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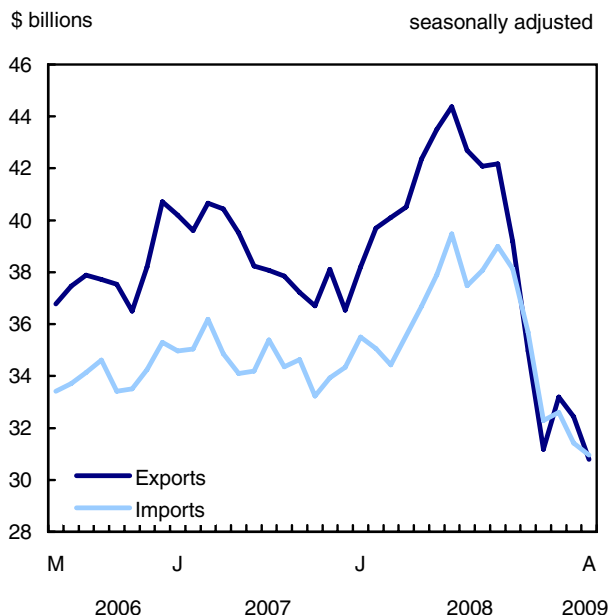
Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade

April 2009

Canada's merchandise exports fell 5.1% to \$30.8 billion in April, mostly due to a 3.2% reduction in prices while volumes decreased 1.9%.

Exports and imports



Lower exports of industrial goods and materials, energy products, and machinery and equipment largely accounted for the decrease in overall exports. Gains in agricultural and fishing products, and automotive products partially offset the decline.

Imports decreased 1.5% to \$31.0 billion, mainly a result of declines in industrial goods and materials as well as machinery and equipment. Import prices were down 1.8% while volumes edged up 0.3%.

Exports and imports have generally been trending downwards since the peak of July 2008. Exports have fallen \$13.6 billion or 30.6% since July 2008, with more than 80% of the decline occurring from November 2008 to January 2009. In comparison, imports have declined \$8.5 billion or 21.6% since

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 Laspeyres volume formula which is current dollars divided by Paasche indexes.

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. Revisions to balance of payments based data for the four previous years are included with today's release.

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.

July 2008, with almost 70% of the decrease occurring in December 2008 and January 2009.

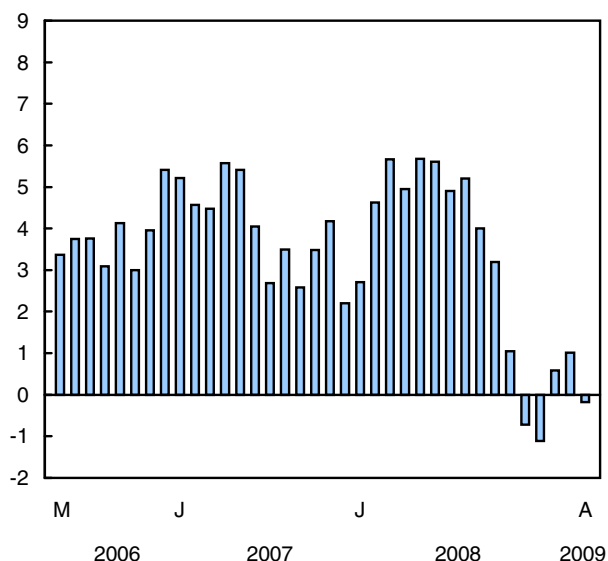
In April, Canada posted a small trade deficit with the world of \$179 million following a surplus of \$1.0 billion in March.

Canada's trade surplus with the United States shrank from \$3.5 billion in March to \$2.8 billion in April, as exports (-4.4%) and imports (-1.7%) both declined. Since July 2008, exports to the United States have accounted for 88% of the decrease in Canada's exports to the world. Accordingly, the United States share of Canada's exports was 72.3% in April 2009, down from 77.0% in July 2008.

The trade deficit with countries other than the United States widened from \$2.4 billion in March to \$3.0 billion in April, as exports fell 6.9% and imports were down 1.0%. After a solid gain in March, exports to the European Union fell 16.6% and led the decrease in exports to countries other than the United States.

Trade balance

\$ billions

**Most export sectors decline**

Exports of industrial goods and materials fell 9.7% to \$6.3 billion, the lowest level since March 2004, mainly the result of volume reductions. Lower exports of precious metals, notably gold, and fertilizers were the main contributors to the decline in this sector. Exports of steel and aluminum products also declined in April, as a result of weak global demand for these products.

Exports of energy products contracted 8.7% to \$6.1 billion as prices and volumes declined. Exports of natural gas decreased 14.9% due to lower industrial demand and high inventory levels in North America. Natural gas exports have been on a downward trend since July 2008. Crude petroleum exports declined 4.8% to \$3.1 billion, while petroleum and coal products decreased 12.0% to \$1.0 billion.

Machinery and equipment exports were down 7.0% to \$7.1 billion, as volume reductions dominated the decrease in exports across most categories in this sector.

