

# The Daily

Statistics Canada

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## Releases

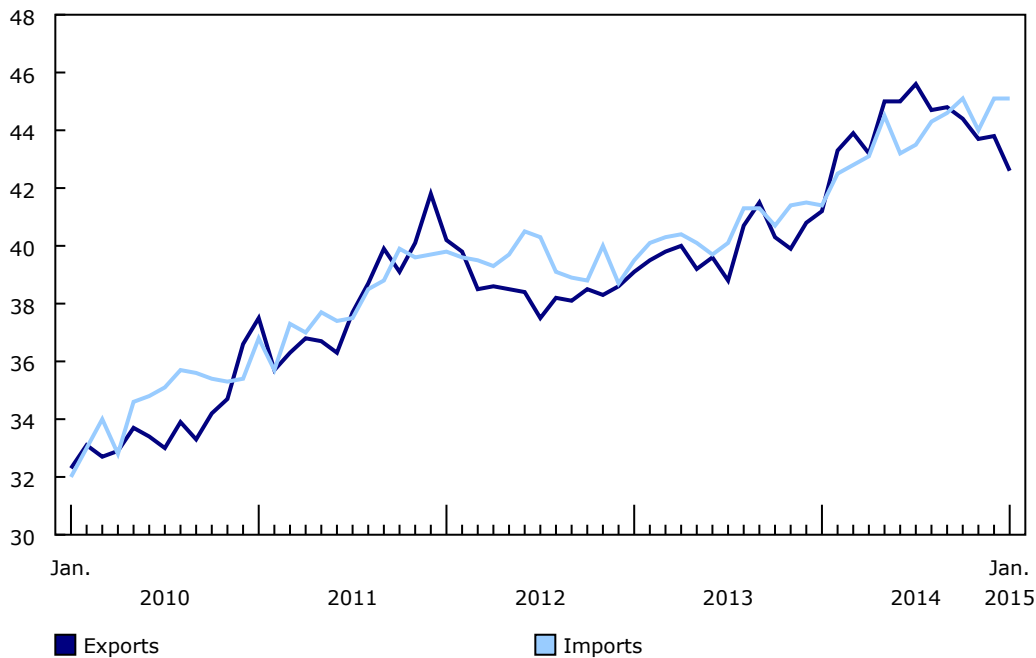
### Canadian international merchandise trade, January 2015

Canada's exports declined 2.8% in January while imports were largely unchanged from December. As a result, Canada's merchandise trade deficit widened from \$1.2 billion in December to \$2.5 billion in January, the largest since the record \$2.9 billion deficit in July 2012.

Export prices declined 1.5% on lower prices for energy products, and volumes were down 1.3% on lower volumes of metal and non-metallic mineral products. Meanwhile, import prices edged up 0.1%, while volumes edged down 0.1%.

#### Chart 1 Exports and imports

billions of dollars



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

### Trade surplus with the United States narrows

Exports to the United States declined 3.1% to \$31.8 billion in January. Exports to countries other than the United States were down 1.9% to \$10.9 billion. This decrease was widespread across most principal trading partners, led by lower exports to the Netherlands (-\$184 million) and Italy (-\$172 million). Conversely, exports to the United Kingdom increased by \$357 million.

Imports from the United States edged down 0.1% to \$30.5 billion. Imports from countries other than the United States edged up 0.2% to \$14.5 billion. Higher imports from China (+\$250 million) were partially offset by lower imports from the United Kingdom (-\$174 million) and Saudi Arabia (-\$111 million).

Consequently, Canada's trade surplus with the United States narrowed from \$2.2 billion in December to \$1.2 billion in January, the lowest surplus since 1992. Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States widened from \$3.4 billion in December to \$3.7 billion in January.

### **Exports decline on lower crude oil prices**

Exports declined 2.8% to \$42.6 billion in January, as 4 of 11 sections decreased. Energy products, mainly crude oil and crude bitumen, were the main contributor to the decline. Excluding crude oil and crude bitumen, exports increased 0.2% in January. Year over year, total exports were up 3.4%.

Exports of energy products fell 14.7% to \$7.0 billion in January, the eighth consecutive monthly decrease. Crude oil and crude bitumen exports declined 23.0% to \$4.4 billion, as prices fell 23.2%.

Exports of metal and non-metallic mineral products were down 8.6% to \$5.1 billion. Unwrought precious metals and precious metal alloys (-13.5%) and unwrought, basic and semi-finished aluminum and aluminum-alloy products (-20.4%) were the main contributors to the decrease. Overall, volumes declined 8.0%.

Meanwhile, exports of motor vehicles and parts were up 3.1% to \$6.9 billion in January. Exports of passenger cars and light trucks rose 8.6% to \$4.8 billion. This increase was partially offset by lower exports of motor vehicle engines and motor vehicle parts, down 11.5% to \$1.6 billion.

### **Imports largely unchanged**

Imports for January were virtually unchanged at \$45.1 billion, as advances in five sections were offset by declines in the six remaining sections. Imports were up 8.8% from January 2014.

Imports of electronic and electrical equipment and parts rose 9.3% to \$5.3 billion in January, as volumes were up 7.4% and prices 1.8%. The increase for this section was almost entirely the result of higher imports of communications and audio and video equipment, up 29.8% to \$2.0 billion.

Industrial machinery, equipment and parts increased 8.2% to \$4.7 billion. Widespread increases in imports for this section were led by other industry-specific machinery (+32.6%) and other general-purpose machinery and equipment (+5.9%), both reaching record highs. Overall, volumes rose 5.0% and prices 3.0%.

