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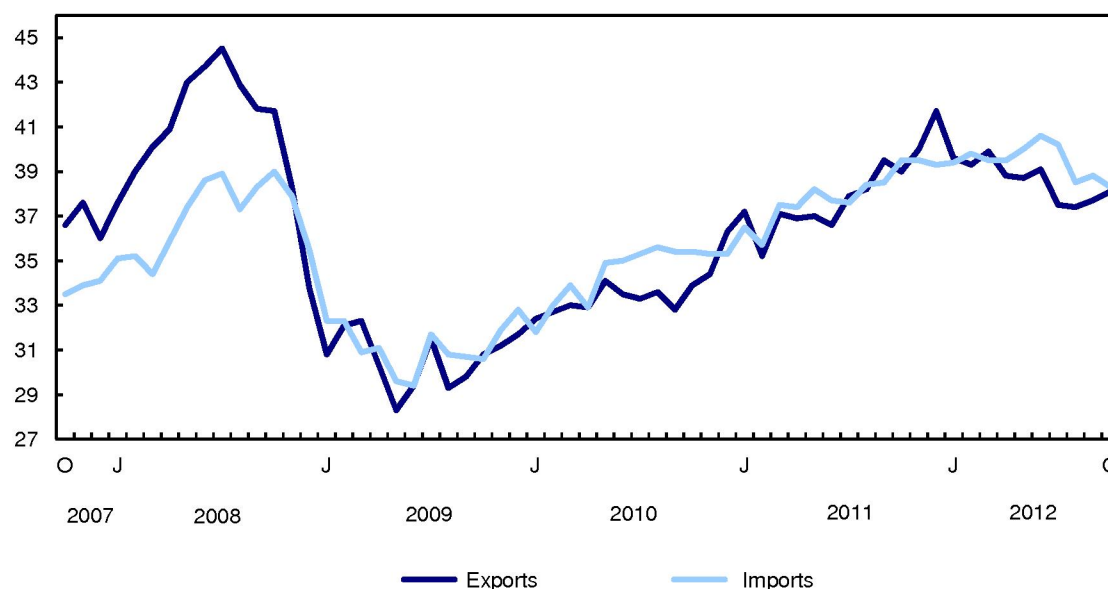
Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, October 2012

Canada's merchandise imports declined 1.2% while exports increased 1.0% in October. As a result, Canada's trade deficit with the world narrowed from \$1.0 billion in September to \$169 million in October.

Chart 1 Exports and imports

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Imports declined to \$38.3 billion, a 5.7% drop since reaching a record high in June 2012. Volumes were down 1.8% in October, as widespread decreases were recorded.

Exports increased to \$38.1 billion in October, as both prices and volumes were up. Exports of farm, fishing and intermediate food products led the gains in exports while metal ores and non-metallic minerals recorded the largest decline.

Imports from the United States rose 1.6% to \$24.6 billion and exports edged down 0.2% to \$27.4 billion. Consequently, Canada's trade surplus with the United States decreased from \$3.2 billion in September to \$2.8 billion in October.

Imports from countries other than the United States fell 5.8% to \$13.7 billion. Exports rose 4.2% to \$10.7 billion, mainly on higher exports of farm, fishing and intermediate food products. Consequently, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States declined from \$4.2 billion in September to \$2.9 billion in October.

Widespread decreases in import volumes

Imports of basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products fell 8.4% to \$3.0 billion in October. A 39.4% decline in import volumes of lubricants and other petroleum refinery products largely contributed to the overall decrease.

Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products declined 5.7% to \$3.4 billion in October. Unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys, down 11.0%, was the main factor behind the decrease as volumes fell 14.2%.

Imports of electronic and electrical equipment and parts declined 3.1% to \$4.3 billion in October, a fourth consecutive monthly decrease. Widespread decreases were registered throughout the section with communications and audio and video equipment (-8.5%) posting the largest decline.

Imports of consumer goods increased 1.6% to \$7.7 billion in October, as volumes rose. Imports of pharmaceutical and medicinal products, up 10.8% to \$1.2 billion, led the overall increase.

Farm, fishing and intermediate food products lead the gains in exports

In October, exports of farm, fishing and intermediate food products reached a record high of \$2.8 billion, up 18.3%. This was the fourth consecutive monthly increase. In October, strong gains were recorded in exports of other crop products, mainly soybeans, as well as canola. Farm, fishing and intermediate food products volumes rose 15.8%.

