

Retail trade, May 2024

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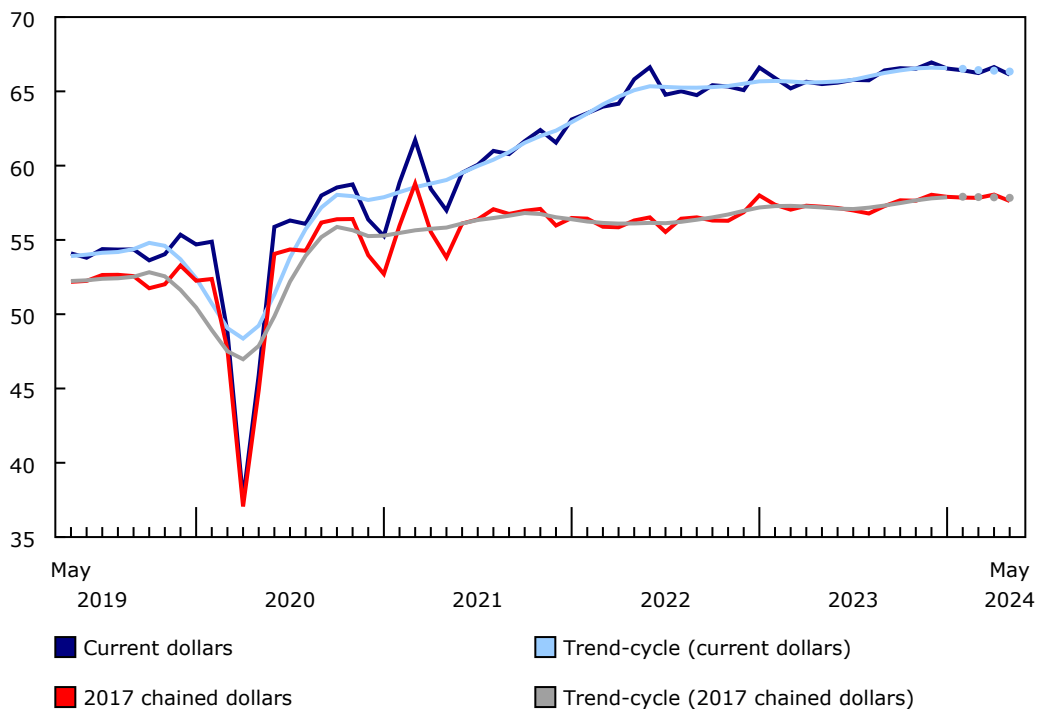
Retail sales decreased 0.8% to \$66.1 billion in May. Sales were down in eight of nine subsectors, led by decreases at food and beverage retailers.

Core retail sales—which exclude gasoline stations and fuel vendors and motor vehicle and parts dealers—were down 1.4% in May.

In volume terms, retail sales decreased 0.7% in May.

Chart 1
Retail sales decrease in May

billions of 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): Tables [20-10-0056-01](#) and [20-10-0067-01](#).

Core retail sales decline

Following an increase of 1.2% in April, core retail sales were down 1.4% in May on lower receipts at all core retail subsectors, with the largest decrease in sales being at food and beverage retailers (-1.9%). Sales at food and beverage retailers were down on lower sales at supermarkets and other grocery retailers (except convenience retailers) (-2.1%) and beer, wine and liquor retailers (-3.3%).

Lower sales in May were also reported at building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers (-2.7%) and general merchandise retailers (-1.0%).

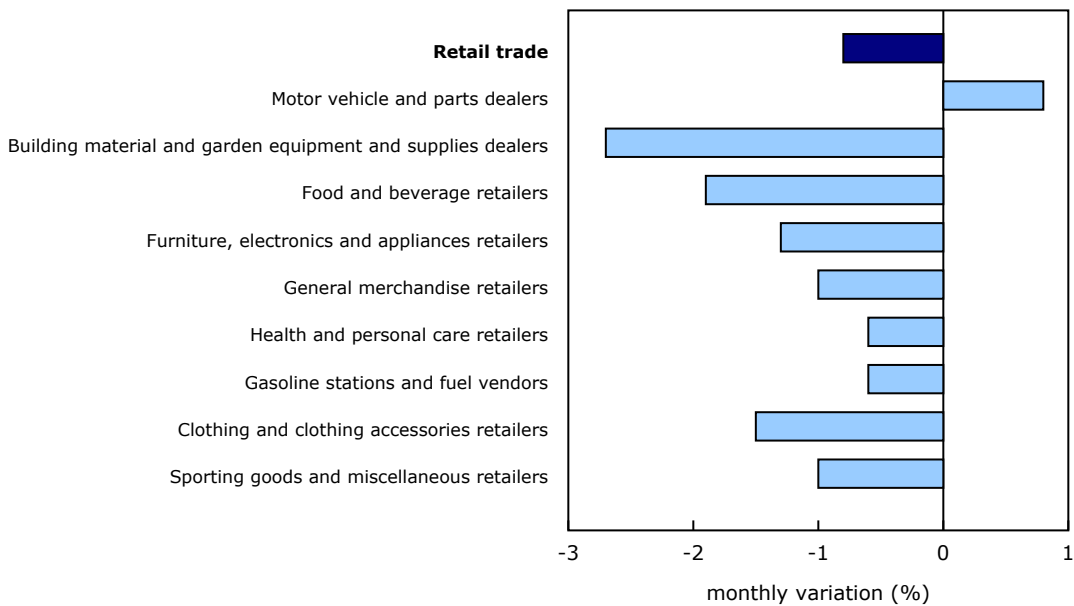


Sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers rise, while sales at gasoline stations and fuel vendors fall

