

Wholesale trade, April 2026

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Wholesale sales increase in April

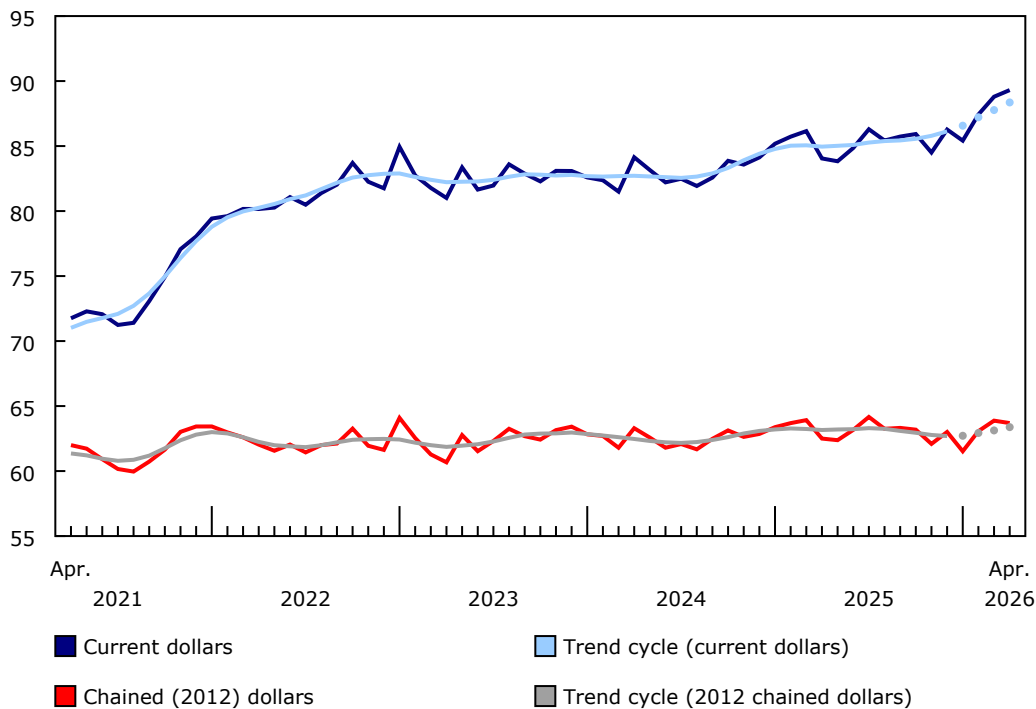
Wholesale sales (excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and excluding oilseed and grain) rose 0.6% to \$89.3 billion in April. Sales increased in five of the seven subsectors, representing about 60% of total wholesale sales. The largest increases came from the building material and supplies subsector (+4.3% to \$12.7 billion) and the mineral, ore and precious metal industry group (+15.7% to \$1.0 billion). Wholesale sales were 6.3% higher in April compared with the same month one year earlier.

In volume terms, wholesale sales (excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and excluding oilseed and grain) decreased 0.3% 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](#).

Building material and supplies subsector records largest increase

Sales in the building material and supplies subsector grew 4.3% to \$12.7 billion in April, the fourth consecutive monthly increase. The gain in April was driven by the metal service centres industry group, which rose 14.1% to \$2.3 billion. This industry group covers wholesalers of metal products, including iron and steel castings, metal pipes and rails, and various steel products. The increase in April came from stronger sales of steel products.



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Canada

The mineral, ore and precious metal industry group posted the next-largest increase in April, with sales rising 15.7% to \$1.0 billion. Sales of gold, zinc and bauxite contributed the most to the increase. Sales in April were 25.0% higher than they were in the same month one year earlier. This gain led the growth within the miscellaneous subsector, which rose 1.4% overall to \$11.5 billion, with sales increasing in four industry groups.

The increase in wholesale sales in April was moderated by a decline in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector, which fell 1.2% to \$19.3 billion. Notwithstanding this decrease, April 2026 was the second-highest month on record for sales of machinery, equipment and supplies. The computer and communications equipment and supplies industry group (-4.1% to \$5.8 billion) drove this decrease.

Higher provincial wholesale sales led by Ontario and British Columbia

In April, five provinces recorded higher sales, led by Ontario and British Columbia.

