



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, August 18, 1998**

For release at 8:30 a.m.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

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- **Canadian international merchandise trade, June 1998** 2  
Exports inched up 0.1% in June, following a small decline in May. Imports declined 0.8% compared with May but remain 10.6% higher than in June 1997.

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## MAJOR RELEASES

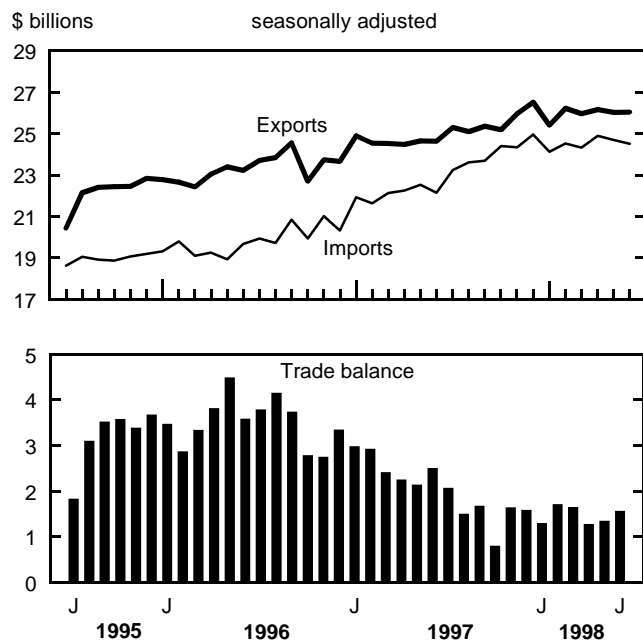
### Canadian international merchandise trade

June 1998

Exports inched up 0.1% in June, following a small decline in May. Automotive product exports tumbled 7.4%, wiping out a strong performance by exports of industrial goods and machinery and equipment. A third consecutive monthly decrease in automotive product imports, largely due to closures in the sector, was the main factor in the 0.8% drop in imports relative to May levels. Imports nevertheless remained 10.6% higher than in June 1997.

Exports posted a small gain in June, but the trend was flat in the second quarter of 1998 after declining slightly in the first quarter. Overall, there has been zero growth since the beginning of the year. Second-quarter exports were eroded by plant closures and transportation problems in the automotive sector, which overshadowed a strong performance by the industrial goods, machinery and equipment, and energy sectors.

Exports, imports and trade balance



Imports were down again in June (-0.8%) for the second straight month. A sharp increase in aircraft,

#### Note to readers

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

computer and crude oil imports failed to offset a drop in automotive product imports. In the second quarter as a whole, however, imports were 1.5% higher than in the first quarter of the year.

The trade balance was \$1.5 billion in June, up \$213 million from May.

#### Exports up slightly in June, but unchanged since the beginning of 1998

Exports to Japan in the first half of 1998 were 26.8% lower than in the same period last year. The decline affected all commodity groups — with softwood lumber and coal being the hardest hit. Although exports to the United States continued to fall, they remained 8.6% above last year's level. Much of the decrease resulted from plant closures and transportation problems in the automotive sector. By contrast, Canadian exports to Europe showed strong growth, chiefly due to higher exports of gold and communications equipment.

Automotive product exports were down for a second consecutive month in June, slumping 7.4%. Second-quarter figures were 4.3% lower than first-quarter results. While all subsectors were affected, exports of trucks and other motor vehicles suffered the biggest losses. The major contributors were plant closures and persistent problems with rail transportation to the United States.

Exports of industrial goods rose substantially in June, setting a new record high. Metals and minerals experienced the biggest advance, fuelled primarily by large shipments of gold, which pushed precious metals exports up 80.5%, and to a lesser extent by heavy American demand for steel bars and European and Japanese purchases of copper. There was also an increase in fertilizer exports, principally to China and Brazil.

After declining slightly in May, machinery and equipment exports rebounded 0.9% in June. Strong performances by exports of other equipment and tools to the United States and Europe and exports of computers and communications equipment made up for an unusual slump in aircraft exports.

