



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PROFILE

Economic Indicators in 2018

- Gross domestic product (GDP): \$295.4 billion
- GDP per capita: \$59,100
- Population: 5.0 million
- International merchandise exports and imports: 40.6% of GDP

Economic Activity by Sector in 2019

- Goods: 23.6% of GDP
 - Construction: 8.9% of total GDP
 - Manufacturing: 6.8% of total GDP
- Services: 76.4% of GDP
 - Real estate, and rental and leasing: 17.6% of total GDP
 - Health care and social assistance: 7.4% of total GDP



FUNDAMENTALS

The Series

The Library of Parliament's Trade and Investment series:

- provides information on Canada's trade and investment relationship with the world and with selected countries;
- describes the trade relationship of each of Canada's 10 provinces and three territories with the world; and
- presents Canada's merchandise trade relationship with each of the United States' 50 states.

Provincial and territorial profiles provide international trade data; the data exclude trade within Canada.

Numbers have been rounded.

Definitions appear at the end of the profile.

This Profile

Trade data are measured on a balance-of-payments basis except for the following, which are customs-based: export shares by sector; exports by product category; and exports by destination.

The balance of payments-based data and customs-based data use different methodologies. Consequently, these data should not be compared.

Provincial import data by sector, by product category and by trading partner are not provided because of data limitations.

GDP is measured at market prices, except GDP by sector, which is measured at basic prices.

GDP per capita is calculated by dividing provincial GDP by provincial population.

International merchandise exports and imports as a percentage of GDP is calculated by dividing the sum of merchandise exports and merchandise imports by provincial GDP.

The five most highly valued merchandise export categories have been identified using values for 2019.

At the time of publication, reliable data on provincial merchandise and services imports were available only until 2018.

All figures were prepared using Statistics Canada data available in summer 2020.

For the data tables used to generate the figures, see the HTML version of this profile at [Trade and Investment Series 2019](#).

Kyra Graham

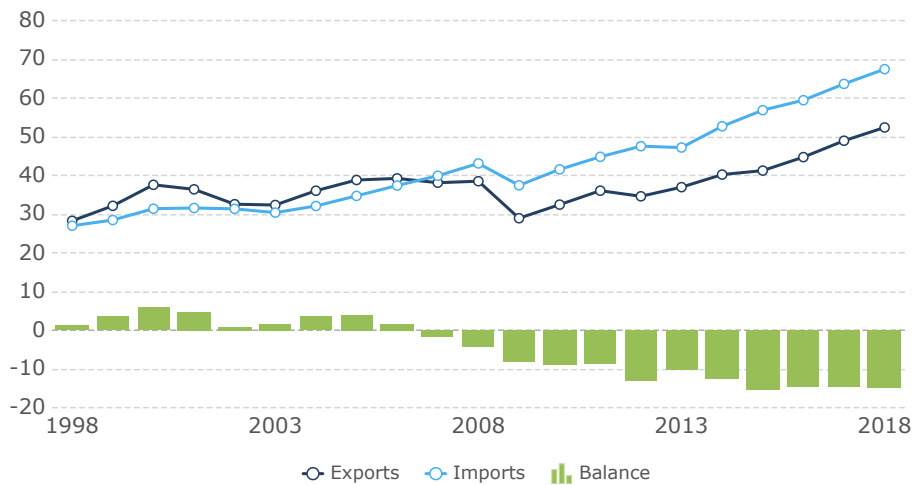
Economics, Resources and International Affairs Division
Parliamentary Information and Research Service

Publication No. 2020-505-E
28 August 2020

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE

Merchandise Trade

(\$ billions)

