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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, January 12, 2005
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Major releases

Other releases

Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Public Use Microdata File
2001 and 2002

The cross-sectional public-use microdata files for the 2001 and 2002 Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) are now available. Since 1996, SLID public use microdata have been a source of detailed cross-sectional household income data. Prior to this, the Survey of Consumer Finances provided public-use microdata files to meet the needs of users of cross-sectional household income.

The *Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Public Use Microdata File* on CD-ROM (75M0010XCB, $2,140) is now available for 2001 and 2002. The files are available separately for each year. See *How to order products*.

For more information about the survey and related products and services, contact Client Services (1-888-297-7355; 613-951-7355; fax: 613-951-3012; *income@statcan.ca*), Income Statistics Division.

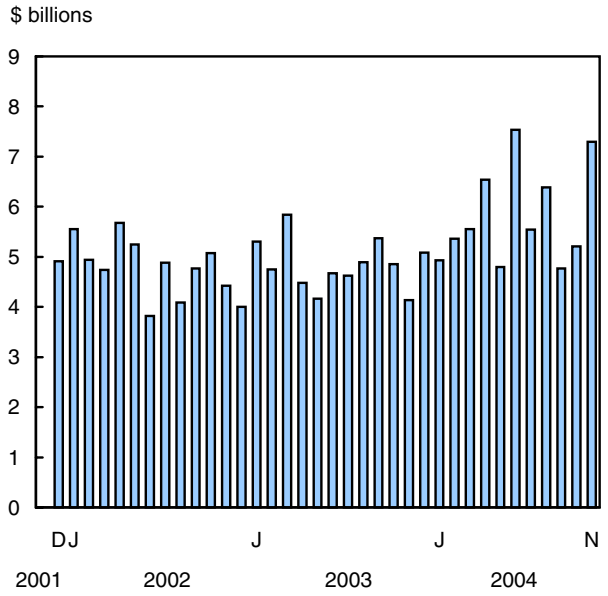
Major releases

Canadian international merchandise trade

November 2004

Canada's merchandise imports tumbled in November, resulting in a near record high trade surplus with the rest of the world. The drop in the value of imports was a result of falling import prices due to a soaring Canadian dollar and a drop in the volume of goods.

Trade balance



Canadian companies imported $27.4 billion worth of merchandise, down 10.2% from October. While this was the lowest level since January 2004, November's imports were comparable with those for November 2003. At the same time, exports fell 2.9% to $34.7 billion.

This resulted in a merchandise trade surplus of $7.3 billion, the third highest since 1997 and just short of the peak of $7.5 billion set in June 2004.

Strong import performance and inventory accumulation leading up to November contributed to the month's volume decline.

As well, the Canadian dollar appreciated strongly during the last half of 2004 against the American greenback, especially between October and November. The loonie rose from US 81.80 cents on November 1 to its peak of US 85.04 cents on November 26, the highest level since 1992.

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, 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.

Imported goods have become less expensive as the Canadian dollar has appreciated, resulting in lower import values. Approximately one-third of the drop in import values in November resulted from the exchange rate appreciation.

Canada's trade surplus with the United States expanded to $10.3 billion, also precipitated by a smaller decline in exports than in imports. Exports fell 2.1% to $28.5 billion, while imports were down 12.1% to $18.2 billion. Imports from the United States were down across all sectors. The main contributors to the drop in exports were declines in both automotive and energy products, as well as the sixth straight monthly drop in exports of Canadian forestry products.

Exports to countries other than the United States fell $400 million to $6.2 billion in November. Imports from non-US destinations fell from a near record high of $9.8 billion in October to $9.2 billion. As a result, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed slightly to $3.0 billion.

Across-the-board decline in imports

The sharp decline in imports was felt across all sectors in November.

