

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 2, 2013

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

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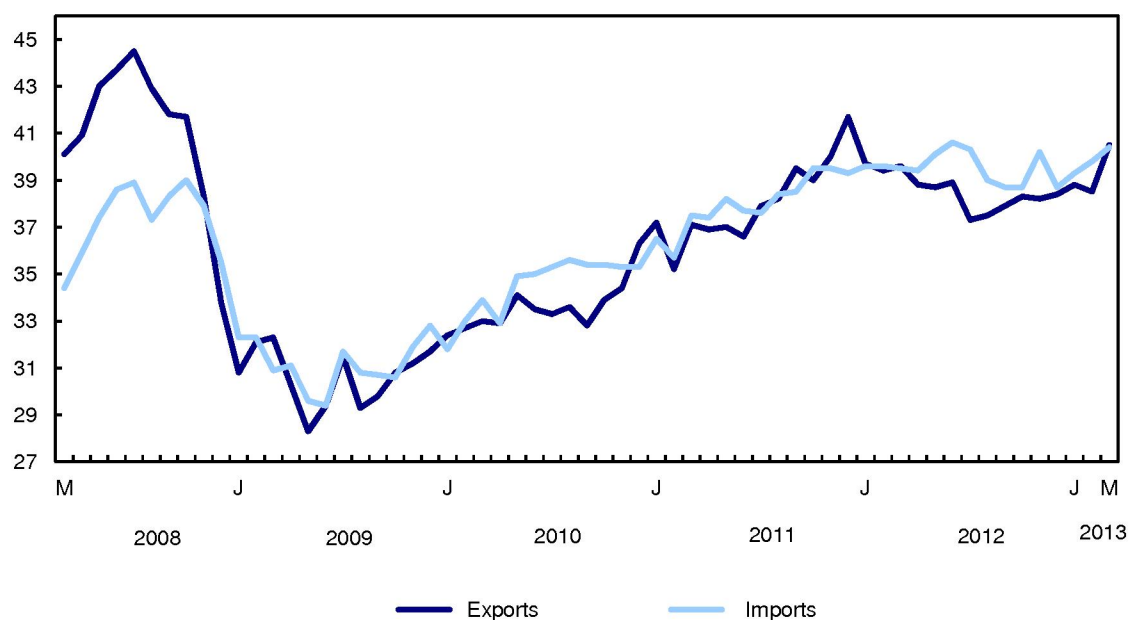
Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, March 2013

Canada's merchandise exports increased 5.1% in March and imports rose 1.7%. As a result, Canada's trade balance went from a deficit of \$1.2 billion in February to a surplus of \$24 million in March.

Chart 1 Exports and imports

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Exports grew to \$40.5 billion in March, and have been on an upward trend since July 2012. Gains were recorded in all sections during the month and export volumes were up 5.1%.

Imports rose for a third consecutive month to reach \$40.4 billion, their second highest value on record. The main contributors to the monthly increase were energy products and metal and non-metallic mineral products. Overall, prices grew 1.4% and volumes were up 0.3%.

Exports to the United States rose 4.0% to \$29.5 billion in March, on higher exports of motor vehicles and parts and energy products. Imports from the United States were up 2.0% to \$25.6 billion, a third consecutive monthly advance. Consequently, Canada's trade surplus with the United States increased from \$3.2 billion in February to \$3.8 billion in March.

Exports to countries other than the United States rose 7.9% to \$11.0 billion in March. All principal trading areas registered gains, with Japan (+25.2%) recording the largest percentage increase. Imports from countries other than United States grew 1.2% to \$14.8 billion. As a result, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States decreased from \$4.4 billion in February to \$3.8 billion in March.

Higher volumes lead increase in exports

Exports of energy products rose 3.9% to \$9.1 billion in March, mainly because of a 24.8% increase in volumes of natural gas. Exports of this commodity group have been on an upward trend since May 2012, primarily the result of higher prices. Also contributing to the rise in exports of energy products were refined petroleum energy products and other energy products.

Exports of motor vehicles and parts increased 6.1% to \$5.8 billion, as volumes were up 4.8% and prices rose 1.2%. All groups recorded an increase in value, led by passenger cars and light trucks (+6.2%).

Exports of consumer goods rose 5.6% to \$4.3 billion, as a result of higher volumes and prices. Exports of food, beverage and tobacco products were the main contributors to the gain, up 14.4% to a record high of \$2.0 billion.

Exports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals rose 13.2% to \$1.7 billion in March. Copper ores and concentrates contributed the most to the increase, the result of higher volumes (+94.9%).

Exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts increased 13.4% to \$1.5 billion, on higher volumes. Aircraft, aircraft engines and aircraft parts rose for a third consecutive month to lead the overall increase in this section.

