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The Daily

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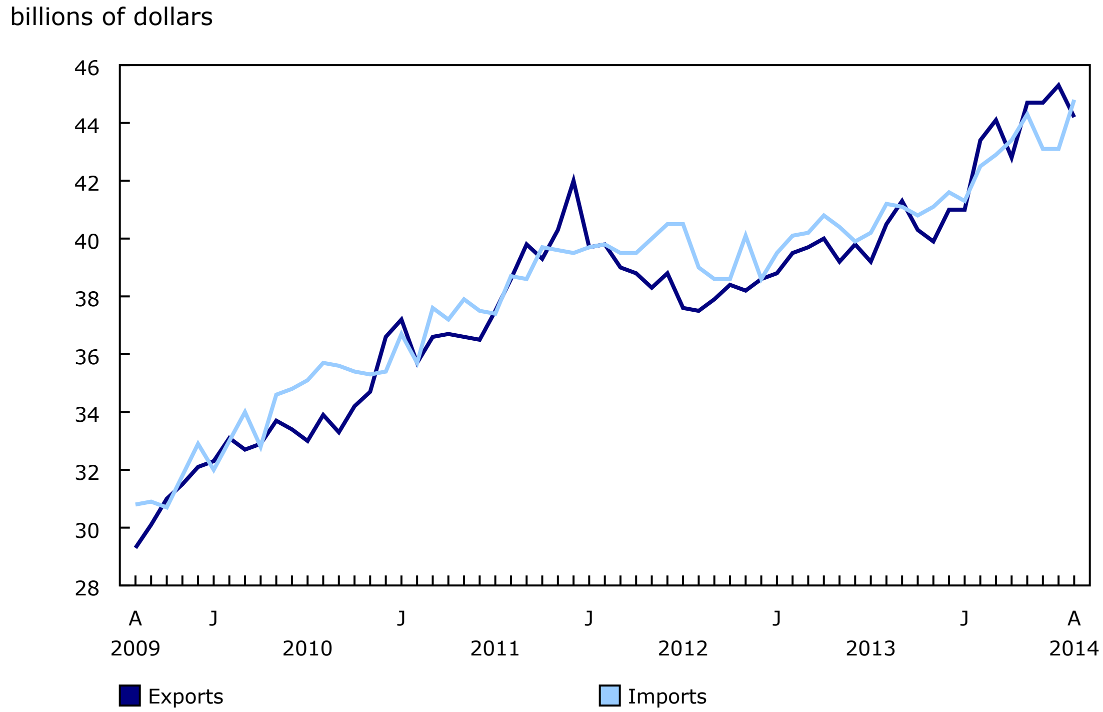
Releases

Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, August 2014

Canada's merchandise imports rose 3.9% in August, while exports decreased 2.5%. As a result, Canada's trade balance with the world went from a surplus of $2.2 billion in July to a deficit of $610 million in August.

Chart 1
Exports and imports



Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted.

Imports rose to a record high $44.8 billion, led by metal and non-metallic mineral products as well as energy products. Overall, volumes increased 2.4% and prices were up 1.5%.

Exports decreased to $44.2 billion. Exports declined in 9 of 11 sections; the main contributors were motor vehicles and parts as well as energy products. Overall, volumes were down 1.8% and prices 0.7%.

Imports from non-US countries rise

Imports from countries other than the United States rose 9.3% to $15.1 billion in August. There were higher imports recorded for the principal trading area "all other countries" (+18.8%), primarily crude oil and crude bitumen. Exports to countries other than the United States declined 2.5% to $10.9 billion on lower exports to the European Union (-4.4%) and Japan (-9.9%). Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States widened from $2.6 billion in July to $4.1 billion in August.

Imports from the United States were up 1.4% to $29.7 billion. Exports to the United States declined 2.5% to $33.3 billion on lower exports of motor vehicles and parts as well as energy products. Canada's trade surplus with the United States narrowed from $4.8 billion in July to $3.5 billion in August.

