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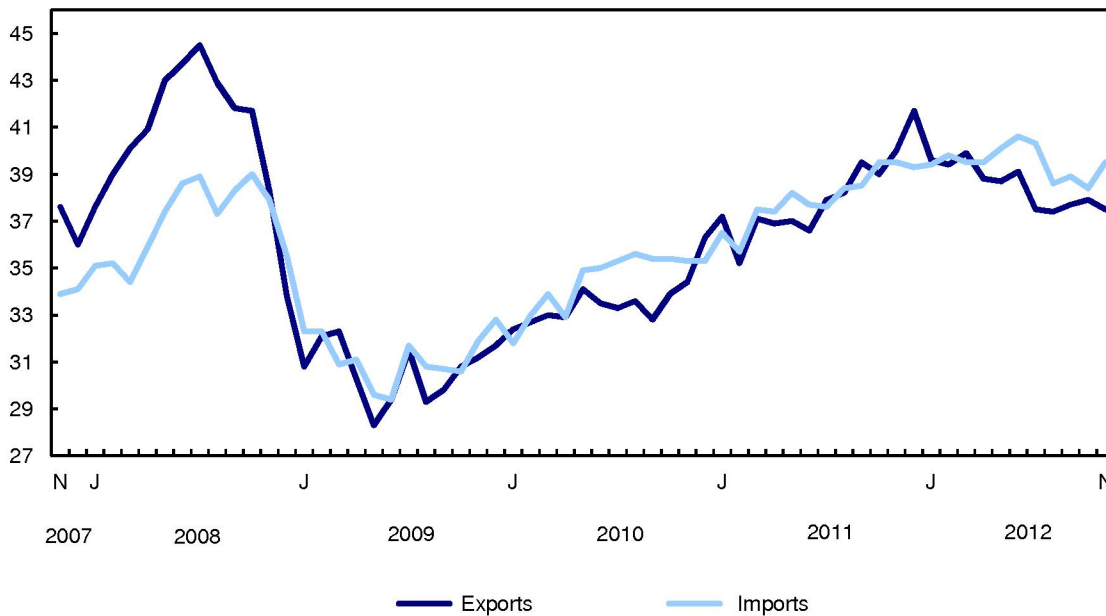
Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, November 2012

Canada's merchandise imports rose 2.7% in November, while exports decreased 0.9%. As a result, Canada's trade deficit with the world widened from \$552 million in October to \$2.0 billion in November.

Chart 1 Exports and imports

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Imports rose to \$39.5 billion, as volumes increased 2.2%. Electronic and electrical equipment and parts led the gain in overall imports, followed closely by motor vehicles and parts as well as metal and non-metallic mineral products.

Exports declined to \$37.5 billion, as prices were down 1.3%. Exports of farm, fishing and intermediate food products as well as metal and non-metallic mineral products contributed the most to the overall decline.

Exports to the United States grew 3.9% to \$28.3 billion. Imports from the United States rose 1.7% to \$25.0 billion, the third consecutive monthly increase. Consequently, Canada's trade surplus with the United States increased from \$2.7 billion in October to \$3.3 billion in November.

Exports to countries other than the United States fell 13.4% to \$9.2 billion, the lowest level since September 2010. Imports rose 4.6% to \$14.5 billion. As a result, Canada reached a record trade deficit with countries other than the United States, increasing from \$3.2 billion in October to \$5.3 billion in November.

Imports up on higher volumes

Imports of electronic and electrical equipment and parts rose 5.6% to \$4.6 billion in November, with widespread increases recorded throughout the section. Leading the gain were imports of communications and audio and video equipment (+14.2%), primarily cellular telephones, largely on higher volumes.

Registering their first increase in five months, imports of motor vehicles and parts grew 3.5% to \$6.9 billion in November. Volumes were up 3.2%. Higher imports of motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts (+4.1%) and passenger cars and light trucks (+4.0%) accounted for most of the monthly gain.

Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products increased 6.8% to \$3.7 billion in November, as a result of higher volumes. Imports of unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys were up 14.4%.

Imports of basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products grew 6.7% to \$3.2 billion, mainly on higher volumes. Imports of basic chemicals rose 20.1% in November.

Imports of energy products decreased 3.7% to \$3.5 billion, as volumes fell 4.0%. Imports of refined petroleum energy products, mainly motor gasoline, fell 13.2%, as a result of lower volumes and prices.

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

After reaching a record high in October, exports of farm, fishing and intermediate food products fell 14.6% to \$2.3 billion in November. Volumes decreased 13.9%, as widespread declines were registered throughout the section. Leading the overall decline were exports of canola (-32.5%) and other crop products (-15.7%).

