

# The Daily

## Statistics Canada

**Friday, October 10, 2008**

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#### **Labour Force Survey, September 2008**

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Following a decline in July and a small gain in August, employment increased by 107,000 in September. Almost all of this increase was in part-time work (+97,000). Despite the gain, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1%, as the increase in employment was matched by a similar rise in labour force participation.

#### **Canadian international merchandise trade, August 2008**

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Canada's merchandise imports declined 5.8% to \$37.3 billion in August, the first decrease since March 2008, due to lower imports of energy and automotive products. Exports also fell but considerably less than imports, decreasing 1.6% to \$43.1 billion, as a result of lower energy exports.

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## Releases

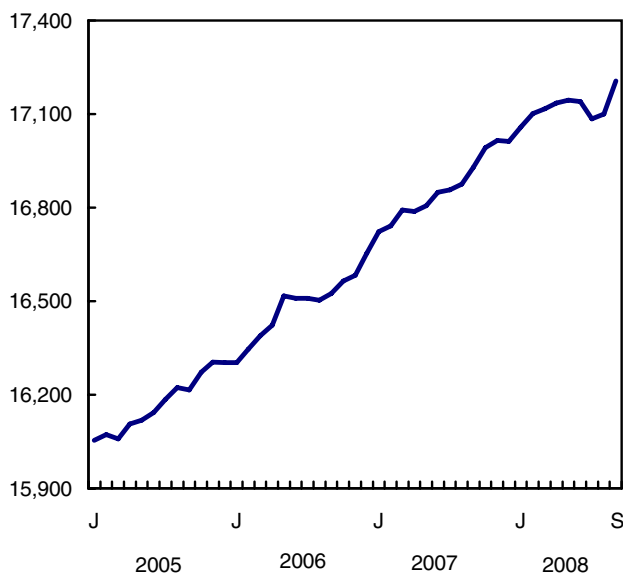
### Labour Force Survey

September 2008

Following a decline in July and a small gain in August, employment increased by 107,000 in September. Almost all of this increase was in part-time work (+97,000). Despite the gain, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1%, as the increase in employment was matched by a similar rise in labour force participation.

#### Employment

thousands



Over the first nine months of 2008, employment has increased 1.1% (+194,000), a slower pace of growth compared with 1.7% (+275,000) during the same period last year. With September's increase, part-time work has increased by 131,000 so far in 2008, nearly double the increase in full time. This contrasts with the first nine months of last year, when gains were mostly full time.

Five provinces accounted for the overall employment increase this September: Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia.

#### Note to readers

Please note that Table 1 in the publication *Labour Force Information* has been extended to include labour force characteristics for men and women aged 25 to 54 years and 55 years and over at the Canada level.

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are based on a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries will have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates, and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Data quality" section of the publication *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free).

There were widespread gains by industry in September. The largest increase in employment came from health care and social assistance, followed by business, building and other support services, and manufacturing. Employment also increased in transportation and warehousing, agriculture and construction.

The number of private sector employees rose by 56,000 in September, with smaller gains in the self-employed (+30,000) and the public sector (+21,000). So far in 2008, employment has grown mainly among private sector employees.

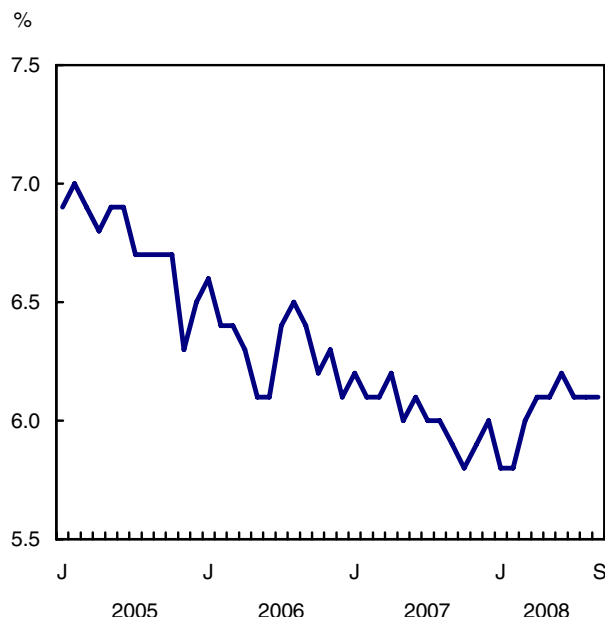
Youths aged 15 to 24, people aged 55 and over and core-aged women aged 25 to 54 all experienced employment gains in September. Employment rose by 45,000 among youths, while it was up by 41,000 for older workers and by 24,000 for core-aged women.

The year-over-year growth in average hourly wages for September was 4.6%, well above the most recent increase of 3.5% in the Consumer Price Index. Compared with a year earlier, average hourly wages were higher for all age groups, with growth being strongest for youths and older workers.

