

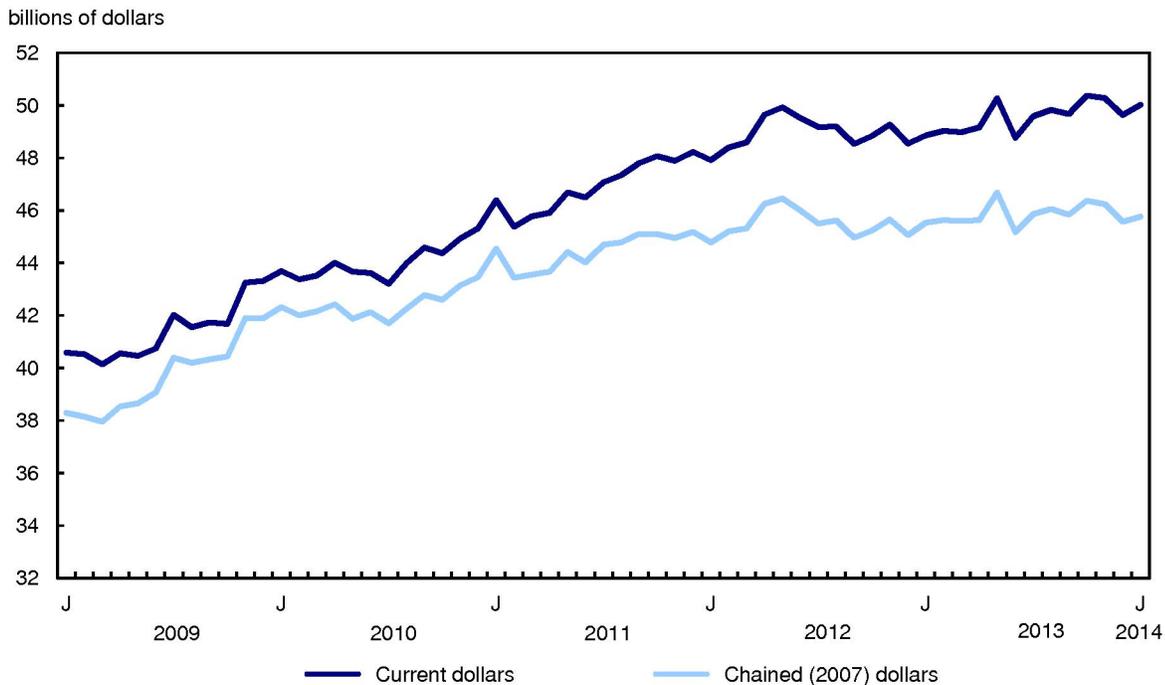
Wholesale trade, January 2014

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Wholesale sales rose 0.8% to \$50.0 billion in January, following a decline in December. Gains were recorded in all subsectors except motor vehicle and parts. Excluding this subsector, wholesale sales rose 1.4%.

In volume terms, wholesale sales were up 0.4%.

Chart 1
Wholesale sales increase in January



Higher sales in most subsectors

The miscellaneous subsector led the growth in wholesale sales in January, rising 3.1% to its highest level in seven months. The gain was led by the agricultural supplies industry (+7.6%), which posted its largest monthly increase since May 2013. Gains were also recorded in the chemical (except agricultural) and allied product industry (+3.0%) and the recyclable material industry (+3.7%).

The second largest increase in dollar terms occurred in the personal and household goods subsector (+2.3%) and more than offset the decline in December. All but one of the subsector's industries recorded gains.

Following two months of declines, sales in the building material and supplies subsector rose 1.6% on the strength of gains in all of its industries.

Sales increased 0.5% in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector, with the food industry (+0.3%) and the beverage industry (+6.1%) contributing equally to the gain. This was the sixth increase in seven months for the subsector.

