

# The Daily

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## Statistics Canada

**Tuesday, May 12, 2009**

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### Releases

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### Canadian Social Trends

May 2009 online edition

The May 2009 issue of *Canadian Social Trends*, available today, features two articles.

The article "First Nations people: Selected findings of the 2006 Census," highlights where First Nations people live, their demographic characteristics, their ability to speak an Aboriginal language, their postsecondary education, their employment situation, their income, and their housing conditions.

The article "Going on vacation: Benefits sought from pleasure travel," uses 2006 data from the Travel and Activity Motivation Survey. This article uses an eight-point index to quantify the value of the three most popular benefits of vacation or pleasure travel: rest and relaxation; nurturing family and friendship ties; and learning and discovery.

The May 2009 online edition of *Canadian Social Trends*, no. 87 (11-008-X, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-5979; [sasd-dssea@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:sasd-dssea@statcan.gc.ca)), Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division.



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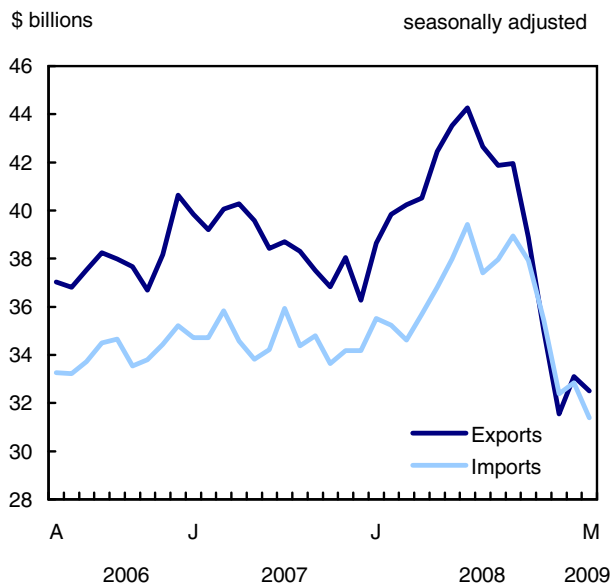
## Releases

### Canadian international merchandise trade

March 2009

Canada's merchandise imports and exports both declined in March, largely due to volume reductions. Imports decreased more than twice as fast as exports, leading to the widening of Canada's trade surplus with the world from \$262 million in February to \$1.1 billion in March.

#### Exports and imports



Imports fell 4.4% to \$31.4 billion as most sectors posted decreases. Energy products registered the largest decline, followed by machinery and equipment, as well as industrial goods and materials. Since the peak of July 2008, imports have fallen by more than \$8.0 billion, mainly as a result of declines in the energy products and automotive products sectors.

Exports were down 1.8% to \$32.5 billion, largely reflecting a decline in exports to the United States. Increased exports to the European Union moderated

#### 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 and previous year revisions are reflected in both the customs and balance of payments based data. Revisions to customs based data for the previous year are also released on a quarterly basis.

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.

the decline. Overall exports have fallen by \$11.8 billion since reaching their highest level in July 2008, primarily as a result of lower exports of energy products in the latter part of 2008.

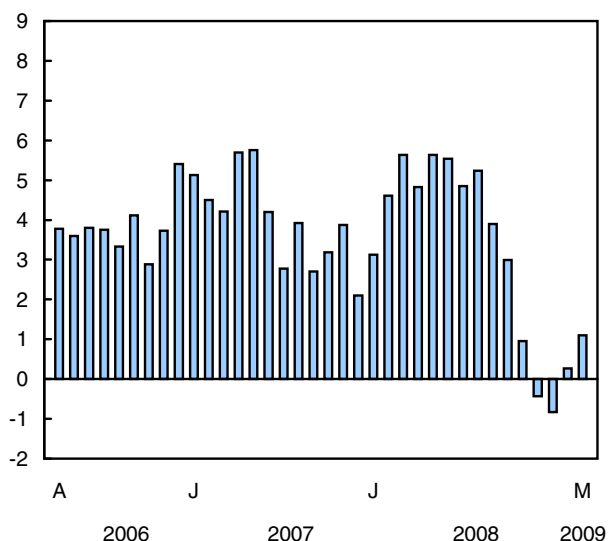
Canada's trade surplus with the United States remained at \$3.6 billion in March, virtually unchanged from February. Exports to the United States decreased 4.1% while imports declined 4.7%.

Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed to \$2.5 billion in March from \$3.3 billion in February, as exports increased 4.5% while imports decreased 3.9%.

While both imports and exports posted gains in February and fell in March, the pace of decline in March was considerably slower than those observed at the end of 2008 and in January 2009.

## Trade balance

\$ billions



## Energy products lead the decline in imports

Energy products fell by 18.4% to \$2.3 billion, the lowest level since October 2004. Imports of other energy products, down 33.2%, led the decline while imports of crude petroleum decreased 2.1%. The volume of energy products declined 16.2% in March while prices decreased 2.7%.

Imports of machinery and equipment declined 4.5% to \$9.6 billion in March, following a 4.0% increase in February. Aircraft and other transportation equipment as well as industrial and agricultural machinery accounted for almost three-quarters of the decline in imports.

Industrial goods and materials imports were down 4.5% to \$6.6 billion, mainly due to volume reduction. Although the declines were broad based, a decline in imports of pipes and tubes for drilling was the main contributor. Volumes have generally been declining in this sector since August 2008.

## General decline in exports

Machinery and equipment and automotive products accounted for almost two-thirds of the decline in exports in March, followed by energy products.

Machinery and equipment exports decreased 3.4% to \$7.7 billion as volumes declined, largely as a result of lower exports of aircraft and telecommunication equipment. Other transportation equipment moderated the sector's decline on the strength of locomotive exports.

Automotive product exports, trending downward since December 2006, fell 3.3% to \$3.4 billion due to decreases in exports of trucks and motor vehicle parts. Exports of passenger autos increased for the second month in a row, following January's plant shutdowns. Overall, the decline in automotive products was mainly due to volume reduction.

Exports of energy products contracted 1.4% to \$6.5 billion in March due to a decline in volumes, as prices increased for the first time since July 2008. Lower exports of petroleum and coal products and natural gas were responsible for the weakness in this sector, which has been on a downward trend since June 2008.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0057.**

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

The March 2009 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 63, no. 3 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

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-X, free).

For more information, contact Nadine Lacroix (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-5047). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994), International Trade Division.

