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Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, September 2014	2
Canada's merchandise imports declined 1.5% in September, while exports rose 1.1%. As a result, Canada's trade balance with the world went from a deficit of \$463 million in August to a surplus of \$710 million in September.	
Study: University graduates with lower levels of literacy and numeracy skills, 2012	9
In 2012, more than a quarter of university graduates in Canada aged 25 to 65 had a literacy score at the second level or below (out of five levels) in a survey on adult competencies led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.	
Chain Fisher real export and import values, September 2014	12
Export and import price indexes, September 2014	13
Business and employment dynamics data, for each province and the territories, 2001 to 2012	14
Crop Condition Assessment Program, 2014	15
New products and studies	17



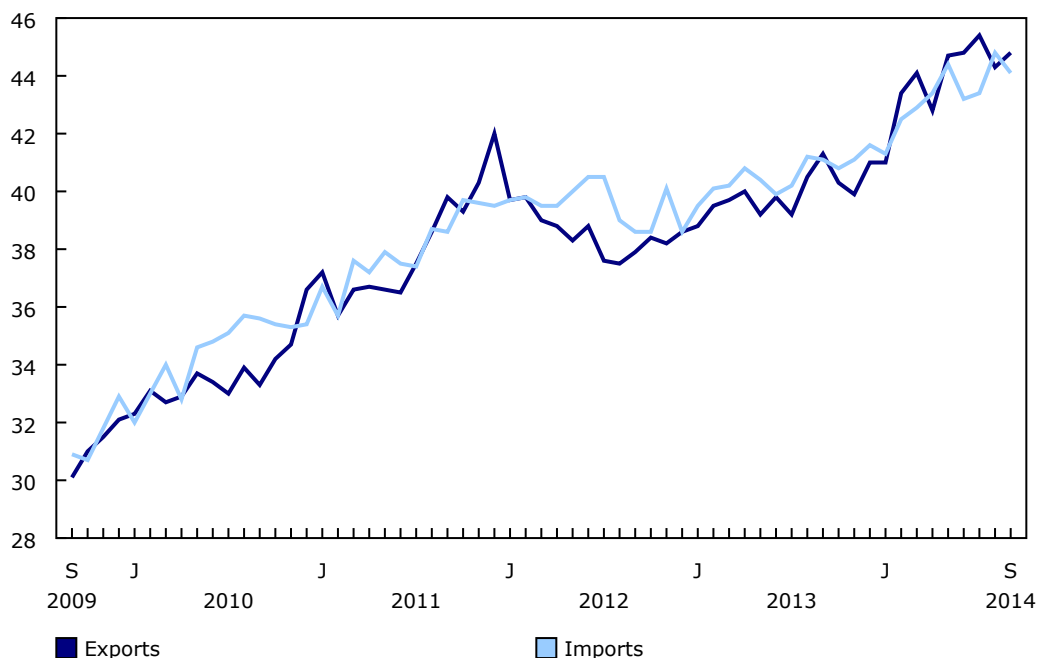
Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, September 2014

Canada's merchandise imports declined 1.5% in September, while exports rose 1.1%. As a result, Canada's trade balance with the world went from a deficit of \$463 million in August to a surplus of \$710 million in September.

Chart 1
Exports and imports

billions of dollars



Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted.

Imports declined to \$44.1 billion, as volumes decreased 1.0% and prices were down 0.6%. The main contributors to the decline in imports were energy products as well as metal and non-metallic mineral products.

Exports rose to \$44.8 billion, as volumes were up 1.6% while prices edged down 0.4%. Increases were reported in 8 of 11 sections, led by motor vehicles and parts, consumer goods as well as metal and non-metallic mineral products.

Imports from countries other than the United States decline

Imports from countries other than the United States fell 5.8% to \$14.3 billion in September. There were reduced imports from the principal trading area "all other countries" (-12.6%), primarily crude oil and crude bitumen. Exports to countries other than the United States increased 2.1% to \$11.1 billion, led by the European Union (+6.8%). Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States narrowed from \$4.3 billion in August to \$3.2 billion in September.

