Catalogue 11-001-XIE (Français 11-001-XIF) ISSN 1205-9137

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, July 10, 2009
Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

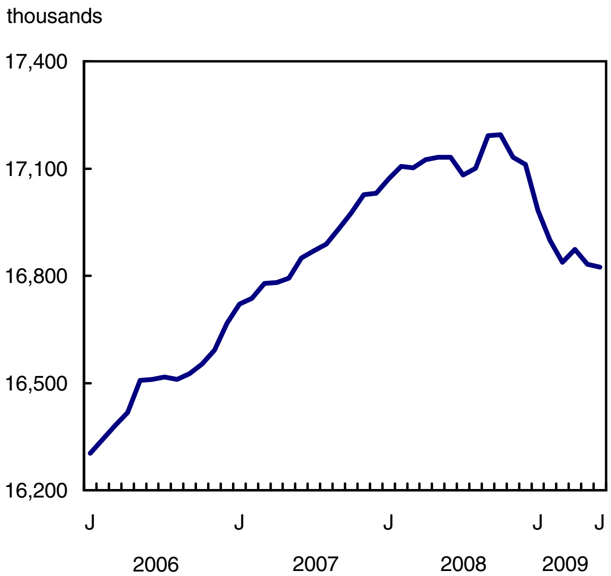
Releases

Releases

Labour Force Survey
June 2009

Employment was little changed in June, leaving total net losses during the last three months at 13,000, much smaller than the 273,000 decline in the first three months of the year. The unemployment rate edged up 0.2 percentage points to 8.6% in June, as more people looked for work.

Employment



Full-time employment continued its downward trend in June, offsetting gains in part time. Since employment peaked in October 2008, full-time losses (-454,000) have been only partially offset by part-time gains (+84,000), leaving total employment down by 370,000.

Self-employment rose in June, while the number of employees in the private sector decreased. Since October, self-employment has grown by 1.5%, whereas the number of employees has fallen, especially in the private sector.

Note to readers

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-X, free).*

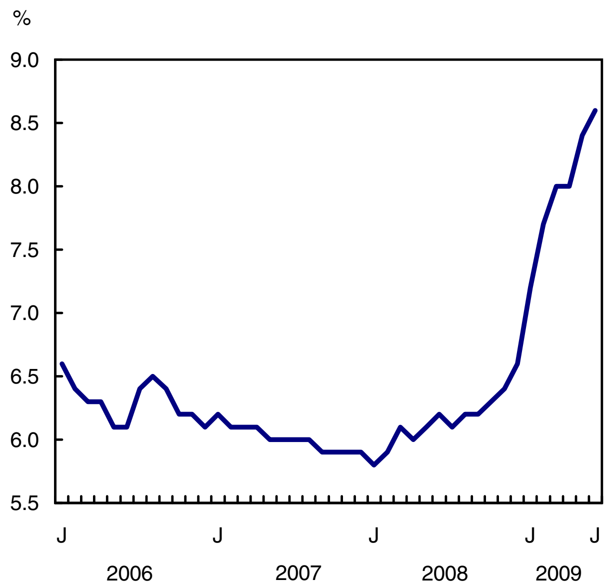
Changes in average hourly wages are affected by shifts in the composition of the Canadian labour force. For example, a drop in employment in low-wage occupations or industries will contribute to an increase in the national average hourly wage.

Youth aged 15 to 24 were hard hit in June, with losses of 33,000. Their unemployment rate went up a full percentage point to 15.9%, the highest rate in 11 years. Employment losses for youth in June were offset by gains among people aged 55 and over.

Employment was virtually unchanged in June in all provinces except Newfoundland and Labrador, where it went up.

There were gains in information, culture and recreation in June, as well as in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing. Industries with notable declines were manufacturing and business, building and other support services.

Unemployment rate



Average hourly wages were up 3.5% from June 2008, similar to the year-over-year increase in May.

Slower pace of decline in last three months

While employment remains well below its October 2008 peak, there was a notable shift in the pace of the downward trend in employment in the last three months. Total net losses were 13,000 for the last three months, much less than the 273,000 decline in the first three months of this year.

During the first three months of 2009, employment fell in almost all industries, especially in manufacturing and construction, whereas over the last three months, employment increased in most service industries, stabilized in construction but continued to decline in manufacturing.

By province, the greatest change in the employment trend occurred in Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta. In the first three months of 2009, employment fell sharply in all three provinces, in contrast to the last three months, when employment rose in Quebec and British Columbia, and held steady in Alberta. In Ontario, employment continued to fall over the last three months, although at a slower pace.

More Canadians working for themselves

Self-employment rose by 37,000 in June, while the number of employees in the private sector decreased by 39,000. Since October, self-employment has grown by 1.5%, whereas the number of employees has declined by 3.3% in the private sector and 1.4% in the public sector.

