

# The Daily

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## Statistics Canada

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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**Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2010** 2

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Canadian industries operated at 70.9% of their production capacity in the fourth quarter, up from 68.7% in the third quarter. Following a marginal gain of 0.2 percentage points in the third quarter, the gain in the fourth quarter was the first sizeable increase in overall capacity use since the first quarter of 2007.

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## Releases

### Canadian international merchandise trade

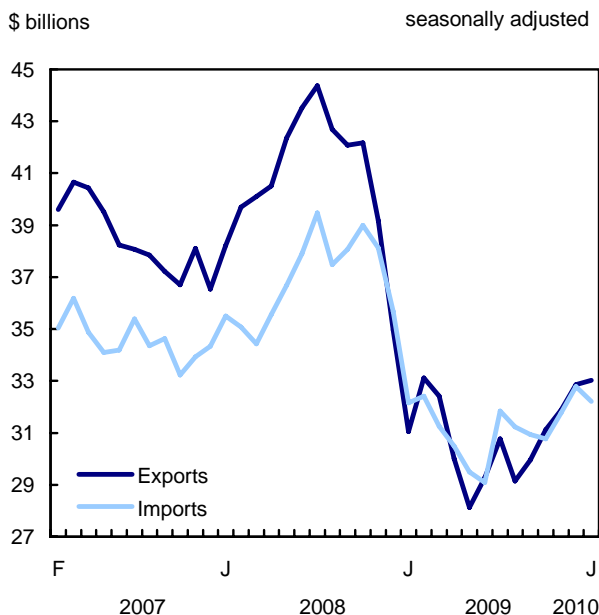
January 2010

Canada's merchandise exports grew 0.5% in January, a slower pace than in the previous four months, while imports declined 1.7%. As a result, Canada posted a trade surplus with the world of \$799 million in January compared with a surplus of \$75 million in December.

Exports increased to \$33.0 billion from \$32.9 billion in December, as prices increased 0.8% while volumes fell 0.3%.

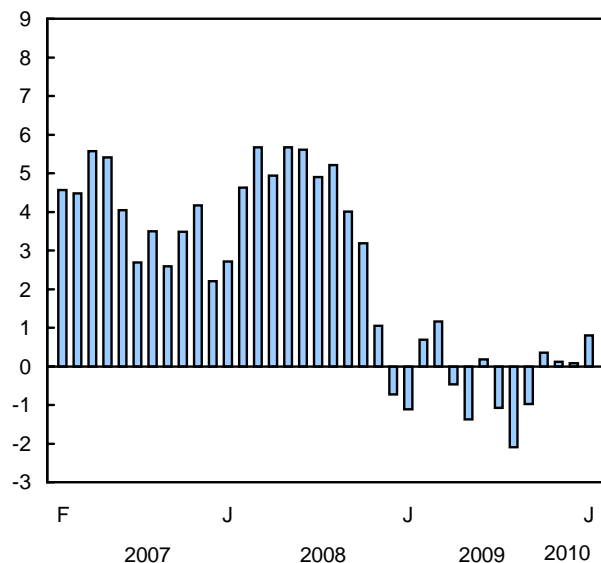
Although exports have been increasing for five consecutive months, the pace of growth slowed in January as declines in automotive products and machinery and equipment nearly offset gains in industrial goods and materials, and other consumer goods.

#### Exports and imports



**Trade balance**

\$ billions seasonally adjusted

**Modest growth in exports**

Exports of industrial goods and materials increased 4.8% to \$7.3 billion, halting two consecutive months of decline. Higher export volumes of metals and alloys followed by chemicals, plastics and fertilizers were the main contributors to the gain.

Metals and alloys grew 8.4% on the strength of precious metals, primarily gold, as well as aluminum and alloys. Also contributing to the growth, chemicals, plastics and fertilizers increased 8.9% largely due to higher exports of fertilizers, and synthetic rubber and plastics. In contrast, exports of metal ores, particularly iron ores and copper ores, declined 17.9% as volumes fell 25.6%.

Exports of other consumer goods increased 9.0% to \$1.5 billion, partially offsetting the decline posted in December. This sector includes items such as apparel, footwear, toys, medicinal and pharmaceutical products. The January increase was the largest percentage gain in this sector since December 2008.

Automotive products exports fell 4.1% to \$4.3 billion as volumes declined 4.0%. Exports of passenger autos were down 8.9% as some auto manufacturers extended plant shutdowns well into January. Exports of motor vehicle parts, up 6.9%, moderated the decrease.