Imports from the United States were up 0.7% to \$29.7 billion in September, led by motor vehicles and parts. Exports to the United States increased 0.8% to \$33.7 billion. Canada's trade surplus with the United States was virtually unchanged from August to September at \$3.9 billion.

Energy products as well as metal and non-metallic mineral products contribute to decline in imports

Imports of energy products fell 19.4% to \$3.4 billion in September, as volumes were down 14.5%. The main contributor to the decrease in imports was the commodity grouping crude oil and crude bitumen, which declined 36.4% to \$1.6 billion as some Canadian refineries were conducting maintenance.

Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products decreased 12.0% to \$3.9 billion in September following a 25.1% increase in August. There were declines in imports of unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys (-22.9%), unwrought iron, steel and ferro-alloys, and basic and semi-finished ferrous metal products (-16.2%) and unwrought copper and copper alloys (-79.9%). The declines for these three commodity groupings in September followed strong increases in August.

Following a record high in August, imports of consumer goods decreased 3.0% to \$8.8 billion in September, entirely on volumes. There were decreases in imports of miscellaneous goods and supplies (-11.5%), published products and recorded and unrecorded media (-12.9%) as well as clothing, footwear and accessories (-3.4%).

Imports of industrial machinery, equipment and parts rose 5.3% to a record high \$4.4 billion. There were increases across most commodity groupings within this section. Overall, volumes were up 5.2%.

Electronic and electrical equipment and parts also increased in September, as imports were up 5.1% to \$5.2 billion on the strength of volumes. Communications and audio and video equipment (+10.7%) led the section's import gains.

Imports of motor vehicles and parts increased 7.0% to \$7.8 billion. Motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts (+13.3%) contributed the most to September's gains, although growth was widespread throughout the section.

Exports increase on higher volumes

Exports of motor vehicles and parts increased 6.0% to \$6.4 billion in September. The main contributor was passenger cars and light trucks (+8.6%).

Exports of consumer goods rose 6.6% to \$5.2 billion, as volumes were up 5.5%. Leading the section's gains in exports was pharmaceutical and medicinal products (+14.1%), which was up for a second consecutive month. Also contributing to the increase were miscellaneous goods and supplies (+10.2%), meat products (+8.4%) and other food products (+3.8%).

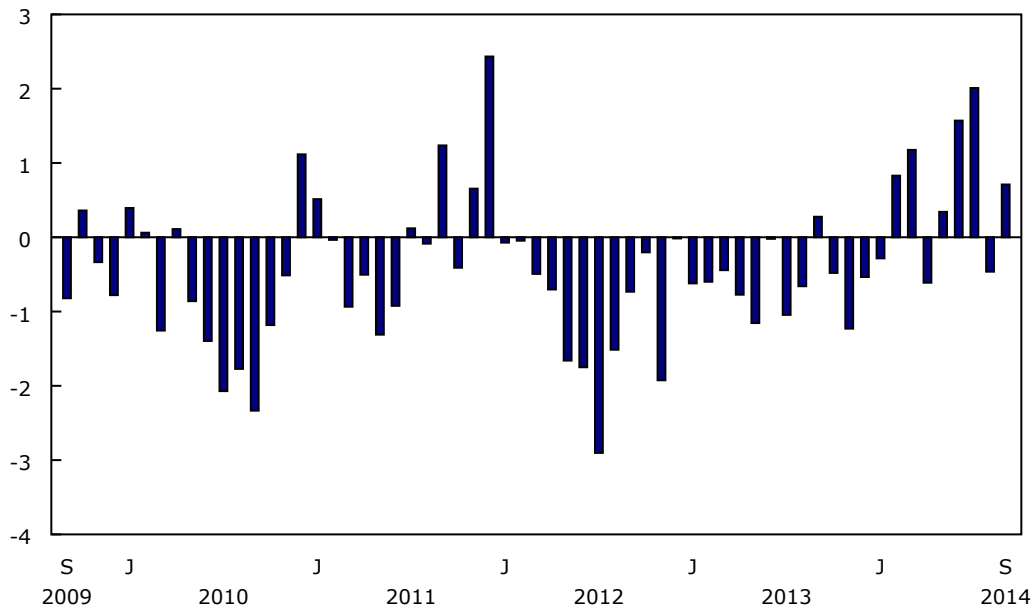
Exports of metal and non-metallic mineral products advanced 6.2% to \$5.2 billion, the highest value since the record high \$5.6 billion in December 2011. Unwrought nickel and nickel alloys (+42.9%) and unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys (+7.0%) posted the largest increases for September. For the section as a whole, volumes were up 10.6% while prices were down.

