

The Daily

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| Canada's imports increased by 2.3% in December and exports rose 1.5%. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade deficit with the world widened from \$335 million in November to \$649 million in December. | |
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Releases

Canadian international merchandise trade, December 2014

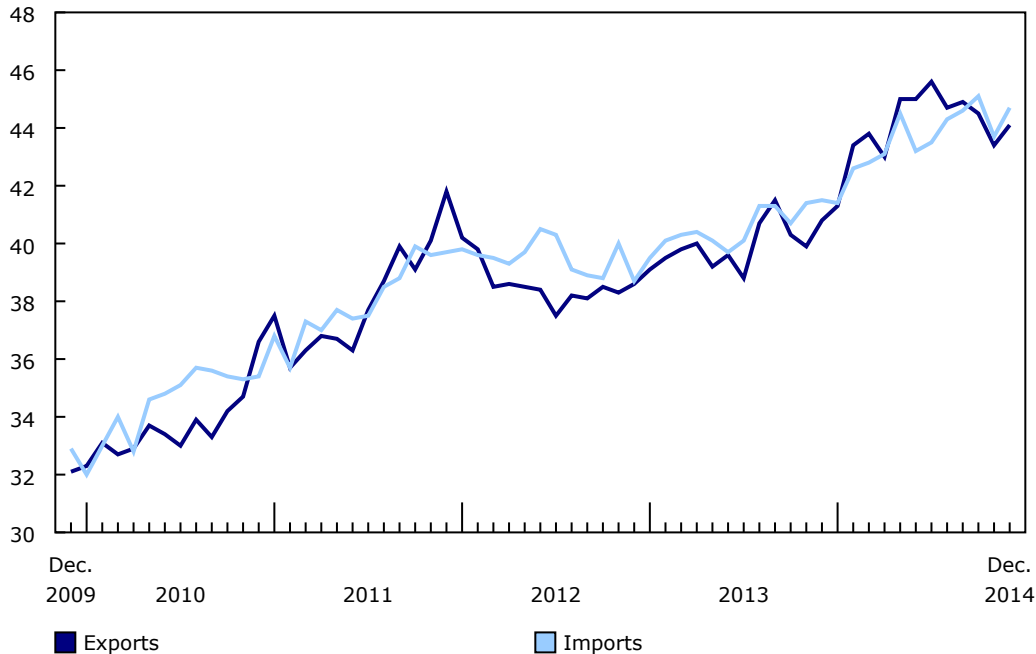
Canada's imports increased by 2.3% in December and exports rose 1.5%. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade deficit with the world widened from \$335 million in November to \$649 million in December.

Import volumes increased 2.8%, while prices declined 0.5%. Meanwhile, export volumes rose 3.5%, while prices declined 1.9%.

Imports were 7.6% higher in 2014 than in 2013 while exports increased 10.3%. Consequently, Canada's annual merchandise trade balance with the world swung from a deficit of \$7.2 billion in 2013 to a surplus of \$5.2 billion in 2014.

Chart 1 Exports and imports

billions of dollars



Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): CANSIM table [228-0069](#).

The trade deficit with non-US countries widens, while the trade surplus with the United States narrows

Imports from countries other than the United States were up 5.3% to \$14.7 billion in December. There were higher imports from Saudi Arabia (+\$174 million), Norway (+\$171 million) and the United Kingdom (+\$116 million). Imports from the United States increased 0.8% to \$30.0 billion in December.

Exports to countries other than the United States increased 4.5% to \$11.0 billion, led by exports to the United Kingdom, up \$470 million. Exports to the United States were up 0.6% to \$33.1 billion.

As a result, Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States widened from \$3.5 billion in November to \$3.8 billion in December. Meanwhile, Canada's trade surplus with the United States narrowed from \$3.2 billion in November to \$3.1 billion in December.

Widespread increases in imports

Imports rose to \$44.7 billion in December with gains in 8 of 11 sections. The main contributors to the increase in imports were energy products, motor vehicles and parts, as well as metal and non-metallic mineral products.

Imports of energy products rose 9.3% to \$3.5 billion. Imports of crude oil and crude bitumen increased 20.2% to \$1.9 billion, on higher volumes, as a number of refineries have returned to full capacity following maintenance.