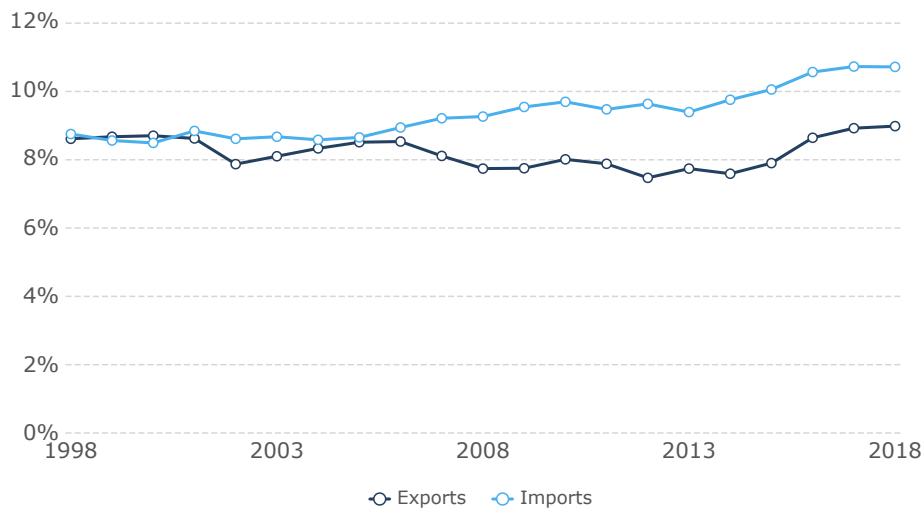


British Columbia's merchandise trade with the world in 2018: \$119.9 billion

- Exports: \$52.4 billion, a 7.0% increase from 2017
- Imports: \$67.5 billion, a 6.0% increase from 2017

Trade deficit in 2018: \$15.1 billion, an increase from \$14.7 billion in 2017

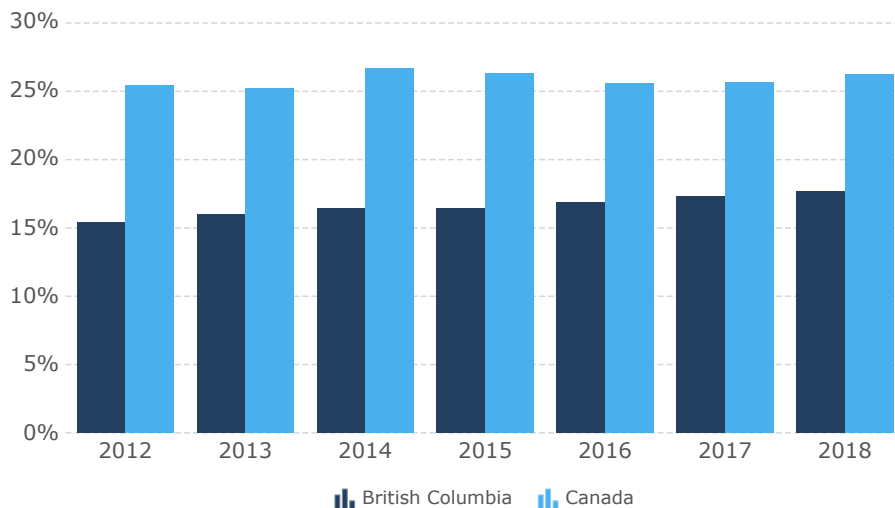
Share of the Total Value of Canadian Trade



Exports in 2018: 9.0% of the total value of Canadian exports, an increase from 8.9% in 2017

Imports in 2018: 10.7% of the total value of Canadian imports, unchanged from 2017

