

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, February 10, 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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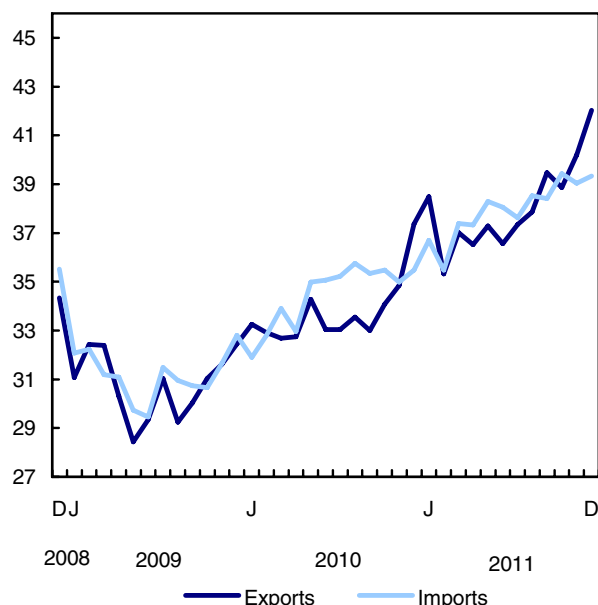
Canadian international merchandise trade

December 2011

Canada's merchandise exports rose 4.5% and imports edged up 0.8%. As a result, Canada's trade surplus rose from \$1.2 billion in November to \$2.7 billion in December.

Exports and imports

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Exports grew to \$42.0 billion in December as volumes increased 4.9%. The value of exports increased in all sectors, led by machinery and equipment. Exports have been trending upwards since July 2011.

Imports increased to \$39.3 billion as volumes rose 1.2%. The increase in the value of imports was mainly a result of industrial goods and materials as well as automotive products.

Exports to the United States rose 5.3% to \$30.2 billion on higher exports of crude petroleum, aircraft and precious metals. Imports increased 2.8% to \$24.7 billion. Both exports and imports posted their highest levels since October 2008. Canada's trade

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 in current dollars. Constant dollars are calculated using the Laspeyres volume formula.

Changes to the classification

Statistics Canada has reduced the number of 10-digit Harmonized Commodity Coding and Description System (HS) classification codes that are used to report the commodity detail in Canada's merchandise import trade data. This will improve efficiency, maintain data quality and reduce response burden.

These changes are in effect as of January 2012 and coincide with the World Customs Organization 2012 amendments to the 6-digit HS classification codes as well as with Finance Canada's changes to the 2012 Customs Tariff at the 8-digit HS codes. To obtain an HS 2012 Concordance Table, contact the International Trade Division's Marketing and Client Services Section (trade@statcan.gc.ca).

surplus with the United States grew from \$4.7 billion in November to \$5.5 billion in December.

Exports to countries other than the United States increased 2.5% to a record high of \$11.8 billion. Imports from countries other than the United States declined 2.6% to \$14.7 billion, a result of lower imports from the European Union. Consequently, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed from \$3.5 billion in November to \$2.9 billion in December, the smallest deficit since December 2010.

Increased exports in all sectors

Exports of machinery and equipment grew 9.2% to \$7.5 billion in December as volumes rose 9.8%. This was the highest level of exports since March 2009. Exports of aircraft, engines and parts, up 25.5% to \$1.3 billion, led the gain. Also contributing to the sector's increase were higher exports of other end products, mainly gold coins.

Exports of industrial goods and materials increased 3.8% to \$10.5 billion in December. The gain was a result of higher volumes. Precious metals and alloys, other fabricated materials, as well as iron ores, concentrates and scrap led the gain in export values.

Exports of automotive products rose 6.7% to \$5.8 billion in December, the highest level since November 2007. Passenger autos and chassis led the overall increase, posting a fourth consecutive monthly gain as a result of higher volumes.