Ontario posted the largest increase in sales, rising 0.7% to \$46.5 billion in April. Higher sales in the non-agricultural chemical product and recyclable material industry groups generated the gain. These gains led the growth in the miscellaneous subsector, which rose 5.6% overall to \$5.4 billion.

British Columbia posted the second-largest increase in provincial wholesale sales in April, rising 2.5% to \$8.4 billion. Sales increased in five of the seven subsectors, with the building material and supplies subsector (+3.9% to \$2.0 billion) reporting the largest increase.

Partially offsetting the growth in April was a decline in sales in Alberta (-0.9% to \$9.5 billion), which reflects a 4.3% drop in sales of machinery, equipment and supplies.

In addition, sales in Saskatchewan fell 2.1% to \$4.0 billion in April.

Wholesale inventories rise, driven by motor vehicles and building materials

Wholesale inventories (excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and excluding oilseed and grain) rose 1.1% to \$139.9 billion in April.

Inventories increased in five of seven subsectors in April. The largest increase came from the motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories subsector (+4.4% to \$18.8 billion), followed by the building material and supplies subsector (+3.5% to \$23.7 billion).

The inventory-to-sales ratio increased from 1.56 to 1.57 in April. This ratio measures the number of months required to exhaust inventories if sales remain at current levels.

Note to readers

This content was created with the assistance of a generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool and refined and verified by Statistics Canada experts. To learn more about how we use AI responsibly, please visit the [Trust Centre](#).

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 the page [Seasonal adjustment: Concepts and interpretation, 2026](#).

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 the page [Trend-cycle estimation: Concepts, interpretation, and calculation, 2026](#).

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 code 419).

Advance indicator

Statistics Canada will provide an advance estimate of sales in the wholesale trade sector for May 2026 on June 26.

Next release

Wholesale trade data for May 2026 will be released on July 15.

Table 1
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry—seasonally adjusted

	April 2025	March 2026 ^f	April 2026 ^p	March to April 2026	April 2025 to April 2026
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale sales (current dollars)	114,907	134,983	138,830	2.8	20.8
Total, wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain	84,047	88,795	89,306	0.6	6.3
Total, wholesale sales (2012 chained dollars), excluding petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain	62,499	63,878	63,691	-0.3	1.9
Total wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding motor vehicle and parts, petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain	69,761	74,253	74,633	0.5	7.0
Farm product (excluding oilseed and grain)	1,409	1,724	1,827	6.0	29.7
Oilseed and grain ¹	2,940	2,745	2,931	6.8	-0.3
Petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons ¹	27,920	43,444	46,593	7.2	66.9
Food, beverage and tobacco	15,531	16,412	16,181	-1.4	4.2
Food	13,805	14,606	14,425	-1.2	4.5
Beverage	1,042	1,121	1,095	-2.3	5.2
Cigarette and tobacco product	408	405	375	-7.4	-8.1
Cannabis	276	280	286	2.0	3.4
Personal and household goods	12,054	13,086	13,153	0.5	9.1
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,179	1,523	1,452	-4.6	23.2
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	876	863	879	1.9	0.4
Home furnishings	623	659	661	0.4	6.2
Personal goods	1,105	1,167	1,122	-3.8	1.5
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	7,136	7,647	7,820	2.3	9.6
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	1,136	1,228	1,218	-0.8	7.3
Motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories	14,286	14,542	14,673	0.9	2.7
Motor vehicle	11,469	11,726	11,771	0.4	2.6
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	2,726	2,742	2,823	2.9	3.6
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	91	73	78	7.0	-14.0
Building material and supplies	11,786	12,181	12,703	4.3	7.8
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	4,073	4,515	4,519	0.1	10.9
Metal service centres	2,038	2,030	2,315	14.1	13.6
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	5,674	5,635	5,869	4.2	3.4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	18,505	19,525	19,288	-1.2	4.2
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	2,784	2,693	2,591	-3.8	-7.0

