

Market Watch

S&P/TSX 31,317.41 -537.57	S&P 500 6,506.48 -100.01	DOW 45,577.47 -443.96	NASDAQ 21,647.61 -443.08	DOLLAR 72.90¢US +0.06¢	OIL per barrel US\$98.23 +\$2.68	GOLD US\$4,574.90 -\$30.80
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January retail sales up 1.1 per cent to \$70.7B

RITIKA DUBEY
The Canadian Press

Retail sales were up 1.1 per cent at \$70.7 billion in January, driven by higher sales at motor vehicle and parts dealerships, Statistics Canada says.

Sales were up in six of the nine subsectors it tracks, as the motor vehicle and parts dealers subsector posted the largest increase in retail sales in January — up two per cent, the agency said on Friday.

Andrew Grantham, senior economist at CIBC, said retail sales appear to be starting the year strong.

“A solid start to the year for retail sales could be evidence that last year’s interest rate cuts, combined with the slight reduction in unemployment since mid-2025, is supporting an upturn in consumer sentiment and spending,” he said in a note on Friday.

Core retail sales, which exclude gasoline stations and fuel vendors and motor vehicle and parts dealers, rose 0.9 per cent in January. It was led by higher sales at general merchandise retailers while sales at sporting goods, hobby, musical instrument, book, and miscellaneous retailers increased 2.6 per cent.

Food and beverage retailers posted the largest decline in core retail sales, down 0.6 per cent, while sales at supermarkets and other grocers, except convenience stores, fell 0.7 per cent.



CP PHOTO CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

Shoppers walk in downtown Montreal on Dec. 19, 2023.

Retail sales were up across all provinces in January, with Alberta leading the charge, Statistics Canada said.

In volume terms, retail sales were up one per cent in January.

TD economist Maria Solovieva said momentum in services spending appears intact, based on their internal credit and debit card data, likely supported by higher-income households with greater financial buffers.

She said that keeps TD’s outlook for first quarter consumption growth at a relatively healthy 1.1 per cent.

Statistics Canada said its early

estimate for February pointed to a gain of 0.9 per cent, though it cautioned the figure would be revised.

Capital Economics economist Bradley Saunders said the advance estimate for February matches the message sent by the recent improvement in consumer confidence and suggests household spending will be a tailwind for GDP growth this quarter.

“That said, with gas prices headed for \$2 a litre, the hit to households’ purchasing power could crush real consumption in the second quarter,” he said in a note.

Newell region seeking to attract new businesses

Medicine Hat News

Members of the Brooks Newell Region are seeking to attract new businesses such as Opa! Of Greece, Giant Tiger, Booster Juice and Mr. Mike’s Steakhouse.

The economic development team says it has identified several business opportunities that could fill a gap that exists within the region and have released the data in a bi-annual business retention and expansion

survey, a workforce development strategy and an investment attraction study.

According to research the team believes there are business opportunities within the region that span from health-care services, restaurants, law firms and discount grocery stores.

A full list of potential opportunities can be found on the Brooks Newell Region’s website under the

“Business and Investment Opportunities” tab.

The team says it is working closely with landowners and developers in the region and is seeking investors who may consider opening a shop within the community or purchase and open a new franchise.

The economic development team has also listed available commercial lots for sale located in and around Brooks.

Extra! BREAKING NEWS... STORY IDEAS... PRESS RELEASES...

If you see something happening or have a great story idea please forward to newsdesk@medicinehatnews.com

MEDICINE HAT NEWS

PUBLIC NOTICES

Medicine Hat

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED MARCH 12 TO MARCH 18, 2026

RESIDENTIAL

177 HUNT CRESCENT NE - Garage (Greenhouse).

79 SIERRA ROAD SW - Single Detached House.

352 PRIMROSE DRIVE SE - Multiple Unit Residential Development (40 Units).

77 8 STREET SW - Garage With Variances To Accessory Site Coverage And Exterior Side Setback. Re-Vised.

72 CAIRNEY CRESCENT SE - Garage.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/ INSTITUTIONAL

962 19 STREET SW - Change Of Use To Industrial Operations.

