Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 0827-0465

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, August 12, 2005
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

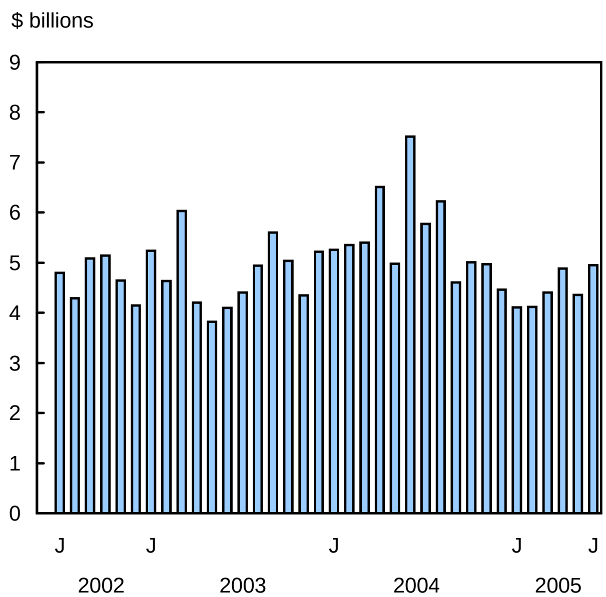
Releases

Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade
June 2005

Canada's trade balance with the world increased to just short of $5.0-billion in June as our exports to countries other than the United States hit an all-time high.

Trade balance



In total, Canadian companies exported $37.2 billion worth of merchandise, up 1.8% from May. It was the highest level since July 2004, but still short of the record high of $39.1 billion in January 2001.

While exports to the United States slipped slightly, they rose to all other principal trading partners, in particular to the European Union (EU) and other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, which posted gains of 10.4% and 31.4% respectively.

At the same time, merchandise imports increased for the fourth consecutive month in June, edging up 0.2% to $32.3 billion, which broke the previous record set the month before.

As a result, Canada's overall trade surplus widened to just over $4.9 billion from a revised $4.4 billion in May.

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.

On a year-to-date basis, imports for the first half of 2005 were 7.7% higher than they were in the same six months last year. Exports were also up 2.5%.

Since the beginning of the year, imports originating in the United States have jumped by over $250 million. Imports from the rest of the world have risen by $291.0 million.

Big jump in exports to EU, other OECD countries

Exports to the EU have increased from $2.2 billion to $2.5 billion since March. Exports to other OECD countries have been on the rise for four consecutive months, increasing from $992.7 million in February to $1.6 billion in June. Exports to Japan were also up in June (+9.8%). Rising coal exports to several European Union countries, other OECD countries and Japan have contributed to each of these increases.

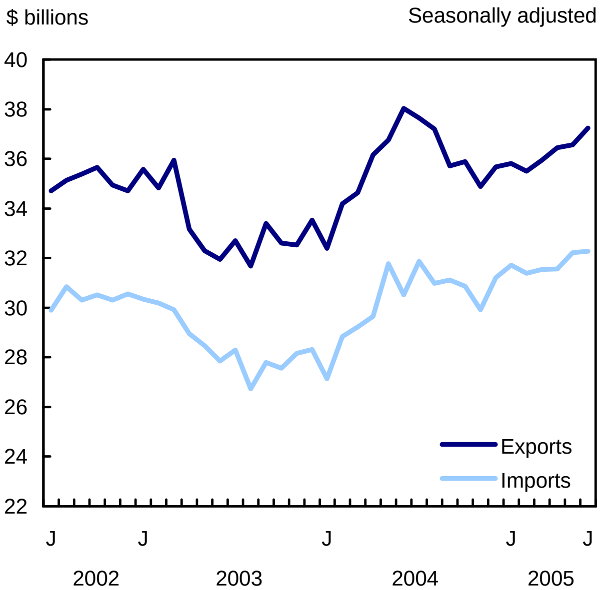
Elsewhere, exports of metal ores to China contributed to a 1.2% increase in exports to all other countries combined.

Overall, exports rose in all major categories except other consumer goods. After strong increases in April and May, exports of other consumer goods fell 2.6% in June to $1.5 billion.

Total exports of coal and other bituminous substances hit a record high of $310 million in June. While volumes increased substantially (+11.8%), the increase in export prices accounted for the majority of the growth. Exports of crude petroleum also increased, rising 4.5% to $2.4 billion as prices continue to climb (+9.8%). Exports of coal and crude petroleum have been increasing for four straight months.

Exports of aircraft, engines and parts accounted for the increase in machinery and equipment in June, rising 5.8% as end-of-quarter contracts were fulfilled.