Exports of agricultural and fishing products rose 5.1%, moderating the overall decline in exports.

Higher exports of canola and wheat largely accounted for the gains.

Industrial goods and materials drag imports down

Imports of industrial goods and materials declined 8.4% to \$6.1 billion, the lowest level since April 2004. Metals and metal ores, which led the decline, registered a fourth consecutive decrease. The slowdown in the automotive industry and in drilling activities has reduced the demand for iron and steel products. Lower imports of chemicals and plastics also contributed to the decline. A combination of lower prices and volumes accounted for the decrease in imports of industrial goods and materials.

Machinery and equipment imports decreased 3.3% to \$9.3 billion, as a result of widespread declines reflecting lower prices. This sector has been trending downward since November 2008, with the sharpest declines in December 2008 and January 2009.

Imports of energy products rose 11.9%, partially offsetting the decline in overall imports, as prices and volumes increased in April. Crude petroleum imports, which had been generally trending downwards since July 2008, increased 24.0% to \$1.7 billion in April.

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 April 2009 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 63, no. 4 (65-001-X, free), will soon be available.

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 Sharon Nevins (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9798). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994), International Trade Division.

□

Merchandise trade

	March 2009 ^r	April 2009	March to April 2009	April to April 2009
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current				
	\$ millions		% change	
Principal trading partners				
Exports				
United States	23,270	22,252	-4.4	-28.4
Japan	865	823	-4.9	-12.1
European Union ¹	3,275	2,731	-16.6	-10.1
Other OECD countries ²	1,303	1,394	7.0	-8.2
All other countries	3,725	3,585	-3.8	-8.9
Total	32,438	30,785	-5.1	-24.0
Imports				
United States	19,808	19,469	-1.7	-14.7
Japan	689	743	7.8	-24.8
European Union ¹	3,288	3,327	1.2	-17.5
Other OECD countries ²	2,079	2,046	-1.6	3.3
All other countries	5,560	5,380	-3.2	-6.2
Total	31,424	30,964	-1.5	-12.9
Balance				
United States	3,462	2,783	...	...
Japan	176	80	...	...
European Union ¹	-13	-596	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-776	-652	...	...
All other countries	-1,835	-1,795	...	...
Total	1,014	-179	...	...
Principal commodity groupings				
Exports				
Agricultural and fishing products	3,404	3,577	5.1	7.5
Energy products	6,646	6,066	-8.7	-44.3
Forestry products	1,705	1,651	-3.2	-21.8
Industrial goods and materials	7,010	6,328	-9.7	-29.4
Machinery and equipment	7,640	7,107	-7.0	-4.6
Automotive products	3,392	3,483	2.7	-33.1
Other consumer goods	1,683	1,596	-5.2	10.9
Special transactions trade ³	578	548	-5.2	-14.2
Other balance of payments adjustments	381	430	12.9	-8.5
Imports				
Agricultural and fishing products	2,531	2,507	-0.9	11.9
Energy products	2,352	2,633	11.9	-40.9
Forestry products	213	206	-3.3	-12.3
Industrial goods and materials	6,664	6,103	-8.4	-15.6
Machinery and equipment	9,668	9,348	-3.3	-3.7
Automotive products	4,059	4,118	1.5	-30.6
Other consumer goods	4,886	4,953	1.4	9.6
Special transactions trade ³	390	423	8.5	-22.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	661	673	1.8	-3.4

^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 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.

New Housing Price Index

April 2009

Contractors selling prices decreased 0.6% in April, compared with a 0.5% decline in March. This resulted in a New Housing Price Index decreasing to 153.7 (1997=100).

The New Housing Price Index has declined 3.2% since reaching a record high of 158.7 in September 2008.

Between March and April, prices declined the most in Vancouver (-1.2%) followed by Edmonton (-0.9%) and Calgary (-0.8%). In Vancouver, most builders are still reducing prices to encourage sales.

In Alberta, although some builders reported increased material costs as a result of new fire code regulations, these increases were negated by builders lowering prices or offering free upgrades in an increasingly competitive market.

Prices declined in Hamilton and Kitchener (-0.7%) and in Toronto and Oshawa (-0.6%) and Victoria (-0.6%).

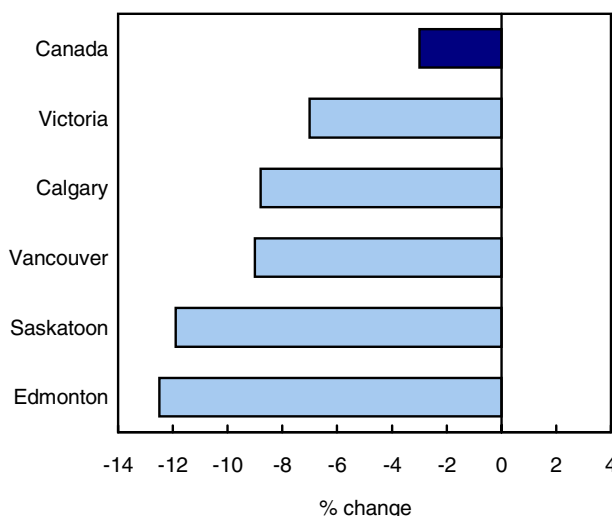
Between March and April, most new housing contractors' selling prices declined or remained unchanged for the cities surveyed. The exceptions were in St. Catharines–Niagara (+0.6%), St. John's (+0.3%) and Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton (+0.2%). In St. Catharines–Niagara, contractors' reported that selling prices have returned to their regular list price levels after a few months of lower transaction prices. In St. John's, builders' prices have been increasing because of high demand for housing, which has created a shortage of lots.

