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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Tuesday, April 12, 2005
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Major releases

Other releases

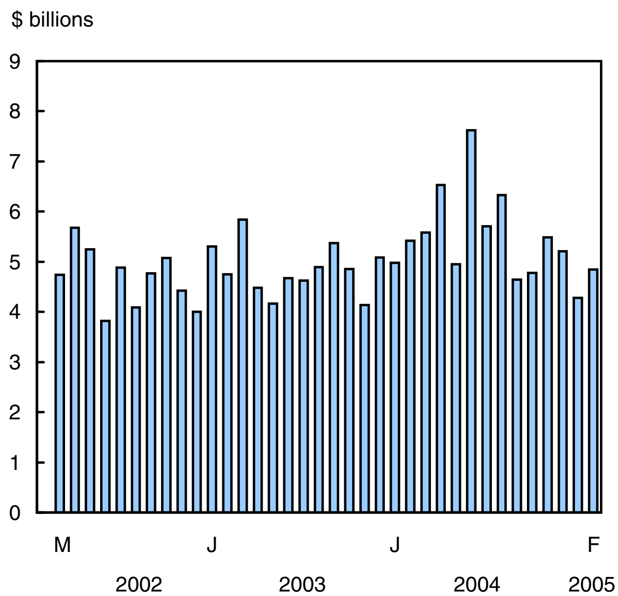
New products

Major releases

Canadian international merchandise trade
February 2005

Canada's merchandise exports to the world rebounded in February with an across-the-board increase in all major commodity groupings, led by a jump in agricultural and fishing products.

Trade balance



Canadian companies exported just over $36.5 billion in goods, a 1.4% increase from January. This gain, which resulted from a combination of higher export volumes (+0.5%) and higher prices (+0.9%), followed a revised 1.2% decline in January.

At the same time imports came in at a strong $31.7 billion in February, down just 0.2% or $60 million less than January's record high.

As a result, Canada's merchandise trade surplus expanded from $4.3 billion in January to $4.8 billion in February.

The trade balance with the United States rose from nearly $8.2 billion to $8.7 billion. Exports to the United States rose 1.5% to $30.0 billion, while imports edged down 0.7% to $21.2 billion. The trade deficit with countries other than the United States remained stable.

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.

Exports of agricultural and fishing products led the increase in exports, but all sectors contributed to the growth. Exports of energy products rose 1.3%, recovering from a decline in January.

Increased imports of consumer goods, driven by record imports of apparel and accessories, and strong gains in machinery and equipment, were offset by declines in other trade sectors.

Exports: Agricultural and fishing products lead the gain

Exports of agricultural and fishing products increased by 4.8% in February. Wheat exports rose 40.1%, the result of increased demand from Asia and Latin America. Increased demand from Asia also contributed to increases in exports of barley and meat and meat preparations.

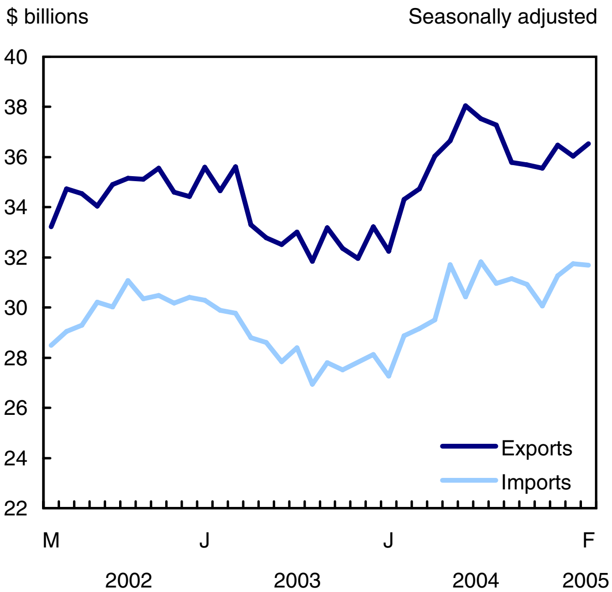
Energy product exports were up, led by a 7.3% gain in natural gas exports as result of higher prices, while crude petroleum exports fell 6.3% to $2.1 billion because of a drop in volumes. Even so, crude export levels remain strong, sitting only $300 million below the record high of November 2004.

Exports of forestry products rose for the second consecutive month, led by a 4.3% gain in exports of lumber and sawmill products, although exports of wood fabricated materials, and other crude wood products also showed increases.

Lumber exports rose 4.4% to $937.7 million, primarily the result of an increase in prices. Prices were driven up by strong housing markets and rebuilding efforts south of the border. Exports of wood pulp and other wood products edged up 0.2%, while newsprint and other paper and paperboard products slipped 0.3%.

