



# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

---

## Releases

---

<b>Canadian international merchandise trade, May 2005</b>	2
Merchandise imports registered a big gain in May, fuelled by inbound energy products as well as heavy machinery headed for a boom in construction projects in Western Canada.	
Export and import price indexes, May 2005	5
The supply and disposition of refined petroleum products in Canada, March 2005	5
Steel pipe and tubing, May 2005	5

---

<b>New products</b>	6
---------------------	---

---



## Releases

### Canadian international merchandise trade

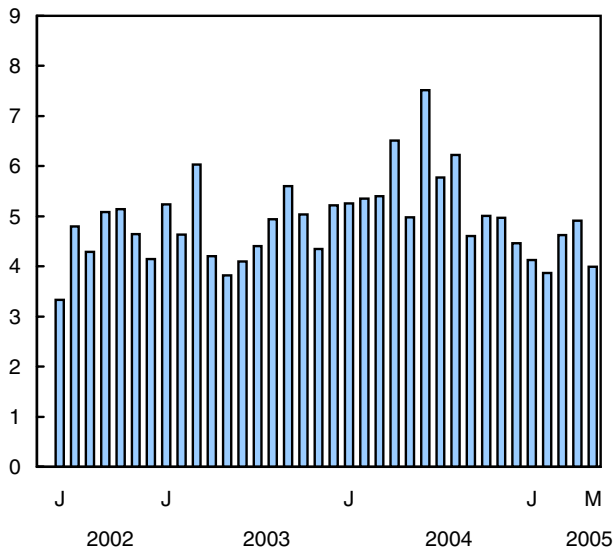
May 2005

Merchandise imports registered a big gain in May, fuelled by inbound energy products as well as heavy machinery headed for a boom in construction projects in Western Canada.

Canadian companies imported \$32.3 billion in merchandise, up 2.3%, while exports slipped 0.5% to \$36.3 billion. As a result, the trade surplus fell to just under \$4.0 billion.

#### Trade balance

\$ billions



Imports of energy products soared 19.0% in May as refineries in Eastern Canada stepped up demand. However, a major factor in the import scene has been growing demand for heavy equipment in Western Canada, particularly in the construction, mining and oil sectors, leading to rising machinery and equipment imports.

Imports of machinery and equipment hit \$9.1 billion in May, up 0.3% from April, their sixth consecutive monthly increase. May's level was the second highest since August 2001. Since November last year, imports of machinery and equipment have increased 9.3%.

#### 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.

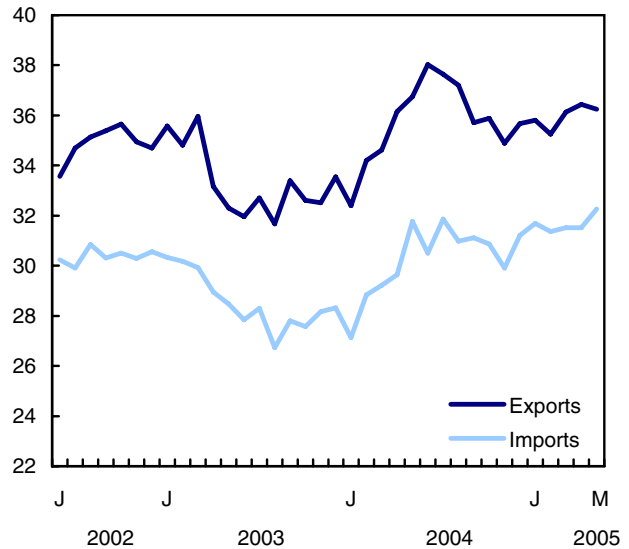
Imports from the United States rose 1.6%, while exports south of the border remained stable. As a result, the trade surplus with the United States slipped from about \$8.2 billion to \$7.8 billion.

Imports from all countries other than the United States went up 3.9%, rising in each principal trading area except Japan. At the same time, exports to the rest of the world fell 2.6%. Canada's deficit with countries other than the United States rose to \$3.8 billion.

#### Exports and imports

\$ billions

Seasonally adjusted



---

## Imports: Construction boom also fuels forestry products

Canada's imports increased in all major sectors in May, except automotive products and agricultural and fishing products.

