

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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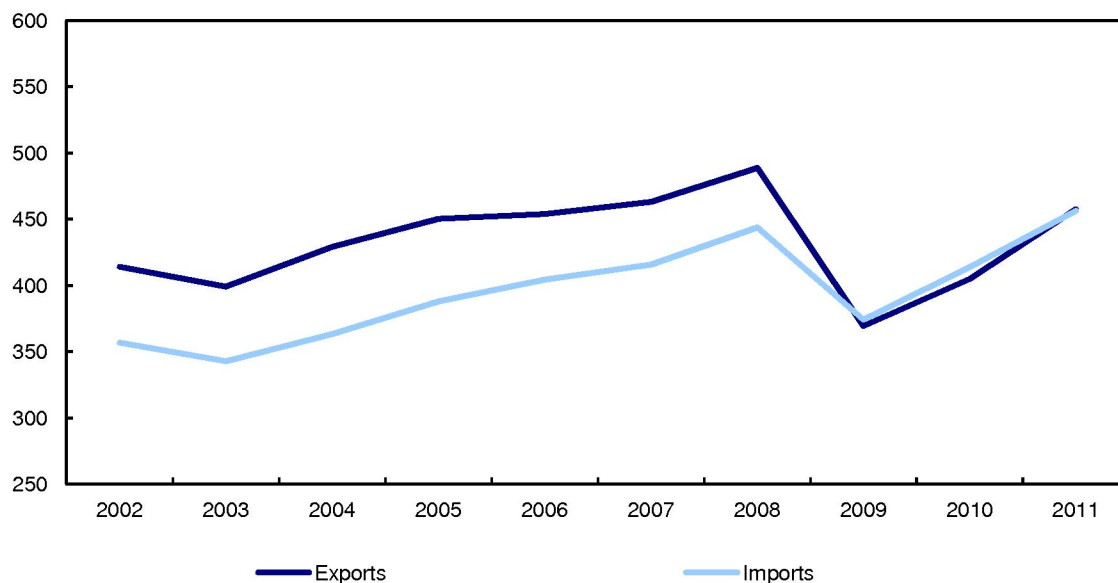
Canadian international merchandise trade: Annual review, 2011

In 2011, Canada's international merchandise trade experienced a second consecutive year of gains, following the large decrease recorded in 2009, bringing Canada's total trade—exports and imports combined—within 2.0% of the record levels posted in 2008. Canada's reliance on the United States as a trading partner continued to decline, as Asia and Europe gained further ground.

Canada's exports totalled \$457.6 billion in 2011, an increase of 13.0% from 2010, as prices rose 8.6%. Imports increased 10.3% from 2010 to \$456.4 billion, mainly on the strength of volumes, which were up 8.3%.

Chart 1 Export and import levels

billions of current dollars



Canada's trade balance went from a deficit of \$9.0 billion in 2010 to a surplus of \$1.2 billion in 2011, marking Canada's first annual trade surplus since 2008.

China and the United Kingdom's share of exports increase

Export levels to the United States in 2011 were just below those recorded a decade earlier, while exports to the United Kingdom and China grew more than four-fold from 2002 to 2011. As a result, the share of exports to the United States has declined whereas the respective shares of exports to the United Kingdom and China have more than tripled.

Exports to the United States increased to \$330.1 billion in 2011, up 10.4% from 2010. Gains were led by crude petroleum exports, which rose 32.3% to a record \$68.4 billion. The United States accounted for 73.7% of total exports in 2011, down from 87.1% in 2002.

Exports to the United Kingdom increased 14.8% in 2011 to a record high of \$18.8 billion. Precious metals and alloys, which represented over 60% of Canadian exports to the United Kingdom in 2011, led the gains.

Exports to China amounted to \$16.8 billion, up 26.9% from 2010. Exports of iron ores and concentrates recorded the largest gains. Wood pulp and similar pulp remained the top export for a second consecutive year.

United States now accounts for less than half of total imports

Between 2002 and 2011, the share of goods imported from the United States declined from 62.6% to 49.5%. In contrast, China's share of imports has shown the largest gains, increasing from 4.6% in 2002 to 10.8% in 2011.

The value of imports from the United States increased 8.6% from 2010 to \$220.8 billion. Gains were led by imports of fuel oils, and other petroleum and coal products, both reaching record highs.

China remained Canada's second-largest source of imports for the 10th consecutive year. Imports from China amounted to \$48.2 billion in 2011, an 8.1% increase from 2010. Electronic computers and other telecommunications and related equipment, including cellular telephones, have driven the growth of imports from China over the past decade.

Mexico remained the third-largest source of imports for the Canadian market in 2011, at \$24.6 billion, up 11.1% from 2010. Automotive products, mainly motor vehicle parts, except engines, led the rise.