Imports increase on higher volumes

Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products rose 24.1% to a record high $4.4 billion in August, as volumes were up 18.6%. The main contributor to the increase in imports was unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys (+92.7%). Also contributing were unwrought iron, steel and ferro-alloys, and basic and semi-finished ferrous metal products (+17.3%) as well as unwrought copper and copper alloys, which advanced $91 million to reach $131 million in August.

Energy products increased 20.8% to $4.3 billion, on the strength of volumes. Crude oil and crude bitumen was the main factor behind the gain, as imports were up 36.6% to $2.6 billion. Also contributing were higher imports of natural gas liquids and related products (+69.2%), which rose on higher prices and volumes.

Following three consecutive monthly declines, imports of consumer goods grew 4.4% to a record high $9.0 billion. Increases were widespread throughout the section, led by miscellaneous goods and supplies (+15.1%) and clothing, footwear and accessories (+6.6%). Overall, volumes were up 3.3% and prices 1.1%.

Imports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals increased 33.2% to $1.1 billion, entirely on higher volumes. Leading the increase in imports was the commodity grouping "other metal ores and concentrates" (+22.7%), primarily lead ores. Higher imports were also recorded for nickel ores and concentrates, up $76 million to reach $90 million in August.

Imports of motor vehicles and parts fell 7.2% to $7.2 billion, partially offsetting the overall increase in total imports. Motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts (-11.1%) and passenger cars and light trucks (-6.2%) were the main contributors to the section's decline. Historically, most automotive plants have shutdowns in July. However, this year, several plants reported shorter or no shutdowns during July, which led to an increase in seasonally-adjusted imports for that month, as well as a subsequent decline in August as imports returned to more normal levels.

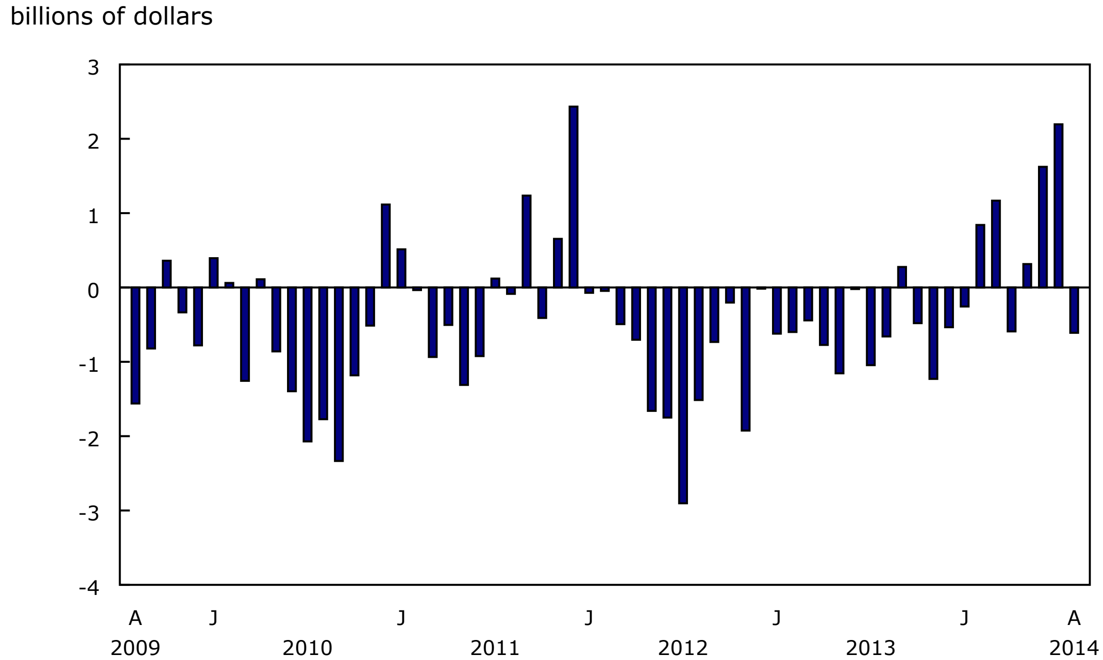
Exports of motor vehicles and parts and energy products decline

