

The Daily

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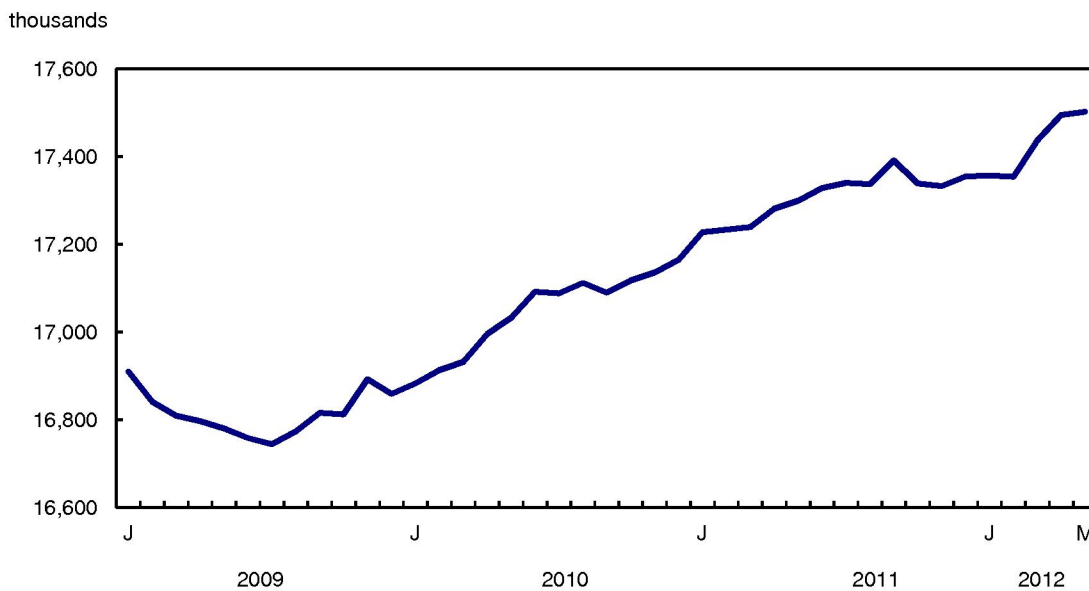
Releases

Labour Force Survey, May 2012

Following two months of large gains, employment was unchanged in May, and the unemployment rate remained at 7.3%.

Compared with 12 months earlier, employment increased 1.2% or 203,000. Virtually all of this growth was in full-time work, up 192,000 (+1.4%). The total number of hours worked rose 1.3% over the same period.

Chart 1 Employment



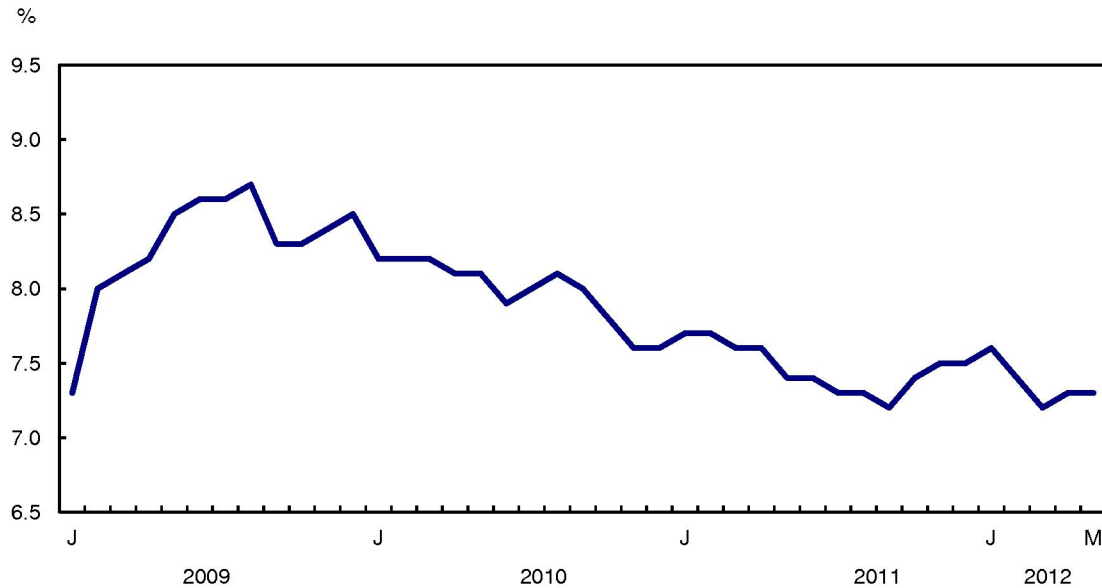
Employment for the month increased in manufacturing, educational services, retail and wholesale trade, and agriculture. At the same time, information, culture and recreation as well as construction showed declines.

Provincially, employment rose in Alberta and New Brunswick, while it fell in Prince Edward Island. There was little change in the other provinces.

In May, employment increased among men aged 25 and over, and changed little in the other major demographic groups.

The number of employees and self-employed held steady in May. Employment growth over the previous 12 months was all among private sector employees (+1.7%).

Chart 2
Unemployment rate



Industry perspective

The number of people working in manufacturing increased by 36,000 in May. Manufacturing employment has been on an upward trend since November 2011.

Employment in educational services increased by 26,000 in May. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry was up 5.6% (+68,000).

