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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 9, 2006
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Releases

Releases

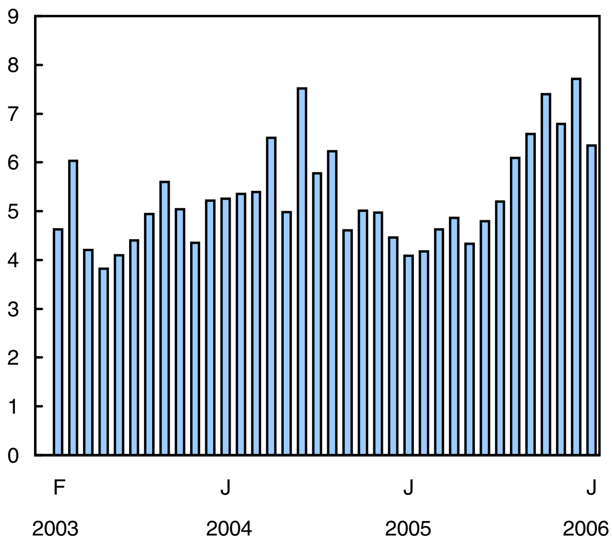
Canadian international merchandise trade

January 2006

Canada's trade surplus with the world narrowed substantially in January as exports pulled back from record high values in December, thanks largely to falling exports of energy products. Imports remained stable at December's record high level.

Trade balance

$ billions



> ***Note to readers***
>
> *Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services.*
>
> *Balance of payments data are available for the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom. Trade data for all other individual countries are available on a customs basis only.*
>
> ***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.*
>
> ***Chain Fisher constant dollar export and import values***
>
> *The International Trade Division has now produced and will be updating and disseminating chain Fisher constant dollar values (base year 1997) for Canadian international merchandise exports and imports. These chain Fisher volume series are not available in CANSIM. To order the series, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. For an explanation of the methodology and concepts, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division.*

Exports fell 3.3% to $40.0 billion, although they were still 11.8% higher than in January 2005. Export values had been increasing steadily throughout 2005, driven by gains in energy, industrial goods and materials and machinery and equipment.

Exports slipped in the wake of falling exports of energy products, which were mostly the result of lower prices. If energy exports were excluded, the total value of exports would have been virtually unchanged from December.

Imports, meanwhile, were steady at $33.6 billion, which was a 6.1% increase over January last year.

Imports from the European Union advanced in January, pushed up by increased inbound shipments of pharmaceutical products from Ireland and France as well as precious metals, which are refined in Canada, from the United Kingdom. Imports were also up from the "all other countries" category. China is the dominant trading partner in this category, but it also includes countries such as Brazil and India. Imports from "all other countries" rose 2.4% in January to a record high $5.2 billion. During both 2004 and 2005, imports in this category surged by more than 20% annually. Declining imports from the United States as well as from "other OECD countries," offset these gains.

As a result, the nation's merchandise trade surplus narrowed from $7.7 billion in December to $6.3 billion in January.

Exports to the United States fell 3.6% in January to $32.7 billion, while imports from south of the border declined 1.3% to $22.0 billion. That put Canada's trade surplus with the United States at $10.7 billion, down from December's record-high $11.6 billion.

Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States grew to a record high $4.4 billion in January. Despite an 8.7% gain in exports to the European Union, exports to non-US destinations slipped 1.9% to $7.3 billion. In contrast, imports jumped over a quarter billion dollars to $11.6 billion.

The deficit with countries other than United States has been widening since mid-2005. Though both imports and export registered gains in early 2005, exports stabilized in the later months while imports continued to climb.

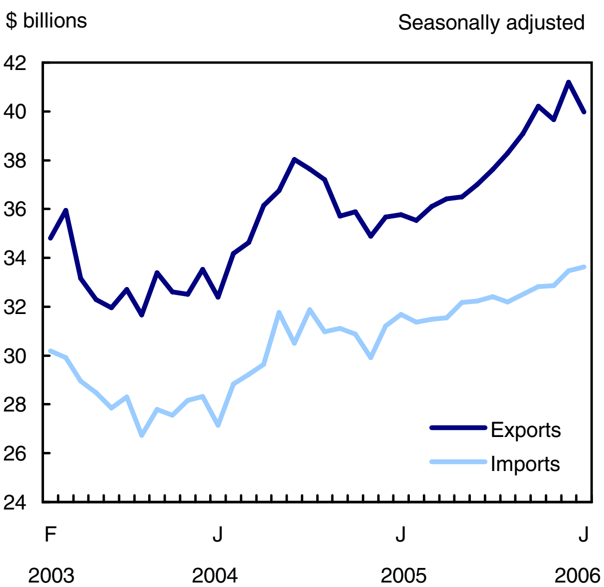
Exports: Decline in energy exports pulls down total in January

Energy export values came down in January. Natural gas exports fell 23.9%, predominantly the result of a drop in prices, although volumes also declined. Crude petroleum exports decreased 6.0% due to drops in volumes and prices. Exports of other energy products fell 9.8%, as overseas demand for coal softened.