1870 A 6 AVENUE SW - Change Of Use To Health Care Office.

3201 13 AVENUE SE - Fascia Sign

HOME BUSINESS

934 QUEEN STREET SE - Home Business Minor - Non-Profit.

48 VISTA ROAD SE - Home Business Minor - Aesthetician.

132 NORTHLANDS CRESCENT NE - Home Business Minor - Consultant.

11 IRIS COURT SE - Home Business Minor - Landscaping.

106 ROSS GLEN CRESCENT SE - Home Business Minor - Window Cleaning/Pressure Washing.

84 RANCHVIEW WAY NE - Home Business Minor - Janitorial Service.

207 1632 SAAMIS DRIVE NW - Home Business Minor - Service (Pet Sitting).

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

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

The following actions should be considered to protect your water lines from freezing during the cold weather months:

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows/vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas, including crawl spaces.
- For sinks located against a non-insulated outside wall:
 - o Open the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.
 - o A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing.
 - o Heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.
- Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter.
- Protect an unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation using heat tape.
- Outside water faucets and underground sprinkler systems should have the water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the faucet/hose bib.
- Sprinkler lines and faucets should be drained/blown out.
- Run a stream of cold-water, with a flow of approximately 250ml per 10 seconds, continuously from one faucet.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve located next to the water meter in your home.
 - o You should leave the heat on in your home and have someone check inside your home daily while you’re away.

A frozen water service or a burst water pipe is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take all possible precautions to prevent this happening in your home or business.

For more information, refer to www.medicinehat.ca/frozenwaterlines or contact Environmental Utilities at 403-529-8176.

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Authority may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty one (21) days of this publication. Forms available from: City Clerk Dept., 3rd Floor, City Hall or City website: www.medicinehat.ca.

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. For more information, contact Planning and Development Services, 2nd Floor, City Hall. Ph. (403) 529-8374.

www.medicinehat.ca

Nisga’a Nation members allege ‘heightened financial risk’ of B.C. LNG projects

DARRYL GREER
The Canadian Press

Two members of the Nisga’a Nation have filed a lawsuit in B.C. Supreme Court alleging the First Nation failed to adequately consult its citizens before partnering with Western LNG on the development of the Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project.

Cecil Mercer and Stephen Nyce say in their lawsuit that the pipeline project is interconnected with the Ksi Lisims floating natural-gas facility and marine export terminal near Prince Rupert, B.C., which has been dubbed a nation-building project by the federal Liberal government.

The lawsuit says the projects “rely on the export of LNG,” at a time of declining demand in target markets, and it argues infrastructure built to facilitate LNG exports could become obsolete as countries transition to low-carbon energy.

The lawsuit says the pipeline’s cost was first estimated to be \$5 billion in 2014, but has since ballooned to between \$10 billion and \$12 billion.

Mercer and Nyce’s lawsuit, which contains allegations not tested in court, says the ownership structure of the pipeline creates financial risk for the Nisga’a Nation, and they claim the Nisga’a Lisims Government was not financially prudent when partnering with Western LNG.

The lawsuit also names TC Energy Corp., Western LNG and the B.C. government as defendants, none of which have filed responses in court to the lawsuit filed in Vancouver last week.

The Lax Kw’alaams Band and the Metlakatla First Nation last year went to Federal Court seeking judicial review of the LNG project, alleging the federal environment minister ignored their concerns about adverse effects.

British Columbia’s Energy Minister Adrian Dix said in January that a deal between BC Hydro and the Nisga’a Nation will help power the export terminal, with the North Coast transmission line set to supply up to 600 megawatts to the Ksi Lisims LNG facility.

Prime Minister Mark Carney last November added the transmission line and the LNG facility to his government’s list of “nation-building projects,” calling them crucial to Canada’s clean-energy future and a potential source of thousands of jobs and billions in investment.

Tim Hortons white & pink doughnut mugs recalled due to burn hazard

The Canadian Press

Health Canada has announced a recall of Tim Hortons ceramic mugs because they may crack or break when filled with hot liquid.

The affected mugs are white on the outside and pink on the inside, with a pink handle and a chocolate dip doughnut design on the front and back.

The chocolate dip doughnut changes colour when warm liquid is poured into the mug, and transitions into a different type of doughnut.

Health Canada confirmed Wednesday that Tim Hortons has received one report of a burn injury and 28 reports of “incidents” in Canada as of March 10.

The agency says customers should immediately stop using the recalled mug and return it to a Tim Hortons location by April 22 for a full refund.

In a statement posted online, Tim Hortons says the affected mugs were sold between Jan. 15 and Feb. 18 of this year.

People who bought the mugs from Tim Hortons’ online store can email support@tim-shop.ca for a refund.

Health Canada says 25,040 of the mugs were sold in Canada.

1:45 PM

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