Following a downward trend that started in summer 2011, employment in retail and wholesale trade rose by 24,000 in May. Despite this increase, employment in this industry was 1.5% (-41,000) below its level of 12 months earlier.

In May, employment also rose in agriculture, up by 11,000. Following 10 months of little change, gains in April and May brought employment growth in this industry to 5.0% (+15,000) from 12 months earlier.

Employment in information, culture and recreation fell by 27,000 in May, bringing employment in this industry back to its level of 12 months earlier.

Employment in construction also declined by 27,000 in May, offsetting a gain of similar magnitude in the previous month. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in this industry was little changed.

Provincial summary

The number of people working in Alberta increased for the second month in a row, up 9,800 in May. This increase pushed the unemployment rate down 0.4 percentage points to 4.5%, the lowest since December 2008. Over the previous 12 months, employment in the province rose 4.1%—the fastest growth of all provinces and exceeding the national average of 1.2%.

Employment in New Brunswick rose for the second consecutive month, up 5,300 in May, and the unemployment rate edged down to 9.4%.

Employment in Quebec edged up in May, following two consecutive months of notable gains, and the unemployment rate was 7.8%. The number of employed in the province was little changed from 12 months earlier.

In Ontario, employment edged down in May, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.8%. Compared with 12 months earlier, employment in the province was little changed.

Following notable gains in April, employment in British Columbia was unchanged in May. The unemployment rate rose 1.2 percentage points to 7.4%, as there was a marked increase in the number of job-seekers, particularly among youths. Over the 12 previous months, employment in the province grew by 1.9%, above the national average.

Employment up among men aged 25 and over

For the fourth month in a row, employment rose among men aged 25 and over, up 19,000 in May. Compared with 12 months earlier, the number of employed for this group was up 1.6% (+129,000).

Among women aged 25 and over, employment was unchanged in May. Over the 12 previous months, employment for this group rose 1.7% (+121,000).

Employment edged down among youths aged 15 to 24, and their unemployment rate was 14.3%. Youth employment is roughly at the same level as in July 2009, when the labour market downturn hit a low.

Student summer employment

From May to August, the Labour Force Survey collects labour market data about young people aged 15 to 24 who were attending school full time in March and who intend to return to school full time in the fall. The May survey results provide the first indicators of the summer job market, especially for students aged 20 to 24, as most students aged 15 to 19 are not yet out of school for the summer. The data for June, July and August will provide further insight into the summer job market. The published data are not seasonally adjusted, and therefore comparisons can only be made from one year to another.

The rate of employment among students aged 20 to 24—that is, the number of employed as a percentage of their population—was 58.9% in May 2012. This is lower than the rate of 60.8% observed in May 2011, as the increase in the student population outpaced that of student employment.

The May 2012 employment rate of 58.9% was higher than the 56.3% rate in May 2009, when student employment was hit hard by the labour market downturn.

The unemployment rate for students aged 20 to 24 was 14.9% in May, similar to the rate in May 2011, but well below the 18.2% rate in May 2009.

Note to readers

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are based on a sample, and are therefore subject to sampling variability. Estimates for smaller geographic areas or industries will have more variability. For an explanation of sampling variability of estimates and how to use standard errors to assess this variability, consult the "Data quality" section of the publication Labour Force Information (71-001-X, free).

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonal adjustment and identifying economic trends](#).

New LFS tables have been added to CANSIM—tables 282-0200 to 282-0219. They include estimates of weekly and hourly wage distributions by industry and occupation. Also available are labour force estimates by highest educational degree, family type and family age composition, as well as estimates on hours lost, activity prior to unemployment, reason for leaving last job and reason for not looking for work.

Table 1
Labour force characteristics by age and sex – Seasonally adjusted

	April 2012	May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Both sexes, 15 years and over						
Population	28,242.0	28,271.6	29.6	322.6	0.1	1.2
Labour force	18,865.3	18,881.0	15.7	206.4	0.1	1.1
Employment	17,494.7	17,502.4	7.7	203.4	0.0	1.2
Full-time	14,171.9	14,173.3	1.4	192.2	0.0	1.4
Part-time	3,322.8	3,329.1	6.3	11.2	0.2	0.3
Unemployment	1,370.6	1,378.6	8.0	3.0	0.6	0.2
Participation rate	66.8	66.8	0.0	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.3	7.3	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	61.9	61.9	0.0	0.0	...	...
Part-time rate	19.0	19.0	0.0	-0.2	...	...
Youths, 15 to 24 years						
Population	4,457.2	4,457.3	0.1	-0.8	0.0	0.0
Labour force	2,842.2	2,843.6	1.4	-39.2	0.0	-1.4
Employment	2,448.0	2,436.1	-11.9	-45.8	-0.5	-1.8
Full-time	1,291.7	1,280.3	-11.4	-20.6	-0.9	-1.6
Part-time	1,156.4	1,155.8	-0.6	-25.2	-0.1	-2.1
Unemployment	394.2	407.5	13.3	6.6	3.4	1.6
Participation rate	63.8	63.8	0.0	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	13.9	14.3	0.4	0.4	...	...
Employment rate	54.9	54.7	-0.2	-1.0	...	...
Part-time rate	47.2	47.4	0.2	-0.2	...	...
Men, 25 years and over						
Population	11,639.1	11,653.9	14.8	161.3	0.1	1.4
Labour force	8,495.0	8,503.0	8.0	125.6	0.1	1.5
Employment	7,954.6	7,973.8	19.2	128.5	0.2	1.6
Full-time	7,343.1	7,364.3	21.2	137.7	0.3	1.9
Part-time	611.5	609.6	-1.9	-9.1	-0.3	-1.5
Unemployment	540.3	529.2	-11.1	-2.9	-2.1	-0.5
Participation rate	73.0	73.0	0.0	0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.4	6.2	-0.2	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	68.3	68.4	0.1	0.1	...	...
Part-time rate	7.7	7.6	-0.1	-0.3	...	...
Women, 25 years and over						
Population	12,145.7	12,160.4	14.7	162.2	0.1	1.4
Labour force	7,528.1	7,534.4	6.3	119.9	0.1	1.6
Employment	7,092.0	7,092.5	0.5	120.7	0.0	1.7
Full-time	5,537.1	5,528.7	-8.4	75.1	-0.2	1.4
Part-time	1,554.9	1,563.8	8.9	45.6	0.6	3.0
Unemployment	436.1	441.9	5.8	-0.7	1.3	-0.2
Participation rate	62.0	62.0	0.0	0.2	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.8	5.9	0.1	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	58.4	58.3	-0.1	0.2	...	...
Part-time rate	21.9	22.0	0.1	0.2	...	...

