

Food services and drinking places, December 2021

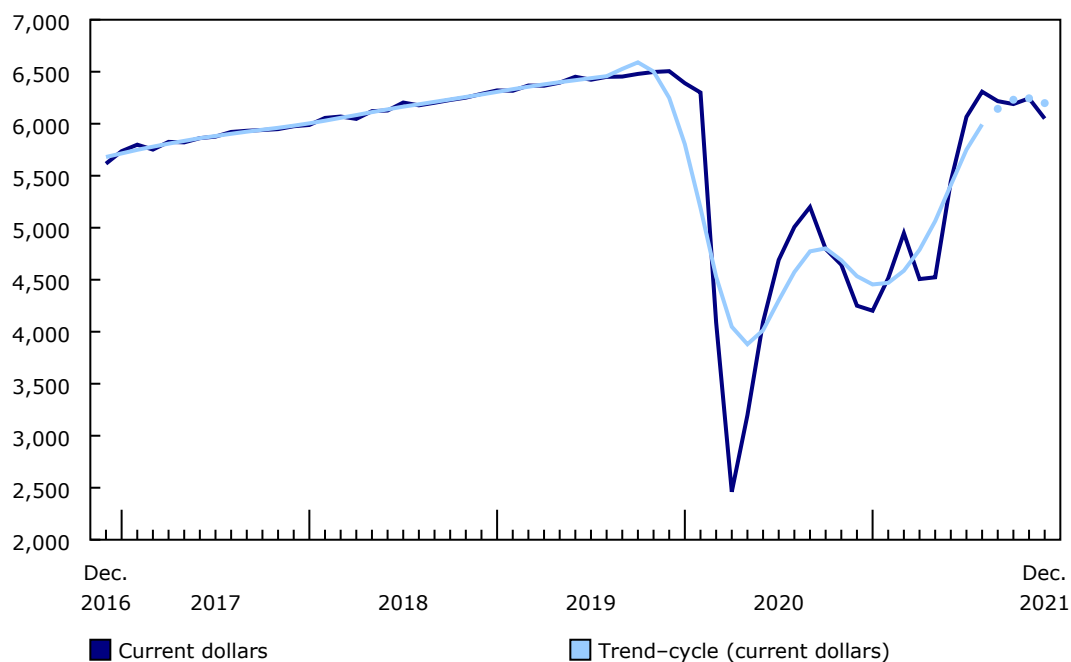
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On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales in the food services and drinking places subsector fell 3.1% to \$6.0 billion in December 2021 as provinces introduced additional measures to combat the spread of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus. Sales declined at full-service restaurants (-3.0%), limited-service eating places (-2.7%), drinking places (-17.0%) and special food services (-0.1%).

All provinces reported lower sales, with the largest declines in dollar terms being in Quebec (-5.6%) and Ontario (-2.5%). Nova Scotia had the largest decline in percentage terms (-6.6%).

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, but remain lower than pre-pandemic levels

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



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Unadjusted sales for December 2021 were up 41.8% compared with December 2020 and 7.9% lower than December 2019.

Prices for food purchased from restaurants were up 4.1% in December 2021 compared with December 2020 and prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments increased 2.7% in the same period (see table [18-10-0004-13](#)).

In 2021, the food services and drinking places subsector continued to be directly affected by government interventions and public anxiety related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic entered a second year, all provinces imposed and lifted restrictions throughout the year in response to new waves and variants of the virus, encouraged citizens to get vaccinated, designed proof of vaccination requirements and phased in re-openings in order to allow businesses to operate at a reduced capacity. Businesses learned to pivot in the new reality, which saw unadjusted sales go up 18.8% in 2021 compared with the previous year; however, compared with pre-pandemic 2019, losses were experienced across the subsector (-15.0%).

As restaurants transitioned to take-out and delivery as their primary means of conducting business, and the industry saw limitations on indoor gatherings, the market share of the industry shifted. Limited-service eating places were best positioned to make this transition seeing their market share grow from about 44% of total sales in 2019 to 51% in 2021. In 2019, sales at full-service restaurants accounted for 45% of the market; however, in 2021, that fell to 41% of total sales. Special food services (-2%) and drinking places (-1%) also saw declines in the percentage of their market share due to the pandemic.

The largest increases in dollar terms were in the most populous provinces: Ontario (+18.1%), Quebec (+22.2%) and British Columbia (+21.2%).

Prices continued to rise in the subsector as the prices for food purchased from restaurants increased 3.1% in 2021 compared with 2020, while the prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments increased 0.4% 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.

Find these data and more statistics on the [Business and consumer services and culture statistics](#) portal.

Table 1
Food services and drinking places – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2020	September 2021 ^f	October 2021 ^f	November 2021 ^f	December 2021 ^p	November to December 2021	December 2020 to December 2021
	thousands of dollars					% change	
Total, food services sales	4,250,426	6,217,233	6,189,101	6,244,213	6,049,762	-3.1	42.3
Full-service restaurants	1,422,545	2,738,451	2,705,521	2,717,596	2,635,685	-3.0	85.3

Table 1 - continued
Food services and drinking places – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2020	September 2021 ^r	October 2021 ^r	November 2021 ^r	December 2021 ^P	November to December 2021	December 2020 to December 2021
Limited-service eating places	2,500,566	2,925,311	2,940,911	2,942,363	2,862,384	-2.7	14.5
Special food services	250,129	387,283	377,308	394,995	394,647	-0.1	57.8
Drinking places	77,185	166,187	165,361	189,259	157,045	-17.0	103.5
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	67,485	74,420	73,131	74,521	71,361	-4.2	5.7
Prince Edward Island	21,769	27,323	27,242	27,337	26,291	-3.8	20.8
Nova Scotia	108,953	149,693	145,547	150,551	140,567	-6.6	29.0
New Brunswick	89,702	106,653	103,205	106,059	103,214	-2.7	15.1
Quebec	744,157	1,210,994	1,232,856	1,235,504	1,166,797	-5.6	56.8
Ontario	1,596,885	2,396,466	2,379,861	2,408,224	2,346,903	-2.5	47.0
Manitoba	121,752	183,292	178,429	177,003	175,258	-1.0	43.9
Saskatchewan	133,999	167,789	161,892	163,000	157,604	-3.3	17.6
Alberta	538,589	797,452	781,226	792,030	764,519	-3.5	41.9
British Columbia	814,801	1,089,155	1,091,674	1,096,038	1,083,161	-1.2	32.9
Yukon	6,104	7,157	7,306	7,223	7,206	-0.2	18.1
Northwest Territories	4,708	5,342	5,285	5,415	5,469	1.0	16.2
Nunavut	1,522	1,498	1,448	1,307	1,411	8.0	-7.3

^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; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).