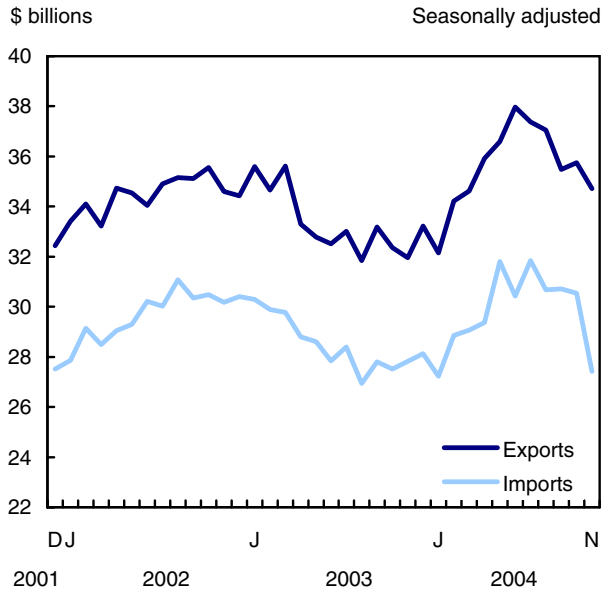
Imports of machinery and equipment and automotive products both declined for the fourth consecutive month. Machinery and equipment imports fell 11.6% to $7.7 billion, while automotive products declined 8.7% to $5.7 billion. Imports of passenger autos and chassis bucked the downward trend, rising 1.2% to 1.7 billion.

Imports of other consumer goods fell $370 million to $3.7 billion. House furnishings, which reached

record highs of $636.4 million in July, fell for the fourth consecutive month to $525.9 million. This was the lowest level since December 2001.

Imports of energy products dropped 12.2% to $1.9 billion following a strong gain in October. Imports of crude petroleum declined 8.9% to $1.3 billion, a level similar to that experienced in June and prior to the record highs of early autumn.

Exports and imports



Imports of industrial goods and materials fell 12.6% in November, with similar declines in chemicals and plastics; other industrial goods and materials; and metals and metal ores. Imports of agricultural and fishing products fell a sharp $216.3 million to $1.6 billion.

Rising prices drive crude petroleum exports to record high

Exports of crude petroleum, which have been increasing for three consecutive months, mostly as a result of price increases, hit a record high of $2.5 billion in November.

Although crude petroleum exports have continued to rise, exports of energy products fell by 3.9% overall, from October's revised $6.2 billion to $5.9 billion. Exports of natural gas decreased the most in November. However, exports of other energy products (such as petroleum and coal products, and electricity) also declined.

The drop in exports of automotive products, which fell 6.7% in November to $7.0 billion, also played a central role in November's decline in exports. Within the sector, trucks and other motor vehicles experienced the greatest decline. Following the spike in October, exports of trucks and other motor vehicles slipped back 28.5% to $1.1 billion, closer to August levels. Exports of motor vehicle parts declined 5.9%, while passenger autos and chassis managed a small increase to $3.7 billion.

Forestry product exports declined for the sixth consecutive month, falling $109.9 million to $3.0 billion. Exports of wood pulp and other wood products fell 5.6%, while those of newsprint and other paper and paperboard were down 1.7%. Exports of lumber and sawmill products fell 3.9% to $1.5 billion but other crude wood product exports rose 6.0% to $71.5 million.

Exports of industrial goods and materials fell for the fifth consecutive month, hitting $6.3 billion in November. The three product groups in this sector (chemicals, plastics and fertilizers; other industrial goods and materials; and metals and alloys) each contributed to the decline.

Exports of machinery and equipment declined 1.5%, the fifth consecutive monthly drop. Other machinery and equipment exports and industrial and agricultural machinery contributed to the decline, but this was partially offset by a 1.8% gain in exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment.

Exports of agricultural and fish products rose for the second consecutive month in November, with a gain in wheat exports leading the way. After falling 58.3% between August and October, wheat exports jumped 41.0% to $253.4 million. Exports of canola and barley declined in November following gains the month before.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0046.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The November 2004 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 58, no. 11 (65-001-XIB, $15/$151) is now available. See *How to order products*. The publication includes 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-XIE, $32/$100).

Merchandise trade data are available in PDF format on the morning of release.