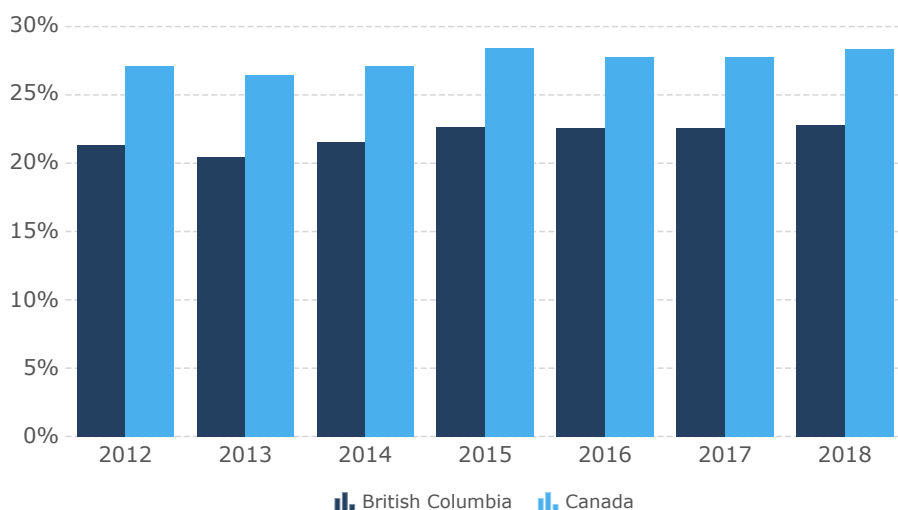
Exports as a Percentage of GDP



Exports as a percentage of GDP in 2018:

- British Columbia – 17.7%, an increase from 17.3% in 2017
- Canada – 26.3%, an increase from 25.7% in 2017

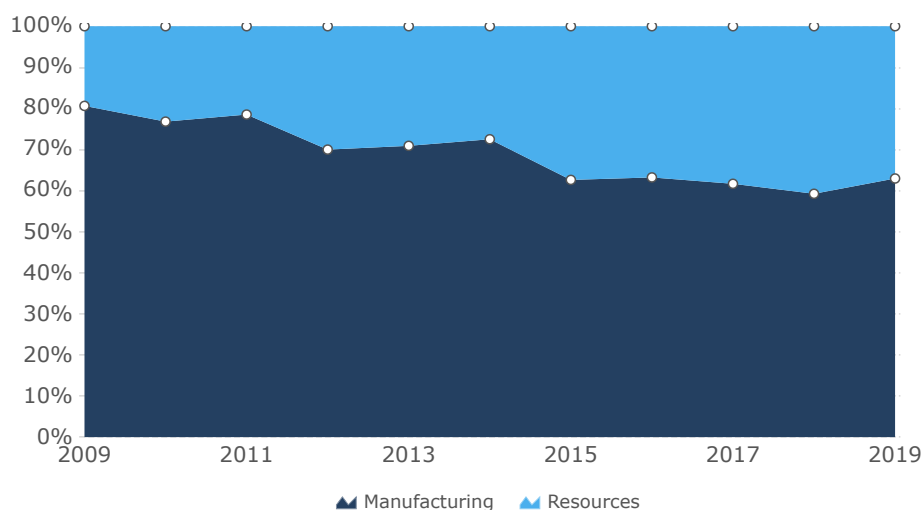
Imports as a Percentage of GDP



Imports as a percentage of GDP in 2018:

- British Columbia – 22.8%, an increase from 22.5% in 2017
- Canada – 28.4%, an increase from 27.8% in 2017