... not applicable

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Table 2
Employment by class of worker and industry (based on NAICS¹) – Seasonally adjusted

	April 2012	May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012
	thousands		change in thousands		% change	
Class of worker						
Employees	14,834.1	14,818.5	-15.6	220.4	-0.1	1.5
Self-employed	2,660.6	2,683.9	23.3	-17.0	0.9	-0.6
Public/private sector employees						
Public	3,563.2	3,570.1	6.9	28.0	0.2	0.8
Private	11,270.9	11,248.4	-22.5	192.3	-0.2	1.7
All industries	17,494.7	17,502.4	7.7	203.4	0.0	1.2
Goods-producing sector	3,915.9	3,927.0	11.1	114.6	0.3	3.0
Agriculture	310.5	321.2	10.7	15.4	3.4	5.0
Natural resources ²	383.1	378.9	-4.2	40.8	-1.1	12.1
Utilities	137.7	133.0	-4.7	-13.5	-3.4	-9.2
Construction	1,298.5	1,271.5	-27.0	13.4	-2.1	1.1
Manufacturing	1,786.1	1,822.5	36.4	58.6	2.0	3.3
Services-producing sector	13,578.8	13,575.4	-3.4	88.8	0.0	0.7
Trade	2,607.5	2,631.1	23.6	-41.1	0.9	-1.5
Transportation and warehousing	853.5	852.2	-1.3	24.5	-0.2	3.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	1,083.8	1,074.6	-9.2	-17.1	-0.8	-1.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	1,311.3	1,298.8	-12.5	-9.7	-1.0	-0.7
Business, building and other support services	681.2	672.1	-9.1	-13.2	-1.3	-1.9
Educational services	1,252.1	1,277.8	25.7	67.6	2.1	5.6
Health care and social assistance	2,110.4	2,106.4	-4.0	16.1	-0.2	0.8
Information, culture and recreation	816.3	789.0	-27.3	-4.3	-3.3	-0.5
Accommodation and food services	1,110.8	1,109.6	-1.2	20.8	-0.1	1.9
Other services	806.9	813.4	6.5	64.1	0.8	8.6
Public administration	945.0	950.7	5.7	-18.8	0.6	-1.9

1. North American Industry Classification System.

2. Also referred to as forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas.

Note(s): Related to CANSIM tables 282-0088 and 282-0089.