For more information on the publications, contact Anne Couillard, (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-6867). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Diana Wyman (613-951-3116), International Trade Division.

Merchandise trade

	October 2004[r]	November 2004	October to November 2004	November 2003 to November 2004	January to November 2003	January to November 2004	January to November 2003 to January to November 2004
	Seasonally adjusted, $ current						
	$ millions		% change		$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	29,139	28,513	-2.1	9.1	303,175	320,290	5.6
Japan	773	823	6.5	13.8	9,008	9,126	1.3
European Union	2,271	2,037	-10.3	-6.7	22,003	24,529	11.5
Other OECD countries[1]	1,254	1,212	-3.3	22.7	11,591	13,130	13.3
All other countries	2,306	2,121	-8.0	10.0	21,014	24,753	17.8
Total	**35,743**	**34,706**	**-2.9**	**8.6**	**366,789**	**391,828**	**6.8**
Imports							
United States	20,708	18,198	-12.1	-6.6	220,180	225,342	2.3
Japan	826	859	4.0	7.1	9,797	9,150	-6.6
European Union	3,238	2,779	-14.2	-0.9	32,014	33,326	4.1
Other OECD countries[1]	1,804	1,825	1.2	11.1	18,037	20,451	13.4
All other countries	3,960	3,749	-5.3	21.0	33,670	39,662	17.8
Total	**30,535**	**27,410**	**-10.2**	**-1.5**	**313,699**	**327,927**	**4.5**
Balance							
United States	8,431	10,315	---	---	82,995	94,948	---
Japan	-53	-36	---	---	-789	-24	---
European Union	-967	-742	---	---	-10,011	-8,797	---
Other OECD countries[1]	-550	-613	---	---	-6,446	-7,321	---
All other countries	-1,654	-1,628	---	---	-12,656	-14,909	---
Total	**5,208**	**7,296**	**---**	**---**	**53,090**	**63,901**	**---**
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,431	2,449	0.7	-2.1	26,785	28,451	6.2
Energy products	6,174	5,931	-3.9	40.8	55,724	62,275	11.8
Forestry products	3,133	3,023	-3.5	1.0	31,556	35,961	14.0
Industrial goods and materials	6,439	6,324	-1.8	10.8	60,650	70,426	16.1
Machinery and equipment	7,450	7,336	-1.5	5.7	81,541	84,004	3.0
Automotive products	7,452	6,950	-6.7	0.5	79,959	82,200	2.8
Other consumer goods	1,389	1,367	-1.6	-4.2	15,755	15,805	0.3
Special transactions trade[2]	650	627	-3.5	3.3	7,048	7,247	2.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	625	700	12.0	5.4	7,776	5,460	-29.8
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,827	1,610	-11.9	-7.0	19,764	19,368	-2.0
Energy products	2,167	1,902	-12.2	23.3	17,883	21,603	20.8
Forestry products	260	254	-2.3	4.5	2,781	2,875	3.4
Industrial goods and materials	6,370	5,570	-12.6	5.3	59,758	65,898	10.3
Machinery and equipment	8,687	7,676	-11.6	-4.2	90,167	94,709	5.0
Automotive products	6,257	5,712	-8.7	-7.3	70,175	69,889	-0.4
Other consumer goods	4,039	3,666	-9.2	-5.7	42,487	42,991	1.2
Special transactions trade[2]	403	561	39.2	28.1	4,872	4,859	-0.3
Other blance of payments adjustments	525	459	-12.6	-12.6	5,813	5,740	-1.3

r Revised figures
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.
... Figures not appropriate or not applicable.

■

Other releases

New Housing Price Index
November 2004

Prices for new homes continued to climb in November, although the rate of increase was easing compared with earlier in 2004.

