

Food services and drinking places, August 2021

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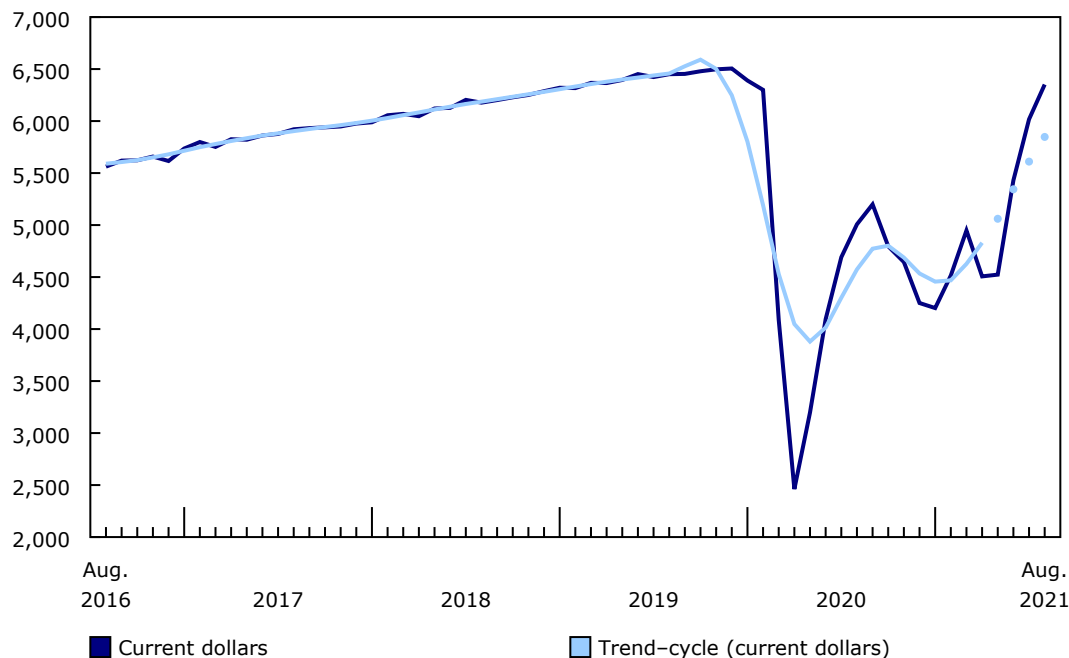
On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales in the food services and drinking places subsector were up 5.6% in August 2021 compared with the previous month. Receipts totalled \$6.4 billion, reaching their highest level since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consumer confidence continued to grow during the summer months as restrictions related to the pandemic eased and vaccination rates increased throughout the country. Summer weather allowed for increased patio seating and outdoor events, which also contributed to the growth in sales. Full-service restaurants (+8.4%), special food services (+13.4%), limited-service restaurants (+1.4%) and drinking places (+14.4%) all saw increased sales.

All of the provinces reported higher sales with the largest increases in dollar terms posted in Ontario (+7.0%). Nova Scotia had the highest percentage increase of all the provinces (+10.6%).

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 previous three 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, where users can consult 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.

Year-over-year sales in the food services and drinking places subsector rise, almost reaching pre-pandemic levels

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

Unadjusted sales for August 2021 were up one-quarter (+25.3%) compared with August 2020 and 3.4% lower than the level in August 2019, before the pandemic.

Year over year, prices for food purchased from restaurants were up 3.2% in August 2021, and prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments increased 1.6% (see table 18-10-0004-13).

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

	August 2020	May 2021 ^r	June 2021 ^r	July 2021 ^r	August 2021 ^p	July to August 2021	August 2020 to August 2021
	thousands of dollars					% change	
Total, food services sales	5,007,197	4,523,377	5,429,858	6,017,132	6,351,294	5.6	26.8
Full-service restaurants	2,110,340	1,457,383	2,226,732	2,699,779	2,925,964	8.4	38.6
Limited-service eating places	2,518,539	2,714,595	2,765,293	2,817,167	2,856,259	1.4	13.4
Special food services	231,205	275,885	298,534	327,893	371,927	13.4	60.9
Drinking places	147,112	75,514	139,299	172,292	197,145	14.4	34.0
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	59,754	68,112	68,624	70,730	75,791	7.2	26.8
Prince Edward Island	20,661	25,028	23,313	25,978	26,766	3.0	29.5
Nova Scotia	115,973	98,270	127,842	135,352	149,680	10.6	29.1
New Brunswick	89,606	99,212	100,656	104,727	110,373	5.4	23.2
Quebec	990,542	832,945	1,088,027	1,194,336	1,241,839	4.0	25.4
Ontario	1,895,462	1,676,727	1,970,905	2,240,936	2,397,802	7.0	26.5
Manitoba	158,175	143,277	146,215	184,869	198,892	7.6	25.7
Saskatchewan	145,462	148,668	163,672	171,564	172,614	0.6	18.7
Alberta	662,529	560,068	727,914	797,728	858,771	7.7	29.6
British Columbia	857,063	858,970	999,722	1,076,946	1,104,229	2.5	28.8
Yukon	5,862	6,245	6,415	6,876	7,101	3.3	21.1
Northwest Territories	4,594	4,486	5,158	5,654	5,938	5.0	29.3
Nunavut	1,514	1,371	1,396	F	1,498	F	-1.1

^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).