Table 3
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	April 2012	May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012
	thousands (except rates)		change in thousands (except rates)		% change	
Newfoundland and Labrador						
Population	428.0	427.4	-0.6	-1.6	-0.1	-0.4
Labour force	264.5	261.8	-2.7	3.0	-1.0	1.2
Employment	232.0	230.3	-1.7	2.8	-0.7	1.2
Full-time	201.9	199.3	-2.6	6.3	-1.3	3.3
Part-time	30.1	31.0	0.9	-3.5	3.0	-10.1
Unemployment	32.5	31.5	-1.0	0.2	-3.1	0.6
Participation rate	61.8	61.3	-0.5	1.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	12.3	12.0	-0.3	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	54.2	53.9	-0.3	0.9	...	...
Prince Edward Island						
Population	120.5	120.6	0.1	1.5	0.1	1.3
Labour force	82.0	81.2	-0.8	0.0	-1.0	0.0
Employment	73.0	72.0	-1.0	0.4	-1.4	0.6
Full-time	60.0	58.6	-1.4	-0.7	-2.3	-1.2
Part-time	12.9	13.4	0.5	1.1	3.9	8.9
Unemployment	9.0	9.2	0.2	-0.4	2.2	-4.2
Participation rate	68.0	67.3	-0.7	-0.9	...	...
Unemployment rate	11.0	11.3	0.3	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	60.6	59.7	-0.9	-0.4	...	...
Nova Scotia						
Population	780.0	780.1	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.2
Labour force	499.2	499.5	0.3	6.2	0.1	1.3
Employment	454.5	453.5	-1.0	4.5	-0.2	1.0
Full-time	369.9	366.2	-3.7	6.5	-1.0	1.8
Part-time	84.6	87.3	2.7	-2.0	3.2	-2.2
Unemployment	44.7	46.0	1.3	1.7	2.9	3.8
Participation rate	64.0	64.0	0.0	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.0	9.2	0.2	0.2	...	...
Employment rate	58.3	58.1	-0.2	0.4	...	...
New Brunswick						
Population	620.4	620.3	-0.1	1.2	0.0	0.2
Labour force	389.4	393.4	4.0	5.0	1.0	1.3
Employment	351.4	356.7	5.3	5.6	1.5	1.6
Full-time	298.2	301.3	3.1	8.0	1.0	2.7
Part-time	53.2	55.4	2.2	-2.4	4.1	-4.2
Unemployment	38.0	36.8	-1.2	-0.4	-3.2	-1.1
Participation rate	62.8	63.4	0.6	0.7	...	...
Unemployment rate	9.8	9.4	-0.4	-0.2	...	...
Employment rate	56.6	57.5	0.9	0.8	...	...
Quebec						
Population	6,624.1	6,629.1	5.0	60.6	0.1	0.9
Labour force	4,319.0	4,328.5	9.5	35.5	0.2	0.8
Employment	3,975.4	3,990.1	14.7	12.5	0.4	0.3
Full-time	3,195.2	3,232.1	36.9	33.4	1.2	1.0
Part-time	780.2	758.0	-22.2	-20.9	-2.8	-2.7
Unemployment	343.6	338.4	-5.2	23.0	-1.5	7.3
Participation rate	65.2	65.3	0.1	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	8.0	7.8	-0.2	0.5	...	...
Employment rate	60.0	60.2	0.2	-0.4	...	...
Ontario						
Population	11,041.9	11,054.3	12.4	145.0	0.1	1.3
Labour force	7,354.8	7,331.9	-22.9	31.2	-0.3	0.4
Employment	6,780.5	6,761.8	-18.7	32.9	-0.3	0.5
Full-time	5,507.3	5,476.6	-30.7	18.1	-0.6	0.3
Part-time	1,273.2	1,285.2	12.0	14.8	0.9	1.2
Unemployment	574.3	570.2	-4.1	-1.5	-0.7	-0.3
Participation rate	66.6	66.3	-0.3	-0.6	...	...
Unemployment rate	7.8	7.8	0.0	0.0	...	...
Employment rate	61.4	61.2	-0.2	-0.5	...	...

Table 3 - continued
Labour force characteristics by province – Seasonally adjusted

	April 2012	May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012	April to May 2012	May 2011 to May 2012
Manitoba						
Population	961.7	962.2	0.5	10.4	0.1	1.1
Labour force	664.7	664.5	-0.2	5.5	0.0	0.8
Employment	629.6	630.6	1.0	7.3	0.2	1.2
Full-time	507.5	503.2	-4.3	-0.4	-0.8	-0.1
Part-time	122.0	127.3	5.3	7.5	4.3	6.3
Unemployment	35.1	33.9	-1.2	-1.8	-3.4	-5.0
Participation rate	69.1	69.1	0.0	-0.1	...	...
Unemployment rate	5.3	5.1	-0.2	-0.3	...	...
Employment rate	65.5	65.5	0.0	0.0	...	...
Saskatchewan						
Population	807.7	808.9	1.2	10.4	0.1	1.3
Labour force	564.0	561.7	-2.3	7.7	-0.4	1.4
Employment	536.5	536.1	-0.4	9.8	-0.1	1.9
Full-time	444.4	440.0	-4.4	11.1	-1.0	2.6
Part-time	92.0	96.1	4.1	-1.3	4.5	-1.3
Unemployment	27.6	25.5	-2.1	-2.2	-7.6	-7.9
Participation rate	69.8	69.4	-0.4	0.0	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	4.5	-0.4	-0.5	...	...
Employment rate	66.4	66.3	-0.1	0.4	...	...
Alberta						
Population	3,050.5	3,058.4	7.9	58.3	0.3	1.9
Labour force	2,254.6	2,255.0	0.4	69.4	0.0	3.2
Employment	2,143.0	2,152.8	9.8	84.5	0.5	4.1
Full-time	1,779.2	1,787.4	8.2	64.4	0.5	3.7
Part-time	363.8	365.4	1.6	20.1	0.4	5.8
Unemployment	111.6	102.2	-9.4	-15.1	-8.4	-12.9
Participation rate	73.9	73.7	-0.2	0.8	...	...
Unemployment rate	4.9	4.5	-0.4	-0.9	...	...
Employment rate	70.3	70.4	0.1	1.5	...	...
British Columbia						
Population	3,807.2	3,810.3	3.1	35.4	0.1	0.9
Labour force	2,473.1	2,503.6	30.5	43.0	1.2	1.7
Employment	2,318.8	2,318.6	-0.2	43.4	0.0	1.9
Full-time	1,808.1	1,808.7	0.6	45.7	0.0	2.6
Part-time	510.7	510.0	-0.7	-2.2	-0.1	-0.4
Unemployment	154.3	185.0	30.7	-0.4	19.9	-0.2
Participation rate	65.0	65.7	0.7	0.5	...	...
Unemployment rate	6.2	7.4	1.2	-0.1	...	...
Employment rate	60.9	60.9	0.0	0.6	...	...

... not applicable

Note(s): Related CANSIM table 282-0087.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 282-0001 to 282-0042, 282-0047 to 282-0063, 282-0069 to 282-0095, 282-0100 to 282-0121 and 282-0200 to 282-0219.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3701.

A more detailed summary, *Labour Force Information* (71-001-X, free), is now available online for the week ending May 19. From the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*, choose *All subjects*, then *Labour*.