New housing price indexes
(1997=100)

	November 2004	November 2003 to November 2004	October 2004 to November 2004
		% change	
Canada total	**125.5**	**5.3**	**0.4**
House only	133.9	6.0	0.5
Land only	109.6	3.7	0.3
St. John's	122.3	7.1	1.2
Halifax	121.8	1.8	0.0
Charlottetown	111.0	3.8	0.5
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	107.2	3.4	1.1
Québec	131.3	4.0	0.5
Montréal	138.7	6.6	0.7
Ottawa–Gatineau	150.4	6.7	0.0
Toronto and Oshawa	128.8	5.1	0.3
Hamilton	131.4	6.7	1.3
St. Catharines–Niagara	132.7	6.8	0.5
Kitchener	129.1	7.0	1.3
London	121.6	4.3	0.2
Windsor	103.0	0.9	0.0
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	99.0	2.4	0.2
Winnipeg	124.7	8.1	0.0
Regina	136.9	7.3	0.1
Saskatoon	123.7	6.7	0.0
Calgary	140.0	4.7	-0.1
Edmonton	132.3	4.3	0.8
Vancouver	102.5	5.1	0.5
Victoria	107.1	6.7	0.1

Note: *View the census subdivisions that comprise the metropolitan areas online.*

According to the New Housing Price Index (which is based on contractors' selling prices of new homes in 21 metropolitan areas), the price of new homes rose 5.3% in November compared with the same month in 2003.

This was down slightly from the 5.6% annual increase registered in October. As was the case in October, the annual rate of increase continued to slow since the 6.2% peak in June 2004.

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose to 125.5 in November.

An active housing market, along with higher prices for building materials and labour, pushed prices up nationally.

Winnipeg (+8.1%) continued to post the largest 12-month increase for new homes, followed by Regina (+7.3%), St. John's (+7.1%) and Kitchener (+7.0%).

On a month-over-month basis, housing prices rose 0.4%, up slightly from October's monthly increase of 0.2%.

Of the 21 metropolitan areas, 15 posted monthly gains led by Hamilton and Kitchener where prices were up 1.3%. Apart from higher prices for building materials and labour, other contributing factors were present; home builders in Hamilton cited higher development fees while home builders in Kitchener noted higher land values. Hamilton and Kitchener were followed by St. John's (+1.2%) and Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton (+1.1%).

Notable increases were observed in Edmonton, Montréal, Charlottetown, Québec, St. Catharines–Niagara and Vancouver.

New home prices also rose in Toronto and Oshawa, London, Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay, Regina and Victoria.

Five metropolitan areas registered no monthly change and the only decrease was in Calgary (-0.1%) due to competitive factors.

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The fourth quarter 2004 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, $26/$85) will be available in April.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact our Client Services Section (613-951-9606, fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*) or Albert Near (613-951-3386; *nearalb@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Export and import price indexes
November 2004

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 2004 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 2004. 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.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2201, 2202 and 2203.

The November 2004 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade* (65-001-XIB, $15/$151) 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 Anne Couillard (1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9647), International Trade Division. ■

Mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation

November 2004

Data on mineral wool including fibrous glass insulation are now available for November.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0059.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2110.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

New products

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, November 2004, Vol. 58, no. 11
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB ($15/$151).

Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Public Use Microdata File, 2001 and 2002
Catalogue number 75M0010XCB ($2,140).

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

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

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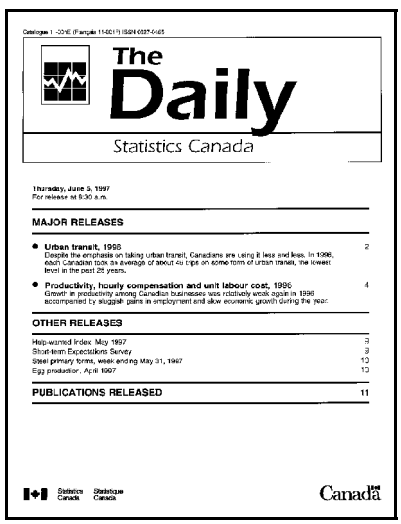
Catalogue 11-001E (Formerly 11-001F) ISSN 0037-4445

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- Urban transit, 1996 — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 40 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996 — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

Help-wanted Index, May 1997 — 9
Short-term Expectations Survey — 9
Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 — 10
Egg production, April 1997 — 10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED — 11

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