Exports of industrial goods and materials rose 1.7% to $7.1 billion. Exports of fertilizers and fertilizer materials exhibited the greatest increase, with potash shipments to China accounting for the majority of this growth.

Exports and imports



A 4.3% gain in exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment dominated the increase in the machinery and equipment sector. They were followed closely by a 3.8% jump in exports of industrial and agricultural machinery. Exports of other machinery and equipment, which includes telecommunications equipment and office machines, fell 0.5% to $4.2 billion.

Exports of automotive products, which have been growing for three consecutive months, continued this trend in February, rising 0.6% to $7.6 billion.

Exports of trucks and other motor vehicles increased 1.9% to $1.2 billion while motor vehicle parts advanced 1.2% to $2.4 billion. Exports of passenger autos and chassis remained stable at $4.0 billion.

Exports of other consumer goods rose 0.7% to $1.5 billion, also up for the third consecutive month. The total was less than $100 million below the sector's record high set in January 2003.

Record high apparel imports from China

Total imports edged down in February despite record high apparel imports and a big gain in imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment.

Imports of apparel and accessories posted a 9.1% increase to a record high $664.4 million, a result of increased volumes from China.

Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment grew 17.5% to $1.1 billion, leading a gain in the machinery and equipment grouping. Other transportation equipment was the major contributor within this sector, primarily as a result of the HMCS Chicoutimi arriving in Halifax Harbour on February 1. Though the Department of National Defense purchased the submarine from Great Britain in 2004, it was sealifted to Halifax following a tragic fire which occurred off the coast of Ireland. As a result, it is included in February's imports.

Imports were down in all other commodity groupings. Imports of automotive products fell 3.2%, with trucks and other motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts and passenger autos and chassis each contributing to the decline.

Crude petroleum imports rebounded in February, recovering the entire $270-million drop in January to return to December levels. Declines in coal and other energy products more than offset this increase. As a result, energy product imports were down 1.5% from the record-high in January to $2.5 billion.

Imports of industrial goods and materials declined 1.5%. While other industrial goods and materials and metals and metal ores each dropped 2.6%, imports of chemicals and plastics managed a 0.6% increase. Imports of chemicals and plastics have been rising for three consecutive months, hitting a record high $2.4 billion in February.

Imports of agricultural and fishing products fell 4.0% in February.

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 February 2005 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 59, no. 2 (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 products or services, 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

	January 2005[r]	February 2005	January to February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005	January to February 2004	January to February 2005	January - February 2004 to January - February 2005
	seasonally adjusted, $ current						
	$ millions		% change		$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	29,522	29,965	1.5	7.2	54,312	59,487	9.5
Japan	779	854	9.6	5.6	1,579	1,633	3.4
European Union	2,224	2,250	1.2	0.9	4,262	4,474	5.0
Other OECD countries[1]	1,109	1,039	-6.3	-3.6	2,179	2,148	-1.4
All other countries	2,402	2,429	1.1	8.4	4,213	4,831	14.7
Total	**36,037**	**36,537**	**1.4**	**6.5**	**66,546**	**72,574**	**9.1**
Imports							
United States	21,387	21,228	-0.7	5.3	39,265	42,615	8.5
Japan	1,061	844	-20.5	-3.7	1,653	1,905	15.2
European Union	3,204	3,202	-0.1	10.3	5,420	6,406	18.2
Other OECD countries[1]	1,872	2,063	10.2	17.6	3,464	3,935	13.6
All other countries	4,228	4,355	3.0	36.4	6,345	8,583	35.3
Total	**31,752**	**31,692**	**-0.2**	**9.7**	**56,145**	**63,444**	**13.0**
Balance							
United States	8,135	8,737	...	...	15,047	16,872	...
Japan	-282	10	...	...	-74	-272	...
European Union	-980	-952	...	...	-1,158	-1,932	...
Other OECD countries[1]	-763	-1,024	...	...	-1,285	-1,787	...
All other countries	-1,826	-1,926	...	...	-2,132	-3,752	...
Total	**4,285**	**4,845**	**...**	**...**	**10,401**	**9,130**	**...**
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,414	2,530	4.8	1.2	4,909	4,944	0.7
Energy products	5,918	5,992	1.3	15.2	10,216	11,910	16.6
Forestry products	3,113	3,178	2.1	1.5	5,926	6,291	6.2
Industrial goods and materials	6,952	7,067	1.7	16.2	11,863	14,019	18.2
Machinery and equipment	7,462	7,569	1.4	0.5	14,569	15,031	3.2
Automotive products	7,509	7,554	0.6	1.6	14,180	15,063	6.2
Other consumer goods	1,473	1,483	0.7	1.1	2,818	2,956	4.9
Special transactions trade[2]	679	659	-2.9	8.4	1,206	1,338	10.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	517	505	-2.3	43.9	858	1,022	19.1
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,907	1,831	-4.0	3.6	3,437	3,738	8.8
Energy products	2,587	2,549	-1.5	53.5	3,304	5,136	55.4
Forestry products	265	268	1.1	9.4	475	533	12.2
Industrial goods and materials	6,580	6,484	-1.5	14.0	11,029	13,064	18.5
Machinery and equipment	8,778	8,912	1.5	4.5	16,364	17,690	8.1
Automotive products	6,618	6,404	-3.2	2.9	12,104	13,022	7.6
Other consumer goods	4,026	4,105	2.0	7.7	7,567	8,131	7.5
Special transactions trade[2]	399	552	38.3	30.2	821	951	15.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	592	585	-1.2	9.8	1,046	1,177	12.5