Widespread gains in imports

Imports of energy products increased 7.5% to \$3.8 billion in March, as volumes rose 4.9%, and prices were up 2.5%. Higher imports of crude oil and crude bitumen led the way, increasing 18.1% to \$2.5 billion after three consecutive monthly declines.

Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products rose 5.8% to \$3.5 billion. Widespread gains in the section were led by unwrought precious metal and precious metal alloys, which increased 21.8% entirely on higher volumes.

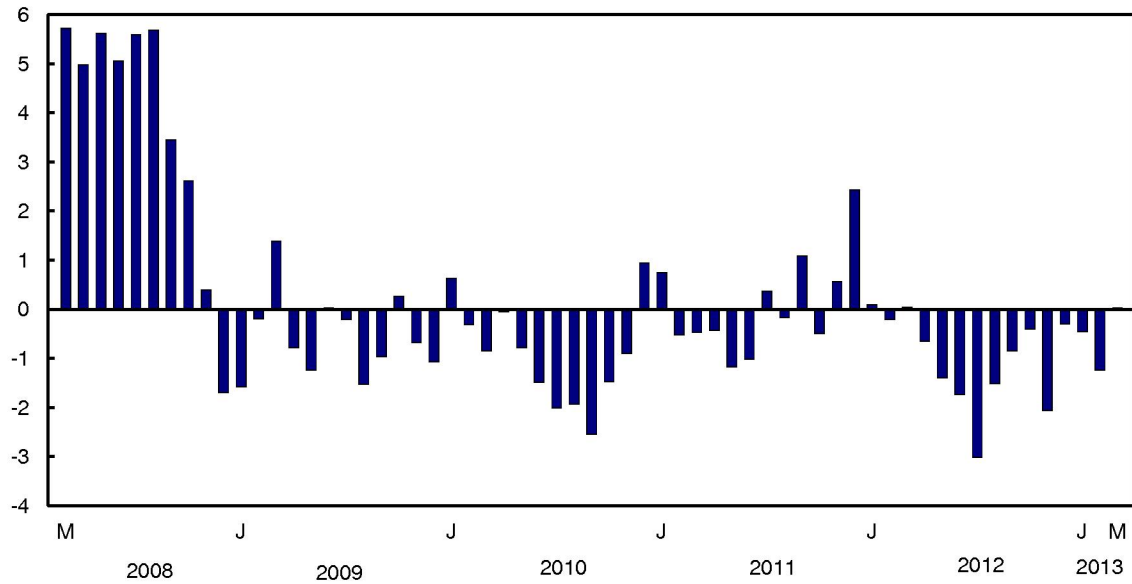
Imports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts were up 15.8% to \$1.2 billion in March. The increase was the result of higher volumes (+13.9%).

Imports of motor vehicles and parts rose 2.4% to \$7.0 billion, their highest value since July 2012. An increase in imports of motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts (+4.6%) was the main contributor to the monthly gain. Volumes of motor vehicles and parts increased 1.3% and prices were up 1.1%.

In contrast, imports of basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products declined 8.1% to \$3.2 billion in March, on lower volumes (-9.7%). Imports of lubricants and other petroleum refinery products, as well as basic chemicals posted the largest declines.

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](#).

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 section 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.

Table 1
Merchandise trade: Principal trading areas – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	March 2012 ^r	February 2013 ^r	March 2013	February to March 2013	March 2012 to March 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	39,568	38,523	40,470	5.1	2.3
United States	28,834	28,321	29,465	4.0	2.2
Japan	997	888	1,111	25.2	11.5
European Union ¹	3,649	3,345	3,375	0.9	-7.5
Other OECD countries ²	1,477	1,596	1,737	8.8	17.6
All other countries	4,611	4,372	4,781	9.4	3.7
Total imports	39,523	39,770	40,446	1.7	2.3
United States	24,163	25,142	25,644	2.0	6.1
Japan	1,023	733	754	2.8	-26.3
European Union ¹	3,863	3,716	3,634	-2.2	-5.9
Other OECD countries ²	3,466	3,278	3,201	-2.3	-7.6
All other countries	7,009	6,900	7,212	4.5	2.9
Trade balance	45	-1,247	24	...	...
United States	4,672	3,179	3,821	...	...
Japan	-26	155	357	...	...
European Union ¹	-214	-371	-259	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-1,989	-1,682	-1,464	...	...
All other countries	-2,398	-2,528	-2,431	...	...

