

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade: Annual review 2009

Canada's international merchandise trade was significantly affected by the decline of the global economy in 2009. The largest decreases in exports and imports occurred mostly in the first quarter of the year. Canada exported \$369.7 billion of merchandise to the world, down 24.5% from 2008. During the same period, imports fell 15.5% to \$374.2 billion.

As a result, the trade balance went from a surplus of \$46.9 billion in 2008 to a deficit of \$4.5 billion in 2009, the first deficit since 1975. Canada's trade balance with the world has been declining since 2004.

The nation's trade surplus with the United States fell from \$89.1 billion in 2008 to \$34.8 billion in 2009, the lowest level since 1997, while the trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed to \$39.3 billion in 2009 from \$42.2 billion in 2008.

Canada's trade with the United States continues to decline

In 2009, the United States represented 63.0% of Canada's total merchandise trade (exports and imports combined), down from 65.7% in 2008 and 71.1% in 2005.

Exports to the United States declined 28.2% to \$269.5 billion, led by falling prices of energy products and lower demand for automotive products. Imports fell 17.8% to \$186.7 billion, reflecting the weakness of automotive product imports.

For the first time, countries other than the United States accounted for one quarter of Canada's exports, up from 16.2% in 2005. The rise in the share occurred despite exports to these countries declining 16.9% in 2009.

Canada's exports to Europe fell 18.9% to \$32.3 billion. While the decrease was widespread across the continent, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium Germany and the United Kingdom accounted for almost 60% of the drop. Contributing to the decline were lower exports of nickel ores to Norway and the United Kingdom, as well as lower exports of petroleum and coal to France and the Netherlands. In contrast, an

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 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.

Data on total trade and trade balances are presented on a balance of payment basis, while the country data are presented on a customs basis. Constant dollars are calculated using the Laspeyres volume formula.

Revisions

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.

increase in exports of precious metals, mainly gold, to the United Kingdom moderated the overall decline in Canada's exports to Europe.

China replaced Japan as Canada's third largest country of destination, behind the United States and the United Kingdom. Exports to China, which have been growing for the past seven years, increased 6.6% to \$11.2 billion, fuelled by strong exports of canola, iron ores as well as coal and other bituminous substances. Canada's exports to Japan declined by 25.0% to their lowest level since 2003.

Similarly, imports from countries other than the United States fell for the first time in eight years. Even with the declines, the share of imports from these countries rose to 48.8% in 2009 from 43.5% in 2005.

Imports from Europe declined to \$55.5 billion, largely due to a drop in imports of crude petroleum from the United Kingdom and Norway.

Canada imported \$39.7 billion worth of merchandise from China, down 7.0% from 2008. The decrease mainly resulted from lower imports of computers as well as games and toys. Softening the fall were gains in imports of telecommunication equipment.

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 publication *International Merchandise Trade Annual Review, 2009* (65-208-X, free), is now available online from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for February will be released on April 13.

For more information, contact Sharon Nevins (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9798; 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

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 to 2009 | 2008 to 2009 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| \$ current, on a customs basis | | | | | | | |
| | \$ millions | | | | | % change | |
| Largest trading partners | | | | | | | |
| Exports | | | | | | | |
| United States | 365,741 | 359,135 | 355,610 | 375,480 | 269,515 | -26.3 | -28.2 |
| United Kingdom | 8,256 | 10,137 | 12,798 | 13,020 | 12,100 | 46.6 | -7.1 |
| China | 7,214 | 7,802 | 9,512 | 10,473 | 11,160 | 54.7 | 6.6 |
| Japan | 9,169 | 9,420 | 9,223 | 11,092 | 8,314 | -9.3 | -25.0 |
| Mexico | 3,366 | 4,376 | 4,962 | 5,844 | 4,806 | 42.8 | -17.8 |
| All other countries | 42,606 | 49,495 | 58,308 | 67,672 | 53,489 | 25.5 | -21.0 |
| Total | 436,351 | 440,365 | 450,413 | 483,579 | 359,384 | -17.6 | -25.7 |
| Imports | | | | | | | |
| United States | 215,155 | 217,845 | 220,903 | 227,285 | 186,729 | -13.2 | -17.8 |
| China | 29,516 | 34,508 | 38,309 | 42,623 | 39,655 | 34.3 | -7.0 |
| Mexico | 14,595 | 16,019 | 17,179 | 17,917 | 16,527 | 13.2 | -7.8 |
| Japan | 14,801 | 15,327 | 15,458 | 15,288 | 12,350 | -16.6 | -19.2 |
| Germany | 10,272 | 11,165 | 11,532 | 12,712 | 10,661 | 3.8 | -16.1 |
| All other countries | 96,519 | 102,181 | 103,891 | 118,151 | 99,104 | 2.7 | -16.1 |
| Total | 380,858 | 397,044 | 407,272 | 433,976 | 365,024 | -4.2 | -15.9 |

Coal and coke statistics

January 2010

Data on coal and coke are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: tables 135-0001 and 135-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2003 and 2147.

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; energ@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Coal mining

2008

Data on coal mining are now available for 2008.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2177.

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; energ@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

Electric power statistics

January 2010

Data on electric power are now available for January.

Available on CANSIM: tables 127-0002 and 127-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

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; energ@statcan.gc.ca), Manufacturing and Energy Division. ■

New products and studies

International Merchandise Trade Annual Review, 2009
Catalogue number 65-208-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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

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