Exports of farm, fishing and intermediate food products declined 10.5% to \$2.5 billion, entirely on lower volumes. There were lower exports of wheat (-25.1%) and canola (-21.6%).

Also declining in September were exports of aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts, down 20.9% to \$1.7 billion. Exports of aircraft declined \$396 million in September to \$679 million, following an increase of \$344 million in August. Also contributing to the section's decrease was the commodity grouping "ships, locomotives, railway rolling stock, and rapid transit equipment," which declined \$126 million to \$46 million in September following an increase of \$143 million in August.

Chart 2
Trade balance

billions of dollars



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.

For a conceptual analysis of BOP versus customs-based data, see "Balance of Payments trade in goods at Statistics Canada: Expanding geographic detail to 27 principal trading partners."

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

	September 2013	August 2014 ^r	September 2014	August to September 2014	September 2013 to September 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	41,338	44,288	44,792	1.1	8.4
United States	31,054	33,378	33,657	0.8	8.4
Japan	922	907	983	8.3	6.6
European Union ¹	2,959	3,527	3,765	6.8	27.2
Other OECD countries ²	1,708	1,593	1,669	4.8	-2.3
All other countries	4,694	4,884	4,718	-3.4	0.5
Total imports	41,062	44,751	44,082	-1.5	7.4
United States	26,399	29,514	29,733	0.7	12.6
Japan	746	759	762	0.4	2.1
European Union ¹	3,911	4,298	4,296	0.0	9.8
Other OECD countries ²	2,942	2,920	2,947	0.9	0.2
All other countries	7,063	7,261	6,343	-12.6	-10.2
Trade balance	276	-463	710	...	...
United States	4,655	3,864	3,924	...	...
Japan	176	148	221	...	...
European Union ¹	-952	-772	-531	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-1,234	-1,327	-1,278	...	...
All other countries	-2,369	-2,377	-1,626	...	...

^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 System¹– Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

	September 2013	August 2014 ^r	September 2014	August to September 2014	September 2013 to September 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	41,338	44,288	44,792	1.1	8.4
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,209	2,811	2,515	-10.5	13.9
Energy products	10,597	10,558	10,620	0.6	0.2
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,533	1,509	1,631	8.0	6.4
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	4,537	4,860	5,161	6.2	13.8
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,852	3,055	2,996	-1.9	5.0
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,831	3,038	3,112	2.4	9.9
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,231	2,408	2,423	0.6	8.6
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	1,854	2,008	2,024	0.8	9.2
Motor vehicles and parts	5,801	6,039	6,403	6.0	10.4
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,588	2,179	1,724	-20.9	8.5
Consumer goods	4,422	4,882	5,202	6.6	17.6
Special transactions trade ²	217	168	190	13.1	-12.7
Other balance of payments adjustments	667	773	793	2.6	18.9
Total imports	41,062	44,751	44,082	-1.5	7.4
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,086	1,220	1,228	0.7	13.1
Energy products	3,731	4,232	3,410	-19.4	-8.6
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	886	1,082	891	-17.6	0.6
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,244	4,423	3,890	-12.0	19.9
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,324	3,755	3,551	-5.4	6.8
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,751	1,889	1,966	4.1	12.3
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	3,792	4,151	4,373	5.3	15.3
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	4,877	4,938	5,189	5.1	6.4
Motor vehicles and parts	7,320	7,258	7,765	7.0	6.1
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,266	1,254	1,373	9.5	8.5
Consumer goods	8,367	9,082	8,811	-3.0	5.3
Special transactions trade ²	578	590	745	26.4	28.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	842	878	888	1.1	5.5