Machinery and equipment exports fell 1.5% to \$6.1 billion, as a result of lower exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment. Excluding aircraft and other transportation equipment, exports of machinery and equipment would have grown 1.5%. In contrast,

exports of telecommunication equipment increased after declining for two consecutive months.

**Widespread declines in imports**

Imports of machinery and equipment decreased 2.4% to \$8.4 billion. Office machines, down 6.3%, led the decline followed by aircraft, excavating machinery and other industrial machinery. Meanwhile, other communication and related equipment increased 4.1%, mitigating the drop in the sector. The sector has posted declines in five out of the previous six months.

Other consumer goods imports fell 4.0% to \$4.7 billion largely as a result of a 3.4% decline in volumes. Widespread decreases throughout the sector were led by miscellaneous end products, such as medicinal and pharmaceutical products.

Following three months of growth, imports of energy products decreased 5.6% to \$3.3 billion. The decline was the result of volumes falling 4.9%. Imports of crude petroleum were down 16.2% as volumes fell 21.2%, following a strong gain in December. Prices of crude petroleum, on an upward trend since January 2009, increased 6.2%. Meanwhile, imports of other energy products grew 17.8%, reflecting higher volumes of natural gas.

**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.**

These data are available in the January 2010 *Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database*, (updated) Vol. 64, no. 1 (65F0013X, free). From the *Key resource* module of our website choose *Publications*.

The January 2010 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 64, no. 1 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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).

Data on Canadian International Merchandise Trade for February will be released on April 13.

The Canadian International Merchandise Trade annual review for 2009 will be released on April 6.

For more information contact Sharon Nevins (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9798; [trade@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:trade@statcan.gc.ca)). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mychèle Gagnon (613-951-0994), International Trade Division.

## Merchandise trade

	January 2009 <sup>r</sup>	December 2009 <sup>r</sup>	January 2010	December 2009 to January 2010	January 2009 to January 2010
Seasonally adjusted, \$ current					
	\$ millions		% change		
<b>Principal trading partners</b>					
<b>Exports</b>					
United States	22,822	24,833	24,678	-0.6	8.1
Japan	854	675	792	17.3	-7.3
European Union <sup>1</sup>	2,842	2,711	2,726	0.6	-4.1
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	1,248	1,327	1,467	10.6	17.5
All other countries	3,285	3,319	3,356	1.1	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,051</b>	<b>32,865</b>	<b>33,018</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>Imports</b>					
United States	19,818	20,634	20,540	-0.5	3.6
Japan	1,081	787	731	-7.1	-32.4
European Union <sup>1</sup>	3,419	3,524	3,022	-14.2	-11.6
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	2,151	2,458	2,393	-2.6	11.3
All other countries	5,691	5,387	5,533	2.7	-2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,160</b>	<b>32,790</b>	<b>32,219</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Balance</b>					
United States	3,004	4,199	4,138	...	...
Japan	-227	-112	61	...	...
European Union <sup>1</sup>	-577	-813	-296	...	...
Other OECD countries <sup>2</sup>	-903	-1,131	-926	...	...
All other countries	-2,406	-2,068	-2,177	...	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1,109</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Principal commodity groupings</b>					
<b>Exports</b>					
Agricultural and fishing products	3,311	2,878	2,959	2.8	-10.6
Energy products	6,435	8,466	8,519	0.6	32.4
Forestry products	1,745	1,628	1,636	0.5	-6.2
Industrial goods and materials	6,607	6,978	7,310	4.8	10.6
Machinery and equipment	7,515	6,181	6,087	-1.5	-19.0
Automotive products	2,764	4,470	4,286	-4.1	55.1
Other consumer goods	1,565	1,334	1,454	9.0	-7.1
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	627	507	318	-37.3	-49.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	482	423	450	6.4	-6.6
<b>Imports</b>					
Agricultural and fishing products	2,564	2,393	2,360	-1.4	-8.0
Energy products	2,840	3,449	3,257	-5.6	14.7
Forestry products	218	199	204	2.5	-6.4
Industrial goods and materials	6,696	6,389	6,384	-0.1	-4.7
Machinery and equipment	9,765	8,595	8,387	-2.4	-14.1
Automotive products	3,872	5,795	5,779	-0.3	49.3
Other consumer goods	5,025	4,865	4,671	-4.0	-7.0
Special transactions trade <sup>3</sup>	494	402	422	5.0	-14.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	687	703	756	7.5	10.0

