

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, March 18, 2013

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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As a result, net inflows of funds from cross-border transactions in securities resumed in January, after two consecutive months of net outflows. This was a return to the general trend observed since 2009, with foreign investment in Canadian securities exceeding Canadian investment in foreign securities.

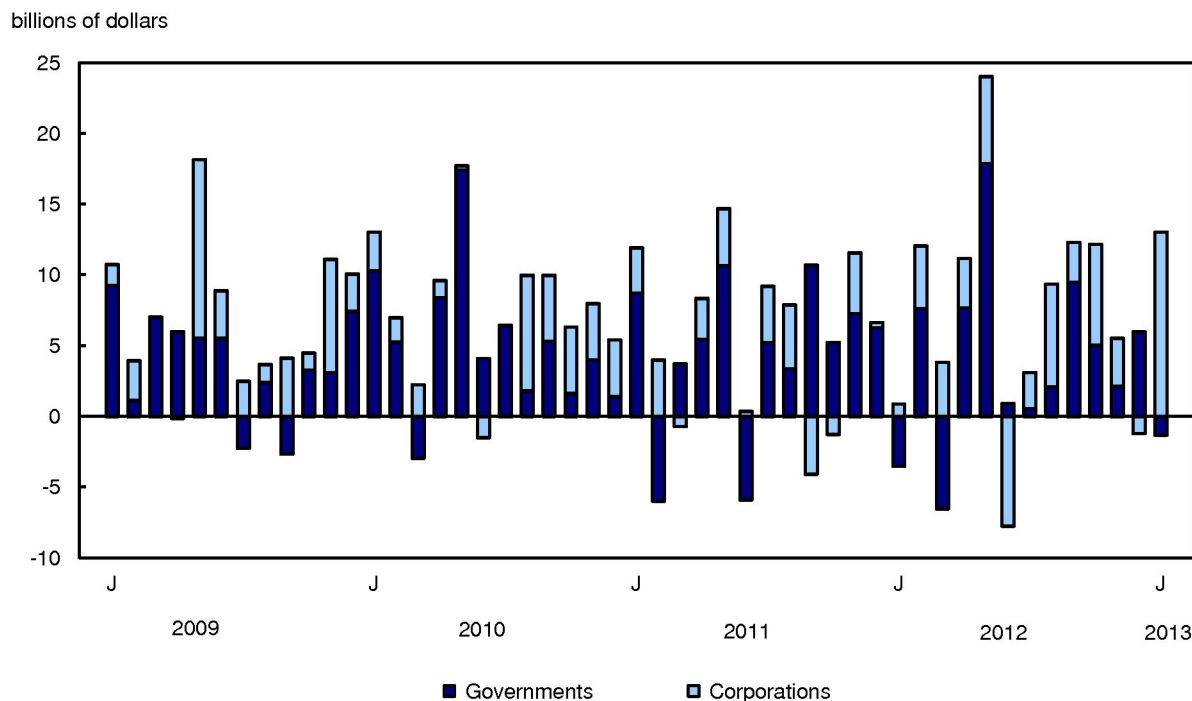
Non-resident investors focus on Canadian corporate debt securities

Non-resident investment in Canadian debt securities strengthened to \$11.7 billion in January, as the investment focus shifted from government to corporate debt securities. Acquisitions of Canadian private corporate debt instruments reached \$10.3 billion in January, the largest inflow since October 2001. This was led by new issues of US dollar-denominated instruments in the US market. In addition, foreign investors added \$2.6 billion of federal government enterprise bonds to their holdings, their largest investment since May 2012.

Non-resident investors reduced their holdings of federal government debt securities by \$4.3 billion in January, the largest outflow since March 2012. Activity in Canadian Treasury bills accounted for the entire reduction through retirements, after two months of sizable foreign investment in these instruments. The supply of new federal debt instruments was limited to bonds in January; however, acquisitions of federal bonds by non-residents slowed for a fourth straight month.

