

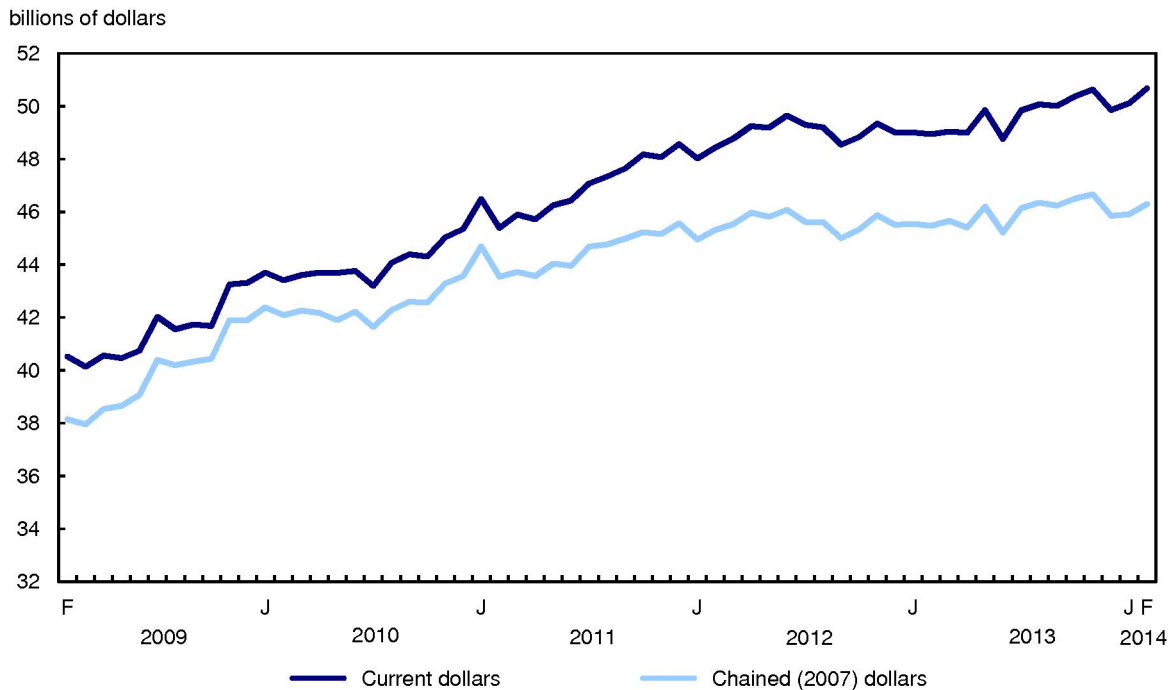
Wholesale trade, February 2014

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Wholesale sales rose for a second consecutive month in February, up 1.1% to \$50.7 billion. Sales in all subsectors increased, led by motor vehicle and parts. Excluding this subsector, wholesale sales rose 0.8%.

In volume terms, wholesale sales were up 0.8%.

Chart 1
Wholesale sales increase in February



Higher sales in all subsectors

The motor vehicle and parts subsector led the growth in wholesale sales in February, rising 3.0% to \$8.4 billion following two consecutive monthly declines. The motor vehicle industry (+4.7%) accounted for most of the increase. Stronger exports, imports and manufacturing sales were also recorded for motor vehicles and parts in February.

The machinery, equipment and supplies subsector recorded the second largest increase in dollar terms in February, as sales rose 0.8% to \$10.7 billion. The computer and communications equipment and supplies industry (+2.3%) led the increase, posting a second consecutive monthly gain.

Sales rose 0.7% to \$10.0 billion in the food, beverage and tobacco subsector, the fourth increase in five months. The food industry (+0.4%) accounted for much of the increase. The cigarette and tobacco product industry (+5.9%) also recorded higher sales in February.

The building material and supplies subsector (+0.9%) recorded a second consecutive monthly increase, as sales surpassed \$7.0 billion. These gains did not offset the declines recorded in November and December 2013, as sales in the subsector were still below the historical peak reached in October 2013.