^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 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 [228-0067](#).

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 September 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 9 ([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 October will be released on December 5.

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.

Study: University graduates with lower levels of literacy and numeracy skills, 2012

In 2012, more than a quarter of university graduates in Canada aged 25 to 65 had a literacy score at the second level or below (out of five levels) in a survey on adult competencies led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The survey, which was part of the OECD Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC), assessed people's level of proficiency in skills related to literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments.

In the PIAAC, lower levels of literacy indicate that individuals may be less likely to be able to integrate information across multiple sources, and may be only able to undertake tasks of limited complexity.

Lower numeracy levels indicate that individuals may be less likely to perform complex mathematical information, may be less likely to use problem solving strategies, and may be more likely to be able to only perform simple tasks.

Among all Canadians aged 25 to 65 in 2012, almost half (49%) fell in the lower range for literacy proficiency, and about 55% were in the lower range for numeracy proficiency (level 2 or below).

Less-educated individuals were more likely to have lower levels of literacy and numeracy. For instance, 88% of individuals aged 25 to 65 who did not have a high school degree had literacy in the lower range.

Yet, some university graduates were in the lower range of literacy and numeracy (level 2 or below). Specifically, 27% of university graduates were in the lower range for literacy in 2012 and 32% were in the lower range for numeracy.

Foreign-born university graduates are more likely to have lower levels of literacy and numeracy

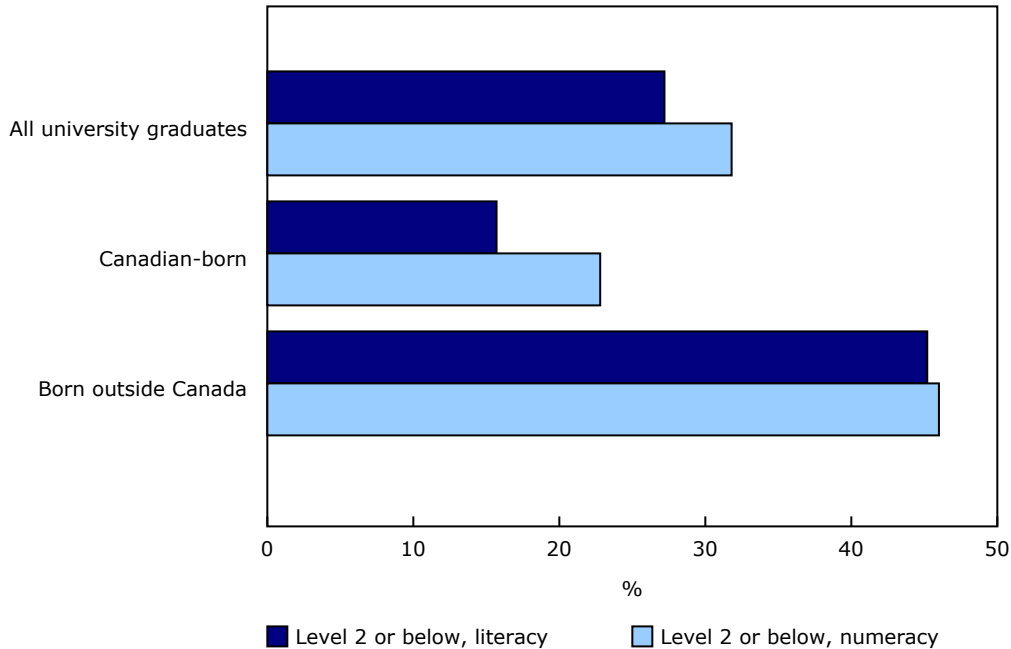
Foreign-born university graduates were more likely to have lower levels of literacy and numeracy (level 2 or below), especially those whose degree was obtained outside of Canada.

