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British Columbia's Merchandise Trade with the World

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British Columbia's Merchandise Trade with the World
(Trade and Investment Series)

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Ce document est également publié en français.

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Merchandise Trade

In 2013, British Columbia's trade with the world was valued at \$79.1 billion, comprised of \$34.0 billion in exports from British Columbia to, and \$45.1 billion in imports to the province from, the world.

The value of British Columbia's exports increased by 6.5% between 2012 and 2013, while the value of the province's imports grew by 5.4%.

British Columbia was Canada's fourth largest provincial/territorial exporter in 2013. In that year, it was Canada's third largest provincial/territorial importer, behind Ontario and Quebec.

Over the 2008 to 2013 period, the value of British Columbia's exports increased at an average annual rate of 0.3%, compared to a decrease of 0.5% for Canada's global exports. The value of British Columbia's exports as a share of the value of Canada's global exports rose from 6.9% in 2008 to 7.2% in 2013.

The value of British Columbia's imports increased at an average annual rate of 0.9% over the 2008 to 2013 period, compared to 1.8% for Canada's global imports. The value of British Columbia's imports as a share of the value of Canada's global imports declined from 9.9% in 2008 to 9.5% in 2013.

In 2012, the most recent year for which data are available, the value of British Columbia's merchandise exports as a proportion of the province's gross domestic product (GDP) was 14.5%. In that year, the value of Canada's global merchandise exports as a proportion of the country's GDP was 25.0%.

The value of British Columbia's merchandise imports as a proportion of the province's GDP was 19.4% in 2012. In that year, the value of Canada's global merchandise imports as a proportion of the country's GDP was 25.4%.

Figure 1

Merchandise Trade
(\$ billions)

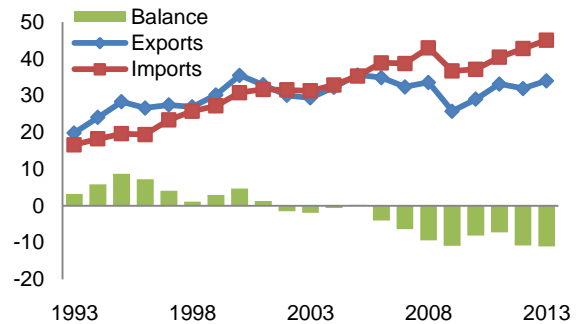


Figure 2

Importance to Canada

Average yearly growth (%): 2008–2013 Share of Canada's trade (%): 2008–2013

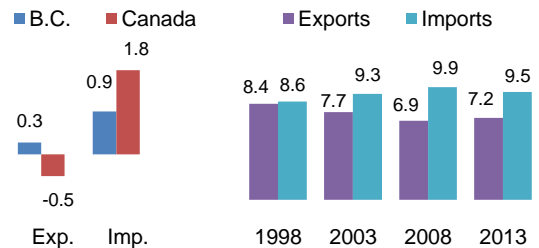
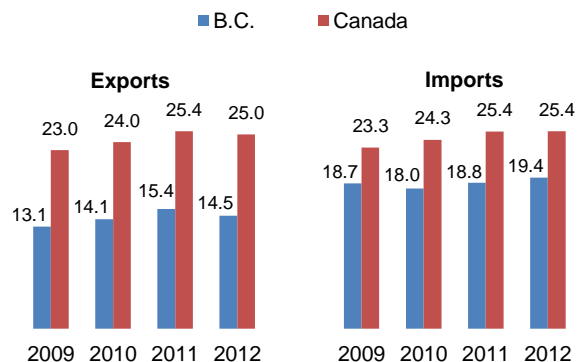


Figure 3

Merchandise Trade as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



All figures were prepared using Statistics Canada data available in spring 2014. The merchandise trade data are customs-based. Numbers in this paper have been rounded.

Products

In 2013, manufactured goods accounted for 64.8% of the value of British Columbia's exports, with resource-based goods representing the remaining 35.2%. This composition had changed slightly since 2008, when manufactured goods and resource-based goods accounted for 62.6% and 37.4% respectively of the value of the province's exports.

British Columbia's highest-valued exports in 2013 were lumber, coal and chemical wood pulp, which together accounted for 36.9% of the value of the province's exports. The value of British Columbia's lumber exports increased from \$3.6 billion in 2008 to \$5.3 billion in 2013. The value of British Columbia's coal exports decreased from \$5.4 billion in 2008 to \$4.8 billion in 2013, while the value of wood pulp exports, at \$2.4 billion, was the same in both years.

In 2013, manufactured goods represented 92.9% of the value of British Columbia's imports, with resource-based goods accounting for the remaining 7.1%. This composition was relatively unchanged from 2008, when manufactured goods and resource-based goods represented 94.5% and 5.5% respectively of the value of the province's imports.

British Columbia's highest-valued imports in 2013 were refined oil, motor vehicles, and computers and accessories, which together accounted for 13.3% of the value of the province's imports. The value of British Columbia's computer and accessories imports increased from \$1.1 billion in 2008 to \$1.2 billion in 2013. The value of British Columbia's refined oil and motor vehicle imports decreased from \$3.4 billion and \$3.7 billion respectively in 2008 to \$3.3 billion and \$1.5 billion respectively in 2013.

In 2013, British Columbia had a trade surplus in the product categories of forest products as well as metals, mines and energy. It had a trade deficit in all other product categories in that year.