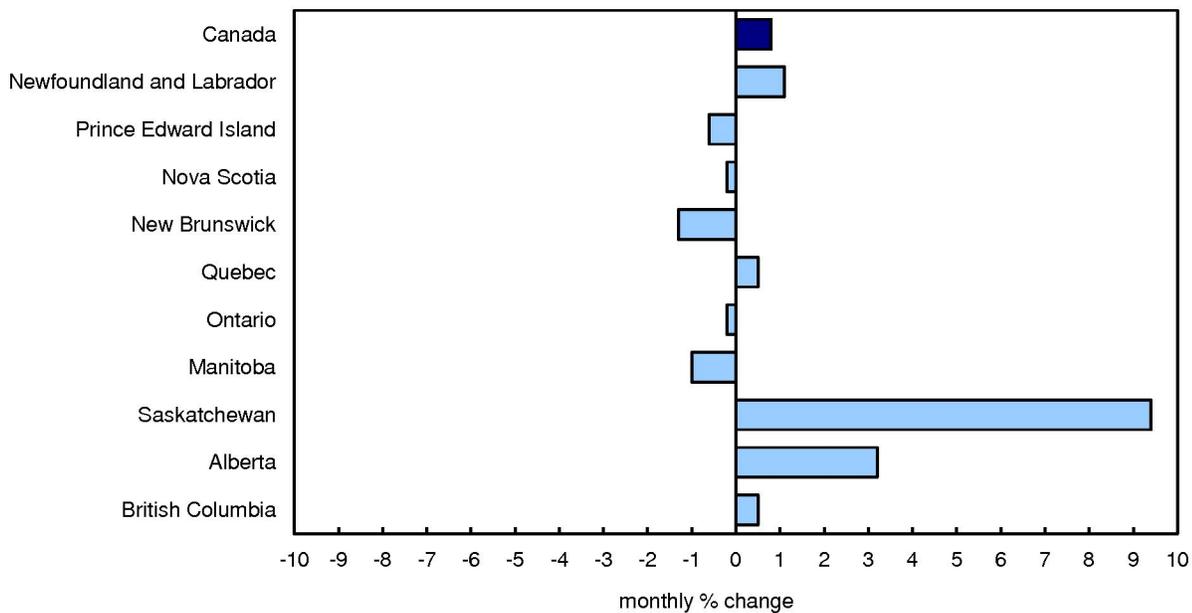


The lone subsector to decline in January was the motor vehicle and parts subsector (-2.2%), which was down for the fourth time in five months. Lower sales were recorded in all of this subsector's industries, with the motor vehicle industry (-2.1%) contributing the most to the decline. Lower imports, exports and manufacturing sales were also recorded for motor vehicles in January.

Sales up in five provinces

Sales increased in five provinces in January, which together accounted for 46% of wholesale sales in Canada. Alberta and Saskatchewan accounted for most of the growth.

Chart 2
Wholesale sales up in five provinces in January



Following two monthly declines, sales in Alberta rose 3.2% in January. Gains were widespread across subsectors.

Sales rose in Saskatchewan (+9.4%) for the fourth time in five months. The miscellaneous subsector was the main contributor to the increase.

Sales in Quebec rose 0.5% following two monthly declines, but the gain in January did not offset the decrease in December.

British Columbia (+0.5%) recorded its 9th gain in 12 months, with sales rising to their highest level to date.

After reaching a record high in November 2013, sales in Ontario (-0.2%) decreased for the second consecutive month. Lower sales in the motor vehicle and parts subsector contributed to the decline.

Lower sales were also recorded in New Brunswick (-1.3%), Nova Scotia (-0.2%) and Prince Edward Island (-0.6%). The food, beverage and tobacco subsector contributed to the decline in all three provinces.

Inventories rise in January

Inventories rose 1.4% to \$62.3 billion in January. Gains were recorded in five of seven subsectors, representing 88% of wholesale inventories.

The largest gains in dollar terms were in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector (+2.9%) and the personal and household goods subsector (+2.1%).

Following four consecutive monthly declines, higher inventories were recorded in the motor vehicle and parts subsector (+1.8%).

Inventories fell 2.4% in the miscellaneous subsector, the largest monthly decline since April 2012.

The inventory-to-sales ratio rose from 1.24 in December to 1.25 in January.

The inventory-to-sales ratio is a measure of the time in months required to exhaust inventories if sales were to remain at their current level.

Note to readers

All data in this release are seasonally adjusted and in current dollars, unless otherwise noted. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see "Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends."

Total wholesale sales expressed in volume are calculated by deflating current dollar values using relevant price indexes. The wholesale sales series in chained (2007) dollars is a chained Fisher volume index with 2007 as the reference year. For more information, see [Sales in volume for Wholesale Trade](#).