June’s employment gains were in information, culture and recreation (+26,000); and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+21,000).

Manufacturing continued its downward trend in June (-26,000), with most of the month’s declines in Quebec. Nationally, this sector has experienced the sharpest rate of decline of all industries (-10.7%) since October 2008, with losses mainly in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

There were also losses in business, building and other support services in June (-14,000).

Employment little changed in most provinces

Newfoundland and Labrador was the only province with employment gains in June, up 2,500. At the same time, the unemployment rate edged up to 15.6% as there were more people in the labour force.

Full-time losses in Ontario in June (-56,000) were offset by part-time gains (+57,000), leaving total employment unchanged. The unemployment rate edged up to 9.6%, the highest rate in 15 years. Since last October, employment in the province has fallen by 232,000 (-3.5%), with over half of the losses in manufacturing (-126,000).

While employment in Saskatchewan was virtually unchanged in June, this was the only province with an upward trend in employment since October (+1.0%). At 4.6% in June, the unemployment rate in Saskatchewan was the lowest of all provinces.

Employment in Quebec was unchanged in June and the unemployment rate was 8.8%. Since October, employment in Quebec has fallen by only 0.8%, a rate of decrease much lower than the national average (-2.2%).

Youth employment falls

In June, employment for youths aged 15 to 24 fell by 33,000, pushing their unemployment rate up a full percentage point to 15.9%, the highest rate in 11 years. Since the peak last October, employment among youths has fallen the fastest of all age groups, down 6.4%.

Employment losses in June for youths were offset by gains among workers aged 55 and over, whose employment increased 33,000. Since last October, employment growth has been steady for older workers (+78,000 or +2.9%), particularly among women. Older workers are the only age group that have added to their numbers since the start of the economic downturn.

Summer job market challenging for students

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects labour market information about young people aged 15 to 24 who were attending school full time in March and intend to return to school in the fall. The May and June survey results provide the first indicators of the summer job market. The data for July and August will provide further insight into the summer job market. The published estimates are not seasonally adjusted; therefore, comparisons can only be made on a year-over-year basis.

Compared with June 2008, employment was down 43,000 for students aged 20 to 24 in June 2009. This pushed their unemployment rate up 4.8 percentage points to 14.0%, the highest June unemployment rate for these students since 1997.

The labour market for 17 to 19 year-old students is also proving to be challenging, as employment was down 50,000 between June of 2008 and 2009. This brings their unemployment rate to 18.1%, the highest since June 1998.

Quarterly update on territories

The Labour Force Survey also collects labour market information about the territories. These data are not included in the national estimates, but are published separately and in the form of three-month moving averages. Information in this release is based on data that are not seasonally adjusted and therefore comparisons should only be made on a year-over-year basis.

Employment edged down in all three territories in the second quarter of 2009 compared with the same quarter last year.

In the Yukon, as more people entered the labour force in search of work, the unemployment rate in the second quarter of 2009 increased to 7.7%, compared with 5.0% in the same quarter of the previous year.

In the Northwest Territories, the unemployment rate was 6.6% in the second quarter of 2009, little changed from a year earlier.

Over the same period in Nunavut, the employment declines were all in full-time work and the unemployment rate was up slightly to 14.5%.

Available on CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0064 and 282-0069 to 282-0100.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-X, free) is now available online for the week ending June 20. From the *Publications* module of our website, under *All subjects*, choose *Labour*. LAN and bulk prices are available on request. The CD-ROM *Labour Force Historical Review*, 2008 (71F0004X, $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 August 7.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-873-8788; 613-951-4090; *labour@statcan.gc.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; *vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca*), or Judy Hosein (613-951-5704; *judy.hosein@statcan.gc.ca*), Labour Statistics Division.