The sole increase in retail sales in May was observed at motor vehicle and parts dealers (+0.8%), up for the third time in four months. Higher sales at new car dealers (+1.6%) led the increase. Gains at used car dealers (+1.8%) were more than offset by lower sales at other motor vehicle dealers (-5.0%) and automotive parts, accessories and tire retailers (-3.4%).

Sales at gasoline stations and fuel vendors (-0.6%) were down in May. In volume terms, sales at gasoline stations and fuel vendors increased 1.0%.

Chart 2 Sales decrease in eight of nine subsectors in May



Source(s): Table 20-10-0056-01.

Sales down in nine provinces

Retail sales decreased in nine provinces in May. The largest provincial decrease was observed in Alberta (-2.5%), led by lower sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers.

In British Columbia, retail sales decreased 1.3% in May, led by lower sales at food and beverage retailers. In the census metropolitan area of Vancouver, sales were down 1.2%.

The sole provincial increase in retail sales in May was observed in Nova Scotia (+0.6%). The increase was led by higher sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers.

Retail e-commerce sales in Canada

On a seasonally adjusted basis, retail e-commerce sales were down 3.6% to \$3.9 billion in May, accounting for 5.9% of total retail trade, compared with 6.1% in April.

Advance retail indicator

Statistics Canada is providing an advance estimate of retail sales, which suggests that sales decreased 0.3% in June. Owing to its early nature, this figure will be revised. This unofficial estimate was calculated based on responses received from 50.3% of companies surveyed. The average final response rate for the survey over the previous 12 months was 90.0%.

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Note to readers

Volume estimates and indexes in table 20-10-0067 have been revised back to 2020 as a result of regular annual revisions of the indexes back to January 2023 from updated respondent data.

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](#).

The percentage change for the advance estimate of retail sales is calculated using seasonally adjusted data and is expressed in current dollars.

This early indicator is a special unofficial estimate being provided to offer Canadians timely information on the retail sector. The data sources and methodology used are the same as those outlined on the [Monthly Retail Trade Survey](#) information page.

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 and provide information on longer-term movements, including changes in direction underlying 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 extensive and could even lead to a reversal of movement, especially for the reference months near the end of the series or during periods of economic disruption.

Some common e-commerce transactions, such as travel and accommodation bookings, ticket purchases and financial transactions, are not included in Canadian retail sales figures.

Total retail sales expressed in volume terms are calculated by deflating current-dollar values using consumer price indexes.

Find more [statistics on retail trade](#).

Next release

Data on retail trade for June will be released on August 23.

Table 1
Retail sales, by province, territory and census metropolitan area — Seasonally adjusted

	May 2023	April 2024 ^f	May 2024 ^P	April to May 2024	May 2023 to May 2024
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	65,489	66,637	66,128	-0.8	1.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	973	996	996	-0.1	2.3

Table 1 - continued
Retail sales, by province, territory and census metropolitan area — Seasonally adjusted

	May 2023	April 2024 ^r	May 2024 ^p	April to May 2024	May 2023 to May 2024
Prince Edward Island	291	307	299	-2.4	2.8
Nova Scotia	1,779	1,788	1,798	0.6	1.1
New Brunswick	1,403	1,506	1,473	-2.2	5.0
Quebec	14,378	14,846	14,819	-0.2	3.1
Montréal	7,165	7,362	7,321	-0.6	2.2
Ontario	24,448	24,756	24,673	-0.3	0.9
Toronto	11,211	11,041	11,069	0.3	-1.3
Manitoba	2,265	2,294	2,282	-0.5	0.7
Saskatchewan	2,035	2,177	2,160	-0.8	6.1
Alberta	8,622	8,685	8,469	-2.5	-1.8
British Columbia	9,068	9,042	8,924	-1.3	-1.6
Vancouver	4,413	4,508	4,452	-1.2	0.9
Yukon	96	102	99	-3.4	2.5
Northwest Territories	79	83	83	-0.2	4.8
Nunavut	50	54	54	-0.7	6.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Source(s): Table [20-10-0056-01](#).

