



Local Spending Tracker

June 2023 data update



About the Local Spending Tracker

The **Local Spending Tracker** provides timely monitoring of spending patterns across Canada. It features high-frequency payments data allowing users to stay on top of the latest spending trends in their region.

Unlike other sources, our tracker provides granular insights for 35 locations, using a robust methodology that accounts for seasonality, inflation and population changes.

Our tracker provides leading indicators that complement official consumer spending statistics, but are available faster, at a higher frequency and for many more cities.

Key Findings

National picture

- Our weekly spending data show a burst of activity before Christmas that carried into January — supported by a large increase in employment and unseasonably warm weather. Spending then sagged in February and March. However, consumers opened their wallets by the middle of April through to mid-June. May enjoyed the fastest pace of nominal spending growth in 12 months. June's performance was also solid (+2% month-over-month), but momentum clearly slowed after the Bank of Canada resumed hiking interest rates.

Regional results

- Consumer spending stayed positive on a year-over-year basis across all regions of the country in June, except Newfoundland and Labrador. There are concentrated pockets of spending strength in the Prairies (Alberta, Saskatchewan, and more recently Manitoba), Atlantic Canada (Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia) as well as the Territories. At the other end of the spectrum, spending is soft in Central Canada (Ontario and Quebec), and on the West and East coasts (British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador).

“Canadian consumers kept spending in the second quarter of 2023, continuing a trend of resilience in the face of higher interest rates and affordability challenges.

That said, if there’s a cause for concern in our latest data reading, it’s the fact that spending turned a corner after the Bank of Canada resumed its interest rate hikes in early June. Will this summer finally mark a turning point for Canadian consumers and Canada’s economy more generally? Forecasters have repeatedly pushed off the timing for a recession, as consumers, labour markets and housing have surprised on the upside. Looking ahead, we expect consumer spending to slow noticeably in the second half of the year as people cut back on discretionary purchases.”

