

Wholesale trade, April 2024

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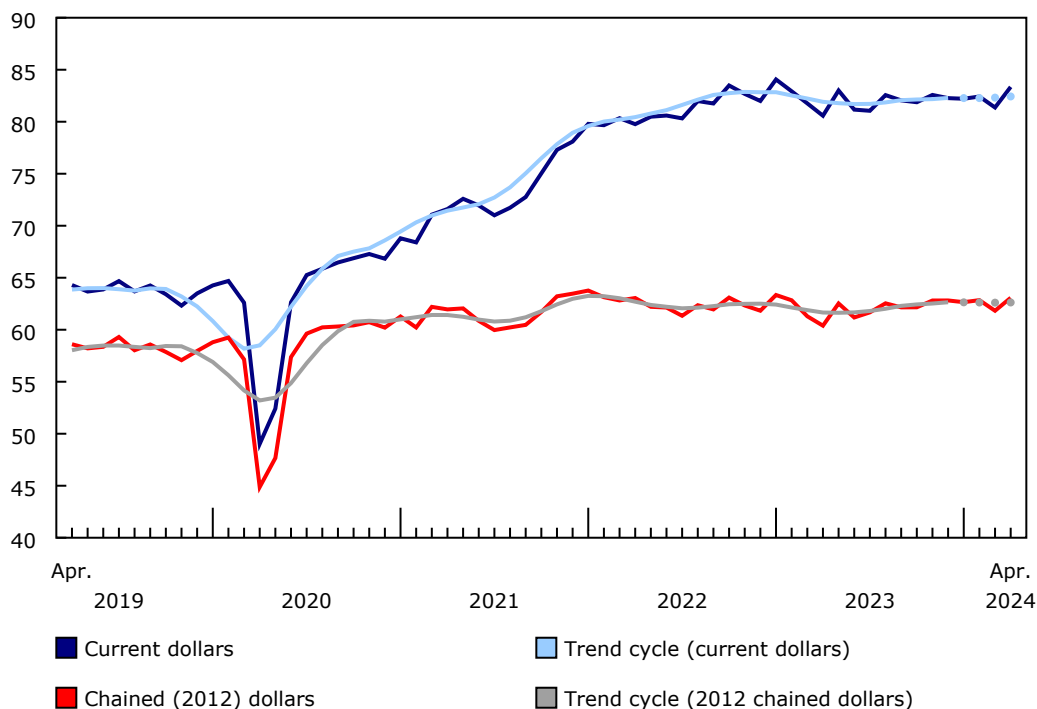
Wholesale sales (excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and excluding oilseed and grain) grew 2.4% to \$83.3 billion in April. Sales increased in five of the seven subsectors, led by the motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories subsector and the miscellaneous subsector. Wholesale sales were 3.4% higher in April compared with the same month one year earlier.

In volume terms, wholesale sales increased by 2.0% in April.

Chart 1

Wholesale sales (excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain) increase in April

billions of dollars



Note(s): The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated on the chart with a dotted line for the current reference month and the previous three months. For more information, see the Note to readers.

Source(s): Tables 20-10-0074-01 and 20-10-0003-01.

Motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories lead sales increases in April

Following a decline in March, sales in the motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories subsector increased by 10.2% to \$14.6 billion in April, the highest reported sales since November 2023. Sales grew in all three of the subsector's industry groups in April 2024, led by the motor vehicles industry group (+12.4% to \$11.8 billion).

The miscellaneous subsector also contributed to higher wholesale sales, up 5.1% to \$10.6 billion in April. Sales increased in five of the seven industry groups, led by the agriculture supplies industry group (+6.9% to \$3.6 billion), which was up following two monthly declines.



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Ontario leads the way in provincial sales growth

In April, a majority of the provinces reported increases in wholesale sales, led by Ontario.

Wholesale sales in Ontario rose 2.1% to \$43.0 billion in April, following three consecutive months of declines. While sales declined in four of the seven subsectors, the motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories subsector's notable growth (+11.7% to \$10.1 billion) was the driving force behind the province's increase in April.

Alberta saw the second-largest provincial sales growth in April, up 6.2% to \$9.4 billion, also following a decline in March. In April, six of the seven subsectors reported sales increases, led by the machinery, equipment and supplies (+4.6% to \$3.2 billion) as well as the motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories (+17.1% to \$948.4 million) subsectors.

Inventories fall in April

Wholesale inventories were down 0.5% to \$126.3 billion in April, after a 0.4% uptick in March.