[Data tables](#) are also now available online. From the *Subject* module of our website, choose *Labour*.

The next release of the Labour Force Survey will be on July 6.

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

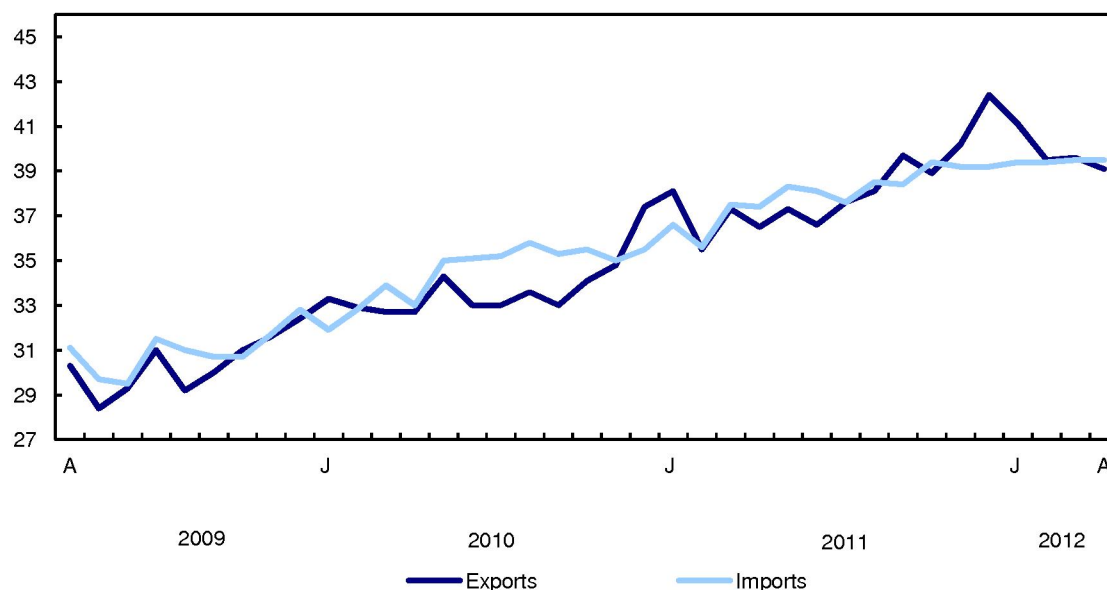
To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Vincent Ferrao (613-951-4750; vincent.ferrao@statcan.gc.ca) or Lahouaria Yssaad (613-951-0627; lahouaria.yssaad@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Canadian international merchandise trade, April 2012

Canada's merchandise exports declined 1.2% in April, while imports edged up 0.1%. After five consecutive monthly surpluses, Canada posted a trade deficit of \$367 million in April, down from a surplus of \$152 million in March.

Chart 1 Exports and imports

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Exports fell to \$39.1 billion, the result of a 1.9% decline in prices. The main contributors to the overall decrease were exports of industrial goods and materials, as well as machinery and equipment.

Imports rose to \$39.5 billion, their fifth consecutive monthly increase. The gains were led by higher imports of automotive products and other consumer goods, while imports of energy products declined.

Exports to the United States fell 1.2% to \$28.4 billion in April, the fourth consecutive monthly decrease. Imports from the United States rose 1.3% to \$24.6 billion. As a result, Canada's trade surplus with the United States decreased from \$4.5 billion in March to \$3.8 billion in April.

Exports to countries other than the United States decreased 1.2% to \$10.7 billion in April, while imports declined 1.9% to \$14.9 billion. Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed from \$4.4 billion in March to \$4.2 billion in April.

Exports: Widespread declines in industrial goods and materials sector

Exports of industrial goods and materials fell 5.8% to \$9.3 billion in April, as widespread declines were recorded throughout the sector. Volumes fell 3.7%, while prices declined 2.1%. Metal ores as well as metals and alloys were the main contributors to the sector's decline, which was partially offset by gains in chemicals, plastics and fertilizers, particularly potash.

Exports of machinery and equipment decreased 3.1% to \$6.7 billion, as volumes fell 3.4%. The main contributor to the decrease was a 14.1% decline in exports of aircraft, engines and parts.

Exports of energy products decreased 0.8% to \$9.9 billion in April, as prices fell 6.7%. Crude petroleum exports dropped 9.0%, the third consecutive monthly decline that was a result of lower prices. Exports of petroleum and coal products increased 18.5%.

Automotive products exports rose 2.8% to \$5.5 billion in April. Leading the gain were exports of passenger autos and chassis (+2.4%), followed by motor vehicle parts, which recorded its fifth consecutive monthly gain. These increases were on the strength of volumes.

Exports of agricultural and fishing products, which increased 3.8% to \$3.7 billion, have been on an upward trend since March 2011. Volumes rose 2.7%. The main contributors to the sector's gain were higher exports of fish and fish preparations (+18.7%) and wheat (+12.1%).

Counterbalancing movements in imports

Imports of automotive products rose 2.6% to \$6.8 billion in April, as volumes grew 3.2%. Imports of motor vehicle parts, up 5.4% to \$2.9 billion, led the sector's gain.

Imports rose 2.6% to \$5.1 billion in the other consumer goods sector, where widespread gains were recorded. The main contributor to the increase was imports of apparel and footwear (+11.1%), mostly the result of higher imports of apparel and apparel accessories.