Stephen Tapp

Chief Economist, Canadian Chamber of Commerce





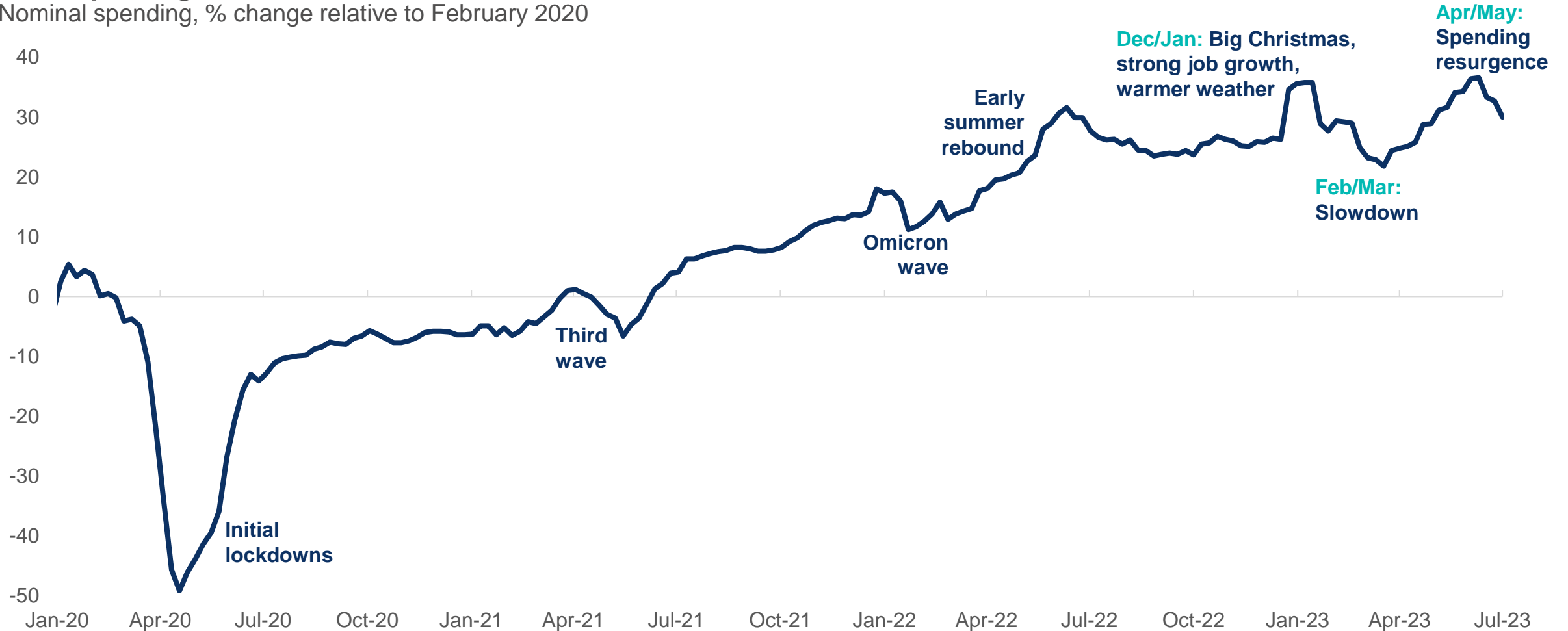
National



National spending changes since the start of the pandemic

Local Spending Tracker, Canada

Nominal spending, % change relative to February 2020

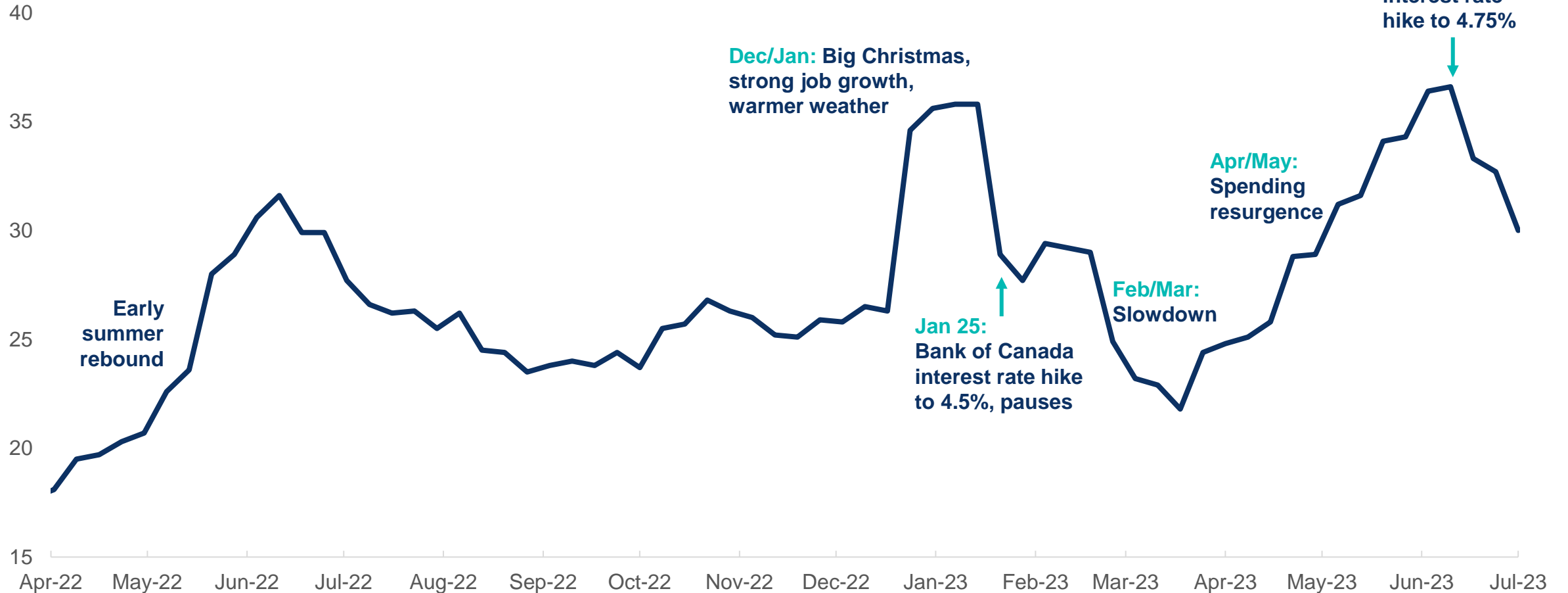


Source: Canadian Chamber of Commerce Business Data Lab calculations using Moneris data.

Zooming in on recent national consumer spending changes

Local Spending Tracker, Canada

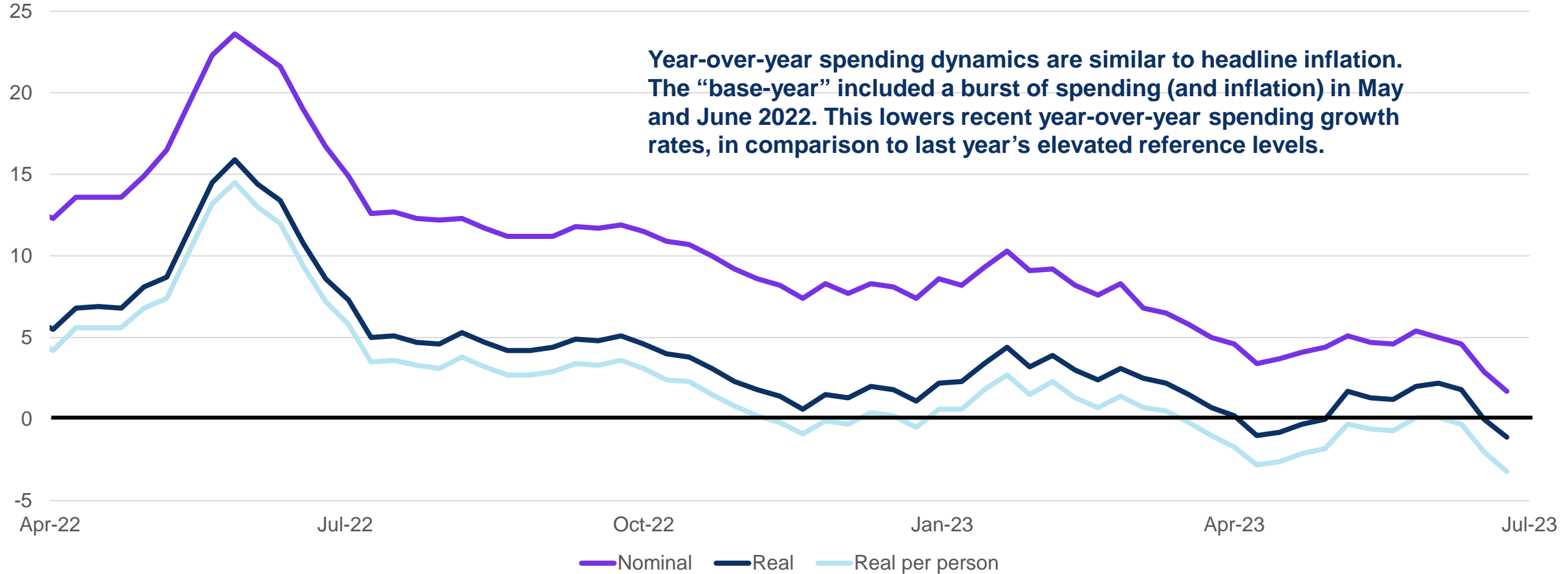
Nominal spending, % change relative to February 2020



Source: Canadian Chamber of Commerce Business Data Lab calculations using Moneris data.

National spending growth indicators

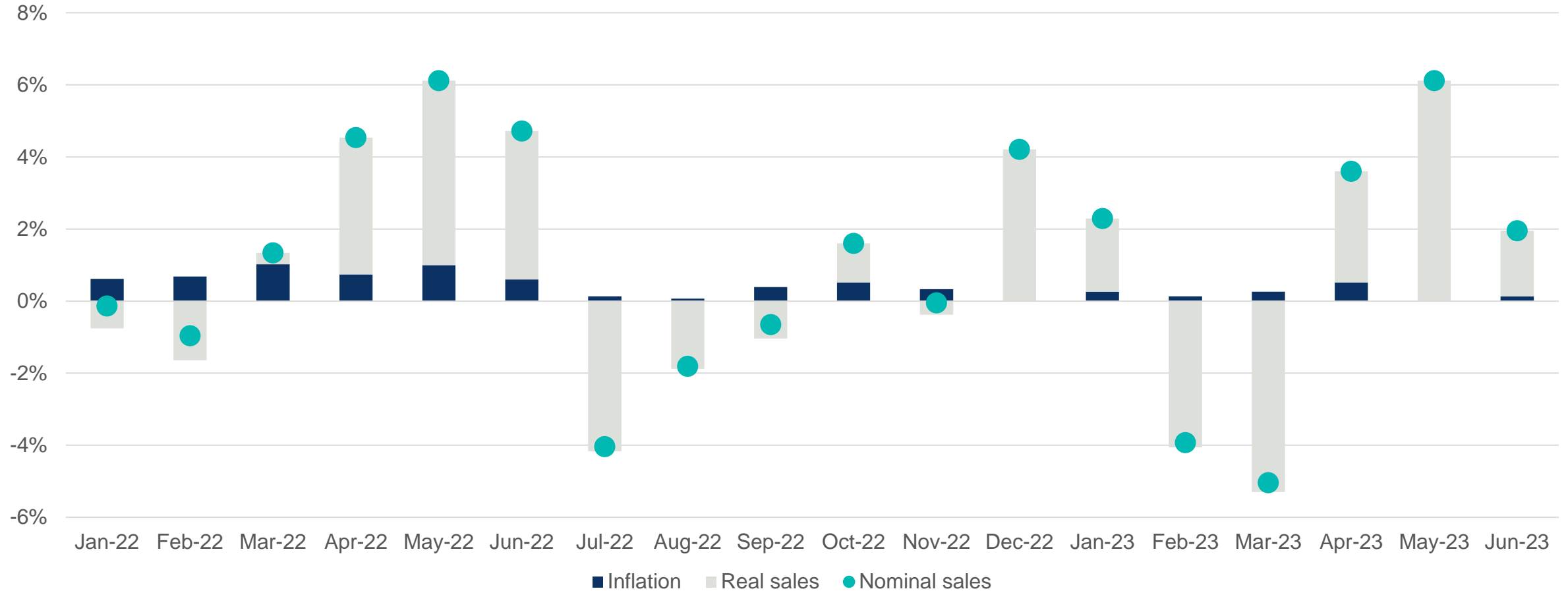
Spending growth indicators, Canada
% change, year-over-year



Nominal = current dollar spending; real = adjusted for inflation; real per person = adjusted for inflation and population growth
Source: Canadian Chamber of Commerce Business Data Lab calculations using Moneris and Statistics Canada data.