<sup>r</sup> revised

... not applicable

1. The European Union 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.

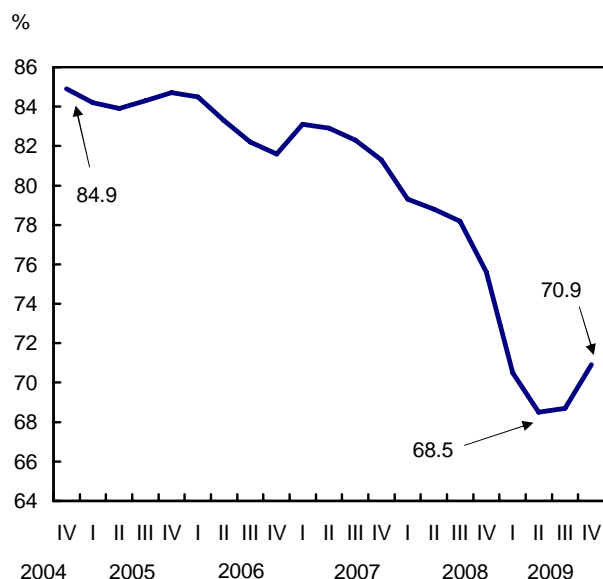
**Note:** Totals may not equal the sum of their components.

## Industrial capacity utilization rates

Fourth quarter 2009

Canadian industries operated at 70.9% of their production capacity in the fourth quarter, up from 68.7% in the third quarter. Following a marginal gain of 0.2 percentage points in the third quarter, the gain in the fourth quarter was the first sizeable increase in overall capacity use since the first quarter of 2007.

### First sizeable gain in capacity use in three years



In the manufacturing industries, capacity use rose from 67.7% to 69.7%. This was the second consecutive increase after nine quarters of decline.

However, capacity use for manufacturers remained 3.8 percentage points lower than the rate of 73.5% in the fourth quarter of 2008. It was also well below the most recent peak of 84.9% in the first quarter of 2006.

All non-manufacturing sectors posted sizeable gains in capacity use in the fourth quarter, following widespread declines in the third quarter. Two sectors (forestry and logging, and mining) led the growth.

### Second consecutive quarterly increase in manufacturing

Of the 21 major manufacturing industries, 13 posted higher capacity use in the fourth quarter.

Four industries were major contributors to the higher rate for total manufacturing: transportation equipment; primary metal; paper; and chemical manufacturing.

#### Note to readers

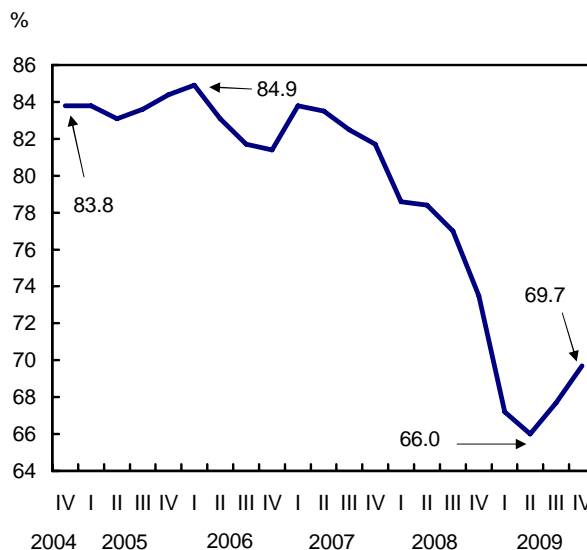
The industrial capacity utilization rate is the ratio of an industry's actual output to its estimated potential output. The measures of actual output used in the production of the rates of capacity use are the measures of real gross domestic product at factor cost, seasonally adjusted, by industry.

For this release, rates have been revised back to the first quarter of 2007 to reflect the revised source data.

Capacity use in the transportation equipment industry rose from 55.9% to 59.7%, the highest rate since the third quarter of 2008. Manufacturers of motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts were largely responsible for the 4.1% increase in output for this industry.

Primary metal manufacturers used 75.6% of their production capacity in the fourth quarter, up from 67.3% in the third quarter. This 8.3 percentage-point increase halted four consecutive quarterly declines. Production of primary metal increased 7.4%, largely on the strength of iron and steel mills and ferro-alloy production, and non-ferrous metal (except aluminum) production and processing.

### Second consecutive quarterly increase in manufacturing



In the paper manufacturing industry, the utilization rate rose from 77.5% to 83.5%. This reflected the first gain in output after 19 consecutive quarterly declines.