□

Labour force characteristics by age and sex

	May 2009	June 2009	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009
	Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Both sexes 15+						
Population	27,250.0	27,292.3	42.3	381.6	0.2	1.4
Labour force	18,380.6	18,416.7	36.1	158.2	0.2	0.9
Employment	16,832.2	16,824.8	-7.4	-306.2	0.0	-1.8
Full-time	13,598.1	13,550.6	-47.5	-398.5	-0.3	-2.9
Part-time	3,234.1	3,274.2	40.1	92.3	1.2	2.9
Unemployment	1,548.4	1,591.9	43.5	464.4	2.8	41.2
Participation rate	67.5	67.5	0.0	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.4	8.6	0.2	2.4	...	...
Employment rate	61.8	61.6	-0.2	-2.1	...	...
Part-time rate	19.2	19.5	0.3	0.9	...	...
Youths 15 to 24						
Population	4,392.2	4,394.9	2.7	20.1	0.1	0.5
Labour force	2,899.4	2,894.5	-4.9	-72.4	-0.2	-2.4
Employment	2,466.7	2,433.4	-33.3	-171.8	-1.3	-6.6
Full-time	1,302.0	1,273.2	-28.8	-164.2	-2.2	-11.4
Part-time	1,164.7	1,160.2	-4.5	-7.6	-0.4	-0.7
Unemployment	432.8	461.1	28.3	99.4	6.5	27.5
Participation rate	66.0	65.9	-0.1	-1.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	14.9	15.9	1.0	3.7	...	...
Employment rate	56.2	55.4	-0.8	-4.2	...	...
Part-time rate	47.2	47.7	0.5	2.9	...	...
Men 25+						
Population	11,174.9	11,195.0	20.1	182.1	0.2	1.7
Labour force	8,215.8	8,243.1	27.3	104.8	0.3	1.3
Employment	7,536.9	7,554.2	17.3	-147.3	0.2	-1.9
Full-time	6,949.2	6,983.9	34.7	-186.1	0.5	-2.6
Part-time	587.7	570.3	-17.4	38.8	-3.0	7.3
Unemployment	678.8	688.9	10.1	252.1	1.5	57.7
Participation rate	73.5	73.6	0.1	-0.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.3	8.4	0.1	3.0	...	...
Employment rate	67.4	67.5	0.1	-2.4	...	...
Part-time rate	7.8	7.5	-0.3	0.6	...	...
Women 25+						
Population	11,682.9	11,702.5	19.6	179.5	0.2	1.6
Labour force	7,265.4	7,279.1	13.7	125.8	0.2	1.8
Employment	6,828.6	6,837.2	8.6	13.0	0.1	0.2
Full-time	5,346.9	5,293.5	-53.4	-48.2	-1.0	-0.9
Part-time	1,481.7	1,543.7	62.0	61.1	4.2	4.1
Unemployment	436.8	441.9	5.1	112.8	1.2	34.3
Participation rate	62.2	62.2	0.0	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.1	0.1	1.5	...	...
Employment rate	58.4	58.4	0.0	-0.8	...	...
Part-time rate	21.7	22.6	0.9	0.9	...	...

... not applicable
Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS)[1]

	May 2009	June 2009	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009
	Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,177.4	14,132.8	-44.6	-387.9	-0.3	-2.7
Self-employed	2,654.8	2,692.0	37.2	81.8	1.4	3.1
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,417.8	3,412.5	-5.3	5.8	-0.2	0.2
Private	10,759.6	10,720.3	-39.3	-393.7	-0.4	-3.5
All industries	**16,832.2**	**16,824.8**	**-7.4**	**-306.2**	**0.0**	**-1.8**
Goods-producing sector	**3,717.5**	**3,705.0**	**-12.5**	**-325.8**	**-0.3**	**-8.1**
Agriculture	324.0	326.8	2.8	1.0	0.9	0.3
Natural resources	315.6	315.1	-0.5	-27.0	-0.2	-7.9
Utilities	149.4	152.5	3.1	-5.0	2.1	-3.2
Construction	1,140.1	1,147.9	7.8	-73.2	0.7	-6.0
Manufacturing	1,788.4	1,762.7	-25.7	-221.5	-1.4	-11.2
Service-producing sector	**13,114.7**	**13,119.8**	**5.1**	**19.7**	**0.0**	**0.2**
Trade	2,633.3	2,616.2	-17.1	-72.4	-0.6	-2.7
Transportation and warehousing	823.1	818.6	-4.5	-30.8	-0.5	-3.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,064.2	1,084.7	20.5	17.8	1.9	1.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,192.4	1,196.4	4.0	-24.0	0.3	-2.0
Business, building and other support services	687.1	673.3	-13.8	-16.5	-2.0	-2.4
Educational services	1,183.9	1,197.5	13.6	4.7	1.1	0.4
Health care and social assistance	1,951.1	1,944.4	-6.7	52.0	-0.3	2.7
Information, culture and recreation	770.6	796.8	26.2	33.7	3.4	4.4
Accommodation and food services	1,067.8	1,064.8	-3.0	-5.0	-0.3	-0.5
Other services	807.7	799.1	-8.6	58.2	-1.1	7.9
Public administration	933.5	927.9	-5.6	1.9	-0.6	0.2

