

The Daily

Statistics Canada

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, April 2014 2
Canada's merchandise exports declined 1.8% while imports increased 1.4% in April. As a result, Canada's trade balance with the world went from a surplus of \$766 million in March to a deficit of \$638 million in April.

Farm Product Price Index, March 2014 9

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, June 2014 12

Export and import price indexes, April 2014 13

Chain Fisher real export and import values, April 2014 14

New products and studies 15



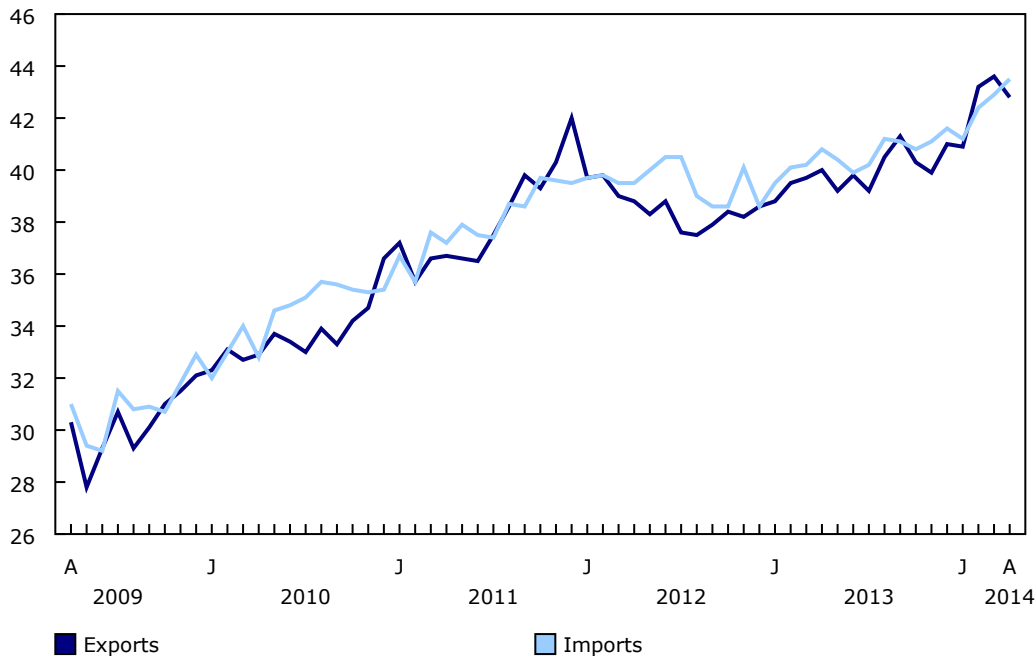
Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, April 2014

Canada's merchandise exports declined 1.8% while imports increased 1.4% in April. As a result, Canada's trade balance with the world went from a surplus of \$766 million in March to a deficit of \$638 million in April.

Chart 1 Exports and imports

billions of dollars



Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted.

Exports declined to \$42.8 billion, as prices decreased 1.0% and volumes 0.8%. Declines in exports of energy products as well as metal and non-metallic mineral products were partially offset by an increase in exports of forestry products and building and packaging materials.

Imports increased for a third consecutive month to reach a record high \$43.5 billion in April. Gains were recorded in 7 of 11 sections, led by consumer goods. Overall, volumes rose 1.9% while prices were down 0.4%.

Exports to the European Union decline

Exports to countries other than the United States fell 7.0% to \$9.8 billion in April. Exports destined for the European Union declined 22.8%, on lower exports of unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys. Imports from countries other than the United States increased 3.5% to \$14.7 billion. Higher imports were recorded for all principal trading areas, led by "all other countries" (+3.0%). As a result, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States widened from \$3.7 billion in March to \$4.9 billion in April.

Exports to the United States edged down 0.2% to \$33.0 billion while imports from the United States edged up 0.3% to \$28.7 billion. Consequently, Canada's trade surplus with the United States fell from \$4.4 billion in March to \$4.3 billion in April.

Energy products lead decline in exports

Exports of energy products fell 10.7% to \$10.7 billion in April, after reaching \$12.0 billion in March, which was the highest value since July 2008. Overall, volumes decreased 6.4% and prices 4.6%. The main contributors to the decline in exports were natural gas (-34.1%) and refined petroleum energy products (-39.5%). Exports of refined petroleum energy products fell as some Canadian refineries were conducting maintenance.

Exports of metal and non-metallic mineral products declined 6.2% to \$4.4 billion, as volumes were down 7.2%. Unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys, down 14.4% to \$1.3 billion, was the main factor behind the section's decrease in exports.