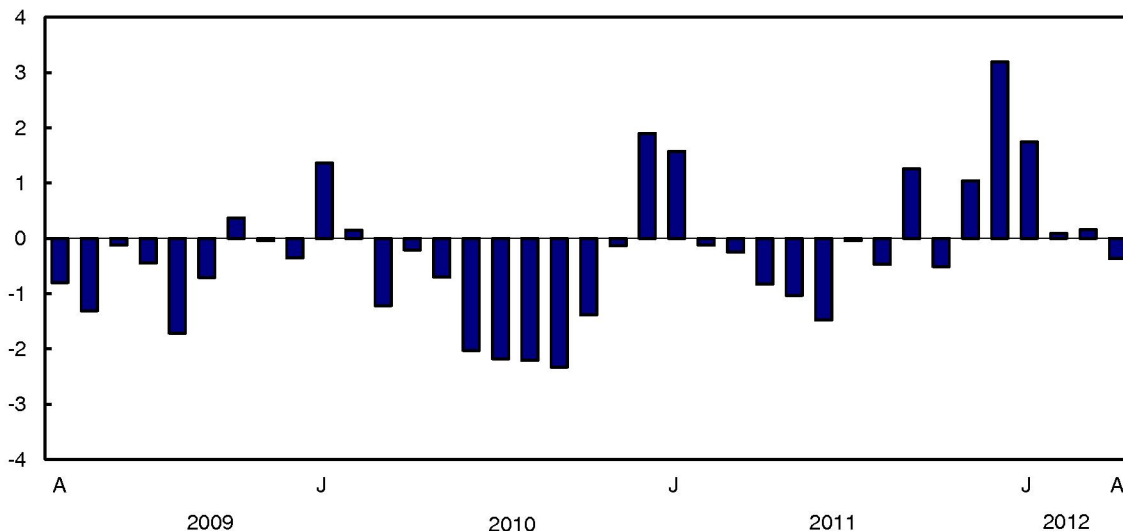
Imports of industrial goods and materials rose 0.7% to \$8.2 billion in April. Other industrial goods and materials (+2.5%) led the sector's increase on the strength of metal fabricated basic products.

Imports of energy products fell 6.8% to \$4.1 billion, the result of lower prices and volumes. After three consecutive monthly increases, imports of crude petroleum fell 6.5% to \$2.5 billion, as prices dropped 11.1%. Petroleum and coal products also contributed to the decline.

Imports of machinery and equipment decreased 0.6% to \$10.8 billion in April. The decline was led by lower imports of office machines and equipment as well as other machinery and equipment, primarily laboratory equipment.

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.

New aggregation structure

Statistics Canada will introduce the North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) for merchandise import and export statistics. The new structure will replace the classification structures known as the summary import groups (SIG) and the summary export groups (SEG) and the higher level aggregations (major groups, subsectors, sectors and sections) that have been in use for several decades.

Revised data based on NAPCS for the reference period of January 1988 to August 2012 will be disseminated on October 18.

The first regular release of data based on NAPCS will be on November 8 for the September reference month.

Readers interested in this upcoming change can find more detailed information on our web page dedicated to [classification](#) consultation and notification.

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

	April 2011 ^r	March 2012 ^r	April 2012	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	36,533	39,611	39,124	-1.2	7.1
United States	27,105	28,746	28,387	-1.2	4.7
Japan	885	1,013	1,001	-1.2	13.1
European Union ¹	2,879	3,629	3,545	-2.3	23.1
Other OECD countries ²	1,742	1,539	1,439	-6.5	-17.4
All other countries	3,923	4,684	4,752	1.5	21.1
Total imports	37,364	39,459	39,491	0.1	5.7
United States	23,139	24,230	24,555	1.3	6.1
Japan	509	1,039	901	-13.3	77.0
European Union ¹	3,867	3,795	3,481	-8.3	-10.0
Other OECD countries ²	2,628	3,464	2,972	-14.2	13.1
All other countries	7,220	6,931	7,581	9.4	5.0
Trade balance	-831	152	-367	...	...
United States	3,966	4,516	3,832	...	...
Japan	376	-26	100	...	...
European Union ¹	-988	-166	64	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-886	-1,925	-1,533	...	...
All other countries	-3,297	-2,247	-2,829	...	...

^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, Iceland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Switzerland and Turkey. Effective February 2012, Chile and Israel are included in "Other OECD countries."

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

Table 2
Merchandise trade: Principal commodity groupings – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	April 2011 ^r	March 2012 ^r	April 2012	March to April 2012	April 2011 to April 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	36,533	39,611	39,124	-1.2	7.1
Agricultural and fishing products	3,379	3,547	3,681	3.8	8.9
Energy products	9,390	9,953	9,876	-0.8	5.2
Forestry products	1,902	1,786	1,812	1.5	-4.7
Industrial goods and materials	9,092	9,913	9,343	-5.8	2.8
Machinery and equipment	6,139	6,895	6,679	-3.1	8.8
Automotive products	4,635	5,320	5,471	2.8	18.0
Other consumer goods	1,233	1,387	1,409	1.6	14.3
Special transactions trade ¹	322	315	331	5.1	2.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	442	494	521	5.5	17.9
Total imports	37,364	39,459	39,491	0.1	5.7
Agricultural and fishing products	2,661	2,831	2,787	-1.6	4.7
Energy products	4,511	4,403	4,102	-6.8	-9.1
Forestry products	205	216	223	3.2	8.8
Industrial goods and materials	8,044	8,161	8,220	0.7	2.2
Machinery and equipment	10,240	10,912	10,848	-0.6	5.9
Automotive products	5,568	6,609	6,781	2.6	21.8
Other consumer goods	4,902	4,969	5,096	2.6	4.0
Special transactions trade ¹	419	512	583	13.9	39.1
Other balance of payments adjustments	812	846	852	0.7	4.9

^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 228-0001 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 subsector, 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 subsector, 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 2201, 2202 and 2203.