The chemical manufacturing industry operated at 75.7% of its capacity in the fourth quarter, up from 72.8%. The main contributing factor was higher

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production by resin, synthetic rubber, and artificial and synthetic fibres and filaments manufacturers, as well as by pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturers.

Food manufacturers reduced their capacity use by 0.9 percentage points to 80.0% in the fourth quarter. The decline was mostly the result of lower production by bakeries and tortilla manufacturers, and by grain and oilseed mills.

**Non-manufacturing: Higher rates posted by all sectors**

In the non-manufacturing group, capacity use rebounded in all sectors in the fourth quarter following widespread declines in the third quarter.

In oil and gas extraction, increasing demand led to higher production of crude petroleum in the fourth quarter, more than offsetting lower output in natural gas facilities. As a result, the utilization rate rose from 76.2% to 78.0%.

In mining, capacity use advanced from 50.7% to 57.6%. A significant increase in the output of support activities played an important role in the gain.

In the construction sector, the utilization rate settled at 70.2% in the fourth quarter, up from 69.1%

the previous quarter. However, the rate was still 6.5 percentage points lower than in the fourth quarter of 2008. The major contributing factor to fourth-quarter growth in this sector's output was a large increase in residential building construction activity.

The forestry and logging sector operated at 75.5% of its capacity in the fourth quarter, up from 64.5% the previous quarter. This 11 percentage-point increase was the largest quarterly gain since the second quarter of 2002. Robust growth in residential construction was a key factor to the 13.3% increase in the production of this sector.

**Available on CANSIM: table 028-0002.**

**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2821.**

Data on industrial capacity utilization rates for the first quarter of 2010 will be released on June 11.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Xiang Zhou (613-951-0457; [xiang.zhou@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:xiang.zhou@statcan.gc.ca)), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

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## Industrial capacity utilization rates

	Fourth quarter 2008 <sup>r</sup>	Third quarter 2009 <sup>r</sup>	Fourth quarter 2009	Third quarter to fourth quarter 2009	Fourth quarter 2008 to fourth quarter 2009
	utilization rate			percentage point change	
<b>Total industrial</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>-4.7</b>
Forestry and logging	76.7	64.5	75.5	11.0	-1.2
Mining and oil and gas extraction	77.0	68.2	71.6	3.4	-5.4
Oil and gas extraction	77.9	76.2	78.0	1.8	0.1
Mining	74.9	50.7	57.6	6.9	-17.3
Electric power generation, transmission and distribution	83.1	76.4	78.4	2.0	-4.7
Construction	76.7	69.1	70.2	1.1	-6.5
Manufacturing	73.5	67.7	69.7	2.0	-3.8
Food	79.5	80.9	80.0	-0.9	0.5
Beverage and tobacco products	67.1	62.8	66.0	3.2	-1.1
Beverage	67.2	61.0	63.3	2.3	-3.9
Tobacco	66.3	74.3	82.7	8.4	16.4
Textile mills	72.4	67.3	67.0	-0.3	-5.4
Textile product mills	77.4	62.4	65.7	3.3	-11.7
Clothing	72.8	58.9	54.2	-4.7	-18.6
Leather and allied products	67.9	60.8	58.1	-2.7	-9.8
Wood products	66.5	62.9	64.5	1.6	-2.0
Paper	84.0	77.5	83.5	6.0	-0.5
Printing and related support activities	70.3	63.1	64.5	1.4	-5.8
Petroleum and coal products	75.1	74.1	75.1	1.0	0.0
Chemical	75.0	72.8	75.7	2.9	0.7
Plastics and rubber products	69.3	65.0	66.5	1.5	-2.8
Plastic products	68.5	65.0	66.1	1.1	-2.4
Rubber products	72.6	64.8	68.4	3.6	-4.2
Non-metallic mineral products	77.0	69.0	68.1	-0.9	-8.9
Primary metal	83.1	67.3	75.6	8.3	-7.5
Fabricated metal products	74.3	63.3	64.7	1.4	-9.6
Machinery	79.6	63.9	63.6	-0.3	-16.0
Computer and electronic products	89.9	84.7	85.1	0.4	-4.8
Electrical equipment, appliance and component	87.7	76.9	76.6	-0.3	-11.1
Transportation equipment	59.3	55.9	59.7	3.8	0.4
Furniture and related products	78.0	77.1	77.8	0.7	-0.2
Miscellaneous manufacturing	87.9	82.6	81.1	-1.5	-6.8