Table 1
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2013	December 2013 ^r	January 2014 ^p	December 2013 to January 2014	January 2013 to January 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale sales (current dollars)	48,854	49,636	50,025	0.8	2.4
Total, wholesale sales (2007 chained dollars)	45,540	45,565	45,763	0.4	0.5
Total wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding motor vehicle and parts	40,824	41,306	41,879	1.4	2.6
Farm product	576	625	628	0.5	9.0
Food, beverage and tobacco	9,561	9,932	9,983	0.5	4.4
Food	8,567	8,934	8,963	0.3	4.6
Beverage	487	477	506	6.1	3.8
Cigarette and tobacco product	507	522	515	-1.3	1.4
Personal and household goods	6,940	7,000	7,160	2.3	3.2
Textile, clothing and footwear	934	968	981	1.4	5.0
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	690	666	662	-0.6	-4.0
Home furnishings	428	445	450	1.1	5.1
Personal goods	676	652	743	14.0	9.9
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	3,520	3,582	3,604	0.6	2.4
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	691	688	720	4.7	4.1
Motor vehicle and parts	8,030	8,329	8,146	-2.2	1.4
Motor vehicle	5,977	6,052	5,927	-2.1	-0.8
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	2,003	2,222	2,165	-2.6	8.1
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	50	55	55	-1.1	9.9
Building material and supplies	6,926	6,910	7,019	1.6	1.3
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	2,156	2,100	2,134	1.6	-1.0
Metal service centres	1,553	1,540	1,598	3.7	2.9
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	3,217	3,269	3,287	0.5	2.2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	10,643	10,677	10,735	0.5	0.9
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	1,321	1,380	1,373	-0.5	3.9
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	3,572	3,557	3,599	1.2	0.8
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	3,378	3,216	3,411	6.0	1.0
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,373	2,523	2,352	-6.8	-0.9
Miscellaneous	6,178	6,162	6,354	3.1	2.9
Recyclable material	598	701	727	3.7	21.6
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	875	869	873	0.5	-0.2
Agricultural supplies	1,712	1,679	1,807	7.6	5.6
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,156	1,123	1,157	3.0	0.1
Other miscellaneous	1,837	1,790	1,790	0.0	-2.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Table 2
Wholesale merchants' sales by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2013	December 2013 ^r	January 2014 ^p	December 2013 to January 2014	January 2013 to January 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	48,854	49,636	50,025	0.8	2.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	359	323	326	1.1	-9.1
Prince Edward Island	51	56	55	-0.6	9.4
Nova Scotia	703	690	689	-0.2	-2.0
New Brunswick	491	505	498	-1.3	1.6
Quebec	9,338	9,114	9,155	0.5	-2.0
Ontario	23,517	24,247	24,201	-0.2	2.9
Manitoba	1,335	1,371	1,357	-1.0	1.7
Saskatchewan	1,870	1,903	2,082	9.4	11.4
Alberta	6,463	6,507	6,717	3.2	3.9
British Columbia	4,652	4,835	4,860	0.5	4.5
Yukon	11	12	11	-11.5	-4.1
Northwest Territories	54	66	65	-2.2	19.5
Nunavut	10	7	7	-4.0	-30.0

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Table 3
Wholesale merchants' inventories by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	January 2013	December 2013 ^r	January 2014 ^p	December 2013 to January 2014	January 2013 to January 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	61,228	61,449	62,339	1.4	1.8
Farm product	168	190	186	-1.7	10.9
Food, beverage and tobacco	5,529	5,730	5,779	0.8	4.5
Food	4,953	5,125	5,158	0.6	4.1
Beverage	307	369	384	4.0	25.1
Cigarette and tobacco product	270	236	237	0.7	-12.1
Personal and household goods	10,286	11,094	11,332	2.1	10.2
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,826	2,020	2,032	0.6	11.3
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	775	722	777	7.7	0.3
Home furnishings	991	1,105	1,115	0.9	12.6
Personal goods	1,431	1,346	1,540	14.4	7.6
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	4,589	5,048	4,995	-1.1	8.9
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	675	853	873	2.3	29.3
Motor vehicle and parts	8,194	7,791	7,934	1.8	-3.2
Motor vehicle	4,242	4,141	4,280	3.3	0.9
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,848	3,539	3,547	0.2	-7.8
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	104	111	107	-3.0	3.1
Building material and supplies	11,525	11,494	11,629	1.2	0.9
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	3,147	3,040	3,046	0.2	-3.2
Metal service centres	3,506	3,422	3,462	1.2	-1.2
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	4,872	5,032	5,121	1.8	5.1
Machinery, equipment and supplies	18,040	17,485	17,994	2.9	-0.3
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	3,836	3,947	3,973	0.7	3.6
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	8,998	8,413	8,937	6.2	-0.7
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	1,846	1,603	1,593	-0.6	-13.7
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,360	3,522	3,491	-0.9	3.9
Miscellaneous	7,487	7,665	7,484	-2.4	0.0
Recyclable material	572	544	494	-9.2	-13.6
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	663	687	700	1.9	5.6
Agricultural supplies	2,797	2,906	2,773	-4.6	-0.9
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	984	980	980	0.0	-0.4
Other miscellaneous	2,471	2,548	2,538	-0.4	2.7

^r revised

^p preliminary

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

Available in CANSIM: tables 081-0011, 081-0012 and 081-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2401.

The January 2014 issue of *Wholesale Trade* (63-008-X) will soon be available.

Wholesale trade data for February will be released on April 22.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Elspeth Hazell (613-951-8090; elspeth.hazell@statcan.gc.ca), Distributive Trades Division.