Exports of energy products increased 3.0% to \$8.4 billion in October, as prices rose 4.0%. This was the third consecutive monthly increase. Exports of crude oil and crude bitumen led the gain, up 5.0% to \$6.0 billion, as both prices and volumes increased.

Exports of metal and non-metallic mineral products grew 5.1% to \$4.6 billion, as volumes increased 10.9%. Leading the overall gain were higher exports of unwrought nickel and nickel alloys, up 47.6%. Recording its first gain in eight months, unwrought, basic and semi-finished aluminum and aluminum alloy products also contributed to the increase.

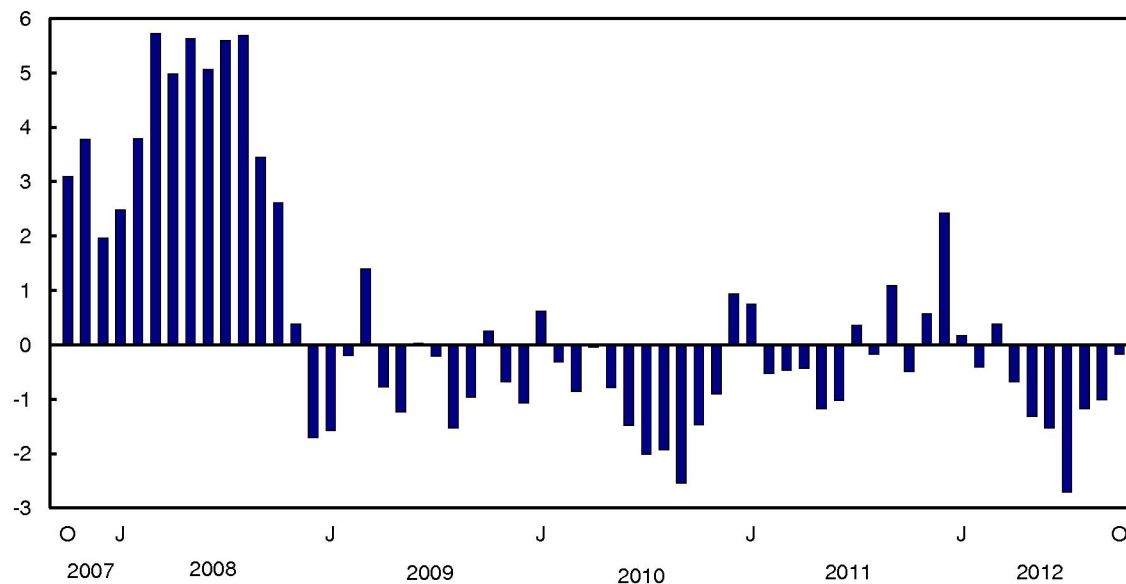
Exports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals fell 21.9% to \$1.3 billion in October. Exports of iron ores and concentrates (-51.7%) and copper ores and concentrates (-37.7%) were the main contributors to the decrease. The overall decline was entirely the result of lower volumes.

Exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts also declined, down 10.8% to \$1.5 billion, on lower volumes. Exports of aircraft fell 26.3% in October.

Chart 2

Trade balance

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of Canada's international balance of payments (BOP), 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 BOP 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. BOP data are derived from customs data by making adjustments for factors 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 in this release are on a BOP basis, seasonally adjusted and in current dollars. Constant dollars are calculated using the Laspeyres volume formula (2007=100).

For more information on seasonal adjustment, see Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends.

Revisions

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 BOP based data.

The previous year's customs data are revised with the release of the January and February reference months as well as on a quarterly basis. The previous two years of customs based data are revised annually and are released in February with the December reference month.

The previous year's BOP based data are revised with the release of the January, February and March reference months. Revisions to BOP based data for the previous three years are released annually in June with the April reference month.

Factors influencing revisions include late receipt of import and export documentation, incorrect information on customs forms, replacement of estimates produced for the energy sector 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, free of charge.

Table 1
Merchandise trade: Principal trading areas – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	October 2011	September 2012 ^r	October 2012	September to October 2012	October 2011 to October 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	38,984	37,739	38,114	1.0	-2.2
United States	28,464	27,421	27,366	-0.2	-3.9
Japan	852	1,104	846	-23.4	-0.7
European Union ¹	3,261	3,411	3,566	4.6	9.4
Other OECD countries ²	1,854	1,441	1,466	1.7	-20.9
All other countries	4,553	4,363	4,870	11.6	7.0
Total imports	39,480	38,753	38,282	-1.2	-3.0
United States	24,534	24,214	24,593	1.6	0.2
Japan	879	876	830	-5.3	-5.7
European Union ¹	3,768	3,727	3,308	-11.3	-12.2
Other OECD countries ²	2,725	3,158	2,532	-19.8	-7.1
All other countries	7,574	6,777	7,020	3.6	-7.3
Trade balance	-496	-1,014	-169	...	...
United States	3,931	3,206	2,772	...	...
Japan	-28	228	16	...	...
European Union ¹	-507	-316	259	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-871	-1,717	-1,066	...	...
All other countries	-3,021	-2,415	-2,150	...	...