Shorter-term monthly spending patterns

Nominal Local Spending Tracker decomposition, Canada
% change, month-over-month



Source: Canadian Chamber of Commerce Business Data Lab calculations using Moneris and Statistics Canada data.

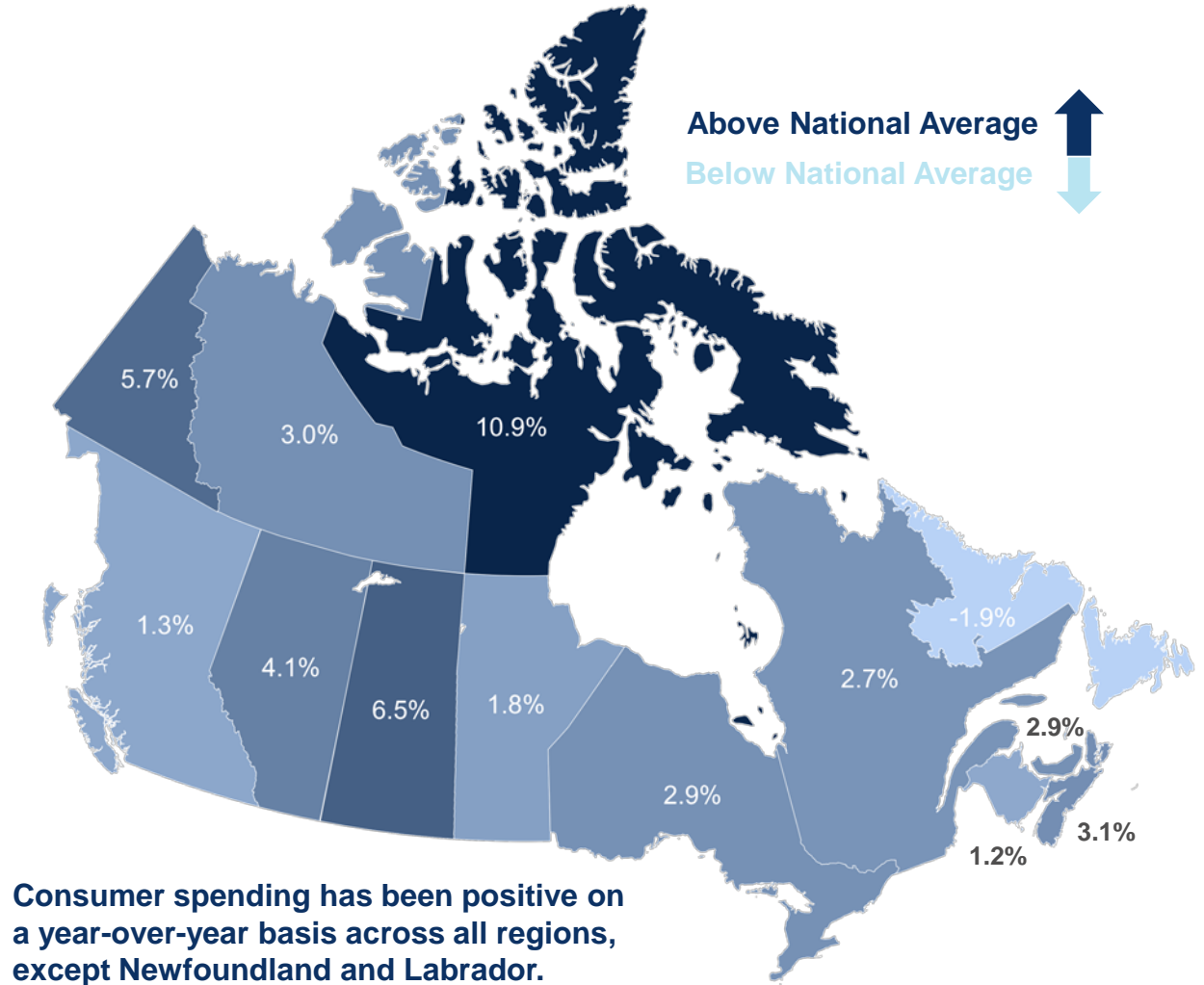
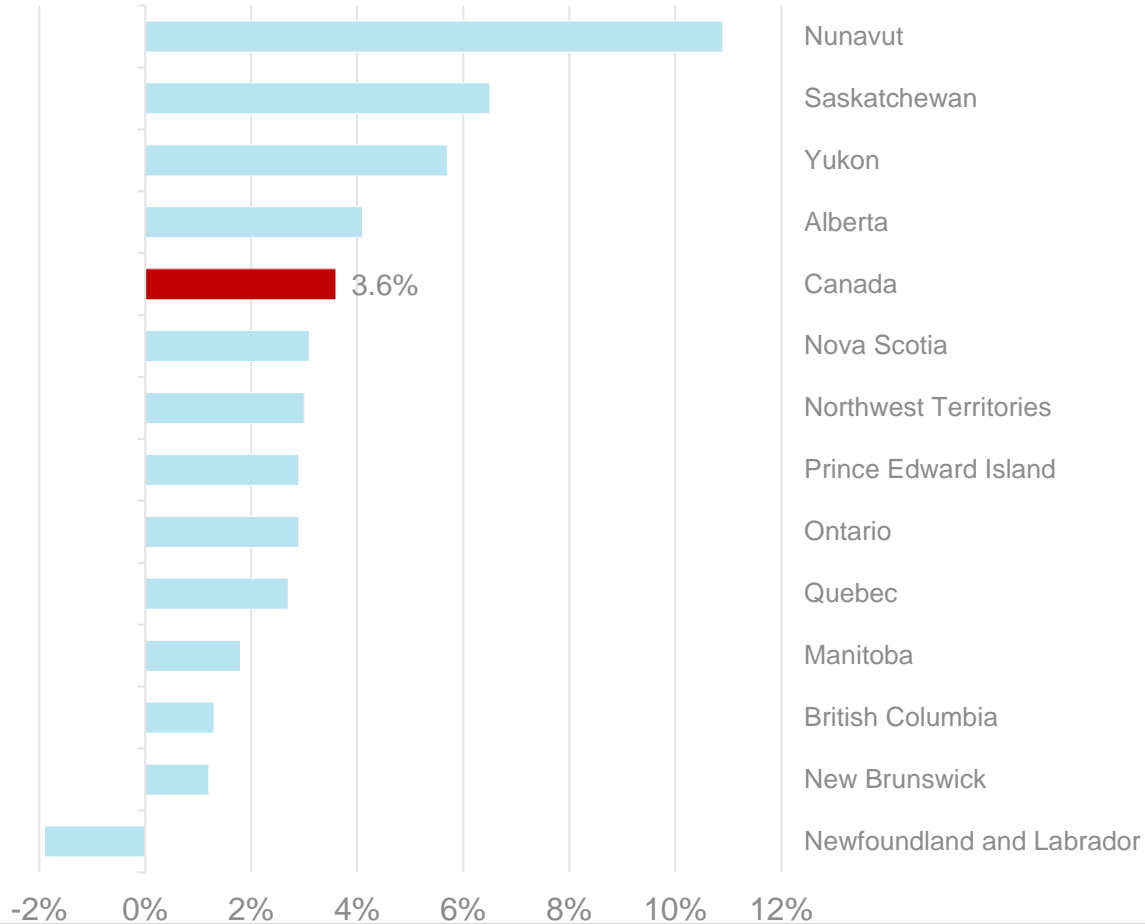
An aerial photograph of a city skyline at dusk. The foreground is dominated by lush green trees and a winding river. In the middle ground, a dense cluster of skyscrapers is visible, with the most prominent one being a tall, cylindrical building with a distinctive diamond-patterned facade. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting the time is either early morning or late evening. The overall scene is a blend of urban architecture and natural greenery.