<sup>r</sup> revised

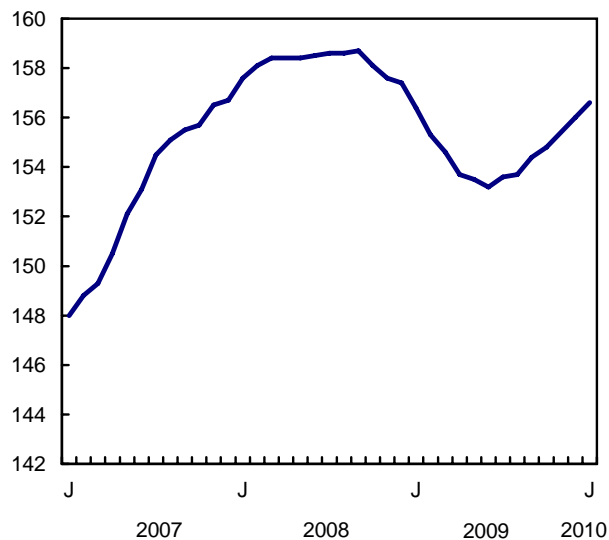
## New Housing Price Index

January 2010

The New Housing Price Index rose 0.4% in January, registering the same month-over-month growth rate for the third consecutive month.

### Evolution of the New Housing Price Index

index (1997=100)



Between December and January, prices rose the most in St. John's (+1.7%), followed by Winnipeg (+0.7%), and Toronto and Oshawa (+0.6%). Ottawa-Gatineau, Saskatoon and Calgary all registered 0.5% increases.

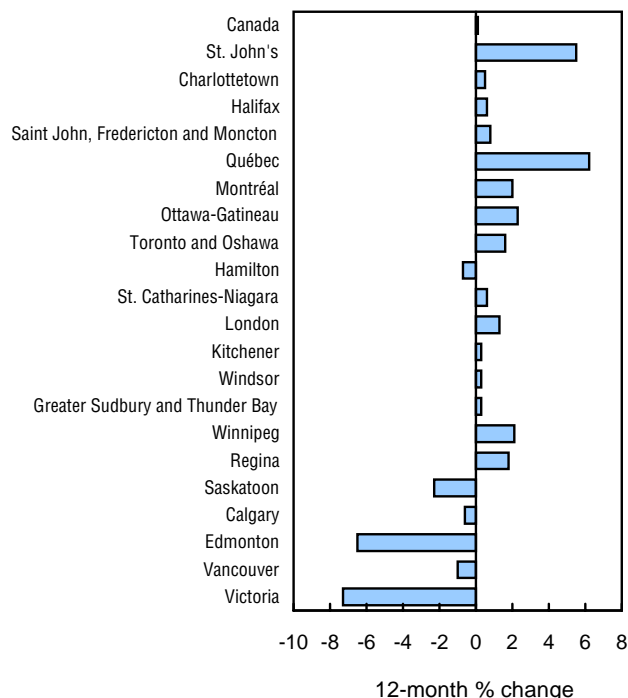
In St. John's, prices rose as builders reported new 2010 list prices as well as increased labour costs. In Winnipeg and in Toronto and Oshawa, the increase in prices was primarily attributed to higher list prices introduced in the new year.

Builders in Ottawa-Gatineau as well as in Toronto and Oshawa continued reporting good market conditions.

The largest monthly decrease in new housing prices was recorded in St. Catharines-Niagara (-0.4%). Monthly declines were also observed in Charlottetown (-0.2%) as well as in Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton (-0.2%). Lower negotiated selling prices reported by builders mostly explain the decreases in prices in January.

Year over year, the New Housing Price Index was up 0.1% in January, compared with a 0.9% decline in December 2009. This was the first year-over-year increase since December 2008, mostly as a result of price decreases in Western Canada that were less pronounced this January than in previous months.

### Québec and St. John's contribute to the 12-month increase in the New Housing Price Index



The largest year-over-year increase was recorded in Québec (+6.2%) followed by St. John's (+5.5%). Higher residential land values remain the primary reason for the increases in both metropolitan areas.

Compared with January 2009, contractors' selling prices were also higher in Ottawa-Gatineau, Winnipeg, Montréal, Regina as well as Toronto and Oshawa.

On the Prairies, 12-month declines were recorded in Edmonton (-6.5%), Saskatoon (-2.3%) and Calgary (-0.6%).

Year-over-year declines were also reported in Victoria (-7.3%) and Vancouver (-1.0%).