Over the first nine months of this year, the labour market in Canada has followed a trend different from that of the United States. So far in 2008, employment in Canada has been growing, albeit at a slower pace compared with last year, while in the United States employment has fallen. When adjusted to approximate United States measurement concepts, the unemployment rate in Canada has remained relatively

stable at around 5.3% so far this year, while in the United States, it has risen by 1.1 percentage points to 6.1%.

### Unemployment rate



### Employment up across many industries

Employment in health care and social assistance rose by 40,000 in September, erasing losses observed over the previous three months. This leaves employment in the industry 2.8% above the level at the end of last year.

In September, employment was up by 20,000 in business, building and other support services. Despite the latest increase, employment in the industry remained 5.1% lower than the level observed at the end of last year.

Manufacturing employment increased by 20,000 in September, bringing the industry back to a level similar to the end of 2007. So far this year, continued weakness in this sector in Ontario was offset by gains in Quebec and Alberta. Compared with the peak reached in 2002, manufacturing employment in Canada is down 342,000.

In September, employment increased by 17,000 in "other services." Employment also rose by 16,000 in transportation and warehousing, with gains mostly in trucking and rail transportation.

In September, employment increased by 15,000 in agriculture, with gains in Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan. According to the September Farm Survey, farmers expect a large harvest of field crops such as canola and wheat. Despite this latest

employment gain, farm employment has declined by 6.0% (-21,000) over the past 12 months.

Employment in the construction industry continued to build on the strength observed over the past few years, up 14,000 in September. This brings total gains since the start of the year to 101,000 (+8.7%), the largest increase of any industry, with gains mostly in Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec and Alberta.

Employment in natural resources edged up 6,700 in September with nearly all of the gain in Alberta. September's increase came from the oil and gas sector, which accounted for about half of the 0.7% increase in real gross domestic product in July.

There were employment declines in accommodation and food services (-16,000) and utilities (-9,300) in September. Despite these decreases, employment in both industries has shown an upward trend over the first nine months of the year.

### Strong employment growth in Central Canada

Employment in Ontario rose by 52,000 in September, bringing growth so far in 2008 to 1.6%. Despite these gains, the unemployment rate edged up to 6.4%, as a large number of people entered the labour market. So far this year, employment increases have occurred in transportation and warehousing; construction; accommodation and food services; and health care and social assistance, while there has been a decline in manufacturing (-16,000).

In Quebec, employment increased by 32,000 in September, pushing the unemployment rate down 0.4 percentage points to 7.3%. Over the first nine months of this year, there has been little employment change, as gains in health care and social assistance; manufacturing; construction; and information, culture and recreation were dampened by declines in retail and wholesale trade; agriculture and "other services."

Employment in Alberta rose by 17,000 in September, bringing total gains so far this year to 30,000 (+1.5%), or about half the increase observed over the same period in 2007. Employment gains in 2008 have occurred in professional, scientific and technical services; manufacturing; educational services; agriculture; and construction. In September, a large increase in labour force participation pushed the unemployment rate up 0.3 percentage points to 3.8%, still the lowest in the country.

In Saskatchewan, employment was up by 7,700 in September, an increase similar to that of the month before. The unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 4.1%. So far this year, employment has grown by 2.9%, the fastest rate of growth of any province. Increases over this period occurred mainly

in construction; health care and social assistance; and natural resources.

Employment also increased in Nova Scotia in September, up 4,900, bringing the employment rate back to its record high of 59.3%.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, employment edged down 2,700 in September, leaving employment in the province down slightly from the level at the end of 2007.

#### **Quarterly update on the territories**

The Labour Force Survey also collects labour market information about the territories. This information is not seasonally adjusted and is produced monthly in the form of three-month moving averages. Comparisons should only be made on a year-over-year basis.

Yukon experienced a robust labour market in the third quarter of 2008, with the highest employment rate in the country at 73.5%, up 1.7 percentage points from the same quarter last year. Over the same period, its unemployment rate was among the lowest in the country at 4.4%, down 0.7 percentage points from a year earlier.

Both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut saw declines in their employment rates in the third quarter of 2008 compared with the same quarter in 2007.

In the Northwest Territories, the employment rate fell 2.8 percentage points over the period to 72.1%. Despite this decline, the employment rate remained among the highest in Canada. At the same time, the unemployment rate edged down 0.7 percentage points to 5.0%, the result of a decline in labour force participation.

In the 10 largest communities of Nunavut, employment fell between the third quarters of

2007 and 2008, bringing the employment rate down 3.5 percentage points to 60.5%. Over the same period, the unemployment rate increased to 13.5% in the third quarter of 2008 from 8.3% a year earlier.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0099.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.**

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-XWE, free) is now available online for the week ending September 20. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *Free Internet publications*, choose *Labour*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review, 2007* (71F0004XCB, \$209), is now available. See *How to order products*.

Data tables are also now available online. From the *By subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on November 7.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; [labour@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:labour@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact, Jason Gilmore (613-951-7118; [jason.gilmore@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:jason.gilmore@statcan.gc.ca)), or Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; [vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca)), Labour Statistics Division.