1. *North American Industrial Classification System.*

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

Labour force characteristics by province

	May 2009	June 2009	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009
	Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	428.2	428.5	0.3	2.5	0.1	0.6
Labour force	250.2	254.6	4.4	2.3	1.8	0.9
Employment	212.5	215.0	2.5	-4.0	1.2	-1.8
Full-time	182.9	183.6	0.7	-4.7	0.4	-2.5
Part-time	29.6	31.4	1.8	0.8	6.1	2.6
Unemployment	37.7	39.6	1.9	6.3	5.0	18.9
Participation rate	58.4	59.4	1.0	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	15.1	15.6	0.5	2.4	...	...
Employment rate	49.6	50.2	0.6	-1.2	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	115.8	116.0	0.2	1.7	0.2	1.5
Labour force	79.1	78.9	-0.2	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1
Employment	68.7	69.3	0.6	-1.4	0.9	-2.0
Full-time	57.9	56.9	-1.0	-3.1	-1.7	-5.2
Part-time	10.8	12.4	1.6	1.6	14.8	14.8
Unemployment	10.4	9.6	-0.8	1.3	-7.7	15.7
Participation rate	68.3	68.0	-0.3	-1.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.1	12.2	-0.9	1.7	...	...
Employment rate	59.3	59.7	0.4	-2.2	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	772.1	772.2	0.1	3.6	0.0	0.5
Labour force	497.0	500.0	3.0	6.6	0.6	1.3
Employment	452.9	452.8	-0.1	-3.2	0.0	-0.7
Full-time	373.5	373.0	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1	-0.2
Part-time	79.4	79.9	0.5	-2.3	0.6	-2.8
Unemployment	44.1	47.2	3.1	9.8	7.0	26.2
Participation rate	64.4	64.8	0.4	0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.9	9.4	0.5	1.8	...	...
Employment rate	58.7	58.6	-0.1	-0.7	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	621.1	621.5	0.4	3.5	0.1	0.6
Labour force	400.6	404.0	3.4	1.5	0.8	0.4
Employment	365.5	366.9	1.4	3.4	0.4	0.9
Full-time	307.5	309.3	1.8	2.4	0.6	0.8
Part-time	58.0	57.7	-0.3	1.1	-0.5	1.9
Unemployment	35.1	37.0	1.9	-2.0	5.4	-5.1
Participation rate	64.5	65.0	0.5	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.8	9.2	0.4	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	58.8	59.0	0.2	0.2	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,426.5	6,433.0	6.5	63.4	0.1	1.0
Labour force	4,229.6	4,229.6	0.0	44.1	0.0	1.1
Employment	3,863.6	3,859.0	-4.6	-26.2	-0.1	-0.7
Full-time	3,130.1	3,133.1	3.0	-29.2	0.1	-0.9
Part-time	733.5	725.9	-7.6	3.0	-1.0	0.4
Unemployment	366.0	370.6	4.6	70.3	1.3	23.4
Participation rate	65.8	65.7	-0.1	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.7	8.8	0.1	1.6	...	...
Employment rate	60.1	60.0	-0.1	-1.0	...	...

... not applicable
Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

Labour force characteristics by province

	May 2009	June 2009	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009	May to June 2009	June 2008 to June 2009
	Seasonally adjusted					
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Ontario						
Population	10,636.8	10,652.1	15.3	148.7	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,156.1	7,172.2	16.1	8.5	0.2	0.1
Employment	6,485.4	6,486.6	1.2	-195.9	0.0	-2.9
Full-time	5,233.1	5,176.9	-56.2	-239.4	-1.1	-4.4
Part-time	1,252.3	1,309.7	57.4	43.5	4.6	3.4
Unemployment	670.7	685.6	14.9	204.4	2.2	42.5
Participation rate	67.3	67.3	0.0	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.4	9.6	0.2	2.9	...	...
Employment rate	61.0	60.9	-0.1	-2.7	...	...
Manitoba						
Population	920.7	922.5	1.8	13.1	0.2	1.4
Labour force	639.1	639.4	0.3	4.8	0.0	0.8
Employment	608.1	606.2	-1.9	-2.0	-0.3	-0.3
Full-time	495.5	495.6	0.1	5.8	0.0	1.2
Part-time	112.6	110.5	-2.1	-8.0	-1.9	-6.8
Unemployment	31.0	33.2	2.2	6.8	7.1	25.8
Participation rate	69.4	69.3	-0.1	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	5.2	0.3	1.0	...	...
Employment rate	66.0	65.7	-0.3	-1.2	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	778.0	779.3	1.3	12.5	0.2	1.6
Labour force	550.2	550.3	0.1	18.9	0.0	3.6
Employment	523.2	524.8	1.6	14.8	0.3	2.9
Full-time	425.2	424.9	-0.3	6.8	-0.1	1.6
Part-time	98.0	100.0	2.0	8.0	2.0	8.7
Unemployment	27.1	25.5	-1.6	4.1	-5.9	19.2
Participation rate	70.7	70.6	-0.1	1.3	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	4.6	-0.3	0.6	...	...
Employment rate	67.2	67.3	0.1	0.8	...	...
Alberta						
Population	2,855.2	2,863.8	8.6	68.7	0.3	2.5
Labour force	2,135.3	2,134.1	-1.2	48.7	-0.1	2.3
Employment	1,993.5	1,989.5	-4.0	-26.3	-0.2	-1.3
Full-time	1,643.3	1,636.4	-6.9	-43.8	-0.4	-2.6
Part-time	350.2	353.1	2.9	17.5	0.8	5.2
Unemployment	141.8	144.6	2.8	75.0	2.0	107.8
Participation rate	74.8	74.5	-0.3	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.6	6.8	0.2	3.5	...	...
Employment rate	69.8	69.5	-0.3	-2.6	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,695.7	3,703.5	7.8	63.9	0.2	1.8
Labour force	2,443.2	2,453.6	10.4	23.1	0.4	1.0
Employment	2,258.8	2,254.7	-4.1	-65.2	-0.2	-2.8
Full-time	1,749.5	1,761.5	12.0	-91.9	0.7	-5.0
Part-time	509.3	493.1	-16.2	26.5	-3.2	5.7
Unemployment	184.5	198.9	14.4	88.4	7.8	80.0
Participation rate	66.1	66.3	0.2	-0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.6	8.1	0.5	3.6	...	...
Employment rate	61.1	60.9	-0.2	-2.8	...	...