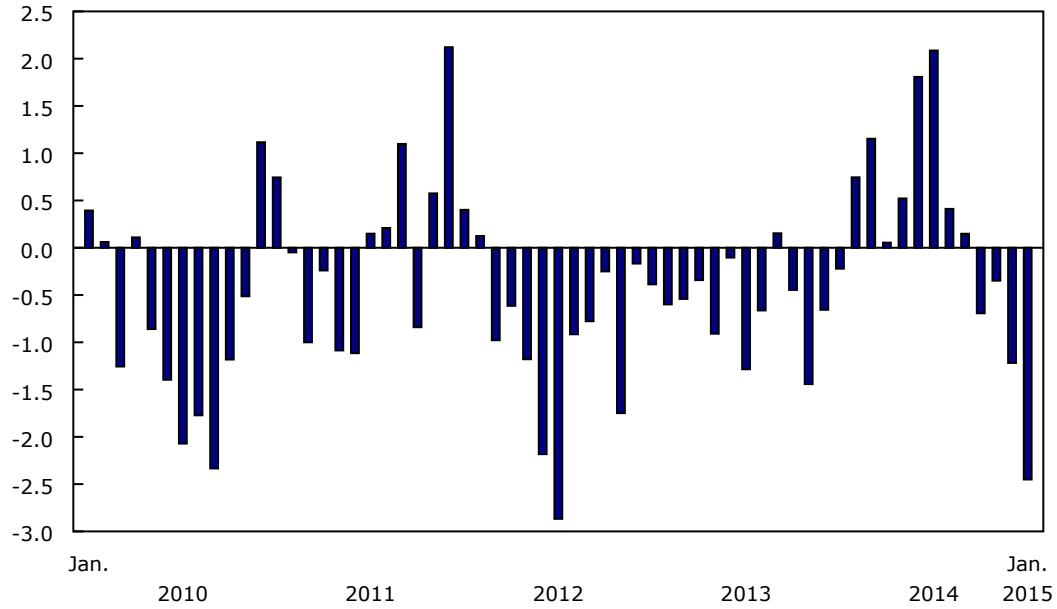
Partially offsetting these gains, imports of energy products fell 19.2% to \$2.7 billion. Crude oil and crude bitumen declined 27.6% to \$1.3 billion, as prices fell 26.9% and volumes 0.9%. Imports of refined petroleum energy products (-12.8%) were also down in January.

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**Chart 2**  
**Trade balance**

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billions of dollars



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

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### **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, March and April reference months. To remain consistent with the Canadian System of macroeconomic accounts, revisions to BOP based data for previous 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**

	January 2014 <sup>r</sup>	December 2014 <sup>r</sup>	January 2015	December 2014 to January 2015	January 2014 to January 2015
	millions of dollars			% change	
<b>Total exports</b>	<b>41,190</b>	<b>43,840</b>	<b>42,611</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>
United States	31,360	32,770	31,751	-3.1	1.2
China	1,681	1,637	1,625	-0.8	-3.4
Mexico	562	601	587	-2.3	4.4
United Kingdom	844	1,499	1,856	23.8	120.0
Japan	832	894	941	5.2	13.1
Germany	276	277	258	-6.9	-6.4
South Korea	267	290	286	-1.5	7.0
Hong Kong	571	654	538	-17.8	-5.8
Netherlands	280	421	237	-43.6	-15.1
France	284	283	262	-7.1	-7.6
<b>Total imports</b>	<b>41,412</b>	<b>45,058</b>	<b>45,063</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>
United States	27,273	30,566	30,541	-0.1	12.0
China	2,802	3,022	3,272	8.3	16.7
Mexico	1,401	1,589	1,550	-2.5	10.7
United Kingdom	538	888	714	-19.6	32.6
Japan	793	792	792	0.0	-0.1
Germany	1,074	1,051	1,085	3.2	1.0
South Korea	521	507	500	-1.3	-4.0
Hong Kong	338	337	340	1.0	0.7
Netherlands	260	282	293	3.7	12.4
France	418	361	335	-7.2	-20.0
<b>Trade balance</b>	<b>-221</b>	<b>-1,218</b>	<b>-2,451</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>
United States	4,087	2,204	1,210	...	...
China	-1,121	-1,385	-1,647	...	...
Mexico	-839	-988	-964	...	...
United Kingdom	305	610	1,142	...	...
Japan	39	102	149	...	...
Germany	-798	-774	-827	...	...
South Korea	-254	-216	-214	...	...
Hong Kong	232	317	197	...	...
Netherlands	19	139	-55	...	...
France	-135	-78	-72	...	...

<sup>r</sup> revised

... not applicable

**Note(s):**

Totals are not equal to 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 System<sup>1</sup>– Seasonally adjusted, current dollars**