Strong automotive exports in the third and fourth quarters last year carried into January as exports rose 2.1%, with passenger autos accounting for the gain. While car exports were up 10.2%, exports of trucks and other motor vehicles fell 13.2% and motor vehicle parts were down 3.6%.

In the agricultural sector, export values of wheat surged 36.1% to $232.2 million, the first major gain since February 2005. Wheat exports fell to $2.6 billion in 2005 from $3.5 billion in 2004, largely as a result of reduced demand from the European Union and China.

Exports and imports



As of February 24, 2006, the US tariff on Canadian hard red spring wheat, which was put in place in 2003, was dismantled. In 2002, Canada exported $400 million worth of wheat to the United States, and the United States was Canada's top market for wheat. In 2005, Canada's export values for wheat to the United States equalled $200 million, about half that exported to the European Union ($383 million), and less than the value exported to Japan ($240 million), China ($227 million) and South Korea ($218 million).

Overall, agricultural exports were stable ($2.7 billion), as were exports of machinery and equipment ($8.2 billion). Declines were recorded for exports of industrial goods and materials (-1.1%) as well as other consumer goods (-4.4%).

Forestry exports were up 2.5% in January, the second consecutive monthly increase. Lumber exports were up for the fifth month, rising 6.3% in January to $976.8 million. The warm weather in January has allowed builders in cold weather areas in the United States to keep breaking ground for new construction. The recent growth in lumber exports can be partly attributed to strength in US residential construction.

Imports: Continuing high demand for consumer goods

After rising for four consecutive months, imports were virtually unchanged from December's record-high level. Imports of energy products declined in January as prices retreated; however, the historic high import level was buoyed by all-time high imports of "other consumer goods." Imports of pharmaceutical products led the jump in "other consumer goods," which rose 4.4% to a record $4.4 billion. This category also includes imports of clothing, televisions and other household electronics, as well as sporting goods, toys and home décor products.

Imports of automotive products, agricultural and fishing products and forestry products also registered gains in January. Machinery and equipment imports were stable at $9.6 billion, while imports of industrial goods and materials were down for the month.

Imports of automotive products edged up 1.3% to $6.6 billion, as gains in passenger autos and trucks and other motor vehicles more than offset the fall in imports of motor vehicle parts.

Imports of passenger autos and chassis, which had been declining since September, rose 14.7% to $2.1 billion. Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles, which originate primarily in the United States and Mexico, increased 12.0% to $1.5 billion. Imports of motor vehicle parts fell 9.6% to $3.1 billion.

Imports of energy products fell for the second straight month, dropping 12.1% to $2.8 billion. Crude petroleum import values declined 7.6% to $1.7 billion while imports of the "other" energy products category, which includes coal, as well as heating and vehicle fuels, fell 18.7%.

Agricultural and fishing product imports went up for the fifth consecutive month, rising 2.5% to a record $1.9 billion. Although the growth was fairly widespread, the main contributor was a 2.9% gain in imports of fruits and vegetables.

Machinery and equipment imports were virtually unchanged from December. Industrial and agricultural machinery imports continued to rise, hitting a record $2.8 billion. This increase, accompanied by growth in imports of office machines and equipment, offset declines in aircraft and other transportation equipment and other machinery and equipment.

Imports of industrial goods and materials slipped 0.8% in January to $6.9 billion, primarily the result of a 2.0% drop in imports of chemicals and plastics. This followed large inbound shipments in December, which pushed imports of chemical and plastics to record levels. Despite widespread increases in imports of precious metals, and iron and steel products, overall metal and metal ore imports declined as imports of unrefined metals fell back to normal levels.

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 January 2006 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 60, no. 1 (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