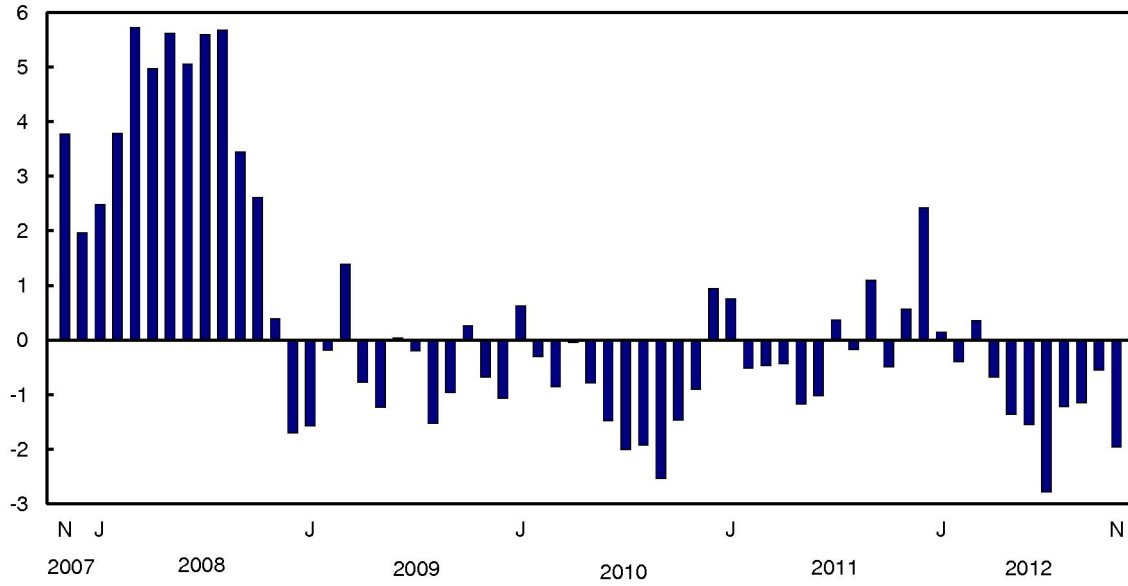
Exports of metal and non-metallic mineral products decreased 7.6% to \$4.2 billion. The main contributor to the decline was unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys, as volumes fell 24.3%.

Following four consecutive monthly decreases, exports of motor vehicles and parts grew 6.6% to \$6.0 billion in November. Passenger cars and light trucks accounted for most of the gain, rising 8.8% to \$4.3 billion on higher volumes.

Exports of basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products increased 7.5% to \$2.7 billion. Higher volumes of lubricants and other petroleum refinery products (+26.0%) and dyes and pigments; petrochemicals (+26.1%) led the gain.

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*.

Beginning with the release of the January 2013 reference month, the Canadian international merchandise trade data will be made available on average 35 days after the end of the reference month, on average 5 days earlier than previously. For further information, consult the [release date calendar](#).

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

	November 2011	October 2012 ^r	November 2012	October to November 2012	November 2011 to November 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	40,029	37,867	37,512	-0.9	-6.3
United States	28,733	27,240	28,305	3.9	-1.5
Japan	960	842	910	8.1	-5.2
European Union ¹	3,925	3,532	2,846	-19.4	-27.5
Other OECD countries ²	1,701	1,456	1,501	3.1	-11.7
All other countries	4,709	4,798	3,951	-17.7	-16.1
Total imports	39,463	38,420	39,473	2.7	0.0
United States	24,127	24,550	24,963	1.7	3.5
Japan	898	878	845	-3.7	-5.9
European Union ¹	4,019	3,425	3,508	2.4	-12.7
Other OECD countries ²	2,824	2,533	2,983	17.7	5.6
All other countries	7,594	7,033	7,174	2.0	-5.5
Trade balance	566	-552	-1,961	...	...
United States	4,606	2,690	3,342	...	...
Japan	62	-36	65	...	...
European Union ¹	-94	106	-663	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-1,123	-1,078	-1,482	...	...
All other countries	-2,885	-2,235	-3,223	...	...

^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

	November 2011	October 2012 ^r	November 2012	October to November 2012	November 2011 to November 2012
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	40,029	37,867	37,512	-0.9	-6.3
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,309	2,745	2,344	-14.6	1.5
Energy products	9,451	8,199	8,103	-1.2	-14.3
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,743	1,306	1,291	-1.1	-25.9
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	5,126	4,557	4,212	-7.6	-17.8
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,932	2,514	2,701	7.5	-7.9
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,514	2,574	2,576	0.1	2.5
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,232	2,208	2,204	-0.2	-1.3
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	2,035	1,836	1,827	-0.5	-10.2
Motor vehicles and parts	5,292	5,652	6,025	6.6	13.9
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,358	1,514	1,581	4.4	16.4
Consumer goods	4,230	3,967	3,899	-1.7	-7.8
Special transactions trade ¹	174	167	115	-31.3	-34.0
Other balance of payments adjustments	632	628	634	0.9	0.3
Total imports	39,463	38,420	39,473	2.7	0.0
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,008	1,013	1,041	2.8	3.3
Energy products	4,320	3,637	3,502	-3.7	-18.9
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	830	923	970	5.1	16.8
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,776	3,463	3,697	6.8	-2.1
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,146	3,019	3,219	6.7	2.3
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,625	1,706	1,655	-3.0	1.9
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	3,639	3,739	3,675	-1.7	1.0
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	4,754	4,351	4,596	5.6	-3.3
Motor vehicles and parts	6,263	6,669	6,904	3.5	10.2
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,099	972	1,059	9.0	-3.6
Consumer goods	7,727	7,691	7,766	1.0	0.5
Special transactions trade ¹	467	420	565	34.6	20.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	806	816	822	0.8	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 November 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 11 (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 December will be released on February 8.