^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 Classification¹ – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	March 2012 ^r	February 2013 ^r	March 2013	February to March 2013	March 2012 to March 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	39,568	38,523	40,470	5.1	2.3
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,252	2,344	2,482	5.9	10.2
Energy products	9,493	8,774	9,117	3.9	-4.0
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,626	1,484	1,680	13.2	3.3
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	4,879	4,696	4,736	0.8	-2.9
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,900	2,834	2,950	4.1	1.7
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,513	2,739	2,849	4.0	13.4
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,257	2,151	2,250	4.6	-0.3
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	1,995	1,777	1,927	8.4	-3.4
Motor vehicles and parts	5,271	5,450	5,781	6.1	9.7
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,488	1,356	1,538	13.4	3.4
Consumer goods	4,123	4,038	4,265	5.6	3.5
Special transactions trade ²	179	201	196	-2.2	9.6
Other balance of payments adjustments	593	678	699	3.2	18.0
Total imports	39,523	39,770	40,446	1.7	2.3
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	998	1,114	1,119	0.4	12.2
Energy products	3,724	3,524	3,789	7.5	1.7
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	596	944	1,086	15.1	82.2
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,651	3,321	3,514	5.8	-3.7
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,137	3,444	3,166	-8.1	0.9
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,690	1,739	1,761	1.2	4.2
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	3,806	3,761	3,826	1.7	0.5
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	4,713	4,570	4,516	-1.2	-4.2
Motor vehicles and parts	7,077	6,881	7,044	2.4	-0.5
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,116	1,064	1,232	15.8	10.4
Consumer goods	7,770	8,084	7,956	-1.6	2.4
Special transactions trade ²	441	490	596	21.6	35.0
Other balance of payments adjustments	804	834	841	0.8	4.6

^r revised

1. International merchandise trade data are based on the North American Product Classification System 2007.

2. 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 in CANSIM: tables 228-0058 to 228-0068.

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

These data are now available in the *Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database* (65F0013X). From the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, choose *Publications*.

The March 2013 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 67, no. 3 (65-001-X), is also available from the *Browse by 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).

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for April will be released on June 4.

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.

Chain Fisher real export and import values, March 2013

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

Available in CANSIM: tables 228-0061 and 228-0062.

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

The March 2013 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 67, no. 3 (65-001-X), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for April will be released on June 4.

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, March 2013

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 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.

Available in CANSIM: tables 228-0063 to 228-0068.

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

The March 2013 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 67, no. 3 (65-001-X), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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Stocks of frozen and chilled meats, April 2013

Data on stocks of frozen and chilled meats are now available for April.

Note to readers

This release contains data on stock holdings for various cuts of pork, beef, veal, mutton and lamb, and fancy meats at the Canada level, as well as total red meats at the regional level. This release also contains the holdings of imported meat at the national level for the same periods.

Available in CANSIM: tables 003-0081 and 003-0082.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3423.

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).

Electric power statistics, February 2013

Data on electric power are now available for February.

Note to readers

Data from February 2012 to January 2013 have been revised.

Available in CANSIM: tables 127-0002 and 127-0003.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2151.

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).

Coal and coke statistics, February 2013

Data on coal and coke are now available for February.

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

Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database, March 2013
Catalogue number 65F0013X (Database)

<p>Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada</p> <h1>The Daily</h1> <h2>Statistics Canada</h2>	
<p>Thursday, May 20, 2009 Released at 9:30 a.m. – Eastern Time</p>	
<h3>Features</h3>	
<p>Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2009 Canada's current account in Q1 fell after a rise in the quarter of 2008, mainly higher exports for mineral products. The current account with the rest of the world fell by 1.1 per cent from 1.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2008. The current account with the rest of the world fell by 1.1 per cent from 1.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2008. The current account with the rest of the world fell by 1.1 per cent from 1.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2008.</p>	2
<p>Reported employment, earnings and hours, March 2009 The year-to-year increase in employment fell to 0.1 per cent in March 2009, after a 0.2 per cent increase in February 2009. The year-to-year increase in earnings fell to 0.1 per cent in March 2009, after a 0.2 per cent increase in February 2009. The year-to-year increase in hours fell to 0.1 per cent in March 2009, after a 0.2 per cent increase in February 2009.</p>	7
<p>Public health expenditure, first quarter 2008 Public health expenditure in the first quarter of 2008 was 1.1 per cent of GDP, up from 1.0 per cent in the first quarter of 2007.</p>	9
<p>Employment and Wages: National Post-Index, April 2009 The national post-index for employment in April 2009 was 100.0, up from 99.9 in March 2009.</p>	10
<p>Prevalence of Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, 2008 The prevalence of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in 2008 was 1.1 per cent of the population, up from 1.0 per cent in 2007.</p>	12
<p>Health Indicators, 2008 The health indicators for 2008 were 1.1 per cent of the population, up from 1.0 per cent in 2007.</p>	13
<h3>New products</h3>	
<p>2008 Census profiles With the inclusion of the census and earnings, the census profiles are now available for the first time. The census profiles are available for the first time. The census profiles are available for the first time. The census profiles are available for the first time.</p>	11

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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