Exports of motor vehicles and parts decreased 11.2% to $6.1 billion in August. Lower exports of passenger cars and light trucks, down 13.1% to $4.0 billion, was the principal factor behind the decline. Also declining was motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts (-8.6%). As with imports, most automotive plants have shutdowns in July. However, this year, several plants reported shorter or no shutdowns during July, which led to an increase in seasonally-adjusted exports for that month, as well as a subsequent decline in August as exports returned to more normal levels.

Exports of energy products declined 5.8% to $10.5 billion, as prices decreased 4.9%. Crude oil and crude bitumen was the main contributor, as exports fell 7.1% to $7.7 billion.

Partially offsetting these declines, exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts were up 26.8% to $2.1 billion, the second highest value on record. Higher exports of aircraft (+45.4%) led the increase. The commodity grouping "ships, locomotives, railway rolling stock, and rapid transit equipment" also increased, up $143 million to reach $171 million in August.

Chart 2
Trade balance



Note(s): Data are 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 currently 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 Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions.

More countries will be available on a BOP basis for trade in goods

The countries and country groupings for which Statistics Canada currently publishes data on a BOP basis will be replaced by a list of Canada's top 27 principal trading partners (PTPs). The list of PTPs is based on their annual share of total trade—merchandise imports and exports—with Canada in 2012.

Historical data based on the new list of PTPs for the reference period from January 1997 to December 2010 will be released on November 19, 2014.

The first regular release of data based on the new list of PTPs will be on December 5, 2014. This release will cover the period from January 2011 to October 2014. A calculated trade balance and the expanded list of PTPs will be featured in the new CANSIM table 228-0069.

A conceptual analysis of BOP versus customs-based data, titled Balance of Payments Trade in Goods at Statistics Canada: Expanding Geographic Detail to 27 Principal Trading Partners (PTPs), will be available to users in the fall of 2014.

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. To remain consistent with the Canadian System of macroeconomic accounts, annual revisions will take place in December with the October reference month rather than in June, as was previously the case.

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.

For more information on revisions for crude oil and natural gas, see "Revisions to trade data for crude oil and natural gas."

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

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

	August 2013	July 2014[r]	August 2014	July to August 2014	August 2013 to August 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	**40,505**	**45,313**	**44,189**	**-2.5**	**9.1**
United States	30,673	34,104	33,256	-2.5	8.4
Japan	894	1,004	904	-9.9	1.1
European Union[1]	2,485	3,638	3,476	-4.4	39.9
Other OECD countries[2]	1,637	1,636	1,586	-3.1	-3.1
All other countries	4,816	4,931	4,967	0.7	3.1
Total imports	**41,164**	**43,118**	**44,799**	**3.9**	**8.8**
United States	26,039	29,345	29,744	1.4	14.2
Japan	805	758	751	-0.9	-6.6
European Union[1]	3,722	4,070	4,129	1.5	10.9
Other OECD countries[2]	3,225	2,847	2,931	2.9	-9.1
All other countries	7,374	6,098	7,244	18.8	-1.8
Trade balance	**-659**	**2,195**	**-610**	**...**	**...**
United States	4,635	4,759	3,512	...	...
Japan	90	246	153	...	...
European Union[1]	-1,237	-432	-653	...	...
Other OECD countries[2]	-1,588	-1,212	-1,345	...	...
All other countries	-2,558	-1,166	-2,276	...	...