Table 2
Retail sales, by industry — Seasonally adjusted

	May 2023	April 2024 ^r	May 2024 ^p	April to May 2024	May 2023 to May 2024
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade (current dollars)	65,489	66,637	66,128	-0.8	1.0
Retail e-commerce	3,688	4,050	3,903	-3.6	5.8
Total retail trade (2017 chained dollars)	57,235	58,048	57,621	-0.7	0.7
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	48,240	48,965	48,313	-1.3	0.2
Total (current dollars) excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations and fuel vendors	41,835	42,297	41,686	-1.4	-0.4
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	17,249	17,672	17,815	0.8	3.3
New car dealers	13,481	13,886	14,105	1.6	4.6
Used car dealers	1,341	1,369	1,394	1.8	4.0
Other motor vehicle dealers	1,126	1,129	1,072	-5.0	-4.8
Automotive parts, accessories and tire retailers	1,301	1,288	1,244	-3.4	-4.4
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	3,865	3,852	3,749	-2.7	-3.0
Food and beverage retailers	12,930	12,898	12,653	-1.9	-2.1
Supermarkets and other grocery retailers (except convenience)	9,067	9,136	8,943	-2.1	-1.4
Convenience retailers and vending machine operators	749	723	726	0.4	-3.1
Specialty food retailers	884	874	890	1.9	0.6
Beer, wine and liquor retailers	2,231	2,166	2,095	-3.3	-6.1
Furniture, home furnishings, electronics and appliances retailers	3,590	3,649	3,602	-1.3	0.4
Furniture retailers	1,150	1,169	1,151	-1.5	0.1
Floor covering, window treatment and other home furnishing retailers	716	694	718	3.5	0.3
Electronics and appliances retailers	1,724	1,786	1,733	-2.9	0.6
General merchandise retailers	8,666	9,025	8,931	-1.0	3.1
Health and personal care retailers	5,343	5,628	5,596	-0.6	4.7
Gasoline stations and fuel vendors	6,405	6,668	6,626	-0.6	3.5
Clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, jewellery, luggage and leather goods retailers	3,498	3,466	3,415	-1.5	-2.4
Clothing and clothing accessories retailers	2,701	2,688	2,650	-1.4	-1.9
Shoe retailers	405	399	395	-0.9	-2.4
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods retailers	392	380	370	-2.6	-5.6
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book, and miscellaneous retailers	3,943	3,778	3,740	-1.0	-5.1
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument and book retailers and news dealers	1,382	1,340	1,365	1.9	-1.2
Miscellaneous store retailers	2,560	2,438	2,375	-2.6	-7.3
Cannabis retailers	428	420	435	3.4	1.6

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Source(s): Tables [20-10-0056-01](#) and [20-10-0067-01](#).

Table 3
Retail sales at 2017 constant prices, by industry — Seasonally adjusted

	May 2023	April 2024 ^r	May 2024 ^p	April to May 2024	May 2023 to May 2024
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total retail trade at 2017 constant prices¹	57,539	58,509	58,106	-0.7	1.0
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers	42,516	43,409	42,902	-1.2	0.9
Total excluding motor vehicle and parts dealers and gasoline stations and fuel vendors	37,240	37,285	36,717	-1.5	-1.4
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	15,023	15,100	15,204	0.7	1.2
New car dealers	11,664	11,737	11,915	1.5	2.2
Used car dealers	1,168	1,237	1,250	1.1	7.0
Other motor vehicle dealers	1,117	1,095	1,046	-4.5	-6.4
Automotive parts, accessories and tire retailers	1,075	1,032	994	-3.7	-7.5
Building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers	3,857	3,809	3,759	-1.3	-2.5
Food and beverage retailers	10,401	10,108	9,872	-2.3	-5.1
Supermarkets and other grocery retailers (except convenience retailers)	7,259	7,161	6,976	-2.6	-3.9
Convenience retailers and vending machine operators	573	574	574	0.0	0.2
Specialty food retailers	730	631	638	1.1	-12.6
Beer, wine and liquor retailers	1,840	1,742	1,683	-3.4	-8.5
Furniture, home furnishings, electronics and appliances retailers	3,481	3,732	3,695	-1.0	6.1
Furniture retailers	985	1,127	1,112	-1.3	12.9
Floor covering, window treatment and other home furnishing retailers	653	636	663	4.2	1.5
Electronics and appliances retailers	1,844	1,969	1,921	-2.4	4.2
General merchandise retailers	7,366	7,742	7,640	-1.3	3.7
Health and personal care retailers	5,061	5,305	5,232	-1.4	3.4
Gasoline stations and fuel vendors	5,276	6,124	6,185	1.0	17.2
Clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, jewellery, luggage and leather goods retailers	3,431	3,517	3,465	-1.5	1.0
Clothing and clothing accessories retailers	2,697	2,797	2,754	-1.5	2.1
Shoe retailers	421	412	410	-0.5	-2.6
Jewellery, luggage and leather goods retailers	313	309	302	-2.3	-3.5
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book and miscellaneous retailers	3,642	3,070	3,053	-0.6	-16.2
Sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument and book retailers and news dealers	1,284	1,261	1,285	1.9	0.1
Miscellaneous store retailers	2,358	1,809	1,768	-2.3	-25.0
Cannabis retailers	532	524	544	3.8	2.3

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Calculated using the Laspeyres method.

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

Source(s): Table 20-10-0067-01.

Available tables: [20-10-0056-01](#) and [20-10-0067-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2406](#) and [2408](#).

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).