



The Daily

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- **Canadian international merchandise trade, February 2001** 2
 Canada's merchandise exports declined for the second consecutive month in February while imports fell for the third straight month. Exports were down 4.5% from January to \$35.1 billion worth of goods, while imports fell at a slower pace, 2.8%, to \$29.3 billion.
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MAJOR RELEASES

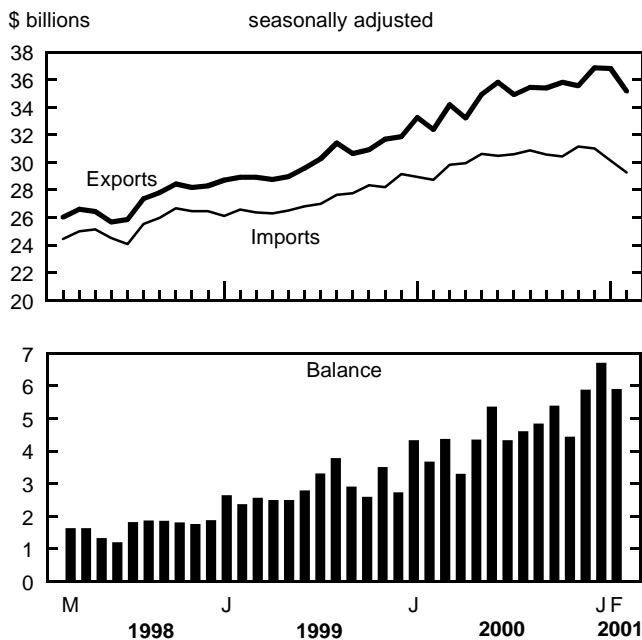
Canadian international merchandise trade

February 2001

Canada's merchandise exports declined for the second consecutive month in February as exports fell in most major commodity groups, notably energy products and machinery and equipment.

Businesses exported \$35.1 billion worth of goods, down 4.5% from January. Lower exports to the United States accounted for two-thirds of the decline. Imports fell for the third straight month, 2.8%, to \$29.3 billion. The resulting merchandise trade surplus amounted to almost \$5.9 billion in February, down from nearly \$6.7 billion in January.

Exports, imports and trade balance



Canada's trade surplus with the United States fell to \$9.1 billion in February after surpassing the \$10-billion mark in January.

A two-month decline in exports follows a year in which exports recorded their strongest annual growth since 1995. Exports grew gradually during 2000, reaching a record \$36.8 billion in December.

Most major commodity groupings saw declines

Exports fell in most major commodity groupings during February, led by machinery and equipment, which fell 8.2% to \$8.5 billion. Exports of other machinery and equipment, which includes the subgroups telecommunications and television equipment and fibre optics and office machinery and equipment, fell 10.0% to \$5.2 billion. This marks the second consecutive monthly decrease from the record of \$6.2 billion set in December.

Despite a decline of 12.3% in exports of telecommunications and television equipment, consisting mainly of optical network equipment and wireless communications equipment, February exports in this sector were still 12.8% ahead of the pace in February 2000.

Exports of other equipment and tools, which includes fibre optics and office furniture, fell 6.2% to \$1.9 billion. While exports were down 6.5% from December's record \$2.1 billion, they were still 10.6% higher than in February 2000.

Exports of automotive products fell 2.7% to \$7.2 billion, as Canadian automakers continued to scale back production. The value of passenger car exports fell 3.4% to nearly \$4.0 billion, while truck exports declined for the fourth straight month, a 3.0% drop to \$1.3 billion. Exports of motor vehicle parts fell for the eighth straight month in February, declining another 1.0% to \$1.9 billion. Since June 2000, motor vehicle parts exports have fallen 22.3%.

Aircraft and other transportation exports fell 3.5% to \$1.9 billion. Within this group, other transportation equipment exports fell 16.6% to \$427.2 million, while exports of aircraft engines and parts exports rebounded 1.2% in February to \$1.4 billion.

Driven by a decline in demand for durable goods, exports of industrial goods and materials, mainly nickel and copper, decreased 3.8% to almost \$5.4 billion. Metals and alloys increased by 5.1% to \$1.7 billion, mainly on the strength of a 41.3% rise in the value of precious metal and alloy exports to \$377.6 million.

Steady supply, combined with a drop in the price of natural gas, led to a 6.7% reduction of exports in the energy sector to \$5.8 billion. Despite two months of decline following a record-setting December, energy exports were 57.2% higher than in February 2000.

Continued high demand for electricity in California extended the rise in electricity exports for the fourth

straight month. The value of electricity exports has doubled in value to more than three-quarters of a billion dollars.