r revised
... not applicable
1. The European Union includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the 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 System[1]– Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	August 2013	July 2014[r]	August 2014	July to August 2014	August 2013 to August 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	**40,505**	**45,313**	**44,189**	**-2.5**	**9.1**
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,128	2,893	2,865	-1.0	34.6
Energy products	10,187	11,103	10,463	-5.8	2.7
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,474	1,546	1,520	-1.7	3.1
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	4,509	4,958	4,864	-1.9	7.9
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,918	2,903	3,045	4.9	4.4
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,829	3,101	3,031	-2.3	7.1
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,317	2,437	2,414	-1.0	4.1
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	1,852	2,059	2,012	-2.3	8.6
Motor vehicles and parts	5,781	6,827	6,064	-11.2	4.9
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,361	1,688	2,140	26.8	57.2
Consumer goods	4,284	4,836	4,835	0.0	12.9
Special transactions trade[2]	190	183	166	-9.3	-12.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	676	779	772	-0.9	14.3
Total imports	**41,164**	**43,118**	**44,799**	**3.9**	**8.8**
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,077	1,259	1,218	-3.3	13.1
Energy products	3,765	3,518	4,251	20.8	12.9
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	881	802	1,069	33.2	21.3
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,330	3,547	4,402	24.1	32.2
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,555	3,816	3,733	-2.2	5.0
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,779	1,873	1,880	0.4	5.7
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	3,880	4,223	4,121	-2.4	6.2
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	4,700	4,725	4,851	2.7	3.2
Motor vehicles and parts	7,211	7,800	7,241	-7.2	0.4
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,427	1,423	1,210	-15.0	-15.2
Consumer goods	8,156	8,666	9,047	4.4	10.9
Special transactions trade[2]	565	599	895	49.3	58.3
Other balance of payments adjustments	838	867	881	1.6	5.1

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 as well as goods returned to the country of origin.

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

Available in CANSIM: tables 228-0058 to 228-0064, 228-0066 and 228-0067.

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 August 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 8 (**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 September will be released on November 4.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Alec Forbes (613-951-0325), International Accounts and Trade Division.

Production of principal field crops, September 2014

Farmers expect lower levels of production for most field crops this year compared with the bumper crops on the Canadian Prairies in 2013. However, soybean production could climb to a sixth consecutive record high.

At the time of this survey, some Prairie farmers reported harvest areas being subject to damaging weather events, such as hail and snow.

Wheat

Nationally, total wheat production is expected to fall 26.8% from 2013 to 27.5 million tonnes. Harvested area is expected to decline 10.5% to 23.1 million acres, while average yield is expected to fall 18.2% to 43.7 bushels per acre.

Saskatchewan anticipates production to decline 26.9% to 13.4 million tonnes. Average yield is expected to be 38.8 bushels per acre, 19.0% lower than in 2013.

Alberta (-24.0%) and Manitoba (-34.5%) are also expecting lower production.

Canola

Canola production is anticipated to decline 21.6% from the record high in 2013 to 14.1 million tonnes. Most of this decrease can be attributed to lower expected average yield, down 19.8% to 32.1 bushels per acre nationally.

Farmers in Saskatchewan expect a 20.2% decline in yield this year. As a result, production is expected to decrease 22.9% to 6.9 million tonnes.

Alberta farmers expect production to decline 17.8% from 2013 to 4.9 million tonnes. This is mainly driven by a 19.2% drop in yield to 35.3 bushels per acre.

In Manitoba, production is anticipated to fall 25.7% from 2013 to 2.1 million tonnes.

Soybeans

Canadian farmers reported soybean production could reach another record level in 2014 at 6.0 million tonnes.

Production in Ontario is expected to increase 10.3% to 3.6 million tonnes. A 16.8% increase in harvested area is expected to drive the overall gain compared with 2013. Average yield is expected to decline 5.7% to 43.3 bushels per acre.

Farmers in Quebec expect overall output to reach the 1.0 million tonne mark for the first time in 2014. As in Ontario, a larger harvested area (+19.8%) is expected to boost production.