Motor vehicles and parts advanced 3.3% to a record \$8.1 billion. Imports of motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts (+5.4%) and passenger cars and light trucks (+2.1%) were the main contributors to the gain.

Imports of metal and non-metallic mineral products increased 6.1% to \$4.2 billion, as volumes rose 4.4% and prices 1.7%. There were increases in 9 of the 10 commodity groupings in the section, led by unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys, up 18.6% to \$926 million.

Exports up on higher volumes

Exports rose to \$44.1 billion in December. There were gains in 8 of 11 sections, led by metals and non-metallic mineral products.

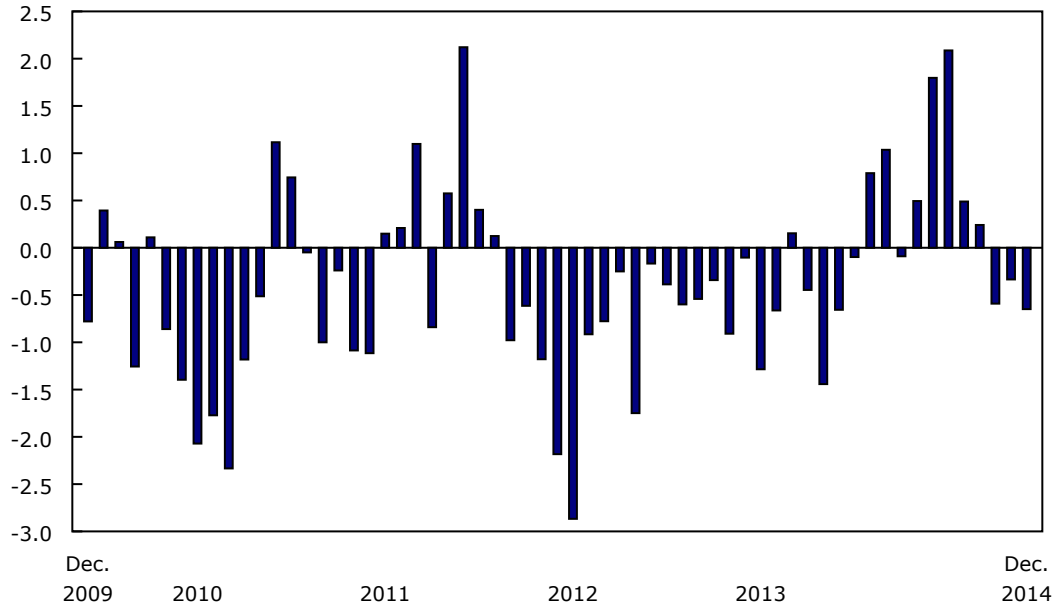
Exports of metal and non-metallic mineral products increased 13.1% to a record \$5.6 billion in December. Overall, volumes rose 10.4% and prices 2.4%. This increase was led by exports of unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys, which rose 28.2% to \$1.9 billion, followed by exports of unwrought, basic and semi-finished aluminum and aluminum-alloy products, up 28.1% to \$860 million.

Consumer goods advanced 5.2% to \$5.2 billion, on higher volumes. Exports of pharmaceutical and medicinal products increased 14.7% to \$806 million. Other food products, mainly yellow peas, also increased in December, up 6.2% to \$1.1 billion.

Partially offsetting these increases was a 10.3% decline in energy products to \$8.6 billion, the seventh consecutive monthly decrease. There were lower exports of crude oil and crude bitumen (-12.0%) and natural gas (-19.7%) but higher exports of refined petroleum energy products (+13.7%). Overall, prices declined 12.3% while volumes were up 2.3%.

Chart 2
Trade balance

billions of dollars



Note(s): Data are seasonally adjusted.
Source(s): CANSIM table [228-0069](#).

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 trade data by commodity are available on both a BOP and a customs basis. International trade data by country are available on a customs basis for all countries, and on a BOP basis for Canada's 27 principal trading partners (PTPs). The list of PTPs is based on their annual share of total merchandise trade—imports and exports—with Canada in 2012. 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.

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

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, revisions to BOP based data for the previous four years are released annually in December with the October 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.