Exports and imports



Exports of automotive products edged up 0.3% to nearly $7.2 billion, but the gain was all in exports of motor vehicle parts and trucks and other motor vehicles. Exports of passenger autos and chassis fell 2.0% to $3.4 billion.

Outbound shipments of agricultural and fishing products increased 5.0% to $2.6 billion. Soaring exports of fish and fish preparations (+17.6%), including snow crab and lobster, led the increase. Larger than usual shipments went to countries such as the United States, China, Thailand and Japan this summer.

Machinery and equipment imports still rising

June's slight increase in imports was led by aircraft, engines and parts, and automotive products. On the downside, energy imports fell sharply.

Machinery and equipment imports increased for the seventh consecutive month, hitting $9.3 billion in June. Imports of aircraft, engines and parts were up 12.5% as airlines expanded their fleets. Imports of other communication and related equipment increased 6.4% as the information technology sector continued to show strength. Rising imports of drilling and mining machinery also contributed to the gain.

Imports of automotive products rose 4.1% while imports of industrial goods and materials climbed 0.8%.

Imports of agricultural and fishing products also edged up as growing demand for fruits and vegetables offset declines in imports of other agricultural and fishing products.

Imports of apparel and apparel accessories advanced 2.8% to $674.3 million in June, as larger than seasonal levels of fall fashions were transported to retail chains from abroad.

Imports of energy products retreated 6.4% from May's record high of $2.9 billion. Leading the decline were imports of coal and other related products, which fell 25.2% to $462.7 million. Imports of crude petroleum tumbled to $1.7 billion as volumes dropped 2.7%.

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 June 2005 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 59, no. 6 (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

	May 2005r	June 2005	May to June 2005	June 2004 to June 2005	January to June 2004	January to June 2005	January - June 2004 to January - June 2005
	Seasonally adjusted, $ current						
	$ millions		% change		$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	29,685	29,610	-0.3	-4.5	173,417	176,569	1.8
Japan	808	887	9.8	-3.8	5,014	5,011	-0.1
European Union	2,301	2,541	10.4	10.8	12,878	13,875	7.7
Other OECD countries[1]	1,241	1,631	31.4	18.6	7,334	7,400	0.9
All other countries	2,531	2,562	1.2	5.5	13,493	14,665	8.7
Total	**36,566**	**37,232**	**1.8**	**-2.1**	**212,138**	**217,518**	**2.5**
Imports							
United States	21,619	21,670	0.2	2.9	123,015	128,393	4.4
Japan	889	855	-3.8	-0.1	4,965	5,476	10.3
European Union	3,197	3,322	3.9	10.3	17,703	19,108	7.9
Other OECD countries[1]	2,155	2,034	-5.6	8.8	11,040	12,118	9.8
All other countries	4,353	4,401	1.1	18.5	20,397	25,597	25.5
Total	**32,212**	**32,283**	**0.2**	**5.8**	**177,120**	**190,696**	**7.7**
Balance							
United States	8,066	7,940	...	...	50,402	48,176	...
Japan	-81	32	...	...	49	-465	...
European Union	-896	-781	...	...	-4,825	-5,233	...
Other OECD countries[1]	-914	-403	...	...	-3,706	-4,718	...
All other countries	-1,822	-1,839	...	...	-6,904	-10,932	...
Total	**4,354**	**4,949**	**...**	**...**	**35,018**	**26,822**	**...**
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,443	2,566	5.0	-9.1	15,634	14,782	-5.4
Energy products	6,221	6,489	4.3	3.8	32,668	36,016	10.2
Forestry products	3,105	3,117	0.4	-12.0	19,681	18,766	-4.6
Industrial goods and materials	7,072	7,161	1.3	5.3	37,881	42,073	11.1
Machinery and equipment	7,987	8,132	1.8	0.6	45,803	47,481	3.7
Automotive products	7,142	7,163	0.3	-10.6	45,507	42,785	-6.0
Other consumer goods	1,514	1,475	-2.6	-4.0	8,776	8,808	0.4
Special transactions trade[2]	667	667	0.0	-2.5	3,923	3,999	1.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	415	463	11.6	53.8	2,260	2,811	24.4
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,808	1,810	0.1	1.1	10,624	10,950	3.1
Energy products	2,906	2,721	-6.4	34.5	11,160	15,681	40.5
Forestry products	293	276	-5.8	-0.4	1,544	1,630	5.6
Industrial goods and materials	6,506	6,556	0.8	4.5	35,213	39,284	11.6
Machinery and equipment	9,179	9,270	1.0	7.0	51,316	54,253	5.7
Automotive products	6,380	6,465	1.3	-0.8	37,893	38,523	1.7
Other consumer goods	4,186	4,164	-0.5	4.5	23,449	24,623	5.0
Special transactions trade[2]	369	440	19.2	3.0	2,635	2,393	-9.2
Other blance of payments adjustments	585	582	-0.5	5.6	3,284	3,363	2.4

r *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.*

■

Business Conditions Survey: Traveller accommodation industries

Third quarter 2005

Hotel operators remain relatively optimistic about their expectations for the peak summer months, according to results from the Business Conditions Survey on the travel accommodation industry.

