration sector grew 0.4% in April, led by federal government public administration (excluding defence) (+1.0%), in part as a result of a ramping up of preparation activities prior to the 2021 Census of Population and 2021 Census of Agriculture.

The educational services sector declined 1.3% in April, driven by a 3.0% decrease in elementary and secondary schools. In 2021, the Government of Ontario moved the annual spring break from mid-March to mid-April to limit the spread of COVID-19. This decision led to an atypical decline in output, resulting from the one week less of class in April.

The accommodation and food services sector decline

Accommodation and food services declined 4.6% in April, following the reintroduction of lockdown measures across many parts of the country to combat the third wave of COVID-19.

[Food services and drinking places](#) contracted 6.5%, as activity across all forms of establishments decreased in April.

Despite continued domestic and [international travel restrictions](#), accommodation services rose 0.5% in April. A decline in traveller accommodation was more than offset by an increase in activity at recreation vehicle parks and recreational camps and rooming and boarding houses, with camping continuing to be an alternative to international travel for Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other sectors

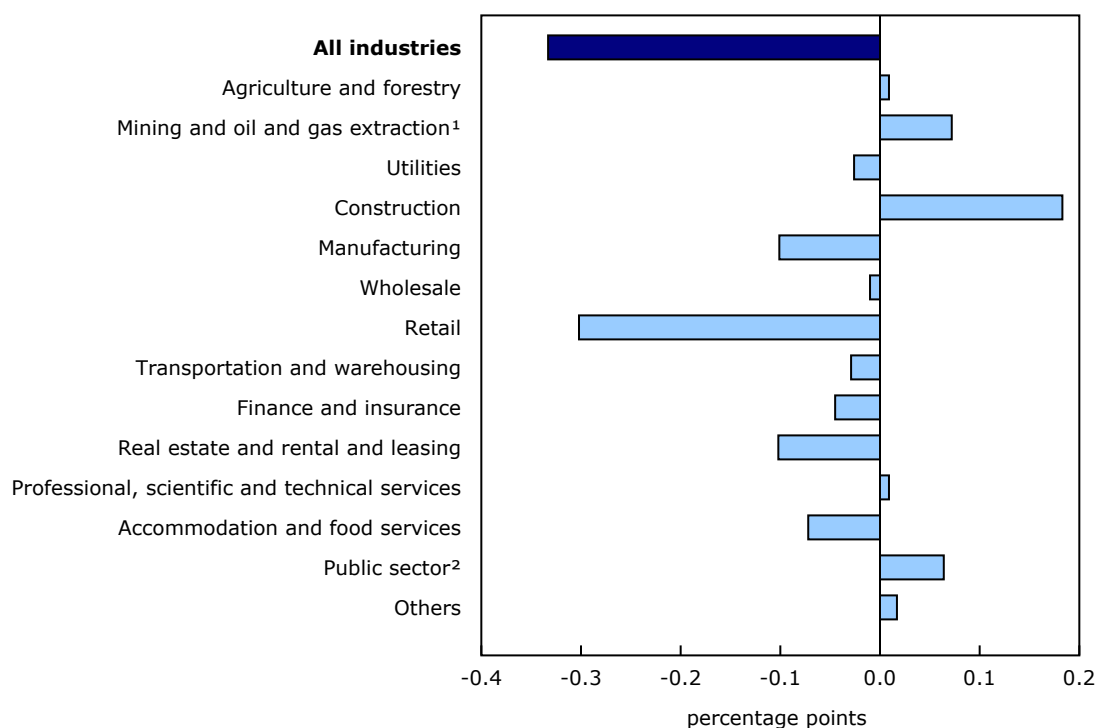
The finance and insurance sector declined 0.6%, as credit intermediation and monetary authorities (-0.5%), financial investment services, funds and other financial vehicles (-1.5%), and insurance carriers and related activities (-0.4%) were down.

The transportation and warehousing sector decreased 0.8% in April. Rail transportation (-2.9%), pipeline transportation (-2.4%) and support activities for transportation (-1.1%) were major contributors to the decline.

The utilities sector was down 1.2%. Warm weather coupled with reduced industrial and commercial output contributed to declines in electric power generation, transmission and distribution (-1.3%) and natural gas distribution (-2.4%).

The [wholesale](#) sector edged down 0.2% in April as a 7.0% jump in building material and supplies wholesaling and a 0.9% increase in personal and household goods wholesaling were more than offset by declines in the remaining seven subsectors.

Chart 3
Main industrial sectors' contribution to the percentage change in gross domestic product



1. Includes quarrying.
 2. Educational services, health care and social assistance, and public administration.
Source(s): Gross domestic product by industry (1301).

Sustainable development goals

On January 1, 2016, the world officially began implementing the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)—the United Nations' transformative plan of action that addresses urgent global challenges over the following 15 years. The plan is based on 17 specific sustainable development goals.

