



Highlights

- Retail spending up in Canada and Ontario
- Non-residents arrivals declined again

Ontario retail sales up in September, ends slide

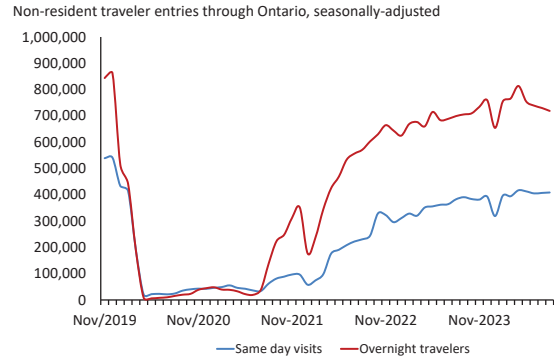
Alan Chow, Business Economist

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

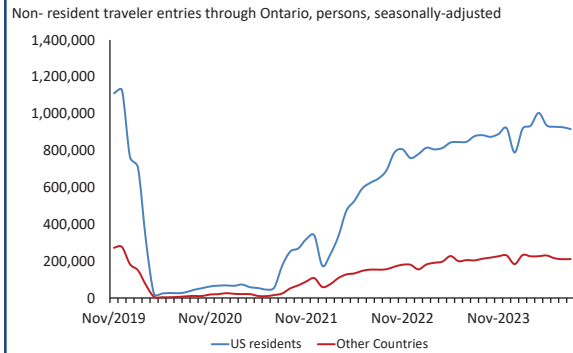
In August, four out of the nine subsectors saw higher sales compared to the previous month. The highest growth was in motor vehicle and parts dealers, up 3.5 per cent, followed by sporting goods and hobby stores, up 0.9 per cent, and then clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, jewelry, luggage and leather goods retailers, up 0.8 per cent. The two subsectors that saw largest declines 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.

Ontario saw even stronger sales growth. Seasonally adjusted retail sales rose by 0.9 per cent in August, compared to July. This stopped the month-over-month decline in sales that started in January this year. Year-to-date unadjusted retail sales in Ontario were up 0.2 per cent over the same period last year.

Decline in overnight travelers to Ontario



Fewer US travelers entering Canada through Ontario



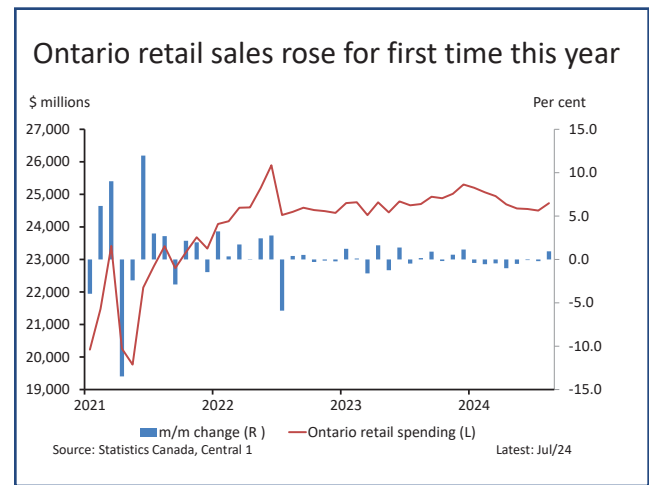
Five out of the nine subsectors in Ontario reported higher year-over-year unadjusted sales in August. Food and beverage retailers reported a year-over-year increase of 4.8 per cent, reaching \$4.9 billion. General merchandise retailers also saw sales climb 3.7 per cent to \$3.6 billion. Health and personal care retailers saw sales increase 4.1 per cent to \$1.9 billion. Top subsectors that saw a year-over-year monthly decline in sales were gasoline stations and fuel vendors, down 11.6 per cent to \$2.1 billion, building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers, down 12.7 per cent to \$1.3 billion. Year to date, sales are down in five out of the nine subsectors.

Regionally, the Toronto metro area saw seasonally adjusted retail sales increased by 0.6 per cent on a month-over-month basis in August 2024, but year-over-year unadjusted monthly sales decreased by 2.4 per cent. Year-to-date unadjusted sales were also down 0.8 per cent to \$87.2 billion. Ottawa saw unadjusted monthly sales decrease 3.1 per cent year over year, although year-to-date sales are up 0.9 per cent to \$16.3 billion.

Non-residents visitors declined for fourth month

Alan Chow, Business Economist

The number of non-resident visitors entering Canada through Ontario fell again in August. On a seasonally adjusted basis, there were 0.8 per cent fewer non-resident visitors in August than in July, decreasing from 1.14 to 1.13 million people. After revisions, this was the fourth month in a row that the number of non-resident visitors declined. The number of overnight tourists fell for the fourth month in a row, down by 1.5 per cent to 718,834, but the number of visitors doing same day excursions went up for the second month in a row by 0.4 per cent to 408,647. Year to date, comparing with last year, the total number of non-resident visitors entering Canada via Ontario is up 10.9 per cent, same-day excursions up 13.9 per cent and overnight tourist up by 9.4 per cent.



The number of U.S residents visiting Canada through Ontario fell for the fourth month in a row, down 1.1 per cent from July to August to 916,301 persons. Amongst the U.S. residents, there was a decline in overnight tourist of around 2.3 per cent to 519,760, which was partially offset by a 0.5 per cent increase in same day excursions (396,541 persons). Air travel from U.S. residents to Ontario rose by 3.1 per cent. On the other hand, U.S. residents who came by automobile declined by two per cent while other modes declined by 2.8 per cent. Residents from countries other than the U.S. saw a 0.3 per cent increase to around 211,180 persons. Among these visitors, overnight excursions rose by 0.4 per cent, which was balanced by same day excursions decrease of 1.3 per cent. There was a rise of 0.9 per cent in the number of non-residents from other countries other than the U.S. that came via air during the month and a decline of 1.5 per cent in those who came via land and sea.

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