The survey of just under 1,400 businesses, mostly hotels, was conducted in July to assess their outlook about key indicators compared to the same period last year. Some of these key indicators include bookings, occupancy rates, room rates and hours worked by employees.

As in the previous quarter, hotel operators expect room rates to rise. The survey found that 39% of hoteliers expect an increase in room rates between July and September, more than twice the proportion of 18% who feel they will drop.

Occupancy rates are expected to grow this summer. Less than half (46%) of hoteliers believe their occupancy rates will stay the same compared with the same period last year. One in three (32%) respondents expects occupancy rates to rise.

The outlook for bookings is also positive. Close to one-half (47%) of the managers expect their bookings to remain the same, while 31% anticipate a gain.

Expectations for the number of hours worked by employees remain steady. Nearly two-thirds (62%) of hotel operators anticipate that employees will work the same number of hours in the third quarter as they did in the same period last year. As well, about as many hoteliers expect an increase in hours worked (20%) as a decrease (18%).

Economic conditions in general have been less of a concern in the second quarter of 2005. The proportion of hoteliers that reported the economic climate as a major impediment to the hospitality business decreased from 32% in the first quarter to 19% in the second quarter. This follows real growth of 4.3% in tourism expenditures in the first quarter of 2005 compared to the same period last year (see the National Tourism Indicators release in *The Daily* of June 29, 2005).

Excess room supply remained an impediment to one in four hoteliers in the second quarter. Labour shortage as an impediment to business was more of a concern in the second quarter. In particular, the proportion of hoteliers that reported an increase in the shortage of unskilled labour grew from 15% in the first quarter to 21% in the second quarter.

Note: The Business Conditions Survey for Traveller Accommodation Industries is funded by industry partners, the Canadian Tourism Commission and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. Results are based on survey questionnaires sent to about 1,400 traveller accommodation providers and are weighted by their operating revenues. Consequently, the larger businesses have a correspondingly larger impact on the results than smaller businesses.

Available on CANSIM: tables 351-0004 and 351-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5050.

For more information, to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, or to obtain the survey background paper, contact Veronica Utovac (613-951-0813; fax: 613-951-6696; *veronica.utovac@statcan.ca*) or Janine Stafford (613-951-3288; fax: 613-951-6696; *janine.stafford@statcan.ca*), Service Industries Division. □

Traveller accommodation industries

	Second quarter 2005	Third quarter 2005
Anticipated number of room nights booked will be:		
About the same (%)	49	47
Higher (%)	31	31
Lower (%)	20	23
Balance of opinion	10	8
Occupancy rate will be:		
About the same (%)	51	46
Higher (%)	30	32
Lower (%)	20	23
Balance of opinion	10	9
Number of corporate/commercial travellers will be:		
About the same (%)	59	57
Higher (%)	23	22
Lower (%)	18	21
Balance of opinion	4	2
Average daily room rate will be:		
About the same (%)	46	44
Higher (%)	39	39
Lower (%)	15	18
Balance of opinion	24	21
Total number of hours worked by employees:		
About the same (%)	63	62
Higher (%)	19	20
Lower (%)	17	18
Balance of opinion	2	2
	First quarter 2005	Second quarter 2005
	%	
Business impediments were:		
Excess room supply	25	26
Shortage of skilled labour	21	23
Shortage of unskilled labour	15	21
General economic conditions	32	19
Lack of attractions or complementary facilities in the vicinity	19	16
Abnormal weather and/or natural disasters	12	11
Canada's reputation as a desired tourist destination	9	11
Access to financing	8	8
Public health and safety concerns	3	2
Third-party distribution channels (global distribution systems)	1	2
No difficulties at this time	30	32

Note: *Due to rounding, components may not add to total.*

■

Non-residential Building Construction Price Index

Second quarter 2005

The composite price index (1997=100) for non-residential building construction reached 132.6 in the second quarter, up 1.7% from the previous quarter and 5.9% higher compared with the second quarter of 2004. The quarterly increase was mostly the result of labour and fuel cost increases as well a strong market for non-residential building construction.

Calgary's index rose 2.4% from the first quarter, followed by Vancouver (+2.2%), Edmonton (+2.1%), Montréal (+1.6%), Toronto (+1.4%) and Halifax and Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part (+1.1% each).