	December 2005[r]	January 2006	December 2005 to January 2006	January 2005 to January 2006	January to December 2004	January to December 2005	January–December 2004 to January–December 2005
	seasonally adjusted, $ current						
	$ millions		% change		$ millions		% change
Principal trading partners							
Exports							
United States	33,918	32,712	-3.6	12.2	350,769	369,286	5.3
Japan	1,044	862	-17.4	9.5	9,957	10,490	5.4
European Union	2,503	2,722	8.7	19.4	26,902	28,905	7.4
Other OECD countries[1]	1,262	1,203	-4.7	8.8	14,394	15,238	5.9
All other countries	2,594	2,475	-4.6	2.6	27,110	29,686	9.5
Total	**41,320**	**39,975**	**-3.3**	**11.8**	**429,134**	**453,599**	**5.7**
Imports							
United States	22,300	22,012	-1.3	3.0	250,065	258,431	3.3
Japan	933	974	4.4	-8.9	10,020	11,182	11.6
European Union	3,212	3,416	6.4	6.5	36,475	38,359	5.2
Other OECD countries[1]	2,097	2,015	-3.9	6.7	22,219	24,117	8.5
All other countries	5,089	5,210	2.4	25.3	44,299	54,820	23.7
Total	**33,631**	**33,626**	**0.0**	**6.1**	**363,076**	**386,908**	**6.6**
Balance							
United States	11,618	10,700	...	...	100,704	110,855	...
Japan	111	-112	...	...	-63	-692	...
European Union	-709	-694	...	...	-9,573	-9,454	...
Other OECD countries[1]	-835	-812	...	...	-7,825	-8,879	...
All other countries	-2,495	-2,735	...	...	-17,189	-25,134	...
Total	**7,689**	**6,349**	**...**	**...**	**66,058**	**66,691**	**...**
Principal commodity groupings							
Exports							
Agricultural and fishing products	2,661	2,675	0.5	10.1	30,760	30,237	-1.7
Energy products	9,316	7,937	-14.8	43.5	67,957	87,388	28.6
Forestry products	3,120	3,200	2.5	3.6	39,235	36,329	-7.4
Industrial goods and materials	7,426	7,343	-1.1	6.8	77,727	84,636	8.9
Machinery and equipment	8,203	8,170	-0.4	3.5	91,392	94,846	3.8
Automotive products	7,796	7,960	2.1	9.2	90,336	88,350	-2.2
Other consumer goods	1,483	1,418	-4.4	-2.5	17,298	17,323	0.1
Special transactions trade[2]	729	737	1.1	8.7	7,965	8,276	3.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	586	536	-8.5	6.9	6,463	6,214	-3.9
Imports							
Agricultural and fishing products	1,885	1,932	2.5	2.7	21,371	22,036	3.1
Energy products	3,158	2,776	-12.1	8.1	24,781	33,803	36.4
Forestry products	253	259	2.6	-1.8	3,179	3,136	-1.4
Industrial goods and materials	7,002	6,948	-0.8	5.7	73,480	78,469	6.8
Machinery and equipment	9,560	9,569	0.1	9.1	103,809	110,282	6.2
Automotive products	6,554	6,642	1.3	-0.4	77,206	78,335	1.5
Other consumer goods	4,201	4,385	4.4	9.2	47,677	49,410	3.6
Special transactions trade[2]	403	488	20.9	25.2	4,917	4,548	-7.5
Other blance of payments adjustments	614	627	2.1	13.0	6,652	6,887	3.5

r *Revised.*
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.*

■

New Housing Price Index

January 2006

The New Housing Price Index rose 0.9% in January, up from December's increase of 0.6%. On a 12-month basis, prices were up 6.6% compared to 5.9% the previous month.

The New Housing Price Index (1997=100) rose to 134.4 in January.

Building material and labour cost increases were the main factors pushing price levels up at the national level. A strong market in some metropolitan areas was also a factor. Land value increases contributed to price hikes in 12 of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed.

Of the 21 metropolitan areas surveyed, 14 posted monthly gains, led by a 3.7% increase in Regina mainly as a result of higher material and labour costs. Builders in Regina also cited the cost of developing new subdivisions as a contributor to price hikes, in particular higher servicing costs.

New housing price indexes

1997=100

	January 2006	January 2005 to January 2006	December 2005 to January 2006
		% change	
Canada total	**134.4**	**6.6**	**0.9**
House only	143.3	6.5	1.1
Land only	116.8	6.0	0.4
St. John's	126.9	3.0	0.0
Halifax	129.7	6.5	0.0
Charlottetown	113.9	2.6	-1.0
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	111.4	3.3	1.0
Québec	139.2	5.6	0.5
Montréal	144.4	3.6	0.4
Ottawa–Gatineau	156.5	3.1	0.2
Toronto and Oshawa	135.2	4.6	0.7
Hamilton	138.3	5.1	0.8
St. Catharines–Niagara	141.0	3.7	0.0
Kitchener	134.7	4.3	0.7
London	130.3	5.7	1.3
Windsor	106.0	1.4	0.5
Greater/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay	100.6	1.6	-0.1
Winnipeg	138.9	8.9	0.5
Regina	149.9	9.5	3.7
Saskatoon	128.3	3.6	0.0
Calgary	169.7	20.8	1.9
Edmonton	148.6	12.1	2.6
Vancouver	108.6	5.7	1.2
Victoria	117.0	7.9	0.0

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

Edmonton (+2.6%), Calgary (+1.9%), London (+1.3%), Vancouver (+1.2%) and Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton (+1.0%) posted significant gains, for the most part, as a result of increases in material and labour costs. Additionally, in Edmonton and Calgary, higher lot values were reported as developers passed on higher costs.