In January, Canadian long-term interest rates reached their highest level since April 2012, while short-term rates were stable. The Canadian dollar depreciated against the US dollar for a second month.

Chart 1
Foreign investment in Canadian debt securities, by issuer



Foreign investment in Canadian shares resumes

Foreign investment in Canadian shares was \$1.7 billion in January, after a \$6.7 billion merger- and acquisition-related reduction in December. The largest inflow since September 2012 was led by secondary market purchases. Canadian share prices were up 2.0% in January, ending the month at their highest level since August 2011.

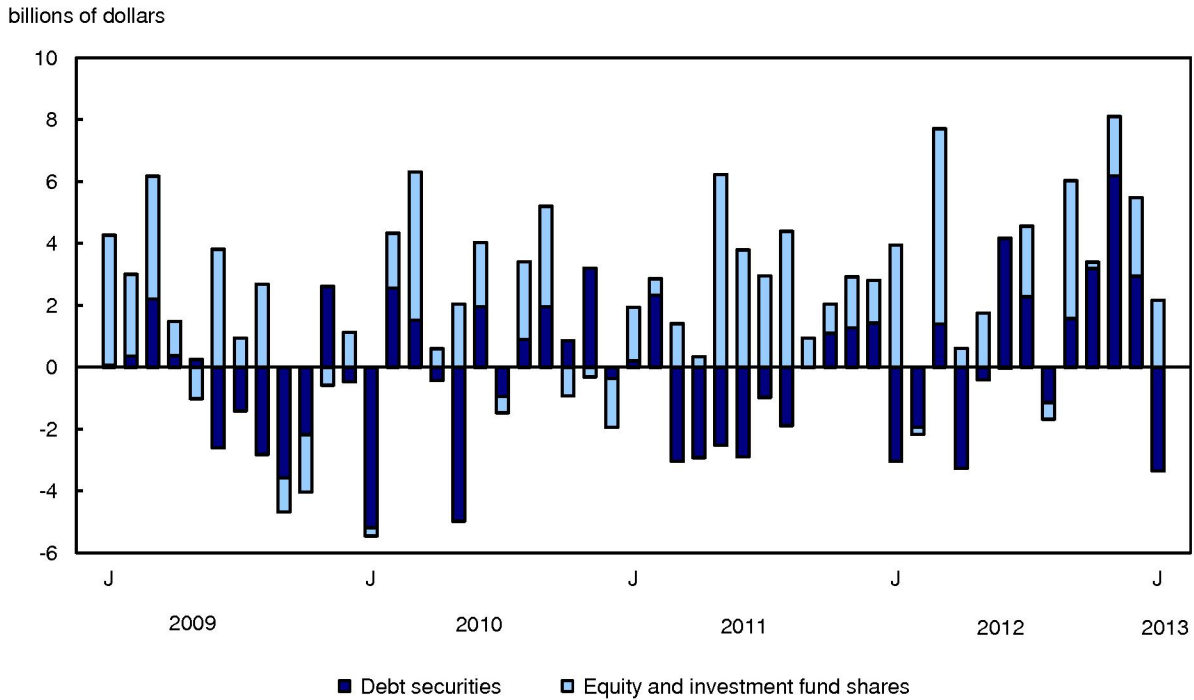
Canadian holdings of foreign bonds down

Canadians reduced their holdings of foreign bonds by \$3.3 billion in January on secondary market sales. Investors sold \$6.0 billion of US government bonds on the secondary market over the month, partially offsetting an acquisition of \$10.4 billion in the previous three months. Sales activity largely involved bonds with short-term maturities. Acquisitions of maple bonds moderated the divestment over the month.

Canadian acquisition of US stocks remains robust

Canadians purchased \$2.2 billion of foreign equities in January, marking a fifth straight month of acquisitions. Investment was all in US instruments and was focused on investment funds tracking broad US stock market indices. US stock prices rose 5.0% in January to reach their highest level in over five years.

Chart 2
Canadian investment in foreign securities



Note to readers

The data series on international transactions in securities cover portfolio transactions in equity and investment fund shares, bonds and money market instruments for both Canadian and foreign issues.