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## Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	August 2008	September 2008	August to September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008	August to September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
<b>Both sexes 15+</b>						
Population	26,974.3	27,012.8	38.5	381.0	0.1	1.4
Labour force	18,211.9	18,325.6	113.7	332.6	0.6	1.8
Employment	17,099.4	17,206.3	106.9	276.8	0.6	1.6
Full-time	13,967.0	13,977.3	10.3	116.8	0.1	0.8
Part-time	3,132.4	3,229.0	96.6	160.0	3.1	5.2
Unemployment	1,112.5	1,119.3	6.8	55.8	0.6	5.2
Participation rate	67.5	67.8	0.3	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.1	0.0	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	63.4	63.7	0.3	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	18.3	18.8	0.5	0.7	...	...
<b>Youths 15 to 24</b>						
Population	4,378.5	4,380.1	1.6	20.3	0.0	0.5
Labour force	2,918.5	2,963.8	45.3	51.6	1.6	1.8
Employment	2,598.2	2,643.0	44.8	59.2	1.7	2.3
Full-time	1,431.1	1,426.6	-4.5	3.6	-0.3	0.3
Part-time	1,167.0	1,216.3	49.3	55.4	4.2	4.8
Unemployment	320.3	320.8	0.5	-7.5	0.2	-2.3
Participation rate	66.7	67.7	1.0	0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.0	10.8	-0.2	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	59.3	60.3	1.0	1.0	...	...
Part-time rate	44.9	46.0	1.1	1.1	...	...
<b>Men 25+</b>						
Population	11,043.0	11,061.5	18.5	181.3	0.2	1.7
Labour force	8,141.1	8,180.6	39.5	166.7	0.5	2.1
Employment	7,707.4	7,732.1	24.7	123.6	0.3	1.6
Full-time	7,181.5	7,185.0	3.5	62.3	0.0	0.9
Part-time	525.9	547.1	21.2	61.3	4.0	12.6
Unemployment	433.7	448.5	14.8	43.1	3.4	10.6
Participation rate	73.7	74.0	0.3	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.5	0.2	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	69.8	69.9	0.1	0.0	...	...
Part-time rate	6.8	7.1	0.3	0.7	...	...
<b>Women 25+</b>						
Population	11,552.9	11,571.1	18.2	179.2	0.2	1.6
Labour force	7,152.3	7,181.3	29.0	114.4	0.4	1.6
Employment	6,793.8	6,831.2	37.4	94.0	0.6	1.4
Full-time	5,354.3	5,365.7	11.4	50.9	0.2	1.0
Part-time	1,439.4	1,465.5	26.1	43.1	1.8	3.0
Unemployment	358.5	350.1	-8.4	20.4	-2.3	6.2
Participation rate	61.9	62.1	0.2	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.0	4.9	-0.1	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	59.0	0.2	-0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	21.2	21.5	0.3	0.4	...	...

... not applicable

**Note:** Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

## Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS<sup>1</sup>)

	August 2008	September 2008	August to September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008	August to September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
<b>Class of worker</b>						
Employees	14,479.4	14,556.2	76.8	252.4	0.5	1.8
Self-employed	2,620.0	2,650.1	30.1	24.4	1.1	0.9
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,414.2	3,434.8	20.6	97.8	0.6	2.9
Private	11,065.2	11,121.4	56.2	154.6	0.5	1.4
<b>All industries</b>	17,099.4	17,206.3	106.9	276.8	0.6	1.6
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	4,030.3	4,076.6	46.3	79.0	1.1	2.0
Agriculture	313.9	328.6	14.7	-20.8	4.7	-6.0
Natural resources	337.4	344.1	6.7	14.0	2.0	4.2
Utilities	160.8	151.5	-9.3	9.6	-5.8	6.8
Construction	1,249.8	1,264.2	14.4	118.8	1.2	10.4
Manufacturing	1,968.5	1,988.2	19.7	-42.6	1.0	-2.1
<b>Service-producing sector</b>	13,069.1	13,129.7	60.6	197.7	0.5	1.5
Trade	2,674.7	2,671.0	-3.7	-9.1	-0.1	-0.3
Transportation and warehousing	856.1	872.4	16.3	56.1	1.9	6.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,076.4	1,074.8	-1.6	15.8	-0.1	1.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,198.1	1,199.2	1.1	41.3	0.1	3.6
Business, building and other support services	655.9	675.7	19.8	-43.5	3.0	-6.0
Educational services	1,195.7	1,200.0	4.3	1.2	0.4	0.1
Health care and social assistance	1,882.8	1,922.8	40.0	87.1	2.1	4.7
Information, culture and recreation	758.1	747.9	-10.2	-38.2	-1.3	-4.9
Accommodation and food services	1,109.0	1,093.2	-15.8	15.1	-1.4	1.4
Other services	743.5	760.4	16.9	43.5	2.3	6.1
Public administration	918.7	912.4	-6.3	28.5	-0.7	3.2