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: Canada's top 10 principal trading partners – Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

| | December 2013 | November 2014 ^r | December 2014 | November to December 2014 | December 2013 to December 2014 |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | millions of dollars | | | % change | |
| Total exports | 40,842 | 43,384 | 44,055 | 1.5 | 7.9 |
| United States | 30,975 | 32,894 | 33,089 | 0.6 | 6.8 |
| China | 1,790 | 1,499 | 1,636 | 9.1 | -8.6 |
| Mexico | 549 | 770 | 620 | -19.5 | 12.9 |
| United Kingdom | 951 | 1,021 | 1,491 | 46.0 | 56.9 |
| Japan | 1,005 | 810 | 868 | 7.2 | -13.7 |
| Germany | 288 | 321 | 290 | -9.6 | 0.8 |
| South Korea | 425 | 292 | 310 | 5.8 | -27.1 |
| Hong Kong | 447 | 551 | 667 | 21.1 | 49.4 |
| Netherlands | 335 | 490 | 397 | -19.0 | 18.5 |
| France | 278 | 285 | 282 | -1.1 | 1.5 |
| Total imports | 41,498 | 43,719 | 44,704 | 2.3 | 7.7 |
| United States | 27,348 | 29,720 | 29,969 | 0.8 | 9.6 |
| China | 2,842 | 3,013 | 2,981 | -1.0 | 4.9 |
| Mexico | 1,499 | 1,535 | 1,589 | 3.5 | 6.1 |
| United Kingdom | 489 | 726 | 842 | 16.1 | 72.4 |
| Japan | 803 | 719 | 783 | 8.9 | -2.6 |
| Germany | 1,005 | 1,116 | 1,035 | -7.2 | 3.0 |
| South Korea | 486 | 455 | 510 | 12.2 | 5.0 |
| Hong Kong | 332 | 293 | 336 | 14.6 | 1.1 |
| Netherlands | 289 | 355 | 289 | -18.6 | -0.3 |
| France | 327 | 307 | 360 | 17.2 | 10.1 |
| Trade balance | -656 | -335 | -649 | ... | ... |
| United States | 3,627 | 3,174 | 3,119 | ... | ... |
| China | -1,052 | -1,513 | -1,345 | ... | ... |
| Mexico | -949 | -765 | -969 | ... | ... |
| United Kingdom | 462 | 296 | 649 | ... | ... |
| Japan | 202 | 90 | 85 | ... | ... |
| Germany | -717 | -795 | -745 | ... | ... |
| South Korea | -62 | -163 | -201 | ... | ... |
| Hong Kong | 114 | 258 | 331 | ... | ... |
| Netherlands | 46 | 136 | 109 | ... | ... |
| France | -49 | -22 | -78 | ... | ... |

^r revised

... not applicable

Note(s):

Totals are not equal the sum of their components.

Countries listed are the top 10 principal trading partners of Canada based on annual 2013 total merchandise trade data.

Source(s): CANSIM table [228-0069](#).

Table 2

Merchandise trade: North American Product Classification System¹– Seasonally adjusted, current dollars