It is important to note that tests were administered only in English or in French to all survey respondents, meaning that the results obtained by foreign-born university graduates could be influenced by their proficiency in the test language.

In 2012, 45% of foreign-born university graduates were in the lower range for literacy and 46% were in the lower range for numeracy. Among those whose degree was from outside Canada, that percentage was 54% for both literacy and numeracy.

By comparison, 16% of Canadian-born university graduates were in the lower range for literacy and 23% were in the lower range for numeracy.

Chart 1
Proportion of Canadians aged 25 to 65 with a university degree at level 2 or below in skill proficiency levels, 2012



Source(s): Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, 2012.

Number of books in the respondent's home during high school years linked to literacy and numeracy skills in adult years

Within the population of Canadian-born university graduates, there were other factors associated with lower levels of numeracy and literacy.

For example, in this group, 27% of women were in the lower range for numeracy in 2012 compared with 17% of men.

Rates also varied by age. Individuals aged 35 to 39 had the lowest proportions of individuals in the lower range for literacy (9%) and numeracy (17%). Older age groups (aged 55 to 65), in turn, had the highest proportions of individuals in the lower range for literacy (24%) and numeracy (29%).

Another important variable was the number of books in the respondent's home when they were in high school. This measure can be used as a proxy for access to cultural capital.

For example, among Canadian-born university graduates who reported having less than 10 books at home, 31% were in the lower range for literacy. This compares with 9% among those who reported having more than 200 books at home. A similar effect was noted with lower levels of numeracy.

Literacy and numeracy also varied by field of study. Specifically, those who studied in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science were less likely than those who studied in other fields to be in the low range for literacy and numeracy.

It is important to note that the literacy and numeracy skills of adults may not be just the result of school or training experience, but also of experience acquired and maintained on the labour market.

Labour market participation

Canadian-born university graduates who were in the lower range of skills (level 2 and below) were just as likely to be employed as those who were in the top levels of skills (level 3 and above).

Those who had a level 2 or below in numeracy skills, however, were less likely than others to work in managerial or professional occupations.

For example, among Canadian-born university graduates who had a job in 2012, the probability of working in professional or managerial occupations among those in the top three levels of numeracy skills was 94% (holding other factors constant).

In contrast, those who were in the lowest levels for numeracy skills had an 86% chance of working in professional or managerial occupations. That difference held true even when all other differences related to age, gender, province of residence, language, parental education, cultural capital and field of study were taken into account.

Note to readers

In this study, data from the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) are used to examine the characteristics of individuals with lower levels of literacy, numeracy, or both. In this study of university graduates, individuals in the lower range for literacy and numeracy are defined as those who scored at level 2 or below (out of 5 levels) in tests administered to survey respondents. PIAAC provides internationally comparable measures of skills that are essential to processing information, including literacy and numeracy skills.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [4406](#).

The article "University graduates with lower levels of literacy and numeracy skills" is now available in *Insights on Canadian Society* ([75-006-X](#)) 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 Darcy Hango (613-513-8848; darcy.hango@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

For more information on *Insights on Canadian Society*, contact Sébastien LaRochelle-Côté (613-951-0803; sebastien.larochelle-cote@statcan.gc.ca), Labour Statistics Division.

Chain Fisher real export and import values, September 2014

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

Available in CANSIM: tables [228-0061](#) and [228-0062](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2201](#), [2202](#) and [2203](#).

The September 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 9 ([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 October will be released on December 5.

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, September 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](#) to [228-0067](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers [2201](#), [2202](#) and [2203](#).