1. North American Industrial Classification System.

**Note:** Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

## Labour force characteristics by province

	August 2008	September 2008	August to September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008	August to September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>						
Population	426.3	426.8	0.5	3.5	0.1	0.8
Labour force	254.3	249.8	-4.5	-1.2	-1.8	-0.5
Employment	219.3	216.6	-2.7	-0.4	-1.2	-0.2
Full-time	191.2	187.9	-3.3	-0.1	-1.7	-0.1
Part-time	28.1	28.7	0.6	-0.3	2.1	-1.0
Unemployment	35.0	33.2	-1.8	-0.8	-5.1	-2.4
Participation rate	59.7	58.5	-1.2	-0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.8	13.3	-0.5	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	51.4	50.7	-0.7	-0.6	...	...
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>						
Population	114.8	115.2	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.4
Labour force	78.7	79.8	1.1	2.3	1.4	3.0
Employment	70.4	70.7	0.3	1.5	0.4	2.2
Full-time	60.0	58.9	-1.1	1.1	-1.8	1.9
Part-time	10.4	11.8	1.4	0.4	13.5	3.5
Unemployment	8.2	9.1	0.9	0.9	11.0	11.0
Participation rate	68.6	69.3	0.7	1.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	10.4	11.4	1.0	0.8	...	...
Employment rate	61.3	61.4	0.1	0.5	...	...
<b>Nova Scotia</b>						
Population	769.5	770.0	0.5	5.1	0.1	0.7
Labour force	491.4	494.4	3.0	9.8	0.6	2.0
Employment	451.9	456.8	4.9	10.5	1.1	2.4
Full-time	375.6	374.1	-1.5	13.6	-0.4	3.8
Part-time	76.4	82.7	6.3	-3.1	8.2	-3.6
Unemployment	39.5	37.6	-1.9	-0.7	-4.8	-1.8
Participation rate	63.9	64.2	0.3	0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.0	7.6	-0.4	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	58.7	59.3	0.6	1.0	...	...
<b>New Brunswick</b>						
Population	618.6	619.0	0.4	5.0	0.1	0.8
Labour force	400.0	399.0	-1.0	2.2	-0.3	0.6
Employment	366.5	367.0	0.5	3.3	0.1	0.9
Full-time	307.9	307.6	-0.3	1.6	-0.1	0.5
Part-time	58.6	59.4	0.8	1.7	1.4	2.9
Unemployment	33.5	32.0	-1.5	-1.0	-4.5	-3.0
Participation rate	64.7	64.5	-0.2	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.4	8.0	-0.4	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	59.2	59.3	0.1	0.1	...	...
<b>Quebec</b>						
Population	6 379.5	6 385.4	5.9	59.6	0.1	0.9
Labour force	4 179.6	4 197.0	17.4	44.4	0.4	1.1
Employment	3 859.1	3 890.8	31.7	25.4	0.8	0.7
Full-time	3 144.5	3 151.9	7.4	19.4	0.2	0.6
Part-time	714.6	739.0	24.4	6.1	3.4	0.8
Unemployment	320.4	306.2	-14.2	19.0	-4.4	6.6
Participation rate	65.5	65.7	0.2	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.7	7.3	-0.4	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	60.5	60.9	0.4	-0.2	...	...

