

Food services and drinking places, December 2019

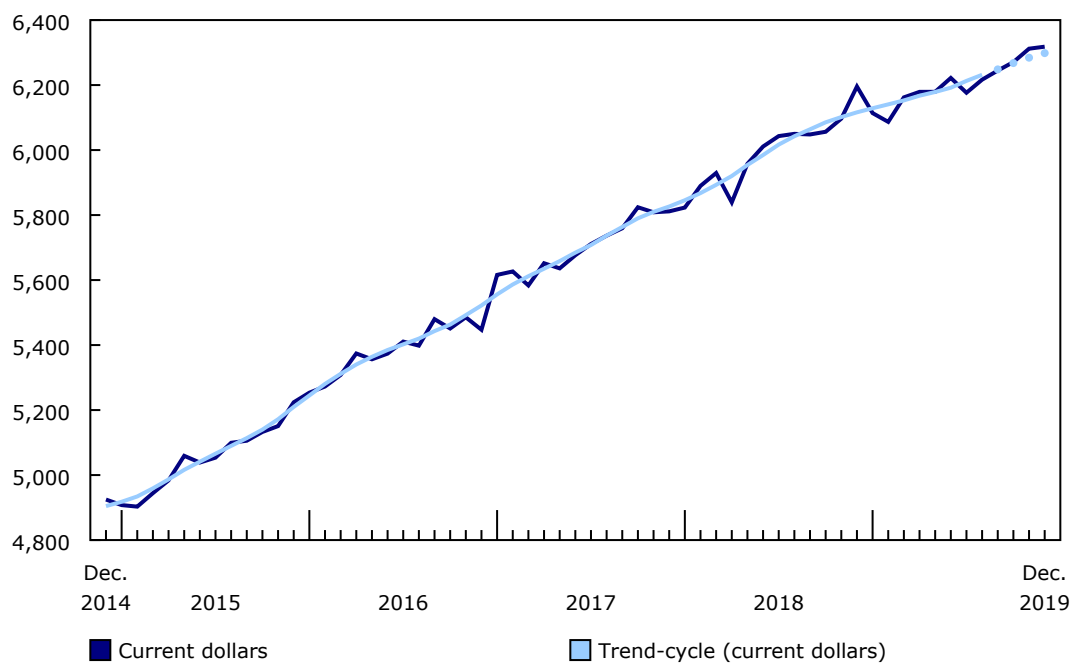
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Friday, February 21, 2020

On a seasonally adjusted basis, sales in the food services and drinking places subsector edged up 0.1% to \$6.3 billion in December. Higher sales were reported in full-service restaurants (+0.4%), limited-service eating places (+0.3%) and drinking places (+0.5%). Sales declined in special food services (-3.2%) following two consecutive month-over-month increases.

Higher sales were reported in seven provinces, led by Quebec (+0.2%), Saskatchewan (+1.2%) and Ontario (+0.1%). Sales declined for the third consecutive month in both Alberta (-0.2%) and Nova Scotia (-0.7%) in December.

Chart 1
Sales in food services and drinking places

millions of current dollars



Source(s): Table 21-10-0019-01.

Further information can be found in the dashboard "[Food Services and Drinking Places Sales](#)." This web application provides access to data on sales in food services and drinking places for Canada, and by province and territory. This dynamic application allows users to compare provincial and territorial data through interactive maps and charts.

Sales up in food services and drinking places subsector in 2019

The figures in this section are based on unadjusted (that is, not seasonally adjusted) estimates.



Statistics
Canada Statistique
Canada

Canada

Annual sales of food services and drinking places totalled \$74.5 billion in 2019, up 3.5% from 2018. A large portion of this growth is due to menu inflation as the [prices for food purchased from restaurants](#) increased 2.7% in 2019 compared with 2018, while the [prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments](#) increased 1.8% over the same period. The increase in food sales also coincided with growth in the [Canadian economy](#) and [low unemployment](#) throughout 2019.

Sales increased at full-service restaurants (+3.7%), limited-service eating places (+3.4%) and special food services (+4.5%) in 2019 compared with 2018. Sales at drinking places (-0.5%) were down in the same period. Sales in the subsector were up in all provinces, led by Ontario (+3.0%), Quebec (+5.4%) and British Columbia (+3.2%).

Sales in full-service restaurants increased by \$1.2 billion from a year earlier to \$33.0 billion in 2019. Sales were up in all provinces, led by Ontario (+3.3%), Quebec (+5.0%) and British Columbia (+4.1%).

Limited-service eating places, also known as fast food or quick-service restaurants, reported an increase of \$1.1 billion from 2018, totalling \$33.1 billion in 2019. Every province had positive growth in the fast food industry, led by Ontario (+3.3%), Quebec (+4.7%) and British Columbia (+2.9%).

Limited-service eating places (44.4%) and full-service restaurants (44.4%) held the largest shares of sales in the food services and drinking places subsector.

Sales in special food services, which includes food service contractors, caterers and mobile food services, rose to \$5.9 billion in 2019. The largest increases in dollar terms were in Quebec (+8.6%), Alberta (+11.7%) and British Columbia (+5.0%).

Sales in drinking places and bars decreased to \$2.5 billion in 2019. The declines were in six provinces with the largest decreases being in Alberta (-9.4%) and British Columbia (-4.9%). Quebec (+9.5%) had the largest increase.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted and are expressed in current dollars, unless otherwise noted. For information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

For information on trend-cycle data, see the [StatCan Blog](#) and [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.

Table 1
Food services and drinking places – Seasonally adjusted

	December 2018	September 2019 ^r	October 2019 ^r	November 2019 ^r	December 2019 ^p	November to December 2019	December 2018 to December 2019
	thousands of dollars					% change	
Total, food services sales	6,195,494	6,244,571	6,270,664	6,311,915	6,318,106	0.1	2.0
Full-service restaurants	2,759,347	2,769,802	2,778,237	2,808,410	2,821,027	0.4	2.2
Limited-service eating places	2,738,371	2,785,860	2,784,243	2,782,999	2,792,172	0.3	2.0
Special food services	479,813	487,207	506,441	516,423	499,753	-3.2	4.2
Drinking places	217,963	201,702	201,743	204,082	205,154	0.5	-5.9
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	73,051	73,963	73,586	74,435	74,155	-0.4	1.5
Prince Edward Island	23,166	24,388	24,794	25,156	25,251	0.4	9.0
Nova Scotia	141,324	148,170	147,964	147,807	146,743	-0.7	3.8
New Brunswick	106,420	105,861	106,035	105,736	106,165	0.4	-0.2
Quebec	1,180,649	1,206,617	1,223,739	1,240,731	1,243,607	0.2	5.3
Ontario	2,483,861	2,468,562	2,477,063	2,494,995	2,496,507	0.1	0.5
Manitoba	174,214	182,873	181,004	178,789	180,150	0.8	3.4
Saskatchewan	161,536	158,733	160,083	160,021	161,992	1.2	0.3
Alberta	791,542	807,458	805,506	804,925	803,148	-0.2	1.5
British Columbia	1,046,269	1,053,618	1,056,538	1,064,890	1,065,956	0.1	1.9
Yukon	5,486	6,226	6,498	6,649	6,787	2.1	23.7
Northwest Territories	6,469	6,650	6,304	6,274	6,168	-1.7	-4.7
Nunavut	1,507	1,452	1,550	1,506	1,478	-1.9	-1.9

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Source(s): Table [21-10-0019-01](#).

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; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).