Imports of automotive parts rise, halting five-month decline

Imports of automotive parts rose 6.1% to \$3.4 billion in February, halting five consecutive months of declines, as manufacturers brought parts inventories in line with seasonal production levels. However, the increase was not great enough to offset declines in imports of passenger autos, down 13.3% to \$1.4 billion and trucks, down 5.2% to \$674.2 million. Overall, companies imported \$5.4 billion in automotive products, down 1.1% from January, and down 16.0% from February 2000.

Imports of energy products fell 21.8% to \$1.4 billion, mainly a result of a 28.6% drop in crude petroleum imports to just under \$1.0 billion.

Machinery and equipment accounted for just over one-third of all merchandise imports in February. A 5.0% decline from January in machinery and equipment imports resulted from a drop in imports of computer chips and semi-conductors, part of the other communication and related equipment group, which fell 9.3% to \$2.1 billion. Imports of office machines and equipment slipped 1.6% to \$1.6 billion. Imports of industrial and agricultural machinery fell 3.2% to \$2.4 billion.

Imports of industrial goods and materials rose 1.8% to \$6.0 billion. Within this sector, metals and metal ores imports fell 5.0% to \$1.3 billion, a result of reduced demand for durable goods, such as automobiles and aircraft, of which copper and steel are major components.

Chemicals and plastics decreased 0.7% to \$2.1 billion in February, as markets remained stable. Imports of other fabricated materials, largely electricity, rebounded with a 28.9% increase to just under \$1.0 billion.

Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are regularly revised for each month of the current year and annual data are revised once a year for the previous four years. 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, seasonal adjustments. Consult the appropriate CANSIM matrices for revised data.

Available on CANSIM: tables 2260001, 2260002, 2270001, 2270002, 2280001-2280009, and matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685-3699, 3701-3711, 3713, 3720, 3887-3913, 8430-8435, and 8438-8447.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

This release summarizes 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.

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. □

Merchandise trade

	January 2001 ^r	February 2001	January to February 2001	February 2000 to February 2001	January to February 2000	January to February 2001	January–February 2000 to January–February 2001
seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	31,869	30,745	-3.5	11.7	56,137	62,614	11.5
Japan	816	817	0.1	3.4	1,619	1,633	0.9
European Union	1,846	1,747	-5.4	-1.6	3,389	3,593	6.0
Other OECD countries ¹	732	531	-27.5	-19.2	1,322	1,263	-4.5
All other countries	1,541	1,304	-15.4	-20.9	3,169	2,845	-10.2
Total	36,803	35,144	-4.5	8.5	65,636	71,947	9.6
Imports							
United States	21,707	21,646	-0.3	0.2	43,240	43,353	0.3
Japan	872	909	4.2	-3.2	1,820	1,781	-2.1
European Union	3,145	2,765	-12.1	15.8	5,085	5,910	16.2
Other OECD countries ¹	1,621	1,489	-8.1	5.4	2,787	3,110	11.6
All other countries	2,788	2,468	-11.5	2.4	4,764	5,256	10.3
Total	30,133	29,277	-2.8	1.9	57,695	59,410	3.0
Balance							
United States	10,162	9,099	...	...	12,897	19,261	...
Japan	-56	-92	...	...	-201	-148	...
European Union	-1,299	-1,018	...	...	-1,696	-2,317	...
Other OECD countries ¹	-889	-958	...	...	-1,465	-1,847	...
All other countries	-1,247	-1,164	...	...	-1,595	-2,411	...
Total	6,670	5,867	...	...	7,941	12,537	...
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,407	2,362	-1.9	9.1	4,351	4,769	9.6
Energy products	6,222	5,808	-6.7	57.2	6,894	12,030	74.5
Forestry products	3,332	3,219	-3.4	-6.9	7,030	6,551	-6.8
Industrial goods and materials	5,572	5,358	-3.8	4.2	10,253	10,930	6.6
Machinery and equipment	9,281	8,521	-8.2	9.0	15,725	17,802	13.2
Automotive products	7,405	7,206	-2.7	-7.0	16,667	14,611	-12.3
Other consumer goods	1,301	1,317	1.2	13.7	2,320	2,618	12.8
Special transactions trade ²	718	733	2.1	17.8	1,222	1,451	18.7
Other balance of payments adjustments	567	619	9.2	5.3	1,175	1,186	0.9
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,644	1,621	-1.4	8.9	3,008	3,265	8.5
Energy products	1,839	1,438	-21.8	5.7	2,556	3,277	28.2
Forestry products	256	245	-4.3	3.8	484	501	3.5
Industrial goods and materials	5,942	6,046	1.8	7.5	11,185	11,988	7.2
Machinery and equipment	10,439	9,922	-5.0	6.0	18,982	20,361	7.3
Automotive products	5,507	5,445	-1.1	-16.0	13,025	10,952	-15.9
Other consumer goods	3,494	3,440	-1.5	10.4	6,316	6,934	9.8
Special transactions trade ²	504	611	21.2	13.4	1,049	1,115	6.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	507	510	0.6	-5.2	1,090	1,017	-6.7

^r Revised figures.

... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

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

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

OTHER RELEASES

Travel between Canada and other countries February 2001

Mid-winter travel both into and out of Canada declined on most fronts in February after strong growth in January.

Foreign travel into Canada, including same-day car trips and overnight trips from the United States as well as travel from overseas, dropped in February. At the same time, Canadians made fewer trips to both the United States and overseas.

In total, foreign travellers made 4.1 million trips to Canada in February, down 3.7% from January.

Canadians made 3.9 million international trips in February, down 6.7% from January and the largest month-to-month decrease since August 1998. Canadian travel to the United States was off 7.3% and the number of trips to overseas destinations declined 0.9%. (Data are seasonally adjusted and cover both same-day and overnight trips).

Americans made 1.3 million trips of one or more nights to Canada in February, down 4.8% from the record high set in January. Canadians also decreased their number of overnight trips south of the border by 5.9% to 1.2 million.

The number of overnight auto trips by Americans to Canada declined 4.4% to 834,000, down from the record high of 872,000 in January. American travel by plane dropped 3.5%. Canadians took 659,000 trips by car for one or more nights to the United States in February, down 9.5%, on the heels of a double-digit gain in January. Overnight travel by plane to the United States decreased 0.5% to 441,000.

Same-day car trips between Canada and the United States fell in both directions in February. Canadians made almost 2.2 million car excursions south of the border in February, 8.1% less than in January, while the number of such trips by Americans to Canada fell 4.5% to 2.2 million.

Canadians took 409,000 overnight trips to overseas countries in February, down a marginal 0.9% from a record 413,000 in January. Overseas residents took 372,000 overnight trips to Canada, 4.0% fewer than in January.

Travellers from 5 of Canada's top 12 overseas markets took more same-day and overnight trips to Canada in February. South Korea showed the strongest increase (+13.2%), followed by Switzerland (+7.5%), Japan (+3.8%) Italy (+0.6%) and Germany (+0.3%).

The largest declines in travel to Canada were recorded by Hong Kong (-64.2%) and Taiwan (-45.6%). These two countries had posted the strongest gains in January, 40.7% and 40.1%, respectively.

Travel between Canada and other countries

	Jan. 2001 ^r	Feb. 2001 ^p	Jan. to Feb. 2001	Feb. 2001 ^p	Feb. 2000 to Feb. 2001
	seasonally adjusted			unadjusted	
	'000		% change	'000	% change
Canadian trips abroad¹	4,161	3,884	-6.7	3,163	-4.8
Same-day car trips to the United States	2,389	2,196	-8.1	1,728	-7.5
Total trips, one or more nights	1,702	1,623	-4.7	1,360	-0.8
United States ²	1,289	1,213	-5.9	875	-6.1
Car	728	659	-9.5	344	-7.2
Plane	443	441	-0.5	481	-5.8
Other modes of transport	117	114	-3.0	50	-1.7
Other countries ³	413	409	-0.9	486	10.4
Travel to Canada¹	4,292	4,132	-3.7	2,801	0.9
Same-day car trips from the United States	2,354	2,248	-4.5	1,758	0.2
Total trips, one or more nights	1,777	1,695	-4.6	949	1.8
United States ²	1,389	1,323	-4.8	752	2.5
Car	872	834	-4.4	462	4.3
Plane	340	328	-3.5	228	-1.1
Other modes of transport	177	161	-9.1	63	2.9
Other countries ³	387	372	-4.0	197	-0.7
Most important overseas markets⁴					
United Kingdom	77	76	-1.0	84	2.9
Japan	45	47	3.8	42	9.2
France	35	33	-4.7	40	-9.7
Germany	33	33	0.3	23	-9.4
Australia	17	16	-7.7	23	8.0
South Korea	13	15	13.2	15	10.2
Mexico	12	12	-0.4	11	0.7
Netherlands	11	10	-1.9	8	-15.8
Switzerland	9	10	7.5	8	5.5
Taiwan	17	9	-45.6	13	-7.9
Italy	9	9	0.6	7	-20.5
Hong Kong	18	6	-64.2	15	-5.4

^r Revised figures.

^p Preliminary figures.

¹ Totals exceed the sum of same-day car trips and total trips, one or more nights because they include all of the same-day trips.

² Estimates for the United States include counts of cars and buses, and estimated numbers for planes, trains, boats and other modes of transport.

³ Figures for other countries exclude same-day entries by land only, via the United States.

⁴ Includes same-day and one or more night trips.