Imports of energy products hit more than \$2.9 billion. The major factor was a 15.2% increase in imports of crude petroleum from Algeria and Norway, as well as rising imports of other energy products to meet the demand for fuel oil and coal.

The growth in construction also had an impact on imports of forestry products as Canadian companies complemented domestic materials with those from abroad.

Forestry product imports hit a record high \$291.7 million in May, up 10.2% from the previous month. A rise in imports of wood fabricated materials, such as wood siding, flooring and doors, accounted for the majority of the increase.

Imports of consumer goods rose 2.2% to \$4.2 billion, the result of increases in the pharmaceutical products and the printed matter sectors, with the latter climbing 3.8% as Canadian retailers stocked their shelves with summer reading materials.

Imports of animal and vegetable oils and fats hit a record high \$82.5 million. Rising demand for olive oil has pushed up imports, with both volumes and prices of the Mediterranean staple rising in recent months.

On the downside, imports of automotive products fell 1.8% to \$6.3 billion. Imports of agricultural and fishing products slipped 1.7% from near-record highs in the first months of 2005. Strong commodity prices have been fuelling high commodity values.

## Export gains confined to autos, consumer goods

Exports fell in all major categories except automotive products and consumer goods.

Exports of automotive products, mainly to the United States, rose 4.9% to nearly \$7.1 billion, as exports of passenger autos and chassis rebounded after four months of decline. This was accompanied by a 3.3% gain in exports of motor vehicle parts.

Exports of consumer goods rose 2.7%, the third increase in the past four months.

The overall decline in exports was led by machinery and equipment, in combination with energy. Outbound

shipments of machinery and equipment fell 1.9% to \$8.0 billion, with aircraft exports cooling off after two strong months.

Energy exports fell 4.9% to \$5.9 billion in May. A drop in exports of crude petroleum led the increase. Crude prices fell in May to just below US \$47 per barrel but had increased to US \$50 by the end of the month. There was also a slight decline in volumes exported. High stocks of crude petroleum in the United States may have been a contributing factor.

Exports of natural gas fell 3.1%, while other energy products declined 4.9%. In both cases, the decline followed strong gains earlier in the year.

Industrial goods and materials fell slightly in May, with declines in metal ores and metals and alloys offsetting increases in chemicals, plastics and fertilizers.

Gains in the chemicals, plastics and fertilizers sector were widespread, distributed among inorganic chemicals, synthetic rubber and plastics, fertilizer and fertilizer products and other chemical products.

Exports of forestry products edged down 0.1%, its third consecutive drop, while outbound shipments of agricultural and fishing products fell 2.4%.

**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 May 2005 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 59, no. 5 (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 and 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**

