

The Daily

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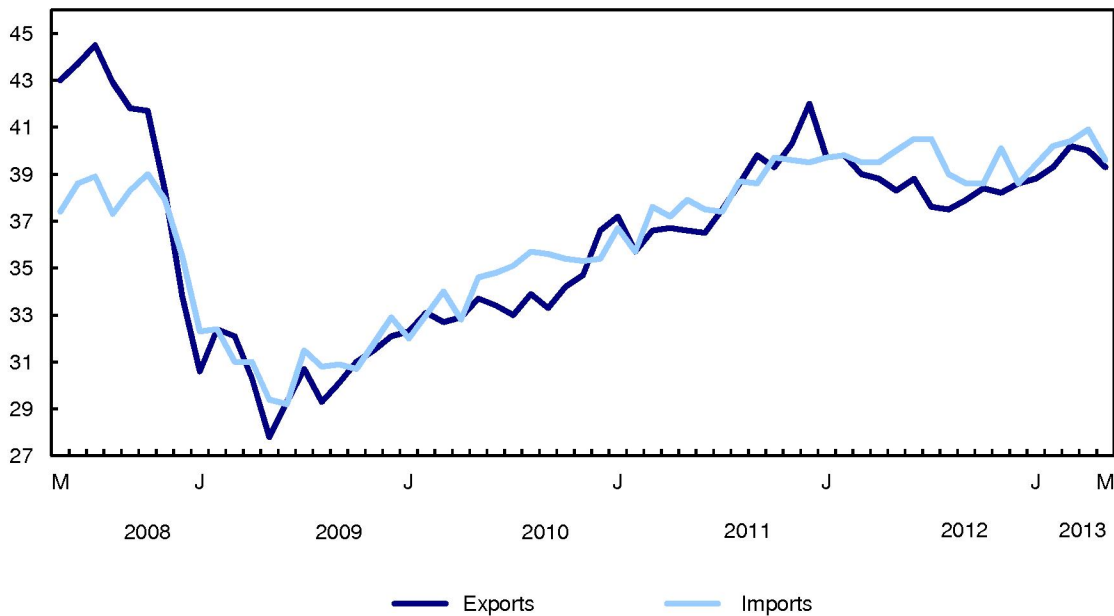
Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, May 2013

Canada's merchandise imports fell 3.2% and exports declined 1.6%. As a result, Canada's trade deficit with the world decreased from \$951 million in April to \$303 million in May.

Chart 1 Exports and imports

billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted



Following four consecutive monthly increases, imports fell to \$39.6 billion. The decline was largely attributed to lower imports of energy products, and metal ores and non-metallic minerals. Also contributing to the decrease were motor vehicles and parts, and metal and non-metallic mineral products. Overall, volumes were down 2.0% and prices, 1.2%.

Exports declined to \$39.3 billion as prices decreased 1.0% and volumes were down 0.7%. The overall decline in exports was led by metal and non-metallic mineral products, as well as motor vehicles and parts.

Imports from the United States declined 2.0% to \$25.7 billion, the first decrease in five months. Contributing to the decline in May were lower imports of precious metals ores and concentrates, and precious metal bullion, as well as passenger cars. Exports to the United States decreased 1.6% to \$29.2 billion. Consequently, Canada's trade surplus with the United States went from \$3.4 billion in April to \$3.5 billion in May.

Imports from countries other than the United States fell 5.3% to \$13.9 billion. The main contributor to the decline was the principal trading area "all other countries", which fell 10.4%, mainly on lower imports of crude oil and crude bitumen. Exports to countries other than the United States declined 1.6% to \$10.1 billion. As a result, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States decreased from \$4.4 billion in April to \$3.8 billion in May.

Lower volumes of energy products lead the decline in imports

Imports of energy products declined 18.4% to \$3.2 billion in May, as volumes decreased 15.2%. Imports of crude oil and crude bitumen fell 34.1% to \$1.5 billion, on lower volumes (-31.7%). This was the sixth consecutive monthly decrease in imports of crude oil and crude bitumen, and the lowest level since March 2009.

Imports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals fell 38.8% to \$777 million, as volumes declined 32.9%. Widespread decreases in imports were recorded throughout the section, led by other metal ores and concentrates, mainly precious metal ores and concentrates, and precious metal bullion.

Following three consecutive monthly increases, imports of motor vehicles and parts declined 4.7% to \$6.9 billion in May. Passenger cars and light trucks was the main contributor, falling 8.9%, entirely on lower volumes.

Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products decreased 8.5% to \$3.3 billion. Unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys declined 34.0% to \$624 million on lower volumes and prices.