... not applicable
Note: *Related CANSIM table 282-0087.*

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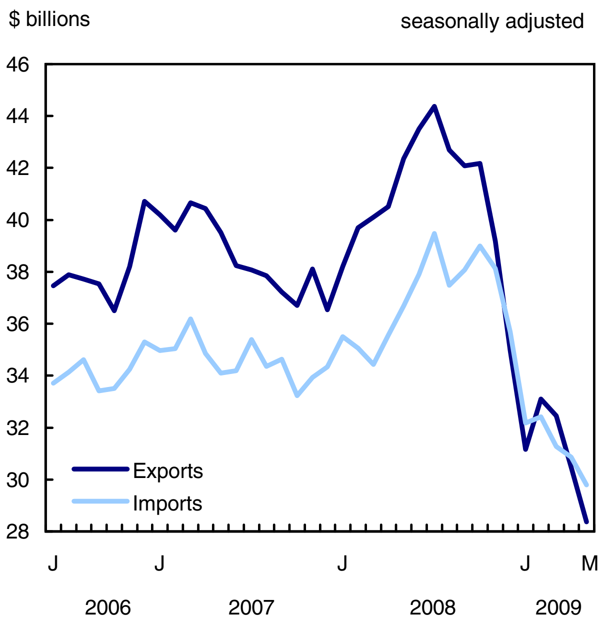
Canadian international merchandise trade

May 2009

Canada's merchandise exports fell 6.9% to $28.4 billion in May, as volumes declined 4.1% and prices decreased 2.9%. Imports were down 3.5% to $29.8 billion due to a 4.9% reduction in prices, while volumes rose 1.5%. As a result, Canada's trade deficit with the world widened to $1.4 billion in May from $389 million in April. The Canadian dollar appreciated 6.4% against the US dollar in May.

Exports and imports



Exports and imports declined for the third consecutive month in May and have been trending downwards since July 2008. The declines observed in March, April and May 2009 were less pronounced than those at the end of 2008 and January 2009.

Since July 2008, export volumes have fallen by 23.7% and prices have declined by 16.2%. In comparison, import volumes have fallen by 24.5% while prices have edged down 0.1% during the same period.

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of Canada's international balance of payments, which also includes trade in services, investment income, current transfers as well as 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.

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.

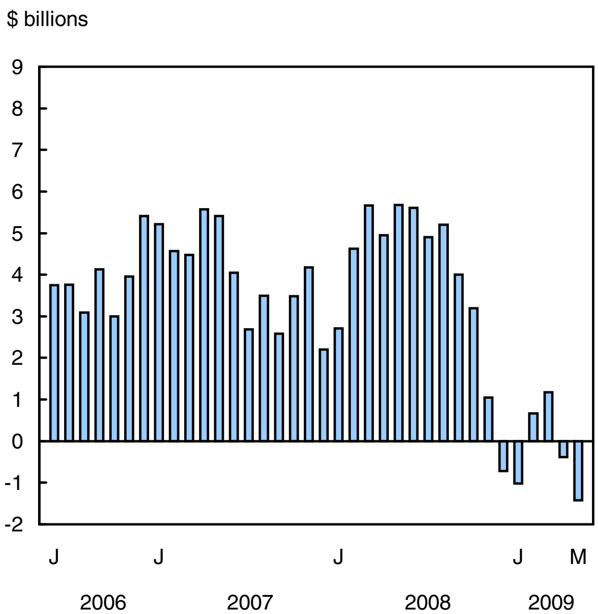
Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

Although the declines were widespread across all sectors in May, the continued weakness in global demand for energy products and the restructuring of the automotive industry accounted for more than half of the decrease in exports and imports.

Exports to the United States fell 8.1% to $20.3 billion, largely the result of lower exports of automotive products and crude petroleum, which have been affected by the economic downturn in the United States. Imports decreased 3.3% to $18.8 billion. Consequently, Canada's trade surplus with the United States shrank to $1.5 billion in May from $2.6 billion in April.

Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed to $2.9 billion in May from $3.0 billion in April. Exports and imports both fell by 3.7%.

Trade balance



Energy products and automotive products lead the decline in exports

All export sectors declined, with the largest movements observed in energy products and automotive products.

Energy products fell 10.6% to $5.4 billion, mainly due to a combination of volume and price reductions, with volumes being the dominant factor. Lower exports of natural gas and crude petroleum were largely responsible for the decline, as global demand for these products remained weak.

Exports of automotive products fell 12.4% to $3.0 billion, largely the result of volume reductions. Exports of trucks declined 33.0% as the production of some large pick-up trucks was halted in May. Exports of passenger autos and motor vehicle parts decreased 7.6% and 11.2% respectively, as a result of restructuring in the North American automotive industry.

The agricultural and fishing sector declined 8.7% to $3.2 billion, mostly due to reduced volumes. Canola and wheat, which had driven the increase in April, accounted for most of the decline in May.

Exports of industrial goods and materials decreased 4.9% to $6.0 billion, the third consecutive decline. Although the decreases were generalized, lower exports of precious metals accounted for more than half of the decline in this sector.

Imports down across the board

All imports sectors declined, led by the automotive products, energy products, and machinery and equipment sectors.

The modest gains observed in automotive products from January to April were completely erased by the drop in imports in May, as the restructuring of the automotive industry continued. Imports of automotive products fell 7.3% to $3.8 billion, the lowest level since March 1996. Lower imports of motor vehicle parts were the main contributor to the decrease, falling 10.6%. Passenger autos and trucks also declined.

Imports of energy products fell 10.7% to $2.3 billion due to a combination of volume and price decreases. This decline was entirely the result of a 21.7% decrease in crude petroleum volume.

Imports of machinery and equipment slid by 2.7% to $9.0 billion, as prices declined and volumes rose. Lower imports of aircraft accounted for more than three-quarters of the drop in this sector. Imports of engines, turbines and motors, up 54.6%, mitigated the decrease.

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 May 2009 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 63, no. 5 (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 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

	April 2009[r]	May 2009	April to May 2009	May 2008 to May 2009
	Seasonally adjusted, $ current			
	$ millions		% change	
Principal trading partners				
Exports				
United States	22,053	20,263	-8.1	-35.7
Japan	783	630	-19.5	-43.4
European Union[1]	2,668	2,490	-6.7	-25.0
Other OECD countries[2]	1,401	1,390	-0.8	-30.0
All other countries	3,569	3,600	0.9	-18.5
Total	**30,475**	**28,372**	**-6.9**	**-33.0**
Imports				
United States	19,434	18,785	-3.3	-19.6
Japan	743	710	-4.4	-24.0
European Union[1]	3,327	3,215	-3.4	-15.8
Other OECD countries[2]	1,973	1,820	-7.8	-19.9
All other countries	5,387	5,263	-2.3	-16.5
Total	**30,864**	**29,793**	**-3.5**	**-18.8**
Balance				
United States	2,619	1,478	...	...
Japan	40	-80	...	...
European Union[1]	-659	-725	...	...
Other OECD countries[2]	-572	-430	...	...
All other countries	-1,818	-1,663	...	...
Total	**-389**	**-1,421**	**...**	**...**
Principal commodity groupings				
Exports				
Agricultural and fishing products	3,546	3,238	-8.7	-8.2
Energy products	6,028	5,388	-10.6	-53.7
Forestry products	1,635	1,580	-3.4	-27.4
Industrial goods and materials	6,264	5,960	-4.9	-38.7
Machinery and equipment	7,002	6,721	-4.0	-13.4
Automotive products	3,436	3,009	-12.4	-38.0
Other consumer goods	1,569	1,567	-0.1	6.1
Special transactions trade[3]	539	517	-4.1	-23.7
Other balance of payments adjustments	454	391	-13.9	-26.2
Imports				
Agricultural and fishing products	2,498	2,435	-2.5	4.8
Energy products	2,629	2,348	-10.7	-44.3
Forestry products	202	183	-9.4	-24.7
Industrial goods and materials	6,095	6,004	-1.5	-23.5
Machinery and equipment	9,300	9,045	-2.7	-11.8
Automotive products	4,146	3,844	-7.3	-34.7
Other consumer goods	4,951	4,807	-2.9	3.2
Special transactions trade[3]	374	456	21.9	-12.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	670	672	0.3	-8.9

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
May 2009

Contractors selling prices decreased 0.1% in May following a 0.6% decline in April.

Between April and May, prices declined the most in Saskatoon (-1.2%) followed by Hamilton (-1.1%) and Edmonton (-0.9%). In Saskatoon, a number of builders reported reduced material and labour costs while other builders have lowered their prices to be more competitive and to encourage sales.