Exports of energy products increased 1.7% to \$10.3 billion, as prices rose while volumes fell. Crude petroleum reached a record high of \$6.9 billion. A decline in exports of natural gas partially offset the overall gains in energy products.

Agricultural and fishing products grew 3.8% to a record high of \$3.8 billion in December. Exports of canola led the increase.

Widespread gains in imports

Imports of industrial goods and materials grew 2.6% to \$8.6 billion in December as prices increased. Metals and metal ores contributed the most to the gain, rising 4.0% on higher imports of precious metals and alloys, primarily gold. Chemicals and plastics increased 3.1% because of higher volumes.

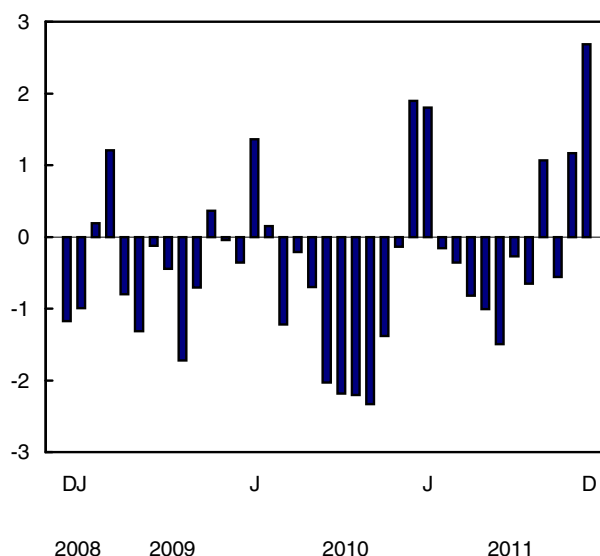
Imports of automotive products rose 3.6% to \$6.0 billion because of higher volumes. Motor vehicle parts, up 5.8%, led the increase. Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles grew 10.3% mostly because of higher imports of trucks and off-highway dump trucks.

Imports of machinery and equipment increased 1.3% to \$10.9 billion in December. Industrial and agricultural machinery, up 4.5%, contributed the most to the sector's gain. Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment were down 8.3%.

Energy products fell 7.5% to \$4.3 billion, the only sector to decrease in December. Volumes declined 8.1%, a second consecutive monthly decrease. Lower imports of crude petroleum led the decline, followed by petroleum and coal products.

Trade balance

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Note: 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 (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.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0057.

The merchandise imports and exports data in the following tables are presented in dollar values.

Tables 228-0001 to 228-0003: Customs and balance of payments basis, by major groups and principal trading areas for all countries; monthly, quarterly and annual.

Table 228-0033: Imports, customs-based, by province of clearance; monthly.

Table 228-0034: Domestic exports, customs-based, by province of origin; monthly.

Tables 228-0041 to 228-0043: Customs and balance of payments basis, by sector and sub-sector, for all countries; monthly, quarterly and annual.

The merchandise imports and exports data in the following tables are indexes (2002=100).

Tables 228-0047 to 228-0049: Balance of payments and customs-based price and volume indexes for all countries; monthly, quarterly and annual.

Tables 228-0050 to 228-0052: Customs-based price indexes, Canada and United States trade, and Standard International Trade Classification (SITC revision 3) price indexes for all countries and United States; monthly, quarterly and annual.

Tables 228-0053 to 228-0055: Price and volume indexes, customs and balance of payments basis, by sector and sub-sector, for all countries; monthly, quarterly and annual.

Tables 228-0056 and 228-0057: Balance of payments basis, by sector, seasonally adjusted, Fisher formula, chained 2002 dollars, for all countries; monthly and quarterly.

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

These data are available in the Canadian international merchandise trade database.

The December 2011 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 65, no. 12 (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 January will be released on March 9.

The 2011 annual review for Canadian international merchandise trade will be released on April 4.

For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca), Communications Division.