Regional results

Latest nominal spending growth

Nominal spending

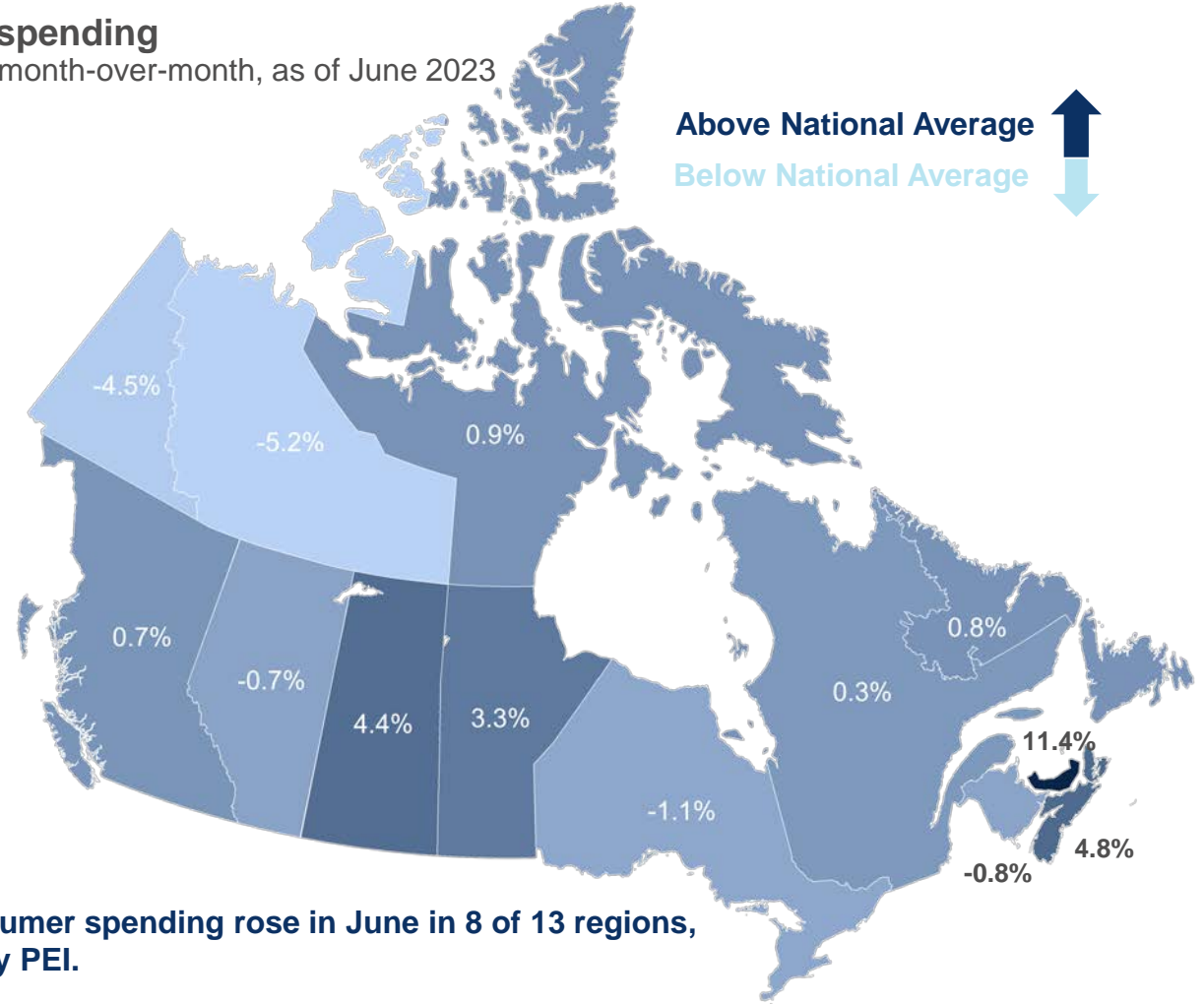
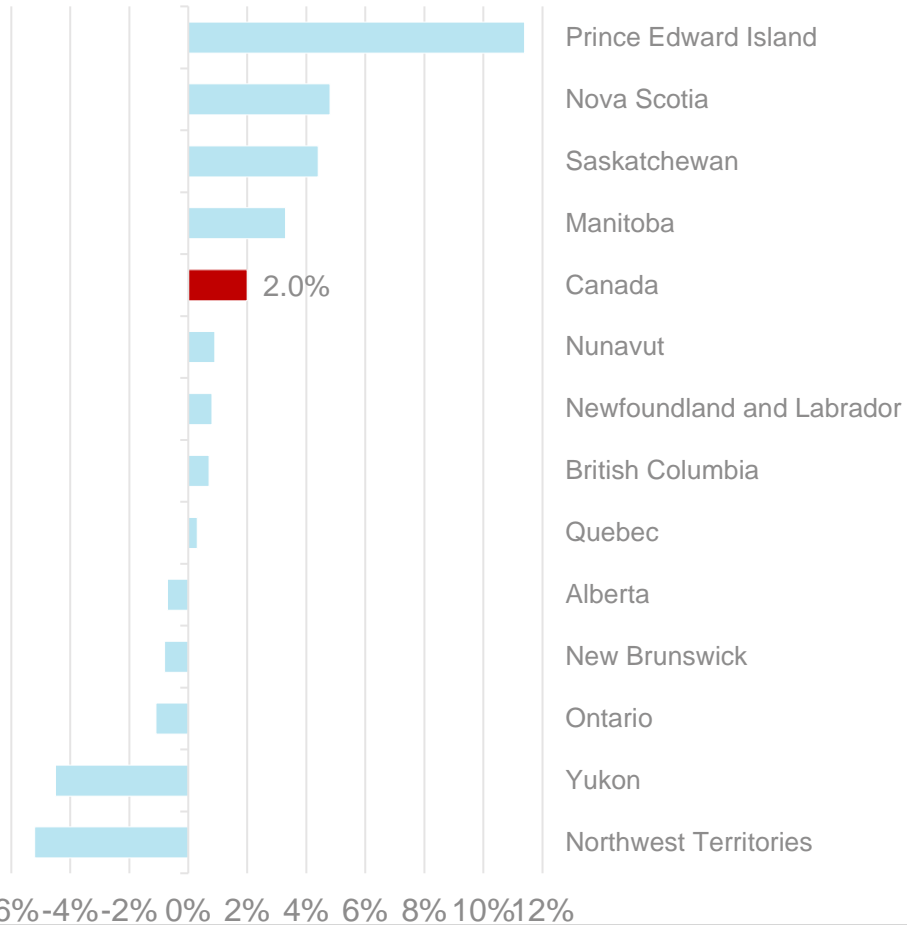
% change, year-over-year, as of June 2023



Consumer spending has been positive on a year-over-year basis across all regions, except Newfoundland and Labrador.