^r 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 the United Kingdom.

2. Other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) include Australia, Canada, Chile, Iceland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey.

Note(s): Totals may not equal the sum of their components.

Table 2**Merchandise trade: North American Product Classification – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars**

	October 2011	September 2012 ^r	October 2012	September to October 2012	October 2011 to October 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	38,984	37,739	38,114	1.0	-2.2
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,327	2,351	2,780	18.3	19.4
Energy products	8,817	8,161	8,402	3.0	-4.7
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,668	1,690	1,319	-21.9	-20.9
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	4,838	4,332	4,554	5.1	-5.9
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,940	2,657	2,511	-5.5	-14.6
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,576	2,515	2,575	2.4	-0.1
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,077	2,175	2,197	1.0	5.8
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	2,023	1,830	1,871	2.3	-7.5
Motor vehicles and parts	5,186	5,692	5,601	-1.6	8.0
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,477	1,686	1,504	-10.8	1.8
Consumer goods	4,287	3,900	3,976	2.0	-7.2
Special transactions trade ¹	170	149	171	14.9	0.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	597	601	651	8.3	9.0
Total imports	39,480	38,753	38,282	-1.2	-3.0
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,034	1,085	1,022	-5.8	-1.1
Energy products	4,116	3,605	3,599	-0.2	-12.5
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	952	905	920	1.7	-3.4
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,916	3,654	3,445	-5.7	-12.0
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,130	3,250	2,975	-8.4	-4.9
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,617	1,651	1,693	2.5	4.7
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	3,649	3,730	3,748	0.5	2.7
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	4,690	4,419	4,283	-3.1	-8.7
Motor vehicles and parts	6,342	6,687	6,599	-1.3	4.1
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,197	998	948	-5.0	-20.7
Consumer goods	7,600	7,558	7,679	1.6	1.0
Special transactions trade ¹	439	406	556	37.0	26.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	799	805	815	1.3	2.0

^r revised

1. These are mainly low valued transactions, value of repairs to equipment, and goods returned to country of origin.

Note(s): Totals may not equal the sum of their components.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0058 to 228-0068.

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

These data are available in the *Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database* (65F0013X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The October 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 10 (65-001-X, free), is also 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 November will be released on January 11, 2013.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Marc Nadeau (613-951-3692), International Trade Division.

Chain Fisher real export and import values, October 2012

The monthly chain Fisher real dollar values (reference year 2007) for Canadian international merchandise trade are now available for October.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0061 and 228-0062.

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

The October 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 10 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for November will be released on January 11, 2013.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Export and import price indexes, October 2012

Current- and fixed-weighted export and import price indexes (2007=100) on a customs or balance of payments basis are now available based on the North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) 2007.

Current- and fixed-weighted import and export price indexes (2007=100) for all countries and the United States on customs basis, by Standard International Trade Classification, are also available.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0063 to 228-0068.

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

The October 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 10 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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Supply and disposition of refined petroleum products, September 2012 (final)

Final data on the supply and disposition of refined petroleum products are now available for September.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 134-0001 to 134-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2150.

The September 2012 issue of *The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada*, Vol. 67, no. 9 (45-004-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Fertilizer Shipments Survey, first quarter 2012/2013

Data from the Fertilizer Shipments Survey are now available for the first quarter of the fertilizer year 2012/2013.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 001-0066 to 001-0069.

Tables 001-0066 to 001-0069: Canadian fertilizer inventories, production, and shipments by product and nutrient content.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5148.

The publication *Fertilizer Shipments Survey*, no. 3 (21-022-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

Fertilizer Shipments Survey, No. 3

Catalogue number 21-022-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

The Supply and Disposition of Refined Petroleum Products in Canada, September 2012, Vol. 67, no. 9

Catalogue number 45-004-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, October 2012, Vol. 66, no. 10

Catalogue number 65-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database, October 2012

Catalogue number 65F0013X (Database, free)



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