In April, four of the seven subsectors recorded declines, led by the building material and supplies subsector (-2.8% to \$21.6 billion), as all its industry groups posted declines. Inventory levels in this subsector sat 11.1% below their level from one year earlier. Declines were also reported in the motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories subsector (-3.4% to \$16.1 billion).

Inventory increases in the food, beverage and tobacco (+3.5% to \$14.1 billion) and the personal and household goods (+2.1% to \$21.0 billion) subsectors tempered the decline in April.

The inventory-to-sales ratio fell from 1.56 in March to 1.52 in April. This ratio is a measure of the time (in months) required to exhaust inventories if sales were to remain at their current levels.

Table 1
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry—seasonally adjusted

	April 2023	March 2024 ^f	April 2024 ^p	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale sales (current dollars)	127,383	117,441	122,226	4.1	-4.0
Total, wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain	80,577	81,368	83,348	2.4	3.4
Total, wholesale sales (2012 chained dollars), excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain	60,389	61,825	63,070	2.0	4.4
Total wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding motor vehicle and parts, petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain	67,750	68,136	68,761	0.9	1.5
Farm product (excluding oilseed and grain)	1,392	1,427	1,425	-0.1	2.4
Oilseed and grain ¹	2,652	2,583	3,131	21.2	18.1
Petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons ¹	44,154	33,490	35,747	6.7	-19.0
Food, beverage and tobacco	14,687	14,795	14,971	1.2	1.9
Food	13,038	13,124	13,311	1.4	2.1
Beverage	931	937	924	-1.4	-0.8
Cigarette and tobacco product	510	439	469	6.9	-8.1
Cannabis	208	296	267	-9.8	28.3
Personal and household goods	11,773	12,180	12,289	0.9	4.4
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,638 ^E	1,540	1,425	-7.5	-13.0
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	820	883	883	-0.0	7.7
Home furnishings	693	704	700	-0.6	1.1
Personal goods	1,054	1,015	1,111	9.5	5.4
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	6,508	6,798	6,876	1.1	5.7
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	1,060	1,239	1,294	4.4	22.1
Motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories	12,827	13,232	14,586	10.2	13.7
Motor vehicle	10,286	10,501	11,806	12.4	14.8
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	2,469	2,659	2,704	1.7	9.5
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	72	73	76	4.7	6.1
Building material and supplies	11,857	11,683	11,398	-2.4	-3.9
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	3,806	3,924	3,883	-1.0	2.0
Metal service centres	2,384	2,187	2,143	-2.0	-10.1
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	5,666	5,573	5,372	-3.6	-5.2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	17,708	17,938	18,051	0.6	1.9
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	2,632	2,821	2,931	3.9	11.4

Table 1 - continued
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry—seasonally adjusted

	April 2023	March 2024 ^r	April 2024 ^p	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	5,846	6,055	6,017	-0.6	2.9
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	4,750	4,911	5,042	2.7	6.1
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,479	4,151	4,061	-2.2	-9.3
Miscellaneous	10,333	10,114	10,627	5.1	2.8
Recyclable material	1,304	1,092	1,151	5.4	-11.8
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	1,213	1,103	1,138	3.1	-6.2
Agricultural supplies	3,280	3,411	3,645	6.9	11.1
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,807	1,715	1,796	4.7	-0.6
Mineral, ore and precious metal	607	521	642	23.2	5.7
Log, wood chips, and other wood products	90	115	111	-3.7	22.7
Other miscellaneous	2,032	2,157	2,145	-0.6	5.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

^E use with caution

1. Unadjusted and not included in wholesale sales calculation.

Note(s): Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Tables [20-10-0074-01](#) and [20-10-0003-01](#).

Table 2
Wholesale merchants' sales by province and territory—seasonally adjusted (excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain)

	April 2023	March 2024 ^r	April 2024 ^p	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	80,577	81,368	83,348	2.4	3.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	404	439	466	6.3	15.4
Prince Edward Island	121	113	123	9.6	2.1
Nova Scotia	1,122	1,188	1,221	2.8	8.8
New Brunswick	767	809	847	4.7	10.4
Quebec	14,725	14,835	14,832	-0.0	0.7
Ontario	41,277	42,094	42,988	2.1	4.1
Manitoba	1,851	1,845	1,967	6.6	6.3
Saskatchewan	3,538	3,456	3,635	5.2	2.8
Alberta	9,211	8,843	9,391	6.2	2.0
British Columbia	7,490	7,680	7,784	1.4	3.9
Yukon	x	x	x	x	x
Northwest Territories	37	35	34	-1.3	-8.3
Nunavut	x	x	x	x	x

^r revised

^p preliminary

x suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*

Note(s): Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Table [20-10-0074-01](#).