Exports of unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys fall in May

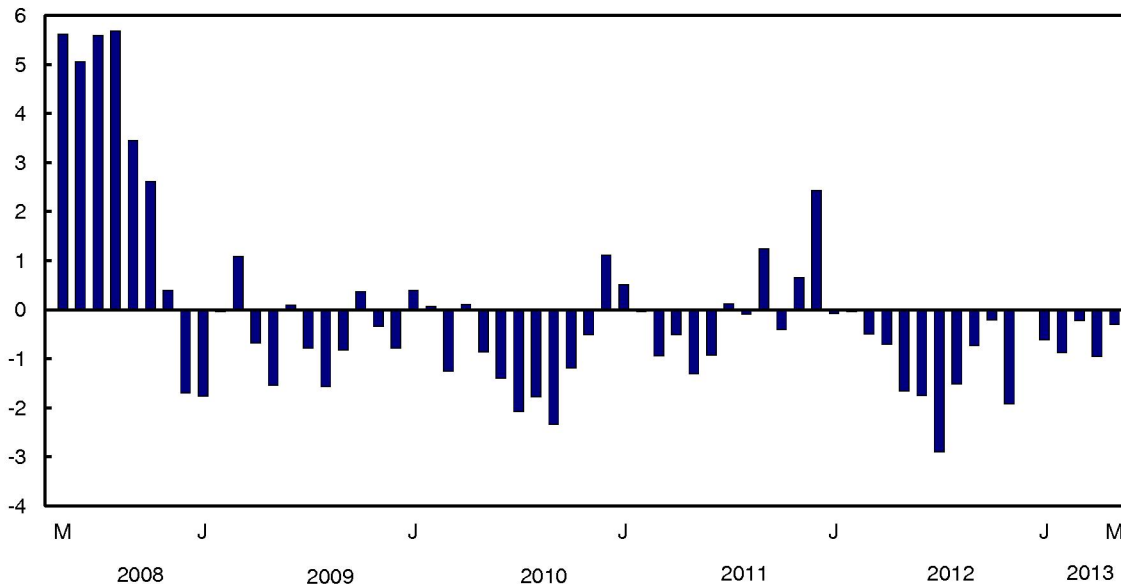
Exports of metal and non-metallic mineral products declined 15.0% to \$4.2 billion in May. The main contributor to the section's decrease was unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys, which fell 34.9% to \$1.4 billion on lower volumes (-33.2%).

Exports of motor vehicles and parts declined 3.8% to \$5.4 billion; volumes were down 3.9%. Passenger cars and light trucks led the overall decline, down 4.3% to \$3.7 billion.

Exports of energy products increased 1.2% to \$9.2 billion. A 3.3% gain in exports of crude oil and crude bitumen was partially offset by decreases in refined petroleum energy products (-7.0%) and natural gas (-6.2%).

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 four years were released 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

	May 2012	April 2013 ^r	May 2013	April to May 2013	May 2012 to May 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	38,307	39,993	39,340	-1.6	2.7
United States	27,626	29,682	29,196	-1.6	5.7
Japan	749	935	918	-1.8	22.6
European Union ¹	3,502	3,060	2,621	-14.4	-25.2
Other OECD countries ²	1,490	1,467	1,506	2.7	1.0
All other countries	4,939	4,851	5,100	5.1	3.2
Total imports	39,967	40,944	39,643	-3.2	-0.8
United States	24,957	26,267	25,743	-2.0	3.2
Japan	911	799	867	8.4	-4.9
European Union ¹	4,069	4,095	4,318	5.4	6.1
Other OECD countries ²	2,885	3,262	2,874	-11.9	-0.4
All other countries	7,145	6,521	5,841	-10.4	-18.2
Trade balance	-1,660	-951	-303	...	...
United States	2,669	3,414	3,452	...	...
Japan	-162	136	52	...	...
European Union ¹	-567	-1,035	-1,697	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-1,394	-1,795	-1,369	...	...
All other countries	-2,206	-1,671	-742	...	...

^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

	May 2012	April 2013 ^r	May 2013	April to May 2013	May 2012 to May 2013
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	38,307	39,993	39,340	-1.6	2.7
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,188	2,372	2,381	0.4	8.8
Energy products	8,356	9,050	9,161	1.2	9.6
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,537	1,481	1,538	3.9	0.1
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	4,497	4,988	4,241	-15.0	-5.7
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,745	2,921	2,951	1.0	7.5
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,528	2,846	2,825	-0.8	11.8
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,309	2,133	2,225	4.3	-3.6
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	1,997	1,898	1,893	-0.3	-5.2
Motor vehicles and parts	5,509	5,659	5,444	-3.8	-1.2
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,622	1,430	1,361	-4.9	-16.1
Consumer goods	4,152	4,330	4,421	2.1	6.5
Special transactions trade ²	218	214	221	3.6	1.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	649	671	678	1.0	4.4
Total imports	39,967	40,944	39,643	-3.2	-0.8
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,012	1,073	1,154	7.6	14.0
Energy products	4,176	3,928	3,206	-18.4	-23.2
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	825	1,268	777	-38.8	-5.9
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,530	3,629	3,319	-8.5	-6.0
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,142	3,226	3,362	4.2	7.0
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,712	1,743	1,718	-1.4	0.4
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	3,828	3,670	3,748	2.1	-2.1
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	4,637	4,666	4,830	3.5	4.2
Motor vehicles and parts	7,010	7,223	6,885	-4.7	-1.8
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,086	1,159	954	-17.6	-12.1
Consumer goods	7,717	7,964	8,157	2.4	5.7
Special transactions trade ²	467	549	682	24.3	45.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	823	846	852	0.6	3.5

^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 May 2013 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 67, no. 5 (65-001-X), is also available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Data on Canadian international merchandise trade for June will be released on August 6.

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.

Export and import price indexes, May 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 May 2013 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 67, no. 5 (65-001-X), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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Chain Fisher real export and import values, May 2013

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

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

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

The May 2013 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 67, no. 5 (65-001-X), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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Prepared Food and Beverage Sales Survey, 2012

Data from the Prepared Food and Beverage Sales Survey are now available for the province of Ontario for 2012.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5175.

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 Debbie Hills (613-951-0063), Centre for Special Business Projects.

Canadian Coroner and Medical Examiner Database, 2009 and 2010

Data from the Canadian Coroner and Medical Examiner Database are now available for 2009 and 2010.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5125.

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

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