

Food services and drinking places, March 2023

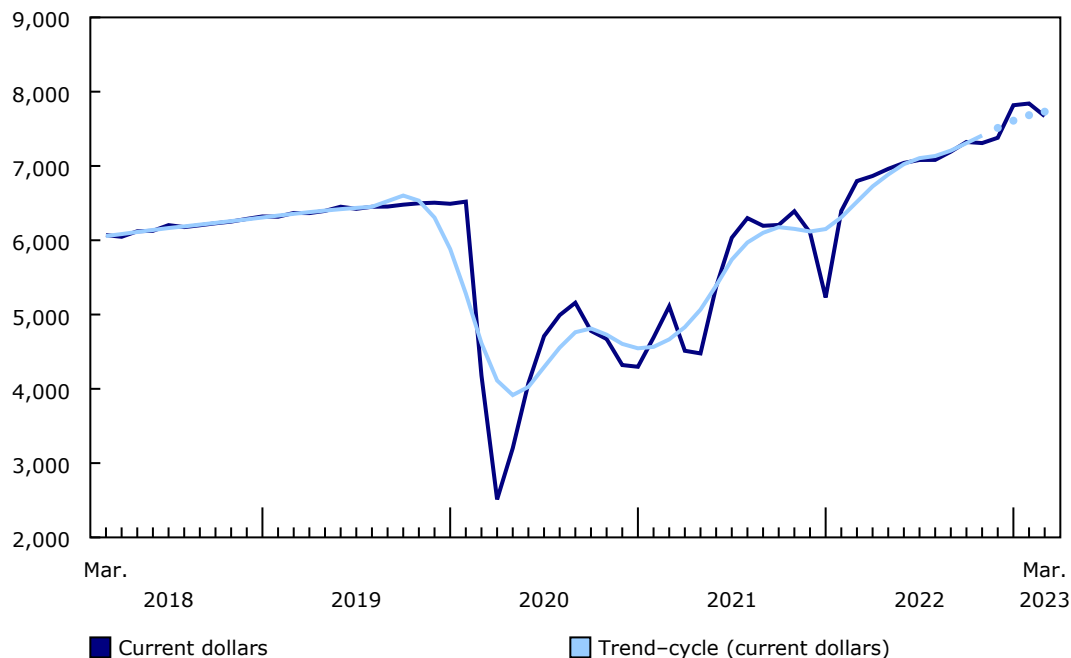
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, May 31, 2023

On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales in the Food Service and Drinking Places subsector decreased by 2.2% to \$7.7 billion in March. Limited-service restaurants (-4.4%) and drinking places (-8.5%) were responsible for the decrease. Special food services (+1.2%) saw an increase and sales at full-service restaurants were unchanged (+0.0%). All the provinces saw decreases, with the largest being in Quebec (-3.8%), Ontario (-1.3%), Alberta (-2.9%) and British Columbia (-1.8%).

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.

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 Note to readers.
Source(s): Table [21-10-0019-01](#).

Year-over-year sales in the food services and drinking places subsector up

The figures in this section are based on unadjusted (that is, not seasonally adjusted) estimates.

A year after restrictions due to the Omicron variant of COVID-19 were relaxed across the country, unadjusted sales for March 2023 were up 14.5% compared with March 2022.



Statistics Canada
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Prices for food purchased from restaurants were up 7.2% in March 2023 compared with March 2022 and prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments increased 4.6% in the same period.

Note to readers

Upcoming changes, stay tuned!

As Canada's national statistical agency, we are committed to continue to modernize the way we connect with Canadians and communicate data in an innovative and flexible manner.

That's why next month, we will pilot the use of new tools to share data stories in different formats, and at different times throughout the day.

Keep an eye out! Our next release on June 23, 2023, will be published at 11:00 a.m. Eastern time as an infographic in [StatsCAN Plus](#)—a Statistics Canada official release vehicle. A data availability announcement and the data tables will still be available at 8:30 a.m. ET in The Daily.

Unless otherwise noted, all data in this release are seasonally adjusted and expressed in current dollars. 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.

With the release of the March 2023 preliminary estimates, unadjusted monthly data were revised back to January 2020 in table 21-10-0019-01. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of respondent information, corrections to the information provided, the replacement of imputed data with reported data (once available), introducing new births, utilizing the most recent administrative data, the re-classification of companies within, into and out of the food services and drinking places subsector, and updates to seasonal factors.

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

	March 2022	December 2022 ^f	January 2023 ^f	February 2023 ^f	March 2023 ^p	February to March 2023	March 2022 to March 2023
	thousands of dollars					% change	
Total, food services sales	6,797,258	7,379,695	7,817,710	7,840,655	7,671,314	-2.2	12.9
Full-service restaurants	3,100,666	3,266,843	3,355,287	3,432,259	3,433,251	0.0	10.7
Limited-service eating places	3,069,801	3,334,387	3,656,233	3,595,599	3,437,388	-4.4	12.0
Special food services	435,388	561,263	583,914	589,846	596,705	1.2	37.1
Drinking places	191,403	217,202	222,276	222,950	203,970	-8.5	6.6
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	75,167	83,785	87,568	88,750	88,054	-0.8	17.1
Prince Edward Island	29,575	33,960	35,686	36,692	35,798	-2.4	21.0
Nova Scotia	161,994	174,339	185,960	185,318	181,983	-1.8	12.3
New Brunswick	113,005	121,964	128,245	129,686	126,190	-2.7	11.7
Quebec	1,297,521	1,456,824	1,516,382	1,502,686	1,446,000	-3.8	11.4
Ontario	2,668,843	2,867,713	3,054,713	3,067,302	3,026,051	-1.3	13.4
Manitoba	193,174	208,406	219,115	221,117	217,662	-1.6	12.7
Saskatchewan	175,247	193,297	202,522	204,532	200,498	-2.0	14.4
Alberta	864,944	937,555	1,001,691	1,000,252	970,870	-2.9	12.2
British Columbia	1,202,772	1,285,432	1,368,753	1,387,550	1,362,291	-1.8	13.3

Table 1
Food services and drinking places – Seasonally adjusted

	March 2022	December 2022 ^r	January 2023 ^r	February 2023 ^r	March 2023 ^p	February to March 2023	March 2022 to March 2023
Yukon	7,045	7,697	F	8,177	7,706 ^E	-5.8	9.4
Northwest Territories	5,505	6,427	6,577	6,408	F	F	F
Nunavut	2,467	F	2,184	2,185	F	F	F

^r revised

^p preliminary

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

Note(s): Figures may not add up to totals because 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).