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

□

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

	December 2010	November 2011 ^r	December 2011	November to December 2011	December 2010 to December 2011
	millions of dollars			% change	
Principal trading areas					
Exports					
United States	26,301	28,668	30,198	5.3	14.8
Japan	940	921	1,104	19.9	17.4
European Union ¹	3,793	4,135	3,937	-4.8	3.8
Other OECD countries ²	1,700	1,752	1,648	-5.9	-3.1
All other countries	4,631	4,728	5,135	8.6	10.9
Total	37,366	40,203	42,021	4.5	12.5
Imports					
United States	21,972	23,975	24,658	2.8	12.2
Japan	854	882	958	8.6	12.2
European Union ¹	3,690	3,898	3,526	-9.5	-4.4
Other OECD countries ²	2,330	2,826	2,678	-5.2	14.9
All other countries	6,624	7,456	7,515	0.8	13.5
Total	35,471	39,036	39,334	0.8	10.9
Balance					
United States	4,329	4,693	5,540	...	...
Japan	86	39	146	...	...
European Union ¹	103	237	411	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-630	-1,074	-1,030	...	...
All other countries	-1,993	-2,728	-2,380	...	...
Total	1,895	1,167	2,687	...	...

^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 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.

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

Merchandise trade: Principal commodity groupings – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	December 2010	November 2011 ^r	December 2011	November to December 2011	December 2010 to December 2011
	millions of dollars			% change	
Exports					
Agricultural and fishing products	3,490	3,702	3,842	3.8	10.1
Energy products	9,240	10,163	10,339	1.7	11.9
Forestry products	1,998	1,781	1,816	2.0	-9.1
Industrial goods and materials	9,010	10,125	10,508	3.8	16.6
Machinery and equipment	7,003	6,854	7,486	9.2	6.9
Automotive products	4,517	5,394	5,756	6.7	27.4
Other consumer goods	1,338	1,376	1,470	6.8	9.9
Special transactions trade ¹	274	289	291	0.7	6.2
Other balance of payments adjustments	496	521	513	-1.5	3.4
Total	37,366	40,203	42,021	4.5	12.5
Imports					
Agricultural and fishing products	2,592	2,809	2,825	0.6	9.0
Energy products	3,731	4,653	4,302	-7.5	15.3
Forestry products	216	212	230	8.5	6.5
Industrial goods and materials	7,661	8,352	8,567	2.6	11.8
Machinery and equipment	9,741	10,741	10,882	1.3	11.7
Automotive products	5,527	5,828	6,037	3.6	9.2
Other consumer goods	4,864	5,129	5,150	0.4	5.9
Special transactions trade ¹	381	509	487	-4.3	27.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	758	804	855	6.3	12.8
Total	35,471	39,036	39,334	0.8	10.9

^r revised

1. 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.

Crude oil and natural gas: Supply and disposition

November 2011 (preliminary)

Domestic production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons was up 2.4% to 15.2 million cubic metres in November from November 2010.

During this year-long period, crude oil exports rose 11.1%. About 73% of Canada's total domestic production went to the export market in November.

Marketable natural gas production declined 0.8% to 11.7 billion cubic metres in November from the same month in 2010.

From November 2010 to November 2011, domestic sales of natural gas increased 1.7% while natural gas exports fell 2.5%. Exports accounted for about 58% of marketable natural gas production in November.

From October to November, domestic production of crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons decreased 2.4%, while marketable production of natural gas rose 0.4%.

Note: Preliminary data are available on CANSIM at the national level to November 2011 inclusive. At the national and provincial level detailed information is available for crude oil (126-0001) up to September 2011 inclusive, and for natural gas (131-0001) up to December 2010 inclusive.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 126-0001 and 131-0001.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2198.

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.