| | December 2013 | November 2014 ^r | December 2014 | November to December 2014 | December 2013 to December 2014 |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| | millions of dollars | | | % change | |
| Total exports | 40,842 | 43,384 | 44,055 | 1.5 | 7.9 |
| Farm, fishing and intermediate food products | 2,328 | 2,453 | 2,543 | 3.7 | 9.2 |
| Energy products | 9,804 | 9,544 | 8,557 | -10.3 | -12.7 |
| Metal ores and non-metallic minerals | 1,529 | 1,399 | 1,567 | 11.9 | 2.4 |
| Metal and non-metallic mineral products | 4,255 | 4,961 | 5,609 | 13.1 | 31.8 |
| Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products | 2,985 | 3,084 | 3,016 | -2.2 | 1.0 |
| Forestry products and building and packaging materials | 2,977 | 3,157 | 3,194 | 1.2 | 7.3 |
| Industrial machinery, equipment and parts | 2,297 | 2,505 | 2,620 | 4.6 | 14.1 |
| Electronic and electrical equipment and parts | 1,925 | 2,098 | 2,213 | 5.5 | 14.9 |
| Motor vehicles and parts | 5,869 | 6,369 | 6,597 | 3.6 | 12.4 |
| Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts | 1,506 | 1,945 | 1,874 | -3.7 | 24.4 |
| Consumer goods | 4,433 | 4,961 | 5,220 | 5.2 | 17.7 |
| Special transactions trade ² | 217 | 168 | 204 | 21.5 | -5.9 |
| Other balance of payments adjustments | 717 | 739 | 843 | 14.2 | 17.7 |
| Total imports | 41,498 | 43,719 | 44,704 | 2.3 | 7.7 |
| Farm, fishing and intermediate food products | 1,085 | 1,258 | 1,359 | 8.0 | 25.2 |
| Energy products | 3,758 | 3,182 | 3,478 | 9.3 | -7.5 |
| Metal ores and non-metallic minerals | 966 | 947 | 800 | -15.6 | -17.2 |
| Metal and non-metallic mineral products | 3,395 | 3,962 | 4,205 | 6.1 | 23.9 |
| Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products | 3,537 | 3,686 | 3,776 | 2.4 | 6.8 |
| Forestry products and building and packaging materials | 1,792 | 1,919 | 1,996 | 4.0 | 11.4 |
| Industrial machinery, equipment and parts | 3,919 | 4,319 | 4,301 | -0.4 | 9.7 |
| Electronic and electrical equipment and parts | 4,655 | 4,754 | 4,856 | 2.1 | 4.3 |
| Motor vehicles and parts | 7,171 | 7,812 | 8,073 | 3.3 | 12.6 |
| Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts | 1,338 | 1,413 | 1,352 | -4.3 | 1.0 |
| Consumer goods | 8,324 | 8,992 | 9,007 | 0.2 | 8.2 |
| Special transactions trade ² | 727 | 608 | 610 | 0.3 | -16.1 |
| Other balance of payments adjustments | 830 | 867 | 891 | 2.7 | 7.3 |

^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.

Source(s): CANSIM table [228-0059](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [228-0059](#) to [228-0069](#).

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

Customs based 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 December 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 12 ([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 January will be released on March 6.

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 Nita Boushey (613-404-4965), International Accounts and Trade Division.

Farm product prices, December 2014

Prices received by farmers in December for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The December Quebec hogs price was \$88.30 per hundredweight, down 3.4% from November but up 16.9% from December 2013 when the price was \$75.51.

The Alberta wheat (excluding durum) price in December was \$207.87 per tonne, up 1.7% from November but down 11.1% from December 2013 when the price was \$233.94.

Note to readers

Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Prices for over 35 commodities are available by province, with some series going back 35 years. Prices data are extracted from administrative files and derived from Statistics Canada surveys.

Available in CANSIM: table [002-0043](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3436](#).

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).

Asphalt roofing, December 2014

Shipments of asphalt shingles reached 2.0 million metric bundles in December, up 76.0% from the previous month. Production of asphalt shingles declined 14.1% to 2.2 million metric bundles.

In contrast, shipments decreased 1.0% between November and December 2013 to 1.2 million metric bundles, while production was down 40.0% to 1.7 million metric bundles.

Asphalt shingles shipments were 62.9% higher in December 2014 compared with the same month a year earlier, while the production of asphalt shingles was up 29.7%.

Note to readers

The monthly survey, Asphalt Roofing, measures production, shipments and exports of asphalt roofing products, including the destination of shipments.

Data in this release are subject to revisions and not seasonally adjusted.

Available in CANSIM: table [303-0052](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2123](#).

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, December 2014

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

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

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

The December 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 12 ([65-001-X](#)), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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Export and import price indexes, December 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 December 2014 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 68, no. 12 ([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 January will be released on March 6.

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Public Service Employee Survey, 2014

Aggregate tables presenting the 2014 Public Service Employee Survey results for the entire public service and federal departments are now available upon request.

The primary objective of the survey is to obtain the views of federal public service employees about their workforce, work environment and leadership. The survey results highlight where organizations are doing well and identify areas for improvement to help organizations develop informed action plans to strengthen people management issues. This survey was sponsored by the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [4438](#).

Information on the Public Service Employee Survey is also available on the [Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada](#) website.

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

The Business and Community Newsletter

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Canadian International Merchandise Trade, December 2014, Vol. 68, no. 12

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

Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database, December 2014

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