In Hamilton, several builders offered free upgrades, incentives and cash bonuses in order to increase sales during a period of less favourable market conditions.

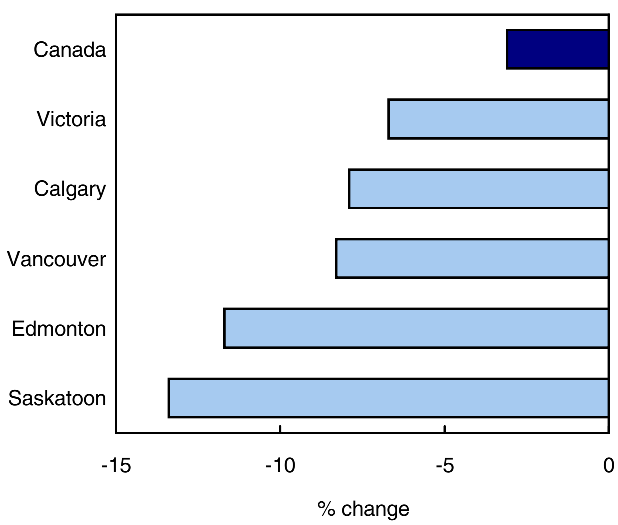
Prices declined 0.3% in Toronto and Oshawa as well as in Victoria. In Toronto and Oshawa, the declines were explained by lower selling prices, while in Victoria, builders reduced their prices as a result of continuing slow market conditions.

The largest monthly increase in new housing prices was recorded in Québec (+0.5%), followed by 0.4% increases in Charlottetown, Kitchener and Vancouver. Winnipeg (+0.3%) and Montréal (+0.2%) also saw monthly increases.

The New Housing Price Index decreased year-over-year by 3.1% in May, again due primarily to declines in Western Canada.

On the Prairies, 12-month declines were recorded in Saskatoon (-13.4%), Edmonton (-11.7%) and Calgary (-7.9%).

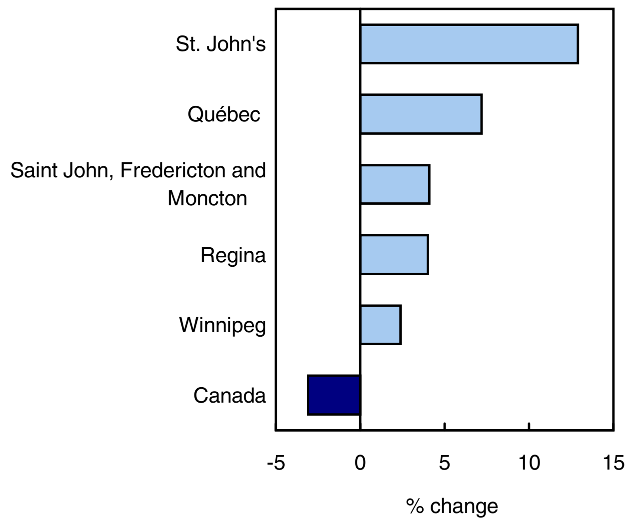
Percentage change from the same month of the previous year (cities with the smallest or negative change)



On the West Coast, Vancouver (-8.3%) and Victoria (-6.7%) also posted year-over-year declines.

Among surveyed cities, the largest increase between May 2008 and May 2009 was registered in St. John's (+12.9%). Demand for housing in this city remains constant, due in most part to the continued strength of the local economy.

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



In Québec, the 12-month growth rate was 7.2%, while in Montréal, prices increased 2.0%. Increased land development costs and the diminishing number of available lots have increased the value of land in Québec.

Compared with May 2008, contractors' selling prices were 4.1% higher in Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton. Regina (+4.0%) and Winnipeg (+2.4%) also posted increases.

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 soon.

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: 613-951-3117; *prices-prix@statcan.gc.ca*), Producer Prices Division. □

New housing price indexes

	May 2009	May 2008 to May 2009	April to May 2009
	(1997=100)	% change	
Canada total	**153.5**	**-3.1**	**-0.1**
House only	**160.8**	**-4.2**	**-0.1**
Land only	**138.1**	**-1.1**	**-0.4**
St. John’s	180.3	12.9	0.0
Charlottetown	121.0	1.3	0.4
Halifax	150.5	1.1	0.0
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton	120.6	4.1	0.1
Québec	165.6	7.2	0.5
Montréal	165.2	2.0	0.2
Ottawa–Gatineau	169.6	1.4	0.0
Toronto and Oshawa	144.6	-0.8	-0.3
Hamilton	149.1	-2.7	-1.1
St. Catharines–Niagara	155.5	-1.1	0.0
London	144.4	1.5	0.0
Kitchener	142.7	0.4	0.4
Windsor	103.7	0.1	0.0
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay	112.7	-0.2	0.0
Winnipeg	182.0	2.4	0.3
Regina	250.9	4.0	0.0
Saskatoon	210.3	-13.4	-1.2
Calgary	229.1	-7.9	0.0
Edmonton	209.2	-11.7	-0.9
Vancouver	114.0	-8.3	0.4
Victoria	110.4	-6.7	-0.3

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

■

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey

First quarter 2009

Sales declined in 8 of 10 major commodity groups in the first quarter of 2009 compared with the same quarter of 2008.