Declines slowed in most of Western Canada's metropolitan regions as new housing prices were returning to the price levels observed prior to the highs registered at the end of 2007 and the beginning of 2008.



Available on CANSIM: table 327-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2310.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Client Services (613-951-4550; toll-free 1-888-951-4550; fax: 613-951-3117; [ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:ppd-info-dpp@statcan.gc.ca)), Producer Prices Division.

## New housing price indexes

	2010	January 2009	December 2009	January 2010	December 2009 to January 2010	January 2009 to January 2010
	Relative Importance <sup>1</sup>	(1997=100)			% change	
<b>Canada total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>156.4</b>	<b>156.0</b>	<b>156.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>
House only	...	164.4	164.9	165.8	0.5	0.9
Land only	...	140.2	137.8	137.9	0.1	-1.6
St. John's	1.20	179.1	185.7	188.9	1.7	5.5
Charlottetown	0.31	119.6	120.4	120.2	-0.2	0.5
Halifax	1.22	150.4	151.1	151.3	0.1	0.6
Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton <sup>2</sup>	0.88	119.9	121.1	120.9	-0.2	0.8
Québec	2.46	160.4	170.4	170.4	0.0	6.2
Montréal	10.11	163.9	167.1	167.2	0.1	2.0
Ottawa-Gatineau	4.71	169.6	172.7	173.5	0.5	2.3
Toronto and Oshawa <sup>2</sup>	33.99	146.5	148.0	148.9	0.6	1.6
Hamilton	2.96	152.3	151.0	151.3	0.2	-0.7
St. Catharines-Niagara	0.96	155.9	157.4	156.8	-0.4	0.6
London	1.91	143.3	145.1	145.1	0.0	1.3
Kitchener	2.17	143.2	143.8	143.7	-0.1	0.3
Windsor	0.65	103.7	104.0	104.0	0.0	0.3
Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay <sup>2</sup>	0.85	112.7	112.6	113.0	0.4	0.3
Winnipeg	1.62	181.4	184.1	185.3	0.7	2.1
Regina	0.59	248.7	253.1	253.1	0.0	1.8
Saskatoon	0.81	219.8	213.7	214.8	0.5	-2.3
Calgary	7.88	235.7	233.2	234.4	0.5	-0.6
Edmonton	8.29	222.3	207.3	207.9	0.3	-6.5
Vancouver	14.39	119.7	118.0	118.5	0.4	-1.0
Victoria	2.04	114.3	106.1	106.0	-0.1	-7.3

... not applicable

1. The relative importance is calculated using a price adjusted three-year average of the value of building completions for each metropolitan area.

2. In order to ensure data confidentiality, the following Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomeration are grouped together as follows: Saint John, Fredericton and Moncton; Toronto and Oshawa; and Greater Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

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

## Quarterly Trucking Survey

Third quarter 2009

Trucking companies earned operating revenue of \$9.0 billion in the third quarter. With operating expenses of \$8.0 billion, these businesses realized operating profits of just over \$1.0 billion. This corresponds to an operating ratio (operating expenses divided by operating revenue) of 0.888, where a ratio greater than 1.000 represents an operating loss.

The trucking industry is dominated by Ontario with 37% of all trucking companies, accounting for 33% of total revenue, located in that province. Quebec was the second-ranked province with 20% of revenue, followed by Alberta (18%) and British Columbia (11%). New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan each accounted for about 5% of total revenue.

**Note:** The Quarterly Trucking Survey replaces the Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight Survey, which was discontinued following the release of data for the fourth quarter of 2008. The data from the two surveys are not strictly comparable due to the expanded coverage of the Quarterly Trucking Survey, which covers all businesses with annual revenue from trucking establishments of \$30,000 or more. The Quarterly Motor Carriers of Freight survey covered only for-hire carriers with annual revenue of \$1 million or more.

Users who would still like to compare these two surveys should contact Denis Pilon (613-951-2707; [denis.pilon@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:denis.pilon@statcan.gc.ca)) or Ed Hamilton (613-951-6153; [ed.hamilton@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:ed.hamilton@statcan.gc.ca)) for additional information.

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**Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2748.**

For more information, to order data tables, 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**

January 2010

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 January 2010 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 January 2010. 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**

January 2010

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

**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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## New products and studies

Canadian International Merchandise Trade,  
January 2010, Vol. 64, no. 1  
Catalogue number 65-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette; -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc; -XVB or -XVE are electronic versions on DVD and -XBB or -XBE a database.

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