	January 2014 <sup>r</sup>	December 2014 <sup>r</sup>	January 2015	December 2014 to January 2015	January 2014 to January 2015
	millions of dollars			% change	
<b>Total exports</b>	<b>41,190</b>	<b>43,840</b>	<b>42,611</b>	<b>-2.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	2,430	2,605	2,722	4.5	12.0
Energy products	10,958	8,258	7,041	-14.7	-35.7
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	1,467	1,567	1,567	0.0	6.8
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	4,117	5,588	5,109	-8.6	24.1
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	2,938	3,004	2,949	-1.8	0.4
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	2,999	3,204	3,289	2.6	9.7
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	2,217	2,625	2,647	0.9	19.4
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	1,896	2,219	2,221	0.1	17.2
Motor vehicles and parts	5,287	6,650	6,858	3.1	29.7
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,388	1,871	2,021	8.0	45.6
Consumer goods	4,566	5,216	5,176	-0.8	13.3
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	212	203	174	-14.3	-17.9
Other balance of payments adjustments	715	829	837	0.9	17.0
<b>Total imports</b>	<b>41,412</b>	<b>45,058</b>	<b>45,063</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Farm, fishing and intermediate food products	1,212	1,347	1,319	-2.1	8.9
Energy products	3,722	3,387	2,735	-19.2	-26.5
Metal ores and non-metallic minerals	860	794	789	-0.7	-8.3
Metal and non-metallic mineral products	3,550	4,226	4,218	-0.2	18.8
Basic and industrial chemical, plastic and rubber products	3,478	3,791	3,723	-1.8	7.1
Forestry products and building and packaging materials	1,804	2,009	2,036	1.4	12.9
Industrial machinery, equipment and parts	4,015	4,340	4,696	8.2	16.9
Electronic and electrical equipment and parts	4,848	4,881	5,336	9.3	10.1
Motor vehicles and parts	6,907	8,129	7,968	-2.0	15.4
Aircraft and other transportation equipment and parts	1,244	1,384	1,508	9.0	21.2
Consumer goods	8,426	9,061	9,081	0.2	7.8
Special transactions trade <sup>2</sup>	512	818	767	-6.3	49.8
Other balance of payments adjustments	833	890	888	-0.3	6.5

<sup>r</sup> 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 January 2015 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 69, no. 1 ([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 February will be released on April 2.

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

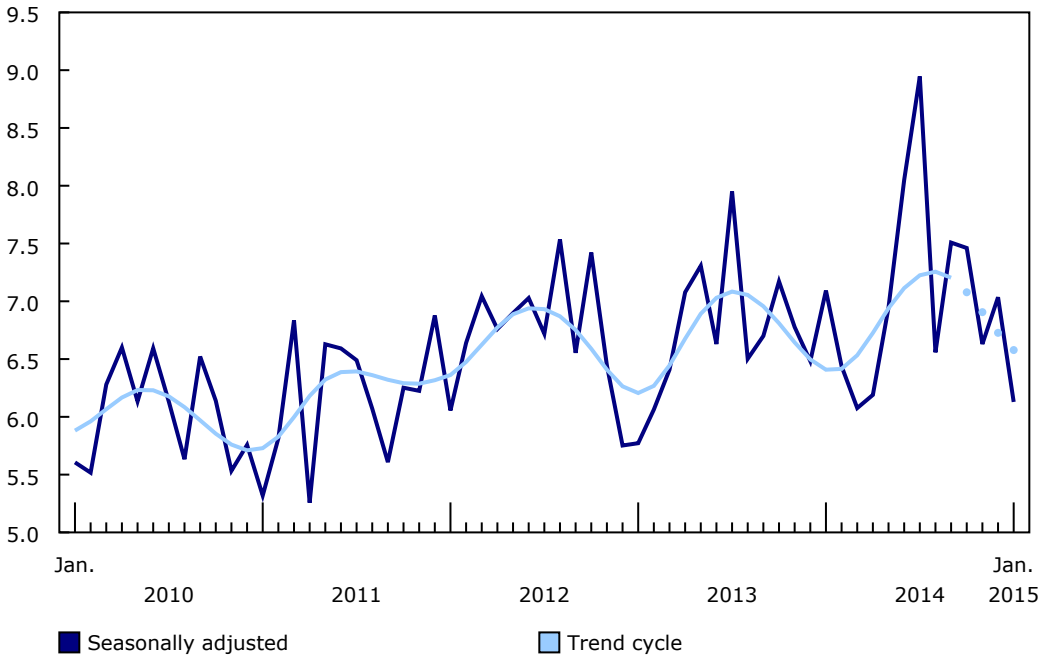


## Building permits, January 2015

The total value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities fell 12.9% to \$6.1 billion in January, following a 6.1% increase the previous month. Lower construction intentions for non-residential buildings in Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario were responsible for much of the national decline.

**Chart 1**  
**Total value of permits**

billions of dollars



**Note(s):** The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart for the current reference month and the three previous months. See note to readers.

**Source(s):** CANSIM table [026-0010](#).

Construction intentions in the non-residential sector fell 22.8% to \$2.0 billion in January, following a 15.0% increase the previous month. Decreases were recorded in eight provinces, with Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario accounting for most of the drop. Quebec (+54.3%) registered the largest increase.

In the residential sector, the value of permits declined 7.0% to \$4.1 billion, following a 1.5% increase in December. Decreases were registered in every province, except Saskatchewan, as a result of lower construction intentions for multi-family dwellings. Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba posted the largest declines. Saskatchewan posted an increase in the value of both single and multi-family dwelling permits.