Latest nominal spending growth

Nominal spending
% change, month-over-month, as of June 2023

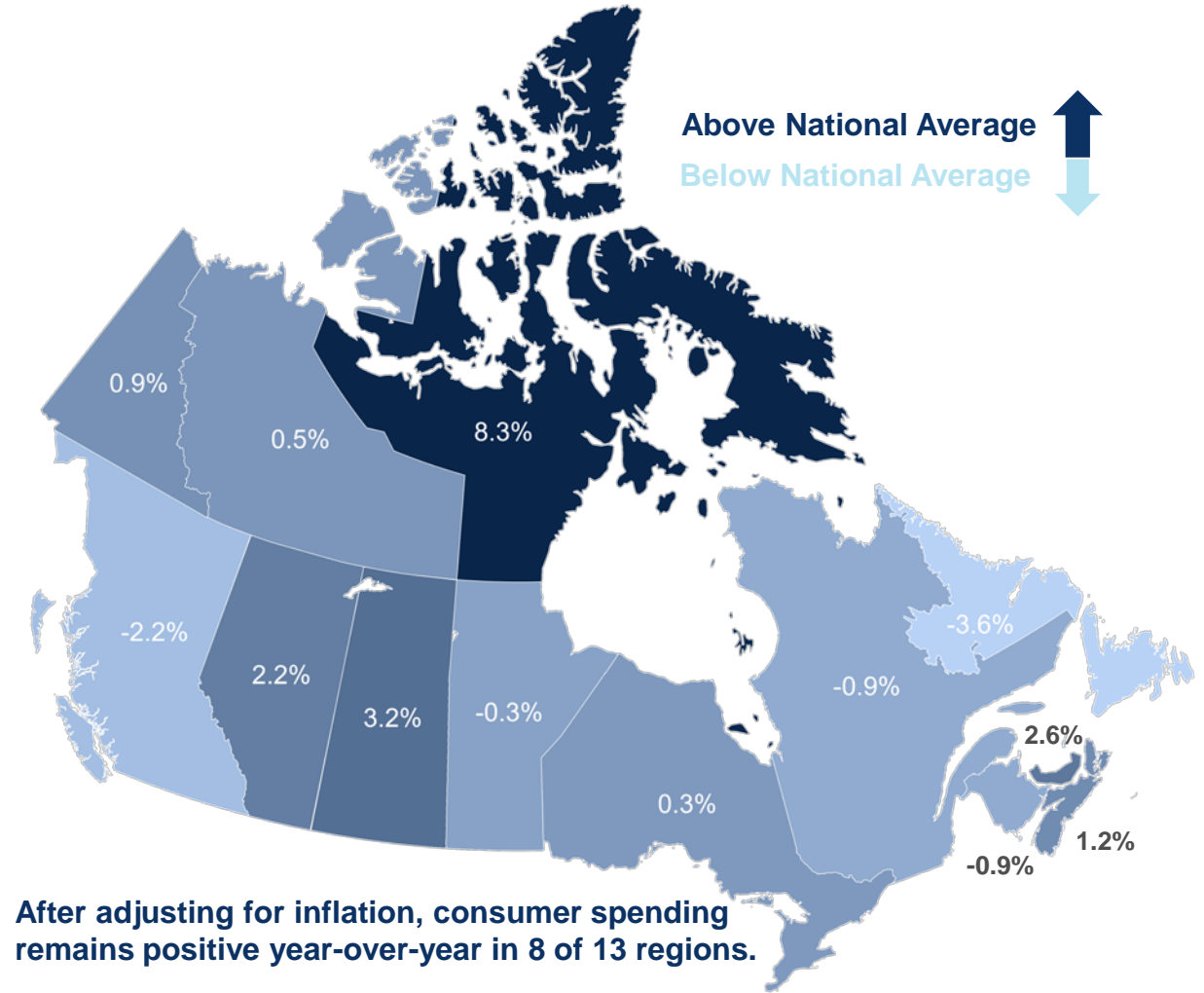
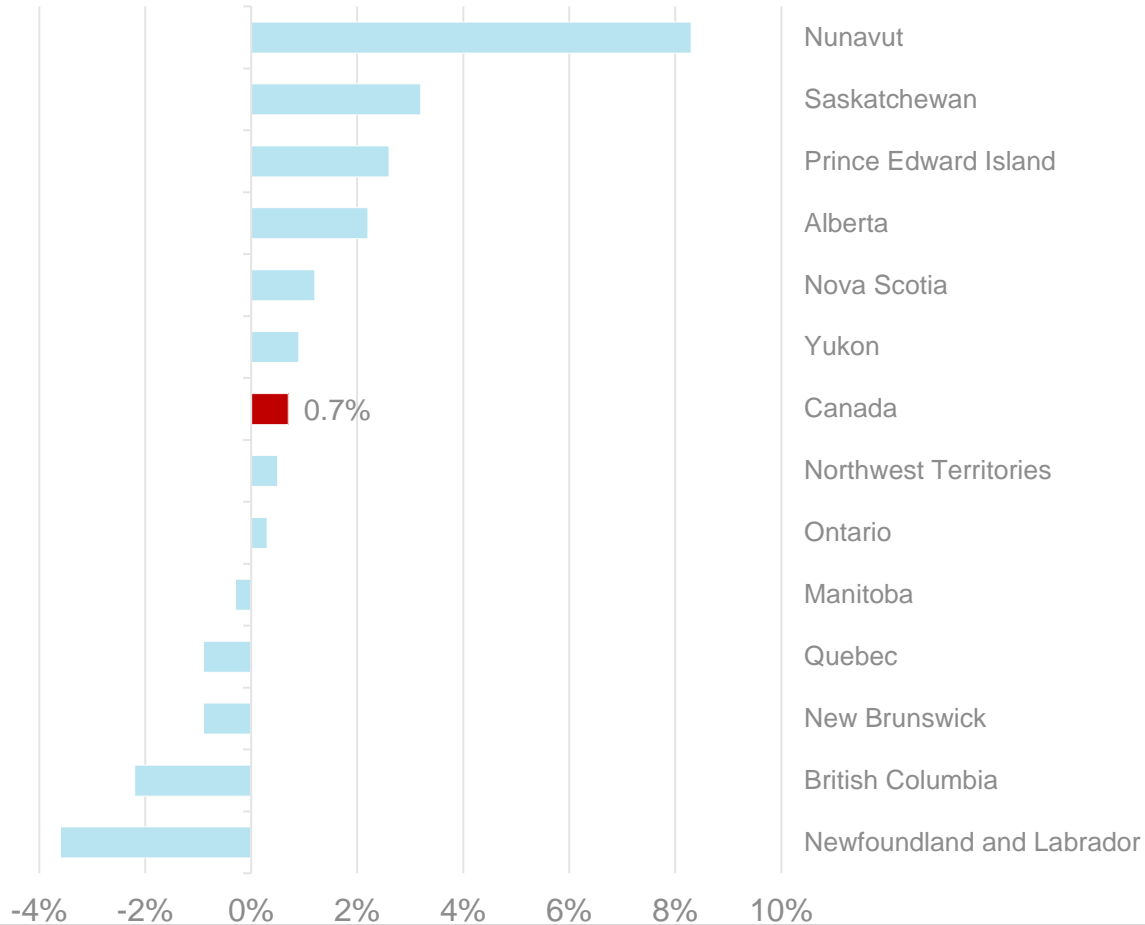


