

# Food services and drinking places, January 2026

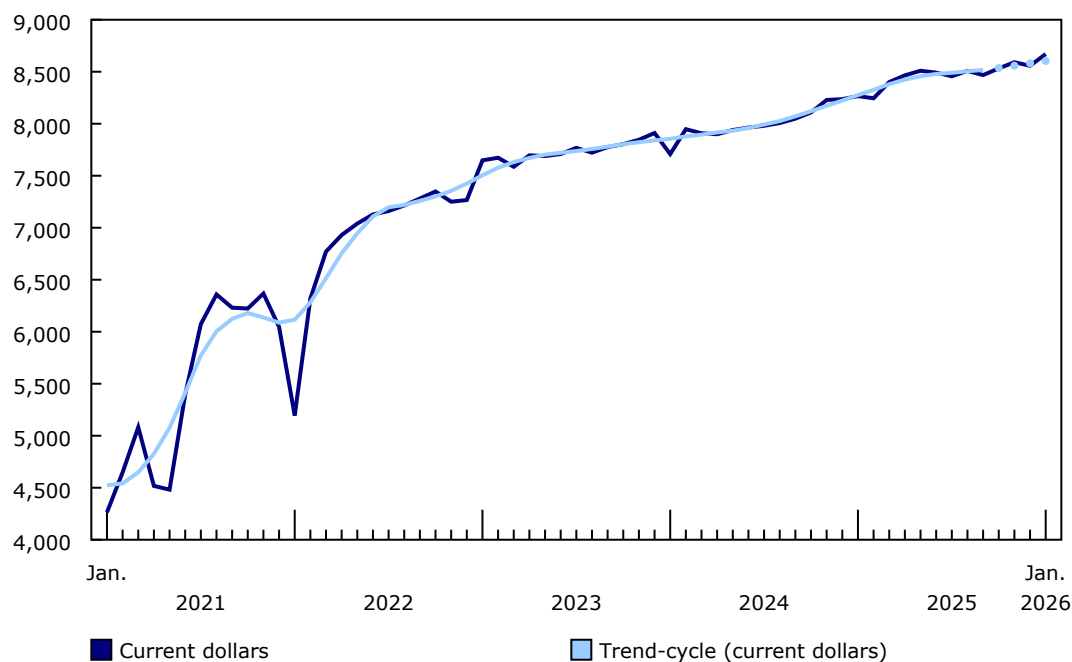
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Thursday, March 26, 2026

Total sales in the food services and drinking places subsector increased 1.3% in January to \$8.7 billion.

Non-seasonally adjusted prices for food purchased from restaurants were up 12.3% in January when compared with January 2025. Unadjusted prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments increased 9.0% over the same period. These were particularly large increases in the year-over-year Consumer Price Index caused by the temporary GST/HST break in effect at the start of 2025, which lowered the prices consumers paid for food and some alcoholic beverages at restaurants.

**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.



**Table 1**  
**Food services and drinking places – Seasonally adjusted**

	January 2025	October 2025 <sup>r</sup>	November 2025 <sup>r</sup>	December 2025 <sup>r</sup>	January 2026 <sup>p</sup>	December 2025 to January 2026	January 2025 to January 2026
	thousands of dollars					% change	
<b>Total, food services sales</b>	<b>8,265,234</b>	<b>8,531,965</b>	<b>8,591,412</b>	<b>8,556,873</b>	<b>8,670,278</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Full-service restaurants	3,456,599	3,707,326	3,725,167	3,715,712	3,723,503	0.2	7.7
Limited-service eating places	3,953,863	3,936,326	3,979,699	3,971,705	4,017,201	1.1	1.6
Special food services	654,553	688,614	689,275	673,288	730,706	8.5	11.6
Drinking places	200,218	199,699	197,272	196,167	198,867	1.4	-0.7
<b>Provinces and territories</b>							
Newfoundland and Labrador	93,901	93,099	94,025	91,405	94,171	3.0	0.3
Prince Edward Island	37,314	38,084	38,353	37,300	38,270	2.6	2.6
Nova Scotia	196,977	202,908	206,524	202,910	206,342	1.7	4.8
New Brunswick	147,285	144,633	147,653	144,744	148,805	2.8	1.0
Quebec	1,603,638	1,645,965	1,639,636	1,626,660	1,648,394	1.3	2.8
Ontario	3,249,440	3,354,952	3,378,676	3,378,974	3,385,493	0.2	4.2
Manitoba	217,251	242,518	247,112	243,811	250,226	2.6	15.2
Saskatchewan	214,579	221,508	228,446	220,771	225,690	2.2	5.2
Alberta	1,049,963	1,110,778	1,119,479	1,115,111	1,149,410	3.1	9.5
British Columbia	1,435,020	1,458,532	1,472,820	1,476,387	1,504,172	1.9	4.8
Yukon	10,521	9,919	9,692	9,900	10,032	1.3	-4.6
Northwest Territories	7,137	7,156	7,021	6,949	7,238	4.2	1.4
Nunavut	2,209	1,914	F	1,951	F	F	F

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

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.

## Special food services and limited-service eating places lead gains

In January, the largest increase in sales came from special food services (+8.5%), followed by limited-service eating places (+1.1%). Higher sales were also observed in full-service restaurants (+0.2%) and drinking places (+1.4%). Year-over-year increases were observed at full-service restaurants (+7.7%), special food services (+11.6%) and limited-service eating places (+1.6%), whereas sales at drinking places (-0.7%) declined.

## Sales increase in all provinces

Sales increased in every province in January, largely led by Alberta (+3.1%), British Columbia (+1.9%), and Quebec (+1.3%).

## Looking for more insight?

More 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.

### Note to readers

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 page [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](#).

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