Equity and investment fund shares include common and preferred equities as well as units/shares of investment funds.

Debt securities include bonds and money market instruments.

Bonds have an original term to maturity of more than one year.

Money market instruments have an original term to maturity of one year or less.

Government of Canada paper includes treasury bills and US-dollar Canada bills.

All values in this release are net transactions unless otherwise stated.

Table 1
Canada's international transactions in securities

	November 2012	December 2012	January 2013	2011 ¹	2012 ¹
	millions of dollars				
Foreign investment in Canadian securities	5,495	-1,916	13,337	97,335	83,192
Debt securities	5,523	4,769	11,681	76,198	82,224
Money market instruments	3,820	5,424	-241	32,021	13,255
Governments	3,282	4,152	-3,482	27,884	3,479
Federal government	3,303	3,704	-4,659	25,764	457
Other governments	-20	448	1,177	2,120	3,022
Corporations	538	1,271	3,241	4,137	9,776
Government business enterprises	-690	33	196	1,623	369
Private corporations	1,227	1,238	3,045	2,514	9,407
Bonds	1,703	-655	11,922	44,177	68,969
Governments	-1,169	1,831	2,149	26,830	45,828
Federal government	2,003	1,305	339	12,724	32,393
Other governments	-3,172	526	1,810	14,106	13,434
Corporations	2,872	-2,485	9,773	17,347	23,141
Government business enterprises	1,529	-3,671	2,547	6,575	2,780
Private corporations	1,343	1,186	7,226	10,772	20,361
Equity and investment fund shares	-28	-6,684	1,656	21,136	968
Canadian investment in foreign securities	8,096	5,474	-1,177	18,331	35,131
Debt securities	6,179	2,943	-3,345	-7,924	11,933
Money market instruments	-59	-898	5	-2,036	-1,615
Bonds	6,238	3,841	-3,351	-5,888	13,548
Equity and investment fund shares	1,916	2,531	2,168	26,255	23,198

1. Cumulative transactions.

Note(s): In this table, a plus sign denotes an increase in investment and a minus sign denotes a decrease in investment. Transactions are recorded on a net basis.

Available in CANSIM: tables 376-0131 to 376-0138, 376-0145 and 376-0146.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 1535.

Data on Canada's international transactions in securities for February will be released on April 16.

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 Yiling Zhang (613-951-2057; yiling.zhang@statcan.gc.ca), Balance of Payments Division.

Households and the Environment Survey, 2011

Canadian households are using less bottled water at home and an increasing number have installed energy-efficient fixtures. The disposal of increasingly popular electronic devices has become a significant issue for households since these contain materials that should not be disposed of in landfills.

About 22% of households reported that they drank primarily bottled water at home, down from 24% in 2009 and 30% in 2007. In contrast, 68% reported that they drank primarily tap water, an increase from 66% in 2009.

Households are increasingly using water conservation devices in the home. About 63% reported using low-flow shower heads, which are devices that reduce the flow of water. This is more than twice the proportion of 28% in 1991.

About 47% of households in Canada reported having a low-volume toilet in 2011, a five-fold increase from 9% in 1991.

The survey also found that the disposal of household hazardous wastes such as dead or unwanted electronic equipment, old light bulbs and batteries poses a challenge for many households.

In addition, many households lack awareness about radon and its impact on human health. In 2011, 5% of non-apartment households that had heard of radon had tested their homes for its presence.

Energy use and conservation

Most households (92%) reported having a thermostat in 2011. About 54% of these households had programmable thermostats, up from 49% in 2009.

About 60% of households that had a thermostat lowered the temperature overnight during winter, similar to the share in 2009.

Households in Newfoundland and Labrador (70%) were most likely to turn the temperature down. Those in New Brunswick (55%) and Ontario (57%) were the least likely to do so.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of households with programmable thermostats that had been programmed reported that they lowered the temperature when they were asleep. In contrast, 49% of households with a non-programmable thermostat, or a programmable thermostat that had not been programmed, lowered the temperature.