### Non-residential sector: Declines in all three components

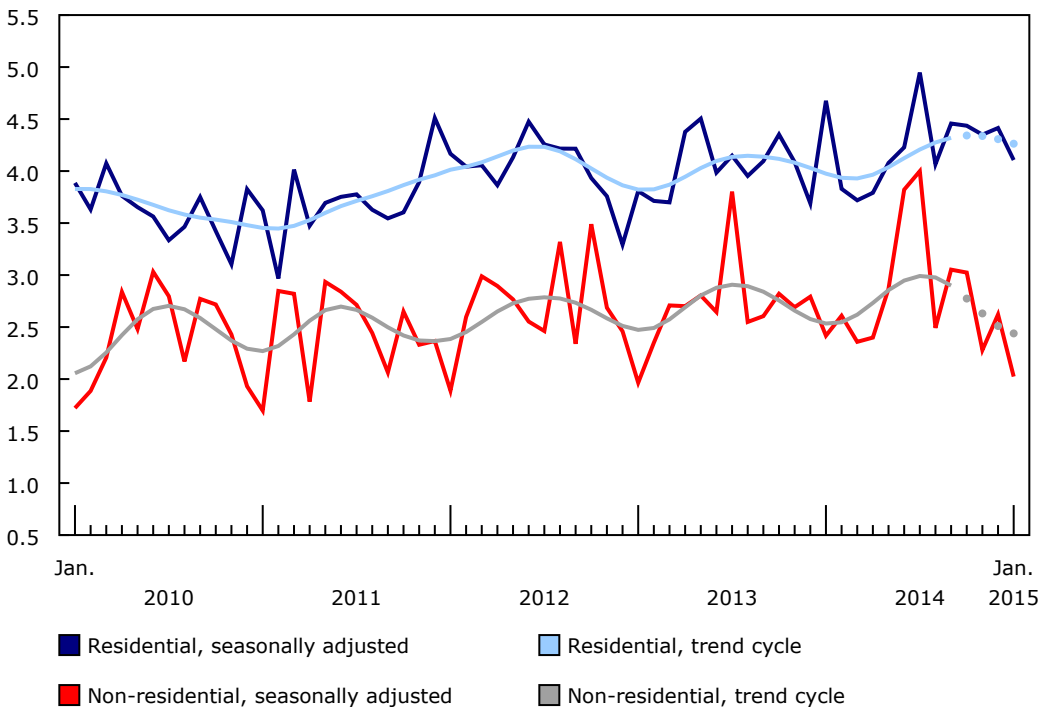
Canadian municipalities issued institutional building permits worth \$387 million in January, down 49.8% from December. This followed a 15.2% increase the previous month. The value of institutional building permits was down in six provinces, with Alberta and, to a lesser extent, British Columbia accounting for much of the monthly decrease. The decline at the national level was the result of lower construction intentions for educational institutions, medical facilities as well as nursing homes and retirement residences. Ontario posted the largest gain in the value of institutional building permits.

The value of commercial building permits fell 8.0% to \$1.3 billion, following a 15.1% increase in December. This was the result of lower construction intentions for a variety of commercial buildings, including hotels and restaurants, warehouses and office buildings. Declines were recorded in seven provinces, with British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario posting the largest decreases. Quebec (+110.6%) registered the largest increase in the commercial component.

In the industrial component, the value of permits was down 22.8% in January to \$337 million, following a 14.2% increase the previous month. The decrease was mainly attributable to lower construction intentions for transportation-related buildings and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing plants in several provinces. Gains were registered in four provinces in this component, led by Quebec.

**Chart 2  
Residential and non-residential sectors**

billions of dollars



**Note(s):** The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart for the current reference month and the three previous months. See note to readers.  
**Source(s):** CANSIM table 026-0010.

**Residential sector: Lower construction intentions for multi-family dwellings**

The value of permits for multi-family dwellings declined 21.0% to \$1.5 billion in January, a fourth consecutive monthly decline. This marked the lowest level for the component since March 2013. The decrease in January was the result of lower construction intentions in nine provinces, with Ontario registering by far the largest decline. Saskatchewan was the lone province to post an increase.

Municipalities issued building permits for single-family dwellings worth \$2.6 billion in January, up 3.5% from December. This was the second consecutive monthly advance. Increases were reported in four provinces, led by Ontario and Quebec.

Canadian municipalities approved the construction of 14,888 new dwellings, down 7.5% from the previous month. The decline was the result of a 12.9% decrease in the number of multi-family dwellings to 8,510 units. Conversely, the number of single-family dwellings increased 0.9% to 6,378 units.

### **Provinces: Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario post the largest decreases**

The total value of permits was down in eight provinces in January, with Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario registering the largest declines.

After posting a 32.6% increase in December, which came mainly from permits issued for institutional projects, Alberta registered a 27.2% decrease in January.

In British Columbia, the decline was attributable to lower construction intentions in both the non-residential and residential sectors. Ontario registered a decrease in January on lower construction intentions for multi-family dwellings as well as commercial and industrial buildings.

The largest gain occurred in Quebec, with commercial buildings and single-family dwellings accounting for most of the increase.

### **Lower construction intentions in most census metropolitan areas**

The total value of permits was down in 23 of the 34 census metropolitan areas (CMAs). The largest decreases occurred in Edmonton, Vancouver and Calgary.

The declines in both Edmonton and Vancouver were attributable to lower construction intentions for commercial and institutional buildings. In Calgary, multi-family dwellings, as well as commercial and institutional buildings were responsible for the decline. All three of these CMAs posted notable gains in December.

The largest gains occurred in Montréal, followed by Québec. In Montréal, commercial buildings contributed the most to the monthly increase, while in Québec the advance came from the non-residential and residential sectors.

### Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which facilitates comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations. For more information on seasonal adjustment, see [Seasonally adjusted data – Frequently asked questions](#).

The Building Permits Survey covers 2,400 municipalities representing 95% of the population. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total for the entire population.

Building permits data are used as a leading indicator of activity in the construction industry.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (for example, waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

For the purpose of this release, the census metropolitan area of Ottawa–Gatineau (Ontario/Quebec) is divided into two areas: Gatineau part and Ottawa part.

### Revision

Data for the current reference month are subject to revision based on late responses.

With this release, seasonal adjustment options were reviewed to take into account the most recent seasonal variation from the series. Revised monthly seasonally adjusted data for the three previous years are released at the same time as the annual revision to the unadjusted data of 2014.