... not applicable

**Note:** Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

## Labour force characteristics by province

	August 2008	September 2008	August to September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008	August to September 2008	September 2007 to September 2008
Seasonally adjusted						
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
<b>Ontario</b>						
Population	10,529.9	10,546.7	16.8	155.7	0.2	1.5
Labour force	7,132.6	7,192.7	60.1	131.4	0.8	1.9
Employment	6,682.8	6,735.0	52.2	113.1	0.8	1.7
Full-time	5,433.5	5,446.0	12.5	11.9	0.2	0.2
Part-time	1,249.3	1,289.0	39.7	101.2	3.2	8.5
Unemployment	449.9	457.7	7.8	18.3	1.7	4.2
Participation rate	67.7	68.2	0.5	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.4	0.1	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	63.5	63.9	0.4	0.2	...	...
<b>Manitoba</b>						
Population	911.3	912.3	1.0	11.7	0.1	1.3
Labour force	630.6	635.9	5.3	10.6	0.8	1.7
Employment	606.0	606.8	0.8	7.8	0.1	1.3
Full-time	491.4	488.8	-2.6	0.8	-0.5	0.2
Part-time	114.6	118.0	3.4	7.0	3.0	6.3
Unemployment	24.7	29.0	4.3	2.7	17.4	10.3
Participation rate	69.2	69.7	0.5	0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	3.9	4.6	0.7	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	66.5	66.5	0.0	0.0	...	...
<b>Saskatchewan</b>						
Population	769.2	770.7	1.5	17.1	0.2	2.3
Labour force	535.4	541.4	6.0	18.0	1.1	3.4
Employment	511.5	519.2	7.7	16.1	1.5	3.2
Full-time	419.3	426.3	7.0	15.3	1.7	3.7
Part-time	92.2	92.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9
Unemployment	23.9	22.2	-1.7	1.9	-7.1	9.4
Participation rate	69.6	70.2	0.6	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.5	4.1	-0.4	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	66.5	67.4	0.9	0.6	...	...
<b>Alberta</b>						
Population	2,803.7	2,808.2	4.5	48.3	0.2	1.8
Labour force	2,080.0	2,104.6	24.6	57.8	1.2	2.8
Employment	2,006.7	2,023.9	17.2	50.1	0.9	2.5
Full-time	1,689.0	1,689.4	0.4	28.9	0.0	1.7
Part-time	317.7	334.6	16.9	21.3	5.3	6.8
Unemployment	73.3	80.7	7.4	7.7	10.1	10.5
Participation rate	74.2	74.9	0.7	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	3.5	3.8	0.3	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	71.6	72.1	0.5	0.6	...	...
<b>British Columbia</b>						
Population	3,651.5	3,658.6	7.1	73.4	0.2	2.0
Labour force	2,429.3	2,431.1	1.8	57.3	0.1	2.4
Employment	2,325.1	2,319.4	-5.7	49.4	-0.2	2.2
Full-time	1,854.6	1,846.3	-8.3	24.4	-0.4	1.3
Part-time	470.5	473.1	2.6	25.0	0.6	5.6
Unemployment	104.2	111.7	7.5	8.0	7.2	7.7
Participation rate	66.5	66.4	-0.1	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.6	0.3	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	63.7	63.4	-0.3	0.1	...	...

... not applicable

**Note:** Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

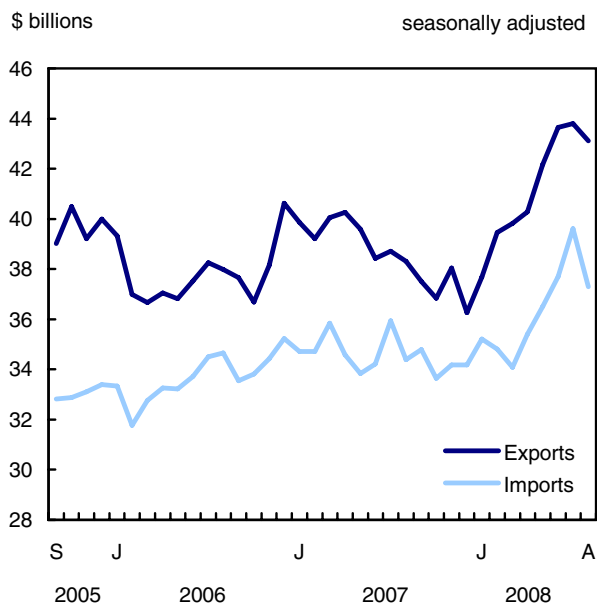


## Canadian international merchandise trade

August 2008

Canada's merchandise imports declined 5.8% to \$37.3 billion in August, the first decrease since March 2008, due to lower imports of energy and automotive products. The decline in imports was the largest percentage drop since December 1991. Total import volumes fell 6.9%, while prices increased 1.1%.

### Exports and imports



At the same time, exports fell 1.6% to \$43.1 billion, marking the first decline since December 2007. Export volumes were down 1.5%, while export prices remained relatively unchanged.

As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the world increased to \$5.8 billion in August from \$4.2 billion in July.

Merchandise trade with the United States declined on both fronts. Exports fell 3.9% to \$32.5 billion, primarily due to energy products, while imports decreased 5.8% to \$23.9 billion. Overall, the trade surplus with the United States expanded to \$8.6 billion from \$8.4 billion in July.

Exports to countries other than the United States increased 6.0%, while imports from these countries as a group declined 5.9%. Consequently, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed to \$2.8 billion in August from \$4.2 billion in July.

### Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services, investment income and transfers.

International merchandise trade data by country are available on both a balance of payments and a customs basis for the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom. Trade data for all other individual countries are available on a customs basis only. Balance of payments data are derived from customs data by making adjustments for characteristics such as valuation, coverage, timing and residency. These adjustments are made to conform to the concepts and definitions of the Canadian System of National Accounts.

Constant dollars referred to in the text are calculated using the Laspeyres volume formula which is current dollars divided by Paasche indexes.

### Revisions

In general, merchandise trade data are revised on an ongoing basis for each month of the current year. Current year revisions are reflected in both the customs and balance of payments based data. Revisions to customs based data for the previous year are released on a quarterly basis. Revisions to balance of payments based data for the three previous years are released annually in June.