Exports of forestry products and building and packaging materials rose 14.6% to \$3.1 billion. Pulp and paper stock (+20.0%) and lumber and other sawmill and millwork products (+21.3%) led the increase. These two commodity groupings recorded significant declines in March. Overall, volumes were up 17.4%.

Imports increase on higher volumes

Imports of consumer goods rose 3.6% to a record high \$9.0 billion in April, as volumes increased 2.8%. April's growth in imports marks a fifth consecutive monthly gain and the ninth increase in 12 months. Gains were widespread, as many commodity groupings reached record highs. The section's increase was led by miscellaneous goods and supplies (+5.2%) and clothing, footwear and accessories (+4.8%).

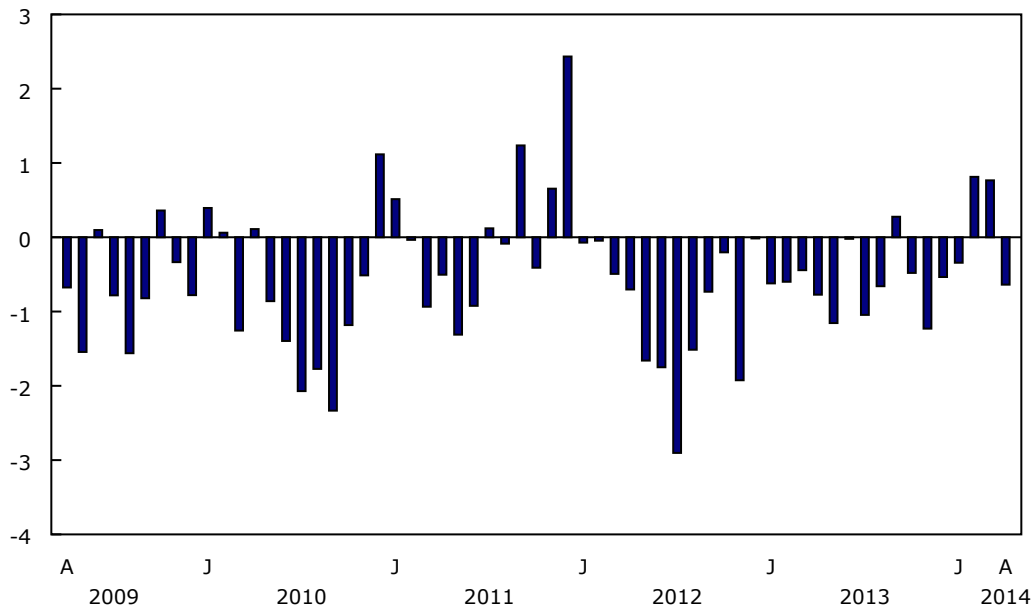
Imports of electronic and electrical equipment and parts grew 4.4% to \$4.9 billion, as volumes rose 6.0%. The main contributors to the increase in imports were computers and computer peripheral equipment (+8.8%) and communications and audio and video equipment (+5.1%).

Imports of basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products increased 5.4% to a record high \$3.9 billion. Lubricants and other petroleum refinery products led the gains, rising 11.3% to \$788 million on higher volumes.

Imports of metal ores and non-metallic minerals fell 30.9% to \$689 million, as volumes were down 28.4% and prices decreased 3.5%. The main contributor to the decline was the commodity grouping "other metal ores and concentrates," mainly gold bullion, which decreased 33.5% to \$481 million in April following a 21.3% gain in March.

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 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](#).

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.

Revised data are available in the appropriate CANSIM tables.

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

	April 2013 ^r	March 2014 ^r	April 2014	March to April 2014	April 2013 to April 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	40,002	43,625	42,825	-1.8	7.1
United States	29,754	33,071	33,008	-0.2	10.9
Japan	928	936	938	0.3	1.1
European Union ¹	3,053	3,407	2,631	-22.8	-13.8
Other OECD countries ²	1,475	1,577	1,690	7.2	14.5
All other countries	4,792	4,635	4,559	-1.7	-4.9
Total imports	40,775	42,860	43,463	1.4	6.6
United States	25,992	28,647	28,746	0.3	10.6
Japan	800	699	735	5.2	-8.1
European Union ¹	3,929	3,938	4,060	3.1	3.3
Other OECD countries ²	3,245	2,742	2,885	5.2	-11.1
All other countries	6,809	6,834	7,037	3.0	3.4
Trade balance	-773	766	-638	...	...
United States	3,761	4,424	4,262	...	...
Japan	128	236	203	...	...
European Union ¹	-876	-531	-1,428	...	...
Other OECD countries ²	-1,769	-1,165	-1,195	...	...
All other countries	-2,017	-2,198	-2,479	...	...