Trend-cycle estimates have been added to the charts as a complement to the seasonally adjusted series. Both the seasonally adjusted and the trend-cycle estimates are subject to revision as additional observations become available. These revisions could be large and even lead to a reversal of movement, especially at the end of the series. The higher variability associated with the trend-cycle estimates is indicated with a dotted line on the chart.

**Table 1**  
**Dwelling units, value of residential and non-residential building permits, Canada – Seasonally adjusted**

	January 2014 <sup>r</sup>	November 2014 <sup>r</sup>	December 2014 <sup>r</sup>	January 2015 <sup>P</sup>	December 2014 to January 2015	January 2014 to January 2015
	millions of dollars				% change	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,093.3</b>	<b>6,629.7</b>	<b>7,035.0</b>	<b>6,129.3</b>	<b>-12.9</b>	<b>-13.6</b>
Residential	4,676.5	4,350.3	4,414.1	4,105.6	-7.0	-12.2
Single <sup>1</sup>	2,404.1	2,357.2	2,519.6	2,608.9	3.5	8.5
Multiple	2,272.4	1,993.1	1,894.5	1,496.6	-21.0	-34.1
Non-residential	2,416.8	2,279.4	2,620.9	2,023.7	-22.8	-16.3
Industrial	300.6	381.7	435.9	336.6	-22.8	12.0
Commercial	1,501.4	1,228.1	1,413.5	1,299.8	-8.0	-13.4
Institutional	614.7	669.6	771.5	387.3	-49.8	-37.0
	number of units				% change	
<b>Total dwellings</b>	<b>18,578</b>	<b>17,012</b>	<b>16,095</b>	<b>14,888</b>	<b>-7.5</b>	<b>-19.9</b>
Single <sup>1</sup>	6,374	6,055	6,320	6,378	0.9	0.1
Multiple	12,204	10,957	9,775	8,510	-12.9	-30.3

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>P</sup> preliminary

1. Included in this category are the following types of dwellings: single-detached, mobile home and cottage.

**Note(s):** Data may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

**Source(s):** CANSIM table [026-0010](#).

**Table 2**  
**Value of building permits, by province and territory – Seasonally adjusted**

	January 2014 <sup>r</sup>	November 2014 <sup>r</sup>	December 2014 <sup>r</sup>	January 2015 <sup>p</sup>	December 2014 to January 2015	January 2014 to January 2015
	millions of dollars			% change		
<b>Canada</b>	<b>7,093.3</b>	<b>6,629.7</b>	<b>7,035.0</b>	<b>6,129.3</b>	<b>-12.9</b>	<b>-13.6</b>
<b>Residential</b>	<b>4,676.5</b>	<b>4,350.3</b>	<b>4,414.1</b>	<b>4,105.6</b>	<b>-7.0</b>	<b>-12.2</b>
<b>Non-residential</b>	<b>2,416.8</b>	<b>2,279.4</b>	<b>2,620.9</b>	<b>2,023.7</b>	<b>-22.8</b>	<b>-16.3</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	109.2	47.1	67.7	46.1	-31.9	-57.7
Residential	56.1	32.4	45.0	37.7	-16.4	-32.9
Non-residential	53.0	14.7	22.6	8.5	-62.6	-84.0
Prince Edward Island	16.6	15.9	19.5	17.8	-8.4	7.8
Residential	9.0	9.7	17.9	14.6	-18.0	63.5
Non-residential	7.6	6.2	1.6	3.2	95.9	-57.8
Nova Scotia	78.2	81.2	86.9	53.5	-38.5	-31.7
Residential	50.1	59.5	63.4	34.0	-46.4	-32.2
Non-residential	28.1	21.8	23.6	19.5	-17.4	-30.7
New Brunswick	56.3	58.8	62.6	43.2	-31.1	-23.3
Residential	43.0	34.8	47.6	37.4	-21.5	-13.1
Non-residential	13.3	23.9	15.0	5.8	-61.3	-56.3
Quebec	1,324.6	1,130.4	1,139.8	1,318.9	15.7	-0.4
Residential	882.2	701.0	723.7	677.0	-6.5	-23.3
Non-residential	442.4	429.4	416.1	641.9	54.3	45.1
Ontario	2,434.3	2,708.1	2,513.6	2,284.5	-9.1	-6.2
Residential	1,527.7	1,790.9	1,688.6	1,583.2	-6.2	3.6
Non-residential	906.6	917.3	825.1	701.3	-15.0	-22.6
Manitoba	207.0	230.9	236.3	167.6	-29.1	-19.0
Residential	119.5	144.3	150.4	107.7	-28.4	-9.9
Non-residential	87.4	86.6	86.0	59.8	-30.4	-31.6
Saskatchewan	209.8	194.1	140.0	148.6	6.1	-29.2
Residential	134.1	107.9	74.5	91.3	22.6	-32.0
Non-residential	75.7	86.2	65.6	57.3	-12.6	-24.2
Alberta	1,737.2	1,313.9	1,741.8	1,268.4	-27.2	-27.0
Residential	1,183.3	851.1	943.3	914.6	-3.0	-22.7
Non-residential	553.9	462.8	798.5	353.8	-55.7	-36.1
British Columbia	909.8	834.9	1,014.0	768.4	-24.2	-15.5
Residential	663.8	614.1	649.0	605.9	-6.6	-8.7
Non-residential	246.0	220.8	365.0	162.5	-55.5	-33.9
Yukon	5.2	11.9	8.7	5.5	-36.5	5.7
Residential	3.7	2.5	7.2	1.7	-76.8	-54.6
Non-residential	1.5	9.4	1.4	3.8	168.0	152.1
Northwest Territories	1.9	2.5	4.0	6.8	67.9	265.3
Residential	0.6	2.1	3.6	0.6	-83.9	-8.5
Non-residential	1.2	0.3	0.4	6.2	...	408.4
Nunavut	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	...	-100.0
Residential	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	...	-100.0
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	...	...

r revised

p preliminary

... not applicable

Note(s): Data may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

Source(s): CANSIM tables 026-0006 and 026-0010.

