



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, January 17, 2003

Released at 8:30 am Eastern time

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Canadian international merchandise trade, November 2002** 2
 Canada's trade surplus in international merchandise plunged by three-quarters of a billion dollars in November, as exports declined in all major sectors. Exports fell 2.2% to \$34.3 billion, but imports were unchanged at \$30.2 billion.

OTHER RELEASES

- Construction Union Wage Rate Index, December 2002 6
- Export and import price indexes, November 2002 6
- Canadian potato production, 2002 6
- Domestic and international shipping, 2001 6

NEW PRODUCTS

- RELEASE DATES:** January 20 to 24 9
-



MAJOR RELEASES

Canadian international merchandise trade

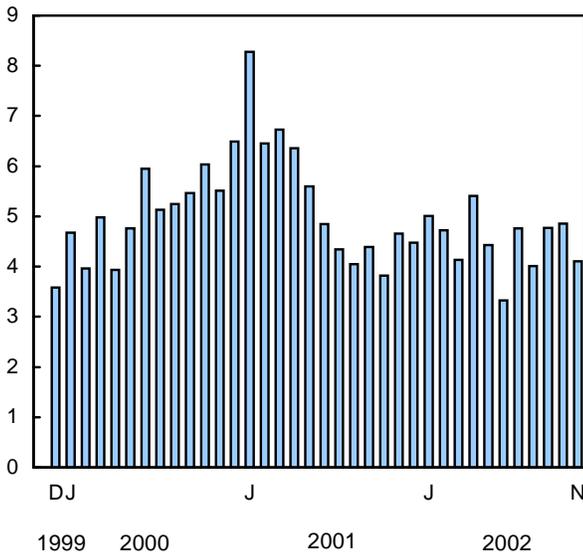
November 2002

Canada's trade surplus in international merchandise plunged by three-quarters of a billion dollars in November, as exports fell in all major sectors.

Exports declined 2.2% to \$34.3 billion, but imports were unchanged at \$30.2 billion. As a result, Canada's trade balance with the rest of the world fell from a revised \$4.8 billion in October to just over \$4.1 billion in November.

Trade balance

\$ billions



On a year-to-date basis, the nation's cumulative trade surplus for the first 11 months of 2002 stood at \$49.5 billion, about \$10.0 billion lower than in the same period of 2001. This was mainly the result of a 1.9% year-over-year decline in exports and a slight 0.8% increase in imports.

Canadian companies sent \$29.4 billion in goods to the United States in November, down 1.2% from October; imports from south of the border rose slightly to \$21.7 billion. The trade surplus with the United States fell by \$490 million to \$7.7 billion.

Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States widened from \$3.3 billion in October to \$3.6 billion in November.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Customs basis data are revised for the previous data year each quarter. Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures (once available), changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors. Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

Across-the-board decline in merchandise exports

November's across-the-board decline in exports halted four months of modest growth. Weaker exports to the United States, Japan and a number of smaller trading partners contributed to the decline.

Exports of automotive products fell 1.7% in November to \$8.0 billion, 8.3% below the high for 2002 recorded in August.

Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles fell 1.5% to \$1.6 billion following the push to manufacture and export trucks to the United States before new emission standards took effect on October 1.

Exports of passenger automobiles declined for the fourth month in a row, as American demand continued to soften. In November, passenger auto exports fell 1.7% to \$4.0 billion, which represented a 20.0% decline since July. With downtime increasing at US assembly plants, exports of motor vehicle parts fell 1.9% to \$2.4 billion.

Forestry product exports sagged for the second month in a row in November, falling 0.6% to \$2.9 billion. Newsprint and other paperboard exports decreased 3.1% to \$1.0 billion as demand faltered among Canada's trading partners in Asia and the United States. Demand for Canadian newsprint at American newspapers fell marginally as dailies ate up inventories. Slack demand has meant that newsprint price increases announced by paper mills in August have failed to stick.

