



## UPDATE

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In 1983 total retail sales in Canada rose to \$106.2 billion, 8.8% over 1982. But in 1982, with interest rates and unemployment at high levels, consumers were reluctant to spend, retail sales were up only 3.5% over 1981, and the average spending for the year in purchases of goods per person was \$4,052.

Retail sales of new motor vehicles constitute a leading economic indicator, being one of the largest components of personal spending for consumer goods and services. In 1982 consumer wariness was reflected in an accentuated decline in the number of sales and a drop of 17.6% in value from \$11.9 billion in 1981 to \$9.8 billion. In 1983, however, new motor vehicle sales showed a strong recovery, going up in value to \$12.2 billion.

Data on merchandising and service industries are gathered by Statistics Canada through monthly, annual and occasional surveys to produce a variety of statistical information, particularly for market analysts and entrepreneurs.