**Table 3**  
**Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area – Seasonally adjusted<sup>1</sup>**

	January 2014 <sup>r</sup>	November 2014 <sup>r</sup>	December 2014 <sup>r</sup>	January 2015 <sup>p</sup>	December 2014 to January 2015	January 2014 to January 2015
	millions of dollars			% change		
<b>Total, census metropolitan areas</b>	<b>5,429.4</b>	<b>5,202.5</b>	<b>5,452.5</b>	<b>4,696.8</b>	<b>-13.9</b>	<b>-13.5</b>
St. John's	87.6	31.1	49.2	30.3	-38.3	-65.4
Halifax	38.7	36.0	39.3	20.4	-48.1	-47.3
Moncton	13.7	20.5	21.5	12.8	-40.6	-6.3
Saint John	10.4	6.6	6.5	5.9	-9.3	-43.1
Saguenay	16.0	12.1	9.2	12.4	35.1	-22.2
Québec	129.0	101.7	87.7	135.3	54.3	4.9
Sherbrooke	33.8	38.6	19.0	43.8	130.8	29.5
Trois-Rivières	17.1	19.0	12.4	8.8	-29.1	-48.9
Montréal	684.4	622.4	655.0	751.4	14.7	9.8
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	251.7	227.5	179.8	155.4	-13.6	-38.3
Gatineau part	101.4	29.0	58.2	28.7	-50.7	-71.6
Ottawa part	150.4	198.4	121.5	126.6	4.2	-15.8
Kingston	52.6	20.0	17.0	7.4	-56.6	-86.0
Peterborough	5.6	39.0	11.9	6.9	-41.8	23.4
Oshawa	80.0	44.9	77.0	48.9	-36.5	-38.9
Toronto	1,380.7	1,394.8	1,376.3	1,269.7	-7.7	-8.0
Hamilton	104.6	78.1	144.1	148.6	3.1	42.0
St. Catharines–Niagara	44.3	56.3	39.7	41.8	5.4	-5.5
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	62.7	93.3	122.6	57.3	-53.3	-8.7
Brantford	6.8	32.4	5.4	38.3	612.0	463.7
Guelph	28.6	25.4	43.8	71.1	62.4	148.4
London	39.2	98.8	110.2	82.3	-25.3	110.0
Windsor	33.9	24.2	31.9	30.2	-5.3	-11.0
Barrie	17.4	195.6	28.5	6.8	-76.0	-60.8
Greater Sudbury	12.7	77.9	10.3	5.3	-48.6	-58.3
Thunder Bay	15.4	6.9	2.4	1.6	-34.5	-89.8
Winnipeg	142.4	182.9	175.3	121.0	-31.0	-15.1
Regina	49.0	48.8	57.9	42.5	-26.6	-13.3
Saskatoon	103.7	66.1	47.3	66.2	40.1	-36.2
Calgary	650.9	537.2	566.6	408.3	-27.9	-37.3
Edmonton	581.3	429.3	774.7	550.9	-28.9	-5.2
Kelowna	29.8	47.4	39.4	47.2	19.9	58.6
Abbotsford–Mission	20.8	15.2	18.6	12.4	-33.4	-40.5
Vancouver	618.4	515.0	604.6	406.6	-32.7	-34.2
Victoria	66.1	57.5	67.5	49.0	-27.4	-25.9

<sup>r</sup> revised

<sup>p</sup> preliminary

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the [census metropolitan areas](#).

**Note(s):** Data may not add up to totals as a result of rounding.

**Source(s):** CANSIM table [026-0006](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [026-0001](#) to [026-0008](#) and [026-0010](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2802](#).

The January 2015 issue of *Building Permits* ([64-001-X](#)) will soon be available.

The February building permits data will be released on April 9.

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

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Jérémie Bennett (613-951-0793), Investment, Science and Technology Division.