r Revised figures.
1. Includes Australia, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.
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

February 2005

New housing prices edged up in February compared with a month earlier, while the 12-month rate of increase slowed slightly to 5.1%, the lowest rate since March 2004.

The market for new homes continues to be favourable for builders. This, together with higher prices for building materials and labour, helped to push prices up nationally. Land value increases were a factor in 7 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed.

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 0.3% on a monthly basis, which was up from the 0.2% advances observed in the previous two months.

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose to 126.5 in February.

Of the 21 metropolitan areas, 17 posted monthly gains. Regina and Charlottetown led the way with increases of 2.7% and 1.1% respectively. Price increases in Regina were attributed to a revived market along with higher costs of labour and building materials. In Charlottetown, higher builders' operating costs and material costs combined to push new housing prices up.

Other notable increases were seen in Windsor, Edmonton, and Victoria (+0.8%), Québec (+0.6%), Hamilton and Calgary (+0.5%) and St. John's and Montréal (+0.4%).

Monthly increases were also noted in Kitchener, Ottawa–Gatineau, Toronto and Oshawa, London, Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay and Vancouver.

Three metropolitan areas registered no monthly change and the only decrease was in St. Catharines–Niagara (-0.4%).

New housing price indexes

(1997=100)

	February 2005	February 2004 to February 2005	January to February 2005
		% change	
Canada total	**126.5**	**5.1**	**0.3**
House only	135.0	5.6	0.4
Land only	110.4	4.0	0.2
St.John's	123.7	7.5	0.4
Halifax	121.8	0.6	0.0
Charlottetown	112.2	3.6	1.1
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	108.9	4.8	1.0
Québec	132.6	4.2	0.6
Montréal	139.9	6.3	0.4
Ottawa–Gatineau	152.1	6.4	0.2
Toronto and Oshawa	129.5	4.9	0.2
Hamilton	132.2	6.3	0.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	135.4	8.5	-0.4
Kitchener	129.6	5.9	0.3
London	123.4	3.2	0.1
Windsor	105.3	3.1	0.8
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay	99.1	1.1	0.1
Winnipeg	127.5	9.5	0.0
Regina	140.6	8.3	2.7
Saskatoon	123.9	6.9	0.0
Calgary	141.2	4.1	0.5
Edmonton	133.6	5.4	0.8
Vancouver	102.8	3.6	0.1
Victoria	109.3	7.7	0.8

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

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The first quarter 2005 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XPB, $26/$85) will be available in July.

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

February 2005

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 February 2005 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 February 2005. 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 to 228-0003 and 228-0033 to 228-0040.

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

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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. ■

New products

Economic Analysis Research Paper Series: Canada's Investments in Science and Innovation: Is the Existing Concept of Research and Development Sufficient?, no. 32
Catalogue number 11F0027MIE2005032
(free).

Infomat: A Weekly Review, April 12, 2005
Catalogue number 11-002-XWE ($100).

The Canadian Productivity Accounts: Revised Data, 2003, Vol. 1, no. 2
Catalogue number 15-003-XIE
(free).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, February 2005, Vol. 59, no. 2
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB ($15/$151).

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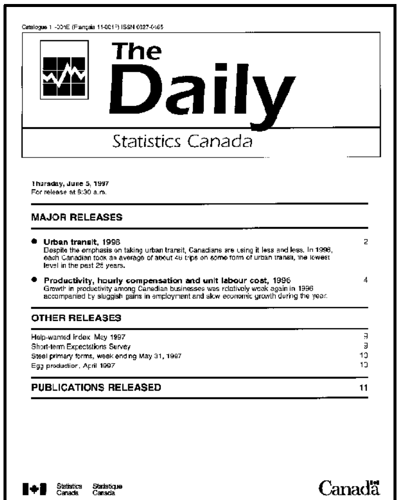
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The Daily

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 46 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.

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