^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

	April 2013 ^f	March 2014 ^f	April 2014	March to April 2014	April 2013 to April 2014
	millions of dollars			% change	
Total exports	40,002	43,625	42,825	-1.8	7.1
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,378	2,444	2,557	4.6	7.5
Energy products	8,979	12,014	10,730	-10.7	19.5
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,477	1,491	1,536	3.0	4.0
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	4,947	4,642	4,353	-6.2	-12.0
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,908	2,870	2,818	-1.8	-3.1
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,862	2,738	3,138	14.6	9.6
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,135	2,422	2,466	1.8	15.5
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	1,930	1,890	2,057	8.9	6.6
Motor vehicles and parts	5,698	5,827	5,968	2.4	4.7
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,500	1,694	1,646	-2.8	9.7
Consumer goods	4,307	4,670	4,623	-1.0	7.3
Special transactions trade ²	212	196	191	-3.0	-10.0
Other balance of payments adjustments	669	727	744	2.3	11.2
Total imports	40,775	42,860	43,463	1.4	6.6
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,063	1,213	1,303	7.4	22.5
Energy products	3,715	3,996	3,842	-3.9	3.4
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,256	998	689	-30.9	-45.1
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,614	3,686	3,807	3.3	5.3
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,269	3,707	3,908	5.4	19.5
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,727	1,865	1,911	2.4	10.7
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	3,664	4,170	4,127	-1.0	12.6
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	4,651	4,711	4,916	4.4	5.7
Motor vehicles and parts	7,273	7,087	7,216	1.8	-0.8
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,193	1,304	1,122	-14.0	-6.0
Consumer goods	7,955	8,707	9,022	3.6	13.4
Special transactions trade ²	554	557	719	29.1	29.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	841	858	883	2.9	4.9

^f 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 April 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 4 (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 May will be released on July 3.

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.

Farm Product Price Index, March 2014

The Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) declined 3.0% in March compared with March 2013, mainly because of lower crop prices. This was the seventh consecutive year-over-year decrease, as the drop in the crops index continued to exceed the gains in the overall livestock and animal products index.

The crops index was down 20.8% in March compared with March 2013. The drop in crop prices began in August 2013, with the five months from November 2013 through March 2014 posting double-digit decreases. In March, the largest year-over-year declines were recorded in grains (-28.2%), oilseeds (-25.2%) and fruit (-33.7%). Grain and oilseed prices came under pressure as the United States and world production recovered, while Canada harvested record-breaking crops for many of the major grains and oilseeds in the fall of 2013. At the end of March, the International Grains Council year end grain stock estimate for the 2013/2014 crop year was 15.8% higher than for the previous crop year. Canadian total stocks of principal field crops at the end March were more than double their level from the same time a year earlier.

The livestock and animal products index continued to make gains, rising 19.1% in March compared with March 2013. On a year-over-year basis, this index has been advancing since April 2013, driven mainly by higher cattle and hog prices.

Compared with March 2013, the cattle and calves index was up 24.3% and the hogs index was up 51.2%. Lower inventories and the depreciation of the Canadian dollar relative to the US currency (March marked the lowest level since July 2009) contributed to the higher prices. As of January 1, 2014, Canada's beef cow herd was at its lowest level since 1992, while the US beef cow herd was at its lowest level since 1962.