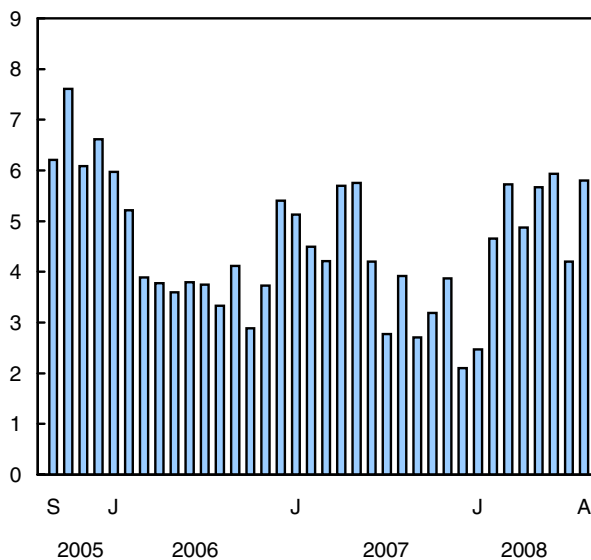
Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates with actual figures, changes in classification of merchandise based on more current information, and changes to seasonal adjustment factors.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

Canada recorded its largest trade surplus with Japan since July 1997, largely the result of increased exports of copper, coal and canola.

### Trade balance

\$ billions



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### Volume decrease in energy products leads to decline in imports

Following two consecutive monthly increases, energy products dropped 24.9% to \$4.3 billion in August. Declining volumes were the leading cause, falling 26.1%, as prices increased 1.6%.

Lower imports of crude petroleum led the fall as volumes declined 34.2%. Crude petroleum export prices declined for the first time since October 2007. Coal and other related products also contributed to the fall, as volumes decreased by more than the growth in prices.

Imports of automotive products decreased 14.2% to \$6.0 billion, primarily a result of reduced imports of trucks and passenger autos as sales have declined in recent months.

### Exports decline for the first time in 2008 due to energy products

Exports of energy products fell for a second consecutive month, declining 9.7% to \$11.3 billion in August, as a result of decreasing volumes (-3.2%) and prices (-6.6%). Reduced exports of petroleum and coal products, in particular diesel fuel to the United States and the Netherlands, led the decline. Lower natural gas and crude petroleum exports also contributed to the decrease. Rising exports of coal to Taiwan and Japan partly offset these declines.

In contrast, the largest offsetting movements were observed in industrial goods and materials, and in

agriculture and fishing products. Industrial goods and materials rose 2.8%, due to a combination of rising prices and volumes. Prices have been on the rise in this sector throughout 2008. Meanwhile, exports of agricultural and fishing products increased 4.5%, as the increase in price outweighed the rise in volume. Increased exports of canola to Japan and China contributed to the rise. Exports of canola rose 52.5%, the largest monthly increase since January 2008.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0055.**

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

The August 2008 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 62, no. 8 (65-001-XIB, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website. 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-XWE, free).

For more information, contact Sharon Nevins (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9798). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Anne Couillard (613-951-6867), International Trade Division.

□

## Merchandise trade

	July 2008 <sup>r</sup>	August 2008	July to August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008
	Seasonally adjusted, \$ current			
	\$ millions		% change	
<b>Principal trading partners</b>				
<b>Exports</b>				
United States	33,798	32,493	-3.9	10.8
Japan	886	1,119	26.3	40.1
European Union <sup>1</sup>	3,308	3,458	4.5	9.2
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	1,912	1,845	-3.5	13.9
All other countries	3,901	4,191	7.4	23.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,806</b>	<b>43,106</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>12.5</b>
<b>Imports</b>				
United States	25,408	23,940	-5.8	6.4
Japan	965	889	-7.9	-12.5
European Union <sup>1</sup>	4,421	4,333	-2.0	24.1
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	2,288	2,059	-10.0	0.9
All other countries	6,526	6,084	-6.8	13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,608</b>	<b>37,304</b>	<b>-5.8</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Balance</b>				
United States	8,390	8,553	...	...
Japan	-79	230	...	...
European Union <sup>1</sup>	-1,113	-875	...	...
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	-376	-214	...	...
All other countries	-2,625	-1,893	...	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,198</b>	<b>5,802</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Principal commodity groupings</b>				
<b>Exports</b>				
Agricultural and fishing products	3,300	3,448	4.5	17.2
Energy products	12,527	11,316	-9.7	54.1
Forestry products	2,183	2,129	-2.5	-12.7
Industrial goods and materials	10,097	10,375	2.8	19.5
Machinery and equipment	7,594	7,725	1.7	-5.1
Automotive products	5,401	5,262	-2.6	-14.2
Other consumer goods	1,550	1,626	4.9	7.2
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	688	771	12.1	17.7
Other balance of payments adjustments	466	453	-2.8	0.0
<b>Imports</b>				
Agricultural and fishing products	2,371	2,427	2.4	12.3
Energy products	5,691	4,274	-24.9	39.4
Forestry products	247	242	-2.0	-2.4
Industrial goods and materials	8,059	7,990	-0.9	15.5
Machinery and equipment	10,214	10,029	-1.8	1.8
Automotive products	7,030	6,033	-14.2	-8.1
Other consumer goods	4,748	4,867	2.5	8.2
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	531	697	31.3	72.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	716	743	3.8	10.4

<sup>r</sup> revised

... not applicable

1. Includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

2. Other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD) include Australia, Canada, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.