Energy product exports were up 2.2% in June. Although second-quarter gains erased the losses suffered in the first quarter, exports remained well below 1997 levels. An increase in natural gas and crude oil exports to the United States offset a downturn in coal exports, primarily to Japan.

After three months of decline, forest product exports recovered slightly in June owing to sustained growth in waferboard exports to the United States and a resurgence in exports of newsprint and other papers. Softwood lumber exports, on the other hand, continued on their downward course.

#### **Automotive products lead decline in total imports**

Automotive product imports fell half a billion dollars between May and June, leaving second-quarter figures 3.1% below first-quarter levels. Although every subsector felt the decline, auto parts were the hardest hit. Plant closures were responsible for much of the drop in imports.

The industrial goods sector posted a small decrease for the second consecutive month in June. A slump in gold imports, a highly volatile series, dragged the entire sector down despite firmer imports of metals and metal ores, concentrates and scrap.

Following a slight dip in May, machinery and equipment imports rose substantially in June — chiefly as a result of aircraft imports from France. There was also an appreciable increase in the other machinery and equipment subsector, primarily due to higher imports of video cameras and electronic equipment.

Energy product imports were up significantly in June — owing to a strong resurgence in crude oil imports (+27.0%). Imports of petroleum and coal products returned to more seasonal levels after a sharp increase in May.

Imports of agricultural and fishing products continued their upward trend with a small gain in June. Coffee imports posted the largest gain, as signs of weakness in American demand pushed prices down.

Though higher shrimp and cod imports are normal for the season, the increase in June was larger than expected. Price cuts by Russia and Denmark resulted in higher import volumes.

#### **Revisions**

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on a continuing basis for every month of the current year. Factors that create the need for revisions include the late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs documents, replacement of estimated figures with actual values (once available), changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and updated seasonal adjustments. Revised data can be obtained by consulting the appropriate CANSIM matrices.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685-3713, 3718-3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435 and 8438-8447.**

This release contains a summary of the merchandise trade data to be published shortly in *Canadian international merchandise trade* (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, services transactions, investment income and transfers, are available quarterly in Canada's balance of international payments (67-001-XPB, \$38/\$124). See *How to order publications*.

For readers who need the information on a more timely basis, merchandise trade data are also available by fax on the morning of release.

For further information on this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647 or 1 800 294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. □