In 2011, about 87% of households reported that they had at least one of four types of energy-efficient lights in the home: compact fluorescent lights, fluorescent tube lights, halogen lights and light-emitting diodes.

About 76% reported they had at least one compact fluorescent light, 40% reported at least one fluorescent tube light and 34% at least one halogen light.

In Prince Edward Island and Ontario, four out of five households had at least one compact fluorescent light, the highest proportion among the provinces.

Household hazardous waste

Compact fluorescent lights contain mercury and should not be disposed of along with normal household waste. About 23% of households reported having dead or unwanted compact fluorescent lights for disposal.

Nationally, 50% of these households reported that they put these lights in the garbage, the most frequently reported method of disposal. About 24% said they took the lights to a depot or drop-off centre, while 8% returned them to a supplier or retailer. At the time of the survey, 12% of households still had the lights.

About 34% of households had leftover or expired medication for disposal. Of these households, 63% returned the medication to the supplier, retailer, pharmacy or doctor for disposal, up from 57% in 2009. About 21% put it in the garbage.

Electronic devices (e-waste)

Some of the components in electronic devices contain metals and other materials that are considered hazardous waste and should not be disposed of in landfills. As electronic devices become more popular, their disposal at the end of their useful life is a challenge for both households and landfill operators.

About 18% of Canadian households had dead or unwanted cellphones. Of these households, 25% took or sent them to a depot or drop-off centre, while 19% returned them to a supplier or retailer. About 8% donated them or gave them away, while about 5% put them in the garbage. Some 44% of households had dead or unwanted cellphones at the time of the survey.

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas found naturally in the environment. In a home, it can accumulate to levels that pose a health risk. Over the long term, exposure to radon increases the risk of developing lung cancer, especially for smokers.

In 2011, 40% of Canadian households had heard of radon. Households in Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan were the most likely to have heard of it. Those in Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador were the least likely.

Of households that had heard of radon, 73% said that radon is a health hazard, up from 68% in 2009. About 9% said it is not a health hazard, and 17% did not know one way or the other.

Note to readers

The Households and the Environment Survey (HES) measures the behaviours of Canadian households with respect to the environment. It is a biennial survey, conducted under the umbrella of the Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators program, a broader initiative of Statistics Canada, Environment Canada and Health Canada.

First conducted in 1991, HES was subsequently conducted in 1994, 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2011. Some of the environmental variables from the first cycle continue to be measured, but many new topics have been introduced over the years.

This report presents the results of six major themes covered by the 2011 HES: the consumption and conservation of water and of energy, indoor environment, household hazardous waste and purchasing decisions.

HES surveyed roughly 20,000 households.

Available in CANSIM: tables 153-0059, 153-0060, 153-0062, 153-0063, 153-0066, 153-0098 and 153-0104.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3881.

The publication *Households and the Environment*, 2011 (11-526-X), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

The CD-ROM *Households and the Environment Survey: Public Use Microdata File*, 2011 (16M0001X), is also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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 Gordon Dewis (613-951-4591; gordon.dewis@statcan.gc.ca), Environment Accounts and Statistics Division.

Monthly Survey of Large Retailers, January 2013

Data for the Monthly Survey of Large Retailers are now available for January.

Available in CANSIM: table 080-0009.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5027.

A [data table](#) is also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Summary tables*.

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).

Supply and disposition of natural gas, October to December 2012

Monthly data on the supply and disposition of natural gas are now available for October to December.

Note to readers

Data from January to September 2012 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: table 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 us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Natural gas transportation and distribution, October to December 2012

Data on natural gas transportation and distribution are now available for October to December.

Note to readers

Data from January to September 2012 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: tables 129-0001 to 129-0004.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2149.

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

Households and the Environment, 2011
Catalogue number 11-526-X (HTML | PDF)

Households and the Environment Survey: Public Use Microdata File, 2011
Catalogue number 16M0001X (CD-ROM)



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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