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

	April 2025	March 2026 ^r	April 2026 ^p	March to April 2026	April 2025 to April 2026
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	6,218	6,397	6,231	-2.6	0.2
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	5,133	6,012	5,768	-4.1	12.4
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	4,369	4,422	4,698	6.2	7.5
Miscellaneous	10,477	11,327	11,480	1.4	9.6
Recyclable material	1,199	1,389	1,489	7.2	24.2
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	1,245	1,268	1,259	-0.7	1.1
Agricultural supplies	3,348	3,763	3,596	-4.4	7.4
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,715	1,927	1,946	1.0	13.5
Mineral, ore and precious metal	830	896	1,037	15.7	25.0
Log, wood chips, and other wood products	122	135	129	-4.2	5.9
Other miscellaneous	2,018	1,948	2,023	3.9	0.3

^r revised

^p preliminary

1. Not included in some of the totals for wholesale sales.

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 2025	March 2026 ^r	April 2026 ^p	March to April 2026	April 2025 to April 2026
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	84,047	88,795	89,306	0.6	6.3
Newfoundland and Labrador	495	512	479	-6.4	-3.3
Prince Edward Island	109	113	112	-1.0	2.3
Nova Scotia	1,244	1,272	1,322	3.9	6.3
New Brunswick	1,014	852	851	-0.1	-16.1
Quebec	15,259	15,754	15,924	1.1	4.4
Ontario	43,116	46,148	46,451	0.7	7.7
Manitoba	1,983	2,133	2,136	0.1	7.7
Saskatchewan	3,411	4,106	4,022	-2.1	17.9
Alberta	9,704	9,631	9,541	-0.9	-1.7
British Columbia	7,654	8,214	8,416	2.5	10.0
Yukon	19	21	19	-11.5	0.4
Northwest Territories	23	22	19	-13.1	-14.8
Nunavut	15	17	15	-9.3	-1.4

^r revised

^p preliminary

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 2025	March 2026 ^r	April 2026 ^p	March to April 2026	April 2025 to April 2026
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	140,346	154,436	156,693	1.5	11.6
Total, wholesale inventories (excluding petroleum, petroleum products, other hydrocarbons and oilseed and grain)	127,858	138,423	139,938	1.1	9.4
Farm product (excluding oilseed and grain)	367	396	458	15.7	24.9
Petroleum, petroleum products, and other hydrocarbons ¹
Food, beverage and tobacco	13,338	15,849	15,973	0.8	19.8
Food	11,701	14,247	14,424	1.2	23.3
Beverage	945	974	931	-4.4	-1.4
Cigarette and tobacco product	419	351	353	0.5	-15.7
Cannabis	274	276	265	-3.8	-3.4
Personal and household goods	20,980	23,831	23,563	-1.1	12.3
Textile, clothing and footwear	3,227	4,455	4,551	2.2	41.1
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	1,555	1,653	1,670	1.0	7.4
Home furnishings	1,741	1,837 ^E	1,620 ^E	-11.8	-6.9
Personal goods	2,796	3,280	3,050	-7.0	9.1
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	10,468	11,262	11,313	0.5	8.1
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	1,193	1,343	1,359	1.2	13.9
Motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts and accessories	17,564	17,974	18,770	4.4	6.9
Motor vehicle	11,465	10,916	11,845	8.5	3.3
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	5,950	6,914	6,800	-1.7	14.3
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	F	144 ^E	F	F	F
Building material and supplies	22,369	22,906	23,697	3.5	5.9
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	7,095	7,636	7,718	1.1	8.8
Metal service centres	5,463 ^E	4,960	5,347	7.8	-2.1
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	9,810	10,310	10,633	3.1	8.4
Machinery, equipment and supplies	38,492	41,819	41,549	-0.6	7.9
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	10,463	12,413	11,812	-4.8	12.9
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	17,527	18,051	18,013	-0.2	2.8
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	3,466	3,848	4,012	4.3	15.8
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	7,036	7,508	7,713	2.7	9.6
Miscellaneous	14,749	15,648	15,928	1.8	8.0
Recyclable material	1,146	1,283	1,293	0.8	12.8
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	1,440	1,374	1,394	1.5	-3.2
Agricultural supplies	6,620	7,021	7,180	2.3	8.4
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,808	1,933	1,925	-0.4	6.5
Mineral, ore and precious metal	217	192	175	-8.9	-19.3
Log, wood chips, and other wood	79	111	95	-14.1	19.7
Other miscellaneous	3,438	3,734	3,866	3.5	12.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

.. not available for a specific reference period

^E use with caution

^F too unreliable to be published

1. Not included in some of the totals for wholesale inventories.

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

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

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

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

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).