## Merchandise trade of Canada

	April 1998	May 1998	June 1998	April to May 1998	May to June 1998	Jan. to June 1997	Jan. to June 1998	Jan.-June 1997 to Jan.-June 1998	June 1997 to June 1998
seasonally adjusted, \$ current									
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change		
Principal trading partners									
Exports									
United States	21,801	21,581	21,410	-1.0	-0.8	118,469	128,637	8.6	7.5
Japan	696	832	818	19.5	-1.7	6,538	4,786	-26.8	-11.6
European Union	1,403	1,484	1,673	5.8	12.7	8,179	9,029	10.4	16.8
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	680	565	616	-16.9	9.0	4,018	3,667	-8.7	0.3
All other countries	1,578	1,562	1,523	-1.0	-2.5	10,500	9,674	-7.9	-12.6
Total	26,159	26,023	26,041	-0.5	0.1	147,704	155,794	5.5	5.7
Imports									
United States	18,952	19,017	18,550	0.3	-2.5	100,712	112,590	11.8	9.0
Japan	780	827	824	6.0	-0.4	4,051	4,838	19.4	14.8
European Union	2,198	2,103	2,225	-4.3	5.8	11,900	12,691	6.6	20.2
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	941	892	946	-5.2	6.1	5,522	5,598	1.4	7.4
All other countries	2,028	1,856	1,955	-8.5	5.3	10,421	11,345	8.9	17.3
Total	24,899	24,695	24,500	-0.8	-0.8	132,606	147,063	10.9	10.6
Balance									
United States	2,849	2,564	2,860	—	—	17,757	16,047	—	—
Japan	-84	5	-6	—	—	2,487	-52	—	—
European Union	-795	-619	-552	—	—	-3,721	-3,662	—	—
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	-261	-327	-330	—	—	-1,504	-1,931	—	—
All other countries	-450	-294	-432	—	—	79	-1,671	—	—
Total	1,260	1,328	1,541	—	—	15,098	8,731	—	—
Principal commodity groupings									
Exports									
Agricultural and fishing products	2,042	2,100	2,053	2.8	-2.2	11,923	12,474	4.6	1.5
Energy products	1,944	1,979	2,022	1.8	2.2	13,634	11,670	-14.4	-9.5
Forestry products	2,874	2,865	2,878	-0.3	0.5	17,610	17,412	-1.1	-3.1
Industrial goods and materials	4,690	4,814	5,188	2.6	7.8	27,247	29,021	6.5	14.3
Machinery and equipment	6,510	6,428	6,488	-1.3	0.9	32,768	37,904	15.7	17.1
Automotive products	6,221	5,934	5,497	-4.6	-7.4	34,369	36,104	5.0	-1.6
Other consumer goods	1,004	1,017	1,053	1.3	3.5	5,086	5,929	16.6	22.1
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	366	372	367	1.6	-1.3	1,953	2,195	12.4	9.0
Other BOP adjustments	509	514	496	1.0	-3.5	3,115	3,085	-1.0	-6.7
Imports									
Agricultural and fishing products	1,410	1,427	1,457	1.2	2.1	7,532	8,424	11.8	16.2
Energy products	744	739	856	-0.7	15.8	5,344	4,688	-12.3	5.2
Forestry products	199	214	212	7.5	-0.9	1,159	1,225	5.7	10.3
Industrial goods and materials	5,002	4,953	4,884	-1.0	-1.4	26,144	29,382	12.4	12.1
Machinery and equipment	8,274	8,123	8,396	-1.8	3.4	43,279	48,903	13.0	17.7
Automotive products	5,478	5,418	4,866	-1.1	-10.2	28,772	32,024	11.3	-2.9
Other consumer goods	2,734	2,827	2,848	3.4	0.7	14,131	16,431	16.3	20.1
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	576	514	521	-10.8	1.4	3,525	3,101	-12.0	-5.5
Other BOP adjustments	482	480	459	-0.4	-4.4	2,719	2,885	6.1	-0.4

— Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, Poland, South Korea, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

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

## OTHER RELEASES

### Export and import price indexes

June 1998

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (1992=100) on a balance-of-payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to June 1998 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted U.S. price indexes (1992=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 1992 to June 1998. Included with the U.S. commodity indexes are the 10 all countries and U.S. only standard international trade classification section indexes.

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

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 8430-8435, 8438-8443, 8444-8447.**

The June 1998 issue of *Canadian international merchandise trade* (65-001-XPB, \$19/\$188) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Jocelyne Elibani (613-951-9647 or 1 800 294-5583), Marketing and Client Services Section, International Trade Division. ■

### Labour force income profile

1996

In 1996, the number of Canadian taxfilers who reported income from employment rose slightly (+1.1%) from the 1995 level to 14.6 million. The growth in the number reporting employment income was not as great as the increase of the previous two years. The Atlantic provinces, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, experienced small declines in the number of people reporting employment income. The rest of the country registered increases, with Alberta (+2.9%) and British Columbia (+1.9%) posting the largest advances.

Median employment income for Canadians fell in real terms between 1995 and 1996. The 1996 median of \$20,700 (the point at which half the population are above and half are below) was \$230 below the amount required to keep pace with inflation.

The number of persons earning self-employment income has been increasing each year through the 1990s to the 1996 level of 2.5 million taxfilers. (This

count includes any person who reported any self-employment income for the year.) Since 1991, the number of persons reporting self-employment income has increased 28%. The increase from 1995 was 4% or 94,310 taxfilers.

The number of females reporting self-employment income reached 911,710 in 1996, an increase of almost 6.5% from 1995. Since 1991, more women (287,980) have begun reporting self-employment income than men (248,170). Proportionally, this represents a greater increase for women (+46.2%) than for men (+19.2%) over the same time period.

Prince Edward Island was the only province or territory to experience a decline in the number of self-employed. Ontario and Quebec lead all provinces and territories with increases of 4.7% and 4.6%, respectively.