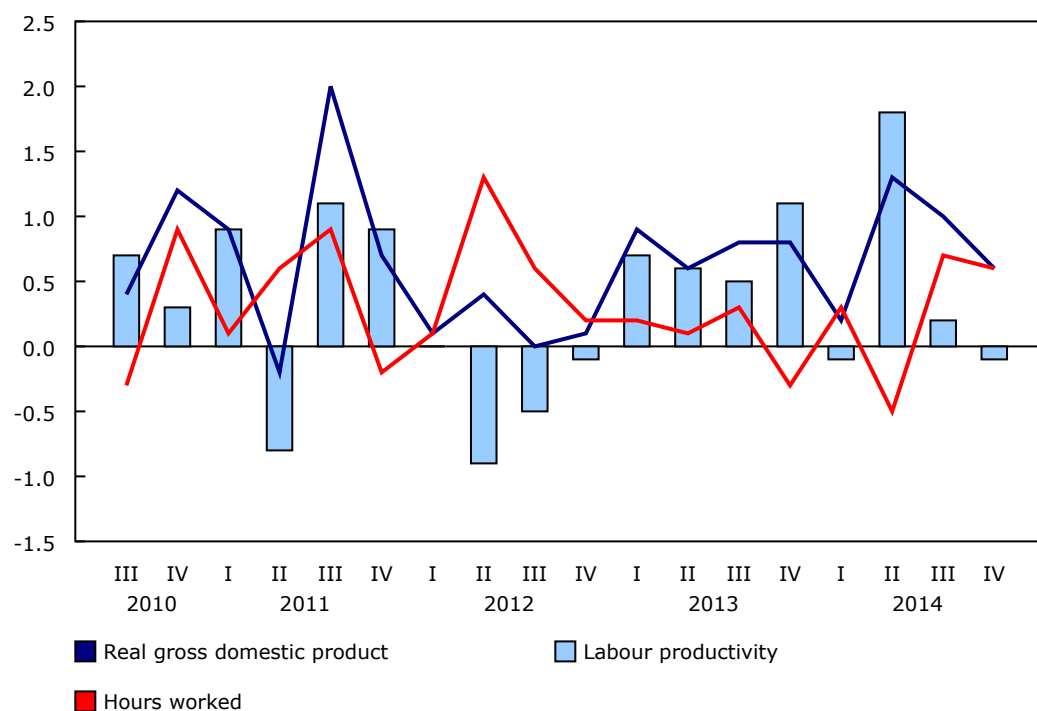
## Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, fourth quarter 2014

Labour productivity in Canadian businesses edged down 0.1% in the fourth quarter, following a 0.2% gain in the third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, business output increased at roughly the same pace as hours worked.

**Chart 1**  
Labour productivity of Canadian businesses edges down following two quarters of growth

quarterly % change



Source(s): CANSIM table [383-0008](#).

Real gross domestic product (GDP) of businesses rose 0.6% in the fourth quarter, compared with a growth rate of 1.0% in the third quarter. Most major industries increased their output, while the output of both service-producing and goods-producing businesses grew 0.6%.

Hours worked devoted to production in the business sector rose 0.6% in the fourth quarter, after increasing 0.7% in the third quarter. Hours worked increased by 0.5% in goods-producing businesses and by 0.7% in service-producing businesses. Retail trade, real estate services, construction, agriculture, utilities and other private services were the main contributors to the increase in hours worked by businesses.

Overall productivity growth was relatively unchanged in the fourth quarter, both in goods-producing (+0.1%) and in service-producing businesses (-0.1%). The main increases were in finance and insurance (+2.3%), wholesale trade (+1.3%) and mining, quarrying, oil and gas extraction (+1.0%). By contrast, the main declines were in retail trade (-2.4%), other private services (-1.1%), real estate services (-1.0%) and construction (-0.7%).



In the United States, the labour productivity of businesses fell 0.5% in the fourth quarter, following two consecutive quarterly advances.

Productivity in Canadian businesses decreased at a pace similar to that of hourly compensation (-0.1%) in the fourth quarter. As a result, labour cost per unit of output in Canadian businesses was unchanged. This was the third consecutive quarter in which unit labour costs were relatively unchanged.

When factoring in the 4.0% depreciation of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar in the fourth quarter, the unit labour costs of Canadian businesses in American dollars declined 4.1%. This was the first decline in three quarters.

By comparison, American businesses saw their unit labour costs increase 0.7% in the fourth quarter, following two quarterly declines.

## **Annual 2014**

For 2014 as a whole, labour productivity in Canadian businesses rose 2.5%, the largest annual increase since 2005. The productivity growth in 2014 was mainly a reflection of growth in real GDP of businesses.

Productivity increased in both goods-producing businesses (+2.5%) and service-producing businesses (+2.2%). Aside from agriculture and forestry, utilities and construction, productivity in 2014 increased in all major industries.

By comparison, annual productivity growth in American businesses was 0.6%, half the pace of the previous year. In 2013, the productivity of businesses in Canada (+1.1%) increased at a pace similar to that of the United States (+1.2%).

The difference in productivity between Canada and the United States in 2014 was mostly due to different trends in the increase in hours worked, as the two countries had similar increases in real GDP of businesses (+2.9%). For 2014 as a whole, hours worked increased 0.4% in Canada, while they went up 2.3% in the United States.

In Canadian businesses, unit labour costs went up 0.9% in 2014, compared with a 1.3% increase in 2013. The 2014 increase in hourly compensation was greater than the gain in productivity for the fourth consecutive year, at 3.5%.

However, the average value of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar registered its largest decrease (-6.7%) in three years. Consequently, in American dollars, the unit labour costs of Canadian businesses fell 5.9% in 2014. By contrast, the unit labour costs of American businesses rose 1.6%.

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## **Note to readers**

### **Revisions**

*With this release on labour productivity and related measures, data were revised back to the first quarter of 2014 at the aggregate and industry levels. The recent revisions from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) were taken into account for 2014. The historical revisions of LFS from 2001 to 2013 will be incorporated next fall with the release of the third quarter 2015 data.*

### **Productivity measure**

*The term "productivity" in this release refers to labour productivity. For the purposes of this analysis, labour productivity and related variables cover the business sector only.*

***Labour productivity** is a measure of real gross domestic product (GDP) per hour worked.*

***Unit labour cost** is defined as the cost of workers' wages and benefits per unit of real GDP.*

*All the growth rates reported in this release are rounded to one decimal place. They are calculated with index numbers rounded to three decimal places, which are now available on CANSIM.*

**Table 1**  
**Business sector: Labour productivity and related variables for Canada and the United States<sup>1</sup>–**  
**Seasonally adjusted**