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Business and employment dynamics data, for each province and the territories, 2001 to 2012

Annual data on business and employment dynamics in the private sector are now available for each province and the territories, from 2001 to 2012.

CANSIM tables 527-0007 to 527-0012 released today present the same information available in the national-level CANSIM tables 527-0001 to 527-0006, but for each province and the territories separately. These data are derived from the Longitudinal Employment Analysis Program files from 2001 to 2012.

Tables 527-0007 and 527-0008 provide the number of business entities by their business status (entry, incumbent or exit) for each province and the territories, broken down by North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industry or by firm size class, respectively.

Tables 527-0009 and 527-0010 provide the net employment growth, decomposed as employment creation (by entrants and growing incumbents) and employment destruction (by declining incumbents and exits) for each province and the territories, broken down by NAICS industry or by firm size class, respectively.

Tables 527-0011 and 527-0012 provide the employment share and percent contributions to employment creation and destruction for each province and the territories, broken down by NAICS industry or by firm size class, respectively.

Available in CANSIM: tables [527-0007](#) to [527-0012](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [8013](#).

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 Weimin Wang (613-951-3606; weimin.wang@statcan.gc.ca), Economic Analysis Division.

Crop Condition Assessment Program, 2014

The weekly satellite images for the 2014 growing season have been processed by Statistics Canada and are now available on the Crop Condition Assessment Program (CCAP) website.

In addition, the 2014 mean value of the one kilometre resolution satellite picture elements within each of the census agriculture regions or census consolidated subdivisions of Canada that contains pasture and/or cropping activity is now available on CANSIM. The inter-annual weekly reference period is from mid-April to mid-October.

The CCAP is a free web mapping application that provides timely, objective cropland and pasture monitoring information on a weekly basis for Canada's entire agricultural region, along with the northern part of the United States.

The program combines state-of-the-art satellite remote sensing with geographic information systems and dynamic web mapping technologies. It is the longest running near real-time, operational, web-based, crop and pasture condition monitoring program using satellite data in Canadian history.

An additional satellite data source with an improved resolution of 250 metres, implemented in 2010, is also available for the 2014 edition of the CCAP.

Satellite imagery is received every Monday from early April until mid-October. Weekly updates are made to the web application within minutes of receiving the satellite data for near real-time use by the entire agriculture community.

Current conditions are compared with a 27-year normal, allowing easy mapping of areas under stress, such as drought, flooding or frost events. The web application includes other features such as thematic maps and data in graph and tabular format for four types of different geography layers, from the census agriculture region to the township level. The entire historical database from 1987 onward is included in the application.

Also included is an experimental yield forecast for spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, corn for grain, soybeans and canola. These yield forecast models use historical yield estimates, agro-meteorological data and current satellite image data to estimate crop yields in near real-time.

Note to readers

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, through the Growing Forward program, has partnered with Statistics Canada to provide the Crop Condition Assessment Program application free of charge. The Canada Centre for Remote Sensing, part of Natural Resources Canada, has also contributed by providing software for processing the input satellite data.

Available in CANSIM: table [001-0100](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5177](#).

The publication *Crop Condition Assessment Program, 2014* ([22-205-X](#)), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Click on the link to access the [web application](#).

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).

New products and studies

New products

Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts

Catalogue number [13-605-X](#) (HTML)

Crop Condition Assessment Program, 2014

Catalogue number [22-205-X](#) (HTML)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, September 2014, Vol. 68, no. 9

Catalogue number [65-001-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database, September 2014

Catalogue number [65F0013X](#) (Database)

Insights on Canadian Society

Catalogue number [75-006-X](#) (HTML | PDF)

New studies

[Balance of Payments trade in goods at Statistics Canada: Expanding geographic detail to 27 principal trading partners](#)

Latest Developments in the Canadian Economic Accounts

[University graduates with lower levels of literacy and numeracy skills](#)

Insights on Canadian Society



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