Total sales fell 6.0% to $87.2 billion. This was the largest year-over-year decline in total sales since the start of the series in 1998. The main contributors to the overall decline were lower values of sales of motor vehicles, parts and services and automotive fuels, oils and additives.

Most of the year-over-year decline came from a 16.3% decrease in sales of motor vehicles (new and used), parts and services. The value of sales of new cars and trucks, which includes light and heavy trucks, vans, minivans and sport utility vehicles, was down 27.9% from the first quarter of 2008. This reflects fewer new vehicles sold and lower prices. The value of used vehicles sold also declined, falling 8.3% from the same quarter last year. Sales of automotive parts, accessories and services were up 1.6%.

The value of sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives was down 24.8%. This commodity’s value reflects changes in the price of gasoline at the pump.

Sales of less frequently purchased commodities were down in the first quarter of 2009. Sales of furniture, home furnishings and electronics decreased 7.3%. Contributing the most to this decline were sales of home furnishings (-12.0%) followed by indoor furniture sales (-8.8%).

Hardware, lawn and garden products sales fell 4.3% compared with the same period last year, as a result of low sales of hardware and home renovation products, including a 12.4% decline in sales of lumber and other building materials. Lawn and garden products remained relatively unchanged.

The largest year-over-year increase in the first quarter of 2009 was a 5.9% rise in sales of food and beverages, led by a 7.0% gain in the sale of food. Prices of food purchased from stores rose 9.1% during the same period according to the Consumer Price Index.

There was a 2.6% rise in sales of health and personal care products. The main contributor was a 3.3% increase in sales of prescription drugs.

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 2009 but had taken place in the first quarter of 2008. All percentage changes are year-over-year.

Retail commodity sales data are revised every year. With the release of data for the first quarter of 2009, data in current dollars have been revised back to the first quarter of 2008.

Factors influencing revisions include the late receipt of respondent information, the correction of information on data provided, the replacement of estimates with actual values (once available) and the re-classification of companies within, into and out of the retail trade industry. The revised data are now available on CANSIM.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

For general information or to order data, contact Client Services (toll free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *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

	First quarter 2008[r]	Fourth quarter 2008[r]	First quarter 2009[p]	First quarter 2008 to first quarter 2009
	Unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Commodity				
Food and beverages	21,280	25,045	22,526	5.9
Health and personal care products	8,863	9,888	9,098	2.6
Clothing, footwear and accessories	6,471	10,729	6,380	-1.4
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	8,693	11,596	8,060	-7.3
Motor vehicles, parts and services	19,193	18,482	16,066	-16.3
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	11,007	9,997	8,274	-24.8
Housewares	1,749	2,188	1,736	-0.7
Hardware, lawn and garden products	4,944	6,766	4,731	-4.3
Sporting and leisure goods	2,843	4,704	2,801	-1.5
All other goods and services	7,734	9,076	7,551	-2.4
Total	**92,777**	**108,471**	**87,223**	**-6.0**

r *revised*
p *preliminary*
Note: *Figures may not add up to total due to rounding.*

■

Export and import price indexes

May 2009

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (2002=100) on a customs or balance of payments basis are now available. Price indexes are listed from January 2002 to May 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 May 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.

The May 2009 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 63, no. 5 (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

May 2009

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

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

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

The May 2009 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 63, no. 5 (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 the Marketing and Client Services Section (toll-free 1-800-294-5583), International Trade Division. ■

Cement

May 2009

Data on cement are now available for May.

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (toll-free 1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.gc.ca*), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products

Survey Methodology, June 2009, Vol. 35, no. 1
Catalogue number 12-001-X (Print, $30/$58)

Surveying and Mapping Services, 2007
Catalogue number 63-254-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade,
May 2009, Vol. 63, no. 5
Catalogue number 65-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Labour Force Information, June 14 to 20, 2009
Catalogue number 71-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2006: Public Use Microdata File (Adults)
Catalogue number 89M0026X (CD-ROM, $75)

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
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2006 Census profiles

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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Release dates: July 13 to 17, 2009

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
13	**University enrolments**	2007/2008
14	**New motor vehicle sales**	May 2009
15	**Monthly Survey of Manufacturing**	May 2009
16	**Canadian Economic Observer**	July 2009
16	**Travel between Canada and other countries**	May 2009
17	**Consumer Price Index**	June 2009
17	**Leading indicators**	June 2009