The release on gross domestic product by industry is an example of how Statistics Canada supports global sustainable development goal reporting. This release will be used to help measure the following goal:



Note to readers

Monthly data on gross domestic product (GDP) by industry at basic prices are chained volume estimates with 2012 as the reference year. This means that the data for each industry and each aggregate are obtained from a chained volume index multiplied by the industry's value added in 2012. The monthly data are benchmarked to annually chained Fisher volume indexes of GDP obtained from the constant-price supply and use tables (SUTs) up to the latest SUT year (2017).

For the period starting in January 2018, data are derived by chaining a fixed-weight Laspeyres volume index to the prior period. The fixed weights are 2017 industry prices.

This approach makes the monthly GDP by industry data more comparable with expenditure-based GDP data, which are chained quarterly.

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted. For information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

An advance estimate of industrial production for May 2021 is available upon request.

For more information on GDP, see the video "[What is Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)?](#)"

Revisions

With this release of monthly GDP by industry, revisions have been made back to January 2020.

Each month, newly available administrative and survey data from various industries in the economy are integrated, resulting in statistical revisions. Updated and revised administrative data (including taxation statistics), new information provided by respondents to industry surveys, and standard changes to seasonal adjustment calculations are incorporated with each release.

Real-time table

Real-time table 36-10-0491-01 will be updated on July 12, 2021.

Next release

Data on GDP by industry for May 2021 will be released on July 30, 2021.

Table 1
Monthly gross domestic product by industry at basic prices in chained (2012) dollars –
Seasonally adjusted

	November 2020 ^r	December 2020 ^r	January 2021 ^r	February 2021 ^r	March 2021 ^r	April 2021 ^P	April 2021 ^P	April 2020 ^r to April 2021 ^P
	month-to-month % change						millions of dollars ¹	% change
All industries	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.4	1.3	-0.3	1,978,982	20.0
Goods-producing industries	1.2	0.8	1.2	-0.2	1.5	0.5	581,398	23.2
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1.4	1.4	-0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	48,504	9.9
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	3.8	3.0	3.5	-2.1	1.7	1.4	155,629	13.2
Utilities	-0.6	-0.2	-0.6	1.3	-1.0	-1.2	40,664	-2.2
Construction	-0.6	1.2	0.9	2.1	2.5	2.4	152,524	32.9
Manufacturing	1.8	-0.6	0.8	-1.3	1.5	-1.0	187,091	32.7
Services-producing industries	0.6	-0.2	0.5	0.6	1.3	-0.6	1,395,551	18.8
Wholesale trade	1.0	-0.7	2.1	-1.6	2.3	-0.2	107,910	33.9
Retail trade	1.4	-4.9	-0.7	5.6	4.4	-5.5	102,753	45.0
Transportation and warehousing	1.1	0.9	-0.4	-2.0	1.7	-0.8	71,418	18.8
Information and cultural industries	0.7	-0.1	0.2	1.0	0.9	0.3	66,815	9.8
Finance and insurance	1.2	-0.3	0.7	0.1	0.2	-0.6	147,934	5.3
Real estate, and rental and leasing	0.0	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.4	-0.7	264,304	8.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	0.8	-0.2	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.1	123,661	15.6
Management of companies and enterprises	-1.1	-1.5	-1.0	-0.6	-0.5	-1.0	5,430	-9.9
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	1.1	0.8	0.6	-0.8	0.6	0.5	48,139	28.1
Educational services	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.6	-1.3	104,597	21.1
Health care and social assistance	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.3	144,872	29.8
Arts, entertainment and recreation	-2.7	-1.6	-3.7	0.5	1.8	-0.8	7,636	21.7
Accommodation and food services	-0.7	-6.0	0.1	4.8	6.4	-4.6	28,335	81.2
Other services (except public administration)	0.7	-0.3	-1.1	0.5	0.7	-0.0	34,370	42.6
Public administration	-0.1	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.4	137,995	10.1
Other aggregations								
Industrial production	2.0	0.5	1.4	-1.2	1.3	-0.3	386,125	20.9
Non-durable manufacturing industries	1.5	-1.0	0.1	-1.5	0.8	-0.2	87,663	16.5
Durable manufacturing industries	2.0	-0.3	1.5	-1.2	2.1	-1.8	99,506	50.7
Information and communication technologies industries	0.5	-0.1	3.0	-0.2	0.1	0.8	103,282	10.9
Energy sector	1.8	0.9	1.8	-0.9	0.7	-0.1	169,942	2.3
Public sector	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.3	387,576	19.9

^r revised

^P preliminary

1. At annual rates.

Source(s): Table 36-10-0434-01.

Available tables: [36-10-0434-01](#) and [36-10-0449-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [1301](#).

The *User Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts* ([13-606-G](#)) is available.

The *Methodological Guide: Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts* ([13-607-X](#)) is also available.

The [Economic accounts statistics](#) portal, accessible from the *Subjects* module of the Statistics Canada website, features an up-to-date portrait of national and provincial economies and their structure.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ederne Victor (613-863-6876), Industry Accounts Division.