Consumer spending rose in June in 8 of 13 regions, led by PEI.

Source: BDL calculations using Moneris data.

Latest real spending growth

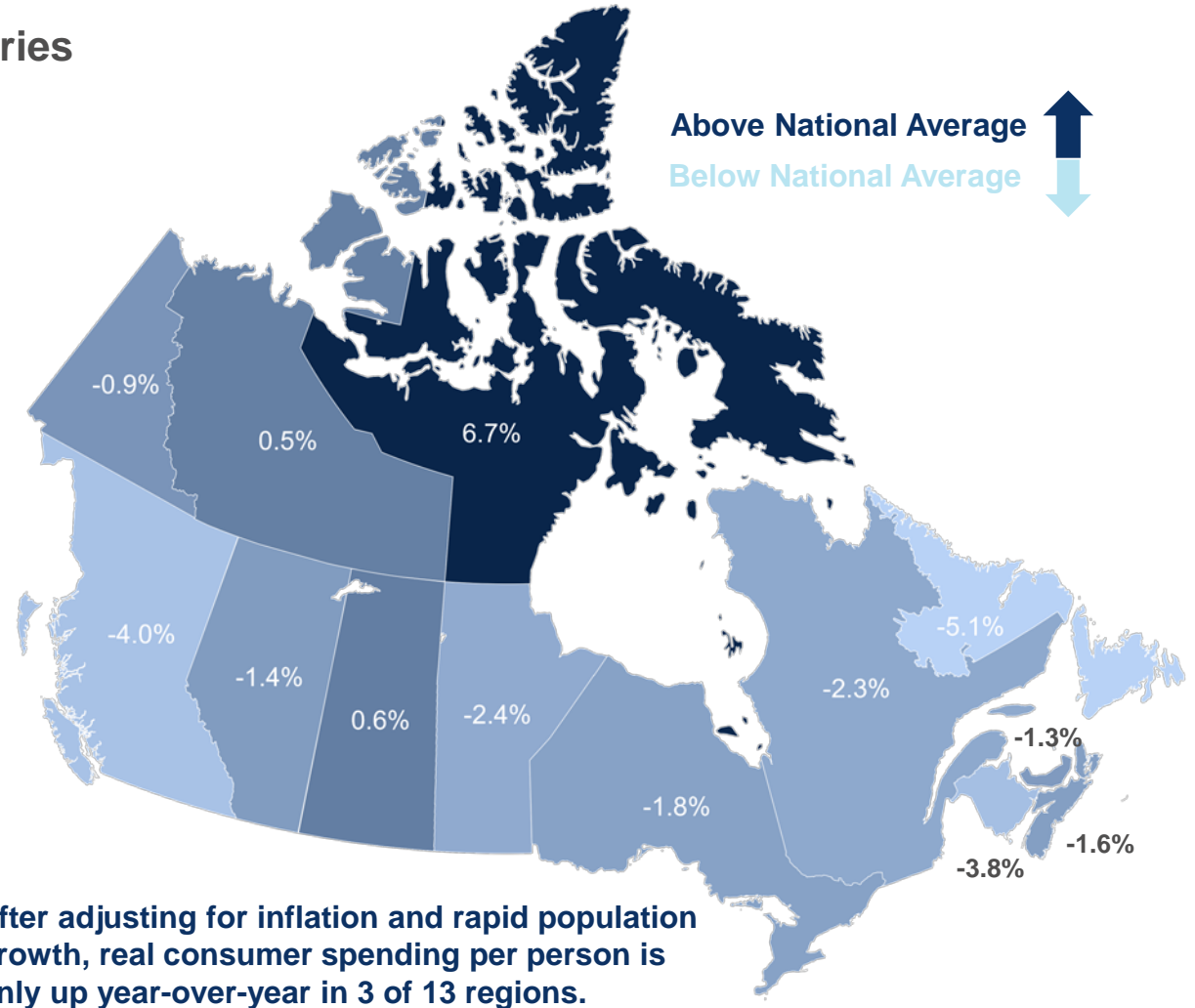
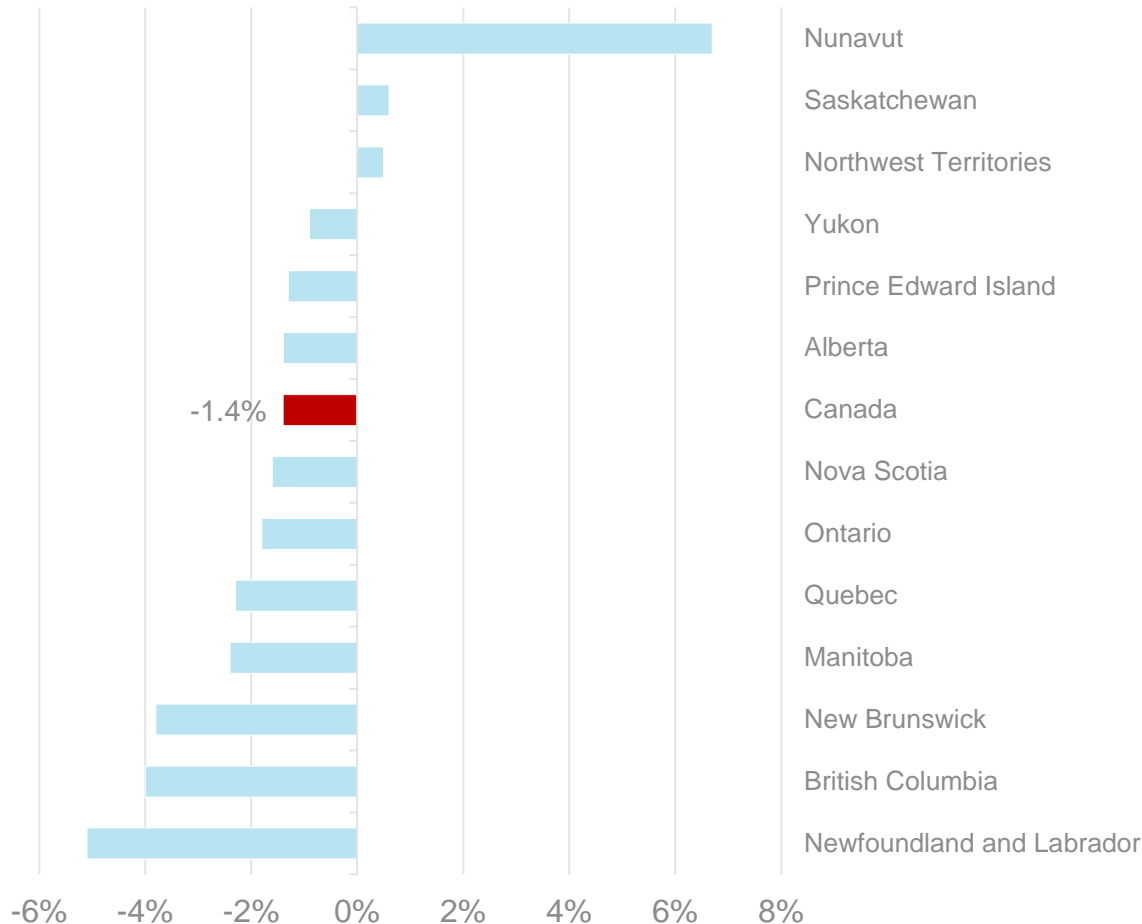
Real spending*, Canada, Provinces and Territories % change, year-over-year, as of June 2023



