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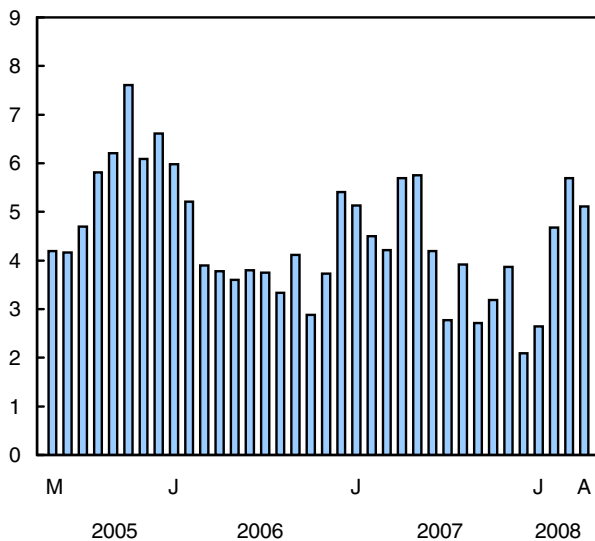
Canadian international merchandise trade

April 2008

Canada's trade surplus with the world decreased for the first time in four months, declining to \$5.1 billion in April from a revised \$5.7 billion in March, as the growth in imports outpaced the growth in exports.

Trade balance

\$ billions



Exports to the United States increased for the fourth month in a row, reaching \$30.6 billion, their highest level since April 2007. Meanwhile, imports from the United States grew at a faster pace, thus reducing the trade surplus with Canada's largest trading partner to \$8.2 billion.

Exports to countries other than the United States declined for the first time in four months, while imports grew. Consequently, the trade deficit with all of these countries as a whole expanded to \$3.1 billion.

Exports rise for the fourth consecutive month

Canada's exports grew for the fourth consecutive month, increasing 0.8% to \$39.9 billion in April. This growth coincided with rising energy prices.

Energy products increased 2.5% on the strength of crude petroleum and natural gas. Crude petroleum

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, transfers, capital and financial flows.

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 Paasche Price 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 today.

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.

increased as a result of a combination of rising prices and volume, continuing an upward trend that began in June 2007. Meanwhile, exports of natural gas increased for the fifth consecutive month, reaching their highest level since December 2005, as prices rose and volume fell.

Exports of forestry products increased 5.4% in April. Much of the gain can be attributed to higher exports of wood pulp to China, as well as newsprint to the United Kingdom and Colombia. However, forestry products have been trending downwards since May 2004.

Labour disruptions in the United States affected exports of automotive products for the second month in a row. They decreased by 0.6% in April. This sector has been declining since December 2006.

Exports of motor vehicle parts and trucks have been the hardest hit by the labour disruption in the United States, which resulted in cut backs in truck production as well as demand for parts. In contrast, exports of passenger autos have increased for three consecutive months.

Energy products push up imports

Primarily due to gains in energy products and automotive products, imports increased 2.6% to \$34.8 billion in April, following two monthly declines. The rise was a result of increasing prices and volume. Imports have remained relatively stable for eight straight months. In fact, the April import value is equivalent to the September 2007 level.

Energy products increased 19.0%, with volume growing nearly three times faster than price. Imports of energy products have been subject to volatile movements since late 2005. Crude petroleum imports recorded the largest monthly rise since March 2007, mainly due to a volume increase. Petroleum and coal products also rose, as a result of increased imports of gasoline which reflected slowdowns at Canadian refineries for maintenance.

Partially reversing the decline in March, automotive products imports increased 4.7% to \$5.9 billion. This sector has been trending downwards since peaking in March 2007. Passenger autos, motor vehicle parts, and trucks all posted increases. Nevertheless, the labour dispute in the United States restrained the level of imports.

The largest offsetting decrease was observed in industrial goods and materials, which declined 1.4%. A decline in organic chemicals, as a result of lower imports of active agents used in pharmaceutical products, as well as decreased imports of copper alloys from Chile, contributed to the drop in imports.