Manitoba is anticipating a stable level of production in 2014 at 1.1 million tonnes. Higher harvested area (+15.8%) is expected to be offset by a 5.0 bushel per acre decrease in yield from 2013 to 32.6 bushels per acre.

Corn for grain

Nationally, production of corn for grain is anticipated to decline 19.7% from the record high of 14.2 million tonnes in 2013 to 11.4 million tonnes this year.

In Ontario, farmers expect to harvest 1.9 million acres, a 15.8% decrease from 2013. Consequently, production is expected to decline 18.2% to 7.4 million tonnes.

Quebec farmers also expect a lower harvested area of corn for grain, down 13.8% to 873,500 acres. As a result, production is anticipated to decline 15.6% from 2013 to 3.2 million tonnes.

Barley and oats

Canadian farmers are expecting barley production to decrease 30.5% from 2013 to 7.1 million tonnes. A decrease in both harvested area (down 19.6% to 5.3 million acres) and yield (down 13.5% to 62.0 bushels per acre) are expected to account for the overall decline.

At the national level, production of oats is expected to decrease 31.2% to 2.7 million tonnes. The decrease results from anticipated declines in both harvested area (down 20.5% to 2.2 million acres) and an average yield of 79.7 bushels per acre, down 13.5% from 2013.

Note to readers

The September Farm Survey of crop production covering about 9,300 Canadian farms was conducted from September 4 to 14, 2014. Farmers were asked to report their estimated area, yield and production of grains, oilseeds and special crops.

Farm surveys collect data from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta at all six survey occasions during the crop year (which extends from the December to the following November occasion). However, data are collected twice a year (in the June Farm survey on seeded areas and in the November Farm survey on final crop production) for Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, which represent between 2% and 4% of national totals.

As of July 2014 for the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia, July and September production estimates are calculated using the final estimates of the last three crop years. The harvested area is first estimated based on the ratio obtained from the sum of harvested areas of the last three years over the sum of the seeded areas of the last three years. This average ratio is applied to their 2014 reported seeded acreage from the June survey. This estimated harvested area is then multiplied by the average yield of the last three years to estimate production.

Final production estimates for 2014 will be released on December 4, 2014, and are subject to revision for two years.

Percentage changes are calculated using unrounded data.

Table 1
September estimates of production of principal field crops

	2012 (final)	2013 (final)	September 2014[1] (preliminary)	2012 to 2013	2013 to September 2014
	tonnes			% change	
Total wheat[2]	27 205 200	37 529 600	27 481 300	38.0	-26.8
Spring wheat	18 845 400	27 238 700	19 936 700	44.5	-26.8
Durum wheat	4 626 600	6 504 500	4 755 900	40.6	-26.9
Winter wheat	3 733 200	3 786 400	2 788 700	1.4	-26.3
Canola	13 868 500	17 965 800[r]	14 079 900	29.5	-21.6
Corn for grain	13 060 100	14 193 800	11 396 900	8.7	-19.7
Barley	8 012 300	10 237 100	7 119 600	27.8	-30.5
Soybeans	5 086 400	5 358 900[r]	5 960 800	5.4	11.2
Dry field peas	3 340 800	3 960 800[r]	3 508 300	18.6	-11.4
Oats	2 811 900	3 905 600[r]	2 685 800	38.9	-31.2
Lentils	1 537 900	2 172 800[r]	1 755 600	41.3	-19.2
Flaxseed	488 900	723 900[r]	921 600	48.1	27.3
Total dry beans	274 400	205 900	287 600	-25.0	39.7
Mustard seed	118 600	154 500	178 700	30.3	15.7
Canary seed	149 700	131 000	138 800	-12.5	6.0
Chick peas	161 400	169 400	133 200	5.0	-21.4
Sunflower seed	86 900	51 900	74 800	-40.3	44.1

r revised
1. The methodology used for estimates for the Atlantic provinces and British Columbia was modified in 2014. For more information, see note to readers.
2. Represents the sum of winter wheat, spring wheat and durum wheat.
Note(s): Figures may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Available in CANSIM: tables 001-0010, 001-0017 and 001-0040 to 001-0043.

