

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

International merchandise trade: Annual review

2008

Canada's reliance on the United States as a trading partner fell even further in 2008, in the wake of declines in the American automobile and housing markets during the economic downturn.

In 2008, the United States accounted for less than two-thirds (65.7%) of Canada's total merchandise trade on a customs basis, that is exports and imports combined, down from 67.2% in 2007 and 74.0% in 2003.

Exports to countries other than the United States have been growing for the past six years. In 2008, they represented 22.3% of total exports, up from 14.3% in 2003. Leading the gain for Canada's exports from 2007 to 2008 were the Asia Pacific countries (mainly Japan) and Brazil.

Exports to Japan increased 20.2% from 2007 to \$11.1 billion, driven by coal, canola, and wheat. Exports to China totalled \$10.4 billion in 2008, up 9.1% from 2007. As a result, Japan replaced China as Canada's second most important export destination, behind the United States.

Canada's exports to Brazil increased 70.7% from 2007, led by potash, used as a fertilizer, as well as coal and newsprint.

Similarly, imports from countries other than the United States have been on the rise for the past seven years. In 2008, they accounted for 47.6% of Canada's total imports, up from 39.4% in 2003.

Imports from countries other than the United States rose by 10.7% in 2008 compared with a year earlier, led by continued growth from China, Canada's second most important trading partner for imports, behind the United States. Chinese companies sold \$42.6 billion worth of merchandise to Canada last year, up 11.3% from 2007. Telecommunications equipment, games, toys and computers were the main goods imported from China.

Mexico was the third largest supplier of goods to Canada, sending \$17.9 billion worth of goods, a 4.2% increase from 2007. This growth was led by the "other communications and related equipment" category, which consisted mainly of flat panel, high-definition televisions that have gained in popularity as prices have dropped.

Trade balance: Fourth year of decline

Canada's international merchandise trade expanded strongly at the beginning of 2008, but

Note to readers

Merchandise trade is one component of the current account of Canada's balance of payments, which also includes trade in services, investment income and transfers.

International merchandise trade data by country are available on both a balance of payments 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. Balance of payments data are derived from customs data by making adjustments for characteristics 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.

Constant dollars referred to in the release are calculated using the Laspeyres volume formula, which is current dollars divided by Paasche indexes.

the global economic downturn took much of the wind out of the sails in the second half of the year.

In 2008, Canada exported \$489.5 billion of merchandise to the world, on a balance of payments basis, up 5.7% from 2007. At the same time, imports rose 6.7% to \$442.8 billion.

As a result, Canada's annual trade surplus with the world narrowed to \$46.7 billion from \$48.0 billion in 2007, continuing a decline that started in 2005.

The gain in exports was price driven as volumes fell 7.8% in 2008 compared with a year earlier. Export prices started declining in the second half of the year as commodity prices began to fall and the economic downturn set in.

Increases in exports were restricted to energy products, industrial goods and materials as well as agricultural and fishing goods.

On the import side, most sectors recorded increases in 2008. The growth was attributable to a combination of higher prices and volumes. The increase in prices was a result of rising commodity prices in the first half of the year and the depreciating value of the Canadian dollar compared with the US greenback in the latter half of 2008.

Canada's trade surplus with the United States increased to \$89.1 billion from \$86.3 billion in 2007, following two years of decline. This increase was on the strength of crude petroleum exports, which were partially offset by a large drop in exports of automotive products.

Canada's trade deficit with countries other than the United States increased to \$42.4 billion from \$38.3 billion in 2007.

Exports rise mainly on the strength of energy products

Exports of energy products rose 37.6% in 2008 compared with a year earlier, totalling \$126.1 billion. While the United States continued to be the leading consumer of Canada's energy products, growing demand for coal in the Asia Pacific region boosted energy exports to that area. The supply of coal in the region was disrupted early in the year because of snow storms and flash floods in its principal supply areas.

Exports of automotive products fell 21.0% from a year earlier to \$61.1 billion in 2008. These products have been on a downward trend since 2002. The decline was attributable to a drop in volumes, as the economic crisis in the United States depressed car and light truck sales, leaving auto companies with growing inventories. Exports of passenger autos fell 14.8%, while exports of trucks and motor vehicle parts also declined.

Decline in automotive products tempers growth in imports

A decline in imports of automotive products in 2008 tempered strong growth in imports of energy products.

Imports of energy products grew for the sixth straight year, increasing 44.9% to \$53.0 billion as both prices and volumes rose.

Leading the gain was crude petroleum, which benefited from rising prices in the first three quarters of

the year as imports increased 44.3% to \$34.1 billion. Imports of petroleum and coal products as well as coal and other related products also increased due to a combination of prices and volumes.

On the other hand, imports of automotive products declined 10.1% from a year earlier to \$72.0 billion, halting four years of increase. Leading the decline was motor vehicle parts, which fell 14.9%, partly due to a strike at an American parts producer early in the year and a weak sales environment.