These data are available in the Canadian international merchandise trade [database](#).

The April 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 4 (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 May will be released on July 11.

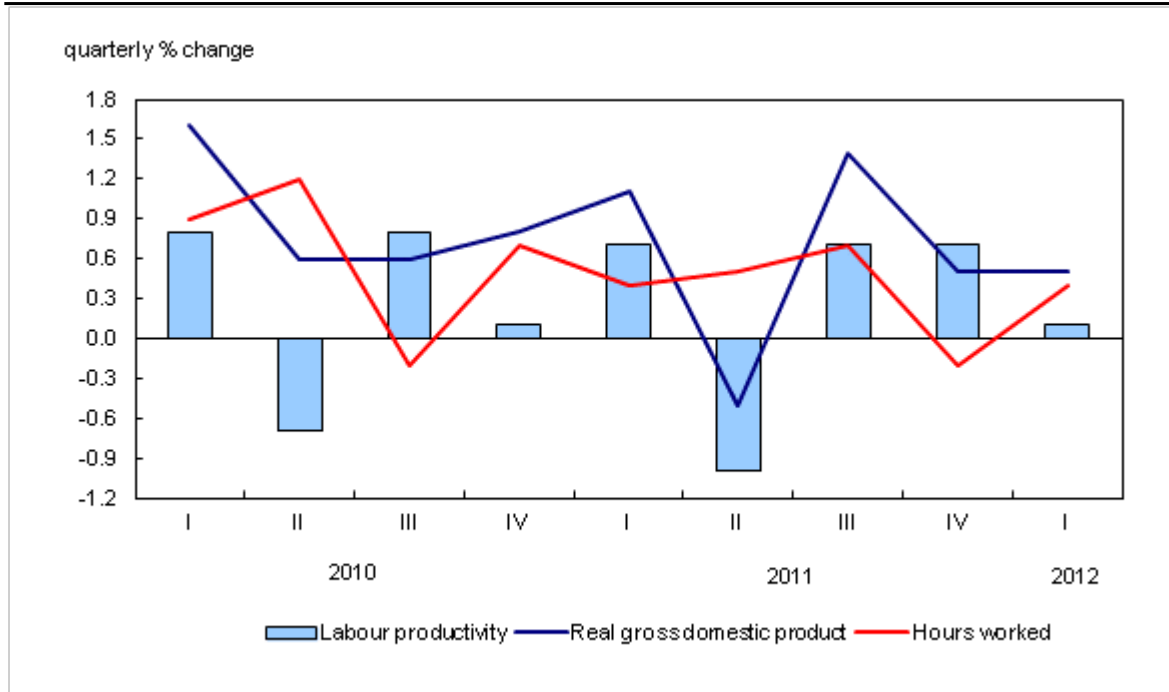
For more information, contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 613-951-8116; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

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

Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, first quarter 2012

The labour productivity of Canadian businesses edged up 0.1% in the first quarter, after increasing 0.7% in each of the previous two quarters.

Chart 1
Real output of Canadian businesses and hours worked grow at a similar rate



The slight productivity gain in the first quarter reflected the recovery of hours worked after a quarter of decline, as businesses maintained the same rate of real output growth as in the previous quarter.

The growth of the real gross domestic product of businesses was 0.5% in the first quarter, the same as in the fourth quarter of 2011. Services-producing businesses were the main contributors to the increase in output, as activity intensified in wholesale trade. Output for goods-producing businesses was unchanged from the previous quarter.

Hours worked in businesses grew 0.4% in the first quarter, after falling 0.2% in the previous quarter. Most of the increase in hours worked was in the services sector (+0.6%), as hours worked edged up 0.1% in goods-producing businesses.

There was little variation in the productivity of goods-producing businesses and services-producing businesses in the first quarter.

Productivity in the goods-producing businesses (-0.1%) decreased slightly in the first quarter, following two quarterly advances of more than 1.0%. The productivity gains in manufacturing (+0.8%) and construction (+0.4%) were not enough to offset declines in mining and oil and gas extraction (-0.9%) and agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (-0.3%).

Productivity in services-producing businesses posted a modest 0.1% increase. Productivity increases in wholesale trade (+1.1%), transportation and warehousing (+0.6%) and administrative services (+1.9%) were partly offset by declines in the other industries.

In the United States, business productivity fell 0.2% in the first quarter, its first decrease in a year.

In Canadian businesses, labour costs per unit of production were up 0.4% in the first quarter, after rising 0.8% in the previous quarter.

The growth of average compensation per hour worked, which was 1.5% in the fourth quarter of 2011, slowed to 0.5% in the first quarter, outpacing the modest growth of productivity. It was the second successive quarter in which hourly compensation in Canada grew faster than productivity.

After two quarters of depreciation, the average value of the Canadian dollar relative to the American currency was up 2.3% in the first quarter. Because of the appreciation, Canadian businesses' unit labour costs measured in US dollars rose 2.6%, their first increase in three quarters.

By comparison, unit labour costs in American businesses increased 0.3% after declining in the previous quarter.