Table 001-0010: Estimated areas, yield, production and average farm price of principal field crops, in metric units.

Table 001-0017: Estimated areas, yield, production, average farm price and total farm value of principal field crops, in imperial units.

Table 001-0040: Stocks of grain and oilseeds at March 31, July 31 and December 31.

Table 001-0041: Supply and disposition of grains in Canada as of March 31, July 31, August 31 (soybeans only) and December 31.

Table 001-0042: Supply and disposition of corn in Canada and selected provinces as of March 31, August 31 and December 31.

Table 001-0043: Farm supply and disposition of grains as of March 31, July 31, August 31 (soybeans only) and December 31.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers 3401, 3403, 3404, 3443, 3464, 3476, 5046 and 5153.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca**).

Study: End-of-life care, 2012

In 2012, 13% of Canadians (3.7 million) aged 15 and older reported providing end-of-life or palliative care to a family member or friend at some point in their lives. These caregivers helped the terminally ill with such tasks as personal or medical care, preparing meals, managing finances or providing transportation to and from medical appointments.

Providing end-of-life care was most often a reality for those in their 50s and 60s. About one in five of these Canadians reported that they had ever provided palliative care to a parent, spouse, grandparent, other family member or friend.

As with caregiving overall, women were more likely than men to have provided assistance to someone who was terminally ill. Over their lifetimes, 16% of women reported doing so compared with 10% of men.

Providing end-of-life care was sometimes done in the caregiver's own home. This was true for about one-third (35%) of Canadians who had provided care for their terminally ill relative or friend.

Some caregivers felt they lacked the necessary resources or abilities to provide end-of-life care in their own home. Home care resources, financial assistance, paid time off from work and home modifications were among the supports listed by the one in six caregivers who would have preferred providing palliative care in their own home.

Note to readers

Findings are based on data from the 2012 General Social Survey on Caregiving and Care Receiving.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4502.

The fact sheet "End-of-life care," part of the publication *Spotlight on Canadians: Results from the General Social Survey* (89-652-X), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Other related analytical products on caregiving and care receiving are also available: "Young Canadians providing care," "Canadians with unmet home care needs," "Receiving care at home," "Family caregiving: What are the consequences?," and "Portrait of Caregivers, 2012."

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Export and import price indexes, August 2014

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 export and import 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, 228-0064, 228-0066 and 228-0067.

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

The August 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 8 (**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 September will be released on November 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; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; **mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca**).

Chain Fisher real export and import values, August 2014

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

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

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

The August 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 8 (**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 September will be released on November 4.

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Canadian foreign post indexes, October 2014

Data on Canadian foreign post indexes are now available for October.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2322.

The October 2014 issue of *Canadian Foreign Post Indexes* (**62-013-X**) is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; **infostats@statcan.gc.ca**).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Claudio Perez (613-951-1733; **claudio.perez@statcan.gc.ca**), Consumer Prices Division.

New products and studies

New products

Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts
Catalogue number **13-605-X** (HTML)

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, October 2014
Catalogue number **62-013-X** (HTML)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, August 2014, Vol. 68, no. 8
Catalogue number **65-001-X** (HTML | PDF)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database, August 2014
Catalogue number **65F0013X** (Database)

New studies

Revisions to trade data for crude oil and natural gas
Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts

Spotlight on Canadians: Results from the General Social Survey: "End-of-life care", No. 4
Catalogue number **89-652-X2014004** (HTML)

Release dates: October 6 to 10, 2014

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
6	**Producer prices at a glance: The rise of pork prices**	
7	**Building permits**	August 2014
8	**Study: Cross-border shopping**	2006 to 2012
9	**New Housing Price Index**	August 2014
10	**Labour Force Survey**	September 2014

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


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