Note to readers

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

International merchandise trade data on total trade and trade balances are presented on a balance of payments (BOP) basis while the country data are presented on a customs basis. BOP 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.

Revisions

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, March and April 2012 reference months.

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
Exports, top five countries of destination in 2011, customs basis

	2002	2010	2011	2002 to 2011	2010 to 2011
	billions of current dollars			% change	
Total	396.4	399.3	447.8	13.0	12.1
United States	345.4	299.1	330.1	-4.4	10.4
United Kingdom	4.4	16.4	18.8	324.1	14.8
China	4.1	13.2	16.8	306.4	26.9
Japan	8.4	9.2	10.7	27.6	16.0
Mexico	2.4	5.0	5.5	126.3	9.3
All other countries	31.7	56.4	66.0	108.3	16.9

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

Table 2
Imports, top five countries of origin in 2011, customs basis

	2002	2010	2011	2002 to 2011	2010 to 2011
	billions of current dollars			% change	
Total	349.0	403.8	445.9	27.8	10.4
United States	218.5	203.4	220.8	1.1	8.6
China	16.0	44.5	48.2	200.9	8.1
Mexico	12.7	22.1	24.6	92.8	11.1
Japan	15.4	13.4	13.1	-15.4	-2.9
Germany	8.3	11.3	12.8	54.1	13.3
All other countries	78.0	109.0	126.5	62.2	16.1

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

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 228-0003, 228-0043, 228-0049 and 228-0055.

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

Table 228-0003: Customs and balance of payments basis, by major groups and principal trading areas for all countries; annual.

Table 228-0043: Customs and balance of payments basis, by sector and sub-sector, for all countries; annual.

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

Table 228-0049: Balance of payments and customs-based price and volume indexes for all countries; annual.

Table 228-0055: Price and volume indexes customs and balance of payments basis, by sector and sub-sector, for all countries; annual.

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

The publication *International Merchandise Trade Annual Review*, 2011 (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 12.

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

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Cameron Crompton (613-951-2555), International Trade Division.

Study: Snow cover trends in Canada, 1972 to 2010

During the last 39 years, the average annual area of snow cover in Canada has declined 5.1%. The lowest annual average occurred in 1998, followed closely by 2010.

The largest monthly decline in the extent of snow cover occurred in June. Snow cover decreased 34% in June over the study period from 1972 to 2010.

Average snow cover declined 13% in May and 7% in April.

For October and November, the months of onset and expansion of snow cover, results did not indicate statistically significant trends.

Note to readers

This article is the fifth in an ongoing series in EnviroStats showcasing data related to Canada's climate and the impacts of climate change.

This study examines the average area covered by snow (snow cover extent) nationally for the 39-year period from 1972 to 2010. Snow cover extent is examined annually and for the months of October and November, a period that marks the onset and expansion of snow cover for much of Canada, and April, May and June, the spring snow melt period.

The article "Snow cover trends in Canada" is now available in the spring 2012 issue of *EnviroStats*, Vol. 6, no. 1 (16-002-X, free), from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The article "Environmentally friendly behaviours of Canadian households and the impact on residential energy consumption" is also available in this issue of *EnviroStats*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the information officer (613-951-0297; environ@statcan.gc.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division.

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, April 2012

Data on Canadian Foreign Post Indexes are now available for April.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2322.

The April 2012 issue of *Canadian Foreign Post Indexes* (62-013-X, free) is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claudio Perez (613-951-1733; claudio.perez@statcan.gc.ca), Consumer Prices Division.

Coal and coke statistics, January 2012

Data on coal and coke are now available for January.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 135-0001 and 135-0002.

Table 135-0001: Coke.

Table 135-0002: Coal.

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

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Government expenditures on culture, 2009/2010

Data on government expenditures on culture are now available for the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 505-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3116 and 3117.

Detailed and summary data tables for government expenditures on culture, by function and province or territory, are now available in the publication *Government Expenditures on Culture: Data Tables*, 2009/2010 (87F0001X, free), 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 Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or the Media Hotline (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

New products and studies

New products

Canada at a Glance, 2012

Catalogue number 12-581-X (HTML, free | PDF, free | Print, free)

EnviroStats, Spring 2012, Vol. 6, no. 1

Catalogue number 16-002-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, April 2012

Catalogue number 62-013-X (HTML, free)

International Merchandise Trade Annual Review, 2011

Catalogue number 65-208-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Government Expenditures on Culture: Data Tables, 2009/2010

Catalogue number 87F0001X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

New studies

Environmentally friendly behaviours of Canadian households and the impact on residential energy consumption
EnviroStats

Snow cover trends in Canada

EnviroStats



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.

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