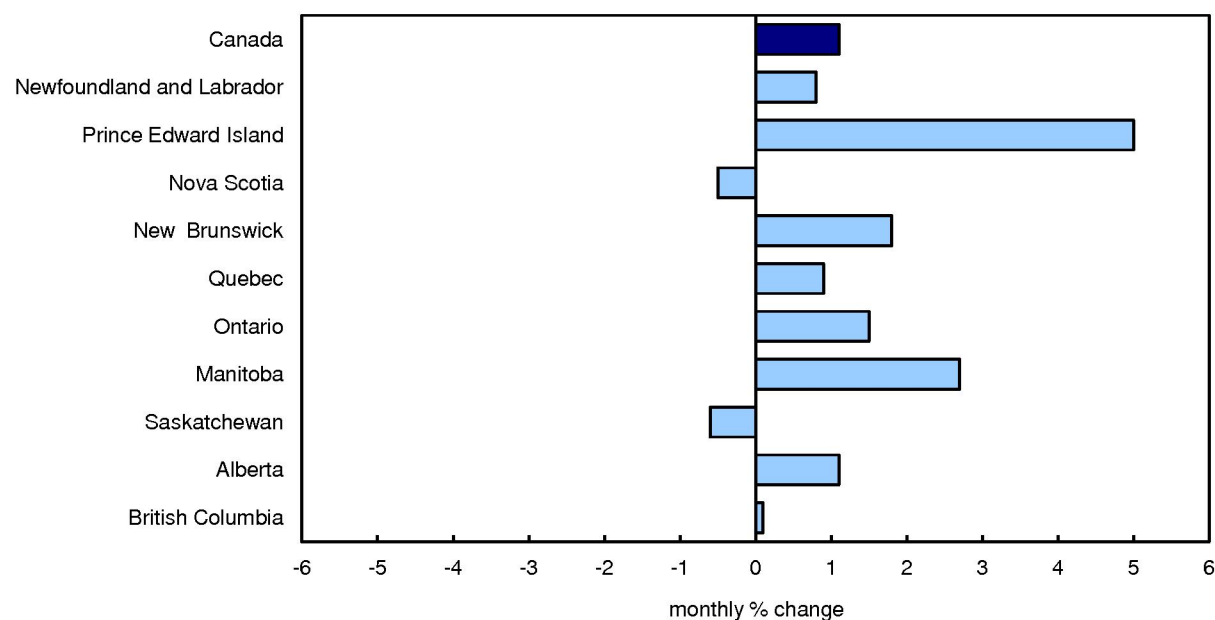


Sales rose 0.8% to \$6.5 billion in the miscellaneous subsector on the strength of gains in four of its five industries. This was the subsector's fifth increase in six months.

Sales up in eight provinces

In February, sales increased in eight provinces, which together represented 94% of wholesale sales in Canada. Ontario accounted for much of the gain with 48% of sales in February.

Chart 2
Wholesale sales up in eight provinces in February



Following two monthly declines, sales rose 1.5% to \$24.4 billion in Ontario. Higher sales in the motor vehicle and parts subsector accounted for most of the increase.

Sales in Quebec (+0.9%) rose for a second consecutive month, reaching \$9.4 billion in February. Gains were recorded in several subsectors, with the largest contribution coming from the food, beverage and tobacco subsector.

In Alberta, widespread gains across subsectors led to a 1.1% rise in sales, which reached \$6.8 billion. This was the second consecutive increase for the province.

Manitoba recorded a third increase in four months, as sales rose 2.7% to \$1.4 billion. February's increase more than offset January's decline in this province.

Following a strong gain in January, sales declined 0.6% in Saskatchewan to \$2.0 billion. The miscellaneous subsector and the farm product subsector were the main contributors to the decrease.

Sales decreased 0.5% to \$0.7 billion in Nova Scotia, the third decline in four months.

Inventories rise in February

Inventories rose 0.4% to \$62.4 billion in February. Gains were recorded in four of seven subsectors, representing 55% of wholesale inventories.

The largest gains in dollar terms were in the machinery, equipment and supplies subsector (+1.7%) and the motor vehicle and parts subsector (+2.7%). This was the second consecutive monthly increase for both subsectors.

Inventories fell 1.4% in the personal and household goods subsector and 0.7% in the building materials and supplies subsector. In both subsectors, the decline in February followed two consecutive monthly gains.

The inventory-to-sales ratio fell from 1.24 in January to 1.23 in February.

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](#).

With this release, unadjusted monthly data were revised back to January 2013, while seasonally adjusted data were revised back to January 2010. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of respondent information, correction of information in the data provided, the replacement of estimated figures with actual values (once available), the re-classification of companies within, into and out of the wholesale trade industry and updates to seasonal factors, including trading day weights.

Data in volume terms were also revised back to January 2010.