3. These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.



## New Housing Price Index

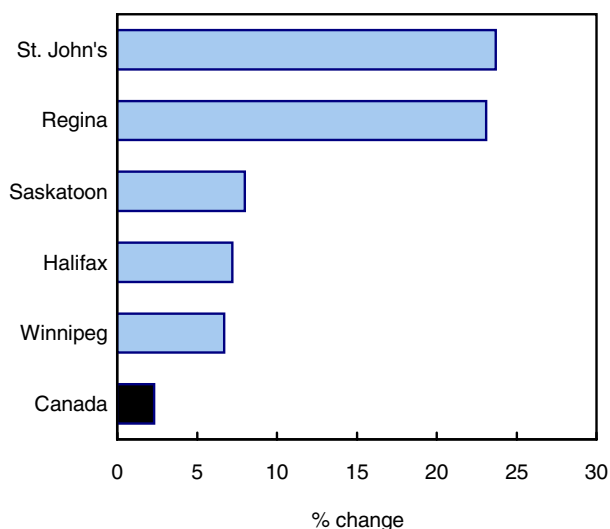
August 2008

The New Housing Price Index increased, year-over-year, by 2.3% in August compared with 2.7% in July.

On a monthly basis, prices were unchanged between July and August, with the New Housing Price Index remaining at 158.6 (1997=100).

Regionally, prices rose at the fastest pace in St. John's with an annual price increase of 23.7%. Builders reported that material and labour costs, as well as higher land development costs, contributed to the increases in this city.

**Percentage change from the same month of the previous year (cities with the largest change)**



Regina, which registered no monthly price change in August, had the second highest annual increase for surveyed Canadian cities at 23.1%. However, this was down from its record increase of 34.0% in April of this year.

In Saskatoon, the year-over-year increase was 8.0%, again confirming a trend of deceleration in this city. On a month-over-month basis, new housing prices decreased by 3.1% as Saskatoon builders reported slowing market conditions and stiff competition from the resale housing market.

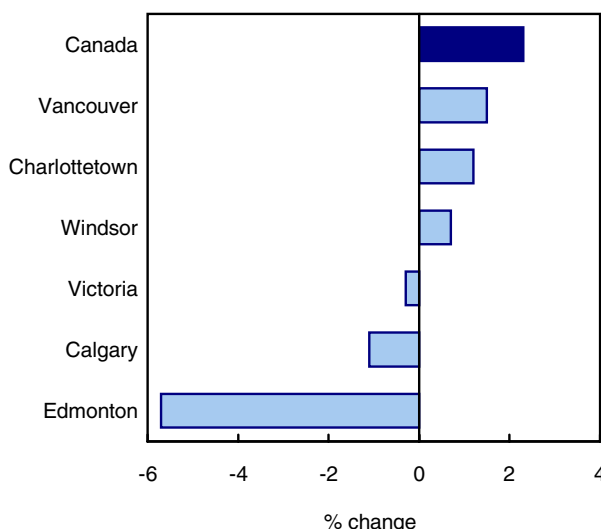
Edmonton recorded a 12-month drop of 5.7%, which was a 23-year low, and Calgary (-1.1%) registered the lowest annual price change since November 1991.

On the West Coast, the 12-month increase for Vancouver was 1.5%. In Victoria, contractors' selling prices dropped by 0.3% year-over-year.

In Toronto, contractors' selling prices were 3.4% higher than in August last year, and 4.1% higher in Ottawa-Gatineau.

In Québec, the 12-month growth rate accelerated to 6.1%, while in Montréal, prices increased 5.2%.

**Percentage change from the same month of the previous year (cities with the smallest change)**



Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.**

The third quarter 2008 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-XWE, free) will be available in January 2009.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-9606; toll-free 1-866-230-2248, fax: 613-951-1539; [prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca)), Prices Division.

□

## New housing price indexes (1997=100)

	August 2008	August 2007 to August 2008 % change	July to August 2008
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>158.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>
House only	168.0	1.8	0.0
Land only	140.2	3.4	0.1
St. John's	170.4	23.7	0.7
Halifax	149.8	7.2	0.0
Charlottetown	119.2	1.2	-0.4
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	117.9	3.1	0.6
Québec	157.1	6.1	1.4
Montréal	163.4	5.2	0.7
Ottawa-Gatineau	168.7	4.1	0.0
Toronto and Oshawa	146.5	3.4	0.1
Hamilton	152.6	2.8	0.0
St. Catharines-Niagara	157.8	4.0	0.1
Kitchener	142.4	1.9	0.2
London	143.3	3.5	0.0
Windsor	103.7	0.7	-0.1
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	112.6	5.9	0.0
Winnipeg	180.2	6.7	0.2
Regina	248.5	23.1	0.0
Saskatoon	229.0	8.0	-3.1
Calgary	246.1	-1.1	-0.8
Edmonton	234.3	-5.7	0.0
Vancouver	124.2	1.5	-0.1
Victoria	118.3	-0.3	-0.3

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

## Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey Second quarter 2008

The total sales of all commodities in retail stores in the second quarter of 2008 reached \$113.6 billion, up 3.4% over the second quarter of 2007.