	Fourth quarter 2012	First quarter 2013	Second quarter 2013	Third quarter 2013	Fourth quarter 2013	First quarter 2014	Second quarter 2014	Third quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2014
	% change from previous quarter								
<b>Canada</b>									
Labour productivity	-0.1	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.1	-0.1	1.8	0.2	-0.1
Real gross domestic product (GDP)	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.2	1.3	1.0	0.6
Hours worked	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	-0.3	0.3	-0.5	0.7	0.6
Hourly compensation	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	1.5	0.3	1.7	0.5	-0.1
Unit labour cost	0.5	-0.3	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	-0.1	0.2	0.0
Exchange rate <sup>2</sup>	0.4	-1.8	-1.4	-1.4	-1.0	-4.9	1.2	0.1	-4.0
Unit labour cost in US dollars	0.8	-2.0	-1.3	-1.3	-0.7	-4.4	1.1	0.4	-4.1
<b>United States<sup>3</sup></b>									
Labour productivity	-0.5	0.5	0.2	0.9	0.8	-1.3	0.7	0.8	-0.5
Real GDP	-0.0	0.8	0.5	1.4	1.1	-0.8	1.4	1.6	0.8
Hours worked	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.3
Hourly compensation	2.6	-1.4	0.9	0.1	0.4	1.7	-0.3	0.1	0.2
Unit labour cost	3.1	-2.0	0.8	-0.8	-0.3	3.0	-1.0	-0.6	0.7
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	First quarter 2014	Second quarter 2014	Third quarter 2014	Fourth quarter 2014
	% change from the previous year					% change from same quarter of previous year			
<b>Canada</b>									
Labour productivity	1.8	1.4	0.0	1.1	2.5	2.1	3.3	3.0	1.8
Real GDP	3.8	3.3	1.9	2.2	2.9	2.4	3.0	3.3	3.0
Hours worked	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.1	0.4	0.4	-0.2	0.2	1.2
Hourly compensation	1.5	3.5	3.0	2.4	3.5	3.1	4.2	4.1	2.5
Unit labour cost	-0.4	2.1	3.0	1.3	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.6
Exchange rate <sup>2</sup>	10.3	4.1	-1.0	-3.0	-6.7	-8.6	-6.1	-4.7	-7.6
Unit labour cost in US dollars	10.0	6.3	2.0	-1.7	-5.9	-7.6	-5.3	-3.7	-7.0
<b>United States<sup>3</sup></b>									
Labour productivity	3.3	0.0	0.9	1.2	0.6	0.5	1.1	1.0	-0.3
Real GDP	3.2	2.1	3.1	2.7	2.9	2.3	3.2	3.3	2.9
Hours worked	-0.1	2.1	2.2	1.5	2.3	1.7	2.1	2.3	3.2
Hourly compensation	1.8	2.1	2.8	1.4	2.2	3.1	1.9	2.0	1.7
Unit labour cost	-1.4	2.1	1.9	0.2	1.6	2.6	0.8	1.0	2.0

1. Calculations of growth rates are based on index numbers rounded to three decimal places.

2. The exchange rate corresponds to the Canadian dollar value expressed in US dollars.

3. US data are from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Productivity and costs: Fourth quarter 2014 published in NEWS, February 5. Because of rounding, the annual growth rates presented in this table can sometimes differ slightly from the annual rates published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Source(s): CANSIM table [383-0008](#).

Available in CANSIM: tables [383-0008](#) and [383-0012](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [5042](#).

The [System of macroeconomic accounts](#) module, accessible from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website, features an up-to-date portrait of national and provincial economies and their structure.

Links to other releases from the national accounts can be found in the fourth quarter 2014 issue of *Canadian Economic Accounts Quarterly Review*, Vol. 13, no. 4 ([13-010-X](#)). This publication will be updated on March 12, at the time of the release of the national balance sheet and financial flow accounts.

Labour productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost data for the first quarter will be released on June 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](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)).

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## Chain Fisher real export and import values, January 2015

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

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

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

The January 2015 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 69, no. 1 ([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 February will be released on April 2.

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](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)).

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## Export and import price indexes, January 2015

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 January 2015 issue of *Canadian International Merchandise Trade*, Vol. 69, no. 1 ([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 February will be released on April 2.

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## Forage seed usage, 2014

Forage seed usage data are now available for 2014.

### **Note to readers**

*Forage seed usage data evaluate trends in the usage of improved forage seed varieties, by quantifying the volumes of seeds shipped to Canadian customers. Data are available at the provincial level, in both imperial and metric units of measure (pounds and kilograms), for the years 2008 to 2014. They are derived from the results of the 2014 Forage Seed Usage Survey, which was conducted between October 15, 2014 and January 31, 2015. The reference period is from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.*

### **Available in CANSIM: table [001-0073](#).**

Table 001-0073 (new): Forage seed usage, by type of seed, in metric and imperial units.

### **Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3442](#).**

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](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca)).

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## New products and studies

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### New products

**The Business and Community Newsletter**

Catalogue number [11-632-X](#) (HTML)

**Canadian International Merchandise Trade**, January 2015, Vol. 69, no. 1

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

**Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database**, January 2015

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



## Release dates: March 9 to 13, 2015

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
11	<b>Canada's international investment position</b>	Fourth quarter 2014
12	<b>National balance sheet and financial flow accounts</b>	Fourth quarter 2014
12	<b>Industrial capacity utilization rates</b>	Fourth quarter 2014
12	<b>New Housing Price Index</b>	January 2015
13	<b>Labour Force Survey</b>	February 2015

See also the [release dates for major economic indicators](#) for the rest of the year.



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