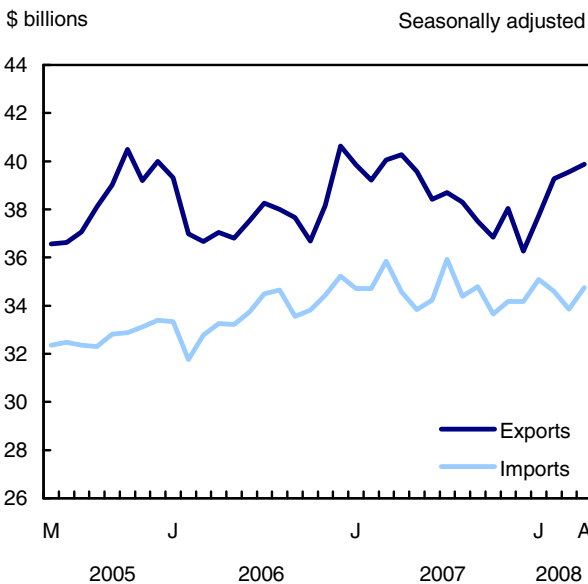
Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0055.

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

The April 2008 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 62, no. 4 (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 on products and services, 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.

Exports and imports



Merchandise trade

	March 2008 ^r	April 2008	March to April 2008	April 2007 to April 2008
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current				
	\$ millions		% change	
Principal trading partners				
Exports				
United States	30,238	30,610	1.2	-0.1
Japan	733	855	16.6	-14.8
European Union ¹	3,112	3,031	-2.6	-15.1
Other OECD countries ²	1,759	1,529	-13.1	-17.5
All other countries	3,715	3,839	3.3	19.8
Total	39,556	39,864	0.8	-1.0
Imports				
United States	21,732	22,417	3.2	-0.1
Japan	985	995	1.0	2.2
European Union ¹	3,248	3,770	16.1	3.9
Other OECD countries ²	1,928	2,026	5.1	3.4
All other countries	5,969	5,545	-7.1	-0.4
Total	33,861	34,754	2.6	0.5
Balance				
United States	8,506	8,193	...	...
Japan	-252	-140	...	...
European Union ¹	-136	-739	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-169	-497	...	...
All other countries	-2,254	-1,706	...	...
Total	5,695	5,110	...	...
Principal commodity groupings				
Exports				
Agricultural and fishing products	3,309	3,265	-1.3	9.9
Energy products	10,500	10,764	2.5	36.8
Forestry products	1,976	2,082	5.4	-20.7
Industrial goods and materials	8,699	8,740	0.5	-5.0
Machinery and equipment	7,373	7,397	0.3	-6.5
Automotive products	5,185	5,156	-0.6	-24.1
Other consumer goods	1,474	1,392	-5.6	-16.1
Special transactions trade ³	614	584	-4.9	-20.2
Other balance of payments adjustments	426	484	13.6	-4.2
Imports				
Agricultural and fishing products	2,184	2,190	0.3	4.1
Energy products	3,577	4,258	19.0	56.3
Forestry products	235	231	-1.7	-8.0
Industrial goods and materials	7,190	7,092	-1.4	-0.8
Machinery and equipment	9,577	9,521	-0.6	-1.2
Automotive products	5,600	5,863	4.7	-15.3
Other consumer goods	4,381	4,420	0.9	-5.8
Special transactions trade ³	436	538	23.4	28.7
Other balance of payments adjustments	681	641	-5.9	-6.4

^r 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.

Motion picture theatres

2006

Canadian cinemas entertained more moviegoers in 2006, and the resulting increase in box office revenues helped boost industry profits, according to data from the Motion Picture Theatre Survey.

Cinemas, including indoor theatres, drive-ins and film festivals, sold 102.9 million tickets in 2006, up 1.9% from 101.0 million the year before. The increase helped take the sting out of declining attendance that occurred in 2004 and 2005.

The motion picture theatre industry recorded total operating revenues of about \$1.2 billion, up 2.4% from 2005. At the same time, Canadian theatres managed to reduce their operating expenses, because of a decline in occupancy costs.

As a result, operating profits totalled \$111.5 million, a substantial increase from \$21.6 million in 2005. The industry posted an operating profit margin of 9.1% in 2006 compared with 1.8% in 2005.

Theatres in Ontario and Quebec accounted for about two-thirds of total national operating revenue. Ontario theatres continued to dominate the country, accounting for 42% of total operating revenues in 2006. Quebec theatres represented 18%, while those in Alberta and British Columbia each represented 14%.

