



## Highlights

- Retail spending up in Canada but slowed in B.C.
- Decline in visitors entering Canada via B.C. in July

## B.C. retail sales slide, year to date down more

*Alan Chow, Business Economist*

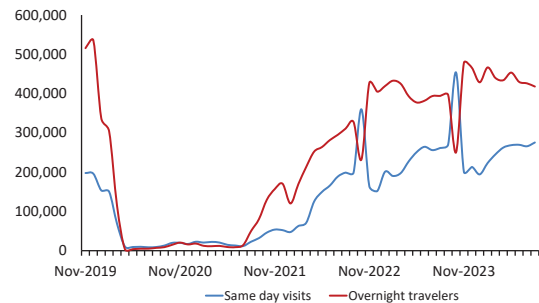
Retail sales increased in Canada for the month of August. Seasonally adjusted sales rose 0.4 per cent from July to \$66.6 billion, representing the highest monthly sales this year. Year to date, unadjusted sales are up 1.0 per cent. Advanced estimates for September suggested sales were up 0.4 per cent but this figure is likely to be revised.

In August, four out of the nine subsectors saw higher sales compared to the previous month. The growth was highest in motor vehicle and parts dealers, up 3.5 per cent, followed by sporting goods and hobby stores, up 0.9 per cent. Clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, jewelry, luggage and leather goods retailers were up 0.8 per cent. The two subsectors that saw the largest decline in seasonally adjusted sales were food and beverage retailers, down 1.5 per cent, and gasoline stations and fuel vendors, down 2.7 per cent.

In contrast, retail spending in B.C. slowed, down 1.0 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$8.85 billion in August, which is below this year's monthly average of \$8.9 billion. Year to date unadjusted retail sales is down 0.3 per cent at \$70.5 billion.

## Same day visitors rise while overnight travelers fall in August

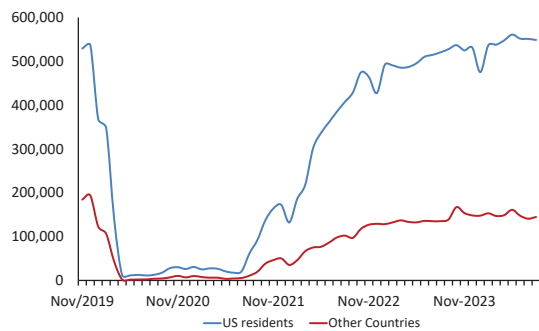
Non-resident traveler entries through B.C., seasonally - adjusted



Source: Statistics Canada, Central 1 latest: Aug/24  
 \*Statistics Canada deems at those two months of October 2022 and 2023 to be anomalies at this point

## Marginally higher visitors arrive in August

Non-resident traveler entries through B.C., persons, seasonally - adjusted



Source: Statistics Canada, Central 1 latest: Aug/24

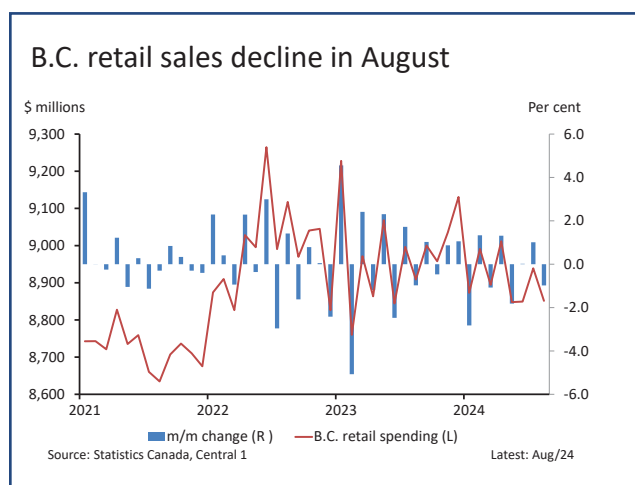
Four out of the nine subsectors in B.C. recorded lower year over year unadjusted August retail sales. Gasoline station and fuel vendors reported a 11.9 per cent year over year decline in sales in August. Furniture, electronics, and appliance retailers also saw a monthly year over year decline of 11.1 per cent to \$475 million and motor vehicle and parts dealers saw a 3.0 per cent year over year decline to \$2.1 billion. Higher year over year sales were seen at health and personal care retailers, up 8.1 per cent to \$749 million and clothing, jewelry, and leather goods stores, up 8.1 per cent to \$691 million. Year to date, sales are down in five out of the nine subsectors.

In the metro Vancouver area, compared to July 2024, seasonally adjusted retail sales were down 0.2 per cent for August 2024 to \$4.57 billion. Year over year, monthly unadjusted retail sales were down 0.9 per cent while year to date sales were also up 1.0 per cent.

## Decline in both U.S. residents and other resident visitors

*Alan Chow, Business Economist*

The number of non-resident travelers entering Canada via British Columbia rose 0.2 per cent in August 2024 to a seasonally adjusted 693,407, pausing a two-month trend of declining number of non-resident visitors. Same day excursions rose 3.8 per cent to 275,486 visitors while overnight tourist declined 1.9 per cent to 417,920 visitors. This is the third consecutive month that the number of overnight tourists declined. Year to date, the total number of non-resident visitors entering Canada via British Columbia is up 8.5 per cent over the same period last year with same day excursions up 8.4 per cent and overnight tourists up 8.7 per cent.



The number of U.S. residents entering Canada via B.C. fell 0.4 per cent in August to a seasonally adjusted 548,666 persons. Overnight excursions were down 3.8 per cent while same day excursions were up 3.8 per cent. The decline in U.S. residents entering was seen in arrivals by automobile which declined 2.9 per cent. Those who arrived by air remained unchanged at 117,689 while those who arrived by other modes of transportation increased by 5.0 per cent to 135,154. The number of residents from other countries other than the U.S. was up by 2.7 per cent to 144,740 with air arrivals down 3.8 per cent balanced by a decline in land or water arrivals by 0.5 per cent.

*For more information, contact [economics@central1.com](mailto:economics@central1.com).*