	April 2005 <sup>r</sup>	May 2005	April to May 2005	May to May 2005	January to May 2004	January to May 2005	January - May 2004 to January - May 2005
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current							
	\$ millions		% change		\$ millions		% change
<b>Principal trading partners</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
United States	29,453	29,453	0.0	-2.7	142,408	146,549	2.9
Japan	859	787	-8.4	-11.4	4,092	4,118	0.6
European Union	2,401	2,318	-3.5	10.9	10,585	11,377	7.5
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	1,258	1,208	-4.0	0.8	5,959	5,776	-3.1
All other countries	2,463	2,484	0.9	8.3	11,064	12,054	8.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,433</b>	<b>36,250</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>174,109</b>	<b>179,871</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Imports</b>							
United States	21,290	21,621	1.6	-0.6	101,956	106,615	4.6
Japan	907	895	-1.3	0.8	4,109	4,628	12.6
European Union	3,075	3,110	1.1	-6.6	14,692	15,685	6.8
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	2,133	2,159	1.2	-1.2	9,170	10,099	10.1
All other countries	4,118	4,471	8.6	24.0	16,682	21,321	27.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,523</b>	<b>32,256</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>146,610</b>	<b>158,348</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Balance</b>							
United States	8,163	7,832	...	...	40,452	39,934	...
Japan	-48	-108	...	...	-17	-510	...
European Union	-674	-792	...	...	-4,107	-4,308	...
Other OECD countries <sup>1</sup>	-875	-951	...	...	-3,211	-4,323	...
All other countries	-1,655	-1,987	...	...	-5,618	-9,267	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,910</b>	<b>3,994</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>27,499</b>	<b>21,523</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Principal commodity groupings</b>							
<b>Exports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,476	2,417	-2.4	-11.7	12,811	12,187	-4.9
Energy products	6,224	5,916	-4.9	1.5	26,419	29,265	10.8
Forestry products	3,111	3,107	-0.1	-14.2	16,139	15,626	-3.2
Industrial goods and materials	7,095	7,073	-0.3	11.5	31,082	34,997	12.6
Machinery and equipment	8,159	8,001	-1.9	5.1	37,721	39,401	4.5
Automotive products	6,763	7,094	4.9	-11.1	37,495	35,238	-6.0
Other consumer goods	1,466	1,505	2.7	0.3	7,239	7,333	1.3
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	677	666	-1.6	-10.6	3,239	3,339	3.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	461	472	2.4	23.6	1,959	2,484	26.8
<b>Imports</b>							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,838	1,807	-1.7	-1.7	8,833	9,139	3.5
Energy products	2,443	2,907	19.0	39.8	9,137	12,955	41.8
Forestry products	265	292	10.2	7.7	1,267	1,356	7.0
Industrial goods and materials	6,494	6,568	1.1	6.4	28,940	32,787	13.3
Machinery and equipment	9,112	9,141	0.3	-4.0	42,653	44,929	5.3
Automotive products	6,462	6,343	-1.8	-4.9	31,374	31,997	2.0
Other consumer goods	4,002	4,163	4.0	0.9	19,464	20,423	4.9
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	338	451	33.4	-11.4	2,208	2,044	-7.4
Other balance of payments adjustments	569	583	2.5	0.3	2,733	2,718	-0.5

<sup>r</sup> Revised figures

1. Includes Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, 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.

---

## Export and import price indexes

May 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 May 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 May 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 228-0046.**

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

The May 2005 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 59, no. 5 (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. ■

## The supply and disposition of refined petroleum products in Canada

March 2005

Data on the supply and disposition and domestic sales of refined petroleum products are now available for March.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 134-0001 and 134-0004.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.**

The March 2005 issue of *The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada* (previously titled *Refined Petroleum Products*), Vol. 60, no. 3 (45-004-XIE, \$18/\$166) 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 the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; [energ@statcan.ca](mailto:energ@statcan.ca)), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## Steel pipe and tubing

May 2005

Data on the production and shipments of steel pipe and tubing are now available for May.

**Available on CANSIM: table 303-0046.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2105.**

The May 2005 issue of *Steel, Tubular Products and Steel Wire* (41-019-XIE, \$6/\$51) will soon be available.

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](mailto:manufact@statcan.ca)) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

## New products

**The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada**, March 2005, Vol. 60, no. 3  
Catalogue number **45-004-XIE** (\$18/\$166).

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

**Canadian International Merchandise Trade**, May 2005, Vol. 59, no. 5  
Catalogue number **65-001-XIB** (\$15/\$151).

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.

### How to order products

**To order by phone, please refer to:**

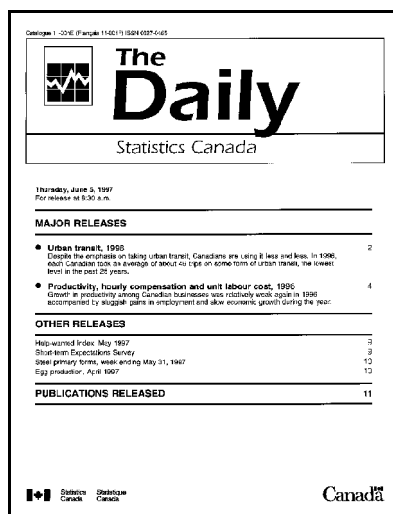
- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.

From Canada and the United States, call: **1-800-267-6677**  
From other countries, call: **1-613-951-7277**  
To fax your order, call: **1-877-287-4369**  
For address changes or account inquiries, call: **1-800-700-1033**

**To order by mail, write to:** Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.  
Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

**To order by Internet, write to:** [infostats@statcan.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.ca) or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website ([www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

**Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.**



### Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to [listproc@statcan.ca](mailto:listproc@statcan.ca). Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2004. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.