However, theatres in Western Canada were more profitable than their counterparts in Quebec and Ontario. Those in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan recorded operating profit margins above the national average.

Results in the rest of the release are based on establishments whose combined revenues account for about 95% of the industry's total revenues.

Large chains continue to dominate motion picture industry

The top chain-operated theatres, ranked on the basis of operating revenues, dominate the industry. These top companies accounted for 84% of national operating revenue in 2006, unchanged from the year earlier.

Operating revenues for these large companies increased 2.8% from 2005 to 2006, a slower pace than the 3.3% increase for the industry as a whole.

The large theatres reduced their expenses 6.4% over the two-year period compared with the 4.7% drop recorded by the entire industry over the same period. As a result, these top companies saw their profit margins increase from 1.4% in 2005 to 10.2% in 2006. This was higher than the profit margin for the whole industry of 9.3%.

Smaller theatres saw their profit margins rise, but not to the same extent as their larger chain counterparts.

Note to readers

Data for 2006 for the Motion Picture Theatre industry Motion Picture Theatre industry should not be compared with published data prior to 2005, as significant changes were made to the survey. Data are now collected using a sample that comprises firms earning 95% of the industry's total revenues. Administrative data are used for the smallest firms.

Data for 2005 were revised.

The Motion Picture Theatre industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in exhibiting motion pictures. To facilitate the presentation of characteristics in this release, reference to motion picture theatres includes indoor theatres, drive-ins and film festivals.

In this release, data for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories have been suppressed due to the requirement to ensure confidentiality of respondent data under the Statistics Act.

In this release, the term "smaller theatres" refers to all theatres across Canada except for the top chain-operated theatres.

Profit margins for the small companies rose from 3.0% in 2005 to 4.8% in 2006.

Total industry revenues from box office (admission receipts) reached \$744.8 million, up from \$729.3 million in 2005.

The large companies saw their box office sales rise 2.7% from a year earlier. Box office sales for the rest of the industry remained fairly stable from a year ago.

Box office receipts from the large companies accounted for 53.4% of total operating revenue nationally, while box office receipts from the smaller companies accounted for only 9.2%.

The top companies saw a 2.6% rise in concession receipts from 2005 to 2006, whereas smaller theatres recorded an increase of 3.8%. However, concession receipts from the smaller companies accounted for only 3.9% of the overall industry operating revenues.

Movie attendance rebounded in 2006. Smaller theatres saw their attendance levels rise 5.3% from 2005 to about 20 million. Attendance levels for the top companies increased 1.1% from 2005 to 83 million.

Box office (admission receipts) accounted for 62.6% of total national operating revenue in 2006, and concession sales 28.9%.

Albertans still the nation's most avid moviegoers

On a per capita basis, each Canadian made 3.3 visits to the movies on average in 2006, based on population projections for the year and the number of paid admissions to movie theatres from the survey.

Per capita attendance exceeded this national average in Alberta and Ontario.

Alberta residents remained the most avid moviegoers in the country, despite a decline in visits to the movies from 5.1 visits in 2005 to 4.4 in 2006.

Albertans were followed by residents of Ontario, who went to the movies about 3.5 times in 2006. Residents of Saskatchewan and British Columbia went 3.2 times on average, while Quebec residents went 2.7 times.

According to the Survey of Household Spending, Alberta households reported the highest spending on movie theatre outings in 2006. On average they spent \$121 on visits, compared with an average of \$82 spent by households in all other provinces.

Canadian moviegoers spent an average of \$3.34 on concessions, up from \$3.31 a year earlier. This average takes into account all moviegoers, whether or not they buy any concessions.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2416.

Selected information from the 2006 Survey of Service Industries: Motion Picture Theatres are now available in the publication *Motion Picture Theatres: Data Tables* (87F0009XWE, free) from the *Publications* module of our website. These tables include breakdowns of data by province.

For more information about the survey, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Conrad Ogrodnik (613-951-3496; fax: 613-951-6696; conrad.ogrodnik@statcan.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

Production of eggs and poultry

April 2008 (preliminary)

Egg production was estimated at 47.1 million dozen in April, down 0.7% from April 2007.

Poultry meat production reached 100.7 million kilograms in April, up 6.9% from April 2007.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 3425 and 5039.