Vancouver had the highest change (+7.7%) from the second quarter of 2004, followed by Edmonton and Calgary (+7.1% each), Montréal (+5.5%), Toronto

(+5.4%), Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part (+4.4%) and Halifax (+3.8%).

Note: Non-residential building construction price indexes provide an indication of changes in construction costs in six census metropolitan areas or CMAs (Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver) and the Ontario part of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA. Three construction categories (industrial, commercial and institutional buildings) are represented by selected models (a light factory building, an office building, a warehouse, a shopping centre and a school). Besides the census metropolitan areas and composite indexes, a further breakdown of the changes in costs is available by trade group (structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical) within the building types. These price indexes are derived from surveys of general and special trade group contractors. They report data on various categories of costs (material, labour, equipment, taxes, overhead and profit) relevant to the detailed construction specifications included in the surveys.

Non-residential building construction price indexes[1]
(1997=100)

	Second quarter 2005	Second quarter 2004 to second quarter 2005	First quarter to second quarter 2005
		% change	
Composite Index	**132.6**	**5.9**	**1.7**
Halifax	120.0	3.8	1.1
Montréal	128.0	5.5	1.6
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario part	131.9	4.4	1.1
Toronto	137.7	5.4	1.4
Calgary	135.0	7.1	2.4
Edmonton	133.0	7.1	2.1
Vancouver	125.8	7.7	2.2

1. *Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.*

Available on CANSIM: tables 327-0039 and 327-0040.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2317 and 2330.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Martin (613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Canadian Vehicle Survey

Third quarter 2004

Vehicles covered in the Canadian Vehicle Survey travelled an estimated 82.5 billion kilometres in the third quarter of 2004. Vehicles weighing less than 4 500 kilograms travelled 74.6 billion kilometres, or 90% of the total for the quarter.

The survey measures the activity of all on-road vehicles registered in Canada with the exception of some vehicles such as buses, motorcycles, construction equipment and road maintenance equipment.

Estimates of total vehicle-kilometres are available by province and territory. Estimates of passenger-kilometres are available by province only.

Available on CANSIM: tables 405-0005 to 405-0020, 405-0026 to 405-0036, 405-0039 to 405-0046, 405-0053, 405-0054, 405-0099 and 405-0101 to 405-0110.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2749.

The third quarter 2004 issue of *The Canadian Vehicle Survey* (53F0004XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *Free*, then *Transport and warehousing*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (1-866-500-8400; *transportationstatistics@statcan.ca*), Transportation Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

June 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 June 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 June 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 by special request.

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 June 2005 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 59, no. 6 (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. ■

Steel primary forms, weekly data

Week ending August 6, 2005 (preliminary)

Steel primary forms production for the week ending August 6 totalled 284 434 metric tonnes, up 6.5% from 266 996 tonnes a week earlier and down 7.5% from 307 594 tonnes in the same week of 2004.

The year-to-date total as of August 6 was 9 266 890 tonnes, down 4.1% from 9 663 434 tonnes in the same period of 2004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2131.

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 Vehicle Survey: Quarterly, Third quarter 2004
Catalogue number 53F0004XIE
(free).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, June 2005, Vol. 59, no. 6
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB ($15/$151).

Imports by Commodity, June 2005, Vol. 62, no. 6
Catalogue number 65-007-XMB ($40/$387).

Imports by Commodity, June 2005, Vol. 62, no. 6
Catalogue number 65-007-XPB ($84/$828).

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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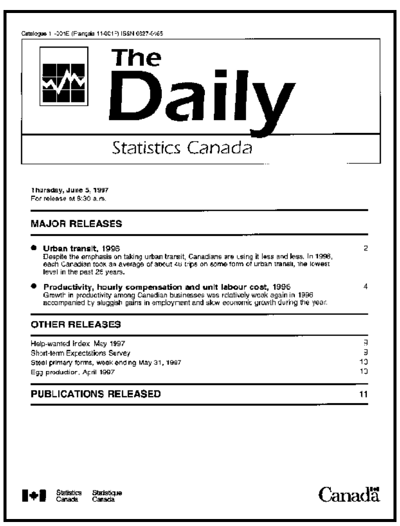
Catalogue 11-001E (Français 11-001F) ISSN 0827-0465

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.

OTHER RELEASES

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Egg production, April 1997	10

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

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.* Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Release dates: August 15 to 19, 2005

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
15	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	June 2005
15	**New motor vehicle sales**	June 2005
17	**Livestock statistics**	July 1st, 2005
17	**Wholesale trade**	June 2005
18	**Canada's international transactions in securities**	June 2005
18	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	June 2005