Imports of trucks and other motor vehicles dropped 13.5%, as rising gas prices in the first half of the year led to a slow down in sales. Imports of passenger autos also slid on declining prices.

Available on CANSIM: tables 228-0001 to 228-0003, 228-0033, 228-0034, 228-0041 to 228-0043 and 228-0047 to 228-0057.

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

The publication *International Merchandise Trade Annual Review, 2008* (65-208-XWE, free), is now available online from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Sharon Nevins (toll-free 1-800-294-5583; 613-951-9798). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Miles Rowat (613-951-6820), International Trade Division.

Merchandise trade

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2007 to 2008	2003 to 2008
	\$ current							
	\$ millions						% change	
Principal trading partners¹								
Exports								
United States	326,700	348,144	365,741	359,135	355,901	375,797	5.6	15.0
Japan	8,193	8,561	9,169	9,420	9,223	11,089	20.2	35.4
China	4,809	6,770	7,214	7,802	9,512	10,376	9.1	115.7
Mexico	2,212	3,096	3,366	4,375	4,961	5,848	17.9	164.4
Germany	2,912	2,684	3,237	3,955	3,884	4,478	15.3	53.8
All other countries	36,245	43,035	47,624	55,677	67,218	75,735	12.7	109.0
Total	381,071	412,290	436,351	440,364	450,699	483,773	7.3	27.0
Imports								
United States	203,822	208,987	215,155	217,605	220,512	226,902	2.9	11.3
China	18,583	24,104	29,516	34,505	38,305	42,618	11.3	129.3
Mexico	12,190	13,435	14,595	16,019	17,176	17,904	4.2	46.9
Japan	13,820	13,514	14,801	15,326	15,458	15,288	-1.1	10.6
United Kingdom	9,225	9,658	10,419	10,877	11,469	12,554	9.5	36.1
All other countries	78,502	86,188	96,372	102,441	104,067	117,980	13.4	50.3
Total	336,141	355,886	380,858	396,773	406,988	433,269	6.5	28.9

1. Data on a customs basis.

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes

April 2009

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

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2322.

The April 2009 issue of *Canadian Foreign Post Indexes* (62-013-XIE, free) is now available from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, contact Client Services (toll-free 1-866-230-2248; 613-951-9606; prices-prix@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), Prices Division. ■

Survey on Small Research and Development Performers

2008 (preliminary)

Preliminary data from the 2008 Survey on Small Research and Development Performers are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 5154.

For more information, to obtain data, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Antoine Rose (613-951-5582; fax: 613-951-9920; antoine.rose@statcan.gc.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

Annual wholesale trade

2007

Data for the Annual Wholesale Trade Survey are now available for 2007.

Available on CANSIM: table 081-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2445.

A short analysis of these data was released on March 30, 2009, and is available in the publication *Annual Wholesale Trade, 2007* (63-271-XWE, free), from the *Publications* module of our website.

For more information, or to order data, contact Client Services Unit (toll-free 1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; wholesaleinfo@statcan.gc.ca). To enquire about concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Desjardins (613-951-9682), Distributive Trades Division. ■

New products

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, April 2009
Catalogue number 62-013-XIE
(free).

Repair and Maintenance Services, 2007
Catalogue number 63-247-XWE
(free).

International Merchandise Trade Annual Review, 2008
Catalogue number 65-208-XWE
(free).

Canadian Agriculture at a Glance: "Canola: a Canadian success story"
Catalogue number 96-325-XWE
(free).

Canadian Agriculture at a Glance: "Sour cherries in Canada"
Catalogue number 96-325-XWE
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, May 29, 2008
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Releases

Canada's balance of international payments, first quarter 2008 2
The current account surplus with the rest of the world (on a seasonally adjusted basis) increased sharply to \$5.5 billion in the first quarter of 2008, led by higher prices for several export commodities combined with a lower trade deficit in the financial account. Foreign investment income from Canada almost tripled from the equivalent period of the previous quarter, while Canadian direct investment abroad continued to strengthen.

Farmed employment, earnings and hours, March 2008 7

Study: The year to review for education trade, 2007 9

Public sector employment, first quarter 2008 10

Consumer and Managers Services Price Index, April 2008 11

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2006 Census profiles

With the release of the final and complete release components, the complete cumulative profiles is now available for census divisions, census subdivisions, dissemination areas, forward sortation areas, designated places, urban areas, and census metropolitan areas and census agglomerations with census subdivisions.

To obtain these profiles in electronic format (costs vary by different geography levels), contact Statistics Canada's National Contact Centre.

 

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

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The Daily, April 3, 2009

Release dates: April 6 to April 9, 2009

(Release dates are subject to change.)

Release date	Title	Reference period
6	Building permits	February 2009
8	Foreign direct investment	2008
9	Canadian international merchandise trade	February 2009
9	Labour Force Survey	March 2009
9	New Housing Price Index	February 2009