Crude oil and natural gas: Supply and disposition (key indicators)

	November 2010	October 2011 ^p	November 2011 ^p	October to November 2011	November 2010 to November 2011
	thousands of cubic metres			% change	
Crude oil and equivalent hydrocarbons					
Supply ¹					
Production	14 845.8	15 565.1	15 196.6	-2.4	2.4
Imports ²	3 621.4	3 719.6	3 558.0	-4.3	-1.8
Disposition					
Refinery receipts ³	8 422.6	8 476.4	7 903.5	-6.8	-6.2
Exports	9 939.1	11 286.2	11 041.3	-2.2	11.1
	millions of cubic metres			% change	
Natural gas					
Supply ⁴					
Marketable production ⁵	11 839.8	11 696.4	11 744.6	0.4	-0.8
Imports	2 409.0	2 158.3	2 554.0	18.3	6.0
Disposition					
Domestic sales ⁶	7 143.3	5 805.0	7 261.6	25.1	1.7
Exports	6 985.1	7 363.6	6 812.8	-7.5	-2.5

^P preliminary

1. Disposition may differ from supply because of inventory change, own consumption, losses and adjustments.

2. Data may differ from International Trade Division estimates because of timing and the inclusion of crude oil landed in Canada for future re-export.

3. Volumetric receipts at refineries of all domestic and imported crude oils for refinery processing or storage.

4. Disposition may differ from supply because of inventory change, usage as pipeline fuel, pipeline losses and line-pack fluctuations.

5. Receipts from fields after processing for the removal or partial removal of some constituents and impurities and that meet specifications for residential, commercial and industrial use; and including other adjustments.

6. Domestic sales includes residential, commercial, industrial and direct sales (for example, direct, non-utility, sales for consumption where the utility acts solely as transporter).

Export and import price indexes

December 2011

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 December 2011 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 December 2011. Included with the US commodity indexes are the 10 all-countries and US-only Standard International Trade Classification section indexes.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0047 to 228-0055.

Merchandise imports and exports data in the following tables are indexes (2002=100).

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Tables 228-0053 to 228-0055: Price and volume indexes, customs and balance of payments basis, by sector and sub-sector, for all countries, monthly, quarterly and annual.

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Chain Fisher real export and import values

December 2011

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

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0056 and 228-0057.

Tables 228-0056 and 228-0057: Balance of payments basis, by sector, seasonally adjusted, Fisher formula, chained 2002 dollars, for all countries; monthly and quarterly.

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

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Surveying and mapping services 2010

The 2010 edition of *Service Bulletin: Surveying and Mapping Services*, which contains industry highlights along with financial data including revenues, expenses and operating profit margins, is now available. The publication also includes product information and data by type of client and by geographic region.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 360-0006, 360-0016 and 360-0017.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4715.

The publication *Service Bulletin: Surveying and Mapping Services*, 2010 (63-254-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

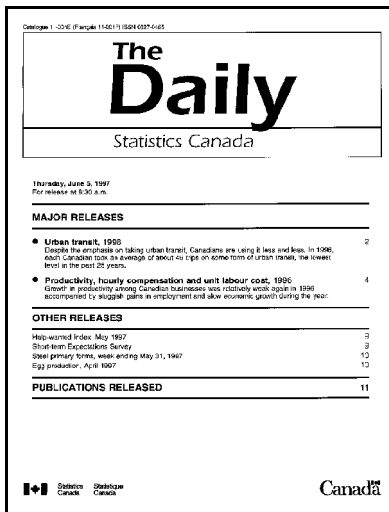
For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-877-801-3282; 613-951-4612; servicesind@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jacob Hadwen (613-951-1250; jacob.hadwen@statcan.gc.ca), Service Industries Division. ■

New products and studies

Surveying and Mapping Services, 2010
Catalogue number 63-254-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade,
December 2011, Vol. 65, no. 12
Catalogue number 65-001-X (PDF, free; HTML, free)

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.



Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-X

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada,
10G, R.H. Coats Building, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access or subscribe to *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>.

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Release dates: February 13 to 17, 2012

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
14	New motor vehicle sales	December 2011
15	Health Reports	February 2012
16	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	December 2011
16	Canada's international transactions in securities	December 2011
17	Employment Insurance	December 2011
17	Consumer Price Index	January 2012
17	Leading indicators	January 2012