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.

Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey, third quarter 2012

Retail sales rose 1.8% from the third quarter of 2011 to the third quarter of 2012. Higher sales were reported in 7 of 10 major commodity groups.

The largest year-over-year increase occurred in sales of motor vehicles, parts and services (+4.6%), led by higher sales of new passenger cars (+10.2%). Sales were up for new trucks, vans, minivans and sport utility vehicles (+6.8%) and used automotive vehicles (+3.2%), while sales of automotive parts and accessories declined 2.1%. The New Motor Vehicles Sales Survey reported a 5.8% increase in unit sales of new motor vehicles in the third quarter compared with the same quarter of 2011, led by strong sales of passenger cars.

Food and beverage sales grew 2.5%. According to the Consumer Price Index, the price of food purchased from stores increased 1.9% between the third quarter of 2011 and the third quarter of 2012. The largest percentage increase was observed in the sales of deli, salad bars and prepared foods for take-out (+9.3%). The only commodity that declined, bakery products (in-house and commercial), decreased 2.4%.

Sales of automotive fuels, oils and additives were up 1.9%, as consumer prices for gasoline rose 1.8% over the same period.

The commodity group of furniture, home furnishings and electronics saw its sales fall 2.3%. Sales of home electronics, computers and cameras fell 6.4%. The decline was led by televisions and audio video equipment (-11.6%) and computer hardware and software (-4.9%).

Sales of hardware, lawn and garden products fell 1.0%. This mainly reflected lower sales of lawn and garden products (-3.6%).

Retail sales of clothing, footwear and accessories were flat in the third quarter from the same quarter of 2011. Increases in sales of luggage and jewellery (+4.5%) and footwear (+1.8%) were offset by a decrease in sales of clothing and accessories (-1.0%). Sales of women's clothing and accessories fell 2.8% while sales of men's clothing and accessories declined 0.5%.

Note to readers

The Quarterly Retail Commodity Survey collects national level retail sales by commodity, from a sub-sample of businesses in the Monthly Retail Trade Survey.

Quarterly data have not been adjusted for seasonality. All percentage changes are year over year.

Table 1
Sales by commodity, all retail stores – Seasonally unadjusted

	Third quarter 2011 ^r	Second quarter 2012 ^r	Third quarter 2012 ^p	Third quarter 2011 to third quarter 2012
	millions of dollars			% change
Commodity, total	118,452	122,299	120,596	1.8
Food and beverages	27,684	27,826	28,373	2.5
Health and personal care products	10,327	10,407	10,488	1.6
Clothing, footwear and accessories	9,058	9,201	9,057	0.0
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics	9,822	8,761	9,595	-2.3
Motor vehicles, parts and services	24,296	27,770	25,423	4.6
Automotive fuels, oils and additives	13,993	13,753	14,254	1.9
Housewares	2,164	2,042	2,203	1.8
Hardware, lawn and garden products	8,613	9,830	8,526	-1.0
Sporting and leisure goods	3,232	3,131	3,279	1.5
All other goods and services	9,263	9,578	9,398	1.5

^r revised

^p preliminary

Note(s): Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

Available without charge in CANSIM: table 080-0022.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2008.

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).

Chain Fisher real export and import values, November 2012

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

Note to readers

Beginning with the release of the January 2013 reference month, the Canadian international merchandise trade data will be made available on average 35 days after the end of the reference month, on average 5 days earlier than previously. For further information, consult the [release date calendar](#).

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

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

The November 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 11 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for December will be released on February 8.

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, November 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.

Note to readers

Beginning with the release of the January 2013 reference month, the Canadian international merchandise trade data will be made available on average 35 days after the end of the reference month, on average 5 days earlier than previously. For further information, consult the [release date calendar](#).

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

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

The November 2012 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 66, no. 11 (65-001-X, free), is now available from the *Key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for December will be released on February 8.

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Cement, November 2012

Data on cement are now available for November.

Available without charge in CANSIM: tables 303-0060 and 303-0061.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2140.

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

Industry Price Indexes, November 2012, Vol. 38, no. 11
Catalogue number 62-011-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Building Permits, November 2012, Vol. 56, no. 11
Catalogue number 64-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, November 2012, Vol. 66, no. 11
Catalogue number 65-001-X (HTML, free | PDF, free)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database, November 2012
Catalogue number 65F0013X (Database, free)

Release dates: January 14 to 18, 2013

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
17	Canada's international transactions in securities	November 2012
17	Investment in non-residential building construction	Fourth quarter 2012
18	Monthly Survey of Manufacturing	November 2012
18	Employment Insurance	November 2012

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



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