Available on CANSIM: tables 4270001-4270006 and matrices 2661-2698, 5780-6049 and 8200-8329.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The February 2001 issue of *International travel, advance information* (66-001-PIB, \$6/\$55) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For data requests, contact Michel Campbell (613-951-9169; fax: 613-951-2909; michel.campbell@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Laurie McDougall (613-951-6766; fax: 613-951-2909; laurie.mcdougall@statcan.ca), Tourism Statistics Program. ■

Construction Union Wage Rate Index

March 2001

The Construction Union Wage Rate Index (including supplements) for Canada remained unchanged in March compared with 117.8 in February (1992=100). The Composite index rose 2.4% compared with the revised March 2000 index.

Construction Union Wage Rate Index, basic rate plus supplements (1992-100)

	March 2000	Feb. 2001	March 2001	March 2000 to March 2001 % change	Feb. to March 2001
Canada	115.0	117.8	117.8	2.4	0.0
St. John's	106.8	110.3	110.3	3.3	0.0
Halifax	114.6	116.0	116.0	1.2	0.0
Saint John	116.0	116.4	116.4	0.3	0.0
Québec	112.0	114.8	114.8	2.5	0.0
Chicoutimi	112.1	114.9	114.9	2.5	0.0
Montréal	112.0	114.8	114.8	2.5	0.0
Ottawa	116.8	119.5	119.5	2.3	0.0
Toronto	115.4	118.0	118.0	2.3	0.0
Hamilton	117.1	119.9	119.9	2.4	0.0
St. Catharines	116.5	119.4	119.4	2.5	0.0
Kitchener	121.0	123.9	123.9	2.4	0.0
London	116.7	119.5	119.5	2.4	0.0
Windsor	115.9	118.9	118.9	2.6	0.0
Sudbury	116.8	119.5	119.5	2.3	0.0
Thunder Bay	116.3	119.2	119.2	2.5	0.0
Winnipeg	111.9	114.3	114.3	2.1	0.0
Calgary	121.1	128.3	128.3	5.9	0.0
Edmonton	123.1	130.4	130.4	5.9	0.0
Vancouver	110.0	110.1	110.1	0.1	0.0
Victoria	109.2	109.2	109.2	0.0	0.0

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: 3270003 and 3270004 and matrices 956, 958 and 9922-9927.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The first quarter 2001 issue of *Construction price statistics* (62-007-XPB, \$24/\$79) will be available in June. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods, and data quality for this release, contact Susie Boyd (613-951-3349; infounit@statcan.ca, fax: 613-951-1539) or Leon Comeau (613-951-3390), Prices Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

February 2001

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 February 2001 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 February 2001. 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: tables 2280001-2280009 and matrices 3618, 3619, 3651, 3685, 8430-8435, and 8438-8447.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The February 2001 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. ■

Crushing statistics

March 2001

Canadian oilseed processors crushed 278,975 metric tonnes of canola in March, according to the monthly survey of crushing plants. Oil production totalled 117,823 tonnes while meal production amounted to 171,969 tonnes.

In the first eight months of the 2000/2001 crop year, the canola crush volume was 2,198,571 tonnes, a 6.5% increase from the crush volume of 2,065,047 tonnes in the same eight months of 1999/2000.

Available on CANSIM: table 10005 and matrix 5687.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The March 2001 issue of *Cereals and oilseeds review* (22-007-XIB, \$11/\$112; 22-007-XPB, \$15/\$149) will be available in June 2001. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods and data quality of this release, contact Les Macartney (613-951-8714, les.macartney@statcan.ca) or Karen Gray (204-983-2856, karen.gray@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Oils and fats

February 2001

Production of all types of deodorized oils totalled 86 915 metric tonnes in February, a decrease of 9.3% from 95 797 tonnes in January 2001. Year-to date production for was 182 712 tonnes, down 3.8% from the 189 966 tonnes produced in the same period of 2000.

Domestic sales of deodorized margarine oil totalled 8 279 tonnes; deodorized shortening oil sales were 23 782 tonnes; and deodorized salad oil sales were 27 531 tonnes in February.

Available on CANSIM: table 3030012 and matrix 185.

With the release of CANSIM II, users can now obtain the same data as is presented in CANSIM in a table format that is easier to use and more clearly presented.

The February 2001 issue of *Oils and fats* (32-006-XIB, \$5/\$47) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Peter Zylstra (613-951-3511; zylspet@statcan.ca), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Rural and small town Canada analysis bulletin, 1976–1998, Vol. 2, no. 8
Catalogue number 21-006-XIE
(Free).

Oils and fats, February 2001, Vol. 52, no. 2
Catalogue number 32-006-XIB (\$5/\$47).

International travel, advance information, February 2001, Vol. 17, no. 2
Catalogue number 66-001-PIB (\$6/\$55).

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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Discusses the attitudes on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was noticeably weak again in 1996, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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