Monthly increases were also registered in Hamilton, Toronto and Oshawa, Kitchener, Québec, Windsor, Winnipeg, Montréal and Ottawa–Gatineau.

Five metropolitan areas registered no monthly change while Charlottetown (-1.0%) and Greater/Grand Sudbury and Thunder Bay (-0.1%) registered decreases.

On a 12-month basis, Calgary (+20.8%) posted the largest increase for new homes, followed by Edmonton (+12.1%), Regina (+9.5%), Winnipeg (+8.9%), Victoria (+7.9%) and Halifax (+6.5%).

Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The fourth quarter 2005 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XIE, $20/$59) 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 Randy Sterns (613-951-8183; *sterran@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Biotechnology spending by the federal government

2004/05

The federal government spent $791 million on biotechnology in the fiscal year 2004/05, up 6.3% from $744 million the previous year. Over half of the money went to the higher education sector.

Spending on biotechnology represented 9% of all federal spending on science and technology in 2004/05.

The majority (96%) of biotechnology spending was devoted to research and development.

Two-thirds (67%) of biotechnology science and technology activities were performed outside the federal government. The largest recipient was still the higher education sector, which received $403 million, or just over half of the total.

There were 1,656 full-time equivalent person-years devoted to biotechnology science and technology activities in the federal government, down from 1,727 during 2003/04.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4212.

The service bulletin *Science Statistics:* "Biotechnology scientific activities in federal government departments and agencies, 2004/05," Vol. 30, no. 2 (88-001-XIE, free) is now available online. From the *Our products and services* page under *Browse our Internet products*, choose *Free* and then *Science*.

For more information, or to enquire about the methods, concepts of data quality of this release, contact Michèle Lanoue at (613-951-4534; *lanomic@statcan.ca*) or Christine Delorey (613-951-2675; *christine.delorey@statcan.ca*), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Accounting services price indexes

2004

The Accounting Services Price Index (ASPI, 2000=100), which measures the change in the price of accounting services including auditing, tax preparation and bookkeeping, is now available for 2004.

The ASPI increased 4.0% in 2004, the largest annual gain since 2001. Prices for accounting services are now 19.8% higher than they were in 1999, when these indices were established.

All accounting service categories registered price increases, ranging from gains of 3.6% for bookkeeping and compilation services, to 4.9% for tax preparation for individuals and unincorporated businesses.

Higher prices in Alberta contributed to a 5.6% gain in accounting service prices for the Prairie region, the biggest jump across Canada. This was followed by a 4.2% increase in Quebec, while prices in Ontario grew the least in 2004 at 3.8%.

The ASPI are disseminated both nationally and by region.

Available on CANSIM: table 326-0014.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2334.

For more information or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, call (1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-1539; *infounit@statcan.ca*), or Matthew MacDonald (613-951-8551; *matthew.macdonald2@statcan.ca*), Prices Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

January 2006

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 January 2006 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 January 2006. 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 January 2006 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 60, no. 1 (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. ■

Cement

January 2006

Data on cement are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

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, January 2006, Vol. 60, no. 1
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB ($15/$151).

Exports by Country, January-December 2005, Vol. 62, no. 4
Catalogue number 65-003-XMB ($67/$221).

Exports by Country, January-December 2005, Vol. 62, no. 4
Catalogue number 65-003-XPB ($133/$441).

Exports by Commodity, December 2005, Vol. 62, no. 12
Catalogue number 65-004-XMB ($40/$387).

Exports by Commodity, December 2005, Vol. 62, no. 12
Catalogue number 65-004-XPB ($84/$828).

Mortality, Summary List of Causes, 2001
Catalogue number 84F0209XIE
(free).

Science Statistics, Vol. 30, no. 2
Catalogue number 88-001-XIE
(free).

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

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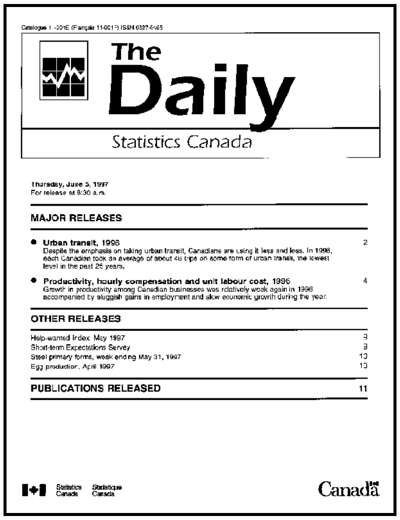
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The Daily

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 45 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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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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