Table 3
Wholesale merchants' inventories by industry—seasonally adjusted

	April 2023	March 2024 ^r	April 2024 ^p	March to April 2024	April 2023 to April 2024
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	151,736	141,529	141,090	-0.3	-7.0
Total, wholesale inventories (excluding petroleum, petroleum products, other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain)	129,284	126,951	126,347	-0.5	-2.3
Farm product (excluding oilseed and grain)	342	413	413	-0.0	20.7
Petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons ¹
Food, beverage and tobacco	13,903	13,615	14,095	3.5	1.4
Food	12,255	11,304	11,762	4.0	-4.0
Beverage	865	1,610	1,644	2.1	90.0
Cigarette and tobacco product	506	407	412	1.1	-18.6
Cannabis	277	294	277	-5.8	0.1
Personal and household goods	21,640	20,522	20,948	2.1	-3.2
Textile, clothing and footwear	4,808 ^E	3,991	3,681	-7.8	-23.4
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	1,487	1,247	1,268	1.7	-14.7
Home furnishings	2,016	1,790	1,797	0.4	-10.9
Personal goods	3,172	2,946	3,457	17.4	9.0
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	9,054	9,327	9,523	2.1	5.2
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	1,103	1,221	1,223	0.2	10.9
Motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories	15,697	16,691	16,125	-3.4	2.7
Motor vehicle	9,697	10,702	10,005	-6.5	3.2
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	5,864	5,853	5,977	2.1	1.9
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	F	F	144 ^E	F	F
Building material and supplies	24,238	22,163	21,553	-2.8	-11.1
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	7,097	6,667	6,666	-0.0	-6.1
Metal service centres	6,424	5,839	5,296	-9.3	-17.6
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	10,717	9,657	9,591	-0.7	-10.5
Machinery, equipment and supplies	36,716	38,627	38,668	0.1	5.3
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	7,697	10,158	10,069	-0.9	30.8
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	17,201	18,212	18,268	0.3	6.2
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	3,928	3,158	3,496	10.7	-11.0
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,890	7,100	6,834	-3.7	-13.4
Miscellaneous	16,748	14,920	14,543	-2.5	-13.2
Recyclable material	1,076 ^E	950	990 ^E	4.2	-8.0
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	1,457	1,339	1,295	-3.3	-11.1
Agricultural supplies	7,806	6,749	6,429	-4.7	-17.6
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,906	1,596	1,607	0.7	-15.7
Mineral, ore and precious metal	206	263	287	8.9	39.4
Log, wood chips, and other wood	102	72	85	18.0	-17.0
Other miscellaneous	4,196	3,951	3,851	-2.5	-8.2

^r revised

^p preliminary

.. not available for a specific reference period

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

1. Unadjusted and not included in wholesale sales calculation.

Note(s): Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Table 20-10-0076-01.

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Note to readers

Wholesale (sales and inventories) values exclude petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain unless otherwise stated.

Petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain data continue to be available in data tables but will be excluded from monthly analysis until historical data are available.

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 [Section 2: Issues related to analysis and interpretation](#).

Trend-cycle estimates are included in selected charts as a complement to the seasonally adjusted series. These data represent a smoothed version of the seasonally adjusted time series (see [Section 1: Concepts and definitions](#)) and provide information on longer-term movements, including underlying changes in direction in the series. For information on trend-cycle data, see [Trend-cycle estimates – Frequently asked questions](#).

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 disruptions.

Total wholesale sales expressed in volume are calculated by deflating current dollar values using relevant price indexes. The wholesale sales series in chained (2012) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index, with 2012 as the reference year. For more information, see the publication "[Deflation of wholesale sales](#)."

The Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey covers all industries within the wholesale trade sector, as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), with the exception of business-to-business electronic markets, and agents and brokers (NAICS 419).

Real-time data tables

Real-time data tables 20-10-0019-01, 20-10-0020-01 and 20-10-0005-01 will be updated soon.

Next release

Wholesale trade data for May will be released on July 15.

Available tables: [20-10-0003-01](#), [20-10-0074-01](#) and [20-10-0076-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: [survey number 2401](#).

The product "[Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey: Interactive Tool](#)" ([71-607-X](#)) is available online. This product is based on the data published in the tables of the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey: [20-10-0074-01](#), [20-10-0076-01](#) and [20-10-0003-01](#).

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).