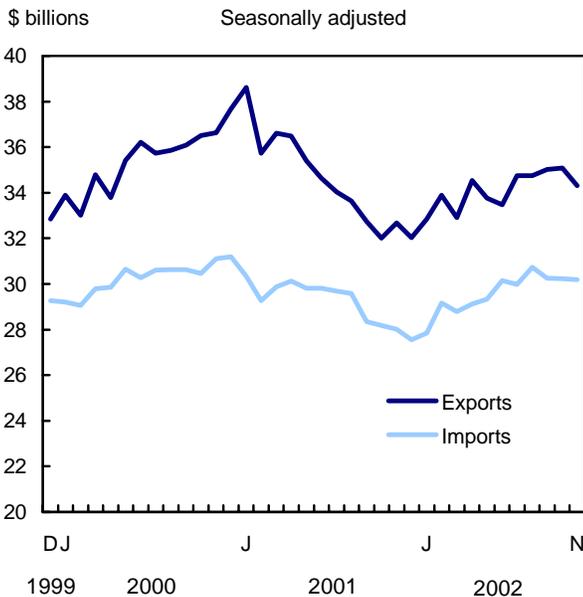
Canada's lumber exports fell 0.9% to \$819 million in November as single-family housing starts flattened out in the United States, leading to small decreases in price and shipments. In total, US housing starts rose 2.4% in November to a seasonally adjusted annual

rate of 1.7 million units. However, much of the increase was in multi-unit housing, constructed mainly from steel and concrete. Although multi-unit construction jumped 12.6%, single-family housing starts, the largest consumer of softwood lumber, rose only slightly. All this was accompanied by a decline in building permits, an indicator of future building activity.

In the machinery and equipment sector, exports declined 2.7% to \$7.8 billion, with only telecommunication and office machines increasing in November. Aircraft and other transportation equipment exports fell 8.5% to \$1.9 billion. Industrial and agricultural machinery exports fell 4.8% to \$1.6 billion.

The "other" machinery and equipment sub-sector increased slightly, as a 15.7% increase in exports of telecommunications equipment to \$1.1 billion and a 1.8% rise in office machines and equipment to \$589.4 million offset declines in end products and tools.

Exports and imports



Exports of energy products fell marginally to \$4.9 billion. Natural gas export volumes to the United States decreased 5.0%, but prices rose. Lower volumes of crude petroleum resulted in a 3.1% drop to \$1.6 billion. Export volumes of electricity, petroleum and coal products increased in the face of lower prices, which resulted in a 6.6% increase in other energy exports to \$1.2 billion.

Agriculture and fishing product exports declined 4.0% to \$2.4 billion in November. Eight of 12 major commodity groups fell because of poor conditions brought on by the drought in the

Prairies. Wheat and canola exports fell, but barley rebounded somewhat from a dismal October. With cattle feed prices at historic highs and hard to come by even at these prices, live animals were exported in unprecedented numbers.

Rising imports from Japan, United States offset declines from rest of world

Increases in imports from the United States and Japan offset declines in merchandise imports from all other trading partners.

Imports of automotive products fell 4.0% to \$6.6 billion. Automotive imports have declined 7.1% from the record levels recorded in August.

Motor vehicle parts imports fell 7.7% to \$3.4 billion, the fourth monthly decline in a row. During this period, imports of vehicle parts declined 16.0%, the result of increased downtime at Canadian vehicle assembly plants. Also playing a role in November was the lingering impact of a 10-day port lock-out on the American West Coast.

Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles fell 3.7% from October's record level to \$1.0 billion.

Strong domestic sales of foreign cars, on the other hand, pushed imports of passenger autos up 2.2% to \$2.2 billion.

Agricultural and fishing product imports edged up to \$1.8 billion. Declines in imports of sugar and fresh fruit all but wiped out gains in 12 of the 17 major commodity groupings.

Machinery and equipment, Canada's largest import sector, increased 4.0% to \$9.1 billion.

Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment rose 11.5% to \$1.3 billion. Aircraft, engines and parts imports increased 13.2% to just under \$1 billion and other transportation equipment, which includes ships and railway rolling stock, increased 7.2% to just over one-third of a billion dollars.

Imports of "other" machinery, which includes high-tech equipment, increased 2.9% to \$4.1 billion. Communication and related equipment imports gained 8.7% to \$1.5 billion, a 16.1% increase since September.

Rising Canadian investment in industrial and agricultural machinery was evident with imports increasing 3.8% to \$2.4 billion.

Lower prices and reduced volume contributed to a 4.9% decline to \$1.5 billion for imported energy products. Energy prices had been increasing steadily throughout 2002.

Imports of consumer goods continued in November at October's record level of \$4.0 billion. Increased

imports of house furnishings, apparel and footwear and consumer entertainment goods offset declines in pharmaceuticals, printed matter and consumer electronics.

