

# Market Watch

|  |  |                                    |                                    |                                     |   |                                       |
|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>S&amp;P/TSX</b><br>15,474.20<br>-5.63 | <b>S&amp;P 500</b><br>3,097.92<br>-17.42 | <b>DOW</b><br>25,871.46<br>-208.64 | <b>NASDAQ</b><br>9,946.12<br>+3.07 | <b>DOLLAR</b><br>73.60¢US<br>+0.01¢ | <b>OIL per barrel</b><br>US\$39.83<br>+\$0.73 | <b>GOLD</b><br>US1,753.00<br>+\$21.90 |
|--|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|

## Statistics Canada says retail sales plunged 26.4 per cent in April

The Canadian Press

**OTTAWA**  
Retail sales fell by more than a quarter in April due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Statistics Canada said Friday that they regained some of the lost ground in May.

The agency said retail sales plunged by a record 26.4 per cent to \$34.7 billion in April leaving them down 33.6 per cent since physical distancing measures were implemented in mid-March.

However, Statistics Canada said early estimates suggest retail sales rose 19.1 per cent in May. Economists on average had

expected a drop in April of 15.1 per cent, according to financial markets data firm Refinitiv.

Bank of Montreal chief economist Doug Porter said April is cementing its reputation as the worst month for the Canadian economy ever.

“The Canadian economy, and retail trade specifically, looks to have been hit even harder than initially estimated as well as the U.S. economy through the shut-downs,” Porter wrote in a note.

“It’s a long road back from these April lows.”

While essential services like grocery stores remained open,

most retailers did not offer in-store shopping in April due to public health restrictions meant to slow the spread of the pandemic.

However, many retailers started or expanded their online presence and curbside pick-up services in response to the closures.

Statistics Canada says online sales surged to a record high, representing 9.5 per cent of the total retail market.

TD Bank economist Ksenia Bushmeneva said while spending is expected to begin to rebound in the coming months,

the “where’s and what’s” of consumer spending is likely to differ from the pre-pandemic time.

“As we have highlighted in our recent report, consumer spending patterns have undergone quite the transformation in recent months.

“As expected, consumers are spending considerably less on travel and lodging, eating out, gasoline and clothing, but considerably more on home renovation and food. Online shopping also continues to rule the day, remaining far more prevalent than it was prior to the health crisis.”

Sales were down in all 11 sub-sectors in April, while motor vehicle and parts dealers took the largest hit in dollar terms as the sector fell 44.3 per cent for the month.

Sales at food and beverage stores fell 12.7 per cent as supermarkets and other grocery stores saw a drop of 12.0 per cent compared with March when Canadians stocked up.

Retail sales in volume terms fell a record 25.2 per cent in April, following an 8.2 per cent drop in March, leaving them down 31.3 per cent since the onset of the pandemic

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## 8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Electric Outages.....             | 403.529.8260 |
| Gas Emergency.....                | 403.529.8191 |
| Water & Sewer Emergency.....      | 403.502.8042 |
| After Hours Special Services..... | 403.526.2828 |



**Medicine Hat**  
The Gas City

### COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION MEETINGS ADJUST TO ALIGN WITH COVID-19 PRACTICES

Medicine Hat – City Standing Committees and Commissions will continue to meet as scheduled, with adjustments in place to ensure alignment with current Alberta Health restrictions related to COVID-19.

A new Ministerial Order allowing municipalities to host meetings electronically to ensure recommended practices from Alberta Health was announced on March 20, 2020.

As per the order, Committee and Commission meetings will be closed to the public but the public may call in to listen to the open portion of the meeting via teleconference at 1-833-353-8610 (participant code 2848289).

Agendas may be viewed online at the City website at: <https://docs.medicinehat.ca/onbaseagendaonline>

Media questions will be addressed on the conference line once the meeting is adjourned.

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 30th day of May, 2020.

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### WATER MAIN FLUSHING & FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS

Environmental Utilities performs regular, routine maintenance to uphold the water quality and system infrastructure by annually flushing water mains and inspecting fire hydrants.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will disappear when flushing is complete. Please note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, turn on your cold water tap or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing Programs page on the City’s website at [www.medicinehat.ca/eu](http://www.medicinehat.ca/eu) or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

### UPDATED MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN





VIBRANT DOWNTOWN



LIVABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS



STRONG ECONOMY



EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

#### What is the myMH Master Plan?

The City of Medicine Hat has created a comprehensive update to its guiding vision, the Municipal Development Plan. This project, the **myMH Master Plan**, is a 30-year citywide plan putting in place strong and visionary policies to help create a more prosperous, livable and sustainable city. With a lot of valuable input from Hatters, **Planning and Development Services** has created this Plan, which also draws upon extensive research and specialized expertise tailored to our city.

Currently in draft stage, the Plan is tentatively scheduled for City Council Public Hearing and Bylaw approval at the end of the summer, 2020.

#### Please share your thoughts.

Due to physical distancing requirements related to COVID-19, in-person community engagement is not possible during this final stage of the project. However, we still want to share the Draft Plan with the community and hear what you have to say!

Visit:

[shapeyourcity.medicinehat.ca](http://shapeyourcity.medicinehat.ca)

- See videos
- View the Draft Plan
- Do the survey
- Get answers to your questions
- View previous open house displays
- See what’s coming up
- and more!



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If you do not have access to a computer, you may make a request to the myMH team for a mailed hard copy of the Draft Plan and survey. Only one copy will be sent per request; please allow time for postal delivery. Phone 403.525.8826. Please leave a message describing the reason for your call, along with your name and phone number.