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Canada’s food service sales rose 0.2% in September to C$8.9 billion

Full-service restaurants led gains in nine provinces, with Quebec the only province to post a decline

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Canada’s food services and drinking places sector recorded a 0.2% monthly sales increase in September, extending its run of gains to nine straight months and lifting seasonally adjusted sales to C$8.9 billion, according to Statistics Canada.

In a release issued Wednesday, November 25, the agency said the increase covered the full food services and drinking places subsector and was measured in current dollars. For restaurants and bars, that means the figures show higher revenue at the national level, but not necessarily a rise in the volume of meals or drinks sold.

Statistics Canada said prices help explain that distinction. Unadjusted prices for food purchased from restaurants were 3.1% higher in September than in September 2025. Unadjusted prices for alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments were up 3.0% over the same period. Because the sales data are reported in current dollars, the monthly increase reflects both pricing and activity.

The strongest support for the September gain came from full-service restaurants. Statistics Canada said sales at those establishments rose 0.4% from August, the largest increase in dollar terms among the main industry groups. Limited-service eating places also posted growth, with sales up 0.2%. Sales at drinking places were relatively unchanged, while special food services declined 1.1%.

The advance was broad across the country. Sales increased in nine provinces in September. British Columbia, Ontario and Alberta were the main contributors to the national gain, according to the agency. British Columbia posted a 0.4% increase to C$1.529 billion, Alberta rose 0.3% to C$1.165 billion and Ontario edged up 0.1% to C$3.466 billion, remaining the country’s largest provincial market by sales value.

Quebec was the only province to record a decline. Sales there fell 0.7% to C$1.693 billion in September.

Elsewhere, growth was stronger in several smaller provinces. Newfoundland and Labrador rose 2.2% to C$100.6 million. New Brunswick increased 1.4% to C$152.7 million. Manitoba and Saskatchewan each advanced 1.3%, reaching C$255.2 million and C$230.0 million, respectively. Prince Edward Island gained 0.8% to C$39.5 million, while Nova Scotia rose 0.3% to C$216.3 million.

The territorial figures were mixed. Yukon sales climbed 1.7% to C$10.2 million and the Northwest Territories rose 3.0% to C$9.2 million. Nunavut was lower, down 1.3% to C$1.9 million.

Statistics Canada said all figures in the release are seasonally adjusted unless otherwise noted, meaning they have been modified to remove regular seasonal and calendar effects so month-to-month comparisons are easier to interpret. The agency also said the September numbers are preliminary. It typically revises unadjusted data for the previous two months and seasonally adjusted data for the previous three months, and it cautioned that later updates can materially change the picture, especially near the end of a series.

The September release adds to a steady pattern of nominal growth for Canada’s hospitality sector through most of the year, with full-service restaurants providing the clearest support in the latest month and drinking places showing little change. More detailed provincial and territorial figures are available through Statistics Canada’s food services and drinking places sales tables and dashboard.