*Real = adjusted for inflation.
Source: BDL calculations using Moneris data.

Latest real per person spending growth

Real spending per person*, Canada, Provinces and Territories
 % change, year-over-year, as of June 2023



*Real spending per person = adjusted for inflation and population changes.
 Source: BDL calculations using Moneris data.

Provincial, territorial rankings across indicators

Nominal spending growth Year-over-year % changes

1 Nunavut	10.9
2 Saskatchewan	6.5
3 Yukon	5.7
4 Alberta	4.1
Canada	3.6
5 Nova Scotia	3.1
6 NWT	3.0
7 Ontario	2.9
8 PEI	2.9
9 Quebec	2.7
10 Manitoba	1.8
11 BC	1.3
12 New Brunswick	1.2
13 NFLD	-1.9

Real spending growth

1 Nunavut	8.3
2 Saskatchewan	3.2
3 PEI	2.6
4 Alberta	2.2
5 Nova Scotia	1.2
6 Yukon	0.9
Canada	0.7
7 NWT	0.5
8 Ontario	0.3
9 Manitoba	-0.3
10 New Brunswick	-0.9
11 Quebec	-0.9
12 BC	-2.2
13 NFLD	-3.6

Real spending growth per person

1 Nunavut	6.7
2 Saskatchewan	0.6
3 NWT	0.5
4 Yukon	-0.9
5 PEI	-1.3
Canada	-1.4
6 Alberta	-1.4
7 Nova Scotia	-1.6
8 Ontario	-1.8
9 Quebec	-2.3
10 Manitoba	-2.4
11 New Brunswick	-3.8
12 BC	-4.0
13 NFLD	-5.1

Nominal spending growth Month-over-month % changes

1 PEI	11.4
2 Nova Scotia	4.8
3 Saskatchewan	4.4
4 Manitoba	3.3
Canada	2.0
5 Nunavut	0.9
6 NFLD	0.8
7 BC	0.7
8 Quebec	0.3
9 Alberta	-0.7
10 New Brunswick	-0.8
11 Ontario	-1.1
12 Yukon	-4.5
13 NWT	-5.2

*As of June 2023; BC = British Columbia; NFLD = Newfoundland and Labrador; NWT= Northwest Territories; PEI= Prince Edward Island
Source: BDL calculations using Moneris data.

CMA rankings across indicators

Nominal spending growth

Year-over-year % changes

1 Iqaluit	15.2
2 Regina	7.0
3 Halifax	5.9
4 Whitehorse	5.7
5 Calgary	4.8
6 Vancouver	4.7
7 Hamilton	4.5
Canada	3.6
8 Sudbury	3.4
9 Edmonton	3.3
10 Yellowknife	3.3
11 Gatineau	3.2
12 Toronto	3.1
13 Montreal	3.1
14 Quebec City	2.4
15 K-W-C	2.2
16 Charlottetown	2.2
17 Winnipeg	1.9
18 Moncton	0.5
19 St. John's	-1.0
20 Ottawa	-1.1
21 Victoria	-3.5

Real spending growth

1 Iqaluit	12.6
2 Regina	3.5
3 Halifax	3.5
4 Calgary	2.7
5 Edmonton	2.0
6 Charlottetown	1.9
7 Hamilton	1.4
8 Whitehorse	0.9
9 Yellowknife	0.8
10 Vancouver	0.7
Canada	0.7
11 Gatineau	0.1
12 Sudbury	0.0
13 Toronto	0.0
14 Winnipeg	-0.4
15 K-W-C	-0.9
16 Montreal	-1.6
17 Quebec City	-1.8
18 Moncton	-1.9
19 St. John's	-3.2
20 Ottawa	-4.2
21 Victoria	-6.4

Real spending growth per person

1 Iqaluit	11.1
2 Yellowknife	0.8
3 Regina	0.5
4 Hamilton	-0.1
5 Sudbury	-0.3
6 Halifax	-0.6
7 Whitehorse	-0.9
8 Vancouver	-1.1
9 Calgary	-1.2
Canada	-1.4
10 Charlottetown	-1.9
11 Gatineau	-2.0
12 Edmonton	-2.0
13 Toronto	-2.4
14 Winnipeg	-2.7
15 Quebec City	-2.7
16 K-W-C	-3.3
17 Montreal	-3.5
18 St. John's	-5.4
19 Moncton	-5.9
20 Ottawa	-6.2
21 Victoria	-8.2

Nominal spending growth

Month-over-month % changes

1 Charlottetown	12.4
2 Regina	9.4
3 Hamilton	7.0
4 K-W-C	5.7
5 Toronto	4.9
6 Halifax	4.3
7 Gatineau	4.1
8 Winnipeg	2.8
9 St. John's	2.5
Canada	2.0
10 Victoria	0.6
11 Calgary	0.5
12 Montreal	0.2
13 Vancouver	0.2
14 Sudbury	-0.2
15 Iqaluit	-0.5
16 Moncton	-0.8
17 Edmonton	-1.8
18 Quebec City	-1.8
19 Yellowknife	-2.4
20 Whitehorse	-4.5
21 Ottawa	-21.4

* As of June 2023; K-W-C= Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge

Source: BDL calculations using Moneris data.