For further information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandy Gielfeldt (613-951-2505; sandy.gielfeldt@statcan.ca) or Bernadette Alain (902-893-7251; bernadette.alain@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Crop Condition Assessment Program

Statistics Canada's Crop Condition Assessment Program (CCAP) is now 20 years old and has been launched for the 2008 growing season. This free web application provides, on a weekly basis, timely and objective cropland and pasture monitoring information for the entire agricultural region of Canada, along with a large portion of the northern United States. The unique data source used by this application is satellite imagery that is received by Statistics Canada every Monday afternoon beginning in early April until mid-October. Updates are made to the CCAP web application within minutes after the reception of the satellite data.

Current conditions are compared with the 21 year average, which allows easy mapping of areas under stress (for example: drought, flooding, snowstorms). Other products include thematic maps and data in graph and tabular format for four types of different geography layers, from the census agriculture region to the township level. The whole 21-year historical database is also included in the application.

New for 2008, and as requested by several users, updates are completed on a 7-day cycle as opposed to the 10-day cycle used in 2007. Also shown in the application is the northern half of the United States, which includes most of the Great Plains, allowing comparison of conditions between the two countries and display of the continuity of various phenomena through the border.

CCAP users include various federal and provincial government departments, grain marketing agencies, crop insurance companies, researchers, farm producers and the public at large.

Also included is an experimental spring wheat yield forecast for the Canadian Prairies prepared in July. This

yield forecast model uses historical yield estimates and the current satellite image data to forecast crop yields in near real-time.

Using the 2008 CCAP application, it is evident that so far in 2008, cropland and pasture conditions have been variable throughout the country. After a drought in 2007, southern Ontario saw above normal growing conditions throughout April. However, mostly because of cool conditions, vegetation growth slowed down in May. A large part of the Canadian Prairies has undergone a slow start this spring. Poor crop growth is also apparent south of the border.

This application is unique in Statistics Canada, combining state-of-the-art satellite remote sensing technologies with geographic information systems and dynamic web mapping.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, through the National Land and Water Information Service and the National Agroclimate Information Service, has partnered with Statistics Canada to provide the CCAP free of charge to the public. The Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, Natural Resources Canada, has also contributed by providing software for the processing of the input satellite data.

The publication *Crop Condition Assessment Program, 2008* (22-205-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

To visit the web application, go to (www26.statcan.ca/ccap/lang.htm).

For more information or for custom requests, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Frédéric Bédard (613-951-3861) or Richard Dobbins (613-951-3860; saga@statcan.ca), Agriculture Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

April 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 April 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 April 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.

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

Chain Fisher real export and import values

April 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.

To 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. ■

New products

Crop Condition Assessment Program, 2008
Catalogue number 22-205-XIE
(free).

Industry Price Indexes, April 2008, Vol. 34, no. 4
Catalogue number 62-011-XWE
(free).

Canadian International Merchandise Trade,
April 2008, Vol. 62, no. 4
Catalogue number 65-001-XIB
(free).

Employment, Earnings and Hours, March 2008,
Vol. 86, no. 3
Catalogue number 72-002-XIB
(free).

Motion Picture Theatres: Data Tables, 2006
Catalogue number 87F0009XWE
(free).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in Newfoundland
and Labrador, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-555-XCB (\$445).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in Prince Edward
Island, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-556-XCB (\$335).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in Nova
Scotia, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-557-XCB (\$445).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in New
Brunswick, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-558-XCB (\$445).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in
Quebec, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-559-XCB (\$1,670).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in
Ontario, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-560-XCB (\$2,230).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in
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Catalogue number 94-561-XCB (\$555).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in
Saskatchewan, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-562-XCB (\$555).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in
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Catalogue number 94-563-XCB (\$835).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in British
Columbia, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-564-XCB (\$1,115).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in the Northwest
Territories, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-565-XCB (\$335).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in the Yukon
Territory, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-566-XCB (\$335).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in
Nunavut, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-567-XCB (\$335).

Profile of All Levels of Geography in
Canada, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 94-568-XCB (\$5,575).

Labour Market Activity and Unpaid Work Reference
Guide, 2006 Census, Census year 2006
Catalogue number 97-559-GWE2006003
(free).

Journey to Work Reference Guide, 2006 Census,
Census year 2006
Catalogue number 97-561-GWE2006003
(free).

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