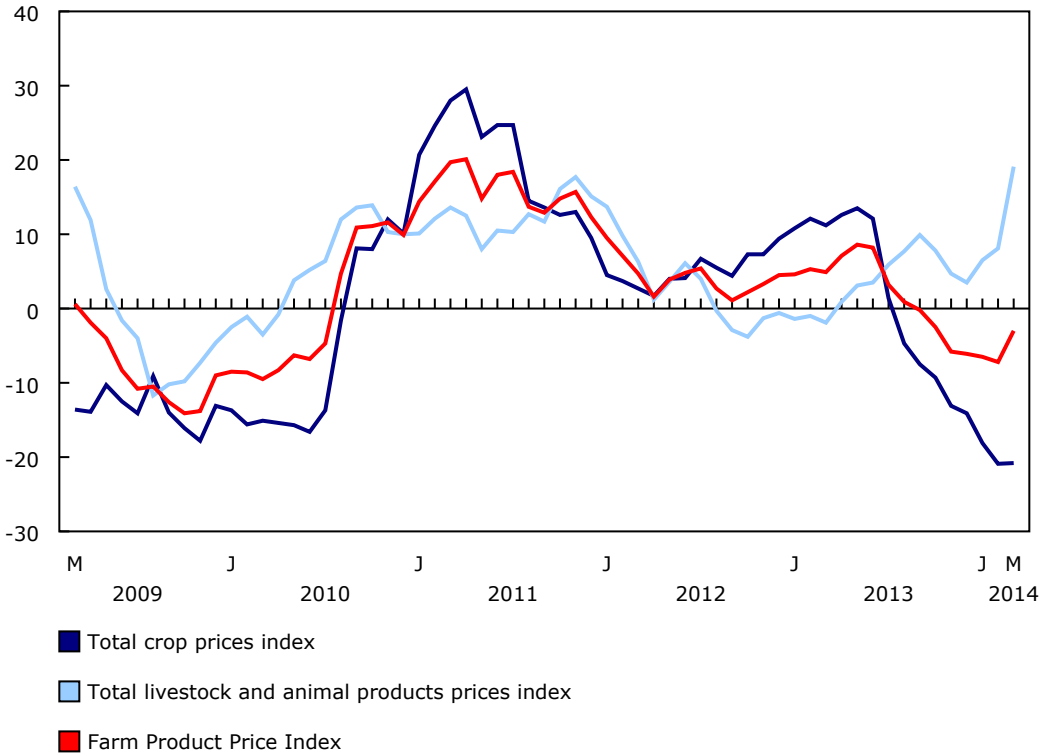
Hog prices were also affected by the outbreak of the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, particularly in the United States where, in its last quarterly release (December 2013 to February 2014), the United States Department of Agriculture estimated that pigs saved per litter were down 5.5% from a year earlier.

The 12-month advance of the livestock and animal products index was moderated by declines in the supply-managed poultry (-7.8%) and eggs (-3.8%) index, coinciding with lower feed grain prices.

Compared with February, the FPPI was up 4.2%, mainly on the strength of the livestock and animal products index (+8.4%). The crops index edged up 0.5%, its first month-to-month increase since May 2013.

Chart 1
The 12-month change in the Farm Product Price Index

12-month % change



Note to readers

The growth rate of the total Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) is derived from a weighted average of the component indexes using a different set of weights in consecutive months; it is not a weighted average of the growth rates of its crop and livestock components. Given this, the growth rate of the composite FPPI can lie outside the growth rate of these components.

Table 1
Farm Product Price Index

	March 2013 ^r	February 2014 ^r	March 2014 ^P	February to March 2014	March 2013 to March 2014
	(2007=100)			% change	
Farm Product Price Index	131.8	122.7	127.8	4.2	-3.0
Crops	138.8	109.3	109.9	0.5	-20.8
Grains	136.3	97.7	97.9	0.2	-28.2
Oilseeds	171.7	130.2	128.4	-1.4	-25.2
Specialty crops	134.0	112.7	113.7	0.9	-15.1
Fruit	151.1	92.4	100.2	8.4	-33.7
Vegetables	113.0	115.2	113.7	-1.3	0.6
Potatoes	127.0	130.2	132.4	1.7	4.3
Livestock and animal products	124.8	137.1	148.6	8.4	19.1
Cattle and calves	134.8	158.2	167.6	5.9	24.3
Hogs	121.6	147.2	183.9	24.9	51.2
Poultry	134.1	122.9	123.7	0.7	-7.8
Eggs	136.4	131.2	131.2	0.0	-3.8
Dairy	109.7	115.4	115.2	-0.2	5.0

^r revised

^P preliminary

Available in CANSIM: tables 002-0068 to 002-0070.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5040.

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).

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, June 2014

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2322.

The June 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.

Export and import price indexes, April 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.

The April 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 4 (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 May will be released on July 3.

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, April 2014

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

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

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

The April 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 4 (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 May will be released on July 3.

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

Canadian International Merchandise Trade, April 2014, Vol. 68, no. 4
Catalogue number 65-001-X (HTML | PDF)

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

Postal Code^{OM} Conversion File Plus (PCCF+), June 2013
Catalogue number 82F0086X (Database, \$892)

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, June 2014
Catalogue number 62-013-X (HTML | PDF)



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.

To access or subscribe to *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>.

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2014. All rights reserved. Use of this publication is governed by the [Statistics Canada Open Licence Agreement](#).

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/reference/copyright-droit-auteur-eng.htm>