Table 1
Wholesale merchants' sales by industry – Seasonally adjusted

	February 2013	January 2014 ^r	February 2014 ^P	January to February 2014	February 2013 to February 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale sales (current dollars)	48,945	50,109	50,673	1.1	3.5
Total, wholesale sales (2007 chained dollars)	45,480	45,912	46,297	0.8	1.8
Total wholesale sales (current dollars), excluding motor vehicle and parts	40,661	41,972	42,289	0.8	4.0
Farm product	526	637	659	3.6	25.3
Food, beverage and tobacco	9,500	9,920	9,985	0.7	5.1
Food	8,511	8,947	8,984	0.4	5.6
Beverage	490	501	501	0.0	2.3
Cigarette and tobacco product	499	472	500	5.9	0.1
Personal and household goods	6,857	7,358	7,389	0.4	7.8
Textile, clothing and footwear	917	987	981	-0.5	7.1
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	656	806	817	1.4	24.6
Home furnishings	444	464	478	3.1	7.8
Personal goods	711	723	749	3.7	5.3
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	3,469	3,678	3,665	-0.4	5.6
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	660	701	698	-0.4	5.7
Motor vehicle and parts	8,284	8,137	8,384	3.0	1.2
Motor vehicle	6,204	5,882	6,161	4.7	-0.7
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	2,030	2,201	2,169	-1.5	6.9
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	50	54	54	0.7	7.8
Building material and supplies	6,893	6,968	7,029	0.9	2.0
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	2,129	2,133	2,130	-0.2	0.0
Metal service centres	1,495	1,557	1,623	4.2	8.5
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	3,269	3,278	3,277	0.0	0.2
Machinery, equipment and supplies	10,448	10,647	10,735	0.8	2.8
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	1,319	1,342	1,352	0.8	2.5
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	3,586	3,606	3,604	-0.1	0.5
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	3,102	3,345	3,421	2.3	10.3
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	2,441	2,353	2,358	0.2	-3.4
Miscellaneous	6,437	6,442	6,492	0.8	0.9
Recyclable material	598	701	713	1.8	19.3
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	879	881	891	1.2	1.4
Agricultural supplies	1,975	1,815	1,833	1.0	-7.2
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	1,111	1,190	1,221	2.6	9.9
Other miscellaneous	1,874	1,856	1,834	-1.2	-2.2

^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

	February 2013	January 2014 ^r	February 2014 ^p	January to February 2014	February 2013 to February 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Canada	48,945	50,109	50,673	1.1	3.5
Newfoundland and Labrador	387	401	404	0.8	4.2
Prince Edward Island	52	58	61	5.0	16.9
Nova Scotia	700	696	692	-0.5	-1.2
New Brunswick	488	495	504	1.8	3.1
Quebec	9,442	9,354	9,441	0.9	0.0
Ontario	23,149	24,052	24,417	1.5	5.5
Manitoba	1,339	1,357	1,394	2.7	4.1
Saskatchewan	2,010	2,048	2,037	-0.6	1.3
Alberta	6,582	6,743	6,820	1.1	3.6
British Columbia	4,718	4,826	4,830	0.1	2.4
Yukon	13	11	12	7.7	-3.4
Northwest Territories	56	59	53	-10.7	-5.8
Nunavut	9	8	9	9.9	-3.4

^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

	February 2013	January 2014 ^r	February 2014 ^p	January to February 2014	February 2013 to February 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total, wholesale inventories	61,196	62,146	62,412	0.4	2.0
Farm product	171	246	255	3.7	49.4
Food, beverage and tobacco	5,495	5,672	5,615	-1.0	2.2
Food	4,970	5,072	5,008	-1.3	0.8
Beverage	305	359	361	0.6	18.5
Cigarette and tobacco product	221	242	246	1.8	11.4
Personal and household goods	10,363	11,145	10,994	-1.4	6.1
Textile, clothing and footwear	1,805	1,951	1,941	-0.5	7.5
Home entertainment equipment and household appliance	778	780	801	2.7	2.9
Home furnishings	997	1,162	1,209	4.1	21.2
Personal goods	1,396	1,458	1,308	-10.3	-6.3
Pharmaceuticals and pharmacy supplies	4,673	5,017	4,948	-1.4	5.9
Toiletries, cosmetics and sundries	714	778	787	1.1	10.2
Motor vehicle and parts	8,215	8,001	8,218	2.7	0.0
Motor vehicle	4,289	4,342	4,500	3.7	4.9
New motor vehicle parts and accessories	3,820	3,545	3,602	1.6	-5.7
Used motor vehicle parts and accessories	106	115	115	0.6	9.0
Building material and supplies	11,620	11,296	11,221	-0.7	-3.4
Electrical, plumbing, heating and air-conditioning equipment and supplies	3,177	3,023	3,010	-0.4	-5.2
Metal service centres	3,472	3,227	3,210	-0.5	-7.5
Lumber, millwork, hardware and other building supplies	4,972	5,046	5,001	-0.9	0.6
Machinery, equipment and supplies	17,895	18,002	18,303	1.7	2.3
Farm, lawn and garden machinery and equipment	3,887	4,023	4,129	2.6	6.2
Construction, forestry, mining, and industrial machinery, equipment and supplies	8,993	8,884	9,045	1.8	0.6
Computer and communications equipment and supplies	1,606	1,616	1,619	0.1	0.7
Other machinery, equipment and supplies	3,409	3,480	3,511	0.9	3.0
Miscellaneous	7,436	7,784	7,806	0.3	5.0
Recyclable material	501	507	526	3.8	4.9
Paper, paper product and disposable plastic product	668	699	709	1.4	6.1
Agricultural supplies	2,888	3,088	3,034	-1.7	5.0
Chemical (except agricultural) and allied product	990	986	1,027	4.2	3.7
Other miscellaneous	2,389	2,505	2,510	0.2	5.1

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

Wholesale trade data for March will be released on May 20.

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), Manufacturing and Wholesale Trade Division.