Figure 4

Major Export Products
(\$ billions)

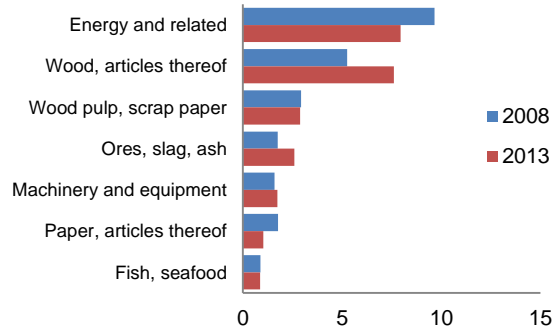


Figure 5

Major Import Products
(\$ billions)

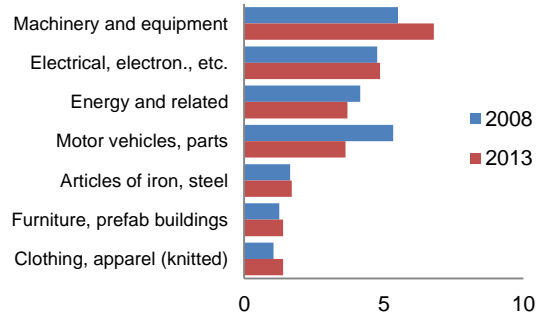
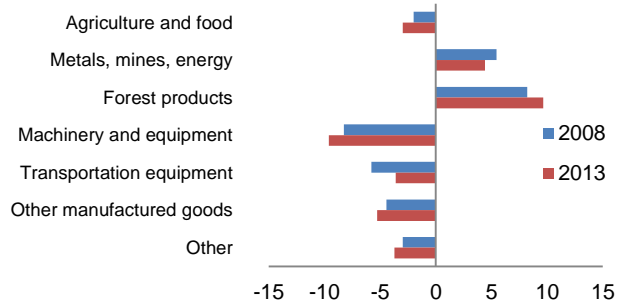


Figure 6

Balance by Category
(\$ billions)



All figures were prepared using Statistics Canada data available in spring 2014. The merchandise trade data are customs-based. Numbers in this paper have been rounded.

Trading Partners

In 2013, the United States was British Columbia's most significant export destination, with exports valued at \$15.5 billion. The country accounted for 45.7% of the value of the province's exports in that year, compared to 52.4% in 2008.

China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan were also among the top five destinations for British Columbia's exports in 2013. Together, these four countries accounted for 38.9% of the value of the province's exports in that year, compared to 28.8% in 2008.

In 2013, the United States was British Columbia's most significant source of imports, with imports valued at \$19.6 billion. The country accounted for 43.5% of the value of the province's imports in that year, compared to 41.8% in 2008.

China, Japan, Mexico and South Korea were also among the top five sources of British Columbia's imports in 2013. Together, these four countries accounted for 34.7% of the value of the province's imports in that year, compared to 39.3% in 2008.

In 2013, British Columbia had trade surpluses with Africa and the Middle East. It had trade deficits with the United States, Asia, the Americas (excluding the United States), Europe and Oceania in that year.

Figure 7

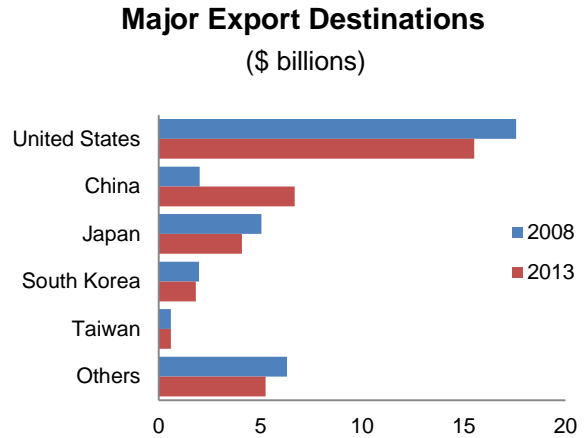


Figure 8

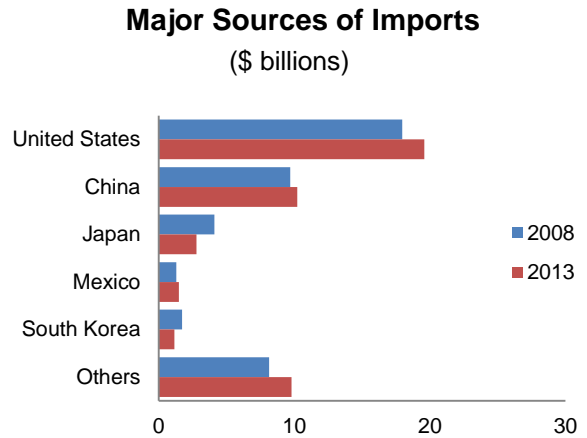
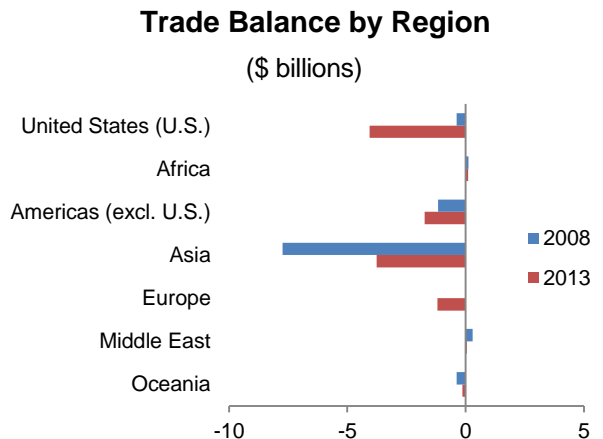


Figure 9



All figures were prepared using Statistics Canada data available in spring 2014. The merchandise trade data are customs-based. Numbers in this paper have been rounded.