

# Motor vehicle fuel sales, 2022

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## Highlights

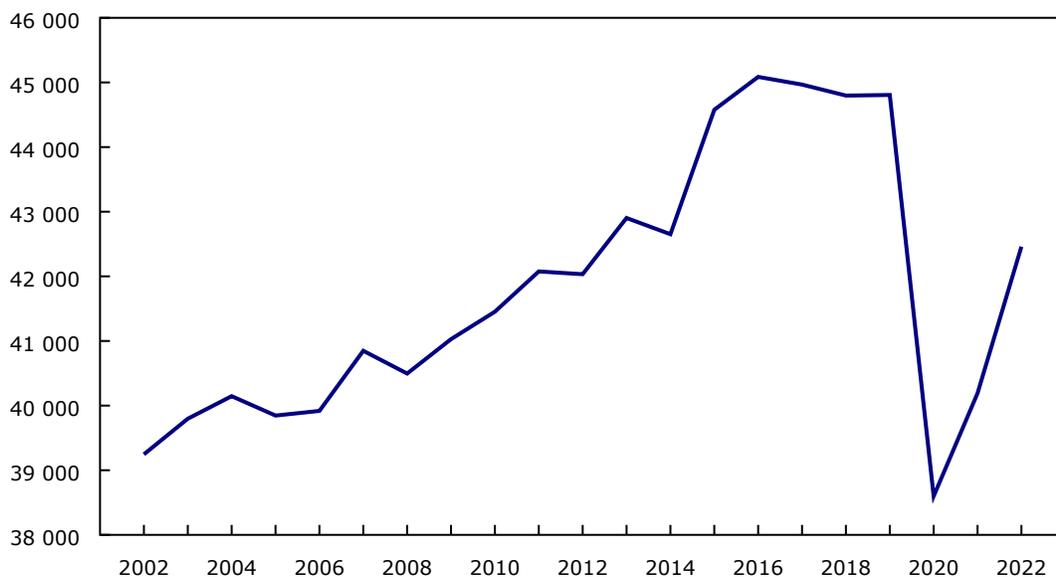
The demand for motor vehicle fuels continued to rebound in 2022, with gross sales of gasoline in Canada at 42.5 billion litres, up 5.6% from 2021. Fuel sales have reached roughly 95% of the levels from 2019 (44.8 billion litres), before the COVID-19 pandemic. At roughly 18.3 billion litres in 2022, net sales of diesel fuel were just above (+2.4%) the pre-pandemic 2019 level.

## Factors influencing the demand for gasoline

After falling to a 20-year low in 2020, gross sales of gasoline rose in 2021 and continued to increase in 2022, as Canadians resumed much of their pre-pandemic travel behaviour when COVID-19-related restrictions were eased and eventually removed on October 1, 2022.

**Chart 1**  
**Gross sales of gasoline in Canada, 2002 to 2022**

millions of litres



Source(s): Table 23-10-0066-01.

As restrictions eased throughout the year, the [National Travel Survey](#) reported that Canadians were returning to long-distance travel and took about a quarter billion (258,830,000) domestic trips during 2022, roughly 94% of the number taken in 2019, before the pandemic. A special [Labour Force Survey study](#) estimated an increase of over 2 million (or 20.8%) in the number of workers commuting by car in May 2022 from the same month a year earlier. Moreover, there was a sharp rise (+38.7%) in May 2022 in the number of employees reporting a car commute of 60 minutes or longer.



Despite the increase, gross sales of gasoline were still below pre-pandemic 2019 levels. In 2022, there were about 1.5 million [new motor vehicle registrations](#), down from an annual average of over 1.9 million registrations in the three years before the pandemic (2017 to 2019). In addition, while the registrations of new zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) averaged approximately 2.0% from 2017 to 2019, by the fourth quarter of 2022, almost 1 in every 10 (9.6%) new registrations were ZEVs.

## Fuel sales across Canada

Net sales of both gasoline and diesel—on which road taxes were remitted—also rose in 2022. Net sales of gasoline increased 5.9% from 2021 to 40.7 billion litres, while net sales of diesel edged up 2.1% to 18.3 billion litres.

In 2022, net sales of gasoline had the highest increase in Ontario at 11.5%, followed by Alberta at 9.5%, and Nova Scotia and Yukon, both at 2.3%. The annual net sales of diesel also sharply increased in 2022, with Alberta posting the largest increase at 13.0%, followed by British Columbia at 11.4% and Yukon at 4.9%.

### Note to readers

*The Gasoline and Other Petroleum Fuels Sold survey collects data used by the Department of Finance for the calculation of fiscal equalization payments to the provinces pursuant to the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act and territorial financing for the territories.*

*Motor vehicle fuel sales data are available starting in 1987 for Canada as well as provinces and territories.*

*Gross sales of gasoline represent total sales of all road grades of gasoline, including off-road activities such as farming, forestry, construction, and mining.*

*Net sales of gasoline (road grade), net sales of diesel oil (road), and net sales of liquefied petroleum gas represent sales on which taxes were remitted at road-use rates minus sales previously reported at road-use tax rates on which taxes were totally or partially refunded.*

*The [Transportation Data and Information Hub](#)—a web portal developed jointly by Statistics Canada and Transport Canada—provides Canadians with online access to comprehensive statistics and measures on the country's transportation sector.*

**Available tables:** [table 23-10-0066-01](#).

**Definitions, data sources and methods:** [survey number 2746](#).

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](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations ([statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca)).