Note to readers

With this release, data were revised back to the first quarter of 2011.

Important changes are coming to Canada's System of National Accounts (CSNA), starting in October. These changes will affect all users of CSNA products and statistics such as gross domestic product (GDP), balance of payments, international investment, and input-output tables. For more information, consult the National Economic Accounts website. Because of the [2012 CSNA historical revision](#), the publication of the first quarter 2012 data includes revisions extending back only one year at the aggregate level.

The term "productivity" in this release refers to labour productivity. For the purposes of this analysis, labour productivity and related variables cover the business sector only. Labour productivity is a measure of real GDP per hour worked. Unit labour cost is defined as the cost of workers' wages and benefits per unit of real GDP.

All the growth rates reported in this release are rounded to one decimal place. They are calculated with index numbers rounded to three decimal places, which are now available on CANSIM.

Table 1
Business sector: Labour productivity and related variables for Canada and the United States¹ –
Seasonally adjusted

	First quarter 2010	Second quarter 2010	Third quarter 2010	Fourth quarter 2010	First quarter 2011	Second quarter 2011	Third quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2011	First quarter 2012
% change from previous quarter									
Canada									
Labour productivity	0.8	-0.7	0.8	0.1	0.7	-1.0	0.7	0.7	0.1
Real gross domestic product	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	-0.5	1.4	0.5	0.5
Hours worked	0.9	1.2	-0.2	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	-0.2	0.4
Hourly compensation	0.7	0.1	1.4	0.7	1.3	-0.0	-0.1	1.5	0.5
Unit labour cost	-0.1	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	1.0	-0.7	0.8	0.4
Exchange rate ²	1.5	1.2	-1.1	2.6	2.7	1.9	-1.3	-4.2	2.3
Unit labour cost in US dollars	1.4	2.1	-0.5	3.3	3.3	2.9	-2.0	-3.5	2.6
United States³									
Labour productivity	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.3	-0.4	-0.0	0.4	0.3	-0.2
Real gross domestic product	1.3	1.2	0.9	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.6
Hours worked	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.8
Hourly compensation	0.3	0.6	0.5	-0.0	1.2	-0.0	1.3	-0.1	0.1
Unit labour cost	-0.7	0.3	-0.1	-0.3	1.7	0.0	0.9	-0.4	0.3
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Second quarter 2011	Third quarter 2011	Fourth quarter 2011	First quarter 2012
% change from the previous year					% change from same quarter of previous year				
Canada									
Labour productivity	-0.3	-0.8	0.0	1.5	0.8	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.5
Real gross domestic product	1.9	-0.3	-4.5	3.4	2.6	2.0	2.8	2.5	1.9
Hours worked	2.1	0.5	-4.5	1.9	1.8	1.4	2.3	1.3	1.4
Hourly compensation	3.5	3.1	2.0	2.3	2.9	3.4	1.9	2.7	1.9
Unit labour cost	3.8	3.9	1.9	0.8	2.1	2.8	1.5	1.6	1.4
Exchange rate ²	6.0	0.9	-6.7	10.3	4.1	6.2	6.0	-1.0	-1.5
Unit labour cost in US dollars	10.1	4.7	-4.9	11.3	6.4	9.2	7.6	0.6	-0.1
United States³									
Labour productivity	1.5	0.7	2.5	4.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4
Real gross domestic product	2.0	-1.3	-4.9	3.9	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.6
Hours worked	0.5	-2.0	-7.2	-0.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.9	2.2
Hourly compensation	4.1	3.3	1.7	1.9	2.2	1.6	2.5	2.4	1.3
Unit labour cost	2.6	2.6	-0.8	-2.0	2.0	1.2	2.3	2.3	0.9

1. Calculations of growth rates are based on index numbers rounded to three decimal places.

2. The exchange rate corresponds to the Canadian dollar value expressed in US dollars.

3. US data are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Productivity and costs: First quarter 2012 published in NEWS, June 6.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 383-0008 and 383-0012.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5042.

Additional tables and links to other releases from the national accounts can be found in the first quarter 2012 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 11, no. 1 (13-010-X, free), available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*. This publication will be updated on June 15, at the time of the release of the national balance sheet accounts.

Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost data for the second quarter will be released on September 7.

For more information, or to order data, 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 Jean-Pierre Maynard (613-951-3654; jean-pierre.maynard@statcan.gc.ca), Income and Expenditure Accounts Division.

Export and import price indexes, April 2012

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 April 2012 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 April 2012. 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).

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 the United States trade, and Standard International Trade Classification (SITC revision 3) price indexes for all countries and the 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 subsector, for all countries; monthly, quarterly and annual.

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

The April 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 4 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for May will be released on July 11.

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).

Chain Fisher real export and import values, April 2012

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

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 2201, 2202 and 2203.

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New products and studies

New products

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, April 2012, Vol. 66, no. 4
Catalogue number 65-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Labour Force Information, May 13 to 19, 2012
Catalogue number 71-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Labour Force Survey Microdata File, May 2012
Catalogue number 71M0001X (CD-ROM, free)

Release dates: June 11 to 15, 2012

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
13	Canada's international investment position	First quarter 2012
13	Health Reports	June 2012
14	Industrial capacity utilization rates	First quarter 2012
14	New Housing Price Index	April 2012
14	Perspectives on Labour and Income	June 2012
15	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	April 2012
15	National balance sheet accounts	First quarter 2012

See also the release dates for major economic indicators for the rest of the year.



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