Share of Exports by Sector

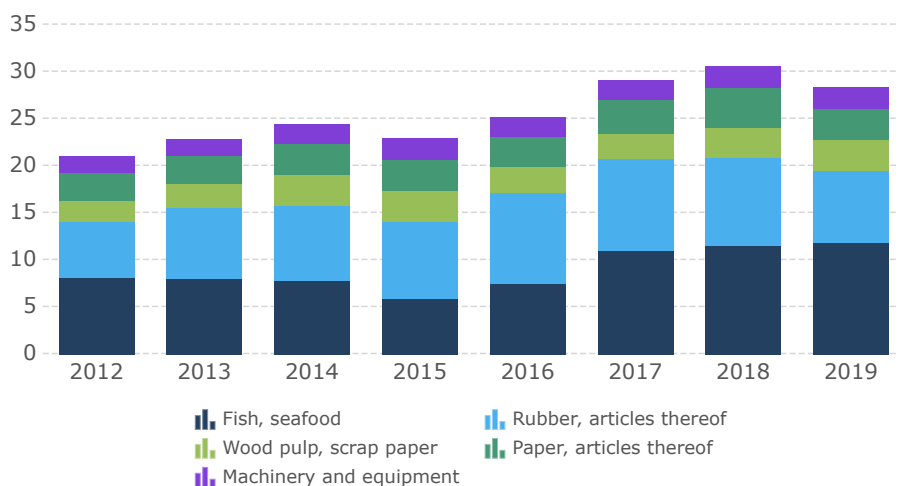


Exports in 2019:

- Resource-based goods – 37.1%, a decrease from 40.8% in 2018
- Manufactured goods – 62.9%, an increase from 59.2% in 2018

Most Highly Valued Exports by Product Category

(\$ billions)

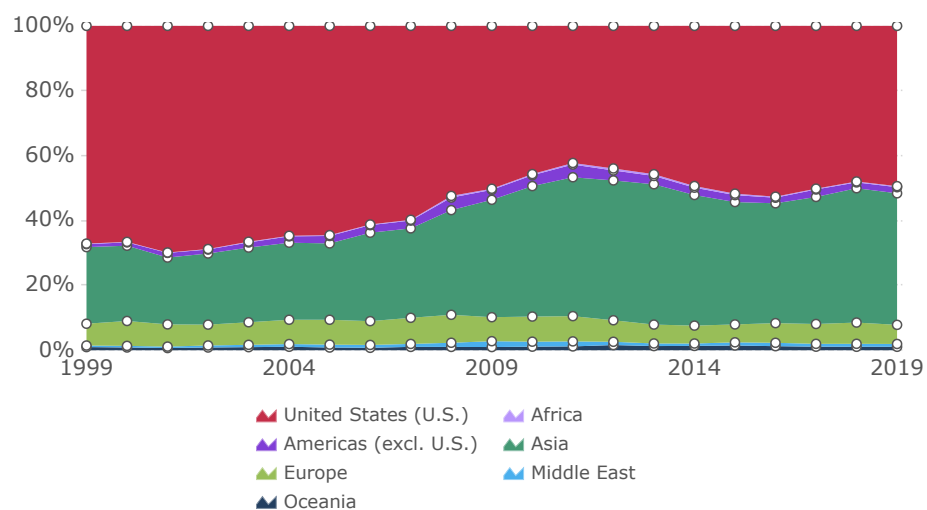


Highest-valued exports in 2019:

Coal and lumber, together accounting for 25.9% of the total value of provincial exports

- Coal: \$6.7 billion, a decrease from \$7.4 billion in 2018
- Lumber: \$4.8 billion, a decrease from \$6.5 billion in 2018

Destinations for Exports



Major export destinations, by region, in 2019:

- United States, at 49.4% of the total value of exports
- Asia, at 40.5% of the total value of exports
- Europe, at 5.9% of the total value of exports

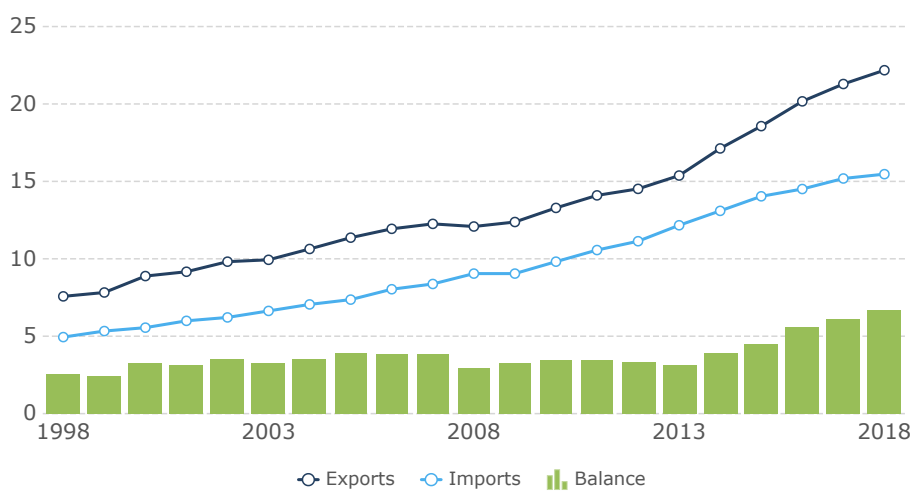
Major export destinations, by country, in 2019:

- United States, at \$22.0 billion
- China, at \$6.8 billion
- Japan, at \$4.6 billion

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S SERVICES TRADE

Services Trade

(\$ billions)



British Columbia's services trade with the world in 2018: \$37.7 billion

- Exports: \$22.2 billion, a 4.2% increase from 2017
- Imports: \$15.5 billion, a 1.8% increase from 2017

Trade surplus in 2018: \$6.7 billion, an increase from \$6.1 billion in 2017

Definitions Used Throughout the Series

Balance of payments–based data

Data that calculate trade flows using surveys of the international trade and investment activity of firms and other entities.

Customs-based data

Data compiled from declarations that are filed with the Canada Border Services Agency and that are used to track the flow of goods into and out of Canada, with one exception: exports to the United States. Since 1990, customs-based data on most Canadian exports to the United States have been based on declarations filed with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Gross domestic product (GDP)

Measure of an economy's total production in a given year.

Manufactured goods

Finished or semi-finished products resulting from the transformation of materials and substances into new products (North American Industry Classification System, or NAICS, codes 31 to 33), and the output of establishments primarily engaged in operating electric, gas and water utilities (NAICS code 22).

Merchandise trade

Trade in physical goods, such as cars, wheat and iron ore.

Resource-based goods

Products of the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector (North American Industry Classification System, or NAICS, code 11), and of the mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction sector (NAICS code 21).

Services trade

Trade in travel, transportation, government and commercial services. Travel services are goods and services purchased abroad by travellers, with one exception: cross-border transportation. Transportation services are the transportation of goods and cross-border travellers, and related services. Government services arise largely from official representation and military activities, and some governmental commercial activities. Commercial services are all other services, such as management, financial or engineering services; this category also includes charges for the use of intellectual property.

Trade balance

Difference between the value of exports and the value of imports. There is a trade surplus if the value of exports exceeds the value of imports. There is a trade deficit if the value of imports exceeds the value of exports.

Definitions Specific to the Profiles for Countries and Regions

Foreign direct investment (FDI)

Investment that provides an investor with ownership of at least 10% voting equity in an enterprise that is located in a country other than the investor's country of residence. The stock of FDI is the value of the accumulated equity owned by investors abroad; the stock changes from year to year based on flows of FDI.

Purchasing power parity (PPP)

Ratio of the prices in two countries for identical goods and services. It is used to adjust economic indicators to account for international price differences. With a calculation of GDP at PPP, a given good or service has the same price in each country.

Definition Specific to the Profile for Canada's Foreign Direct Investment Relationship with the World

Foreign majority-owned affiliates

Enterprises in which a foreign business owns more than 50% of voting shares.

Definitions Specific to the Profile for the European Union

EU-13

The 13 countries that joined the European Union between 2004 and 2013: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

EU-14

Fourteen of the 15 countries that became members of the European Union before 2004: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden; the 15th country, the United Kingdom, withdrew from the European Union on 31 January 2020.

Definitions Specific to the Profiles for Provinces and Territories

Basic prices

Prices received by sellers. They exclude both taxes and subsidies on products.

Market prices

Prices paid by buyers. They include taxes net of subsidies on products.