All major commodity groupings posted year-over-year increases with the exception of motor vehicles, parts and services and housewares.

The largest year-over-year sales increase was for automotive fuels, oils and additives (+22.0%). This was driven mostly by a 17.8% increase in gasoline prices according to the Consumer Price Index. Automotive fuels accounted for almost 12 cents of every dollar spent in retail stores in the second quarter of 2008, about double what it was 10 years ago in the same quarter.

Sales of motor vehicles, parts and services decreased 2.7% in the second quarter of 2008. The main cause of this decline was a 13.4% drop in the value of sales of new trucks (which includes light and heavy trucks, vans, minivans and sport utility vehicles).

However, the value of sales of new cars rose 4.1% during the same period. As for used vehicles, sales were down 3.1%.

Sales growth in the remaining commodities ranged from 1.1% in other goods and services to 5.3% in

furniture, home furnishings and electronics. The increase in furniture, home furnishings and electronics was due to sales of home electronics such as televisions and audio/video equipment, telephones and home office electronics.

**Note:** The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. For example, no adjustment has been made for Easter which occurred in the second quarter of 2007 but had taken place in the first quarter in 2008. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0018 and 080-0019.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.**

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; [retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:retailinfo@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Ruth Barnes (613-951-6190), Distributive Trades Division.

## Sales by commodity, all retail stores

	Second quarter 2007	First quarter 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Second quarter 2008 <sup>p</sup>	Second quarter 2007 to second quarter 2008
Unadjusted				
	\$ millions		% change	
<b>Commodity</b>				
Food and beverages	22,586	21,168	23,191	2.7
Health and personal care products	8,777	8,818	9,165	4.4
Clothing, footwear and accessories	8,344	6,421	8,565	2.7
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	8,818	8,689	9,283	5.3
Motor vehicles, parts and services	25,599	19,168	24,902	-2.7
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	10,957	10,953	13,366	22.0
Housewares	1,913	1,760	1,904	-0.4
Hardware, lawn and garden products	9,281	4,903	9,420	1.5
Sporting and leisure goods	3,246	2,853	3,373	3.9
All other goods and services	10,271	7,797	10,381	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,792</b>	<b>92,530</b>	<b>113,552</b>	<b>3.4</b>

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

**Note:** Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

## Export and import price indexes

August 2008

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (2002=100) on a balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to August 2008 for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups (62 exports and 61 imports).

Current- and fixed-weighted US price indexes (2002=100) are also available on a customs basis. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to August 2008. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Indexes on a customs basis for the five commodity sections and the major commodity groups are also available upon request.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0055.**

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

The August 2008 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 62, no. 8 (65-001-XIB, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division.

## Chain Fisher real export and import values

August 2008

The monthly chain Fisher real dollar values (reference year 2002) for Canadian international merchandise trade are now available.

This series is not offered in CANSIM.

For more information, or order data, contact the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Bernard Lupien (613-951-6872), International Trade Division.

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## New products

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**Canadian International Merchandise Trade,**  
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**Catalogue number 65-001-XIB**  
(free).

**Labour Force Information, September 14 to 20, 2008**  
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(free).

**Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education**  
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**Workers: Provincial Results", 2000 to 2006, no. 68**  
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# The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008  
Released at 9:30 a.m. Eastern time

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**Releases**

**Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008** 2  
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several export commodities combined with a lower trade deficit. In the financial account, foreign investment flows into Canada slowed significantly from the expansionist pace of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

**Payroll employment, earnings and hours, March 2008** 7

**Study: The year in review for wholesale trade, 2007** 9

**Public sector employment, first quarter 2008** 10

**Counters and Messenger Services Price Index, April 2008** 11

**Placement of hatchery chicks and turkey profits, April 2008** 12

**Health Indicators, 2008** 12

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**New products** 13

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**2006 Census profiles**

With the inclusion of the income and earnings release components, the complete cumulative profile is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions. To obtain these profiles in electronic format (links vary for different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

## Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications and library Services Division, Statistics Canada, 10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

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*The Daily*, October 10, 2008

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**Release dates: October 14 to 17, 2008**

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(Release dates are subject to change.)

<b>Release date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference period</b>
14	<b>New motor vehicle sales</b>	August 2008
15	<b>Investment in non-residential building construction</b>	Third quarter 2008
16	<b>Monthly Survey of Manufacturing</b>	August 2008
16	<b>Travel between Canada and other countries</b>	August 2008