Available on CANSIM: tables 226-0001, 226-0002, 227-0001, 227-0002, 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188). The publication will include tables by commodity and country on a customs basis. Current account data

(which incorporate merchandise trade statistics, service transactions, investment income and transfers) are available quarterly in *Canada's balance of international payments* (67-001-XIB, \$29/\$93; 67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order products*.

Merchandise trade data are available by fax on the morning of release.

An annual review of 2001 is included in the International Trade Division's annual publications *Exports, merchandise trade* (65-202-XPB, \$258) and *Imports, merchandise trade* (65-203-XPB, \$258), which are now available.

For more information on the publications, contact Jocelyne Elibani, (613-951-9647; 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Daryl Keen (613-951-1810), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	October 2002 ^r	November 2002	October to November 2002	November 2001 to November 2002	January to November 2001	January to November 2002	January–November 2001 to January–November 2002
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	29,710	29,364	-1.2	7.8	323,798	318,654	-1.6
Japan	920	811	-11.8	1.9	8,791	8,746	-0.5
European Union	1,698	1,707	0.5	-13.0	20,759	19,446	-6.3
Other OECD countries ¹	1,042	1,018	-2.3	-2.0	10,018	10,140	1.2
All other countries	1,709	1,400	-18.1	-14.2	19,231	18,315	-4.8
Total	35,079	34,299	-2.2	5.0	382,602	375,297	-1.9
Imports							
United States	21,555	21,699	0.7	6.3	235,031	233,933	-0.5
Japan	928	965	4.0	2.8	9,688	10,534	8.7
European Union	2,990	2,914	-2.5	2.1	32,158	32,671	1.6
Other OECD countries ¹	1,756	1,641	-6.5	8.3	17,196	17,868	3.9
All other countries	2,994	2,975	-0.6	29.4	28,993	30,765	6.1
Total	30,222	30,194	-0.1	7.8	323,066	325,770	0.8
Balance							
United States	8,155	7,665	...	...	88,767	84,721	...
Japan	-8	-154	...	...	-897	-1,788	...
European Union	-1,292	-1,207	...	...	-11,399	-13,225	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-714	-623	...	...	-7,178	-7,728	...
All other countries	-1,285	-1,575	...	...	-9,762	-12,450	...
Total	4,856	4,106	...	...	59,536	49,527	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,508	2,408	-4.0	-8.2	28,255	27,882	-1.3
Energy products	4,904	4,882	-0.4	64.8	51,845	44,745	-13.7
Forestry products	2,965	2,947	-0.6	-3.1	36,297	33,549	-7.6
Industrial goods and materials	5,829	5,604	-3.9	0.6	61,387	63,317	3.1
Machinery and equipment	8,056	7,837	-2.7	-4.4	91,870	86,795	-5.5
Automotive products	8,118	7,977	-1.7	2.0	85,154	89,870	5.5
Other consumer goods	1,470	1,443	-1.8	9.8	14,603	15,840	8.5
Special transactions trade ²	669	642	-4.0	-0.6	7,473	7,236	-3.2
Other balance of payments adjustments	560	560	0.0	11.8	5,716	6,062	6.1
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,827	1,832	0.3	3.5	18,660	19,999	7.2
Energy products	1,598	1,520	-4.9	35.5	16,622	14,909	-10.3
Forestry products	275	268	-2.5	14.0	2,657	2,892	8.8
Industrial goods and materials	5,827	5,776	-0.9	4.7	63,318	63,154	-0.3
Machinery and equipment	8,757	9,110	4.0	6.5	103,827	96,924	-6.6
Automotive products	6,888	6,614	-4.0	8.1	66,469	74,070	11.4
Other consumer goods	4,010	4,001	-0.2	10.8	39,322	42,452	8.0
Special transactions trade ²	505	526	4.2	-1.9	6,313	5,528	-12.4
Other balance of payments adjustments	536	548	2.2	0.7	5,877	5,838	-0.7

^r Revised figures.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

¹ Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

² These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

OTHER RELEASES

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

December 2002

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in December from the revised November level of 125.0 (1992=100). The composite index increased 2.6% from December 2001.

Union wage rates are published for 16 trades in 20 metropolitan areas for both the basic rates and rates including selected supplementary payments. Indexes (1992=100) are calculated for the same metropolitan areas and are published for those where a majority of trades are covered by current collective agreements.