The New Housing Price Index decreased year-over-year by 3.0% in April, due primarily to declines in Western Canada.

On the Prairies, 12-month declines were recorded in Edmonton (-12.5%), Saskatoon (-11.9%) and Calgary (-8.8%).

On the West Coast, Vancouver (-9.0%) and Victoria (-7.0%) each also posted year-over-year declines.

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

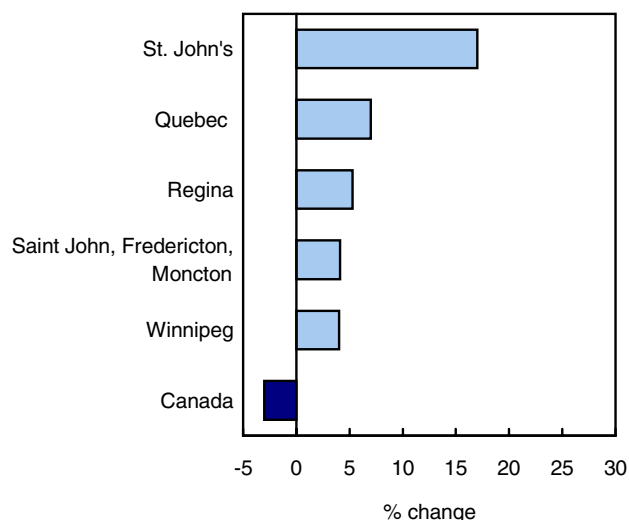


Among surveyed cities, the largest increase between April 2008 and April 2009 was registered in St. John's (+17.0%). The year-over-year increases in this city have been slowing for the past five months, following a peak (+25.6%) in November 2008. Major industrial projects are the main contributors to the strong local economy and are attracting an important flow of migrant workers. This rapid population growth in St. John's increased the demand for housing, which in turn pushed up prices of new homes.

In Québec, the 12-month growth rate was 7.0%, while in Montréal, prices increased 3.6%.

Compared with April 2008, contractors' selling prices were 5.3% higher in Regina. Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton (+4.1%) and Winnipeg (+4.0%) also posted increases.

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



Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

The first quarter 2009 issue of *Capital Expenditure Price Statistics* (62-007-X, free) will be available in July.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; fax: 613-951-3117; prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca), Producer Prices Division.

New housing price indexes

	April 2009	April 2008 to April 2009	March to April 2009
	(1997=100)	% change	
Canada total	153.7	-3.0	-0.6
House only	161.0	-4.2	-0.8
Land only	138.6	-0.6	-0.1
St. John's	180.3	17.0	0.3
Charlottetown	120.5	0.9	0.0
Halifax	150.5	1.6	0.0
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	120.5	4.1	0.2
Québec	164.8	7.0	0.0
Montréal	164.9	3.6	0.0
Ottawa-Gatineau	169.6	1.9	0.0
Toronto and Oshawa	145.0	-0.5	-0.6
Hamilton	150.8	-1.4	-0.7
St. Catharines-Niagara	155.5	-1.0	0.6
London	144.4	1.9	0.0
Kitchener	142.2	0.0	-0.7
Windsor	103.7	-0.1	0.0
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	112.7	1.7	0.0
Winnipeg	181.4	4.0	0.0
Regina	250.9	5.3	0.0
Saskatoon	212.9	-11.9	-0.4
Calgary	229.0	-8.8	-0.8
Edmonton	211.2	-12.5	-0.9
Vancouver	113.5	-9.0	-1.2
Victoria	110.7	-7.0	-0.6

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

Production of eggs and poultry

April 2009 (preliminary)

Egg production reached 44.8 million dozens in April, down 4.9% from April 2008.

Poultry meat production totalled 96.2 million kilograms, down 7.2% compared with April 2008.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sandra Venturino (613-951-9278; sandra.venturino@statcan.gc.ca), or call our information line (toll-free 1-800-465-1991), Agriculture Division. ■

Export and import price indexes

April 2009

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (2002=100) on a custom and balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to April 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 April 2009. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

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.

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Chain Fisher real export and import values

April 2009

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

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

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 Client Services (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. ■

Consulting services

2007

Data on the consulting services industry are now available for 2007.

Available on CANSIM: table 360-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4717.

For more information about the survey, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Sheila Thomas (613-951-4303; sheila.thomas@statcan.gc.ca) or Luc Provençal (613-951-1960; fax: 613-951-6696; luc.provençal@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

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