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## Merchandise trade

|   | February<br>2009 <sup>r</sup> | March<br>2009 | February<br>to<br>March<br>2009 | March<br>to<br>March<br>2009 |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Seasonally adjusted, \$ current         |                               |               |                                 |                              |
|   | \$ millions                   |               | % change                        |                              |
| <b>Principal trading partners</b>       |                               |               |                                 |                              |
| <b>Exports</b>                          |                               |               |                                 |                              |
| United States                           | 24,314                        | 23,315        | -4.1                            | -24.4                        |
| Japan                                   | 893                           | 879           | -1.6                            | 18.0                         |
| European Union <sup>1</sup>             | 2,849                         | 3,289         | 15.4                            | 4.5                          |
| Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>       | 1,312                         | 1,327         | 1.1                             | -23.7                        |
| All other countries                     | 3,737                         | 3,693         | -1.2                            | -1.8                         |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>33,105</b>                 | <b>32,503</b> | <b>-1.8</b>                     | <b>-19.2</b>                 |
| <b>Imports</b>                          |                               |               |                                 |                              |
| United States                           | 20,708                        | 19,743        | -4.7                            | -10.7                        |
| Japan                                   | 758                           | 706           | -6.9                            | -29.0                        |
| European Union <sup>1</sup>             | 3,612                         | 3,282         | -9.1                            | -3.0                         |
| Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>       | 1,990                         | 2,139         | 7.5                             | 8.4                          |
| All other countries                     | 5,775                         | 5,529         | -4.3                            | -10.2                        |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>32,843</b>                 | <b>31,398</b> | <b>-4.4</b>                     | <b>-9.3</b>                  |
| <b>Balance</b>                          |                               |               |                                 |                              |
| United States                           | 3,606                         | 3,572         | ...                             | ...                          |
| Japan                                   | 135                           | 173           | ...                             | ...                          |
| European Union <sup>1</sup>             | -763                          | 7             | ...                             | ...                          |
| Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>       | -678                          | -812          | ...                             | ...                          |
| All other countries                     | -2,038                        | -1,836        | ...                             | ...                          |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>262</b>                    | <b>1,105</b>  | <b>...</b>                      | <b>...</b>                   |
| <b>Principal commodity groupings</b>    |                               |               |                                 |                              |
| <b>Exports</b>                          |                               |               |                                 |                              |
| Agricultural and fishing products       | 3,431                         | 3,381         | -1.5                            | 1.5                          |
| Energy products                         | 6,578                         | 6,487         | -1.4                            | -38.7                        |
| Forestry products                       | 1,832                         | 1,756         | -4.1                            | -13.4                        |
| Industrial goods and materials          | 7,065                         | 7,063         | 0.0                             | -22.3                        |
| Machinery and equipment                 | 7,991                         | 7,722         | -3.4                            | 3.5                          |
| Automotive products                     | 3,528                         | 3,411         | -3.3                            | -35.0                        |
| Other consumer goods                    | 1,638                         | 1,691         | 3.2                             | 16.6                         |
| Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup> | 605                           | 594           | -1.8                            | -7.2                         |
| Other balance of payments adjustments   | 437                           | 398           | -8.9                            | -6.8                         |
| <b>Imports</b>                          |                               |               |                                 |                              |
| Agricultural and fishing products       | 2,539                         | 2,533         | -0.2                            | 14.3                         |
| Energy products                         | 2,795                         | 2,280         | -18.4                           | -38.2                        |
| Forestry products                       | 215                           | 214           | -0.5                            | -10.8                        |
| Industrial goods and materials          | 6,925                         | 6,616         | -4.5                            | -9.5                         |
| Machinery and equipment                 | 10,095                        | 9,642         | -4.5                            | -1.1                         |
| Automotive products                     | 4,081                         | 4,143         | 1.5                             | -27.1                        |
| Other consumer goods                    | 5,076                         | 4,861         | -4.2                            | 8.8                          |
| Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup> | 439                           | 458           | 4.3                             | -11.8                        |
| Other balance of payments adjustments   | 677                           | 652           | -3.7                            | -11.5                        |

<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 and Development (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.

**Note:** Totals may not equal the sum of their components.

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## Aircraft movement statistics: Small airports

2008

The number of take-offs and landings at the 124 airports without air traffic control towers stood at 629,678 movements in 2008. This was down 5.3% compared with the 664,667 take-offs and landings for the 123 airports reported in 2007. Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador, was the most active site overall in 2008 with 32,065 movements.

**Available on CANSIM: tables 401-0037 and 401-0038.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2715.**

The 2008 issue of *Aircraft Movement Statistics: Airports without Air Traffic Control Towers: Annual Report (TP 577)* (51-210-X, free), will soon be available.

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

## Export and import price indexes

March 2009

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 March 2009 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 March 2009. 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 228-0057.**

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

The March 2009 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 63, no. 3 (65-001-X, 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 Client Services (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. ■

## Chain Fisher real export and import values

March 2009

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

**Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0056 and 228-0057.**

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

The March 2009 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 63, no. 3 (65-001-X, 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 Client Services (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. ■

## Public Service Employee Survey

2008

Data from the 2008 Public Service Employee Survey are now available.

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4438.**

For more information, contact Client Services (613-951-3321; 1-800-461-9050; fax: 613-951-4527; [ssd@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:ssd@statcan.gc.ca)), Special Surveys Division. Information is also available online ([www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/chro-dprh](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/chro-dprh)). ■

## New products

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**Film and Video Distribution**, 2007  
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**Aboriginal Peoples Technical Report, 2006 Census**,  
Census year 2006  
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