A 4.8% drop in the number of persons claiming income from Employment Insurance (EI) continued a four-year trend. All provinces and territories experienced a drop in the number claiming EI income. The greatest decline was in Yukon (-9.6%), followed by Saskatchewan (-8.6%). The total amount of EI income claimed by Canadians declined to \$11.8 billion, the lowest since 1989.

The data for the Labour Force Income profile (71C0018) are available for Canada, the provinces and territories, cities and towns, census metropolitan areas, census divisions as well as for areas as small as forward sortation areas (the first three characters of the postal code) and for letter carrier routes.

### Median employment income by province 1996

	Men	Women	Total
	\$		
<b>Canada</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>16,100</b>	<b>20,700</b>
Newfoundland	16,600	10,000	13,100
Prince Edward Island	16,800	11,000	13,900
Nova Scotia	21,700	12,800	16,900
New Brunswick	20,400	11,700	15,700
Quebec	24,100	15,500	19,800
Ontario	29,000	18,100	23,100
Manitoba	23,200	14,900	18,500
Saskatchewan	21,100	13,800	17,100
Alberta	26,900	15,000	20,300
British Columbia	27,900	17,100	21,800
Yukon	29,400	21,400	25,000
Northwest Territories	28,300	18,500	23,400

For further information on this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9720; fax: 613-951-4745;

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saadinfo@statcan.ca), Small Area and Administrative Data Division ■

## **Oil pipeline transport**

May 1998

Net receipts of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons totalled 12 942 681 cubic metres in May, up 8.7% from May 1997. Year-to-date receipts to the end of May 1998 (64 932 835 cubic metres) rose 8.4% over the same period in 1997. Net receipts of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products in May (6 136 476 cubic metres) decreased 3.2% from May 1997. Year-to-date receipts increased 3.9% to 32 148 610 cubic metres.

Pipeline exports of crude oil (6 283 606 cubic metres) increased 6.2% from May 1997, and pipeline imports (1 477 185 cubic metres) increased 0.5%. Year-to-date exports (30 467 506 cubic metres) were up 12.3% from 1997. Year-to-date imports (7 624 165 cubic metres) increased 20.7%. Canadian crude oil has found a ready market in the United States, where indigenous production has been declining in recent years.

May deliveries of crude oil by pipeline to Canadian refineries totalled 5 434 959 cubic metres, a decrease of 1.8% from 1997. May deliveries of liquefied petroleum gases and refined petroleum products

decreased 15.3% to 490 152 cubic metres. Year-to-date deliveries of crude oil to refineries at the end of May 1998 totalled 27 305 975 cubic metres, up 1.1% from the same period in 1997.

**Available on CANSIM: matrices 181 and 591-595.**

The May 1998 issue of *Oil pipeline transport* (55-001-XPB, \$12/\$114) will be available the third week of August. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Gérard O'Connor (613-951-3562; [oconger@statcan.ca](mailto:oconger@statcan.ca)), Energy Section, Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## **Plastic film and bags**

Second quarter 1998

Data for the second quarter of 1998 on shipments of plastic film and bags are now available.

The publication *Shipments of plastic film and bags manufactured from resin* (47-007-XPB, \$10/\$33) will be available shortly. See *How to order publications*.

For further information on this release, contact Suzette Desrosiers (613-951-9836, [desrosi@statcan.ca](mailto:desrosi@statcan.ca)) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Primary iron and steel, June 1998

Catalogue number 41-001-XPB

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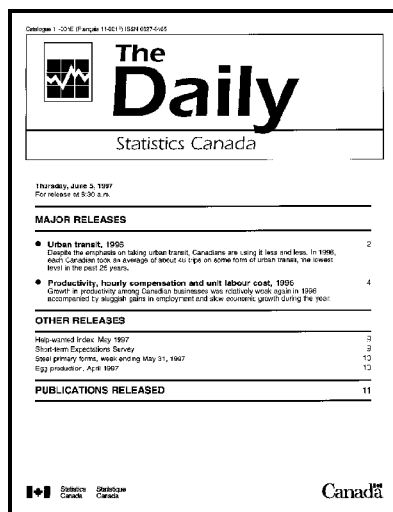
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