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0003 and 327-0004.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey number 2307.

The fourth quarter 2002 issue of *Capital expenditure price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in March. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Louise Chaîné (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; infounit@statcan.ca), Prices Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

November 2002

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1997=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to November 2002 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (1997=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1997 to November 2002. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available now on a customs basis.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001, 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

Information on methods and data quality available in the Integrated Meta Data Base: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The November 2002 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XIB, \$14/\$141; 65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) will be available soon. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

Canadian potato production

2002 (revised)

Revised estimates of the area planted, area harvested, yield and production for potatoes by province are now available for 2002.

The 2002 estimate of Canadian potato acreage is 434,400 acres (175 900 hectares), up 3.7% from 2001. Production is estimated to be 102,416,000 hundredweights (4 645 600 tonnes), up 10.1% from 2001, when drought conditions resulted in a potato crop that was much below average.

Available on CANSIM: table 001-0014.

The January 2003 issue of *Canadian potato production — Updates* (22-008-UIB, free) is now available on Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Agriculture*.

For general information, call 1-800-465-1991. To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Barbara McLaughlin (902-893-7251; barbara.mclaughlin@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Domestic and international shipping

2001 (preliminary)

Canadian ports handled 393.0 million metric tonnes of cargo in 2001; down 2.4% from 402.8 million tonnes

in 2000. International activity showed a strong 6.0% growth in cargoes arriving from foreign origins and totalled 112.3 million tonnes.

Increased shipments of foreign crude petroleum into Halifax and Saint John, as well as coal arriving at Nanticoke from US Great Lakes ports, drove the increase.

Cargoes departing to foreign destinations dropped 7.2% to 174.3 million tonnes in 2001. Reductions in iron ores and concentrates shipments and west coast coal shipments to Japan were partly offset by increases in tonnage for fuel oils, gasoline and

aviation turbo fuel and stone, sand, gravel and crushed stone.

Domestic activity totalled 106.4 million tonnes, down 2.4% from 2000. The ports of Vancouver, Saint John and Port Hawkesbury were the top three ports in total tonnage handled in 2001.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jean-Robert Larocque (613-951-2486; fax: 613-951-0009; laroque@statcan.ca), Transportation Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Infomat — a weekly review, January 17, 2003
Catalogue number **11-002-XIE** (\$3/\$109).

Infomat — a weekly review, January 17, 2003
Catalogue number **11-002-XPE** (\$4/\$145).

Canadian potato production — Updates,
January 2003
Catalogue number **22-008-UIB**
(free).

Industry price indexes, October 2002, Vol. 28, no. 10
Catalogue number **62-011-XPB** (\$22/\$217).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

Order products by phone:

Please refer to the • Title • Catalogue number • Volume number • Issue number • Your VISA or MasterCard number.

In Canada and the United States call:

1-800-267-6677

From other countries call:

1-613-951-7277

To fax your order:

1-877-287-4369

Address changes or account inquiries:

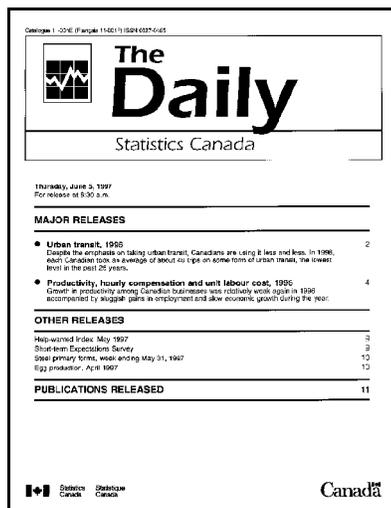
1-800-700-1033

To order a product by mail write: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.

Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet: write to order@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's Web site (www.statcan.ca) under the headings *Our products and services* and *Publications for sale* (\$).

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2003. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.

The Daily, January 17, 2003

RELEASE DATES: JANUARY 20 TO 24

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
20	Wholesale trade	November 2002
20	Travel between Canada and other countries	November 2002
21	Census of Population: Immigration, birthplace and birthplace of parents, citizenship, ethnic origin, visible minorities and Aboriginal peoples	2001
22	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	November 2002
22	Consumer Price Index	December 2002
23	Canada's international transactions in securities	November 2002
23	Retail trade	November 2002
24	Canada's labour market: Year in review	January 2003