Appendix

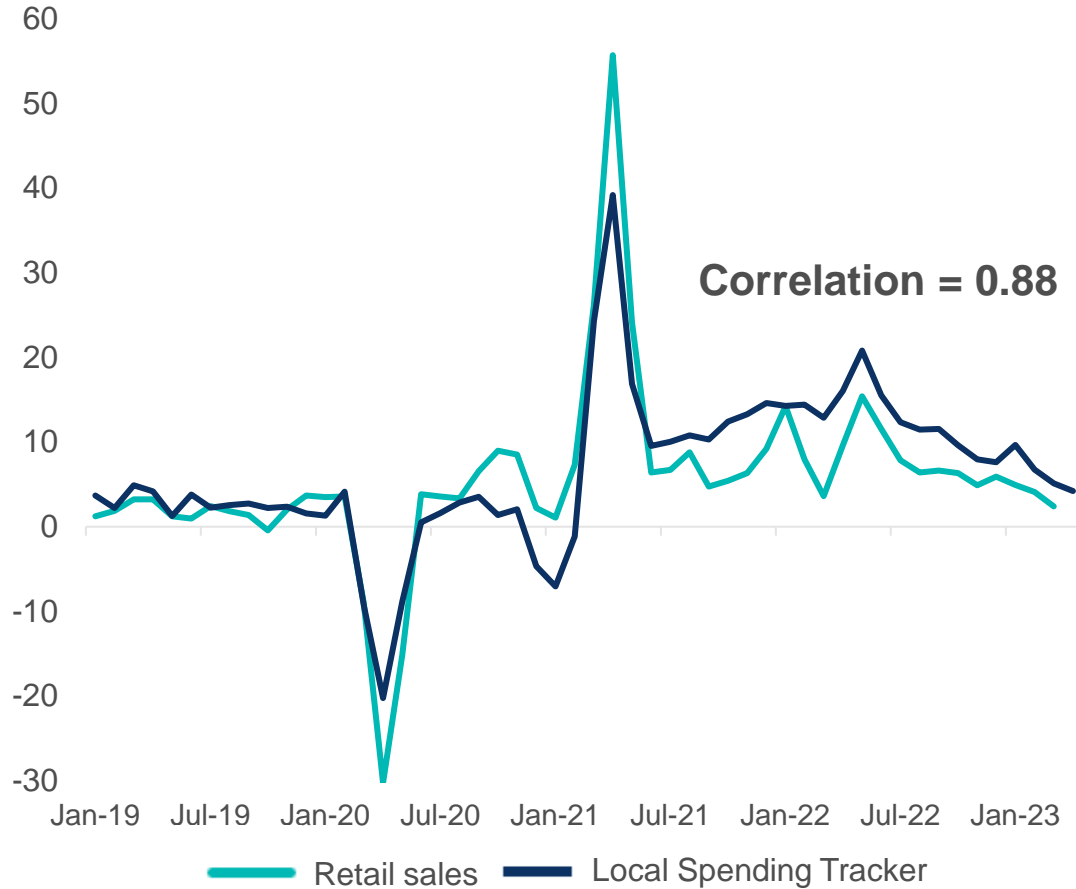




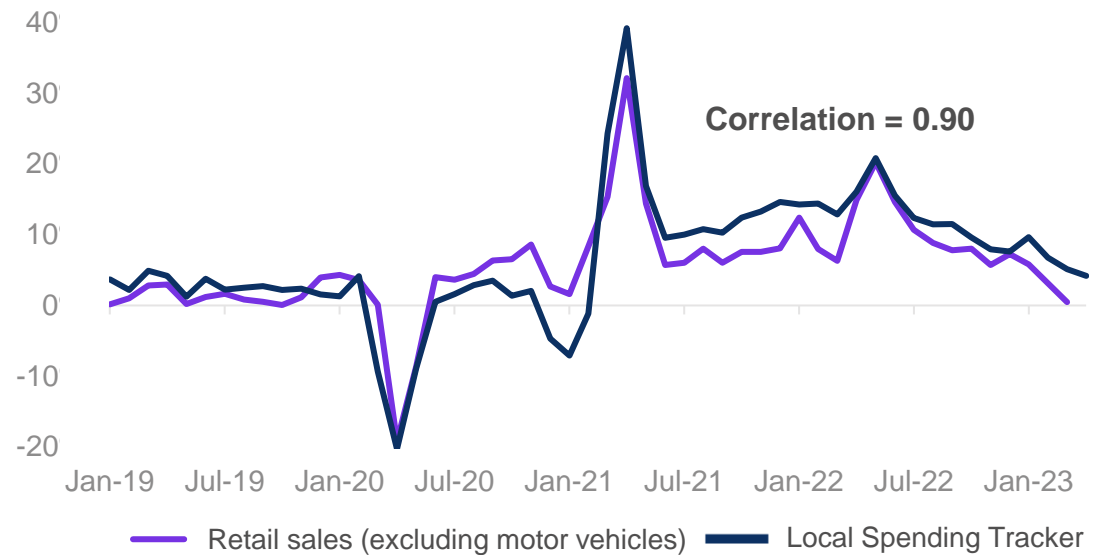
The Local Spending Tracker is highly correlated with Statistics Canada's official retail sales data.

Local Spending Tracker and Retail Sales

Canada nominal spending, % change year-over-year



	Local Spending Tracker	Retail Sales
Publication lag	3 weeks	7 weeks
Frequency	Weekly	Monthly
Granularity	35 geographies	23 geographies



Note: Local Spending Tracker data are seasonally adjusted and aggregated from weekly to monthly frequency.
Sources: Canadian Chamber of Commerce Business Data Lab; Statistics Canada.

Methodology

- **Data concepts:** Consumer spending data capture total weekly transactional dollar volumes, net of refunds. Only Moneris-acquired credit and debit transaction data are included. Moneris reporting dates use the start of the retail sales reporting week, which starts on Sunday. We benchmark these underlying spending indices to the week of Feb 2-8, 2020. Volume changes are chain indexed by Moneris. Merchants are only counted if they are active in consecutive weeks, to control for changes in the sample over time. For more information on this payment dataset, see [Moneris Data Services](#).

“**Nominal spending growth**” represents the year-over-year percentage change in total current dollar spending processed by Moneris in these regions. “**Real spending growth**” adjusts for local inflation using Statistics Canada’s Consumer Price Index year-over-year inflation rate (Table: 18-10-0004-01). “**Real spending per person**” adjusts for local inflation and population changes using Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey (Tables 14-10-0380-01 and 14-10-0292-01). The BDL seasonally adjusts the nominal series with a seasonal and trend decomposition using Loess, and smooths the results using a 4-week moving average.

- **Caveats:** Seasonally adjusting our data is important, however, the dataset covers a relatively short period (January 2019-present), and the pandemic disrupted typical seasonal patterns. There are conceptual differences between Statistics Canada retail sales and our data. For example, consumer spending on big-ticket items like vehicle sales are included in retail sales, but are not fully captured in our data (since few consumers pay for cars on debit/credit cards). Conversely, spending at restaurants is captured in our payments data, but not in retail sales. E-commerce purchases reflect the sellers’ corporate locations, not the buyers’ locations.
- **Contact:** This report presents analysis conducted by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Business Data Lab. For questions or comments, please contact Stephen Tapp, Chief Economist (STapp@Chamber.ca).

The BDL is made possible through our collaboration with Statistics Canada and financial support from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.